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Knowledge Knows No Boundaries



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Storytelling that Matters: Measuring Our Commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən peoples (Songhees and Xwsepəm/Esquimalt) on whose traditional territory I study, work, learn, volunteer and connect and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



UVIC

Presentation Outline

Intro of SDGS

Overview of the Project

Why started this project

Methodology

Interactive Activity – 10-15 minutes

DCS's SDG Webpage (Findings)

Why as CE – Benchmarking

Q & A – 10 minutes

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	

What are SDGs?

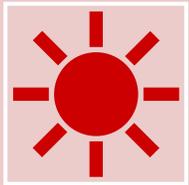
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

They offer a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

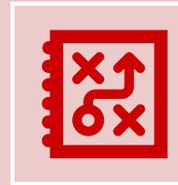
The goals are interconnected, addressing issues like education, health, gender equality, clean energy, economic growth, climate action, and more.

They provide a shared framework for governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector to measure and align efforts for global impact.

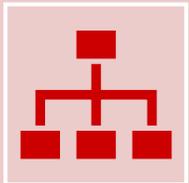
Overview of the Project



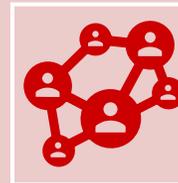
Purpose: To assess how UVic's Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across programs, operations, and community initiatives.



Mapped DCS activities to specific SDGs, identifying areas of strong alignment and those with room for growth.



Intended to build a benchmarking model that can be updated regularly and shared with internal and external interest holders.



The result is a living digital platform that showcases the division's commitment to sustainability, inclusion, and global engagement.

The Why Behind the Project

Understand how our programs, activities, and operations align with the SDGs.

Identify both strengths and gaps in our contributions to sustainable development.

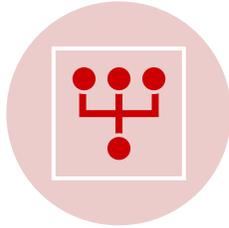
Commitment to holding ourselves accountable—not just saying we support the SDGs but showing how.

Passion for equity, lifelong learning, and community impact, rooted in both academic research and professional practice.

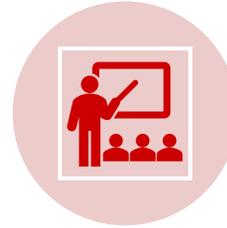
Belief in storytelling as a tool for measuring impact, engaging others, and driving meaningful change.

Recognition that Continuing Education can be a leader in inclusive, responsive, and values-based learning.

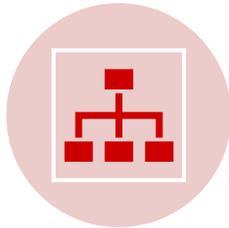
Methodology



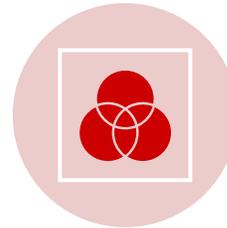
Conducted a division-wide survey to gather broad input on courses, operations, and activities related to the SDGs.



Facilitated focus groups with staff and instructors to explore deeper reflections and stories behind the data.



Used a categorization framework to map findings to relevant SDGs



Analyzed results to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improved SDG alignment.

Interactive Activity



Think about a program, course, or initiative you're involved in—how might it align with one or more of the 17 SDGs?



Which SDG(s) best connect to your work? (*e.g., Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work, Climate Action*)



Are there hidden or less obvious ways your work contributes to sustainable development (e.g., workplace culture, partnerships, accessibility)?



Where do you see opportunities to strengthen or measure your alignment with the SDGs moving forward?



If you were to tell the story of your impact through the lens of an SDG, what would you highlight?

Project Results/Findings



Here's how Continuing Studies at UVic is contributing to meaningful change:

[DCS's SDG Website](#)

Why Benchmarking Matters in CE

- ✓ CE is uniquely positioned to respond quickly to emerging social, economic, and environmental issues—making it a key driver of SDG-aligned education.
- ✓ As a hub for lifelong, inclusive, and community-focused learning, CE directly supports SDGs like Quality Education (4), Decent Work (8), and Reduced Inequalities (10).
- ✓ Benchmarking helps CE units understand their impact, highlight successes, and identify opportunities for growth and innovation.
- ✓ Transparent benchmarking builds accountability and credibility—both internally and with learners, partners, and the public.
- ✓ This process contributes to a culture of reflection and continuous improvement that is core to the ethos of adult and continuing education.



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