

# Getting involved with sustainability for students and staff

Featuring the Sustainability Skills Survey, SDG Teach In 2026, and more

# About SOS UK

Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS UK) is a charity transforming education, so people protect the climate and nature.

We're working to:



Transform the way we teach, what we learn and how that's assessed so climate and nature is a priority



Make sure the places where we learn show us what's possible, helping us to support nature and climate action



Ensure students from every background can play their role in protecting and building a better world

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- Staff actions for the Sustainability Skills
   Survey and SDG Teach In 2026
  - Further actions for embedding sustainability into the curriculum
- Student actions for the Sustainability Skills Survey and SDG Teach In 2026
  - Further ways to take action on the Sustainable Development Goals



# Staff actions for sustainability

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# Promote the Sustainability Skills Survey 2025-26 to students

For the past 15 years, SOS UK has conducted research into UK Further and Higher Education student attitudes and opinions on their learning experience with a focus on sustainable development and skills. The 2025-26 survey will be open from **27 October to 16 November 2025**.

#### Why promote the survey?

- Develop a strong understanding within your institution and the wider sector about students' priorities and reflections of their learning and teaching.
- Support direction for activities in careers and employability, enrichment, teaching and learning, curriculum design etc.
- Institutions who receive 100 or more responses will be able to obtain their anonymised student data.

# Promote the Sustainability Skills Survey 2025-26 to students (cont.)

#### **Guidance for promoting the survey:**

- Use ready-made <u>promotions</u> (email and social media templates in Welsh and English).
- Work with Students' Unions, course reps, student groups to promote the survey
- Avoid referring to the environment or sustainability this is to attract responses from students with varying degrees of familiarity with sustainability. You could promote the survey as, for example, a 'college skills' or 'learning and careers' survey.
- Browse further guidance in the <u>research briefing</u>.

Skills Survey link (open from 27 Oct to 16 Nov 2025):

https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Skills\_Survey

# The student demand for sustainability

The Skills Survey is a chance for students to inform sector-wide research into sustainability careers and education. The 2024-25 survey found that:



91% of students agree that sustainable development is something which places of learning should actively incorporate and promote



84% agree that sustainable development is something which all courses should actively incorporate and promote



86% agree that their place of study should teach skills and understanding that positively impact society and the environment

# Embedding sustainability into education \*\*Comparison\*\* \*\*Com

# Take action: SDG Teach In

## SDG Teach In

The <u>SDG Teach In</u> is an annual campaign to encourage and support educators, workplace facilitators, and education staff with embedding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their teaching, learning, assessment, and Continuing Professional Development.

Since 2018, the SDG Teach In has reached nearly 600,000 learners of all ages in 50 countries, with over 1000 educators in 17 countries taking part in 2025.

#### Aims of the SDG Teach In:

- **Empower**: Ensure students and staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to be the change they want to see in the world.
- Critically engage: Share case studies and good practice of educator's engagement with the SDGs and other sustainability-related frameworks.
- Catalyse curriculum transformation: by encouraging and supporting educators to innovate methods in education for sustainable development.

# United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

### THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development





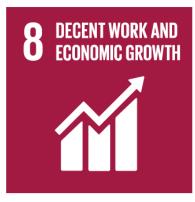
































# Sign-up to the SDG Teach In 2026

#### Why participate in the SDG Teach In 2026?

- The Teach In is an ideal springboard for either getting started or going further with integrating sustainability and climate justice into education.
- Equip the next generation of leaders and changemakers with the sustainability skills, knowledge and attributes so they can be the change they want to see in the world.
- Respond to the <u>student demand</u> for incorporating sustainability across all subjects.
- Share and inspire others with how you're embedding sustainability into education.
- Help your institution land a spot on the leaderboard for learners reached and educators involved – some friendly competition!

SDG Teach In 2026 sign-up form (open from now until 31 March 2026):

https://bit.ly/sdgteachin2026

### Student feedback on the Teach In since 2018:



98% of students identified skills or attributes which their learning experience during the Teach In helped them to develop. The most popular skills were communication, critical thinking and sustainability action.



64% agree that the issues covered in the SDGs should be incorporated and embedded at all levels of education.



49% of students had not heard of the SDGs prior to the Teach In, but 83% were able to identify the specific SDGs covered by their learning experience during the Teach In.

# Attend the SDG Teach In 2026 introduction webinar

The SDG Teach In 2026 <u>introduction webinar</u> takes place on 28 January 2026 12:00 to 13:00 UK time.

This is your chance to hear about:

- The global impact of the SDG Teach In to date
- Examples from Further Education institutions
- Structure and support for the SDG Teach In 2026
- How educators and students can get involved
- Opportunity to ask any questions

SDG Teach In 2026 introduction webinar:

https://bit.ly/sdgteachinintro26

## SDG Teach In Resource Bank

Available and updated throughout the year, the SDG Teach In Resource Bank is a go-to source of multimedia resources to support educators with getting started and going further with sustainability education.

#### The Resource Bank features:

- Guidebooks, articles, videos, and interactive activities for students in different subjects
  to engage critically with the SDGs and Education for Sustainable Development.
- Social, environmental, and economic sustainability-themed resources for all ages.
- Case studies and publications to inspire creative, nature-connected, and values-driven approaches to sustainability education.

#### **SDG Teach In Resource Bank**

https://www.sos-uk.org/resources/sdg-teach-in-resources

## SDG Teach In Resource Bank

- Identify how existing taught content aligns with the SDGs and supports learners with developing Education for Sustainable Development competencies.
  - The 'Education for Sustainable Development Goals: learning objectives' <u>guidebook</u> (UNESCO 2017) highlights sustainability competencies that are often already present to some degree in students' curricula. It contains indicative ways of amplifying these linkages in Learning Objectives and suggested learning activities for all ages.
  - Ensuring that learners are also aware of these competencies means that they can confidently explain the skills they have developed through their education in job/further study applications and interviews.
- Learn from and <u>create</u> your own case studies of working with local stakeholders on sustainability. In 2024, for example, <u>Exeter College</u> students developed skills in upcycling and teamwork by working with staff and Coreus Group employee volunteers to create a herbal and sensory garden (SDG 3 and 4).

#### **SDG Teach In Resource Bank**

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## SDG Teach In Resource Bank

Browse the Rounder Sense of Purpose framework which contains various lesson plans and activities for students and educators related to the SDGs.

- E.g., to nurture students' competencies in environmental <u>responsibility</u> and <u>systems</u> <u>thinking</u>, while developing an understanding of SDG Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, students could create posters about their relationship with water and how this is influenced by other topics covered in the SDGs.
- E.g., to develop <u>problem-solving</u> skills, students can agree on a local/national/global dilemma related to a/several SDGs and that matters to them. They could then role-play different scenarios to address these challenges. Use Amnesty International's Human Rights advocacy <u>worksheets</u> for inspiration. Students could also experiment with different communication methods such as <u>poetry</u> and spoken word.

**SDG Teach In Resource Bank** 

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# Spread the word about the SDG Teach In

Help build momentum so that students around the world can upskill with the SDG Teach In by promoting the campaign in your institution and networks.

Access the SDG Teach In 2026 <u>Communications Pack</u> with ready-made social media graphics and posts, email promotions aimed at students and educators, and email signature.

#### Guidance for promoting the Teach In:

- Utilise staff networks, newsletters, forums, and channels.
- Educators can trial or experiment with innovative teaching and learning methods.
- Educators can participate before, during, and after March 2026, so it can be helpful to identify any strategic timings for hosting Teach In learning events or activities.

SDG Teach In 2026 Communications Pack:

https://bit.ly/sdgteachincomms26

## **Further actions**

- Not sure how your subject relates to sustainability or where to start? Check out
  the #SustainabilityAtoZ: From Art to Zoo Management: embedding sustainability
  in UK higher and further education (NUS). This features case studies and resources
  for integrating sustainability into various subjects for inspiration.
- Register for the Greening Universities and Colleges: Equipping Educators to embed Sustainability into Teaching webinar on 4 November 14:00 to 15:30 GMT. Hosted by the EAUC, this will share key findings from the 2025 SDG Accord Progress Report and case studies of how education institutions are supporting the SDGs.
- Empower students across different courses and departments to co-organise an
  event aligned with the <u>Thematic Days</u> of the international climate conference,
  COP30 10 to 20 November 2025. Highlight how students' learning is interconnected
  with topics vital for climate action such as culture, circular economy, food and
  farming, and more.

# Further actions (cont.)

- Review Teach the Future's (a youth-led campaign) <u>Curriculum for a Changing Climate</u> <u>Guiding Principles and subject-specific documents</u> to identify how climate education can be integrated into existing taught content and inform curriculum design. By integrating the 10 Guiding Principles students can foster an appreciation of the interconnected web of life and critically engage with sustainability and environmental justice in a transformative learning environment.
- Create a Community of Practice for staff to come together and share good practice and ideas for incorporating sustainability into teaching, learning and assessment. E.g., themed discussions on the SDGs, UNESCO competencies, nature-connected learning, and specific subjects browse <u>examples</u> from the Education and Training Foundation.
- Get involved with <u>Teach the Teacher</u> so students can be empowered to play an active and memorable role in climate education. Teach the Teacher trains school and college/sixth form students to deliver lessons on issues they're <u>passionate</u> about, from climate justice to mental health for (trainee) teachers and helps implement key aspects of the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

# Student actions for sustainability

# About SOS UK

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# Skills Survey Manual Manual

# Complete the Skills Survey 2025-26

For the past 15 years, SOS UK has been researching what UK Further and Higher Education students think and feel about sustainability, skills and employability. The 2025-26 survey will be open from **27 October to 16 November 2025**.

#### Why should you complete the survey?

- Opportunity to share views about your experience of skills and education.
- Chance to win £500 or one of 10 £50 runner-up prizes!
- Tell us what you want to see from the future of education.



Skills Survey link (open from 27 Oct to 16 Nov 2025):

https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Skills\_Survey

# SDG Teach In

# Boost your employability with the SDG Teach In 2026

The <u>SDG Teach In</u> is a campaign to encourage teachers worldwide to include Sustainable Development Goals into their teaching, learning and assessment. The Teach In will last from 1 to 31 March 2026.

#### Why should you encourage your teachers to get involved?

- Your voice: Ensure your education is relevant to your priorities and career aspirations.
- Leadership: Be equipped with the green skills, knowledge, and confidence for being change you want to see in society.
- Help your institution land a spot on the leaderboard for learners reached and educators involved – these will be published on SOS UK's social media throughout March 2026
- We know the majority of <u>students want</u> their institution to promote sustainability across all subjects.

# United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

### THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development





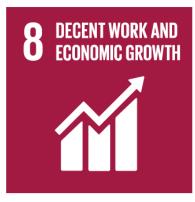
































## Promote the SDG Teach In 2026

- There's no point in having a digital campaign if nobody knows about it! Help promote the Teach In so that students like you can support a healthy and happier future.
  - Use the SDG Teach In 2026 <u>Communications Pack</u> with ready-made social media graphics and posts and email promotions aimed at educators.
- Start a conversation: Talk about the SDG Teach In during your next tutorial, class or have a chat with your teachers/lecturers:
  - Why do you want your college involved? What skills or knowledge do you want to gain by taking part? Do you have any ideas? For example, outdoor learning, solving local problems, creating artwork, debating, etc.



SDG Teach In 2026 Communications Pack:

https://bit.ly/sdgteachincomms26

## How students benefit from the Teach In:



98% of students identified skills or attributes which their learning experience during the Teach In helped them to develop. The most popular skills were communication, critical thinking and sustainability action.



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# Further actions for sustainability MANA

# Further sustainability actions

- Support SDG Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing with this handy check-list on eating and drinking for a healthy body and planet. From eating seasonally to meal-prepping, you can also stretch and challenge yourself by working with classmates and teachers to create sustainable food behaviour change campaigns at your college.
- Support SDG Goal 10: reduced inequalities by organising an event on Fairtrade. All the SDGs are <u>linked</u> to Fairtrade so browse this collection of <u>Fairtrade Fortnight</u> activities and resources including seeing how much people think they know about tea!
- Support SDG Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production by creating posters or leaflets on the social and environmental impacts of everyday household items and how we can be ethically-minded consumers. Browse this <u>guide</u> on sustainable fashion, food, furniture and technology choices for inspiration.







# Further sustainability actions (cont.)

- Teach the Teacher: <u>register your interest</u> in being trained and supported to deliver climate education to your own teachers. This is a unique opportunity to play an active role in climate education while developing various skills and knowledge to boost your employability and make you stand-out.
- Get creative! Try different approaches to exploring a social, environmental or economic challenge related to your subject, course, or career interest. There are loads of ways to express what sustainability means to you and develop important skills in communication and critical thinking. For example:
  - Designing physical and digital zines, leaflets and posters
  - Reusing and upcycling packaging and household items
  - Illustrations, graphic design, painting, sewing
  - o Creative writing, storytelling, song-writing, ecopoetry, and spoken word
  - Theatre, performance, music, videos, podcasts

Browse <u>other activities</u> and keep an eye-out on SOS UK's <u>Instagram</u>, <u>TikTok</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u> for more.