

# University Global Coalition

2023 SDG Action & Awareness Week Report



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# SDG Action & Awareness Week Overview

## Purpose and Mission

The [University Global Coalition's](#) (UGC) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Action & Awareness Week is an annual program, planned in partnership with the State University of New York (SUNY) and a committee that includes representatives from multiple universities globally. The purpose of this week is to increase awareness of the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#) among students, faculty, and staff in higher education and inspire them to take action in furtherance of the goals on their campuses and in their local community. We invite participants to plan and host a virtual, SDG-focused event for the UGC global calendar, attend an event, or plan events on their own campuses.

**SDG Action and Awareness Week 2023**

**Legathon (en español)**  
4 March; 10:00-18:30 CET

This in-person challenge for youth ages 16-20 seeks solutions that contribute to ensuring that all residents of the city of Leganés enjoy the same rights.

Register and view other SDG Week Events!



Above image: Editable promotional graphic featuring information on one of this year's SDG Week events.

## Events Overview

SDG Action & Awareness Week is held annually, typically during the first week of March. While the official program is one week/five days, partner universities often host events before and after SDG Week based upon their campus calendar.

In a call open to all universities, UGC invites partners across the global to plan free, virtual events focused upon their SDG-based areas of expertise, with an emphasis placed on

programs, courses, or other initiatives that are appealing to a broad, global audience and could lend to partnerships. Event organizers choose the date, time, and event format that works best for their calendars and share their event details with UGC through a web form. Event details are then shared on the [UGC event calendar](#) and through newsletters, social media, and with the help of promotional partners.

**For a full list of this year’s virtual events and organizers, view the *SDG Week Content section of this report.***

UGC also encourages campuses to plan and implement in-person events or programming on their campuses. The dual approach of virtual global events and in-person local events helps showcase a variety of ways to engage and learn. Most in-person events are not captured in this report.

**In a particularly successful and inspiring example of utilizing the SDG Week concept regionally/locally, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada facilitated SDG Week Canada this year. Their calendar featured over 100 events hosted both virtually and in-person by Canadian Higher Education institutions. You can read more about SDG Week Canada on [their website](#).**

**UNIVERSITY GLOBAL COALITION**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
Action and Awareness Week  
People Planet Prosperity  
Peace Partnership

**MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023**

- Saving UAE's Native Plants: How We Built the Flora Database**  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. GST | Heriot-Watt University Dubai Campus
- Students Taking on Hunger: Ideas from Around the World on Addressing Food Insecurity and Inadequate Nutrition**  
10:00-11:00 a.m. EST | UC Davis, student organized
- Community Tourism: Is it Really Sustainable?**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST | Kagumu Adventures

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023**

- Urban Gardening & Composting: Take Action in Your Community**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST | Kagumu Adventures
- Human Trafficking: Be a Part of the Solution**  
12:00-1:00 p.m. EST | Indiana University, student organized

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023**

- Advancing Careers and the SDGs: How a Co-curricular Program Prepares Students to Make a Difference**  
1:00-2:00 p.m. EST | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023**

- INSERLAB: A Conversation with our Alumni (Spanish/español)**  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EST | Universitat Rovira i Virgili

**FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023**

- About the Student Sustainability Summit (recorded, available March 6-10)**  
Sustainable Shenandoah Valley Regional Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Development
- Journées Scientifiques – Scientific Days (en français)**  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST | Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)
- Mental Health as an SDG: From Theory into Action**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST | NYU Engage Youth
- Global Goals Jam Canada Winter 2023 (through March 12)**  
Begins 2:00 p.m. EST March 10 | Centennial College and Partners

Student-focused Events

More information: <https://bit.ly/SDGWeek2023>

Above image: Promotional image listing Student-focused events during SDG Week 2023.

# Partners and Committee

The University Global Coalition wishes to thank our 2023 SDG Week committee for sharing their time, ideas, and passion to help shape this year's SDG Week:

- Nuno Almeida**, Polytechnic of Leiria
- Emily Brew**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Abigail Comar**, Michigan State University
- Drew Cutright**, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Dan DeZarn**, SUNY Geneseo
- Lorna Fitzsimmons**, California State University Dominguez Hills
- Silvia Gallart**, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- Jessica Garizurieta**, Universidad Veracruzana
- Christie-Joy Hartman**, James Madison University
- Jacqueline Quevedo Ledermann**, University at Albany, SUNY
- Karina Ruiz**, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Jolynn Shoemaker**, University of California, Davis
- Christian Speedling**, the State University of New York
- Laura Young**, Michigan State University

Our organizational partners for SDG Week 2023 included:  
[The State University of New York](#) and  
[SDG Week Canada](#)



Above image: Logos of the organizing institutions.

## Demographics and Impact

Event organizers represented on the global virtual calendar represented eight countries from four continents:

- USA (North America)
- Canada
- Dubai (Asia)
- Spain (Europe)
- Turkey
- Mexico
- Colombia (South America)
- Scotland

Organizers were asked to report the number of participants in their events, where possible. Of those who provided participation figures (~27% of the organizers), a total of 856 participants were reported.

### **Organizers reported positive impact and opportunities, such as:**

- *“new international contacts” and a “team of panelists committed” to engaging further on the topic*
- *“Mayor visibilidad a acciones concretas en desarrollo sostenible/Greater visibility of concrete actions on sustainable development.”*
- 75% of organizers who responded to the survey either agreed or strongly agreed that participating in SDG Week increased both awareness of the SDGs on their campuses and actions towards the SDGs on their campus.

### **Organizers also shared challenges and opportunities for improvement, such as:**

- *Better “explaining [the] connection between SDG Awareness Week, SDG Week Canada, and [the] difference from SDG Action Week (in September)”*
- Challenges coordinating international panelists and creating engaging and meaningful presentations
- Challenges with outreach (recruiting attendees) and promotion of the events

## ***Next Steps***

SDG Week partners will use the feedback from the organizer survey and the planning committee to plan for next year. Though the date is to be determined, SDG Week 2024 will occur in or around the first week of March. Some specific steps and feedback to be incorporated:

- Develop and promote resources and clear pathways for campuses, regions, or countries participating in localized SDG Weeks to better connect their efforts to UGC’s SDG Week
- Support greater promotions of online events through UGC’s partner organizations at the United Nations and elsewhere
- Directly connect SDG Action & Awareness Week 2024 to the UGC Annual Gathering (to be held in October 2023)

## SDG Week Events and Recordings

Recordings of the 2023 UGC SDG Action & Awareness Week sessions provided by organizers are available on the University Global Coalition’s webpage at <https://universityglobalcoalition.org/videos/> under the SDG Action & Awareness Week Recordings section header. Sessions from 2022 and 2021 are also available here.

SDG Week Event	Organizer	Organizer Location
Legathon	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	Spain
Saving UAE’s Native Plants: How we Built the Flora Database	Heriot-Watt University	Dubai
Students Taking on Hunger: Ideas from Around the World on Addressing Food Insecurity and Inadequate Nutrition	UC Davis	USA
Community Tourism: Is it Really Sustainable?	Kagumu Adventures	USA
Maternal Mortality: Beyond an Indicator	Fundación Universitaria Juan N. Corpas	Colombia
2023 Great Lakes Conference: Managing Fisheries and Exploring Islands	Michigan State	USA
The Creative Café: International Women’s Day	University of Strathclyde	Scotland
Urban Gardening & Composting: Take Action in Your Community	Kagumu Adventures	USA
Human Trafficking: Be a Part of the Solution	Indiana University	USA
Teaching the SDGs: Innovation in teaching about the Sustainable Development Goals	University of British Columbia/SDSN Canada	Canada
Inner Development Goals	Brazilian Experience	Brazil

<b>SDG Week Event (continued)</b>	<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Organizer Location</b>
International Women's Day - Reproductive Health in the US	SUNY New Paltz	USA
Educating for Tomorrow's Unknowns: Sustainability Front and Centre	York University	Canada
Conferencia ODS en el Tec: "Los objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible a la mitad del camino"	Tec de Monterrey	Mexico
Advancing Careers & the SDGs: how a co-curriculum program prepares students to make a difference in their professional paths	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	USA
How to integrate the SDGs in academic programs: lessons from a 3-year bottom-up approach at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and European Alliance EELISA	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and European Alliance EELISA	Spain
Conversations with Cabrera: Climate Change	Georgia Institute of Technology	USA
Global Shared Learning Classroom con metodología COIL y desarrollo de competencias éticas y ciudadanas	Tec de Monterrey	Mexico
INSERLAB: A Conversation with our Alumni	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Spain
Sustainable Food System Solutions Research Fair	McGill University	Canada
"Meet the Maker" of the Beyond the Box: SDGs exhibits, Nebraska alumna Peyton Bishop	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	USA
About the Student Sustainability Summit: Hosting an SDG-focused, multi-institutional student mini-conference	The Sustainable Shenandoah Valley (SSV) Regional Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Development (RCE)	USA
SDGs by Self Reliant World	Unity of Nations Action for Climate Change Council	USA



<b>SDG Week Event (continued)</b>	<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Organizer Location</b>
Journées Scientifiques – Scientific Days	Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)	USA
Mental Health as an SDG: From Theory into Action	ENGAGE Youth, New York University	USA
Hiperion: Immersive Theatre on the SDGs	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	USA
Global Goals Jam Canada Winter 2023	Centennial College and Partners	USA
One Choice: Would you choose not to use any substances before your turn 21?	Mentor Foundation USA	USA
Unstainable Habits of Ordinary People	Koç University	Turkey
Poliempreende	Politécnico de Leiria	Portugal

## Additional Information and Contact

For more information on the work of the UGC, we invite you to visit the UGC website: <http://universityglobalcoalition.org>. SDG Action & Awareness Week is one of the three signature annual events of UGC (in addition to our Annual Gathering and the Geneva Dialogue); however, we partner on and promote initiatives and engagements throughout the year on our [UGC Calendar of Events](#), through our newsletter, and through our social media channels.

All contact information and newsletter sign up for UGC can be found at: <https://universityglobalcoalition.org/contact-ugc/>

For email inquiries: [universityglobalcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:universityglobalcoalition@gmail.com)

Twitter: [@uniglobal](#)

LinkedIn: [University Global Coalition](#)



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**2023 SDG Action & Awareness Week**