



Middlesex
University
London



Sustainable Development Goals

REPORT 2022/23



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Foreword

The world continued to face substantial change and unprecedented challenges throughout 2022/23. In that context, we are proud to have made significant progress in our contribution to delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – helping to build a fairer, healthier and more sustainable future.

This is a time of significant change, both nationally and globally. It's clear that there needs to be bold, united action right around the world if we are to overcome the critical challenges we collectively face, from climate change to widening socio-economic inequality.

In October 2021, Middlesex University signed the UN SDG Accord. This is our corporate commitment to deliver the SDGs within our institution. It's also our drive to inspire, celebrate and enhance the critical role that education has in delivering the Goals. Our commitment is part of a sustained global drive to ensure an equal, healthy and sustainable future for humanity and our planet. The SDGs are firmly embedded in our Strategy 2031, with a particular focus on making an impact in our three Strategy Integrated Themes:

- Equity and improvements in health and wellbeing
- Inclusive socio-economic development and enriching lives through culture
- Sustainability of communities and the environment.

Each Theme has mapped links with specific SDGs, and our three Theme Directors have been working hard to drive the implementation and direction of the Themes across our faculties and services.

Over the past year – through teaching, research, sharing knowledge and engaging staff and students – we continued to contribute to delivering the Goals. And looking ahead, we will work hard to embed and advance the SDGs throughout our institution, in each of our global locations, and at every level. We are ambitious about the opportunities to champion and advance the SDGs – right across our global campuses in London, Dubai and Mauritius, and through our extensive international networks. One way in which we are doing this is to embed the SDGs into the Learning Framework, aiming for every course to have meaningful and relevant reference to the Goals. This will help to engage students in the SDGs and prepare them for a changing world, in which their area of work will likely be impacted by global challenges, including the climate crisis.

Wellbeing is at the heart of our students' experience. As such, we champion diversity and inclusion, and strive to create a community in which every student and member of staff is able to fulfil their potential. In recognition of this, we received a Gold Award in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, and secured a place in the Top 100 list for leading LGBTQ+ inclusive employers in the workplace. We were ranked 58th out of 268 institutions, and 8th out of the 30 participating Higher Education Institutions. We also received the Race Equality Charter Bronze Award –

demonstrating our progress towards creating even greater opportunities for everyone, regardless of their background or experience. And, as the UK faced a cost of living crisis, we put in place practical, robust support for our students. This included a cost of living fund for students needing support to make ends meet, with over £750,000 allocated.

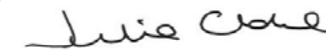
We continue to build on and recognise links between Middlesex research aims and outcomes to the SDGs. In 2023 we launched the Global Challenge Initiative: Knowledge into Action Lab, which annually brings together researchers from all disciplines and across our global community. It provides researchers a platform to reflect on the impact of their research, hear from inspirational speakers and collaborate with peers to respond to real-life challenges which respond to the SDGs. The initiative is co-led by the Chair of Postgraduate Research, the Theme Directors and the Middlesex University Dubai Office of Research.

The Drug and Alcohol Research Centre based at MDX was awarded funding to develop and adapt the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs (DSM) Foundation universal, multi-component drug education programme for 13-16-year-olds, in collaboration with the DSM Foundation. The output of this will inform a nation-wide drug education for young people, making a contribution to the health and wellbeing of the next generation. Another important project is our work as a partner in the Gender, Justice and Security Hub. This five-year UK Research and Innovation funded project is based at the London School of Economics. Academics from across Faculties are working together to address the gendered aspects of forced displacement, gendered dynamics of international labour migration, and socio-political restructuring in the wake of displacements and post-conflict.

Another success in 2022/23 was our ongoing work with Barnet Council. The council is committed to becoming a Net Zero council by 2030 and a Net Zero borough by 2042 and to support this ambition, we hosted the first ever series of Barnet Citizens Assemblies on climate change and biodiversity. MDX researchers facilitated discussions, developed recommendations and are now working with the council and other local partners to make the resulting Climate Action Plan, a reality. We also worked in partnership with Barnet Council on our Changing the Culture initiative, set to tackle misogyny, domestic abuse and violence against women. One element of the initiative, the #HearMyVoice campaign, resulted in various projects with organisations and community groups. One of these, 'Counter don't Cancel', involved pupils at the William Ellis School in North London, engaging them in discussions about the impact of social media influencer Andrew Tate.

These are just a few of the many inspiring ways we have contributed to the Goals throughout 2022/23. This report, as part of our commitment to the mission of the UN's SDGs, explores our achievements in more depth, as well as taking a look ahead at the exciting opportunities we have planned for improvement and

engagement. We are hugely proud of all we've achieved so far, and ambitious for our progress over the coming year.



Professor Julia Clarke
Interim Vice-Chancellor



OUR THEME DIRECTORS



PROFESSOR LISA MARZANO
Professor of Psychology

EQUITY AND IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I am delighted about progress in developing our Equity and Improvements in Health and Wellbeing Integrating Theme, and its contribution to delivering the UN's SDGs. Across our global campuses and communities, our commitment to promoting healthy lives for all across age groups has been – and continues to be – the catalyst of cutting-edge teaching, research, knowledge exchange and wider engagement activities. In 2022/23 we

saw the launch of state-of-the-art facilities for transformational healthcare learning and practice-oriented partnerships in the West Stand site of the StoneX stadium. Across our campuses, in London, Dubai and Mauritius, we also celebrated many research and knowledge exchange successes, and new interdisciplinary collaborations, which drive forward impactful work towards a healthier and fairer world."



PROFESSOR KURT BARLING
Professor of Journalism (Practice)

INCLUSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH CULTURE

We continue to work extremely hard at Middlesex University, through initiatives like work with primary schools to connect children with nature and the KilburnLab identifying the importance of built environments to meet community needs, to reflect the core values at the heart of our Strategy 2031: Knowledge into Action and delivering Inclusive Socio-Economic Development and Enriching Lives Through Culture. Through our curricula we have striven to provide support and stimulation to a growing number of students to engage in entrepreneurial endeavour in

London, Dubai and Mauritius. MDXAccelerator, our business incubator scheme, has continued to build confidence and resource innovation for student-led business ideas, generating ways in which our undergraduate and postgraduate students can provide solutions to the many challenges faced by the communities we serve. It reminds us that our three Integrating Themes more often intersect and that the solutions we need to broker to the serious global challenges we face demand interdisciplinary responses."



PROFESSOR JOHAN SIEBERS
Professor of Philosophy of Language and Communication

SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In this exciting year for our Sustainability of Communities and the Environment Integrating Theme, we initiated the consolidation, focus and enhancement of our activities in a strategic way to make an impactful contribution to the growth of sustainable communities worldwide. In 2022/23 we entered into a long-term partnership with our local council in the London Borough of Barnet, where our London campus is based, to put our knowledge into action, working

with the Council and residents, including children and young people, on the way to a Net Zero Carbon Emissions Future. We also worked on the development of the green skills agenda in London, while we extended our work on sustainable communities globally through industry partnerships, and through continued work on carbon footprint calculation on our Mauritius campus and at the Institute of Sustainable Development at our Dubai Campus."

Sustainable Development Goals

KEY



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Our SDGs Research

IN NUMBERS

OVERVIEW

Over 2022/23, SDGs research has continued to evolve at the University, representing a growing field of inquiry that quantitatively and qualitatively examines progress towards achieving meaningful impact across the 17 SDGs. One of the first challenges that we have been working on addressing is improving the way we obtain information.

Through diverse methodologies encompassing data analysis, case studies, and policy assessments, our SDG research provides critical insights into the world's advancement in areas such as good health and wellbeing, environmental sustainability, healthcare access, and education. In 2023/24, we aim to continuously evolve our systemic approach in checking our progress with our work towards the SDGs.

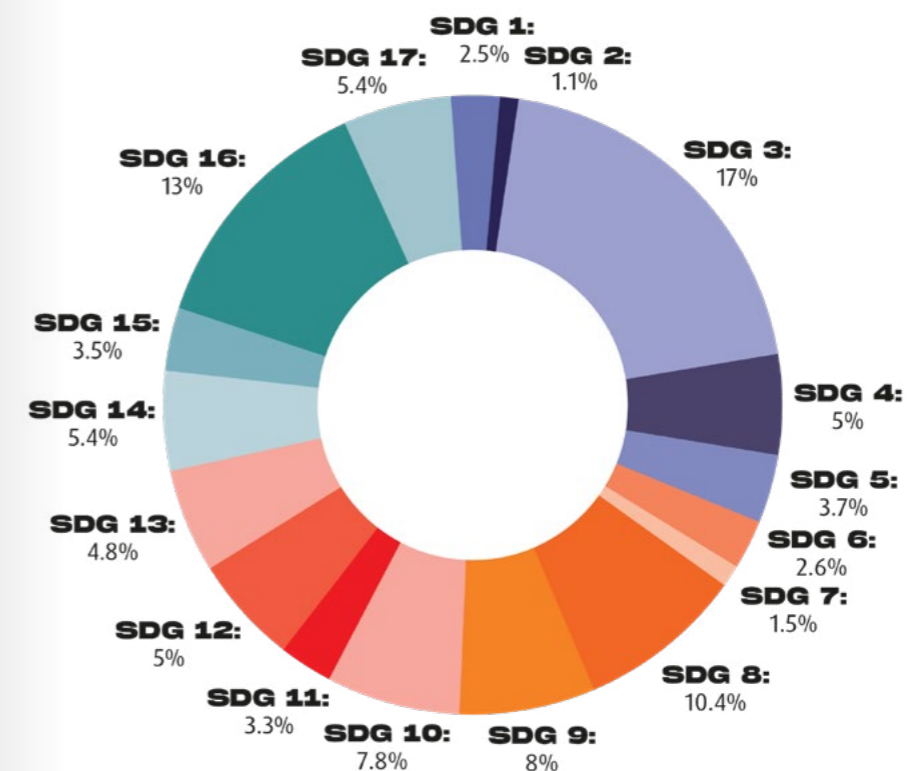
METHODOLOGY

We obtained the research data by reading titles and abstracts of the total research outputs deposited to our research repository in the reporting period, and all SDG-tagged research repository outputs that were verified as relevant. We made every effort to ensure accuracy and that clear links to SDGs aims were identified. However, we acknowledge the possibility that some relevant papers may have been missed due to human error.

This year, we changed the research repository system to one which is custom-built for Middlesex, and includes the SDG tagging system. This has noticeably increased our academics' engagement with the SDG tagging system. We aim to continue improving accuracy of our research methods for SDG reporting, and to raise awareness and understanding of this new SDG tagging feature.

The research outputs data has been broken down by faculty to give a deeper understanding of faculty activity in relation to each of the SDGs, and to see how each faculty is performing in relation to the Goals over time.

ALL RESEARCH OUTPUTS BY SDG



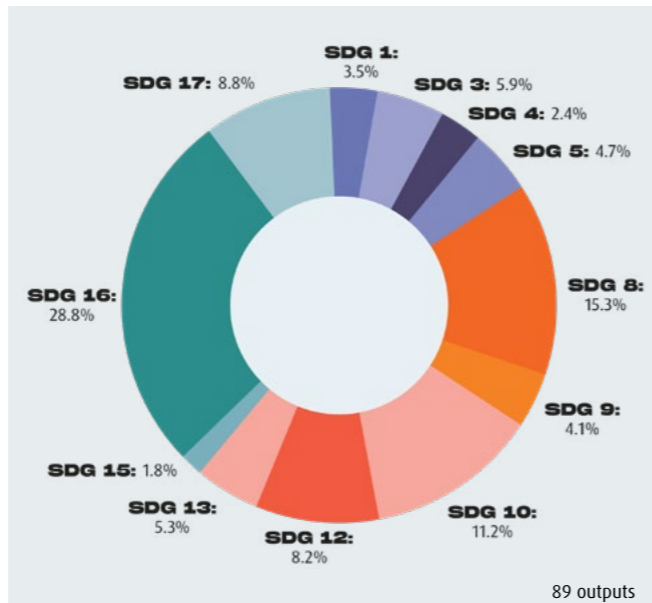
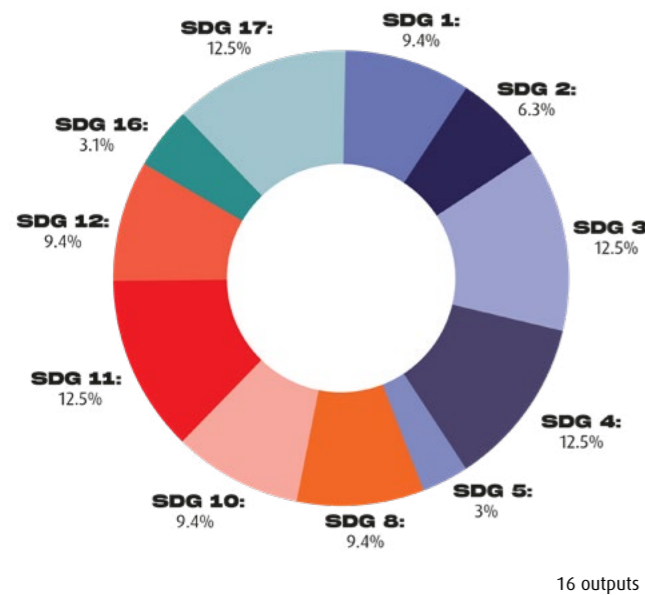
A total of 231 research outputs were relevant to one or more SDGs in 2022/23, compared to 289 in 2021/22. With the move to our new research repository system, academics are increasingly engaging with the tagging tool to describe which of the Goals their work contributes to, and to build an SDG research database for the University.

While we have recorded our data for SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals, we will strive to work towards and build upon our work in relation to the other SDGs across all our Faculties.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS BY FACULTY

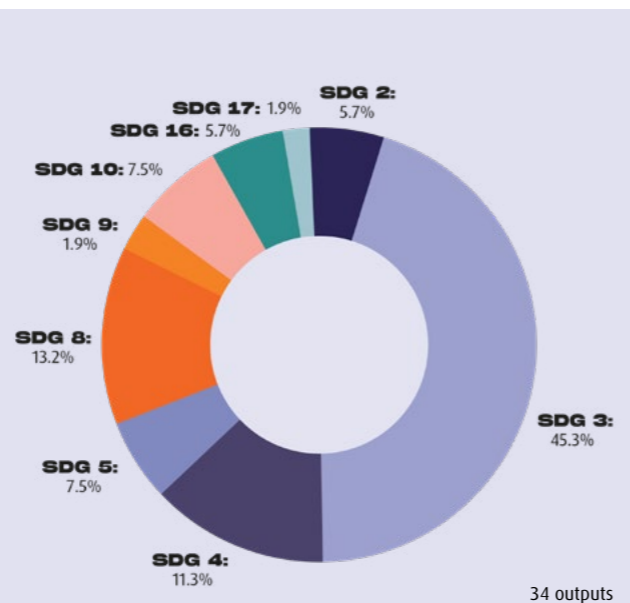
ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Research on arts and creative industries within the context of SDGs constitutes a vibrant and dynamic domain that explores the multifaceted intersections between culture, creativity and sustainable development. Researchers investigate how the arts contribute to social inclusion, economic growth and environmental sustainability, while also addressing issues such as cultural preservation, innovation and identity. By examining the role of arts and creative industries in fostering resilience, promoting dialogue and advancing social justice, our research contributes to building stronger institutions and developing innovative frameworks for reducing inequalities.



BUSINESS AND LAW

Research output focusing on business and law within the framework of the SDGs plays a pivotal role in understanding the intersection of economic activities, legal frameworks and sustainable development imperatives. Our researchers investigate various aspects including corporate governance, responsible business practices, legal frameworks for environmental protection, human rights, and social justice. Moreover, research streams explore innovative business models, legal mechanisms, and governance structures that promote inclusive economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social equity. The Faculty understands the importance of being able to put into place legal checks on progress towards advancing SDGs and protecting their core principles.

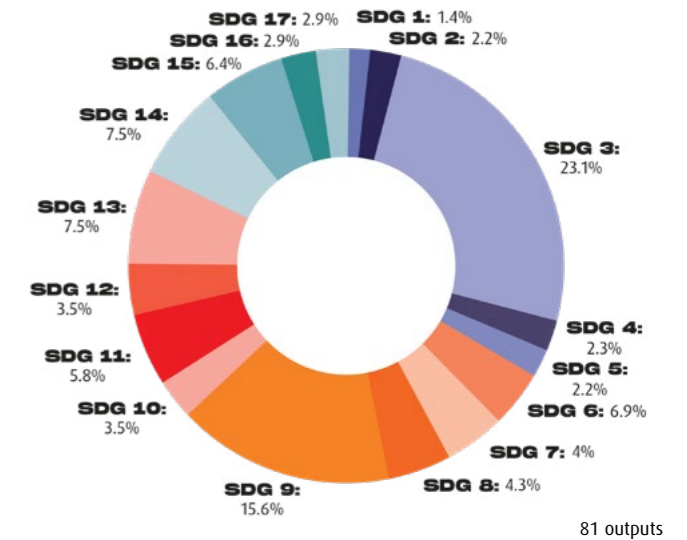


HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION

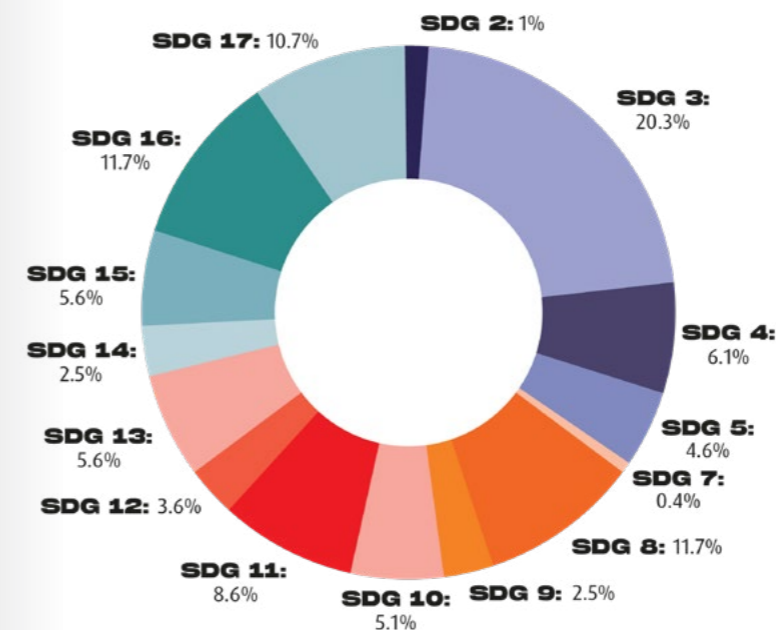
Research in the areas of health, social care and education constitutes a multifaceted examination of global wellbeing and human development. In health, our research delves into healthcare accessibility, disease prevention, maternal and child health, and mental wellbeing, aiming to reduce disparities and ensure universal health coverage. Social care research at Middlesex focuses on addressing social inequalities, promoting social inclusion, and safeguarding vulnerable populations, including refugees, migrants, and those affected by conflicts or disasters. Our research in education encompasses efforts to enhance access to quality education, improve literacy rates, foster lifelong learning, and bridge educational gaps across regions and socio-economic strata. The University is committed to bringing value to society and will continue to expand its workstreams to deliver high-quality, accessible education.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Our work in science and technology plays a pivotal role in driving SDG research output, offering innovative solutions and analytical frameworks to address the complex challenges outlined by the SDGs. With advancements in data analytics, Middlesex researchers harness the power of technology to collect, analyse and interpret large datasets related to sustainable development indicators, in various formats. In the pressing context of climate change, the Flood Hazard Research Centre will continue to play an important role in responding to this global challenge. We harness technology to share our research findings and knowledge, and to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and partners around the world. In doing so, we contribute invaluable insights to inform evidence-based policymaking, guide resource allocation, and drive transformative actions towards achieving the SDGs. The Faculty is also working closely with the University's Environment and Sustainability team to achieve shared objectives and improve our sustainable campus.



FUNDED PROJECTS



In 2022/23, 66% (123 out of 185) of active funded projects were relevant to one or more SDGs – up from 54% in 2021/22. The breakdown of this year's data highlights that while our impact on SDG 3 remains prominent as a result of innovative healthcare and health technology research, SDG 8, SDG 16 and SDG 17 have all also emerged as areas of strong engagement in terms of funded research. This is in part due to recent focus through funded work on improving working conditions, both in the UK and internationally, for vulnerable workers, and on nature positive and sustainable finance.

SDG KEY:

SDG 1	No Poverty	SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being	SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 4	Quality Education	SDG 13	Climate Action
SDG 5	Gender Equality	SDG 14	Life Below Water
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	SDG 15	Life on Land
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	SDG 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure		

World-changing research

GENDER, JUSTICE AND SECURITY IN GLOBAL CONFLICT REGIONS



Conflict and gender-based violence have devastating, long-term consequences on individuals, families and communities. They also severely hamper the successful delivery of development goals internationally. Middlesex University is a partner in the Gender, Justice and Security Hub, a five-year UK Research and Innovation funded project based at the London School of Economics, where academics from across Faculties are addressing the gendered aspects of forced displacement; gendered dynamics of international labour migration; and socio-political restructuring in the wake of displacements and post-conflict. The projects will inform policy responses to a number of the SDG issues including gender equality and women and girls' empowerment, peaceful societies and access to justice for all, and orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people.

- Dr Eleonore Kofman, Professor of Gender, Migration and Citizenship, is co-directing the Migration and Displacement research stream. This research contributes to a gender-sensitive understanding of economic and socio-cultural drivers of labour migrations in different cities in Kurdistan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey, and seeks to understand how migrant women use urban spaces
- Dr Neelam Raina, Associate Professor in Design and Development, is working on Culture and Conflict, which takes an anthropological approach to valuing culture specific knowledge and skills for peace building and reconstruction from the perspective of women, exploring the practices of craft across the region of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- Dr Janroj Yilmaz Keles, Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations, is investigating the gender experiences of returnees (forced and voluntary) and changes in families and communities in conflicted and/or post-conflict societies in Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.



Photo credit: Neelam Raina



Photo credit: Laajverd, Pakistan

Above: Commercialising Arts and Humanities Research through British Retail. Culture and Conflict sale and exhibition at Handmade in Britain, Oxford Show. Waterperry Gardens, Oxford June 2023.

Right: Woman spins woollen yarn by hand. Laspur, Upper Chitral District, Pakistan, June 2020.

DIGITAL TWIN FOR HERITAGE SITE IN CAIRO, EGYPT



Egypt's diverse world heritage assets contribute a vital 12% of the country's economy. However, some assets suffer from heavy deterioration, maintenance and operations issues, and operations are often energy intensive. Dr Noha Saleeb from the London Digital Twin Research Centre at Middlesex University was principle investigator of an innovative project to build a digital twin system for the restoration and running of Toson Palace, Cairo, as a model roll-out on other heritage assets. The project considered all 17 SDGs, from improving drainage systems to reduce pollution runoff water (SDG 14), to incorporating the vegetable and fruit allotment in the digital twin model to improve produce (SDG 2),

and to relocating site bats and snakes (SDG 15). The outputs of the project include a new heritage classification system, a structural analysis framework and a renovation expert system (SDGs 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17), which can be used by other heritage sites to optimise restoration management, and generate more equal career and educational opportunities and tourism revenues for sustainable development (SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16). The heritage classification system has already been utilised by experts here in London for the restoration works of Westminster Palace, and will continue to grow as a resource for global sustainable construction and tourism.

LIVE LAGOM PROJECT



Dr Patrick Elf, Senior Research Fellow - Sustainable Business at our Centre for Enterprise, Environment and Development Research Centre (CEEDR), leads the research on the IKEA UK & Ireland's Live Lagom project. 'Lagom' is a Swedish term that, roughly translated, means 'just enough' – not too much nor too little. Providing the programme's leitmotif, the Live Lagom behaviour change programme aims to inspire people to adopt more sustainable lifestyles at home. The interventions target a number of behaviours; from upcycling and reusing products, through to mending practices and the adoption of energy saving behaviours and consuming less.

and Cardiff University – explores the influence of a diverse range of interventions on sustainable behaviours, the perceived ease and affordability to adopt those, and how behavioural changes can spill over into other domains. In addition, since 2014, over 1,500 so-called 'Lagomers' have reported saving on their household bills, and a heightened sense of feeling happier and more in control of their lives. The practice-oriented, real-life research demonstrates the tangible influence of behaviour-focused initiatives in shaping a more sustainable world, and the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration. The project has also provided deep insights into effective behavioural change strategies, and has informed IKEA's sustainability strategy.

Running in its 10th year, the research – that also includes academics from the Swansea University, the University of Surrey

HACKNEY YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES PROJECT



Hackney Youth Offending Services have commissioned Middlesex University research aimed to understand more about their practices and to determine if and how they are reducing ethnic disproportionality within their services.

Middlesex researchers Dr Helen Gleeson (Research Fellow in Social Work/Social Policy), Professor Lucille Allain (Professor of Social Work, Practice, and Head of Department of Mental Health and Social Work) and Diane Apeah-Kubi (Associate Professor in Social Work, Practice, and Director of Programmes) completed a study of locally held data and research involving young people and professionals with experience of the services. The study found that ethnic disproportionality is lower in

Hackney compared to national findings and that this is likely due to active anti-racist practices, a multi-agency approach that includes mental health and speech and language practitioners as part of the decision-making team, and a commitment to building genuine trusting relationships with young people. The final report has so far been used to inform Hackney Youth Offending Services' planning priorities for next year and has been referenced by HM Inspectorate of Probation as an example of good practice. The research team has been invited to co-host a webinar with the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales in early 2024 to share findings with a wider audience.



GREENING WEST LONDON'S FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS SMES

Businesses are increasingly being called upon to address climate change and environmental impact in their operations. Freight and logistics have a key role in this, not least due to recent legislation such as the Ultra-Low Emission Zones in London. Dr Amy Burnett (Research Fellow in Sustainable and Inclusive Enterprise) and Professor Robyn Owen (Professor of Entrepreneurial Finance) from CEEDR led the **Greening the Freight and Logistics Sector project** which sought to understand how the sector is engaging with net-zero and wider environmental issues. The research involved working with partners Vertus (consultants), London Borough of Hounslow, London West Innovation Network (LWIN), and the West London Chambers of Commerce, and engaging with various West London industry stakeholders, such as West London Business. They also consulted industry experts, including the British International Freight Association, the Great British Railway Transition Team, the Connected Places Catapult Freight Cluster, SEGRO, and small and medium enterprise (SMEs) and transport providers from Heathrow Airport and across the UK.

The project involved creating short videos to introduce key issues relating to greening the freight and logistics sector to SMEs to offer guidance on implementing and funding the introduction of more environmentally friendly practices in freight and logistics.

The research team also presented to the Connected Places Catapult Freight Cluster, LWIN and the West London Chambers of Commerce in 2023. As part of this work, our researchers are continuing to develop a toolkit that can help SMEs in the sector, and their investors, to better understand how to mainstream environmental issues and biodiversity, which is linked to the SME Nature Positive Finance project, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council. The research team have also been awarded follow-on funding from the High Education Innovation Fund and the Research Facilitation Fund where they will deepen engagement in the Greening Freight and Logistics Sector project in 2024. This research will also involve a Middlesex PhD student to identify issues relating to green investment, warehousing, logistics and commercial properties that will give them additional insight into their area of study, which includes how the SDGs are shaping sustainable asset management of industrial buildings.

SUSTAINABILITY AND STEM RESOURCE PACK

In 2021, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Dr Angela Scollan collaborated with five colleagues from various institutions to create a Sustainability & STEM resource to support early years practitioners as they engage with babies, young children, parents/carers and stakeholders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The resource pack is theoretically underpinned by research relating to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the SDGs, early years policy and the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS)

to translate theory into practical early years activities. The pack cross-references SDGs and STEM subjects to encourage practical connections that promote engagement, learning and dialogic exchange. The pack is currently used in settings across England and has been recreated in Australia (2024) and Northern Ireland (2023). Angela is leading a placement research with Year 2 Middlesex University BA Early Childhood Studies students to explore how SDGs and resources are perceived and engaged with in practice.

#HEARMYVOICE CAMPAIGN



Still from the **Counter Don't Cancel** Campaign short film



Changing the Culture is a Middlesex University initiative in partnership with Barnet Council aiming to bring the community together to tackle misogyny, domestic abuse and violence against women. The #HearMyVoice campaign as part of the Changing the Culture partnership has resulted in various projects with organisations and community groups. A recent project called 'Counter don't cancel' involved Middlesex University students in a project with pupils at the William Ellis School in Parliament Hill, north London. They discussed the impact of the social media influencer Andrew Tate on young people, particularly young teenage boys who are susceptible to the increasingly misogynistic messaging online. The event was filmed by Middlesex University students, who helped to engage young people in the discussion and produced a short film for the campaign.

Counter don't Cancel is built on the simple premise that if we don't engage young people, if we simply shut down the conversation, then we really don't do anything to shift the narrative. What the project has really highlighted is the importance of creating spaces to have those conversations, to better understand the perspectives and experiences of young people, and importantly to nurture them towards more positive attitudes."

Ben Serlin, Senior Safeguarding Project Manager at Middlesex University

MUSICARE PROJECT

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The acceleration in the number of older people living with cognitive impairment or dementia has increased the need for accessible interventions to improve the quality of life for them and their families. Researchers from our Music Cognition and Communication Lab, in collaboration with Methodist Homes (MHA), are working on the three-year MusiCare project (funded by The Dunhill Medical Trust) to explore the possible effects of novel forms of music intervention for older adults who are healthy or experiencing mild-to-moderate cognitive decline. The project focuses on whether music therapy could be used in preventive programs to protect and enhance cognitive functions, and to support wellbeing, as well as understand which specific type of music therapy intervention (one-to-one, small group, or community music therapy) is more efficient depending on individuals' cognitive level. In addition, the project wants to investigate whether robotic-assistance technologies may aid music therapists in their practice by enriching possible benefits.



Jwaad Hussain with participant



The MusiCare Research team. From left to right: Dr Emma Ward (then Co-investigator, now Principal investigator), Jwaad Hussain (PhD student); Dr Fabia Franco (original Principal Investigator), and Dr Anthony Mangiacotti (Post-doctoral researcher).

With an ageing population in the UK and the need for inexpensive care and treatment options, the project supports the aim of SDG 3 to strengthen capacity to manage national health risks. Preliminary results of the present study have demonstrated that, independently from the type of intervention, improvisational music therapy delivered once a week over a five-month period had a positive cognitive-behavioural impact among healthy older adults. The preliminary results also show some advantage of one-to-one and small group music therapy in people with cognitive decline living in care home settings. For the Barnet Silver Sunday Event 2023 and the Dementia Action Week 2023, over 200 local residents attended an information fair held on our London campus, during which Dr Fabia Franco (Associate Professor in Psychology) and Dr Anthony Mangiacotti (MusiCare Post-doctoral researcher) discussed research findings about the cognitive-psychophysiological effects of music therapy and ageing. PhD student Jwaad Hussain, supervised by Professor Eris Chinellato from the Department of Design Engineering and Mathematics, was present with the QT-Robot to interact with the attendees.

DEVELOPING A MULTI-COMPONENT DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR 13-16-YEAR-OLDS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The **Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (DARC)** based at Middlesex University has a long-standing reputation of delivering world-class research on drug and alcohol use and addiction issues in the UK and internationally, contributing to the aim of SDG 3 to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance misuse. In 2023 the UK Government announced the drug strategy innovation fund to deliver their ten-year Drugs Plan, and an important aspect of the strategy is to tackle the attitudes developed around drugs at a young age which can inform later behaviours. Led by the Head of DARC, Professor Betsy Thom, academics at Middlesex University were awarded funding

to develop and adapt the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation universal, multi-component drug education programme for 13-16-year-olds. Working in collaboration with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation, we are aiming to understand the changes needed to deliver a drug education programme suitable for this age group and implement these changes in education. The outputs of this project will inform nation-wide drug education for young people and take an innovative approach to measuring the effectiveness of drug education to make young people less likely to use drugs.

MY CARE ACADEMY

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



My Care Academy is a knowledge building partnership developed by Middlesex University, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust. The project aims to provide educational resources, mental health support and achieving practice. It does this by supporting the development needs of the care workforce, through sharing knowledge and co-creating, to elevate best practice.

My Care Academy encompasses a wide range of initiatives, from in-person workshops, interviews with experts and practitioners, mental health guidance and discussions of wider social issues such as LGBTQ+ experience in care professions. Middlesex students can also get involved and boost their professional

profile through student blogs to discuss their experiences on placements. Since forming in 2014, My Care Academy has developed a number of capacities including open source bite-size learning units and career development resources. The Academy provides comprehensive support, accessible information and development resources to healthcare workers and providers, contributing to our key Theme 'equity and improvements in health and wellbeing' and to the aim of SDG 3 to increase the development, training and retention of the health workforce.

THE ART OF HEALING IN KASHMIR, INDIA

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Photo credit: Art of Healing project

The Art of Healing project is an interdisciplinary research project studying the potential for arts and art-based therapies to support the mental health and wellbeing of children affected by conflict in Kashmir. Dr Loraine Leeson (Associate Professor in Fine Art), Dr Neelam Raina (Associate Professor in Design and Development) and Nicky Lambert (Associate Professor in Mental Health) all contributed to the study which took place in 2022, in collaboration with the Dolphin International School in Pulwama. Kashmir is one of the most militarised areas in the world where everyday life is impacted by political and social crises, and moments of violence and unrest.

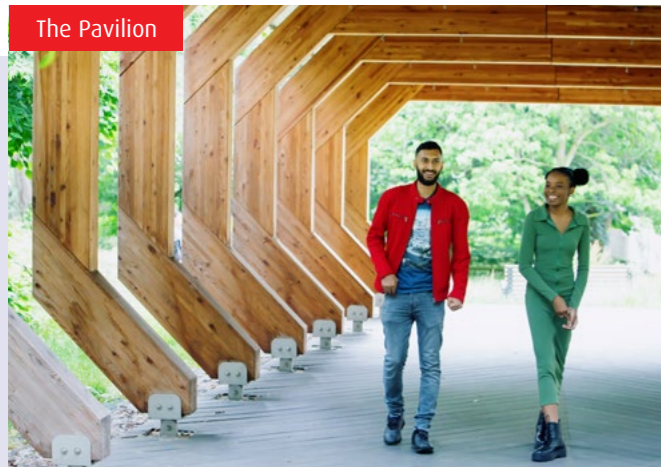
Art activities and arts-based therapies were designed to support the children in group working and emotional expression, as well as facilitate their sense of agency and self-esteem through creative processes. The study concluded that school-based arts interventions can play a positive and accessible role in the mental health and wellbeing of children, especially in contexts where mental health services are uneven and under-resourced. Following evaluation of the first project, a next stage has expanded the benefits of the work with other communities elsewhere in the region, with a view to extending into other areas of conflict.

Learning, education and teaching

ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

1 Waste Pavilion project

Interior Architecture students took part in the Waste Pavilion project. This involved salvaging scrap materials from around the Faculty of Arts and Creative Industries over the course of the second semester and giving further life to this waste which would usually be left behind. The installation uses the existing Pavilion structure designed by Architectural Technology students, and the public and colleagues are invited to engage and participate in transforming the space through inventive collaboration which celebrates re-use. The materials will be re-used for next year's student projects, enabling a circular creative economy, and a creative use for waste which helps lower energy consumption by mitigating embodied emissions on projects. Previously, in 2020, the Pavilion was a Finalist for London Sustainable Construction Award and runner-up for 'Teaching Excellence' in Guardian University Awards.



2 KilburnLab initiative

Our School of Design in London has remained at the forefront of creative and transformative projects, collaborating with external partners including councils, libraries, and organizations to drive improvements to our local communities. At the heart of these efforts is the KilburnLab initiative, which promotes adaptive reuse as a social practice and empowers communities to reshape their neighbourhoods. In collaboration with One Kilburn, a confederation supported by Brent and Camden and funded by 'Power to Change', this year KilburnLab engaged the community in envisioning the future and reimagining disused community spaces with outcomes including 44 major projects by Interior Architecture and MA Interiors (Architecture and Design) students; exhibitions at the Middlesex Degree Show and Kilburn Library for the London Festival of Architecture; and talks and workshops that provide a platform for dialogue and community involvement. The project, led by Dr Francesca Murialdo (Director of Interior Architecture and Design programmes), with Naomi House (Senior Lecturer in Interior Architecture and Design), Jason Scoot (Senior Lecturer), Michael Westthorp (Senior Lecturer in Interiors), and Professor Gareth Williams (Deputy Dean for Quality Enhancement and Development in the Faculty of Arts and Creative Industries), received a highly positive response, with event attendees expressing enthusiasm and being inspired by the exhibitions and the local Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan Forum recognizing the value of the exhibitions in generating interest and enriching their consultation process.



BUSINESS AND LAW

“The networking events, having those 1-1s with academics, networking with other people in the business and the community around Barnet were very useful.”

— a BBGP participant and business owner/manager

1

Barnet Business Growth Programme

This year we partnered with Barnet Council in London to develop and deliver a unique programme aimed at supporting Barnet micro-businesses which have either closed or have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Middlesex University senior academics curated and delivered the Barnet Business Growth Programme (BBGP) comprising research, short courses, and graduate placements for Barnet-based and resident-owned micro-businesses. The programme allowed us to offer a secondary, shorter programme aimed at capturing new businesses who may have not been aware of the initial offer. The feedback and testimonial evidence of businesses who attended and who also may have undertaken the internship offer, was hugely positive. This provides strong evidence that with further ideation and strategic thinking this provision has the potential to make real, sustainable and positive impact on businesses who engage, while also affording greater opportunities for our staff, students and graduates.

Principles for Responsible Management Education

Middlesex was one of the first UK universities to sign up to the UN Global Compact, and we are proud of our commitment to its mission. As demonstrated in our Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) Reports, the

Dr Christopher Moon (Senior Lecturer in Eco-Entrepreneurship) with the Enactus team



2

Student project: ENACTUS

Enactus is a global movement supporting students and young people to engage in social action and social enterprise activities. It oversees 1,600 projects, all of which contribute towards the SDGs.

MDX Enactus Society took action this year by using AI to create an app that offers students a bespoke and accessible overview of extra-curricular activities at the University. The app works as a 'social friend' – helping to boost mental health, particularly for international students. Following a Hackathon involving students and staff from across the University's campuses in London, Dubai and Mauritius, the content was expanded to signpost to NICE-recommended digital therapies. This innovative project was a finalist in a contest sponsored by software company SAP at Enactus UK's National Expo in April 2023.

UN Principles are an important focus for our Business School, and they also shape our wider work, both in our global campuses in London, Dubai and Mauritius, and through our extensive international networks.

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION

1

Creating collaborative knowledge and advantage in mental health and social care

Our Department of Mental Health and Social Work is the academic partner for **'Think Ahead'** and delivers a national, flagship programme in mental health social work, funded by the Department for Health and Social Care. Middlesex University has trained cohorts of over 100 'Think Ahead' students annually since 2019 – with numbers continuing to grow. This programme continues

to build a new workforce in social work focused on mental health. In social work we also deliver a Department for Education flagship programme 'Step Up to Social Work' as the academic lead for the North London Partnership Group, and Middlesex is the university lead in the North London Social Work Teaching Partnership.

A simulated hospital environment which is adaptable to simulate a ward in our health care facilities at StoneX Stadium's West Stand



2

Innovative simulation teaching

Situated in the beautiful surroundings of StoneX Stadium, home of the Saracens Rugby Club, our Simulation Centre houses state-of-the-art facilities across two floors. The Centre empowers students to develop their knowledge – using simulation to improve their skills and build confidence. This gives the opportunity to practice and train in a safe environment that replicates the 'real world of work'. It also aims to provide a space for our community stakeholders, partners, and businesses to deliver CPD and upskilling for their health and social care workforce. While the Centre is largely developed to facilitate students studying nursing and midwifery, we also provide specialist space adaptable to other key health and social care disciplines, for example social work and mental health, as well as for teachers working with children and young people being cared for in specialist hospital/community settings.

In addition to technical skills, we facilitate the development of non-technical skills such as interpersonal, communication, leadership, teamwork, situational awareness and clinical decision making. We do this by using manikins and actors who play the part of a patient/client – this helps students to practice a variety

of skills such as active listening, asking questions, compassion and empathy. Our simulation facilities are committed to ethical standards in education and training. All roles, including those of a facilitator, technician, actor or other are responsible for acting with professional integrity and self-awareness of how an individual's personal and professional behaviour affects those around them. The Centre embraces the diversity of our staff, students and colleagues across the wider community.

These simulations are an important part of our education strategy in the Simulation Centre. Our actors are appropriately trained to respond and to provide feedback, and are also involved in all de-brief sessions which provide the students the opportunity to reflect on their practice. We are developing an application to enable students to use electronic patient record documentation to consolidate their skills, in line with the digitalisation of healthcare. We also give our students the opportunity to access a supervised drop-in session where peer learning allows them to further practice and improve on any of their clinical skills of choice.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1

Judicial Decision Data Gathering, Encoding and Sharing project

As a global community, our collaborative, creative and inclusive approach is helping to shape the future of research and knowledge exchange. An excellent example of collaboration between two academic Departments in our London campus – and between disciplines and countries (Poland, France and UK) – is JuDDGES (Judicial Decision Data Gathering, Encoding and Sharing). Led by Professor of Data Science and Machine Learning David Windridge and Professor in Decision Psychology Mandeep Dhami, the project aims to use state-of-the-art Natural Language Processing & Human-In-The-Loop technologies to provide legal researchers, practitioners and students with much needed new Open software and tools. These will be applied to legal records and judgments from criminal courts across jurisdictions with varied legal constitutions (Poland, England and Wales) and will offer a unique insight into the application of the law. JuDDGES, which builds on Professor Windridge's and Professor Dhami's long-standing, internationally-recognised research in the respective fields of Artificial Intelligence and Legal Decision Making, is indicative of the University's commitment to collaborating with international partners.

2

Mapping SDGs into BSc Architectural Technology

In April 2022, our BSc Architectural Technology BSc became the first course to be fully mapped to the SDGs – in line with the University's 2031 Strategy. It forms part of the new framework for all courses to follow. As part of the coursework assessment for one module, Year 3 students were given the task to assess the embodied carbon for the Williams Building at Middlesex University's campus in Hendon, north London. The building was constructed in the 1970s, and this task gave students a better understanding that retrofitting existing buildings is more sustainable and carbon efficient in comparison to building new.

It was crucial for students to calculate embodied carbon assessment results as accurately as possible, making some assumptions about the building fabric. To do this, students knocked on the walls, floors and windows to gain a better understanding of thickness and potential layers. Once this was completed, students used the One-Click LCA tool to input all of the materials they had identified. From this, students calculated the building's energy performance. They also found that the façade of the building (of which the majority is glass), has the most embodied carbon. This is mainly due to two different types of windows being used on either side of the building.

With these results, students are now able to explore potential improvements which can be made to the Williams building and provide a fresh, high-quality and inclusive design that minimises Whole Life Carbon Emissions. This will help the building to achieve a BREEAM excellent rating.

Collaborations for sustainable development

KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION LAB

Established in 2023, the Global Challenge Initiative: Knowledge into Action Lab is an annual initiative that brings together researchers from all disciplines and across our global community. It is co-led by the Chair of Postgraduate Research, the Theme Directors and the Middlesex University Dubai Office of Research. This initiative provides researchers with a platform to reflect on the impact of their research in the world, hear from inspirational speakers and collaborate with peers to respond to real-life challenges set by partners and companies, and which respond to the SDGs.

In 2023, postgraduate researchers and academics collaborated with external companies and Barnet Council to address real challenges the organisations sought to solve. Participants worked in groups and were challenged to think about their specialist knowledge alongside other disciplines to develop multifaceted and tangible solutions to the challenges, many of which are being developed into full scale projects in 2023/24.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



LONDON STUDENTS' ENGAGEMENT WITH CONSERVATIONS EFFORTS IN MAURITIUS



Students working on mangrove development (below) and forest reforestation (left) activities in Mauritius



In 2022/23, students from our BSc Biological Sciences course in London learned and engaged with conservation efforts in Mauritius. For a period of two weeks they gained knowledge and skills under the supervision of the Ebony Forest team. Activities included taught and practical sessions on ecological surveys, predator control, ecotourism and forest restoration.

In forest restoration, students were involved in native forest restoration activities on the site, with activities involving control of exotic species, work in the nursery and tree planting on site.

With mangroves playing an essential role in coastal protection against flooding and erosion, our learners also engaged on surveying local mangrove development, which involved the use of a drone to map the status of recent planted mangroves.

WORK WITH BARNET COUNCIL: GREEN ECONOMY ACTION PLAN



In May 2022, Barnet Council declared a climate emergency and committed Barnet to becoming a Net Zero council by 2030 and a Net Zero borough by 2042. It launched the first ever series of Barnet Citizens Assemblies on climate change and biodiversity, aiming to work in partnership across the borough to develop actions towards this goal. Sixty participants, including individuals from local businesses and schools, attended the assemblies, which Middlesex University hosted on campus with researchers

from across Faculties helping to facilitate the sessions and develop the recommendations. As a result of the assemblies Barnet Council published a Climate Action Plan and has begun collaborating with Middlesex University and other local partners on initiatives to make this plan a reality for the borough.

NHS CAREERS FAIR



There are over 350 career pathways in the NHS, and the health and social care industry is constantly evolving. In another year of collaboration with the NHS North Central London Training Hub, our annual NHS Careers Fair helped develop the pipeline of healthcare professionals in North London. Hosted on our London campus in March 2023, the Fair brought 75 NHS and healthcare professionals together with Middlesex University healthcare staff who showcased some of the career paths in the NHS to 381 school students – 38% more students compared to the previous year, and more than double that of 2021. The post-event survey showed that 95% of responders had found the event helpful or very helpful. The Fair won the [Best Practice Collaboration Award by HELOA in 2023](#).

MDX SPORT AND EXERCISE STUDENTS VOLUNTEERING AT THE LONDON MARATHON 2023



This year, 30 Middlesex Sports and Exercise students volunteered at the London Marathon to provide sports massages for the runners, offering 300 recovery treatments on the day and ultimately helping the Alzheimer's Society raise over £1 million.



A sustainable campus in London

In the last year, we have continued to focus on energy reduction initiatives across campus, including efficiency improvements in the Hatchcroft building, and running switch-off campaigns for lighting and monitors, particularly around holiday times.

We have upgraded 72 heating and cooling units with CO₂ monitors so far, and are investigating further opportunities for improved air quality control and energy efficiency across our campus buildings. We established the Sustainability Working Group which brings together staff from estates, facilities and other areas to collaboratively plan actions to meet our carbon reduction targets. Our London campus' ISO14001 Platinum Accreditation for our environmental management system was also successfully revalidated, and we were awarded a Bronze accreditation by the Sustainable Restaurant Association.

As a University we champion active travel and low carbon commuting. In 2023, the installation of ten new electric vehicle charging points in our London campus' car park boosted our Electric Vehicle infrastructure and facilitated low carbon journeys to the campus. We have continued to promote active travel through the MDX Moves app, popular among students and staff alike, offering rewards for their active journeys and workouts, and running special challenges each with 100+ participants. Through the Freewheelers campus cycle hire scheme, we incentivised users who registered and paid to use the bikes, and gave them an additional 3,000 MDX Moves points when they joined the scheme, resulting in 18 new registrations. Our successful Healthy Campus Week in December 2022 included a bike draw which received 620+ entries; an active travel challenge encouraging people to walk or cycle more on their commute to campus, with nearly 100 participants; and herb grow kits giveaways to those participating in activities and events.

Between April and December 2023, our Too Good To Go initiative saved 654 meals, equivalent to 1,635kg of CO₂, from waste. In 2022/23, we also sold 1,080 reusable cups on campus, while our 5p Cup initiative – which adds 5p to the cost of a drink for those without a reusable cup, with all income then used to fund student-led sustainable campus initiatives – generated £2,693.65. Importantly, our consistent work to preserve and enhance biodiversity on campus included the refurbishment of the Ritterman Building's green walls to grow new plants species which are best suited to the location and climate. In line with our policy to plant two new trees for any that have to be removed, we also planted four Scots pine trees in the Grove Park on campus to replace two which had to be removed for safety.

Since 2021, we have supported the Fresh Air Campus initiative which focuses on understanding the quality of the air and the health of the local community. Led by Associate Professor of Environmental Sustainability, Dr Christophe Viavattene,

Middlesex University students from a range of programmes have gathered and then analysed real time data from an AQmesh sensor which was installed on campus. In July 2023, a Breathe London monitor was installed near Golders Green Station. We have since formed a community partnership, Clean Air Barnet (CAB), with Barnet Friends of the Earth and Mothers CAN to extend the work beyond the immediate vicinity of our campus. CAB raises awareness of our air quality, encourages actions to improve our air quality and protect our health and is building credibility by analysing and reporting on Breathe London data and engaging citizen in the use of portable monitors. The learnings from the analysis of the sensor results enabled our students and staff to engage with local environmental organisations. University students have developed air quality posters for display in events at our campus' College Building and one dissertation was based on Breathe data to compare air pollution for two Barnet primary schools (Martin Primary school and Orion Primary School).

72 heating and cooling units upgraded with CO₂ monitors.

Our **ISO14001 PLATINUM ACCREDITATION** for our environmental management system was also **successfully revalidated**.

10 new electric vehicle charging points installed in our London campus' car park in 2023.

Our **Too Good To Go** initiative saved **654 MEALS**, equivalent to 1,635kg of CO₂, from waste.

In 2022/23, we also sold **1,080 REUSABLE CUPS** on campus.

Equality, diversity and inclusion



Chickenshed Academy performance at our Neurodiversity Celebration Festival

Our unique culture and diverse community are vital – and celebrated. The Inclusion and Wellbeing Team along with colleagues across the University have been working to support our commitment to an inclusive place of work and study for our whole community.

Our efforts in the inclusion space led to the University receiving a Gold Award and securing a place in the Top 100 list for leading LGBTQ+ inclusive employers in the workplace in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2023, while our colleague Ant Babajee, a CRM Manager and at the time co-chair of the University's LGBTQ+ Staff Network, was named a Change Maker of the Year in the same Index. This year the University has been working on the Athena Swan action plan in respect of developing our academic promotions model to be more inclusive, which has resulted in improved outcomes for women. We created a monthly 'EDI and Wellbeing New Starter Email' which is sent out to all new staff providing essential information about wellbeing and support in the workplace, our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Staff Networks, and our memberships and charter marks.

The University is a member of Advance HE's Race Equality Charter (REC) and have been awarded a REC Bronze Award, which indicates that we are on the right path to developing a more inclusive culture and progressing towards creating even greater opportunities for everyone in our community of staff and students, regardless of our background or experience. We also completed the Business in the Community's (BITC) Race at Work Charter survey and provided case study on Ethnicity Pay gap reporting. The mean ethnicity pay gap at the University was 14.4% in 2022 in favour of White staff, lower than the sector-wide ethnicity pay gap of 15.3% (Advance HE, 2021). We are aware that there are fewer BAME staff at senior levels and we are committed to redressing any existing imbalances and disparities in pay between Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff and White staff. As a result of our intersectional work on Athena Swan and the Race Equality Charter, we have been looking to address career progression for all staff by undertaking comprehensive analysis of gender and ethnicity pay reporting and by reviewing career pathways and development to address any systemic barriers to progression.

Over the course of this year, a lot of amazing work has taken place towards nurturing, strengthening and empowering our community. Our Staff Networks have been involved in working with partners such as the London Borough of Barnet on events related to Interfaith and Race. The University also took part in London Pride and Black Pride. In March 2023 on our London campus, our first Neurodiversity Celebration Festival, which was free and open to all – staff, students, local community and friends – was a resounding success. Jointly organised by staff across our community, it provided an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the talents, strengths, and unique perspectives of the neurodivergent community. The Festival included webinars on assistive technology; workshops on dyslexia and Specific Learning Difficulties; and advice and guidance highlighting support services in-house and externally, including information stalls by neurodivergent specialist organisations. We welcomed Resources for Autism, Inclusion Barnet, and Posturite, among other local and national organisations and employers.

Our University has taken a leading role in promoting interfaith dialogue and tackling hate. In January 2023, we hosted the first antisemitism training for universities delivered by Lord Mann, the Government's Independent Advisor on Antisemitism, for London institutions. The Vice-Chancellor also represented Universities UK at a meeting of the HE Taskforce on Antisemitism in Higher Education in Parliament and highlighted the value of multifaith approaches to tackling antisemitism. Middlesex University case studies also featured in the Taskforce's Good Practice Guide for universities, and we also hosted a campus visit from the Department of Education on the University's work on tackling sexual harassment and hate. We have continued to showcase the Changing the Culture initiative and the power of student to student peer communication in tackling issues such as the spiking of drinks and toxic masculinity.



REVERSE MENTORING PROGRAMME

At Middlesex University, around one third of staff, 16% of professors and senior staff, and 44% of the Board of Governors are from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic backgrounds. However, the University Executive Team (UET) is not ethnically diverse. While there is progress towards true diversity at every level of the University, the reverse mentoring programme allows staff from minority ethnic backgrounds to engage in honest conversation and share their experiences with senior staff

and members of the UET. Senior staff members discuss race in the workplace, practice and receive feedback in a safe place, then build and amplify the voice. This focussed experience fosters anti-racism at all levels, and provides effective tools for leadership staff to recognise where change is required and promote this in practices, procedures and systems which support racial equality.

MDX WINS UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR AT QUEER STUDENT AWARDS



Middlesex was named University of the Year at the 2023 Queer Student Awards, an annual celebration of young LGBTQ+ people, where we also sponsored the Community Initiative of the Year award. We are committed to gender equality and reducing inequalities, including being a fully inclusive and supportive university for LGBTQ+ students and staff. Some of our work recognised by this award includes:

- The LGBTQ+ Network which promotes activities including the first ever Barnet Pride in the Park in August 2023, as well as a regular programme of events to engage staff
- A continually improving trans inclusion strategy
- Two LGBTQ+ staff are reverse mentoring the University's senior leadership in the Executive Team on topics relating to LGB, trans and non-binary experiences
- LGBTQ+ Student Ambassadors are employed to represent the University during important times of the academic year.



MDX FILMS PROMOTE CHARITIES TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



In a project commissioned by Barnet Council and aligned with the ongoing Changing the Culture Initiative at Middlesex University, students on the BA film programme produced videos promoting local charities which tackle gender-based violence, to encourage reporting of such incidents as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. The students worked with Jewish Women's Aid, Rise Mutual, Barnet Homes, Youth Realities and Art Against Knives to produce short one-minute films featuring a member of staff from each charity. The films are now on YouTube and have been shared across the borough, including on the respective charities' web pages.

Supporting our students

In 2022/23, we ensured strong support for our students during a cost-of-living crisis, and continued to put wellbeing at the heart of our students' experience. We were delighted to welcome students back to campus for increased in-person classes and activities as COVID-19 restrictions had ended in the UK, and we provided a full calendar of exciting opportunities for students to get involved in and make the most of their experience at Middlesex.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN A COST OF LIVING CRISIS:

The UK's cost-of-living crisis has significantly affected students. In response to this, in 2022/23 we launched the Cost of Living Fund for students, which was designed to be accessible and provide quick support for students needing support to make ends meet. Nearly 2,000 students applied in 2022/23, and £750,000 was allocated.



FREE, NOURISHING FOOD ON CAMPUS EVERY WEEK

This year in our Hendon campus' College Building, we began providing free hot meals every Wednesday for students who may be struggling to afford nourishing food on top of all other expenses. In 2022/23, we distributed 1,040 breakfasts and 1,773 dinners.



STUDENT CALLERS SCHEME

We launched the Student Callers Scheme in 2020 during the pandemic to provide an extra layer of support to our students at a time when mental health was at-risk due to anxiety around the lockdown. This peer-to-peer support scheme offers students struggling with academic engagement, socialising or wellbeing a real conversation over the phone with a fellow student or recent graduate. The service, which also offers early employment opportunities to Middlesex University students, was a great success and has since been growing exponentially, with over 20,000 support phone calls having been made since 2020.



FREE LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Last year we invested in 1,000 additional laptops to loan our students on campus and for them to borrow for assignments. This is part of the University's work to address technology as a barrier to quality education. The Education Liaison and Outreach team also provide a number of student starter kits each year to help with the financial strain of starting university which can be a source of stress for many. The kits are worth £1,000, and include an iPad or laptop as well as funds to help with the cost of equipment or books.



READY FOR ANYTHING FESTIVAL

The Ready for Anything festival is an annual event open to first year students looking to get a head start in their Middlesex experience. The initiative began in 2020 and has been growing every year since, offering a combination of events and activities such as academic writing and IT workshops to prepare students for university life, activities with the Students' Union, and motivational talks to inspire students and make them aware of the opportunities available to them at Middlesex. The events provide an extra layer of support for people making the transition to university life for the first time.

Conclusion

We are proud of the progress we made in 2022/23 in embedding and championing the mission of the SDGs. Next year we will continue this important work – through our education, research, leadership, operations, and engagement activities. We are excited to play our part in striving for a sustainable future for all, as part of our commitment to the SDG Accord.

Rabin Doolub joined Middlesex University as Head of Environmental Sustainability in July 2023, having worked on the UK's Carbon Capture, Utilisation Usage and Storage, and Hydrogen policies. Rabin said: "One of the things that excited me was the work being done on the SDGs. Already in a short space of time, developments have been made. For example, the 2031 Learning Framework requires programme teams to demonstrate how their programme is aligned to the SDGs, which specific elements are aligned, and how this is captured in the curriculum. This work is being led in partnership with the Centre for Academic Practice

Enhancement team. Furthermore, during our Student Success Festival in November 2023, I was able to personally engage with students and promote the SDGs and the work that the University is doing around them."

Every year we gain more experience and a greater understanding of how Middlesex can create meaningful impact around the Goals. We aim to continue that exploration over the coming year, establishing the connections needed to embed the SDGs and three integrating themes across the University.



One of the things that excited me was the work being done on the SDGs. Already in a short space of time, developments have been made."

In 2023/24, we will work to make progress in the following areas:

INCREASING RECOGNITION OF, AND ENGAGEMENT WITH, THE SDGS THROUGH RESEARCH AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

We have already made great progress in increasing the recognition of the SDGs among staff and students. One key way we achieved this was through holding an SDG learning lunch and SDG focus group. During these sessions we helped key senior stakeholders to understand the importance of the work we do and we provided people with the platform to make a positive contribution to our SDGs targets.

We also held a focus group in May 2023 to engage with key stakeholders from Faculties and professional services. The purpose of this was to bring greater understanding of the opportunities for SDGs to be embedded in University activity and how this can be achieved through stronger planning.

Over the coming year, we will continue our work to increase the visibility and understanding of the SDGs. For example, we are working on a series of webinars with our global campuses and other organisations. The aim of this is to engage staff, students, and the wider community and to raise awareness of the important work happening both at Middlesex and further afield to advance the SDGs.

EMBEDDING SDGS IN THE CORE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Teams across the University will work hard to embed the SDGs in all our undergraduate courses. Part of our 2031 Learning Framework – which requires Faculties to demonstrate how their courses are aligned to the SDGs, and how this is captured in the curriculum – this important project will ensure that all our students gain an understanding of the Goals in the context of their own specific area of study. We continue to develop an SDG tracker that will allow us to monitor the percentage of undergraduate courses that reference the Goals in their core teaching. Other steps to increase student engagement will include the introduction of a Student Sustainability Champion role, working with our Students' Union.

ENHANCING EFFORTS TOWARDS THE SDGS IN OUR OPERATIONS

Looking ahead, we will support greater dialogue between our Faculties, Estates team and the University's Environmental Steering Group. Guided by our Carbon Reduction Plan, we will develop and update our emission targets as required. Crucially, we have identified 130+ opportunities which will guide our efforts to reflect the SDGs in unit planning and operations of all teams across the University.

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Contact our Environment Team at
SUSTAINABILITY@MDX.AC.UK