

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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The SDGs in Higher Education:  
Encouraging internal and cross- sector  
collaboration





## Presentation Focus

- Role of SDGs in Queen's and Tec's institutional and global strategies.
- How SDGs can be implemented in highly decentralized contexts.
- Mechanisms for encouraging internal and sector-wide collaboration on the SDGs.
- Discussion: Learn from each other



# Tecnológico de Monterrey

26 Campuses in Mexico

Over 90,000 students enrolled in high-school, undergraduate, and graduate programs.

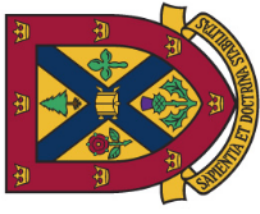
Academic agreements with 706 universities in 46 countries

Tec inaugurated the country's first digital university library

One of the most prestigious universities in Latin America

12,245 students participate in social service projects each semester





**Queen's**  
UNIVERSITY



Located in Kingston, Canada and  
Herstmonceux, England

Highest number of student clubs per  
capita in Canada

Member of the  
prestigious **U15**  
Group in Canada

95% of students  
move to campus  
from outside of  
Kingston

Home to **28,172**  
students from  
over **100**  
countries

Seven Faculties  
and Schools

**7th in  
the world**

2022 Times Higher Education  
Impact Rankings



**BADER  
COLLEGE**  
Queen's University





# What are the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?



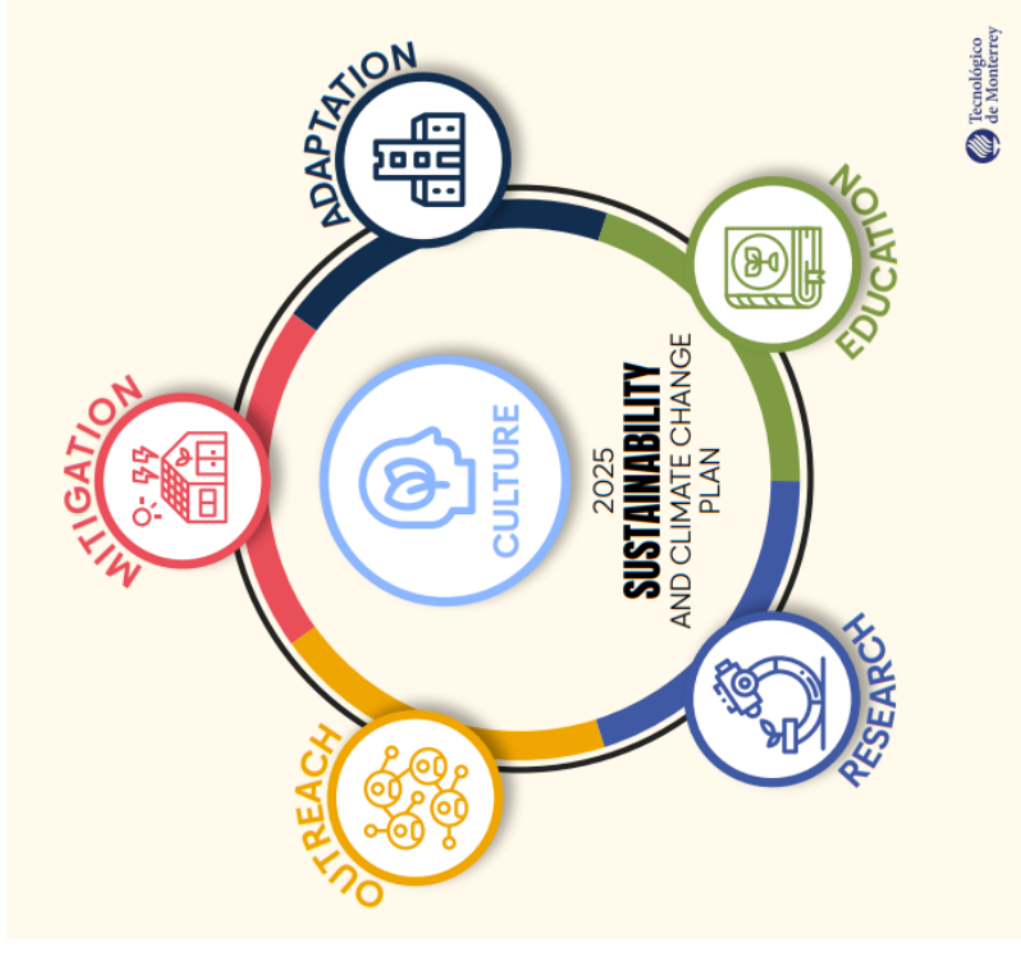


## Why use the SDGs as a framework?

- Impact and problem oriented.
- Transdisciplinary, collaborative.
- Most disciplines see themselves reflected (humanities?).
- Value “non-academic” partners.
- Address universally applicable and understood topics, disciplines, challenges and objectives.
- Linked to national and regional strategies (i.e. Agenda 2063 for Africa).

## Operationalizing SDGs

- At Tec, five action areas carried out through multi – sectoral alliances:
  - Education
  - Research
  - Public Policies
  - Public –Private Partnerships
  - Coordination of SDSN Mexico.
- Centrality of partnership – at all levels.
- Emphasis on equity and mutual benefit.





## Queen's and THE Impact Rankings

- Mechanism for conducting an environmental scan of SDG activity at Queen's.
- Cross-university collaborative project with representation from all major units and faculties.
- Steering committee consists of most senior leaders at the university – high university priority.
- Submitted evidence for all 17 SDGs.





# 7th in the world

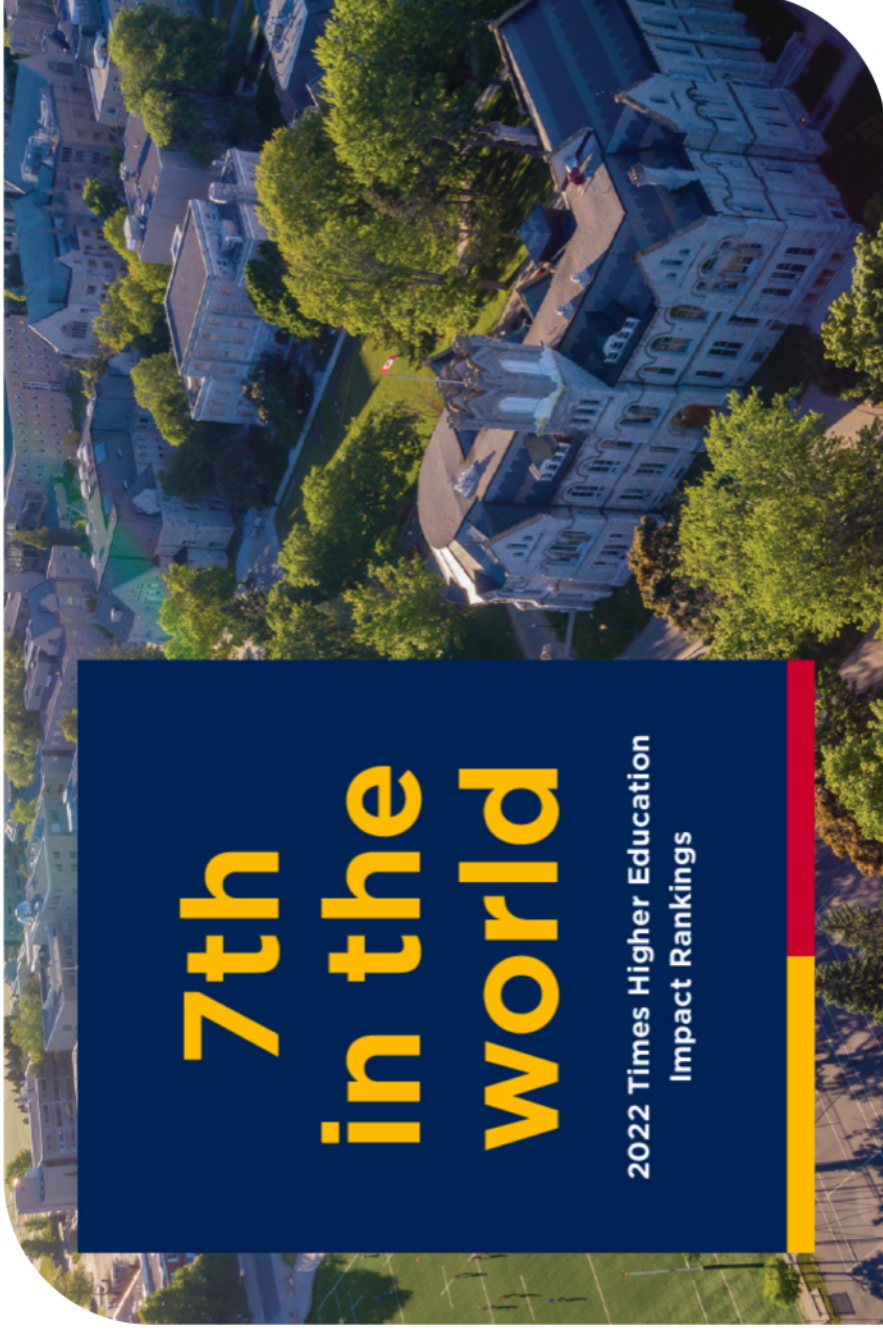
2022 Times Higher Education  
Impact Rankings

**2<sup>nd</sup> Worldwide**  
SDG 1 (No Poverty)  
SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong  
Institutions)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide**  
SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and  
Communities)

**Top 30 Worldwide**  
8/17 SDGs

**Top 100 Worldwide**  
12/17 SDGs



## THE Impact... Impact!

- Translated SDGs into concrete actions specific to our sector.
- Excellent environmental scan of SDG related activity across campus.
- Raised awareness of SDG action across campus.
- Encouraged alignment of central and faculty strategies and resources with SDGs.
- Raised Queen's profile with global partners.
- Highlighted the importance of collaboration with “non-academic” institutions and partners in the Global South.

Our goals in action

## SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### Research and innovation

#### International scope

Queen's is home to internationally recognized researchers exploring a range of environmental topics including climate change, renewable energy, and water. The Queen's University research centres and institutes work collaboratively with each other and with international organizations to develop best practice around contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



Sustainable Development Goals by the numbers:



Queen's has 24 institutional and faculty-based research centres pursuing research that addresses grand challenges and societal issues of national and international scope.

## THE Impact Challenges

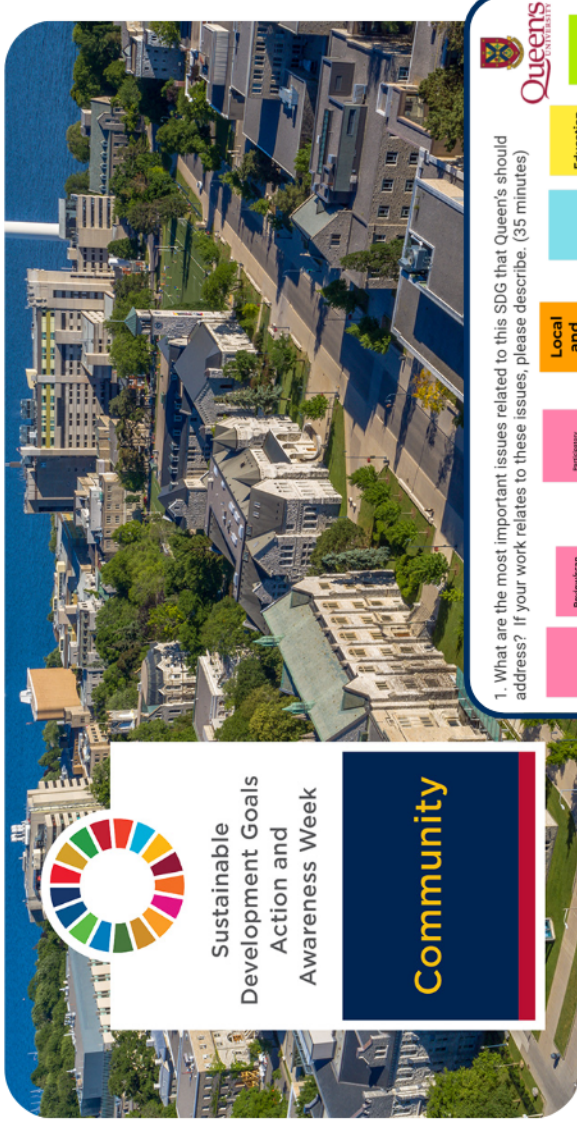
- Some faculty members concerned that THE Impact performance was sole driver of our SDG mission.
- Accelerated need to create SDG administrative infrastructure.
- May discourage collaboration between higher education institutions (in the same country) on the SDGs?
- Submitting to THE Impact is resource-intensive.
- Top 20 is still dominated by rich, western institutions



## What is 17 Rooms?

- Method for convening people to identify concrete actions to advance the SDGs over 12 – 18 months.
- Brings people together into 17 small groups, each tasked with generating ideas to make progress towards a particular SDG.
- Various structures
  - Flash and deep dive models
  - Curated or open attendance (or both)
  - All SDGs or a subset.
- Queen's chose virtual, semi-curated, flash model.





## 17 Rooms @ Queen's

- Included more than 300 students, faculty members, staff and local and global partners.

### Benefits:

- Raised the profile of the SDGs as a framework – greater SDG integration into faculty strategies.
- Generated many concrete actions and identified people to lead them.
- Broke down silos internally and externally.
- Identified partners for further collaboration through Community of Practice convened by Brookings Institution.

1. What are the most important issues related to this SDG that Queen's should address? If your work relates to these issues, please describe. (35 minutes)

2. What are some connections and common themes amongst these issues and the actions for addressing them? (25 minutes)

Duplicate this slide as needed



## Building Partnerships in the Higher Education Sector for the SDGs

- Institute for the Future of Universities
- SDSN (and country branches)
- UGC – University Global Coalition
- Brookings Community of Practice



Higher education for a sustainable future

## Discussion

- How is your university implementing the UN SDGs? What are your challenges?
- What are the most effective mechanisms that your institution uses for encouraging cross- campus and/or cross-sector partnership for the SDGs?



## Discussion

- Have sustainability rankings advanced the SDGs on your campus? Have they impacted inter-university collaboration?
- How do you define equitable partnership and build internal capacity for partnership building?





## Connect with us via Email

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Tecnológico  
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Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

