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Embedding sustainability within the curriculum at Gray's School of Art.

AMIES, L. and STEED, J.

2022

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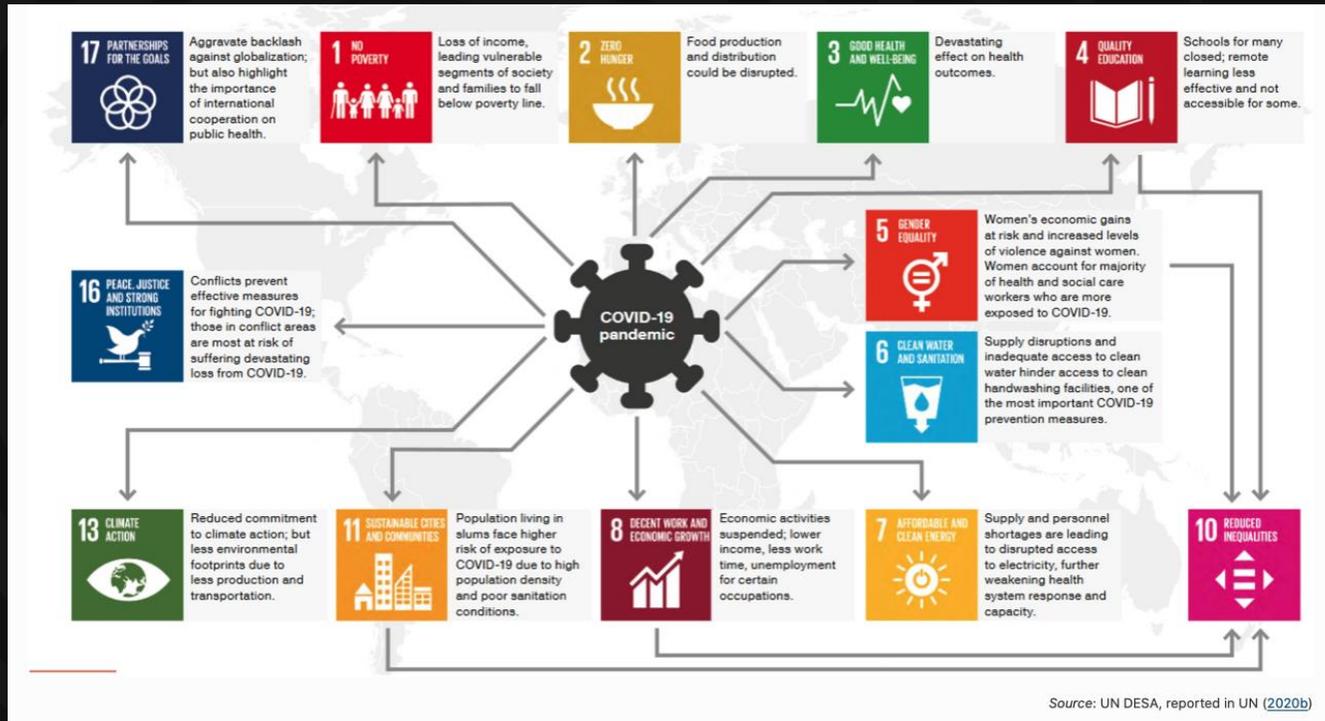
ENHANCING FOR IMPACT

RGU'S ANNUAL LEARNING AND TEACHING CONFERENCE

Embedding sustainability within the curriculum at Gray's School of Art

Lorraine Amies and Josie Steed

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND



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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

*“Education for sustainable development is the process of equipping students with the knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes needed to work and live in a way that safeguards **environmental, social and economic wellbeing**, both in the present and for future generations.” United Nations*



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GRAY'S TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



At Grays we seek to support:

- Student's real-world experience;
- Produce responsible graduates;
- Encourage new definitions of creative practices;
- Support the changing role of creative practitioners including producers to facilitators capable of supporting change management within creative and cultural organisations;
- Encourage innovation;
- Learn from different disciplines /cultural backgrounds/ and develop awareness of different ways of living now and in the future.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Staff survey to Gray's academics
- Stage 3 design student project to design SDG infographics for RGU Grays SDG Toolkit
- Student Focus Group
- Interviews with RGU's student and staff groups including 'Go Green' and the Student Union.
- Campus Moodle Gray's sustainability area created
- RGU/Grays bespoke infographics created
- Feedback and release of Campus Moodle Gray's sustainability area and infographics

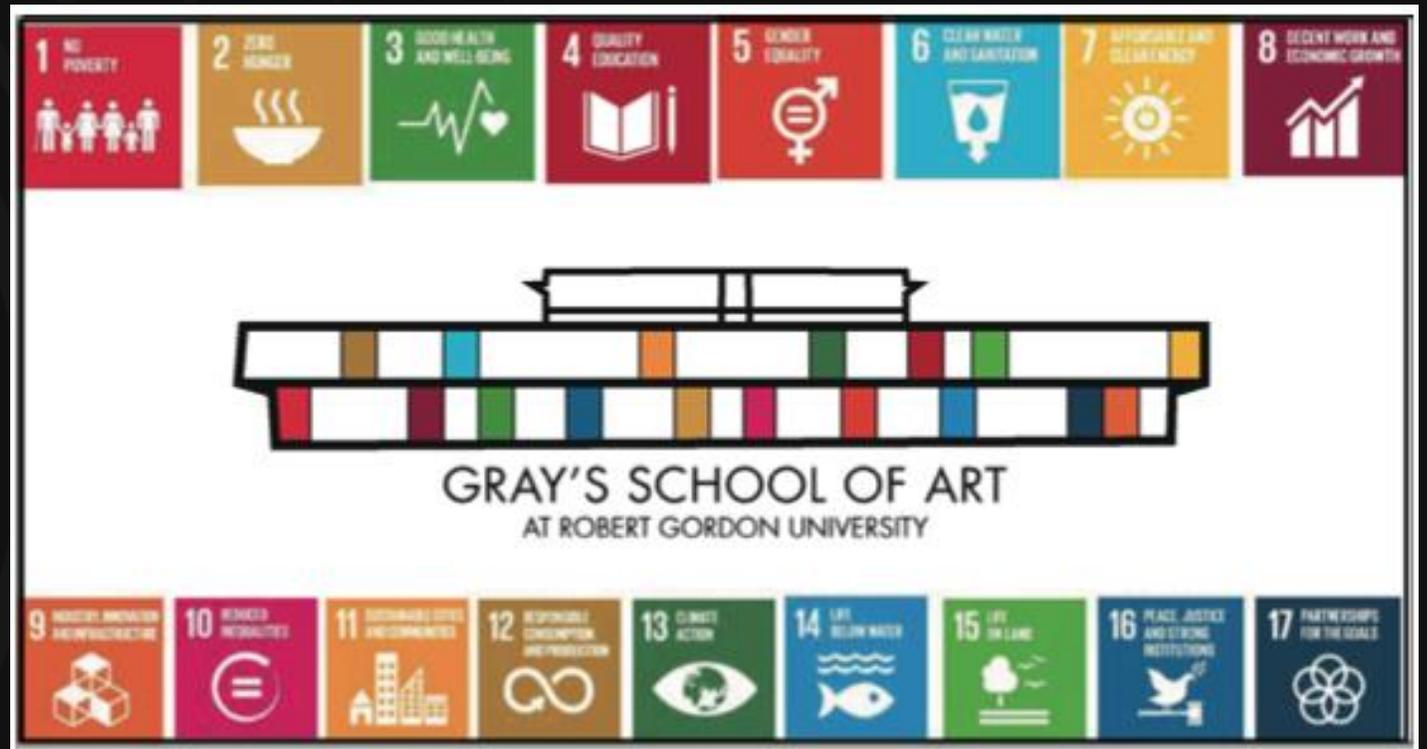
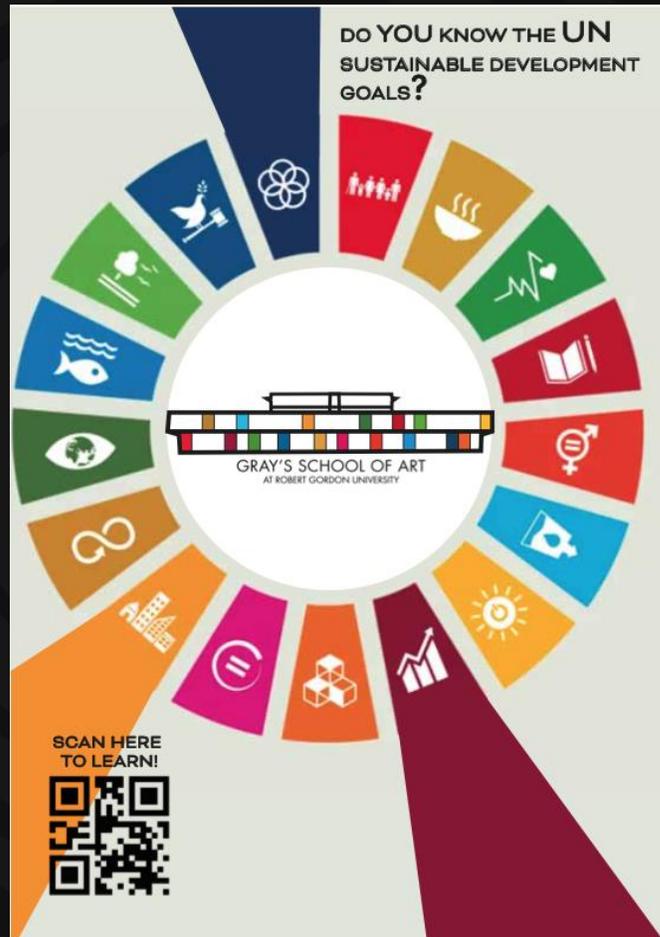
PROJECT DISSEMINATION

- A talk as part of the Sustainability in the Creative and Cultural Industries Symposium week beg 4th October 2021.
- A presentation at the RGU/QAA Liaison Meeting on 28th February 2022.
- A presentation at the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Sub-Committee on 12th April 2022.
- Paper Presentation at the Learning and Teaching conference October 2022.

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GRAY'S SDG INFOGRAPHICS



Design work created by Mairi Clarke (Stage 4 Comm Design)

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IMPACTS AND OUTPUTS



SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability @ Gray's School of Art

Focus on Ethical, Environmental, Social & Economic Creative Practice

Informed Gray's sustainability working proposal for ILSR (October 2022)

Gray's Teaching & Learning Case Study for ILSR (October 2022)

Sustainability @ Grays mapping exercise across the School's curriculum stages 1-5

Creation of a Sustainability @ Gray's School of Art Moodle Area

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Definition of Sustainability at Gray's Statement:

"Education for sustainable development at Gray's focuses on equipping students with a deep understanding of Ethical, Environmental & Social priorities underpinned by the School's 4 pillars: Critical Creative, Enterprising Professional, Collaborative Partner and Social Engagement needed to work and live in a way that safeguards people, planet and profit.

Sustainability at Gray's empowers every member of the Gray's community to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future."

DISSEMINATION feedback

Feedback from RGU staff – Teaching, Learning and Assessment Sub-Committee (TLASC)

The graphics look fab!

(Academic Strategic Lead
– School of Creative and
Cultural Business)

***Could lead into
the whole RGU+
aspect of
additionality and
enhancing
employability for
RGU students***

(Delta)

***Agree re the
embedding piece- so
important for
engagement overall.***

(Academic Strategic Lead –
School of Social Sciences)

***Well done - looks fantastic
work***

(Teaching Excellence Fellow – School
of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic
Practice)

***I introduced the SDGs to my stage 4
students last year in my Sustainable
Fashion Project module, and only one
student had heard of them!***

(Academic Strategic Lead – School of Creative and
Cultural Business)

***We introduce them in SISA and now in
RGU innovation award too and most
have not heard of them too.***

(Teaching Excellence Fellow — School of Creative and
Cultural Business)

This guidance is definitely useful.

(Senior Lecturer – Law School)

**The empowerment message
is important- I found my
fashion students getting
rather depressed about the
SDGs and the fashion
industry, and had to work
hard to inspire them to think
positively about their role in
facilitating change when they
are part of the workforce...**

(Academic Strategic Lead – School of
Creative and Cultural Business)

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REFLECTIONS AND WIDER APPLICATION

A broad range of activities are taking place at Gray's in relation to sustainability, however, lacked visibility.

Recognition of the importance of embedding sustainability within the curriculum across Gray's.

Terminology and language used around sustainability, net zero, the circular economy is difficult to navigate and confusing.

Given the Interdisciplinary nature of the sustainability agenda several recommendations are made:

- Embed within all studio projects sustainability values and principles as a core assessment component.
- Collaboration with other RGU Schools.
- Explore external sustainability collaborations with other institutions through [COIL](#).
- Opportunity to apply project's findings to other schools within RGU.
- Staff development on developing sustainability literacy tools and concepts that can be used within courses.
- Sharing teaching practices within sustainability across RGU's schools.

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Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals

Available at: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

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Thank you!

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