

Sustainable Development Goals within Canadian Universities: Understanding the Implementation of the SDGs within Canada's top Universities



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The SDGs...

In 2015 the **United Nations** developed the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals for all countries in order to 'transform our world' for the better. Each goal has targets for countries globally to meet by the year **2030**.

Research Question

Why and how are Canada's top Universities implementing the SDGs, and what are their priorities?

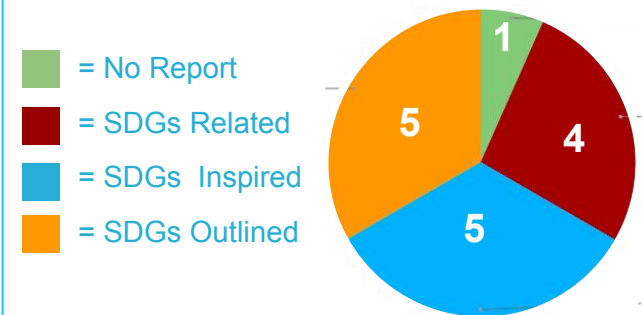
Methodology

Publicly accessible sustainability reports/plans from the U-15 institutions were qualitatively analyzed on Nvivo using thematic coding for each SDG.

Findings

The University of Ottawa is the only U-15 member without their own sustainability related report/plan. Of the U-15 members that do, four of these reports/plans are only indirectly related to the SDGs. However, ten U-15 members have reports/plans inspired or outlined by the SDGs with the overall theme being to showcase the universities past, present and future initiatives towards sustainability. The reports/plans that were high in SDGs content were larger and outlined goal by goal. Both the University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto went further and included SDGs implementation statistics from their institutions.

Number of U-15 Per Report Type



Discussion

Although majority of the U-15 members do have good SDGs reports/plans, one third of these Universities must still develop a report/plan directly related to the SDGs. This will allow universities and researchers to better understand the commitment they have towards the SDGs. Additionally, of the U-15 report/plans that do relate directly to the SDGs, improvements should be made to highlight each goal individually in order to have equal discussion and awareness. They should also add their institutions personal goals, targets and priorities to be tracked and updated.

Next Steps

Further research should interview members involved in the SDG initiatives at these U-15 Canadian Universities. This will increase the knowledge around the topic and help inform future decision making.

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