



The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) is a global network that mobilises scientific and technical expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The opportunity

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which came into effect in 2016, are inspiring stakeholders from all sectors and countries to come together around a shared agenda of ending extreme poverty, promoting prosperity and well-being for all, protecting the environment, addressing climate change, and encouraging good governance, peace and security.

The SDGs offer an unprecedented opportunity for universities and knowledge institutions to apply their combined expertise, capacity for innovation, and education of the next generations towards addressing some of the most critical issues facing the world.



A global network of problem solvers – The Sustainable Development Solutions Network

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched in 2012 by United Nations Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon to mobilise global scientific and technological expertise in support of sustainable development and the SDGs.

SDSN is a global network of leading universities, sustainable development experts and knowledge institutions, which partners with government, business, civil society, and the United Nations on a range of practical initiatives:

- » **Support for the SDGs and Agenda 2030** through analysis and technical recommendations on areas such as integrated sustainable development pathways, data, monitoring and review, financing for development, and climate change.
- » **National and Regional SDSN networks** that mobilise and empower over 350 member universities and other knowledge institutions from over 80 countries in support of the SDGs.
- » **Thematic Networks** that foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among experts on key areas of sustainable development, such as health, cities and sustainable agriculture.
- » **Solution initiatives** including deep decarbonisation pathways for countries and collaborative projects with governments and business.
- » **SDSNedu**, an online platform offering free online courses in sustainable development topics from world leading experts.
- » **SDSN Youth** to mobilise young people around the world to prioritise the SDGs and to promote practical youth-led solutions.



A unique regional perspective – SDSN Australia/Pacific

The SDGs are a global agenda, but to make a difference in our region their implementation must address our unique regional, national and local contexts. And while national governments have official responsibility for addressing the SDGs, involvement by all sectors and partnerships between them will be necessary for success. These discussions are happening in our region now, and the participation of universities and knowledge institutions is essential.

SDSN Australia/Pacific aims to mobilise universities and knowledge institutions in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to play a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs through their core capabilities of research, graduate and undergraduate education, capacity building, student leadership, corporate responsibility, and community leadership.

We work to bring our collective strength to:

- » **Support universities to advance the SDGs** by linking institutions and individuals both within our region and across the global SDSN community to share ideas, approaches and expertise.
- » **Leverage more funding and grow partnerships** with local and international institutions by identifying opportunities for collaborative research initiatives related to sustainable development.
- » **Increase our regional influence** by advocating for universities to be included in national and regional discussions on the SDGs.
- » **Increase academic collaboration** with governments, business and NGOs on developing and implementing solutions to the SDGs.
- » **Increase our global impact** with governments and organisations, including the UN, by providing an influential voice for our region in global high-profile SDSN activities.
- » **Prepare our students** with the skills, knowledge and networks for addressing major global challenges through teaching resources and a global youth network.



Our network

SDSN Australia/Pacific currently comprises some 20 SDSN member institutions based in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, and is steadily growing. Members include universities, research institutions and NGOs with deep expertise in one or more areas of sustainable development knowledge generation or application.

Our Secretariat is hosted by Monash University and chaired by Professor John Thwaites, who is also a Co-Chair of the global SDSN Leadership Council.

Our main focus areas currently are:

- » **SDGs:** Making the SDGs framework relevant to our region and advocating and supporting governments and organisations across our region to implement it.
- » **Deep decarbonisation pathways:** The Australian contribution to SDSN's global flagship project, which mapped how the world's largest emitters can transform their energy systems to keep the rise in global temperatures to less than 2°C.
- » **SDSN Youth:** Supporting the establishment of SDSN Youth, which was set up by passionate young people in our region and is now part of the global SDSN.

As our network grows, we are looking at establishing additional focus areas and initiatives. We are also strengthening our network by forming an Executive Committee drawn from our membership. An Advisory Leadership Council of prominent leaders from business, government, civil society and academia across our region will also be formed. With growth in membership, New Zealand and Pacific hubs are likely to be established.

Our members

- » Auckland University of Technology
- » Australian Council for International Development
- » Australian National University
- » Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council
- » Canberra Urban and Regional Futures
- » ClimateWorks Australia
- » Council for International Development, New Zealand
- » Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute
- » Global Ideas
- » Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney
- » James Cook University
- » Massey University
- » Monash University
- » The Mulloon Institute
- » Pacific Institute for Public Policy
- » RMIT University
- » University of Adelaide
- » University of Auckland
- » University of Melbourne
- » University of Queensland

Join the SDSN

Learn more about SDSN membership benefits and apply at unsdsn.org/join

Contact us

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