

## Lesson Plan: Teaching about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As a **High School** or **Undergraduate Economics** or **Social Sciences** teacher, you can use this lesson plan to teach about the **17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as outlined by the United Nations for nations to adopt and work towards, for a sustainable future.

This lesson plan will allow you to **introduce the SDGs** to your students, stress on their **socio-economic importance** and enable discussions on the efforts taken by governmental and non-governmental agencies of their nations towards achieving these goals. This lesson plan will also draw attention to how climate change may affect the efforts towards achieving the SDGs.

Thus, the use of this lesson plan allows you to integrate the teaching of a climate science topic with a core topic in **Economics** or **Social Sciences**.

Use this lesson plan to help your students find answers to:

1. What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
2. What are your nation's efforts towards meeting the SDGs?
3. How is climate change intricately linked with sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs?

### About the Lesson Plan

**Grade Level:** High School, Undergraduate

**Discipline:** Economics, Social Sciences

**Topic(s) in Discipline:** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sustainability, Development Economics, Urban Economics, Environmental Economics, Inclusive Society, Inequality, Societal Resilience, Poverty, Well Being, Justice, Gender Equality, and Climate Action.

**Climate Topic:** Policies, Politics and Environmental Governance; Energy, Economics and Climate Change; Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

**Location:** Global

**Access:** Online, Offline

**Language(s):** English, A tool also available in French, German and Spanish.

**Approximate Time Required:** 40-60 min

## 1 Contents

### 1. Video (~2 min)

A video to introduce sustainable development and the UN defined Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This can be accessed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WODX8fyRHA>

## **2. Teaching Module (allocated time will vary according to the topic/s under consideration)**

A teaching module to teach the individual SDGs in detail, as per the topic in curriculum.

This can be accessed at:

[http://mcic.ca/pdf/SDG\\_Primer\\_FINAL.pdf](http://mcic.ca/pdf/SDG_Primer_FINAL.pdf)

## **3. Teaching Module (~35 min)**

A summary of an IPCC report on global warming and a list of classroom tasks to emphasize the link between climate change and sustainable development. This reading is also available in French, German and Spanish.

This can be accessed at:

<https://www.oce.global/en/resources/climate-science/ST1.5-EN> (pages 20-21)

## **4. Suggested questions/assignments for learning evaluation**

- What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- What are your nation's efforts towards meeting the SDGs?
- How is climate change intricately linked with sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs?

## 2 Step-by-step User Guide

Here is a step-by-step guide to using this lesson plan in the classroom/laboratory. We have suggested these steps as a possible plan of action. You may customize the lesson plan according to your preferences and requirements.

### 1. Topic introduction and discussion

Use the video, '[What is sustainable development?](#)' by the United Nations (UN) to describe to your students, what sustainable development is and to define the different sustainable development goals (SDGs) as outlined by the UN.

This is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WODX8fyRHA>

### 2. Develop the topic further

Use the reading, '[Sustainable Foundations- A Guide for Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals](#)' by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), for a detailed study of the individual SDGs and to highlight to your students the socio-economic importance of each one. Use the first 6 pages of the text as a user guide to this document and to note the points to highlight while teaching the SDGs. Then, select one or more SDGs for consideration and navigate to the relevant pages to teach about them in detail. Use the 'Reflection and Action Questions' within each section to assess student understanding and/or to encourage classroom discussion.

This document can be accessed at:

[http://mcic.ca/pdf/SDG\\_Primer\\_FINAL.pdf](http://mcic.ca/pdf/SDG_Primer_FINAL.pdf)

### 3. Emphasize the link between climate change and the achievement of the SDGs

Use the reading, '[IPCC Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C. Summary for Teachers](#)' (pages 20-21) by Office for Climate Education (OCE), France, to explain to your students the link between global warming and attaining the SDGs. This reading is also available in French, German and Spanish.

Use the text to discuss with your students the relationship between population, economic growth and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Explain to your students climate change exacerbates poverty and in turn, a higher rate of population growth and the associated inequalities contribute greatly to global warming through increased GHG emissions. Use the text to emphasize to your students that climate change can be detrimental for sustainable development, especially in developing countries and vulnerable regions. Therefore, discuss how SDGs must be addressed in conjunction with the efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Finally, use the list of tasks on page 21, to encourage your students to discuss their country's efforts towards addressing the SDGs in the context of climate change.

This can be accessed at:

<https://www.oce.global/en/resources/climate-science/ST1.5-EN> (pages 20-21)

### 4. Questions/Assignments

Use the tools and the concepts learned so far to discuss and determine answers to the following questions:

- What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- What are your nation's efforts towards meeting the SDGs?
- How is climate change intricately linked with sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs?

## 3 Learning Outcomes

The tools in this lesson plan will enable students to:

- learn about sustainable development and the sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- explain the significance of SDGs in topics of economics and social sciences
- discuss their nation's measures to address the SDGs
- understand the link between climate change and the achievement of the SDGs

## 4 Additional Resources

If you or your students would like to explore the topic further, these additional resources will be useful.

### 1. Teaching Module; 'What is Sustainability?'

A teaching module for high school to introduce sustainability and how it can be achieved at an individual or community level.

This can be accessed at:

[https://ie.unc.edu/files/2014/12/What\\_is\\_Sustainability.pdf](https://ie.unc.edu/files/2014/12/What_is_Sustainability.pdf)

## **2. Teaching Module; 'Sustainable Development Goals- Resources for Educators'**

Another resource for teaching the SDGs by UNESCO.

This can be accessed at:

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education/sdgs/material>

## **3. Game; 'The Global Goals for Sustainable Development'**

An online game to create awareness about and highlight the need for SDGs for a sustainable future.

This can be accessed at:

<https://gamethegoals.com/>

## **4. Teaching Module; 'World's Largest Lesson'**

A teaching module for exploring the SDGs through multiple formats such as lesson plans, posters, and comics.

This can be accessed at:

<http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>

## 5 Credits/Copyrights

All the teaching tools in our collated list are owned by the corresponding creators/authors/organizations as listed on their websites. Please view the individual copyright and ownership details for each tool by following the individual links provided. We have selected and analyzed the tools that align with the overall objective of our project and have provided the corresponding links. We do not claim ownership of or responsibility/liability for any of the listed tools.

### 1. Video; 'What is sustainable development?'

By the [United Nations \(UN\)](#).

### 2. Teaching Module; 'Sustainable Foundations- A Guide for Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals'

By the [Manitoba Council for International Cooperation \(MCIC\)](#).

### 3. Teaching Module; 'IPCC Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C. Summary for Teachers'

By the [Office for Climate Education \(OCE\)](#), France.

### 4. Additional Resources

[Institute for the Environment, University of North Carolina](#).

[UNESCO](#)

[ICAEW](#) in partnership with [Project Everyone](#)

[Project Everyone](#) in partnership with [UNICEF](#)