

Sensemaking to enable sustainable development

Shared & contested notions of the
Global Goals in local implementation

David F. Murphy, Associate Professor in Sustainability
Joanna Stanberry, Postgraduate Researcher
Initiative for Leadership and Sustainability (IFLAS)



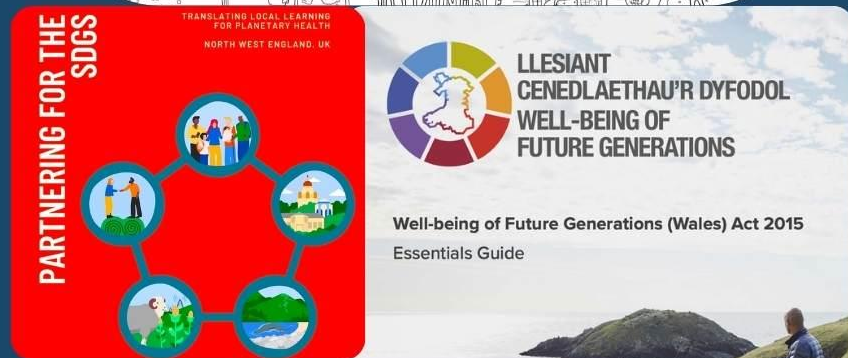
Purpose

Previous studies on implementing the SDGs in England concluded that they must be made real, relevant, relatable, and relational to find local translation and adaptation (Perry et al, 2021).

From partnering and partnership

To re-envisioning (& sensemaking) the Global Goals:

- locally & contextually
- together
- across differences



Timeline



ETHICAL SMALL TRADERS ASSOC (ESTA)
SDGoals GAME

RULES OF PLAY

- Assemble in groups of 6-8.
- One person to deal 2 cards per player.
- Each card represents one TARGET from each of the 17 different SDGs.
- Player 1 chooses a card and places it in the centre of the table face up.
- Player 2 (the next player to the left) chooses a target card from their hand that makes a meaningful link with the card on the table. Describe to the other players a link between the two targets and how they could relate to each other.
- Player 3 then plays a card and builds upon the connections already in play, making any sharing a new link. If they are unable to find a connection to existing cards or sets, they can start a new set on the table.
- This process continues in successive rounds until either all cards are played or until the time set for the game is over.

GAME EXAMPLE

Player 1 chooses **SDG 11 TARGET 11.c** card. "By 2020 increase access for all to adequate, affordable housing and basic services (sustainable cities)". Player 2 then plays **SDG 11 TARGET 11.a** card. "By 2030 improve and promote the sustainability and resilience of infrastructure across all, irrespective of age, use, location and social context".

Player 2 then plays **SDG 11 TARGET 11.b** card. "By 2030 increase the number of cities and human settlements that are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable and that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns".

Player 3 then plays **SDG 11 TARGET 11.d** card. "By 2030 increase the number of cities and human settlements that are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable and that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns".

WHILE THE GAME IS IN SESSION

Whilst the game is in progress, players are encouraged to make a note of any Goal Target that they feel a particular affinity with in the game. Record this in a notebook or on a card. In the game feedback session, a spokesperson from each table will be invited to share any highlights or interesting points to share with other event participants.

THE AIMS OF THE GAME

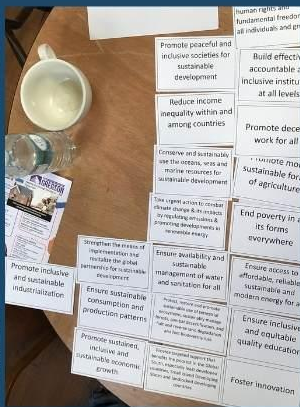
1. To become more acquainted with the SDGs and their associated Target
2. To form meaningful connections between the Goal Targets and their implementation
3. To be inspired by the Goals and to discover connections between the Targets themselves



PROSPEROUS NORTH LANCASHIRE

Handwritten notes on the poster:

- Creative Industries
- Community-led development
- Engaged Community Taking Action to Develop
- Pro-active Transport Links



SDG Action Cards:

- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development
- Build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Reduce income inequality within and among countries
- Promote decent work for all
- Ensure we end sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Promote more sustainable forms of agriculture
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by strengthening resilience & promoting development as we move away from fossil fuels
- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all
- Foster innovation
- Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Investment for a green future: Investing for a green future: Investing for a green future
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2022
SDG Action
Cumbria
Directory and
learning portal

2023
Netmakers
Contextualising
SDGs with local
council &
community
sector

2024
Strengthening
Cumbria's Civil
Society with the
Office of the
Lord Lieutenant

2021
Comparison of
Cross-Sector
Partnerships
(with Leda Stott
& Jaime Moreno
Serna, itdUPM,
Madrid)

2022
Capabilities for
Partnering study
with local
council

2023
JS: Merry Maker
Fair: Heritage for
sustainable
futures, ESTA
Mapping,
Resilience Hub

Key Findings



Sensemaking the Global Goals:

- **Locally:** Differences in what local means (beyond where: also considering: the who, what & how)
- **Together:** Enablers, but also enablers could become detractors (eg. resource constraints, and sector-based siloed awareness of enablers)
- **Across differences:** Surfacing various viewpoints can activate openness and learning
- **Q Methodology** as an inclusive and enabling participatory action research tool

Key Findings: SDG Clusters

Viewpoint 1

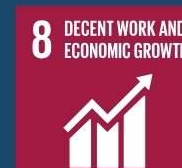
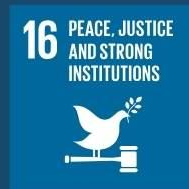
- Provide assistance to vulnerable populations, especially children, women, girls, and the elderly
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Achieve food security
- End hunger

Viewpoint 2

- Build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development
- Support local collaboration to build capacity for a more joined-up approach
- Foster innovation
- Build resilient infrastructure
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Viewpoint 3

- Promote full and productive employment
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education
- Enhance cooperation across regional and/or national borders to share data, technology, knowledge, best practices or personnel
- Promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Key implications

FUTURE RESEARCH

The 'operant subjectivity' of language as a lens for diverse viewpoints

- Contextualising? Or marketing?
- Current research on 'Strengthening Cumbria's Civil Society'
- Integrating without synthesizing to offer a broader range of words and ideas that can contribute to 'transforming our world'



Identity work, emotional labor...

Identity tensions between SDGs in a work/organisational context and SDGs in a personal context

References

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Dryzek, J. S. (1990). The measure of political man - and woman. In *Discursive Democracy: Politics, Policy, and Political Science* (pp. 173–189). Cambridge University Press. <https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=uX3s8Mo2OMgC>

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