

A Top University for the World



2020-2022

**United Nations Global Compact Communication on
Engagement**

August 2, 2023



In September 2015, the 193 UN Member States adopted this set of 17 **Global Goals** and 169 targets to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all, as noted in *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Respecting the **UN Global Compact Ten Principles** across all business operations and supply chains is a baseline for any organization aiming to help humanity to realize the Global Goals.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- 1) Support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights
- 2) Ensure that institution is not complicit in human rights abuses

LABOR

- 3) Uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining
- 4) Eliminate forced or compulsory labor
- 5) Work to abolish child labor
- 6) Eliminate discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

ENVIRONMENT

- 7) Support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges
- 8) Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility
- 9) Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

ANTI-CORRUPTION

- 10) Work against corruption in all of its forms, including extortion and bribery



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To our stakeholders:

I am honored to renew George Mason University's commitment to the Ten Principles of the United Nations in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

Since establishing our commitment to the Global Compact, Mason's institutional policies and practices continue to be guided by the four UNGC focus areas. In our last Communication on Engagement, we described our actions to improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our identity as an institution. We highlighted the many academic initiatives to embed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into the Mason curriculum and our innovative efforts to continue reducing Mason's carbon foot print and serve as a leader for our sustainability efforts.

In this 2022 Communication on Engagement, we describe the most recent actions to strengthen our alignment with the SDG's through the commitments both academic and beyond. The University is dedicated to expanding our partnerships with like-minded organizations to support the SDG's in teaching, research, and service to society. George Mason is also committed to evaluating our internal policies and practices in order to align our strategy, operations, education, and thought leadership with the Ten Principles.

These challenging times call our institutions of higher education to be leaders in the efforts to expand human rights, protect our environment, eliminate inequalities, and move us towards a more sustainable and equitable future. We aim to expand the scope and reach of our impact over the next two years as we further develop our curriculum, collaborate with our stakeholders, and support and track our collective Global Compact and SDG outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Washington".

Gregory Washington

GW/sg

George Mason University Institution Profile

George Mason University is a public, comprehensive research university established by the Commonwealth of Virginia in the National Capital Region. We are an innovative and inclusive academic community committed to creating a more just, free and prosperous world. Our vision is to provide students with the preparation to become the “Mason Graduate”; an engaged citizen and a well-rounded scholar who is prepared to act.

About Mason

George Mason is a distributed university with locations in Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William and Loudoun counties, Virginia, as well as in Songdo, South Korea. Over 35,000 students currently attend Mason, with more than 6,000 students living on campus in residential halls.



More than seventy-five undergraduate programs and one hundred twenty-three graduate and professional programs are delivered face-to-face and through distance education. Many of our programs have received national and international attention including conflict analysis and resolution, education, the arts, and writing to name a few.

Our dynamic culture and innovative academic programs prepare Mason students for the careers of tomorrow. Our commitment to teaching excellence combines with cutting-edge research that enriches the academic experience and is literally changing the world. Mason is affordable, yet offers high value. Ideally located in the National Capital Region, students enjoy rich cultural experiences and access to the most sought-after internships and employers in the country.

Sustainability

Sustainability is one of Mason’s core values. As stated on our website, “We educate leaders, conduct interdisciplinary research, invest in sustainable infrastructure, and promote socially conscious entrepreneurship.”

Mason is also well-recognized as a sustainable development leader. In 2014, ours was the first Virginia university to earn a “Gold” distinction from the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The University scored notably high marks in campus engagement and public engagement in 2017. That year AASHE featured Mason among the top five performers globally with respect to sustainable purchasing practices. Students also benefit from access to **more than 150 “green leaf” designated sustainability courses** across two dozen academic programs.

Summary of 2018-2020 Progress

At the conclusion of our 2018-2020 Communication on Engagement, the team at George Mason University identified three primary goals for moving our commitment to the United Nations Global Compact into its next phase. These goals included:

1. Form a UN Global Compact Working Group
2. Continue building the UN Global Compact and Global Goals into the curriculum
3. Expand opportunities for faculty, staff, students and community partners to engage in programs connected to the Global Compact and Sustainable Development Goals

We are so pleased to share that through collaboration and continued commitment to the vision of the Global Compact, we have made progress towards two of the three cited goals. We continue to connect the SDG's into curriculum through the Curriculum Impact Grant process and then through the development of our Quality Enhancement Plan, and Green Leaf Courses.



We also held a 17 Rooms event focused on the Sustainable Development Goals that allowed for an increase in involvement from faculty, staff, students, and partners. Our Institute for a Sustainable Earth led the event and had follow up grant opportunities to continue the work.

While we did not form a UN Global Compact Working Group, we have been identifying already existing structures, like the Sustainability Council, where this and other similar initiatives can reside. Our intention for the 2022-2024 cycle is to get the working group in place and increase our reporting capacity. There are significant initiatives taking place on campus and building our capacity to effectively communicate that work is a great area of growth for us for this year.

Mason's commitment to the SDG's remains strong and continued during the 2020-2022 reporting period.

Courses and Degree Programs

The Mason Impact Initiative

The **Mason Impact** initiative seeks to offer all students the opportunity to participate in curricular and co-curricular activities that support their development as **Engaged Citizens** and **Well-rounded Scholars** who are **Prepared to Act**. Mason Impact builds on our institutional strengths and our location outside the nation's capital to offer our students real-life experiences in solving real-world problems.

Critical thinking, flexibility, creativity, and resourcefulness are essential to success in the world outside of academia. The University's Strategic Plan (Appendix D) responds to these needs by setting a goal for 75 percent or more of undergraduate students to pursue projects that deploy these soft skills in real-world challenges. Projects are intended to solve high-impact problems with large-scale consequences such as sustainability, urban resilience, and public health.









Funding for these projects is available through Curriculum Impact Grants – evaluated within George Mason University, and proposed by Mason faculty and students. Impact Grants illustrate George Mason University's supportive infrastructure and synthesize three of the institution's key Strategic Goals: Transformative Learning Experiences, Faculty Development, and Excellence in Research.

Embedding SDG's into Curriculum through the Mason Impact






Beginning in the 2020-2021 academic year, George Mason began an effort to embed SDG's into the curriculum by asking faculty teams to focus their Curriculum Impact Grant submissions on at least one of the Development Goals. The goal through this effort is to provide a space for faculty to create scaffolded, intentional programs that incorporate experiential learning and connect that learning to the SDG's through both local and global efforts.




In our 2020-2021 grant cycle we received 18 proposals for Curriculum Impact Grants and 17 of the 18 proposals successfully named a SDG in their narrative. Even with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sudden shift to largely virtual learning and research spaces, we were able to fund eight proposals, all of which addressed at least one SDG through their work.

2019-2020 Curriculum Impact Grants

Curriculum Impact Grant	Faculty	Global Issues
Bonner Leader Program	Patty Mathison, Samuel Frye, Shauna Rigaud, Laura Poms, Julie Owen, Graziella McCarron, Nick Lennon	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>  <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 
Building Linguistic and Cultural Competence and Critical Consciousness: Exploring Pathways to Civic Engagement and Social Justice	Ellen Serafini, Caroline Sutter, Esperanza Roman-Mendoza, Carrie Bonilla, Molly Davis	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>  <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 
Conservation and Environmental Science Communication: Development of a Transdisciplinary Curriculum	Karen Akerlof, Jim Olds, Christopher Clarke, Katherine Rowan	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> 
Minor in Environmental and Ecological Consulting	Joris van der Ham, Megan Tucker	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> 
Nutrition MS Dietetics Track Expansion	Tammy Wagner, Kerri LaCharite, Margaret Slavin, Sina Gallo, Constance Gewa, Lilian DeJonge	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>  <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 

2020-2021 Curriculum Impact Grants

Curriculum Impact Grant	Faculty	Global Issues
Enhancing Cross-Cultural Engagement and Collaboration at Mason through Explorations of Global Health Challenges	Andrew Lee, Cortney Hughes Rinker, Laura Poms, Megumi Inoue, Michael Smith, Steven Anthony Scott	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 
From Exploring Pathways to Developing Opportunities for Community Engagement and Social Justice in an Interprofessional Micro-Credential Program	Caroline Sutter, Carrie Bonilla, Ellen Serafini, Esperanza Roman-Mendoza, Molly Davis	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 
The Activist- Artist: Art as an Engine of Social Justice	Matthew Dievendorf, Michael Nickens, Wendi N. Manuel-Scott, Jeremy Freer, Joan E. Fernandez, Joshua Cruse, Julie M Womble Trkula	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 
Climate Change Minor	Cristinia Stan, James Kinter, Juliette Shedd, Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Sara Cobb	13 CLIMATE ACTION 
Preparing Rising Scientists to Navigate the Science Policy Interface: Developing a Cross-Disciplinary Minor in Science and Technology Policy	Jennifer Salerno, Jessica Rosenberg, Karen Akerlof, Lee Solomon, Peter Blair	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 

<p>Building a Highly Qualified, Creative, and Adaptable STEM Workforce through Collaborative Multidisciplinary Research in Data Science Graduate Programs</p>	<p>Harry Foxwell, Ioulia Rytikova, James Baldo, Mihai Boicu</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 
<p>Physical Activity in Public Health</p>	<p>Ali Weinstein, Charles Robison, Laura Poms</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 
<p>STEM in Society Minor</p>	<p>Brian Platt, Cortney Hughes Rinker, Kamaljeet Sanghera, Larrie Ferreiro, Laura Poms, Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Vita Chalk</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 

George Mason University Centers and Institutes

Institute for a Sustainable Earth

George Mason University's Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) is one of three university level institutes that were recently created to advance Mason's strategic commitment to producing research of consequence. The mission of ISE is connect members of the Mason community with each other across disciplines – and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses, and organizations – so that, together, we can more effectively address the world's pressing sustainability and resilience challenges. By catalyzing partnerships and supporting transdisciplinary research efforts that advance solutions to local, regional, and global sustainability challenges, ISE works to put research and scholarship into action for a more just, prosperous, and sustainable world.

The ISE community consists of over 550 faculty who conduct research within all areas of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To leverage Mason's research strengths and maximize impact, ISE has identified the following six research themes that broadly align with the SDGs to serve as focal points around which to build transdisciplinary communities of research and practice.

- Human health, Well-being, and Capabilities
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Ecosystems
- Harnessing the Digital Revolution for Sustainability and Education for All
- Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Climate Action
- Enhancing Equality, Equity, and Access to Basic Goods and Services
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions to Support Thriving Economies

By engaging with the global sustainability community, ISE aims to ensure that Mason's research and scholarship benefits from and continues to influence further progress toward the SDGs.

ISE was launched in February 2019 and is initially working to achieve the following four goals: (i) ensure that Mason practices what we teach through the promotion of a sustainable campus, community, and region (ii) deeply engage ISE faculty in collaborations and the further development of the institute; (iii) build the foundation for an enduring and impactful institute; and (iv) catalyze curricular integration of sustainability and resilience. Highlights of ISE's initial accomplishments include:

Mason Sustainability Council

ISE partnered with Mason's Office of Sustainability to launch the Mason Sustainability Council (MSC) this year. The MSC is an institution-wide initiative that aims to integrate Mason's research and academic strengths in sustainability with campus operations to mitigate Mason's impact on the global climate, create a culture of sustainability at

Mason, and enable our campuses to become learning laboratories. The MSC's Executive Leadership Board is chaired by the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance and the Provost with membership including Vice Presidents, Deans, and faculty and student representatives. This semester ISE and the OoS have worked with the MSC's Executive Leadership Board to develop a set of strategic goals that will guide the MSC work. In addition, the MSC has just established its first working group which will focus on developing circular economies and minimizing waste at Mason.

Building Community To catalyze communities of research and practice at Mason, ISE has established a faculty affiliate program, centralized communications about sustainability, launched a faculty fellows program, and regularly hosts research round tables. Faculty affiliates are encouraged to post professional profiles on the ISE webpage and associate themselves with one or more of the six research themes to facilitate discovery of potential collaborators. ISE affiliates also receive weekly newsletters that highlight all of the current sustainability-focused events, opportunities, and news from across all of the colleges and schools. ISE's also competitively identified three faculty fellows who now serve as leaders in catalyzing communities around ISE's research themes. And ISE also regularly convenes roundtables for faculty interested in specific topics, issues, or funding opportunities. By showcasing the faculty members' research interests through a series of very brief, structured presentations and then facilitating dialogue, these roundtables are effective at generating new interdisciplinary research teams.

Student internships and curricular development ISE has partnered with the Global Sustainability Scholars program (GSS) to create opportunities for Mason students to participate in both their undergraduate leadership program and their graduate student internship program. GSS is a national program that provides professional development and leadership training to rising young professionals from underrepresented groups who are interested in addressing sustainability challenges. ISE has also collaborated with Mason's Office of Graduate Education (OGS) to create internship opportunities with local businesses and organizations for recipients of OGE's High Impact Grants. And, for the past two years, ISE has supported Mason's Office of Undergraduate Education as they have focused their Curriculum Impact Grant program on engagement with the UN SDGs. These grants catalyze the development of innovative interdisciplinary curriculum that incorporate experiential learning.

Finally, ISE worked with the Brookings Institution to pilot their 17 Rooms-U protocol here at Mason. By coordinating a series of deep dive discussions into each of the SDGs, the 17 Rooms protocol is a proven catalyst for engaging, inspiring, and shaping an organization's mission around the SDGs. Faculty, student, staff, and stakeholder participants with diverse expertise and perspectives convened in seventeen small groups and worked together to identify actions the Mason community can collectively implement within the next year to make progress on the SDGs. From the success of the 17 Rooms event, ISE was able to grant funding to projects that were thought of during the initial event and then designed in follow up meetings.

Office of Sustainability

Introduction & General Overview

George Mason University's commitment to sustainability is real and it is supported by public commitments and extensive accomplishments. The University's public commitments began in 1996 when Mason's then-President Johnson [signed the Talloires Declaration](#) (TD), "the first official statement made by university presidents, chancellors, and rectors of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education."

In 2007, Mason made another historic commitment and pledged to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2050 as a [charter signatory](#) of the [American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment \(ACUPCC\)](#). This resulted in the creation of the Office of Sustainability, also in 2007. For 14 years and counting, the [Office of Sustainability](#) (OoS) continues to advance Mason towards carbon neutrality through ongoing operational improvements and the creation of a thriving institutional culture of sustainability.

The mission of OoS is to use the strengths of George Mason University – innovation, responsiveness, flexibility, and community strength – to provide leadership in environmental, social, and economic stewardship on our campuses and throughout the local and global communities of which we are a part. OoS operationally defines sustainability as "a holistic and collaborative, people-driven process, defined by environmental and social justice, that centers Mason's institutional needs in an innovative and evolutionary response to the most pressing challenges of our time." This informs the work the office does, how it approaches that work, and most importantly, why it advances Mason towards a more sustainable future for all.

Mason continues to make progress towards a sustainable future with an extensive number of accomplishments. For example, in 2014 Mason became the first university in the state of Virginia to earn a '[Gold](#)' rating from the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's \(AASHE\) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System \(STARS\)](#). We have maintained a STARS Gold rating ever since. And in 2019, Mason launched the [Institute for a Sustainable Earth](#), fulfilling a key research component of [Mason's vision](#) for sustainability in academic endeavors that brings more than 500 faculty together to create a sustainable future for all.

We're serious about sustainability at Mason, and here's the proof.

- 9 features in Sierra Club's '[Cool Schools](#)' ranking
- 11 consecutive features in the Princeton Review's [Guide to Green Colleges](#)
- [Active participant](#) in the [United Nations' Global Compact](#), "the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative."
- Co-founding member and ongoing participant in the [University Global Coalition](#), which mobilizes higher education to integrate and actualize the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in pursuit of a sustainable future.

- 3 consecutive '[Gold](#)' ratings (2014, 2017, 2021) from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS), "...a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their [institutional] sustainability performance."
- 7 features in AASHE STARS "Sustainable Campus Index" as a "Top Performer" for institutional performance in "Purchasing" (3), "Water" (3), and "Waste" (1).

Campus Efficiencies

The Campus Efficiencies team advances Mason towards its [carbon neutral commitment](#) by implementing and advocating for sustainable infrastructure improvements, integrating zero waste practices into all operations, and incorporating circular economies across Mason's campuses while building strong partnerships to scale impact. In addition, the team coordinates Mason's institutional reporting with the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#), [Second Nature](#), and many other organizations to ensure sustainability progress is maintained and transparently reported.

Greenhouse & Gardens

The Greenhouse & Gardens team manages the comprehensive operation of three sustainable food production sites: the [Innovation Food Forest](#), the [Potomac Heights Vegetable Garden](#), and the [Presidents Park Hydroponic Greenhouse](#). Each year, the team hosts hundreds of in-person and virtual volunteers who complete thousands of hours of service-learning and volunteering with a custom-designed [Sustainable Sign-Ups](#) portal created in partnership with Facilities Information Technology Services. In addition, the [Academic Internship Program](#) in partnership with the [School of Integrative Studies](#) provides dozens of students with experiential learning about many topics, including permaculture and the business of food.

Patriot Green Fund

The Patriot Green Fund is a \$100,000 per year annual fund provided by Mason Facilities that is used to support sustainability-focused infrastructure and student-led research projects. The PGF has successfully funded more than 90 projects since its inception in 2011 and it is certified as a "[Mason Impact](#)" co-curricular activity. It boasts unique partnerships, like serving as a sponsor for Mechanical Engineering students' Senior Design Capstone Course and provides a funding pathway for student projects from the [Business for a Better World Center's](#) annual Sustainability Contest.

Education & Outreach











The Education & Outreach team engages the Mason Nation to provide educational opportunities and resources about sustainability while promoting sustainable behavior changes at the individual and institutional scale. To do so, the team integrates sustainability as a core pillar of the Mason brand in collaboration with Mason communicators. In addition, the team co-leads Mason's annual Earth Month and Campus Sustainability Month celebrations with the [Institute for a Sustainable Earth](#). The










team coordinates the [Environment & Sustainability Learning Community](#) with [Housing & Residence Life](#), implements the [Green Residence](#) program, and connects students to sustainable opportunities and resources with [University Career Services](#).

Director of University Sustainability











The Office of Sustainability's Director of University Sustainability co-coordinates the [Mason Sustainability Council](#) (MSC) with the Executive Director of the [Institute for a Sustainable Earth](#). The Mason Sustainability Council (MSC) is an institution-wide initiative that works to integrate Mason's research and academic strengths in sustainability with campus operations to mitigate Mason's impact on the global climate, enables our campuses to become learning laboratories, and further establishes Mason as an institutional leader in higher-education sustainability. In addition, they are a member of the [Master Plan](#) Steering Committee, and work to inject operational and academic sustainability into that planning process. They also serve on the planning committee for a new "green" building on Mason's Arlington Campus and are hosting one of Mason's "[17 Rooms](#)" events to help the university plan for sustainability in alignment with the United Nations' [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

2021-2022 Patriot Green Fund Recipients

Curriculum Impact Grant	Faculty	Global Issues
<p>Infrastructure: Indoor waste unit for compost pilot at Northern Neck Starbucks</p>	<p>A. Saxton and C.Regan</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  13 CLIMATE ACTION </p>
<p>Green Studio Garden Expansion (Infrastructure): Expansion of the Green Studio garden at the School of Art.</p>	<p>D. Nolan</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING </p>
<p>3-d Filament Recycling (Infrastructure): Recycling of 3-D printing filament located in the MIX through Terracycle.</p>	<p>T. Nielsen</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION  9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE </p>
<p>Sediment Coring (Research): Study to further understand the historical inputs of several anthropogenic pollutants through sediment core sampling.</p>	<p>M. Badia</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION </p>
<p>Filtrerra Sign (Infrastructure): Signage for Mason's "Filtrerra" stormwater management feature.</p>	<p>Z. Zulfugarov</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES  9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE </p>
<p>Sustainable Fridge (Infrastructure): Fridge that reduces food waste by keeping produce fresh for longer done in partnership with Department of Nutrition and Food Studies.</p>	<p>C. Flores</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  13 CLIMATE ACTION </p>

Sustainable Print Studio (Infrastructure): Risograph and papermaking supplies for the School of Art's Print and Book Arts studio.	C. Kardambinkis	 
Bee Hotels (Infrastructure): Mason bee habitats in the Innovation Food Forest.	J. Espinoza	 
Locker Room Renovation (Infrastructure): The Men's Soccer Team locker room was renovated for the first time in 35 years featuring sustainable upgrades including new lockers made from recycled content and responsibly sourced materials, a dimmer switch with mercury-free and energy-efficient LED lights and new flooring constructed from bio-based materials.	O. Weiss	
Bigbelly Solar Compactor for Compost (Infrastructure): Adding "Bigbelly" compost bin for pilot units near the Starbucks in the Northern Neck building.	C. Cuevo, C. Regan, A. Saxton	
Soil Organic Matter and Carbon Research (Research): Study analyzed the effects of fertilization and plant diversity on the soil color of wetland mesocosms.	C. Ahn	
Reusable Container Kiosk (Infrastructure): Prototype of reusable container return kiosk for Mason dining.	A. Penaflor	
Green House Automation (Infrastructure): Continuing work to create a system of autonomous control of Mason's hydroponic greenhouse.	A. Silvas	

2022-2023 Patriot Green Fund Recipients

Curriculum Impact Grant	Faculty	Global Issues
Solar Powered Greenhouse (Infrastructure): George Mason University student-led PGF and Facilities project installing solar panels at the Presidents Park Greenhouse.	C Bowers	 
Cherry Blossom Monitoring (Research): A graduate student research project to predict the timing of cherry tree blossoms at Mason Pond.	J Roth, J Auerbach, D Kepplinger, D Hanley	
Summer Team Impact Project: Greenhouse Automation (Research): Continuing work to create a system of autonomous control of Mason's hydroponic greenhouse with Electrical Engineering students.	N. Peixoto	 
Reusable Container Kiosk (Infrastructure): Mechanical Engineering Senior Design project to create a 2.0 prototype of a reusable container kiosk.	A Saxton	 
Vertical Shelving for Presidents Park Greenhouse (Infrastructure): Mechanical Engineering Senior Design project to maximize space in Mason's Hydroponic Greenhouse.	D Nolan	 
Mason Exhibition 100 Trees (Infrastructure): Artist Katie Kehoe and a group of volunteers planting 100 native trees on Fairfax campus. This project is a socially engaged performance	D. Nolan	

<p>action, accompanying several artworks by Kehoe in the public art exhibition, Approaching Event Horizons: Projects on Climate Change, presented by Mason Exhibitions. Photo by: Sierra Guard/Creative Services/George Mason University</p>		
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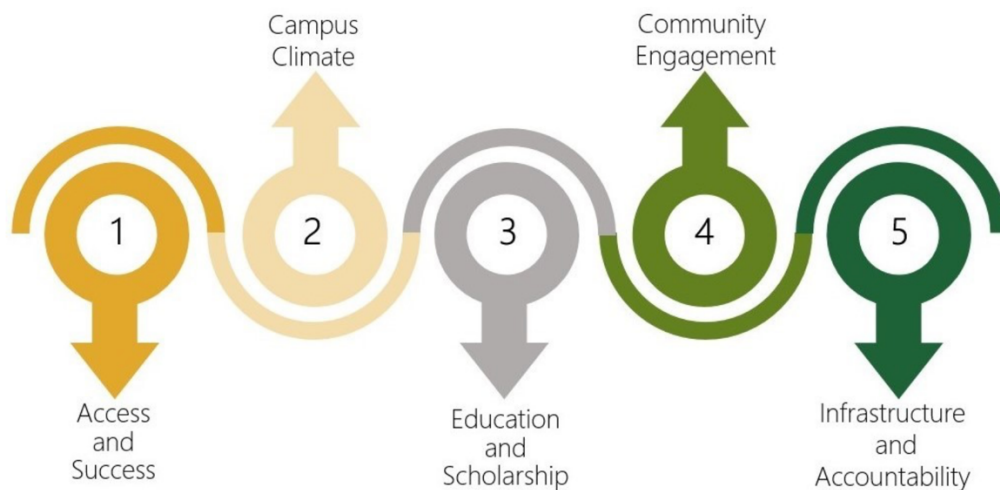
Institutional Policies and Initiatives

Mason’s Work on Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence

In the Fall of 2020, George Mason University President Dr. Gregory Washington announced the creation of the Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force (ARIE). The ARIE Task Force is comprised of over 100 members of the Mason community with three significant goals:

- Identify systems, practices, and traditions of racial bias at George Mason University so that they can be eradicated
- Build intentional systems and standards of anti-racism that will keep racial justices from regenerating
- George Mason University to become a local, regional, and national beacon for the advancement of anti-racism, reconciliation, and healing

Between 2020-2022, extensive work related to the task force was completed that initiated new policies and practices at Mason. The outcomes of the ARIE Task Force have led to the implementation of a larger institutional effort, aligned with our Inclusive Excellence Framework.



More information on the full details of Mason’s DEI efforts can be found here: <https://diversity.gmu.edu/arie>.



Quality Enhancement Plan: Transformative Education through Anti-Racist Community Engagement

In the fall of 2020 George Mason announced its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) titled “Transformative Education through Anti-Racist Community Engagement.” The QEP seeks to contribute to institutional change at Mason by leveraging the strengths of community engaged pedagogies to address areas of the ***Sustainable Development Goals like reduced inequalities, quality education, strong institutions, and partnerships for the goals.***

Goals of the Quality Enhancement Plan

1. Building Mason’s infrastructure to support community engagement and civic learning
2. Expanding students understanding of anti-racism thorough community and civic engagement
3. Increasing the opportunities for students to participate in community engaged courses and research opportunities by investing in faculty training and curriculum development

Since the launch of the program, the newly established Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning has taken on deepening Mason’s commitment to community engagement and civic learning that is connected to our DEI and anti-racism efforts. Through newly created student programs, university infrastructure elements, and faculty training, we are moving towards significant enhancements with respect of partnerships for the goals.

More on the Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning

More information on the newly launched Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning at George Mason University can be found at: <https://cecil.gmu.edu>.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Conclusion and Recommendations

George Mason University remains committed to the United Nations Global Compact and the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As George Mason University looks forward to our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we look forward to deepening our curricular commitments to the SDG's, expanding opportunities for our faculty, staff, and students to engage with the goals, and clarifying our tracking and reporting mechanisms to better share our progress.

1. Form a UN Global Compact Working Group

In order to enhance the amazing work happening at Mason connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, one of our priorities is to form a UN Global Compact Working Group with representatives from across campus. The group should be connected to Mason's Sustainability Council and Office of Research so that they can effectively communicate and collect the work taking place across campus towards the goals.



The working group will create outcomes to track over the course of each bi-annual reporting period and develop appropriate mechanisms for tracking, sustaining, and deepening our institutional commitment and priorities.

2. Engage community partners in programs and efforts connected to the Global Compact and Sustainable Development Goals

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth hosted a 17 Rooms Event at Mason during the Fall of 2021, and in many ways that event was a large-scale kickoff to greater engagement between faculty, staff, students, and community partners and the Global Compact and Sustainable Development Goals. The newly launched Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning is taking on the challenge of coordination and communication of efforts with community partners in order to better serve our community and advance shared goals. We look forward to using the momentum from this event and the intentional efforts of the Office of Sustainability and other campus collaborators to continue the reach of this work.