

SDG Roadshow 2018 for the UK

Making Global Goals Local Business – Derby

Event Report

MAKING GLOBAL GOALS LOCAL BUSINESS



Date: 5th June 2018

Location: University of Derby, Derby

Number of delegates: 28

Speakers:

Steve Kenzie, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network UK

Councillor Mike Carr, The Mayor of the City of Derby

Andrew Clifton, Global Sustainability Manager, Rolls-Royce

Ken Steers, Group HR Director, Cordant Group

Dr. Fred Paterson, Sustainable Business and the Green Economy, Derby Business School

Hardyal Dhindsa, Derbyshire PCC

Dr. Wendy Chapple, Associate Professor, Nottingham Business School

SLIDES

AGENDA

SDG Roadshow 2018: www.sdg-roadshow.org.uk

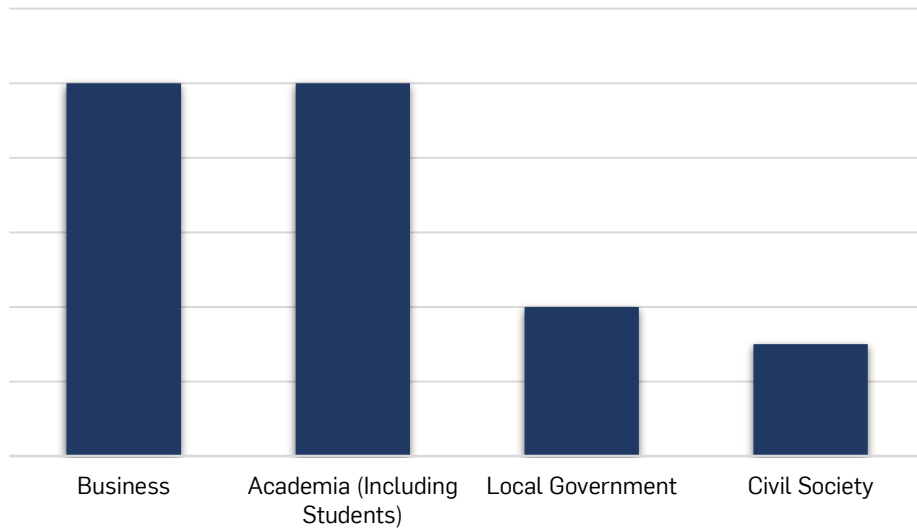
Contact us: secretariat@unglobalcompact.org

UN Global Compact's website: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

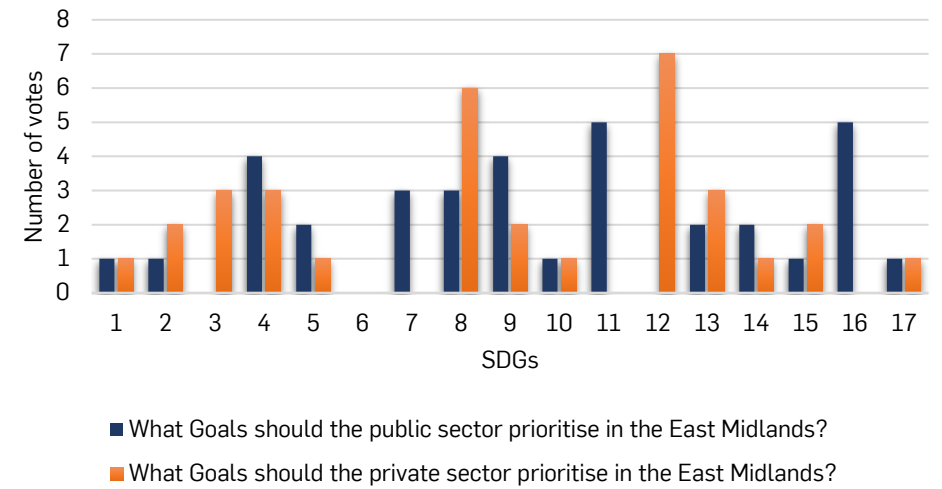
UN Global Compact Network UK's website: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org.uk/>



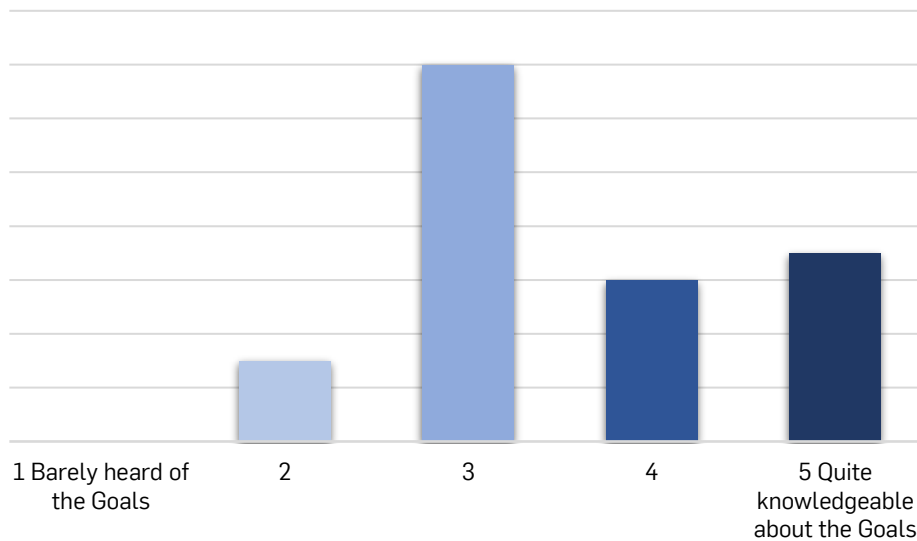
Audience breakdown



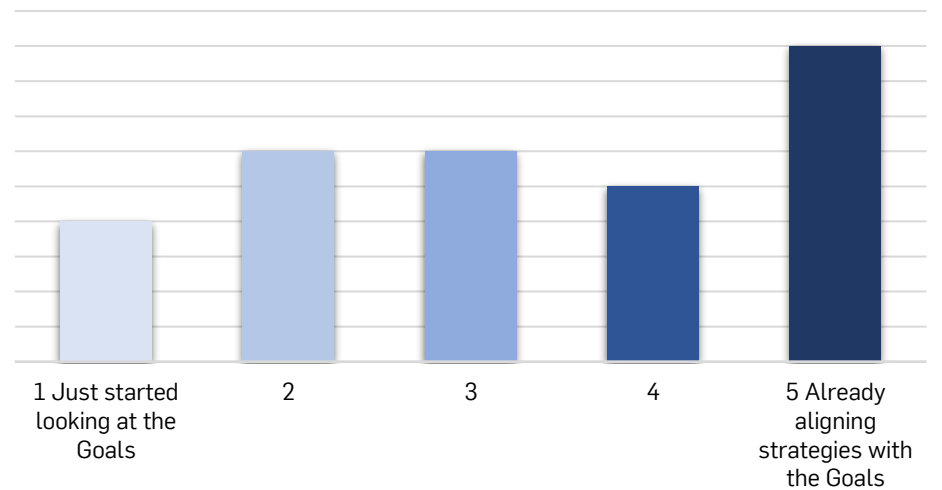
Dot Voting: Finding positions of strength



SDG awareness before the event



Attendees' involvement with the Global Goals



By attending Making Global Goals Local Business - Derby, delegates were able to develop an understanding of:

- What the Global Goals are.
- Why should businesses care about them.
- How can business contribute to achieving the Goals and benefit from doing so.

On Global Goals:

After the largest public consultation ever undertaken, the SDGs were adopted in 2015 by the UK and the other 192 Member States of the United Nations. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they call for economic growth, innovation, circular economies and upgraded infrastructure, as well as providing a path to end extreme poverty, fight inequality, and protect the planet.

The Global Goals were hailed as a 'paradigm shift for people and planet' by former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon. They are going to transform our world, and that transformation will create opportunities for new business models to deliver new products and services into new markets.

Every company (and every citizen) needs to understand this important global mega-trend!

Key insights from the event:

- The City of Derby is a [Signatory of the UN Global Compact](#) and a member of the [UN Global Compact Cities Programme](#). The City is particularly focusing on modern slavery and human trafficking, issues related to SDG16.
- The City of Derby and its partners call for business action on the SDGs in the region.
- For the private sector, the SDGs are a catalyst for good.
- The opportunities particularly come from SDG interconnectivities. At the same time, trying to improve on one side can create problems on another side. These conflicting challenges highlight the importance of understanding SDG interconnections.
- The SDGs can and should be used as part of the day-to-day business, not as an add-on.
- Big shift in recent years: The question is not 'should business engage in sustainability' anymore, but 'how does business actually engage and embed sustainability in business practices'.
- Despite significant difficulties, we have come a very long way in the last 50 years. In geological life times, change is happening fast and the SDGs will considerably accelerate this process.
- We won't solve the problems right now, but it is about setting the right trajectory to take us in a positive place.
- The SDGs are an improvement tool, not a compliance exercise.
- SDG reporting should be used as a feedback loop and self-improving system.
- Successful companies won't be the ones that adopt the SDGs to look better but those who use them to substantively become a better business.
- The SDGs are a source of inspiration for new business models.
- The assumption that all changes come from the Government is not true. Local and collective action in the sustainable development arena is what creates change.
- The SDGs offer a better articulation of sustainability issues, which in turn enables to understand how business interacts with them.
- The SDGs are about better business, not only about better society and better environment.
- There is still too much hesitancy from companies to speak about how they affect these Goals. Though the SDGs imply hard decisions to make, being transparent, authentic and explicit is key to improve as it serves innovation and development.
- The SDGs are a guide to generating profit in alignment with long-term aspirations of society.

- There is a need for more system thinking to solve these issues. The way forward is adopting a sector-level perspective to assess how sectors can contribute to the Goals in a more powerful way.
- There will be more and more stakeholder pressure for opaque businesses that are behind in terms of sustainability. Companies need to use the SDGs to switch from short-term profit thinking to long-term value creation.
- In the future, companies not operating sustainably probably won't be operating at all.
- Achieving the SDGs requires changing social norms and social understandings of the right thing to do.
- Employees increasingly want to work for companies that take the sustainability agenda seriously.
- The leadership team's involvement is key to activate change within any organisation.

[Link to the SDGs](#)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



All the best with your SDG journey !

