



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT GUIDE | 2025



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INTRODUCTION



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are an urgent call for action by all countries—developed and developing—in a global partnership. The SDGs build on decades of work by member nations of the UN and partners around the world.

They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs are very comprehensive but need to be localized. RCE Greater Atlanta aims to do so by implementing them on campus through the development of this guide. Framing the courses, departments, and engagement opportunities at Georgia Tech through the SDGs provides students with a greater understanding of all the facets of sustainability and how our campus is tackling each one. The purpose of this guide is to raise awareness of the SDGs among students, make direct connections between campus efforts and specific goals, and encourage collaboration between organizations aligned with the same goals.

Icons:

-  Research
-  Engagement
-  Teaching
-  Operations

Each SDG will also include a list of courses that students can take and resources to read to deepen their understanding and contribute to the achievement of these global objectives.

1 NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Alternative Service Breaks Club

Community service trips to address service issues like affordable housing, education, and food insecurity. More information about ASB and service trip experiences can be found on the ASB Engage Page!



65 trips since forming!
55 domestic,
10 international

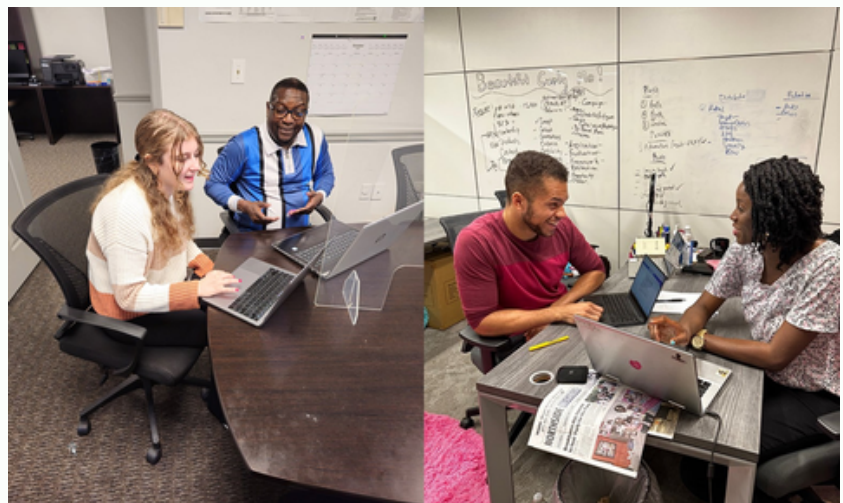


Social Impact Fellows

Driven by our community partners' needs and opportunities, ILSI (Institute for Leadership and Social Impact) promotes the projects to Georgia Tech students and partners, who select candidates that best suit their needs. The purpose of the program is to create meaningful connections for co-learning

4,400
Hours Served

23
Partnerships
Funded



1 NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



STARS Servant Leadership Team

Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources is a student organization that supports the work of the STAR network.

1. Raise awareness of STAR and the programs that comprise the STAR Network
2. Support existing programs through volunteering and student leadership opportunities
3. Create new programs in response to the identification of unmet needs



Campus Closet



Klemis Kitchen



Crisis Housing



Financial Assistance

Programs above aim to provide students with everything they need to thrive and flourish during their time at Georgia Tech.

Check out these courses:

CP 6442: Equity, Justice, and Economic Development

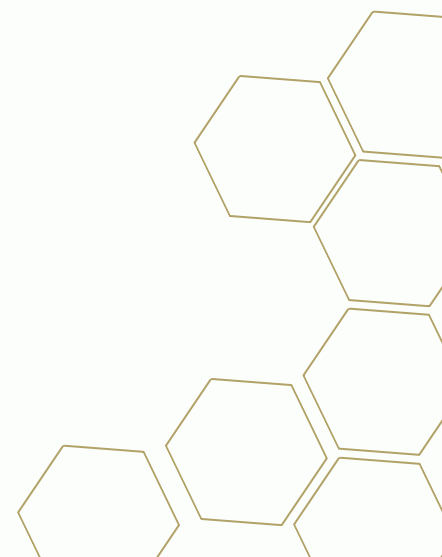
School of City and Regional Planning

SLS 3110: Tech and Sustainable Communities

Serve-Learn-Sustain

HTS 3008: Class, Power, and Inequality

School of History and Sociology



2 ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



The Campus Kitchen Project (CKP)

Improving sustainability and reducing food waste on campus. They hold weekly volunteering shifts to package leftover dining hall food and also pick up excess food from Greek houses, retail locations, and events on campus.



Culinary Health and Education for Students (CHEFS)

Georgia Tech's culinary club's mission is to make food and cooking more accessible for students. They hold cooking workshops, restaurant and grocery trips, potlucks, food related volunteering events, and more.



CKP recovered and donated over **1200** meals from Georgia Tech dining halls in **Fall 2024**.



2 ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Green Forks

A campus initiative that transforms surplus food from catered events into a valuable resource for students facing food insecurity. By partnering with Tech Dining, the Office of Sustainability, Campus Kitchens, and Student Life, the program ensures quality food goes directly to students.

"This program not only addresses food waste but also directly supports our students, fostering a culture of care and community on campus. We believe small actions can lead to significant change."

-Danielle Ismirle Dunigan, assistant director of Dining Operations at Georgia Tech



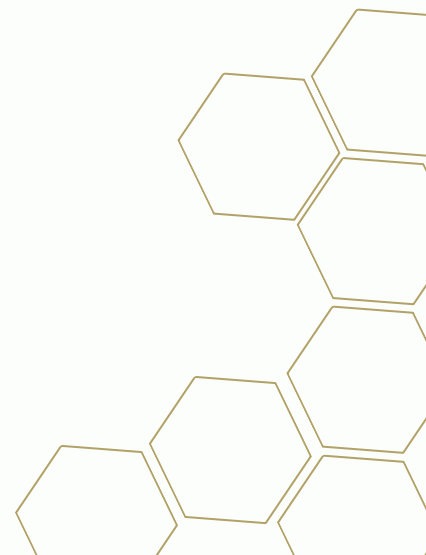
Check out these courses and readings:

HTS 2018: Food and Society

School of History and Sociology

PHIL 3140: Philosophy of Food

School of Public Policy



3 GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Buzz Mobile Health

A civic student organization that aims to reduce health disparities present in the immediate Atlanta community by providing a means of collaboration between Atlanta community centers and Georgia Tech undergraduate students.

- Currently partners with Midtown Assistance Center (MAC) to provide health information, meals, and other services to underserved people and communities.



Adventure Trips

Outdoor Recreation serves the Georgia Tech community by providing adventure trips designed to enrich students' experiences. The CRC offers a variety of trips, including overnight excursions, day trips, and shorter mini-adventures, catering to different levels of outdoor exploration.

These trips provide opportunities for students to connect with nature, develop outdoor skills, and build camaraderie with fellow participants.



Check out these courses and programs:

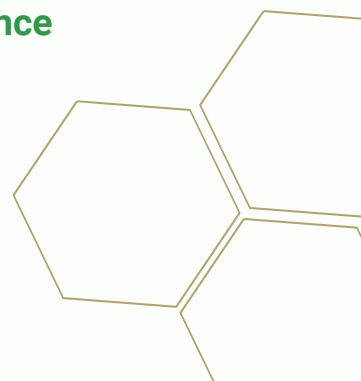
APPH 1040: Scientific Foundations of Health

APPH 1050: The Science of Physical Activity and Health

APPH 1060: Flourishing: Strategies for Well-being and Resilience

PUBP 3210: U.S. Health Policy

School of Public Policy



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



**ENCOURAGE.
ENLIGHTEN.
EXCITE. EDUCATE.
ELEVATE.**



Caterpillar's Promise

Community organization that motivate others to use their talents for the greater good through seminars, showcases, and services.



Buddy Jackets

Strives to foster a tradition of service for underprivileged children in Atlanta by promoting higher education through mentorship! Buddy Jackets is an organization at Georgia Tech that works to strengthen community bonds and bring GT students and underprivileged children in the area together through year-round volunteering and events.



Circle K

Sponsored by Kiwanis International, Circle K is the premiere service and leadership development organization for college students across the world. As the Georgia Tech branch of the organization, GT Circle K is involved in several on and off campus volunteer projects throughout the year.

12,600+ members in 17 nations

Largest international collegiate service organization

Making a positive impact on the world every day



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Common Good Club

The Common Good Club advocates for change by addressing educational inequities within the community. In partnership with Georgia Works, a local homeless shelter, the club provides GED preparation, technology literacy training, and job development resources. Additionally, Georgia Tech tutors support high school students by sharing educational resources and experiences, fostering academic growth and future opportunities.



Office of Undergraduate Education

OUE is dedicated to enhancing undergraduate education and equipping students with the skills to excel as leaders in progress and service. It supports students in becoming accomplished learners who can forge meaningful connections between their academic, professional, and community experiences.



Clarkston Futures: Tutoring + Stem Support

A dedicated group of students provides tutoring at an after-school program at Clarkston High School in Clarkston, GA. In addition to academic support, they lead engaging STEM workshops designed to inspire curiosity and hands-on learning among students.

Check out these courses and programs:

HTS 3072: Sociology of Education

School of History and Sociology

PUBP 3230: STEM Education Policy

School of Public Policy

PUBP 4140: Foundations of Leadership

Undergraduate Sustainability Education

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Girls who Code

Girls Who Code at Georgia Tech is a club of female and nonbinary students passionate about empowering and creating community for students interested in STEM, especially those who are traditionally underrepresented. Their goal is to provide middle and high school students with role models and support in their CS-education journeys.



The Society of Women Engineers

Georgia Tech Society of Women Engineers has actively given women engineering students a unique place and voice within the engineering industry. Centered around a passion for our members' success and continues to evolve with the challenges and opportunities reflected in today's exciting engineering and technology specialties.

**Largest
Collegiate SWE
section in the US**

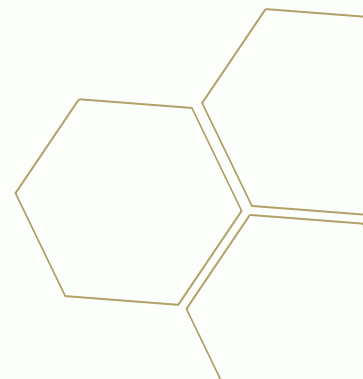
Check out these courses:

PUBP 4212. Women and Public Policy

School of Public Policy

PUBP 4214. Gender, Science, Technology, and Public Policy

School of Public Policy



6 CLEAN WATER + SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



5 Rivers Fishing Club

5 Rivers Fishing Club is focused on fly fishing and the conservation initiatives that benefits Atlanta's rivers and streams, along with surrounding communities.



Members from various 5 Rivers Clubs from around the nation collaborate and come together!

25
Project Partners
100+
Lectures and Workshops



Wish for WASH

Wish for WASH addresses global water, sanitation, and hygiene problems through research, design, and education. They seek to lead relevant, accessible, and actionable research that intersects with the innovation and inclusion in the Sanitation Economy.

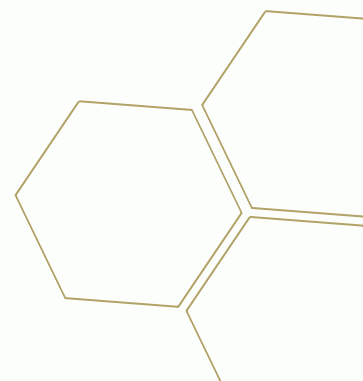
Check out these courses and programs:

CEE 4310: Water Quality Engineering

School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

EAS 4625: Water Quality Modeling

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences



7 AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



ElectrifyGT

ElectrifyGT advocates for campus electrification, to reduce GT's greenhouse gas emissions.



Energy Club

Energy Club strives to connect students with opportunities in sustainable energy generation, utilization, and policy.

- Organizes a range of events throughout the year to educate and engage students and industry professionals in the energy field:
 - Southeastern Energy Conference
 - EnergyHack @ GT
 - Energy Chats
 - Networking Events
 - Facility Tours and Campus Projects



Solar Decathlon at Georgia Tech

The Solar Decathlon competition challenges student teams to design and build energy-efficient, solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and aesthetically pleasing.

Check out these courses and programs:

PUBP 3350. Energy Policy

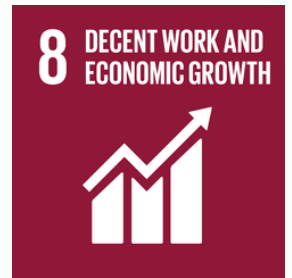
School of Public Policy

PUBP 6312: Sustainable Energy and Environmental Management

Master of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Management (MSEEM)

8 DECENT WORK + ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Engineers in Action

Engineers in Action works to provide a sustainable solution to poverty in underserved communities located in South America and Africa by annually funding, designing, and implementing a suspended footbridge project in previously isolated populations. The pedestrian bridges provide year-round access to schools, medical facilities, freshwater access points, markets, job opportunities, and more.



10 Years of Operation
60 Student Members
80+ Clients Served
250+ Pro-Bono Hours



Consult Your Community

Georgia Tech CYC provide pro-bono services to small businesses with less than 500 employees in the greater Atlanta area. They also raise awareness about consulting careers and opportunities.

Check out these courses and programs:

CP 6442: Equity, Justice & Economic Development
School of City and Regional Planning

MGT 4369: Sustainable Business Practicum
Sustainable Business Certificate

MGT 6359: Sustainable Business Practices
Scheller College of Business

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, & INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Engineers for a Sustainable World

ESW-GT is a non-profit organization that manages student-run projects promoting sustainable solutions to local, national, and global problems.

Varied projects include hydroponics, solar panels, and **sustainable brewing!**



Engineers Without Borders

Engineers Without Borders at Georgia Tech is an international group that implements sustainable engineering projects and supports community-driven development projects. They aim to use engineering to help communities meet their basic needs and equip leaders to solve the world's most pressing challenges.



Engineering change in **39 countries** around the world.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, & INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Check out these courses and programs:

CEE 4005: Innovation & Entrepreneurship in CEE Systems

School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

CP 2233: Sustainable Urban Development

School of City and Regional Planning

HTS 3081: Technology and the Environment

School of History and Sociology

VIP: Vertically Integrated Project

Sophomore to graduate level

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries



GOALSoccer

Partnered with Special Olympics, GOALSoccer is a philanthropy organization that works to enrich the lives of children with special needs through soccer. Their goal is to provide these children with the opportunity to experience the value of team sports, learn a new game, and make life long friends.



Check out these courses and programs:

CP 6442: Equity, Justice, and Economic Development

School of City and Regional Planning

HTS 3008: Class, Power, and Social Inequality

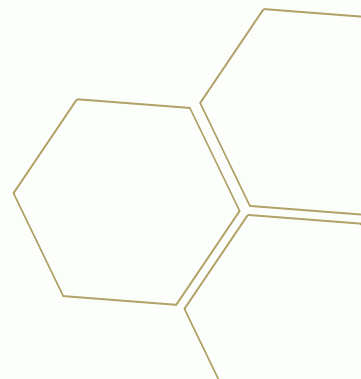
School of History and Sociology

PUBP 3201: Introduction to Social Policy

School of Public Policy

PUBP 4200: Social Policy Issues

School of Public Policy





11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable System (BBISS)

BBISS's vision is to grow and mobilize Georgia Tech's knowledge assets to create a sustainable future for all.



Epic Intentions

Creates opportunities for GT students to drive social impact in the community by developing custom web software to help nonprofits work more efficiently



Students Organizing for Sustainability

Brings sustainability-oriented people together to inspire positive change in our community by hosting various events for GT's campus



SCoRE's Sustainable Communities Summer Internship Program

Provides community partners with support and resources while providing students with practical experience supporting solutions for sustainable communities



Bits of Good

Creates opportunities for GT students to drive social impact in the community by developing custom web software to help nonprofits

Changing Lives One Bit at a Time





11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Check out these courses:

CEE 4300: Environmental Engineering Systems

School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

CP 2233: Sustainable Urban Development

School of City and Regional Planning

CP 4190: Introduction to Climate Change Planning

School of City and Regional Planning

CP 6850: Public Health and Built Environment

School of City and Regional Planning

HTS 2086: Semester in the City

School of History and Sociology

ISYE 4501: Energy, Efficiency, and Sustainability

H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering

SLS 3110: Foundations of Sustainable Systems

Serve-Learn-Sustain

STATS

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



ECO at GT

ECO at GT enhances and develops recycling practices, provides alternative materials to be used within the School of Architecture and School of Industrial Design, provides resources and connects to the community outside of GT. They foster environmental, physical, and mental wellness in the College of Design ecosystem.



Check out these courses:

EAS 4110: Resources, Energy and the Environment

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

ECON 2101: The Global Economy

School of Economics

MGT 2106: Legal, Social, Ethical Aspects of Business

Scheller College of Business

MGT 3770: Business Decisions for Sustainability and Shared Value

Scheller College of Business

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Office of Sustainability

Georgia Tech's Office of Sustainability brings sustainability-oriented people together to inspire positive change in our community by hosting various events. They also manage campus programs to reduce energy and water use and waste on campus.

43%

Scope 2 emissions reductions since 2010



Cycling

Georgia Tech Cycling is the premier road and mountain biking organization on campus. They compete in every cycling discipline including mtb, road, CX and track and are open to riders of all ability.





13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Check out these courses and programs:

CP 2233: Sustainable Urban Development

School of City and Regional Planning

CP 4190: Introduction to Climate Change Planning

School of City and Regional Planning

CP 4210: Environmental Planning & Impact Assessment

School of City and Regional Planning

EAS 1600: Introduction to Environmental Science

School of Earth and Atmospheric Science

EAS 4801: Climate Solutions Minimester

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Note: rotates with other minimesters (5-week courses) under the same course number

PUBP 3315: Environmental Policy and Politics

School of Public Policy

PUBP 3320: Climate Policy

School of Public Policy

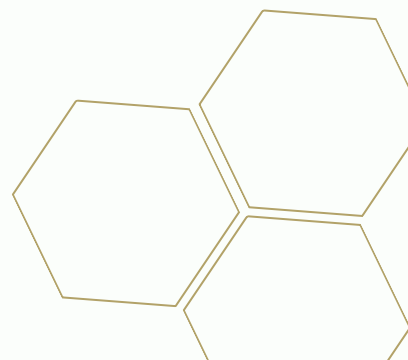
PUBP 3600: Sustainability, Technology, and Policy

School of Public Policy

Recommended readings:

Impacts of Climate Change

<https://history.aip.org/climate/impacts.htm>





14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Ocean Visions

Sponsored by Georgia Tech, Ocean Visions advances solutions for ocean-climate restoration. Their strategy is to reduce, remove, repair, and reach, directly addressing the causes and impact of the climate disruption.

“OceanVisions will create a concrete pathway for scientists and engineers to design and execute research that enables ocean solutions,”
- Emanuele Di Lorenzo

Check out these courses and programs:

EAS 4300: Oceanography

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

EAS 4305: Phys & Chem Oceanography

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

EAS 4350: Paleoclimatology and Paleoceanography

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

EAS 4801: Deep Oceans Minimester

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Note: rotates with other minimesters (5-week courses) under the same course number

Recommended readings:

Impacts of changing ocean circulation on the distribution of marine microplastic litter

https://core.ac.uk/reader/160606142?utm_source=linkout

What Happened to All of the Oil?

https://tos.org/oceanography/assets/docs/29-3_passow1.pdf

15 LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Urban Honey Bee Project

The Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project is a unique interdisciplinary undergraduate research and education program focused on the impact of urban habitats on honey bees. Hives are located on the roofs of the CULC and the Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design.



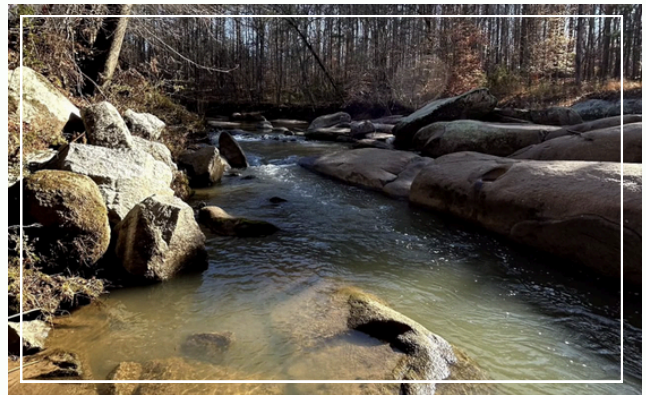
Video produced by students in Dr. David Hu's lab about **pollen grooming** was featured in **New York Times**.



Trailblazers

Through trail adventures and exploration, Trailblazers seek to increase student and faculty appreciation for the outdoors. Trips combine environmental service projects with outdoor recreation to allow participants to build new friendships while serving and learning about the environment.

Local Projects throughout the year and **Alternative Break Trips** during Fall Break and Spring Break!



Check out these courses and programs:

BIOS 2300: Ecology

School of Biological Sciences

BIOS 2310: Problems in Ecology

School of Biological Sciences

16 PEACE, JUSTICE, & STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Equity in Architecture

The organization is committed to fostering unity and equity within the design profession. Comprising both undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Design, it promotes inclusion by celebrating diverse identities. Through this emphasis on representation, the organization seeks to empower its members and strengthen their impact within the field.



John Lewis Student Leadership Service

The John Lewis Student Leadership Pathways helps students develop skills to create meaningful change in their communities. Participants can personalize their experience by choosing from workshops, keynote speakers, service projects, reflection discussions, and more. The program focuses on self-design, allowing students to select from various impactful opportunities.

**EMPOWER.
INSPIRE.
CREATE**

Check out these courses and programs:

INTA 1110: Introduction to International Relations

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

INTA 3773: Global Issues and Leadership

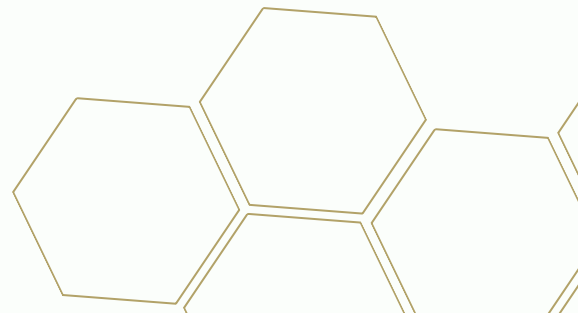
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

PUBP 3520: Globalization and Public Policy

School of Public Policy

HTS 3064: Sociology of Development

School of History and Sociology





17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



RCE Greater Atlanta

RCE Greater Atlanta is acknowledged by the United Nations University as a Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. RCEs support multi stakeholder implementation of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level through education and training. RCE Greater Atlanta brings together universities and colleges from across the Greater Atlanta region with nonprofit, community, government, and business partners.



GT is one of 8
participating higher-
education institutions



GT Sustainability Network

GT Sustainability Network meetings occur monthly and are open to all Georgia Tech students, faculty, and staff. Each month is organized by a different unit and features a short presentation on a sustainability topic and time for networking.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Drawdown Georgia Business Compact

Run by Georgia Tech's Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business is a consortium of businesses in Georgia working towards a goal of net zero carbon emissions in Georgia by 2050. Leveraging the impact of the Georgia business community, the compact is working to carry out high-impact carbon mitigation solutions

University Global Coalition

In 2019, Georgia Tech President Angel Cabrera started the University Global Coalition with several other university presidents and higher education leaders, to commit to put forth new ideas to advance the SDGs, collaborate with other organizations, and create a generation of leaders with new ideas, new approaches, and a global outlook. Every opportunity on Georgia Tech's campus to engage with the SDGs can be a step further towards this goal.

Check out these courses:

INTA 3050: The Meaning of Global Citizenship

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

PUBP 3141: Leading Social Organizations

School of Public Policy

HTS 3010: Organizing for Social Change

School of History and Sociology

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Engaging with SDGs off campus

RCE Greater Atlanta

RCE Greater Atlanta is a great resource for sustainability-related opportunities. Since the RCE engages students as well as research, government, businesses, and community partners, there are a variety of approaches to the SDGs that RCE members can get involved in.

RCE Greater Atlanta also aims to increase student leadership in local sustainability, putting on programs such as a yearly **SDG Futures Fellowship** and a **student-led coordination team**. Georgia Tech students can stay connected with the SDGs either by staying up to date with sustainability happenings in Atlanta or making their own advancements towards the goals in student programs. Fill out a membership application and find contact information at rcega.org if you want to help the advancement of the SDGs in Atlanta.

University Global Coalition

The University Global Coalition (UGC) is a collection of higher education institutions, including Georgia Tech, committed to supporting the SDGs through education, research, and service. Recognizing its unique resources and position in society, Georgia Tech joined this coalition to raise awareness and take action.

UGC, with Saint Joseph's University, puts together an SDG dashboard where students can keep track of how the institute has been fulfilling that promise. Explore the dashboard tool here: **Interactive SDG Dashboard**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Georgia Tech UN SDG Student Engagement Guide was prepared by RCE Greater Atlanta and was reviewed by Georgia Tech's Center for Sustainable Communities Research and Education (SCoRE) and Office of Sustainability (OOS).



The main contributors of the guide were Julie Chen (RCE), Minju Kim (RCE), Annie Lin (RCE), Natalie Zhang (RCE), and Sanam Patel (OOS).