

For those of you who haven't heard the good news, the UN introduced its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2016 as a follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals. To quote its Preamble, "this Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity." It includes 17 goals (known as the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs) each of which has a number of specific targets. The goals address issues like poverty, insecurity, education, gender equality, health, the environment, and peace.

In addition to the UN and its various agencies, teachers play a crucial role in achieving the goals of the Agenda. We can begin the process by educating students about sustainable development and the SDG's. Unfortunately, due to curriculum constraints or other factors, most teachers do not include these topics in the classroom. The beauty of the SDGs is that they can lead to interdisciplinary collaboration and encourage students to think globally, but act locally. Including the SDGs in a school's curriculum is a way to use students' passion and youthful energy to point them towards opportunities to help their community.

To learn more about the Agenda and SDGs, please visit the UN's Sustainable Development Goals website at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>.