

UN Sustainability Goals: Gender Equality, Reduced Inequality, and Good Health and Wellbeing

Introduction

The United Nations Sustainability Goals are a set of objectives aimed at achieving global prosperity and peace by the year 2030. The 17 UN Sustainability Goals: “No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry-Innovation-Infrastructure, Reduced Inequality, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life on Land, Peace-Justice-Strong Institutions, Partnerships to achieve the Goals.”

For the next 6 weeks, we will be focusing on and discussing three different sustainability goals, each under an overarching theme. For this week, the theme is **Equality for All** and the sustainability goals that will be discussed are “Gender Equality, Reduced Inequality, and Good Health and Wellbeing”.

The Gender Equality goal seeks to universally empower women and girls especially aiming to reduce the gender biases aimed against women in the workforce and in their personal/domestic life. By allocating resources such as government funding to gender-responsive systems, the UN plans to achieve gender equality.

The Reduced Inequality goal seeks to decrease the gap between and within countries in terms of socioeconomic status. The key principles that guide this goal are disease control, a decrease in the number of refugees, and elimination of racial discrimination.

The Good Health and Wellbeing goal seeks to promote a good quality of life for people of all ages. The threats posed by disease and mental illness are targets of this goal as it seeks to

improve health outcomes and patient care.

Northeastern Connections

Northeastern University Model United Nations team

At Northeastern University, the Model United Nations team seeks to address many topics surrounding the UN, including the sustainability goals. In a debate-style format, students discuss the feasibility and opportunities that will pave the way for goals set forth by the UN to be achieved in a timely and realistic manner.



Northeastern University Health & Counseling Services

On campus, the university provides resources that enable students to discuss the impacts of gender/racial discrimination in classrooms and beyond. The University Health and Counseling Center is a place for students to gain access to various medical needs like vaccinations and mental health consultations.

Student Connection

Northeastern University has many student organizations that work to promote equality for all. The Big Sister Association of Greater Boston works to empower all women and girls through their mentoring and enrichment programs. By building meaningful relationships, they ignite girl's passion and success that support healthy development. Northeastern femme students also develop their leadership skills through on-campus engagement, events, and discussion. Strong Women Strong Girls at Northeastern also works to create a positive change. They work to build confidence and leadership amongst young girls through mentoring and afterschool programs. As well as encourage professional and personal growth for the participating Northeastern students.



Do Now

Understand Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities (Primary)

Watch the video above and think about the questions listed below afterward.

Discussion Questions:

- Based on the video, what does it mean to reduce inequality?
- How can these goals protect and respect all human rights?

Activity

For this activity we'll be looking at the work of a great female marine biologist, writer and conservationist, Rachel Carson. Her book, "Silent Springs" is known for warning others of the dangers of pesticides and chemicals to humans, plants and animals. Her contributions are credited for advancing the global environmental movement. For this activity, we'll be creating water filters to honor Rachel Carson's contribution to our environment.

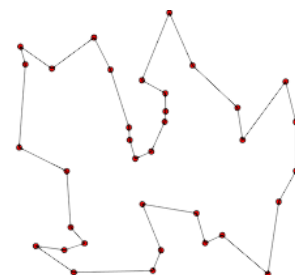


Materials Needed:

You can use any materials you want but here are some suggestions:

- 2 Large Cups
- Funnel
- 3-inch Squares of Cheese-Cloth
- Rubber band
- Spoon
- Coffee Filters
- Cotton Balls
- Soil

Steps:



- In one of the cups, mix soil and water until you've created polluted water.
- In the funnel, use the remaining materials to create a filter that would help separate clean water from the polluted water. Then set the funnel on top of the empty large cup.
- Stir up your polluted water and begin to pour it through the filter you've created. The water should funnel down to the empty cup.
- When all of the water is through, take a look at the cup and determine if the water is now clean.
- Follow the Engineering Design Process to help with creating the structure, iterate and repeat the process if you don't get the desired outcome.

Discussion Questions:

- What was the best at filtering the pollution from the water?
- After filtering, do you think the water was clean enough to drink? Why or why not?
- Why is it important for everyone to have access to clean water?

Share Your Results

We'd love to know how the activity and/or the "do now" turned out! What worked and what didn't work? Please share with us something you learned and/or send us pictures! Email us at stem@northeastern.edu.

Related links/Extensions

- [UN Goals](#)
- [UN Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [UN Goal 5: Gender Equality](#)
- [UN Goal 10: Reduce Inequality](#)
- [Water Filter Activity](#)
- [17 Top Female Scientists Who Have Changed the World](#)
- [Gender Equality for Kids: How to Teach Kids about Gender Bias and Discrimination](#)