



## NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2023

### 1. New Top Tips on *Equity*

After extensive consultation and a number of iterations, the Fellows issued a set of Top Tips in the summer focused on [equity](#) – a core principle underpinning all SDGs. As a member of our virtual community, we particularly welcome your feedback.

### 2. Published article

In July this year, the journal *Logos* published a paper about our work, entitled: *Higher Education Sustainability Initiative SDG Publishers Compact Fellows*. We reproduce the abstract below, and the full text is available for free and can be [downloaded](#) here.

*“There is significant support for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among global stakeholders in higher education, covering important areas of research and scholarly communication. As a group of volunteers from across the academic publishing spectrum, Higher Education Sustainability Initiative [HESI] SDG Publishers Compact Fellows aim to address key policy issues and help stakeholders across research and publishing to better support the aims and objectives of the SDGs. This article provides details about the work of the Fellows, focusing on top action tips for researchers, authors, and publishers.”*

*Logos* is a Journal of the World Publishing Community, covering international opinions and published research. This article describes how the Fellows group complements the work of the SDG Publishers Compact through its various workstreams and outputs. These include integrating SDGs into educational materials and research, redefining measures of research impact by seeking to change the culture of higher education to help implement the SDGs and connect academics and practitioners. The article provides real-life examples linking the SDGs to individual perspectives within academia and practitioner organizations and summarizes goals and ongoing initiatives within the SDG Publisher Compact Fellows.

### 3. Joint Taskforce on Ratings, Rankings and Assessment

In collaboration with another HESI action group, with representatives from leading ranking organizations, the Fellows have produced a report examining current strategies for rating, ranking

and assessing Higher Education institutions. Following a year of regular meetings, the Joint Task Force produced a report that emphasizes the importance of rethinking ways that we evaluate institutions, encouraging them to focus on sustainable development outcomes in practice. The report provides concrete recommendations for new metrics to help better align principles and practice within the context of sustainable development in education and research. It will be published shortly and contains recommendations for next steps, such as:

- Ensure that you assess research and education with qualitative as well as quantitative elements, the former providing context for the latter
- Recognize the importance of “applied research” and see it as carrying the same weight as “pure research” and not regarded as inferior when measured in relation to fulfillment of the SDGs
- Encourage authors seeking publication to include implications for policymakers and practitioners in the Abstract as well as plain language summaries.

#### 4. Publisher progress on the SDGs

Compact signers make a series of commitments when they pledge to stand up for sustainability by supporting the SDGs - number 3 on the list is to “share a progress update”.

Four publishers - Emerald, Wiley, Springer Nature and AGU - have done a great job in documenting their actions and success in supporting this emerging international trend in scholarly publishing. They make inspirational reading and we are grateful to the fellows listed below.

##### ***Emerald Publishing***

Update on progress: [Infographic](#)  
Fellow: [Sally Wilson](#), VP Publishing  
Corporate responsibility: [Our goals](#)

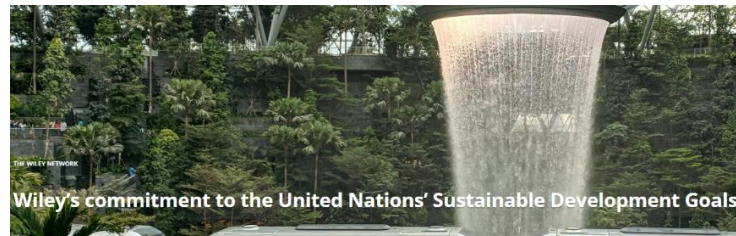
Our progress on the  
**SDG Publisher Compact**  
**10 recommendations**



##### ***Wiley***

Update on progress: [Blog post](#)

Fellow: [Jo Wixon](#), Director of Portfolio Strategy  
Corporate responsibility: [Unlocking human potential](#)



Network > Publishing > Research Publishing > Editors > Wiley's commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

Dr Jo Wixon, Director External Analysis, Wiley & SDG Publishers Compact Fellow | September 13, 2023

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) launched by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 are a universal call to action to move the world towards a more sustainable and resilient path. Publishers and editors have an important role to play in advancing sustainability, as demonstrated by the critical contribution of research and knowledge sharing in the global response to COVID (coronavirus disease).

## Springer Nature

Update on progress: [Infographic](#)  
Fellow: [Nicola Jones](#), Head of Publishing, SDG Program  
Corporate responsibility: [Taking Responsibility](#)

**MARKING THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
Coming together across our brands to accelerate progress towards the goals by 2030

**SPRINGER NATURE GROUP**

**SUPPORTING AND AMPLIFYING THE GOALS SINCE 2015**

- Signed the SDG Publishers Compact**, to inspire action and champion sustainable practices, and joined the **Fellows Initiative** to bring this Compact to life through guidance like the **Top Action Tips** for publishers, editors, reviewers and authors.
- Launched an annual SDG Impact Festival** for colleagues, to raise awareness of the goals and challenge them to reduce their personal impact on the planet. In 2022, these collection actions contributed to more than 170 tonnes of CO2 saved.
- Shared a policy briefing** following our annual **Science for a Sustainable Future** event series on affordable and clean energy (SDG 7) with 600+ attendees to synthesise the panelist's key findings and facilitate effective policy decisions for the goals.
- Created 17 dedicated research hubs**, hosting multidisciplinary insights and discoveries relevant to each of the SDGs, to make this peer reviewed content more visible to the communities who need it.

## American Geophysical Union

Update on progress: [Blog post](#)  
Champions: [Mia Ricci](#), [Jenny Lunn](#), [Paige Wooden](#) and [Tanya Dzekon](#)  
Corporate responsibility: [Vision](#) & [Strategic Goals](#)

# How Publishers Can Support the UN SDGs: Examples from AGU

*AGU Publications is committed to supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals through publishing and drawing attention to scientific research that addresses issues of global and societal concern.*

By Mia Ricci, Jenny Lunn, Paige Woodens, and Tanya Dzekon 20 September 2023



The SDG Publishers Compact Fellows from HESI have compiled recommended actions to help publishers stay aligned with their commitments and up to date with emerging trends in the publishing industry.

*Top actions include:*

- a. Suggesting editors include messaging in the manuscript submission guidelines to ask authors to include implications for policymakers and practitioners in article abstracts.
- b. Asking authors to submit a plain language summary when they submit their article to a journal, plus a list of practitioner and/or policymaking organizations that they plan to share the plain language summary with, if published.
- c. Asking journal editors to include a practitioner and/or policy maker on their editorial board wherever possible.
- d. Creating opportunities for journal editors to communicate with practitioner and policymaking experts and/or organizations for input into high priority topics for research and possible co-creation of research, journal themes and special issues.

Every academic area has important contributions and perspectives to add so as to ensure a sustainable future. In addition to research, educational materials should integrate Sustainable Development and the SDGs into content, in all relevant academic areas. For more information on recommended actions and a rubric to assess educational materials, visit more of our [recommended action tips](#).

## 5. Shared information on sustainable development

If, as a member of the Compact Fellows Virtual Community, you have material that you would like to share with others in the Community or announcements about upcoming events that you would like to make, please send to [hesicompactfellows@gmail.com](mailto:hesicompactfellows@gmail.com) and they will be considered for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter.

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Our [Top Action Tips](#) provide useful tools for putting policy into action and helping researchers, authors, publishers and others take practical steps towards improving sustainability.