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](#)

**Wiley**

Update on progress: [Blog post](#)
Fellow: Jo Wixon, Director of Portfolio Strategy  
Corporate responsibility: Unlocking human potential

Springer Nature

Update on progress: Infographic  
Fellow: Nicola Jones, Head of Publishing, SDG Program  
Corporate responsibility: Taking Responsibility

American Geophysical Union

Update on progress: Blog post  
Champions: Mia Ricci, Jenny Lunn, Paige Wooden and Tanya Dzekon  
Corporate responsibility: Vision & Strategic Goals
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 and they will be considered for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter.

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.