HESI SDG Publishers Compact Fellows: Top Action Tips

Using the SDG Rubric

Guidance in the form of an applications guide for academic book authors and editors to help them reference SDGs in their work, addressing the 17 goals one-by-one.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Rubric is a tool that can be used to evaluate coverage of UN SDGs in textbooks and related materials, the goal being to identify areas that can be more inclusive of and better aligned with SDGs from the beginning of the revision process. The action list offers suggestions on how the SDG Rubric can be used by various stakeholders. While the tool was designed for publishers, other educational stakeholders could also benefit from the process of completing the rubric and analyzing the results.

1. Publishers can integrate the SDG Rubric into the textbook revision process to identify and update inaccurate information relating to SDGs.

2. The keywords listed under each SDG in the Rubric offer publishers and educators a way to ensure they have adequate coverage of SDG-related concepts in curricula and other educational materials.

3. Researchers can use the results to identify SDG-related topics that lack adequate research and embark on research topics related to keywords and concepts.

4. Authors can use the results to replace outdated references, examples, and other content with relevant SDG-related content.

5. Educators can use the results to encourage publishers to increase the amount of SDG-related content in their textbooks.

6. Educators can identify gaps in SDG-related content that is relevant and engaging to students to refresh curricula and evaluate author expertise.

7. School leadership can use the tool to identify professional development opportunities and evaluate school-wide initiatives and district-wide curricula.
8. Undergraduate students can use the results to empower themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills related to environmental sustainability and to connect different issues and topics relating to the SDGs.

9. Graduate students can use the results to identify what is most urgently needed when it comes to learning for the sustainability discourse, staying motivated, taking the initiative to bring about change (for both curricular and extracurricular content), and for cross-curricular and interdisciplinary approaches to environmental sustainability.