RCSI's Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals
Introduction

The United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global call to action to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. Given the unique role universities play in creating and sharing knowledge, as a community they are critical contributors to achieving the challenges set out in Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At RCSI we recognise and embrace our responsibility to achieving a sustainable future for all. We are committed to ensuring that our actions through our research, teaching activities, community engagement and campus operations, lead the world to better health and prosperity for all.

As a niche focused university of medicine and health sciences our priority is patient and public health and with Alumni and surgical Fellows and Members working across more than 90 countries, our perspective on local and global health challenges is both broad and unique.

At a national level here in Ireland our educators and researchers enhance human health by leveraging their knowledge and expertise to influence healthcare policy and bring trusted health information to the public.

Our campus operations strive to empower both students and staff to create a more balanced campus community and to reduce environmental impacts and associated costs.

Although we cannot capture all the amazing work that happens in RCSI we hope this report will highlight some of the many activities our staff and students contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

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Professor Cathal Kelly
Registrar/Chief Executive
RCSI
Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

- No. 1 Highest overall success rate for Horizon 2020 grants awarded to Irish Institutions
- Launch of CoMPPAS Student Assistance Programme
- 19,000 health professions alumni across 97 countries
- Largest clinical simulation centre in Europe
- RCSI Library wins SCONUL Design Award
- Athena Swan Bronze award
- Addressing the gender gap in surgery through research and policy changes
- 5 million people using solar water disinfection daily (contributed to Waterspout/PANIWATER)
- International prize for research technology in the development and implementation of solar water disinfection technology (SODIS) to combat waterborne diseases in Africa and Asia.
- Green Flag for sustainability and environmental management by An Taisce’s Green Campus programme on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education
- 100% green electricity procured

- First higher education institution to achieve the Investors in Diversity Ireland standard
- Launch of RCSi Engage Strategy to support health & education in the community
- Best Education Outreach Award at Irish Education Awards 2018
- Annual free health checks for local community facilitated by Mercer Medical Centre
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover waste hierarchy employed across campus
- Zero to landfill policy for waste
- Saved 3,800kg CO2 from landfill
- Reduced annual waste by over 3.5 tonnes annually
- RCSI Institute of Global Surgery established
- 11 years collaborating with COSESCA and Irish Aid
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