Living Lab project brief – sustainable development goals and the university

Description of the paper
This paper describes a potential course project or dissertation project to research and identify the opportunities for the University of Edinburgh to contribute towards the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. This would inform the University’s Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy Review Project.

Draft research question
What are the current and future opportunities for the University of Edinburgh and educational institutions to work towards the Sustainable Development Goals?

Background
In 2015 the United Nations adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a set of seventeen aspirational "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them. There is a responsibility on national governments, the private sector and civil society to work towards these goals, including universities. A number of universities have endorsed the Global Compact as a framework to address the SDGs.

Objectives
- Identify and map on how the University is currently addressing the SDGs.
- Identify and assess how universities and addressing and framing their contributions to the SDGs.
- Make recommendations on how the University can contribute towards fulfilling the SDGs through its learning and teaching activities, research and operations.