



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

# Sustainable Development Goals

Report | 2022



## Committed to Sustainability.

“The University of Georgia remains committed to the best practices in sustainability, experiential education, research, and community engagement.”

Jere W. Morehead,  
22nd President of the University of Georgia





# Table of Contents

Introduction	2
1: No Poverty	3
2: Zero Hunger	4
3: Good Health & Well Being	5
4: Quality Education	6
5: Gender Equality	7
6: Clean Water & Sanitation	8
7: Affordable & Clean Energy	9
8: Decent Work & Economic Growth	10
9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	11
10: Reduced Inequalities	12
11: Sustainable Cities & Communities	13
12: Responsible Consumption & Production	14
13: Climate Action	15
14: Life Below Water	16
15: Life On Land	17
16: Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions	18
17: Partnerships for Goals	19

Research



Engagement



Teaching



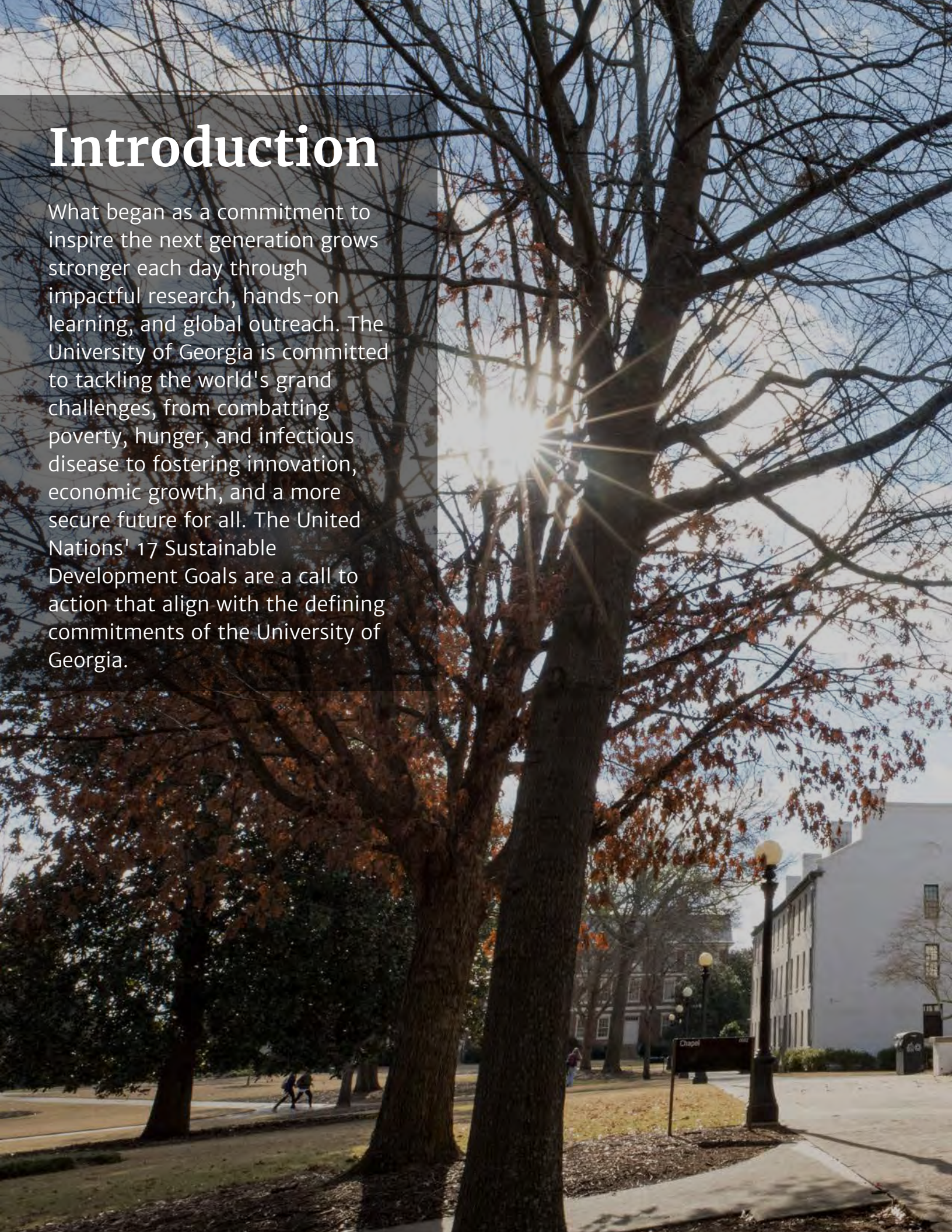
Operations





# Introduction

What began as a commitment to inspire the next generation grows stronger each day through impactful research, hands-on learning, and global outreach. The University of Georgia is committed to tackling the world's grand challenges, from combatting poverty, hunger, and infectious disease to fostering innovation, economic growth, and a more secure future for all. The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a call to action that align with the defining commitments of the University of Georgia.









# 1 No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



## Innovation District Initiative

The UGA Innovation District is a community of people, programs, and places working together to foster an ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and learning. It brings together bright minds from disciplines across campus to take on challenges from multiple angles, shape discoveries into marketable solutions, and educate tomorrow's creators to be skilled, experienced, and versatile.

# 900+

new products have reached the market as a result of the Innovation District Initiative



## Institute for Nonprofit Organizations

Housed in the School of Social Work, the Institute for Nonprofit Organizations administers a master's degree, seminars, and workshops for the nonprofit community, supports research opportunities and a graduate certificate program that is open to students in any major. More than 500 graduates of the certificate and master's programs have gone on to successful careers in both nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

# \$1.3M

secured to provide education and outreach to increase utilization of Earned Income Tax Credit



## Small Business Development Center

With 18 locations across the state, the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center's goal is to enhance the economic well-being of Georgians by providing a wide range of educational services for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

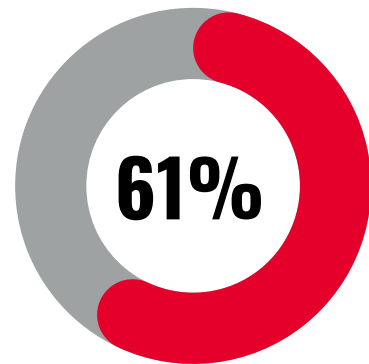
- 2178** businesses launched
- 14,933** new jobs created
- \$1.11B** raised in loans and equity

by UGA SBDC in the past 5 years



## Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program

By providing support to University of Georgia undergraduates with the greatest financial need, the Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program is a powerful tool for removing barriers and opening doors to higher education. More than 600 scholarships have been created since the program was established in 2017.



61% of Georgia Commitment Scholarship recipients come from underrepresented backgrounds





# 2 Zero Hunger

*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.*



## Food Product Innovation and Commercialization Center

The FoodPIC Center is internationally recognized for the development of innovative food products and for the implementation of cutting-edge science and technology. It works to assist companies in developing new food products efficiently and economically and with high probability of success.



## Integrative Precision Agriculture Research

The University of Georgia is pioneering integrative, precision agricultural techniques and technologies to maximize crop yields while minimizing inputs of water and fertilizer. The goal is to feed a growing population while sustaining the natural resources we all depend on.

**"We see this as a way for UGA to step up and make sure we are graduating the next set of young leaders that can and should be working in the area of technology's merger with agriculture and food production"**

**- Dean Nick Place, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**





## USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut Research is part of the U.S. government’s strategy to fight hunger and poverty around the world. Through the Peanut Innovation Lab and approximately two dozen other Innovation Labs, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) utilizes the expertise of top U.S. universities to solve food production, storage, processing, and marketing challenges that prevent partner countries from producing enough food.



## CAMPUS KITCHEN : BY THE NUMBERS

**339,233** pounds of food recovered

**95,737** pounds of food donated to local agencies

**19,835** meals prepared and distributed to local residents



## Campus Kitchen at UGA

A program of the UGA Office of Service-Learning, Campus Kitchen at UGA exists to spotlight sustainable solutions to hunger and food waste and to showcase a mutually beneficial University-community partnership. Through Campus Kitchen, student leaders and volunteers transform unused food from grocery stores and fresh produce from UGArden, UGA's student community farm, into nutritious meals and groceries that are delivered to older adults and human service agencies in Athens, Georgia.





# 3 Good Health & Well-Being

*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.*



## Global Health Institute

The mission of the Global Health Institute extends beyond the individual to populations, endeavoring to promote the health of people and the communities where they live. Faculty are engaged in diverse research projects in many different regions and countries throughout the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and North America. Projects focus on tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Zika, Ebola, maternal and child health, birth defects, environmental exposures and cancer, mental health, alcohol and other substance use, traffic accidents and safety, and the effects of and responses to natural disasters.



## Student Care and Outreach

The mission of Student Care and Outreach is to coordinate care and assistance for all students, undergraduate and graduate, who experience complex, hardship, and/or unforeseen circumstances by providing individualized assistance and tailored interventions.

# 350%


**increase in student engagement**





## Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases

The Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases is one of the largest international centers of research focused on diseases of poverty. Researchers and students work together on some of the most important causes of human suffering around the world, including malaria, schistosomiasis, African sleeping sickness, Chagas disease, cryptosporidiosis, toxoplasmosis, leishmaniasis, and filariasis.


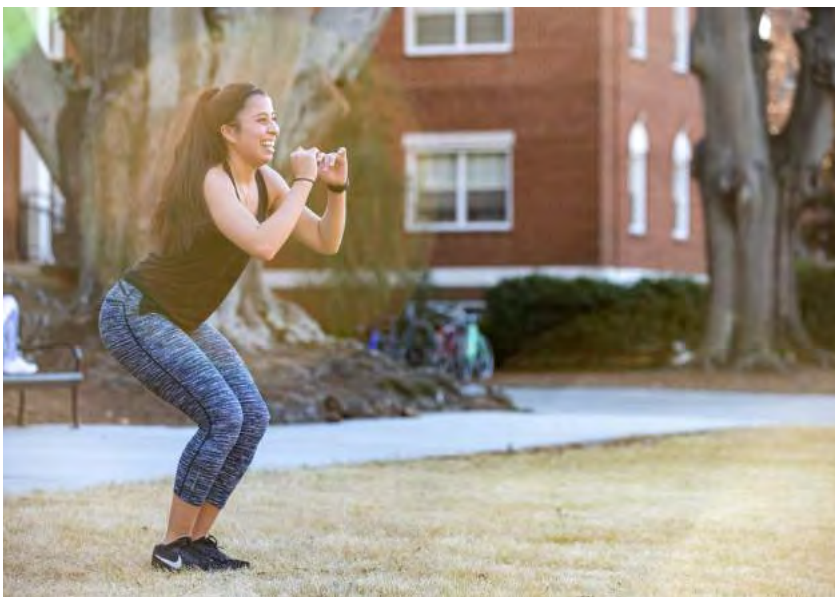
Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases Director Dennis Kyle and member Chet Joyner are developing a new culture system that will reduce cost and ease distribution for drug and vaccine research.



## Center for Vaccines and Immunology

UGA faculty are leading one of the NIH's Collaborative Influenza Vaccine Innovation Centers (CIVICs) and collaborate with teams from 14 other universities and research institutes to create and test new vaccines that may one day replace seasonal vaccines administered every year during flu season.

Researchers in the College of Veterinary Medicine have developed a vaccine treatment for COVID-19, using a modified delivery platform first developed for canine parainfluenza 5 vaccine treatment.

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**





# 4 Quality Education

*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*



## Experiential Learning Requirement

UGA is one of the nation's largest public universities to require each of our undergraduate students to participate in experiential learning such as internships, research, study abroad, and service-learning. These types of activities have been linked to greater engagement, more in-depth learning, and higher graduation rates.



## Center for Latino Achievement and Success in Education (CLASE)

Using a multidimensional, cultural-historical framework focused on reducing academic achievement gaps, CLASE provides professional development and resources for K-12 educators, outreach support through mentoring and tutoring, program support in developing a pipeline to post-secondary education, and research to inform educators on ways to improve teaching and learning.

# 13,000+

teachers in 37 districts across Georgia have been trained by CLASE since 2014



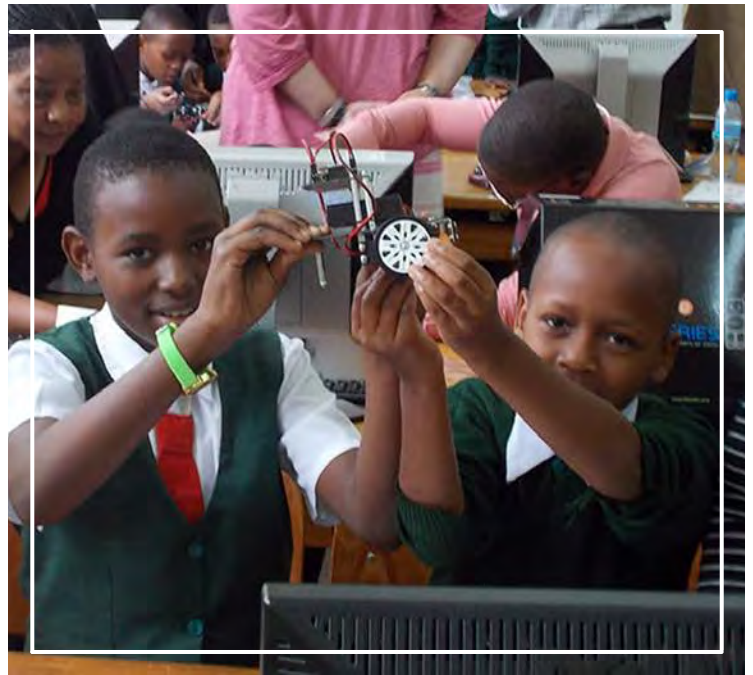


## Robotics Outreach in Tanzania

Using lesson plans developed by faculty in the Mary Frances Early College of Education and translated into Kiswahili, the project empowered Tanzanian educators to train others in their country and grow the robotics curriculum—something that can have large-scale economic impacts for the country as a whole. The curriculum also has been used in the U.S., China, Korea, and Honduras.



Lead researcher, Dr. John Mativo, remarked, "Our aim was not only to begin, but to empower the team in Tanzania so they can continue to work without us. And that's our goal - for them to not be dependent on us. We want them to be independent and prosper."



## Red Clay Writing Project

Housed in the Mary Frances Early College of Education, the Red Clay Writing Project is a professional learning community for teacher educators. All Red Clay Writing Project activities are open to P-16 teachers interested in learning more about writing as teachers, writing pedagogy, writing communities, social justice, classroom-based inquiry, and teacher leadership.



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION





# 5 Gender Equity

*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*



## Women's Leadership Initiative

In 2015, UGA launched a Women's Leadership Initiative to focus on issues such as recruitment and hiring, career development, work-life balance, and leadership development. New programs created through the ongoing initiative include a Women's Leadership Fellows program for faculty and a Women's Staff Leadership Institute.

# 63%

of graduates from the Women's Leadership Academy report volunteering in their communities



## Institute for Women's Studies

A program in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, Women's Studies cooperates with departments of all schools and colleges of the University in developing its curriculum and programming. Through course work and outreach, the Institute for Women's Studies offers students an opportunity to explore women's lives in global and multicultural contexts.







## Innovation Bootcamp

As part of the University's Innovation District initiative, the Innovation Bootcamp program delivers tailored training on entrepreneurship among women and other groups. These sessions equip attendees with key skills needed for success in an innovative, entrepreneurial environment.




Cohorts meet weekly over the course of six weeks, engaging in topics such as Entrepreneurship for Musicians and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



## Women in Science

WiSci is a student organization that works to build a UGA-wide community of scientists interested in promoting equality in the sciences. It offers opportunities for mentoring, networking, and career development, and all genders are welcome.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, WiSci members represented 29 departments across UGA, including biochemistry, psychology, animal science, forestry and natural resources, and kinesiology.




**5 GENDER EQUALITY**





# 6 Clean Water & Sanitation

*Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*



## River Basin Center

The River Basin Center connects freshwater science to management and policy to promote the sustainable management of aquatic resources and ecosystems. River Basin Center faculty, staff, and students work on aquatic management issues around the globe, but the center maintains an emphasis on the southeastern United States.

# \$8.15M

secured in active grants from external funders



## ECOGIG Consortium

The Ecosystem Impacts of Oil and Gas Inputs to the Gulf (ECOGIG) consortium aims to understand the impacts of natural and human-caused hydrocarbon inputs on deep sea ecosystems around the globe. In addition to advancing research, it conducts outreach events that reach local and global audiences.




ECOGIG offers an Ocean Discovery summer camp, where students learn about marine science and ocean exploration through engaging activities and experiments





## On-Demand Irrigation

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences faculty are developing, testing, and promoting the incorporation of soil moisture sensors into irrigation systems. On-demand irrigation systems only irrigate when needed and with the amount of water required by the crop. On-farm trials have shown a 50% - 70% reduction in water use as well as increasing crop productivity and profitability.

If implemented nationwide, the technology developed by researchers in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences could reduce nursery water consumption by an amount equal to that of 500,000 people.

# 70+

rain gardens installed on UGA's Athens Campus to enhance water quality in the Upper Oconee watershed



## Watershed UGA

Watershed UGA is a stream restoration and protection initiative aimed at engaging the campus community in sustainability through watersheds. The aim of Watershed UGA is to create a social infrastructure that facilitates the use of the UGA campus as a living laboratory while promoting experiential learning, research, public service, and outreach.



**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**





# 7 Affordable & Clean Energy

*Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.*



## Next-Generation Consumption Systems

Researchers in the College of Engineering are developing new, fundamental understandings of the chemical reactions that occur in combustion systems powered by alternative fuels. The work will provide a foundation for the design of sustainable combustion systems for transportation.

**"Sustainable transportation energy is one of the most important issues facing modern society and combustion-derived energy will remain an integral part of the equation for decades to come."**

**- Dr. Brandon Rotavera, College of Engineering**



## Energy Conservation Program

UGA reduced its energy use intensity per square foot by 22% between 2007 and 2020 through investments in the campus energy infrastructure, energy efficiency upgrades in campus buildings, and energy efficient design in new construction and renovations.



The UGA Solar Tracking Demonstration Project on South Milledge Avenue generates 1600 megawatt-hours of renewable solar electricity per year.







## Energy Informatics

UGA researchers have pioneered the field of energy informatics, which uses big data analysis to optimize energy use systems in skyscrapers, universities, factories, and among other large-scale energy users. Recently, they have turned their attention to greenhouse growing, with a 30% reduction in the cost of crop production.



The teaching component of this class (MIST4550/6650) engages students involved in the MIS major program, the interdisciplinary sustainability certificate, and the informatics certificate. This class is in high-demand and fills up every semester.



## UGA's Office of Sustainability launched an emission reduction plan with targets of

**20%**

**decrease in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020**

**40%**

**decrease in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040**

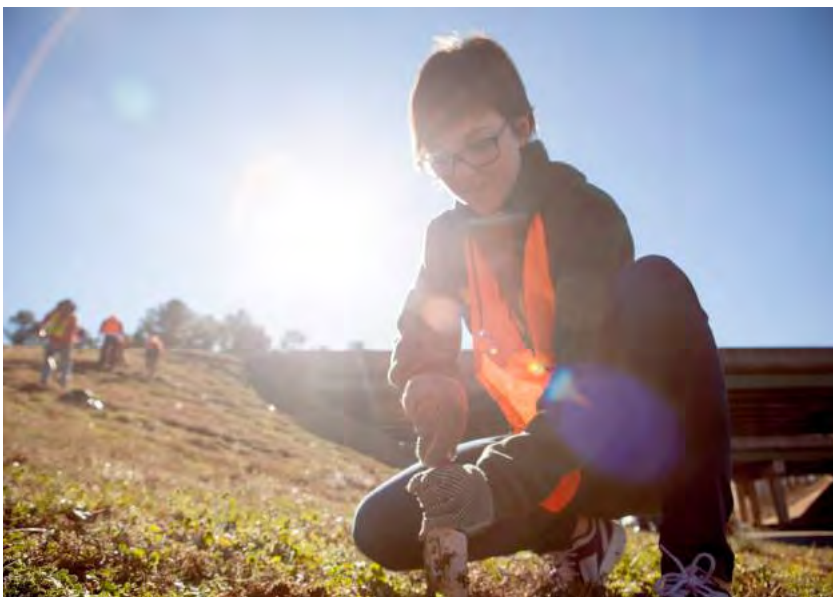
**compared to 2010 baseline levels. The 2020 target was met in 2019.**



## Energy Conservation Research

Research conducted at UGA has revealed that increasing building temperatures reduces energy consumption by 19-40%, with no decrease in the comfort of building occupants.

Professor of Practice Thomas Lawrence has conducted a number of studies on campus facilities that have examined areas such as energy efficiency and informatics, water efficiency, thermal comfort and indoor air quality.



**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**





# 8

## Decent Work & Economic Growth

*Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*



### Workforce Development

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government assists communities as they plan for the future and increase their capacity to build a strong workforce to meet employer needs. Partners include state entities, local governments, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and employers.

**Since 2017, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government has helped develop**

- 7** county-based workforce development plans
- 3** regional strategies
- 2** statewide workforce strategies



### Archway Partnership

The Archway Partnership empowers communities to address long-standing and critical community and economic development needs. Through the Archway Partnership, UGA students and faculty have worked with communities to address issues related to economic development, education, workforce development, leadership, health and welfare, overall quality of life, and more.

# \$12M

R.O.I. value in 2022, including 121 projects completed with a total of 1500 students & 250 faculty engaged to date





## Improving Profits for Small-Scale Farmers in Africa

Researchers in the College of Engineering have developed a cooling device for milk that doesn't require in-home electricity. The device, known as the Evakuula, is being used in sub-Saharan Africa to maximize dairy profits for small farmers. The team is now using the technology to create a cooling container for eggs.



Instead of electricity, the Evakuula processes heat using plentiful biofuel – cow manure.

**"The goal of CenHTRO is to be a global leader in human trafficking research, policy, and programming innovation. I am proud of our faculty, staff, graduate assistants, as well as our partners across the globe who continue to work diligently to reduce human trafficking."**

**- Dr. David Okech, CenHTRO Director**



## Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach

The Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach (CenHTRO) works to implement effective anti-trafficking policies and innovative programs that protect victims, prevent trafficking, strengthen prosecution, and enhance partnership while also equipping the next generation of human trafficking researchers with competencies that can enhance social justice for trafficking survivors and victims. CenHTRO works in 10 countries on five continents.



## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH





# 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

*Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.*



## Innovation District Initiative

The UGA Innovation District is a community of people, programs, and places working together to foster an ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and learning. It brings together bright minds from disciplines across campus to take on challenges from multiple angles, shape discoveries into marketable solutions, and educate tomorrow's creators to be skilled, experienced, and versatile.

# \$531M

national impact precipitated by UGA startup programs



## Mitigating Coastal Hazards and Promoting Resilience

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant's coastal resilience program collaborates with national, regional, state, and local partners to provide coastal communities with knowledge, data, and tools needed to prepare for and recover from coastal hazards. Through research, extension, and education initiatives, the coastal resilience program offers technical expertise and other resources to strengthen economic, ecological, and social resilience.



In 2020, the Coast Resilience program hosted two trainings, with participants representing 2 state, agencies 5 private industry consulting firms, and 7 coastal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System-permitted communities.





## Innovation Gateway

Innovation Gateway helps UGA researchers move their research breakthroughs into the marketplace through licensing and startups. UGA is one of the nation's number top universities for new products developed by industry partners, with more than 850 products that range from crop varieties to vaccines and software introduced to the marketplace.

# Top 5

UGA's ranking among US universities for number of commercial products created from its research by industry partners, for 9 consecutive years.



## Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems

The Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems (IRIS) advances the integration of natural and conventional infrastructure systems to strengthen society's long term resilience to flooding, sea level rise, drought, and other disruptions. Through collaborative partnerships, IRIS empowers communities and businesses to discover wise infrastructure solutions that deliver a broad array of social, economic, and environmental benefits.

"We use high-performance computers to understand the physics of oceanic and nearshore circulation. This work can alter the paradigm in how the US and other countries mitigate coastal riverine flood hazards and risk beyond traditional engineered infrastructure."

- Dr. Matthew Bilskie, IRIS Researcher and Assistant Professor in the UGA College of Engineering



# 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE





# 10 Reduced Inequalities

*Reduce inequalities within and among countries.*



## Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program

The Georgia Commitment Scholars Program is a need-based scholarship program that is open to first-year undergraduate students. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years and comes with a variety of programs and resources to support student success. Since the program was established in 2017, more than 600 endowed, need-based scholarships have been created.

# \$90M

donations received to date for need-based aid



## All Georgia Program

The ALL Georgia Program supports UGA students from rural areas with a network of resources, including first-year common experiences such as Thrive, Dawg Camp, and an innovative course that focuses on strategies for success. The ALL Georgia Scholarship Program provides financial aid for six outstanding students from rural parts of Georgia each year.



ALL Georgia Scholars enroll in a Learning for Success at the University course that covers, motivation, critical and creative thinking, decision-making, identity development, and wellness to facilitate success in college and beyond.







## Disability Resource Center

The UGA Innovation District is a community of people, programs, and places working together to foster an ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and learning. It brings together bright minds from disciplines across campus to take on challenges from multiple angles, shape discoveries into marketable solutions, and educate tomorrow's creators to be skilled, experienced, and versatile.



The DRC hosts three distinct services that have proven helpful in accommodating a variety of student needs: 1) the Test Accommodations Office, 2) the Assistive Technology Lab, and 3) Alternative Media Services.



## Social Justice Symposium

Organized by students in the School of Social Work, the Social Justice Symposium brings together people throughout the state, including students and other University and community members, to plan solutions to bring equality, human rights, and equity to local communities. Topics include money management, disability empowerment, community displacement, mental health, and immigration law, among others. Several nonprofit organizations are represented.



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES





# 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities

*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.*



## Community Planning

The University's Carl Vinson Institute of Government works with communities to plan for growth and address challenging environmental issues. The Vinson Institute has completed 20 strategic visioning plans for communities in Georgia, including one regional plan in northwest Georgia that included two Tennessee communities.



Environmental and natural resource planning services include facilitating regional water councils, assessing local and county wide infrastructure resources, and identifying strategic uses of natural resources in eco-tourism and community development.



## Historic Preservation Master Plan

In 2018, UGA completed a Historic Preservation Master Plan to integrate historic preservation and archaeology into the early facilities planning stages. UGA has more than 730 historic buildings and 55 cultural landscapes across 11 Georgia counties. The development of the plan took over two years and required blending of several cultural resource management models from a range of sources.

**"One of the major strengths of the [Historic Preservation Master Plan] is that it provides a defensible and replicable process and a clearly articulated set of standard operating procedures."**

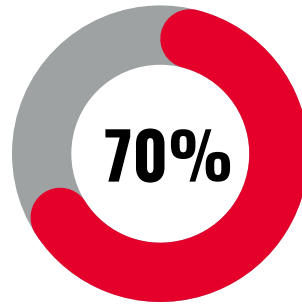
**- Dan Nadenicek, Former Dean of UGA's College of Environment and Design**



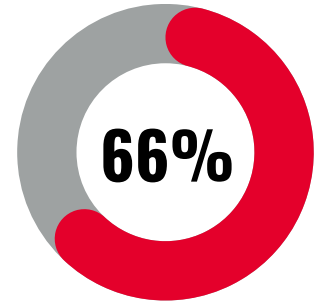


## Electric Mass Transit

The University of Georgia continues to expand its use of electric buses, with more than 30 currently in service. The 40-foot electric buses emit no pollution and have lower operating costs than existing diesel powered buses, representing a significant step forward in reducing emissions and increasing opportunities for experiential learning and research. UGA Transportation and Parking Services has a long-term goal of operating a completely electric fleet.



reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to diesel buses



decrease in yearly maintenance costs per bus



## Campus Sustainability Grants

The annual Campus Sustainability Grants program is available to all UGA students and invites project proposals that advance sustainability through education, research, service, and campus operations. Successful projects address UGA's strategic priorities and integrate social, environmental, and economic solutions. Over the last 11 years, the program has supported more than 100 student-led projects on campus and in the community.



To date, \$450,000 has been awarded to fund 120 student-initiated projects on campus and in the local community.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES





# 12 Responsible Consumption & Production

*Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.*



## New Materials Institute

The UGA New Materials Institute is advancing a paradigm shift in waste management: that a material's useful end-of-life should be considered at the design stage and that Green Engineering principles should be part of this process. NMI faculty are committed to creating safer, environmentally-healthy products, as well as systems that generate less waste.



## Swap Shop

Swap Shop at UGA encourages reuse, repair, and circular economy practices at no cost to campus community members. Keeping the items we bring into our life for their entire lifespan—and then more—is essential to solve the waste crisis we are currently facing. Swap Shop at UGA is a place to trade personal items, which keeps usable goods out of landfills and recirculates them back to the campus community.

# 1,007 lbs

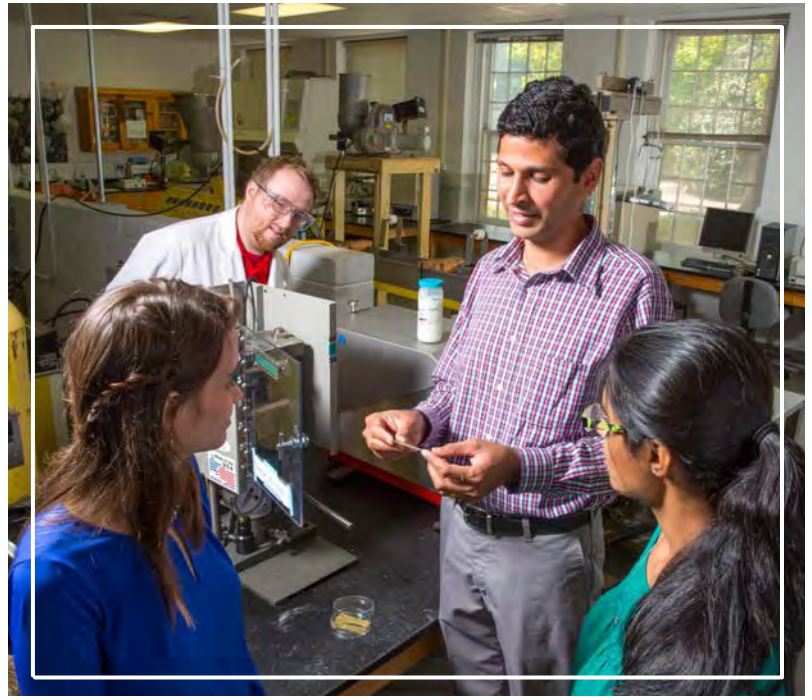
of material diverted from the landfill in 2022





## Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors

Faculty in the Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors bring a range of expertise that spans merchandising and residential design to polymer, fiber, and textile science. Its Innovative Materials Research Team is working to develop sustainable alternatives to traditional plastics, textiles, and materials.



Researchers in the Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors developed a dyeing process that reduced dye discharge by 60%.



**MAINTAINING CIRCULAR WASTE STREAMS**



## Compost Program

Dining Services, in partnership with the Facilities Management Division and the Office of Sustainability, has diverted food waste from the landfill since 2014. This food waste is pulped and transported to the University's Bioconversion Research and Education Center, where it is composted and reused in campus landscaping projects and at the UGarden.



**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**





# 13 Climate Action

*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.*



## Georgia Initiative for Climate and Society

The Georgia Initiative for Climate and Society provides a focal point that facilitates and enhances the visibility of interdisciplinary climate research, instruction, and outreach programs at the University of Georgia. It also disseminates to diverse audiences science-based information on the climate as well as how social systems respond to climate variability and change.



The Georgia Initiative for Climate & Society, in partnership with national and state-wide organizations, hosted the Georgia Climate Conference to support and accelerate efforts to minimize risks and maximize opportunities of a changing climate in Georgia.



## Carbon Footprint Reduction Research

As part of the Drawdown Georgia project, researchers at the University of Georgia have partnered with faculty from other leading institutions to identify solutions to reduce the state's carbon footprint. Strategies include boosting solar farms, adopting electric vehicles, retrofitting buildings, implementing nature-based forestry solutions, and reducing food waste.

**"Sustainable food, agriculture, and forestry systems are the backbone of Georgia's rural economy and can offer a plethora of climate solutions to meet Georgia's carbon reduction goals."**

**- Dr. Sudhagar Mani, Professor in UGA's College of Engineering**





## Energy Conservation Program

UGA reduced its energy use intensity per square foot by 22% between 2007 and 2020 through investments in the campus energy infrastructure, energy efficiency upgrades in campus buildings, and energy efficient design in new construction and renovations. Energy use in UGA facilities is responsible for an overwhelming majority of the University's overall greenhouse gas emissions, so energy conservation and renewable energy are critical components of UGA's Sustainability Plan.

# 35%

decrease in direct Scope 2 emissions

# 40%

net decrease in total GHG emissions

**in 2022 due to energy efficiency initiatives on UGA's campus**



## Sustainability Certificate Program

The UGA Sustainability Certificate links knowledge, skills, values, aptitudes, and attitudes necessary to address complex sustainability problems. Through courses, seminars, capstones, and portfolios, students develop the key competencies that help them innovate sustainable solutions in a wide range of disciplines.



In 2022, the Sustainability Certificate hosted 219 active students from 55 academic majors across UGA.



# 13 CLIMATE ACTION





# 14 Life Below Water

*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.*



## Marine Debris Tracker

Jenna Jambeck, a professor in the College of Engineering, is internationally recognized for her research on plastic waste in the ocean and for the Debris Tracker app she co-created with fellow faculty member Kyle Johnsen. She led a landmark study, published in Science, that estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic enters the world's ocean every year.

# 70%

of items logged into Debris Tracker app were made of plastic. To date, community members have logged over 4 million items of debris.



## Center for Chemical Currencies of a Microbial Planet

UGA, along with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, is co-leading a National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center that will pursue and promote a deeper understanding of the microbial worlds and chemical processes that swirl throughout the Earth's oceanic ecosystems.

**"Better understanding of [the] network of microbes and chemicals will improve our ability to predict the way the ocean works, now and in the future."**

**- Mary Ann Moran, Co-Director of the Center for Chemical Currencies of a Microbial Planet**





## Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant provides research, education, training, and science-based outreach to assist Georgia in solving problems and realizing opportunities for its coastal and marine environments. By advancing research, education and training, and outreach, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant promotes the economic, cultural, and environmental health of Georgia's coast.



In 2020, 50 seafood industry personnel were trained in seafood safety and 289 personnel modified their practices using knowledge gained from UGA Marine Extension.



## Department of Marine Sciences

The expertise and research interests of faculty and students in the Department of Marine Sciences span the oceanographic disciplines, covering the biological, chemical, physical, and geological processes within the world's oceans. Its faculty are housed on the UGA main campus in Athens and at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Savannah.





# 15 Life On Land

*Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat deforestation, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.*



## Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

The Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program uses the outdoors a classroom without walls to provide overnight academic field studies for students in public, private, and homeschool learning in grades K-12. Youth indicate that as a result of their experience, they have an understanding that their behaviors have an effect on the environment and feel a greater connection to nature.

# 152,040

participants served statewide during the 2021-2022 year



## Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

Housed at the UGA Tifton Campus, the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health supports efforts to detect pests, respond to new introductions, document changes, and manage the health of ecosystems. Solutions to these problems require collaborations that transcend traditional disciplinary, departmental, institutional, and agency approaches, as well as state and national borders.

**The Center integrates science-based resources with information technology applications including:**

90

**websites for environmentally conscious organizations**

76

**smartphone applications for iOS and Android devices**





## Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies

A unit of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, the Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies spearheads native plant restoration, conservation, education, production, and safeguarding. At the Center, graduate students, interns, volunteers, and science and conservation staff propagate Georgia native plants for use in habitat restoration, endangered species recovery, and introduction to the gardening and green industry community.



Since the inception of the Certificate in Native Plants program in 2007, over 700 individuals have enrolled, with 150 earning the certificate.



# 175+

unique species of trees have been mapped and described to educate and inspire campus planning and maintenance operations



## Campus Arboretum

The Campus Arboretum provides biologically diverse and aesthetic collections of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants in designed settings for the enjoyment and education of students, staff, faculty, and visitors. Designation of the UGA campus as an arboretum ensures sustained tree planting and maintenance while providing valuable opportunities for research and learning.





# 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.*



## Mandela Washington Fellowship Program

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, UGA annually hosts 25 young leaders from across Africa for six weeks of civic engagement leadership training. During their time at UGA, fellows interact with the Athens community and build connections to aid their community development projects at home.



## Center for Social Justice, Civil, and Human Rights

The UGA Center for Social Justice, Human, and Civil Rights works with University and community partners to foster a fair and inclusive society. Founded in 2013, it brings attention to historic civil and human rights struggles, encourages scholarship that examines oppression and inequality, sponsors educational events, and mentors future social justice leaders.



15 faculty members representing three colleges and schools across the university participate as research fellows with the Center for Social Justice, Civil, and Human Rights.





## Center for the Study of Global Issues

The University's Center for the Study of Global Issues (GLOBIS) fosters educational and research activities focused on economic, political, and sociocultural change and development. GLOBIS conducts research and educational activities that examine recent global economic, political, and socio-cultural trends and the human problems associated with these trends to furnish a basis for forecasting the future and forming public policy.



Since its founding in 2020, over students have participated in research with the GLOBIS Human Rights Research Lab



## African Civic Engagement Academy

The African Civic Engagement Academy is a free online training program and networking opportunity offered to selected mid-career NGO and public sector leaders across sub-Saharan Africa. Participants develop a peer-mentored Civic Engagement Action Plan, where they identify steps to bring a civic engagement project to life in their community or government unit.



# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS





# 17 Partnerships for the Goals

*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.*



## RCE Greater Atlanta

RCE Greater Atlanta is acknowledged by the United Nations University as a Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. RCEs support multistakeholder implementation of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level through education and training. RCE Greater Atlanta brings together universities and colleges from across the Greater Atlanta region with nonprofit, community, government, and business partners.



## Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Since 1927, UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government has worked with public officials throughout Georgia and around the world to improve governance and people's lives. Its more than 150 faculty and staff provide technical assistance, training, and technology solutions to Georgia's state and local governments, as well as governments around the world.

# 52,000+

people across 159 counties and 530+ cities in Georgia were served during 2022





## Archway Partnership

The Archway Partnership connects Georgia communities with UGA and other higher education resources to address critical locally-identified needs and opportunities. Archway Partnership communities have addressed issues related to economic development, education, workforce development, leadership, health and welfare, overall quality of life, and more.



In 2022, 121 projects were completed, precipitating an estimated \$12 million R.O.I.



## Human Rights Measurement Initiative

As part of a global partnership with academics and human rights practitioners worldwide, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative produces annual metrics on government respect for eight civil and political rights and five economic and social rights. The data is publicized on RightsTracker.org, a publicly available data visualization website for use by people working in the human rights space worldwide and those who report on progress toward the SDGs.



The Human Rights Measurement Initiative currently has economic and social rights data for 202 countries spanning the last decade.



# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS







PARK HALL

1845

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA