

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ECOVILLAGES

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In 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were ratified by 195 countries. To be achieved by 2030, the goals aim to transform our world by leaving no one behind. In 2017 the Global Ecovillage Network investigated how 30 ecovillages from 5 continents already contributed to the UN SDGs. The results were presented on the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Fascinated by the GEN research outcomes, we examined 17 international Ecovillages. We aimed to understand how ecovillages relate to the UN SDG framework. The research was done with Ecovillages Around the World subject students. Before the analysis, students became acquainted with the SDGs' targets and their implications in different communities. As a preparation for the study, lecturers from six communities presented their activities, good practices and aims through the 17 SDGs.

The research methods were web-content analysis and self-assessment from the ecovillages representatives. As a final step, we compared the results of the web-content analysis with the ecovillages self-assessment.

We found that the researched ecovillages already contribute to most SDGs. Still, many don't know about the SDG framework and do not intend to use it in their communication. The results indicate a communication gap between the global political community and local ecovillages. Both global and local efforts aim to support sustainable development, but there could be vast differences in the interpretation of sustainability. Therefore there is a significant need to establish communication channels and platforms to support the partnership between stakeholder groups working for sustainability at different levels.