

UNA Canterbury SDG Activities: Promoting & Implementing the Goals in Our Community

Presented by: Valeria
Minisini, UNA LASER
Campaigns Officer &
Chairperson of UNA
Canterbury

The SDG Forum



- Established in **2015** by Professor Emeritus Richard Norman and UNA Canterbury's former secretary, Michael Vince.
- A coalition of individuals and local groups in the Canterbury district.
- Aims:** Promote public awareness, encourage reflection of Goals in behaviour/advocacy, and lobby government to adopt Goal-informed policies.
- UNA Canterbury sits on the Steering Group, covering **climate & environment, poverty, education, and partnerships**

SDG Forum: Key Achievements & Impact

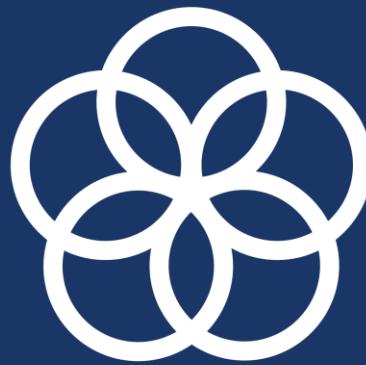
1 NO POVERTY



- **Climate Action:** Successfully lobbied Canterbury City Council to formally declare a **climate emergency (2019)** and adopt a **climate action plan (2021)**.
 - **Poverty Report:** Poverty sub-group published a **harrowing report in April 2023** on poverty levels in the Canterbury district.
 - **Advocacy:** Remains a vital pillar for local grassroots groups working with stakeholders to lobby for greater action on the Goals.
 - *Note: The Forum is not currently an active group*

Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- Focus on **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**.
- A partnership focused primarily on **knowledge-sharing** between Canterbury and Entebbe local authorities on **climate change and the environment**.
- Canterbury City Council has been in a **strategic partnership with Entebbe** (schools, businesses) since **2019**.
- **Funding** comes from UNA Canterbury, proactive fundraising (e.g., City Council, Commonwealth Local Government Association), and small grants.

Entebbe Partnership: Key Activity



- **Key Activity:** Essay competition launched in **2022/2023** for Canterbury schools.
- **Focus:** Students wrote about how their friends in Entebbe are affected by climate change and how they can be supported.
- **Output:** Featured poems and short compositions from primary school students (e.g., Simon Langton Grammar School, St Anselms).
- **Future:** Exploring new initiatives to link schools in both cities and other ways to 'twin' the two cities, subject to funding.

Creation of Canterbury Climate Action Network (Canterbury CAN)



- **Formed:** Earlier in **2025**.
- **Successor to:** The Canterbury Climate Action Partnership, which folded due to a need for redirection.
- **Vision:** More **strategic goals** and greater engagement with local political representatives (e.g., Environment Agency).
- **Host:** Hosted by the **University of Kent**, which may allow tapping into university resources and academic contacts.

Canterbury CAN: Initial Meeting & Next Steps



- **First Meeting (September):** An opportunity for supporters to convene and understand planned activities, key areas of discussion, and priorities.

Discussion:

- The Council's new **Net Zero Action Plan** was presented after finishing a public consultation phase.
- **Targets** were welcomed, but questions arose over the plan's **lack of focus on water**.
- Kent is a water scarce region and has faced critical challenges this year with record demand, below-average rainfall, and hot weather.

Looking Ahead: Our Focus



- **Canterbury CAN:** Focus on building our relationship with the new network.
- **Entebbe:** Deepen our work with the city.
- **Youth Engagement:** Explore new initiatives to connect young people in Entebbe to students in Canterbury.

Thank You & Get Involved

Contact: Valeria Minisini - valeria.minisini96@gmail.com

Find me after this meeting or get in touch to be added to our mailing list or to find out more about becoming a supporter or joining our committee.