

Meeting Notes from Tautoko Network Meeting

October 2020

Joining the Dots - Connecting Local Volunteering to Global Impact

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

In terms of demographics, the largest growth group in volunteering is some of our younger volunteers - 18-25 year olds. And that age group is very much about making an impact. The UNSDGs (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) provide an ideal platform from which to 'pitch' to those volunteers. Do you need to 'pitch'? Yes. We live in a country with some 115,770 registered not-for-profit institutions 'volunteering involving organisations'. In 2018, 89.2% of those organisations were staffed totally by volunteers. Of the remainder, which have paid staff, 7.3% have fewer than five paid staff and only 3.5% of community organisations have more than five paid staff. The stakes are high - volunteer figures are down, although the number of hours being undertaken is up. Less people are doing more. So how do volunteers choose what to do and where to gift their time?

Volunteer motivation can be a range of things - upskill, share skills, give back, meet new people whatever it is, there is one common reason given for not volunteering - lack of time. Very few people would put their hand up to say they have too much time on their hands to 'volunteer'. Ask people if they would like 'to make a difference' in their community, such as to the life of an individual or the future of the planet, and their reaction can be very different. So rather like the op shops 'coming of age' and meshing neatly with the age of recycling, impact has come of age when around the globe there is a realisation that we all have to work together to make an impact - for our planet. The 2019 report on New Zealand's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals contains a great table which has identified some of the indicators of the progress that has been made. On page 13 of the report, New Zealand's Progress Towards the SDGs - 2019), there is a listing of 'examples of how the SDGs map to Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand'. This will assist your organisation to 'join the dots' between the impact it is making locally with an SDG. From there you can tell the story ... of the impact ... and it becomes increasingly powerful. So, as an example, the story of planting 50 trees in your local reserve the benefit to the community today, your children, and their children - and an acknowledgment also that, aside from that local impact, those newly planted trees contribute to UN Sustainable Goal 15 "Life on Land".



EXAMPLES OF HOW THE SDGs MAP TO INDICATORS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND





gas emissions

Costs of extreme weather events Gross greenhouse gas emissions — Material intensity, including recycling, landfill inflows, second-hand economy Net fixed assets

For reasons of brevity not all Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand that relate to