HIGHLIGHTS

- The RCE Greater Atlanta is a diverse network of local stakeholders committed to advancing and teaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local and regional scales.
- The RCE Greater Atlanta was officially recognized by the United Nations University in 2017 and is one of 168 RCE networks in the world.
- The SDGs are an inherent part of Emory’s 2025 Sustainability Vision. Emory’s sustainability goals, as described in the Vision, contribute to at least twelve SDGs.

“We envision a robust and engaged network of all sectors of Greater Atlanta society, collaboratively working towards a region where the principles of sustainability – equity and justice, resilient ecosystems, health and well-being, and economic opportunity – are ingrained in its continued development . . .” [Greater Atlanta RCE application to the UN, 2017]

BENEFITS

Emory’s collaborative leadership of the Greater Atlanta RCE:

- provides a structure to facilitate cross-sector collaboration towards commonly identified SDGs;
- pulls knowledge and expertise outside of campus gates to partner at a broader regional scale for a multi-sector approach to education for sustainable development;
- engenders a culture of learning and continuous improvement, providing opportunities for students of all ages to contribute to these efforts and shape new ones;
- creates opportunity for Emory to align its sustainability and social justice goals with those of the United Nations.

HOW IT WORKS

The Greater Atlanta RCE accelerates student and community sustainable development leadership and progress towards a more sustainable future by leveraging a network structure to connect, support and catalyze diverse collaborations.

The Greater Atlanta RCE will focus on the following primary SDGs:

- Good Health & Well-being
- Zero Hunger
- Sustainable Cities & Communities
- Climate Action
- Quality Education
- Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure
- No Poverty
RCE Greater Atlanta is a regional sustainability network acknowledged by the United Nations University on December 18, 2017 as a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development. Our primary work is to offer broad-based, multi-stakeholder educational and training programs to support regional sustainable development efforts. RCE Greater Atlanta supports implementation of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education and training, focusing on the priority goals listed below:

- 100+ active members
- 13% Business
- 13% Independent
- 11% Government
- 12% Non-Profits & Community Organizations
- 40+ active member organizations in the RCE
- 200+ attendees at RCE launch event at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights

9 Active Work Groups

Work Groups are formed and led by members. They meet regularly and share updates at Quarterly Network Meetings, which are hosted by a different member each time.

- Marketing & Communications
- Youth Network
- Environmental Justice Academy
- Governance
- Sustainable Development w/out Displacement
- Networking
- Higher Education Learning Community
- K-12 Engagement
- Business Engagement

Highlights

- Collaborated on 9 conference sessions in Atlanta, the U.S., and around the world
- Sent 3-person delegation to RCE Global Conference in the Philippines and 5-person delegation to RCE Americas Conference in Argentina
- Launched Environmental Justice Academy and Youth Network SDG training program with a $40,000 grant from Turner Foundation
- Guided by leadership from 7 higher education institutions, Youth Network held monthly volunteer events and quarterly meetings and engaged students in cross-campus sustainability projects

Prepared by Alicia Wun, Intern at Emory Office of Sustainability Initiatives. Published April 2019.
LEARN MORE

Find out more about the seventeen UN SDGs
Explore the mission of the Global RCE Network
Join the RCE Greater Atlanta Youth Network
Contact the RCE Greater Atlanta
Follow the RCE Greater Atlanta on Facebook

In the News:
- RCE Greater Atlanta Officially Acknowledged by United Nations University
- The U.S. ranks 35th in 2019 Sustainable Development Report

QUESTIONS?

For answers to questions about how Emory incorporates the UN SDGs into its Sustainability Vision, contact emorysustainability@emory.edu.