

# Title: Fostering Interdisciplinary Synergy: Achieving Sustainable Cities and Communities through Collaborative Pedagogy in the University of Pittsburgh

*Thursday, October 26, 2023 4:20 PM (20 minutes)*

This presentation showcases a successful collaboration between two professors in Urban Sustainability and Data Visualization. They designed a cross-course exercise centered on the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 11 - "Sustainable Cities and Communities." This innovative approach aimed to leverage the strengths of both disciplines for a comprehensive analysis of Pittsburgh's sustainable profile related to Goal 11 and its ten targets. Students from both classes were strategically paired, with Data Visualization students transforming complex data into insightful visual interpretations and Urban Sustainability students focusing on research and analysis. This collaboration examined ten specific targets under Goal 11, from affordable housing to disaster resilience. The result was an updated profile of Pittsburgh's Urban Sustainability, highlighting its progress toward SDG targets. This interdisciplinary endeavor provided students with a profound understanding of sustainable urban development's complexity and emphasized teamwork and diverse expertise. By combining data visualization and urban sustainability, this exercise exemplifies pedagogical innovation, encouraging holistic problem-solving and real-world application. The presentation will highlight key findings, innovative methodologies, and their impact on student learning outcomes. It will also emphasize the broader applicability of this collaborative approach in other urban contexts, promoting positive change aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Primary authors:** MENDONCA DE CARVALHO, Roberta (University of Pittsburgh); LUCAS, Susan (University of Pittsburgh)

**Presenters:** MENDONCA DE CARVALHO, Roberta (University of Pittsburgh); LUCAS, Susan (University of Pittsburgh)

**Session Classification:** Paper Presentations

**Track Classification:** Geoeducation