

Using the National Performance Framework

What is the National Performance Framework?

The [Scottish Government National Performance Framework](#) sets out the Government's aspirations for Scotland, through their *Purpose* and *Outcomes* and how progress towards those aspirations can be assessed through *Targets* and *Indicators*. It provides a clear vision for Scotland and provides a single framework to which all public services in Scotland are aligned. One of the five NPF *Strategic Objectives* which underpins the Government's *Purpose*, is to deliver a "Greener" Scotland while two of its *Outcomes* relate to our built and natural environment and reducing the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

A recent review of the NPF indicator suit resulted in the addition of two new environmental indicators: *Increase natural capital* and *Improve access to local greenspace*.

Read more about the NPF [here](#).

Why is the National Performance Framework relevant to LINK work?

The NPF is intended to both guide policy making – '*The National Performance Framework (NPF) provides a strategic direction for policy making in the public sector ..*¹, and to be used to assess progress, allowing the public to see how Scotland is doing against a range of indicators.

The NPF is far from perfect in terms of its content and LINK is advocating for improvements². However, in the meantime, LINK and LINK members can use elements of the NPF in their work, both in highlighting environmental *Outcomes* to which policy is meant to be aligned and in drawing attention to progress (or lack of progress) against *Targets* and *Indicators*.

You may well already be referring to NPF and its indicators in your advocacy work, but, especially if you are targeting the Scottish Government or MSPs, reminding them that these are issues linked to the National Indicators in their National Performance Framework might add weight as well as bring attention to the relevance of both your issue but also the NPF.

If you have any questions please contact: Phoebe at phoebe@scotlink.org

More about the National Performance Framework

Government Purpose and Purpose Targets

*Government Purpose: To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. Five Strategic Objectives underpin the Purpose: Wealthier, Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer, Stronger and Greener. 'We believe that success lies in focusing all of Government and public services on the achievement of our Purpose. By working together across all of these strategic objectives, we can increase sustainable economic growth so that all of Scotland can flourish.'*³

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/NPFChanges>

² Please get in touch with Phoebe if you are interested in hearing more about this.

³ <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/objectives>

This assumes that Sustainable Economic Growth will lead to a more successful country. The term Sustainable Economic Growth is confusing and easily interpreted in two different ways – does the ‘sustainable’ bit relate to environmentally sustainable economic growth (SG claim so) or to growth which is sustained over time. Either way it is problematic as whether growth can be sustained or environmentally sustainable is questionable.

The *Targets* are essentially high level indicators that assess progress against the *Purpose*. There are 7, one of which relates to the environment:

- Economic growth (GDP)
- Productivity (GDP per hour worked)
- Participation (employment)
- Population (a) match average European population growth and, b) increased healthy life expectancy)
- Solidarity (increase overall income and reduce income inequality)
- Cohesion (narrow the gap in employment rates between best and worst regions)
- Sustainability (reduce Scottish greenhouse gas emissions including aviation and shipping)

Outcomes and Indicators

There are 16 *Outcomes*. Two relate to the environment:

- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

There are 55 National *Indicators*, 11 of which relate to the environment:

- Improve peoples’ perceptions of their neighbourhood
- Improve access to local greenspace
- Increase people’s use of Scotland’s outdoors
- Improve the condition of protected nature sites
- Increase the abundance of terrestrial breeding birds: biodiversity
- Increase natural capital
- Improve the state of Scotland’s marine environment
- Reduce Scotland’s carbon footprint
- Increase the proportion of journeys to work made by public or active transport
- Reduce waste generated
- Increase renewable electricity production