

UN Sustainable Development Goal Delivery in Scotland: Call for Evidence

JOIN THE CONVERSATION | **SDG NETWORK SCOTLAND**



What this survey is

This survey is one of a number of ways in which we are engaging with people across Scotland on Scotland's National Outcomes, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how best to approach achieving them.

Your views will inform development of our overall approach to implementing the National Outcomes and SDGs in Scotland as well as how we will report on this within the UK Government Voluntary National Review (VNR).

You can read more about the SDGs and VNR on the SDG Network Scotland website.

How to respond

You can respond to this survey by **Wednesday 27 February** if you would like to inform development of the UK Government Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Most of this survey take the form of open text responses to prompt questions. This allows flexibility in how you respond. However we would be grateful if you could address your responses to the prompt questions as much as possible.

This survey will remain open after that point until **Friday 29 March** if you are not interested in or unable to contribute to the UK VNR deadline but would like to inform longer term considerations around SDG implementation in Scotland, including a potential Scottish Supplementary Review.

You can either complete the questions in this document and return it by email to nationalperformance@gov.scot or [complete the online version of the survey](#). The questions are the same in both.

Confidentiality

Responses from individuals will be treated confidentially and the data held securely. You will be asked during the survey if you consent for your response to the call to be published on <https://globalgoals.scot> once the exercise is complete.

Organisational responses providing potential content for the VNR may necessarily involve identifying specific organisations or sectors for Scotland's VNR contribution (for example, in terms of describing networks and partnerships working to realise the Goals).

1. Your details

Please indicate if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation:

- I am responding as an individual
- I am responding on behalf of an organisation

Your name

Phoebe Cochrane

Your organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

Scottish Environment LINK (Economics Group)

Email address

phoebe@scotlink.org

Phone number

07906 780 760

Are you a member of the SDG Network Scotland?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate if you are happy to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland about further opportunities to participate in the SDG agenda

- I am happy to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland
- I do not want to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland

2. Scotland's approach to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Through the VNR we are expected to report on the national policy and delivery infrastructure we currently have in place to progress the SDGs.

In this section we would like to seek your views on the effectiveness of this and what improvements you think need to be made.

What are you doing?

Please tell us what actions or projects you are currently undertaking to encourage others to be involved with meeting the [SDGs](#).

These can be small or large. Local, national or international.

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the project (and a web address if available)
- The project's **purpose**
- The **SDG Goals or targets it contributes to**
- Your observations **on its results, learning, or challenges**

Name of project: A circular economy for a fairer footprint

Purpose: to engage with stakeholders and influence policy development to further the circular economy in Scotland in order to reduce our consumption of raw materials and our environmental impact.

SDG 12

The project is at an early stage. Learning to date:

- Our experience is that there is support for our emphasis on a fairer footprint and agreement that we should be pushing for a circular economy which goes beyond increased efficiencies to one with an overall reduction in consumption of raw materials.
- Radical change is needed. Scotland has rightly been commended for the leadership shown in taking forward a number of projects and areas of work to support increased circularity. However, much of what has been done has involved working with the 'interested and willing' and to really make a difference we need more radical and systemic change.
- Although the circular economy is often presented in terms of economic opportunities, the shift required represents a real challenge to business. Often the changes needed can not be achieved by tweaks to existing models. Clear policy horizons and level playing fields are good for business and the lack of the former is one of the reasons that private investment in the circular economy is low.
- For many Scottish Environment LINK members, the absence of biodiversity in the discourse about a more circular economy is a concern. We know that biodiversity provides us with many life support functions, and we need to co-exist with biodiversity, allowing it to flourish alongside us. Biodiversity

not only suffers at the hand of our current economic activities, it also offers some of the solutions; in particular playing an integral part of more circular land-use practices where natural recycling and predator systems can replace the need for artificial inputs.

- The development of metrics to enable us to assess the quantities of materials being consumed and the impact that is having on our planet is very important. Work is under way which will provide basic data for Scotland soon and this is a hugely important step which will inform policy development and allow us to monitor progress. However, material flow and consumption data is based on weight and, although this can be complimented with information on carbon, it still falls short of giving us the full picture in terms of environmental impact.
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR), currently applied narrowly and widely felt ineffectively, theoretically has enormous scope.

Promotion of engagement with the SDGs

Can you suggest ways in which we could promote engagement in the SDGs more widely across Scotland? In particular how can we ensure no one is left behind with SDG implementation?

In relation to SDG 12.

First, there could be a requirement for better labelling on warranty lengths, repairability and how to 'dispose' of a product after use.

Second, promote localisation of production and consumption so that people feel connected to the produce and products and their life cycle.

Third, policies are needed to make longer lasting and more sustainable goods more affordable. Because environmental costs are often externalised, products sold at lower prices often have higher total life cycle costs - they might not last as long, be harder to repair, harder to recycle; or have had a higher environmental impact in their production. This means that lower income sectors of society are often excluded from purchasing more sustainable products.

Who are you working with?

What are the key organisations working to deliver the SDGs you are involved with and what function do they provide?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the organisation
- The organisation's **function**
- The **Sustainable Development Goal(s) it contributes to**
- **Who they work with** (e.g. social groups and/or partner organisations)

We are working with and reaching out to a number of organisations, both to learn about different aspects of a more circular economy and to gather support for our policy asks. These broadly fall into five groups:

- Scottish Environment LINK members who have interests and expertise in reducing production and consumption of particular materials or products.
- Scottish Government and the public sector, in particular Zero Waste Scotland and SEPA.
- Enterprises which have a focus on re-use and / or repair or making better use of by-products.
- Membership organisations such as CIWM, Scottish Whisky Association, Community Resource Network.
- Academia and research institutions

In what ways could Scotland improve its SDG delivery internationally and what would this involve (e.g. possible partnerships, policy, resources, practices)?

In terms of SDG 12:

- Reduce Scotland's footprint so that we are consuming our 'fair share' of planetary resources;
- In particular reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and those whose extraction and processing have the biggest social and environmental impacts;
- Impose supply chain transparency requirements to enable identification of overseas impacts;
- Stop exporting our waste to destinations with inadequate infrastructure or policies to process / recycle it in an environmentally / socially responsible manner.

3. How is Scotland doing in relation to each SDG?



This section asks you to focus on Scotland’s performance and delivery of each of the 17 UN SDGs and their related targets.

There will be one page for each of the SDGs with the same question prompts on each.

Please draw on both your own experience and evidence you are aware of, and the evidence contained in the [discussion paper published alongside this survey](#).

You can respond to as many or as few SDG sections as you like.

You can use the index of SDGs below to jump to ones you are interested in responding on.

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[GOAL 1: No Poverty](#)

[GOAL 2: Zero Hunger](#)

[GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being](#)

[GOAL 4: Quality Education](#)

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[GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#)

[GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy](#)

[GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth](#)

[GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure](#)

[GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality](#)

[GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities](#)

[GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production](#)

[GOAL 13: Climate Action](#)

[GOAL 14: Life Below Water](#)

[GOAL 15: Life on Land](#)

[GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions](#)

[GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal](#)

[Skip the goal-specific sections](#)

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance** in the [discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence](#).

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

- As noted in your discussion paper there is data to assess a number of the targets under SDG 12, but we would argue that many of these targets are soft targets and our production and consumption will only be sustainable if we operate within environmental limits and do not impact beyond our fair footprint in terms of resource consumption.
- There is a lack of data to evidence progress towards this goal.
- Scotland’s carbon footprint is relevant and, although it declined between 2011 and 2014, it did not decline between 2014 and 2015 (latest data).
- Total household waste generated is also of relevance and this has been steady over recent years.
- Material footprint is measured at a UK level and shows a significant fall between 2000 and 2010 but little change since then.
- This suggests no notable progress in key metrics in the last 8 years

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

- Scotland’s circular economy strategy - *Making Things Last*. Main agency delivering: Zero Waste Scotland with various partners. Working with enterprises to promote and showcase more circular practices. Working on reducing food waste. Providing a material brokerage service. Will contribute to targets 12.2, 12.3, 2.5
- Deposit Return System (under development) will contribute to target 12.5
- SEPA’s One Planet Prosperity, and their ambition for ‘beyond compliance’. One Planet Prosperity is being used in high level messaging and is being picked up elsewhere – for example, in the purpose of the draft Environment Strategy.
- Area based initiatives such as Circular Edinburgh, Circular Glasgow, Circular Tayside. Partners are Chambers of Commerce, local authorities and others.

- The community re-use, repair and recycling sector – many, mostly small, enterprises (generally social enterprises or charities) engaged in a variety of activities. They often have social objectives as well as environmental.
- The above generally contribute to SDGs 11, 14 and 15 as well as 12.
- In general in Scotland we have examples of innovation and good practice and are recognised for leadership in our endeavours to encourage and promote a more circular economy.
- Waste related targets are driving increases in recycling rates. However, as discussed earlier, there is a lack of data to better assess progress on SDG 12.

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

One of the main challenges in achieving this goal is the long and international nature of supply chains. This makes it complicated to regulate production and to introduce standards with regard to materials used, design of products and good practice.

Please see the answer above to question 2 in relation to issues, challenges and opportunities.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

- Embed the importance of this goal across Government and its agencies, in particular within areas dealing with the economy.
- Include an indicator on raw material consumption (material footprint) in the National Performance Framework.
- Introduce a circular economy bill in 2019 to include clear targets and a commitment to develop policies and plans and resources to deliver on the targets.
- Transpose the EU CE Package in 2019.
- Reform of extended producer responsibility so producers are responsible for full life cycle costs of their products (medium term).
- Stricter public procurement so all products and services procured by the public sector are as circular as possible. Contractors should have full supply chain transparency and end of life plan for the product. (short term)

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

- Supporting the oil and gas sector
- Giving undue weight to GDP as an indicator of progress
- Procuring unsustainable products or projects
- Exporting our waste to destinations which lack the infrastructure and / or policies to safely recycle or otherwise process it.

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4. Further examples and case studies

The links across the SDGs are often complex and our actions and policy decisions can create trade-offs and synergies across different goals.

Do you have any example to share that illustrate the links between the different SDGs?

Marine litter / plastics initiatives address goals 12 and 14

The UK Government VNR is likely to include a number of case studies which highlight particular activities, policies, legislation or initiatives which are significant, insightful, innovative and effective.

If you have a case study you think would be appropriate for this, please provide a brief outline below (or provide a link to an online summary if one exists).

Consent for publication

Scotland's SDG network would like to publish responses to this exercise (excluding personal contact information you may have provided) on <https://globalgoals.scot/> upon completion.

Please indicate if you consent to publication of your response in full, in part (please specify) or not at all.

If you have any questions regarding the handling of your data or publication of responses, please contact nationalperformance@gov.scot

- I consent to publication of my response IN FULL (excluding contact details)
- I consent to publication of my response IN PART (please specify below)
- I DO NOT CONSENT to publication of my response

If you would like only part of your response to be published (for example, for commercial confidentiality reasons), please specify which parts you DO and DO NOT wish to be published below.

Thank you

Please send your completed survey, along with any attachments, to nationalperformance@gov.scot

Your response will help to inform our overall approach to delivering the National Outcomes and SDGs in Scotland and our input into the UK Government VNR.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact nationalperformance@gov.scot