

The SDGs in municipal policy

A manual for local governments





‘Within the VNG it is my ambition to continue connecting the international dimension to challenges such as the energy transition and circular economy, migration and integration, and regional economic development. Essentially this is our homework: to lift the cooperation between the national and decentral governments to a higher level. The effort of local governments has an ever increasing international impact, I cannot stress it enough.’

Jan van Zanen, mayor of The Hague, President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG).

Tip: visit www.vng-international.nl/sustainable-development-goals

to find out:

- More about VNG’s Municipalities4GlobalGoals campaign
- SDG best practices and inspirations from Dutch Global Goals Municipalities in English, Spanish and French

INTRODUCTION

The UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is a global, integrated, transformative agenda. The 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals relate to real-life, persistent challenges which meet one another in the lives of people, and in the physical environment, at the local and regional level. Therefore, achieving the SDGs critically depends on the active contributions and ownership of local and regional governments, alongside with national governments, the private sector and civil society. Local governments can impact the SDGs in a range of capacities: as policy makers, implementers, investors, convenors and facilitators of other stakeholders’ efforts, to name just a few. The SDGs touch directly upon daily tasks such as public service delivery, ensuring affordable and adequate housing for all, promoting sustainable local economies that reduce pollution and waste, transitioning to renewable energy, and taking good care of our (natural) environment. The delivery of the goals also requires inclusive and transparent local government which ensures people’s engagement in public decision making.

The Dutch Association for Local Governments, VNG, started the Municipalities4GlobalGoals Campaign in 2016. One of the campaign’s objectives is to create broad awareness of the SDGs among Dutch municipalities. The second objective is to offer policy and practical guidance to help operationalize the agenda, which is often perceived as somewhat overwhelming. In our interactions with local political leaders, administrators and civil servants we saw that embracing the goals is one thing, but integrating them into the daily work is another. How to move beyond flagging the colourful SDG icons at public events, or as mere illustrations in municipal plans? How to actually improve existing practices in line with the SDGs? In most countries, the legislative and policy framework that guide municipal action is probably not based on the SDGs, although national policies and programs may have strong correlations with the 17 goals.

This booklet was written as a guide to help local government actors in connecting the SDGs to their mandates and daily tasks, across all sectors and areas. As a first step, the booklet can act as a checklist for those wondering how their own work is related to the goals. But the intention is more than that: we hope to inspire decision makers and staff to venture into new grounds, and to jointly develop or enhance policies and actions that contribute to multiple SDGs in conjunction. We are happy to share this booklet with our international partners. We also wish to mention our Flemish colleagues (VMSG) whose work on similar issues has been a source of inspiration.

Guide to using the booklet

For each of the 17 goals, the booklet outlines those SDG targets which have most relevance for local governments. Spelling out the specific targets helps stakeholders to unpack the overall goals and get a better grasp of what these are actually about.

For each SDG, we list some of the relevant legal and policy frameworks, for example international treaties and conventions, EU directives, or the (EU) urban agenda. In the Dutch version of the booklet, this list is much longer, including national legislation, policies and programs. Users of the booklet can add their own - national, regional or local - legal and policy frameworks.

Subsequently, we have listed areas of intervention which may typically fall into the mandate or influence sphere of local governments and which are particularly relevant for achieving that SDG. Stepping up efforts in such areas is important. We suggest lines of action to make the execution of tasks more inclusive, or to adopt ecologically sustainable policy options rather than alternative, less sustainable approaches. The tasks and roles also include the internal process of the municipal organization: for example the role of procurement as an instrument for promoting social and environmental sustainability; or inclusive labour policies and practices of the municipal organization itself. Of course, the degree to which decision making and implementation are decentralized varies for different countries and sectors, so you may find some suggestions more applicable than others.

For each SDG, some examples are provided of additional efforts that local governments can make, beyond what is legally required. Some of these examples address interlinkages with other goals. Others are about ways in which local governments can facilitate local stakeholders and their initiatives. This category also includes working in city-to-city, regional or international partnerships for sustainable development.

The **ambition to leave no one behind** is a core feature of the UN 2030 Agenda. For each of the 17 SDGs, we have included actions that specifically target the need to include vulnerable groups. These bullet points are in **bold print and in colour**.

Finally, the booklet wishes to underscore the integrated nature of the SDGs. Municipalities which embrace the agenda often do this precisely because of its integrated approach to the key challenges of our time. Yet, in practice, integrated thinking and acting are still often the exception. Halfway the booklet we have included some notes and suggestions with respect to the importance of overcoming sectoral boundaries.

The ideas outlined in this booklet are in no way comprehensive or exhaustive. We hope that reading this little guidebook inspires its users to elaborate on and multiply the ideas in it, and to apply these in active cooperation with their colleagues, local stakeholders and (inter)national partners.

Correlation of SDGs and municipal tasks

Social development and poverty reduction: SDG 1,2,3,4,5,8,10,11

Sustainable economy, infrastructure and inclusive employment: SDG 2,8,9,11,12









Healthy and safe physical and natural environment: SDG 2,3,6,7,9,11,12,13,14,15

Good and transparent governance, participation and (digital) security: SDG 16

Partnerships and policy coherence for sustainable development: SDG 17

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SDG 01

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Most relevant targets

- 1.1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2. By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5. By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- 1 a. Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- European Convention on Human Rights
- UN 2030 Agenda
- EU 2020 strategy and indicators
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) 2021-2027
- National and decentralised policies, laws and regulations and programmes relating to poverty reduction, work and income, the labour market, long-term unemployment, incapacity for work, debt relief, care for vulnerable groups, the Sickness Act
- Social security system
- Constitution
- Programmes for municipal development cooperation



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Mapping the extent, nature and causes of (hidden) poverty and inequality in the municipality
- Develop an integrated approach to poverty based on the various social challenges in consultation with target groups, social partners, employers
- Deployment of professional, multidisciplinary social neighbourhood teams in good cooperation with social, neighbourhood and voluntary organisations;
- **Actively combat child poverty, enable all children to participate in education and sports, recreation and culture (SDG 10)**
- Debt prevention and early warning together with schools and other parties; integrated, cross-sectoral approach to debt relief and coaching
- Proactively inform citizens about (changes in) municipal allowances and contributions to which they are entitled; simplify application for minimum schemes
- Measures to reduce housing and care costs for residents; prevention of energy poverty (SDG 3, 7, 11)
- Ensure sufficient social rental housing (SDG 11)
- **Affordable access, for all, to basic services and public transport (SDG 11)**
- Good (coaching) supply for guiding people to suitable work (SDG 8)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- **Support the self-reliance of vulnerable groups; extra attention for people with a long distance to the labour market**
Example: Manifesto of Dutch municipalities actively promoting implementation of the UN CRPD
- Assess and report on municipal policies for poverty effects
- Pilots with an effective, integrated approach to unsustainable debt
- **Experiment with basic income. Ensure through socially responsible procurement that the municipality does not contribute to the exploitation of vulnerable workers elsewhere (SDG 8)**
- Contribute to international cooperation on poverty reduction with knowledge and expertise (SDG 17)

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF SÚDVEST-FRSYSLÁN

The SDG compass from the Environmental Vision 1.0 serves as a guide to think global but act local. Killing two birds with one stone, the municipality attempts to tackle various obstacles, e.g. combats poverty through the assessment of housing supply. [Read more](#)



SDG 02

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE **FOOD SECURITY** AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Most relevant targets

- 2.1. By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2. By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3. By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- 2.4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- EC From Farm to Fork Strategy
- EU legislation on healthy food
- National policies and laws and regulations on food safety and food quality
- Programmes for healthy nutrition, including for target groups such as young people; Example: City Deal '[Food on the urban agenda](#)'. A cooperation of national ministries, provinces, municipalities, private sector and NGOs
- Framework for socially responsible procurement and tendering
- EU Common Agricultural Policy;
- EC From Farm to Fork Strategy
- **LEADER/POP3** Programme; EU Green Deal
- EU Water Framework Directive
- EU Birds & Habitats Directive
- EU and national legislation on air, soil and water quality and permitted emissions
- National and decentralized policies, laws and regulations and programmes relating to (sustainable) agriculture, nature conservation and agricultural nature management
- National climate agreements
- Municipal licensing policy
- Green Deals and Region Deals



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Develop a local food strategy with local partners such as (sports) schools, health centres, retailers and the agricultural sector that promotes healthy eating habits and stimulates the supply of fresh and healthy food (SDG 3)
- **Attention to good nutrition and combating food waste within (debt) assistance; facilitating food banks, social restaurants (SDG 1)**
- **Supporting neighbourhood vegetable gardens, urban agriculture, food cooperatives and the participation of vulnerable groups (SDG 1, 3, 10)**
- **Provide space for land-based agriculture and innovative initiatives such as community-supported agriculture, food forests, new crops; stimulate short chains and regional products (SDG 8) and agricultural nature management (SDG 15)**
- Explore opportunities for CO2reduction and sustainable energy generation in the agriculture and horticulture sector (SDG 7, 13)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Actively support the transition to a nature-inclusive (circular) agriculture through environmental policy, subsidies, lease policy, land exchange, courses and a connecting role; link this transition in area-oriented processes to tasks such as climate, restoration of biodiversity, landscape quality and sustainable income models for farmers (SDG 8, 15)
- Region Deal [Natuurinclusieve Landbouw \('Nature-Inclusive Agriculture'\)](#)
- Improve sustainability and renovation of livestock stalls to reduce emissions (SDG 3)
- Measure emissions together with companies and residents; establish pesticide-free zones (SDG 3)
- Cittaslow initiative: shorten the chain between producers and consumer by cultivating food in and around urban zones, including civil contribution.

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Offer healthy and fresh food in own canteen
- Promote the selection of healthy food in restaurants and shops in all districts; support organic markets
- Discourage the supply of unhealthy food (e.g., through advertising policy, establishment policy) (SDG 3)
- Contribute via responsible procurement to fair and sustainable food production domestically and abroad; follow Fair Trade principles
- Enhance awareness of food waste in your own organisation and through campaigns (SDG 12)
- Contribute to actions for healthy schools
- Reduction of harmful emissions from livestock farming and land farming through information, positive incentives, regulation, and enforcement, at least on the basis of legal standards (SDG 3, 6, 12, 15)
- Provide (planning) space for agricultural companies for broader revenue models (e.g., care, small-scale recreation, shop function) (SDG 3, 8, 9)
- Help (sustainable) start-ups and small businesses with land

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF LEIDEN

In the municipality of Leiden, the availability and accessibility of quality food for everyone is endorsed through urban agriculture. Vegetable park Bontekoe is situated in a low income neighbourhood, and allows people to grow and harvest their own food alongside the increase of people's autonomy and sense of community. [Read more.](#)

ENSURE **HEALTHY LIVES** AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Most relevant targets

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births 3.2. By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births 3.3. By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases 3.4. By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being 3.5. Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol 3.6. By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents 3.7. By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.8. Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all 3.9. By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination |
|---|--|

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) 2021-2027
- WHO outdoor air quality guidelines
- National laws and regulations relating to public health, healthcare
- Policies and rules on care for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, young people and the long-term sick, people with disabilities, low-income groups, immigrants
- Policies and programmes for healthy living, sports, and prevention of health problems
- National and decentralised healthcare insurance scheme
- National environmental legislation and rules and programmes for healthy air, water and soil



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Offer affordable and timely customised care with professional neighbourhood teams and partners in the care chain
- Combat socio-economic health differences (SDG 1, 10)
- Good control of the overall process of care and support for vulnerable groups (SDG 1)
- Prevent long waiting times in (mental) health care
- Attention to the relationship between care and safety (e.g., confused persons) (SDG 16)
- Draw up local agreements on the prevention of obesity, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, in collaboration with social partners
- Promote healthy lifestyles through environmental policy: accessible and affordable facilities for sports, recreation and meeting in all districts; network of hiking and cycling trails; attractive, green and safe design of public space (SDG 11, 15); reduce environmental pollution, noise and nuisance (SDG 9, 12)
- Ensure a supply of fresh and healthy food (SDG 2)
- Increase the vaccination rate
- **Support the self-reliance of the elderly and people with disabilities; combat loneliness; ensure meaningful daytime activities, even in smaller cores**
- Take measures together with (care) partners aimed at prevention and treatment of addiction
- Soil remediation, with priority at humane emergency sites
- Set environmental zones and reduce particulate matter from traffic, industry, agriculture and wood-burning

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- As much as possible, place the care question at the centre of local care choices; do not let the costs be the guiding factor
- Support residents' initiative on care and well-being
 - **Locally provide collective health insurance for vulnerable groups (SDG 1, 10)**
 - Municipal support for volunteering
 - **Special attention to status holders and women and girls with a migration background (SDG 5, 10)**
 - Example: focus of the City of Utrecht on healthy urban living
 - Support local foundations and organisations that contribute to healthcare elsewhere in the world (SDG 17)
 - Set extra-statutory frameworks for healthy air and living environment

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY **EDUCATION** AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Most relevant targets

- 4.1. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- 4.3. By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- 4.4. By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5. By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.6. By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.7. By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

- 4.a. Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- **UNESCO Incheon Declaration for Education 2030**
National laws and regulations and programmes relating to primary and secondary education, compulsory education, vocational and higher education etc.
- Programmes to prevent early school leaving, equal opportunities in education and 'lifelong learning'
- Regional or local educational agenda, human capital agenda
- Programmes that are committed to guiding vulnerable young people towards independence, as in the Netherlands **National Approach 16-27**
- National action plans for equal chances in education (**cooperation** between national and local government in the Netherlands)
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- National action programmes to prevent and reduce low literacy
- **Child Friendly** Cities Network



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Enforcement of compulsory education, prevention of early school leaving
- Ensure good and inclusive offering of pre- and early school education and care, including in sparsely populated areas
- **Take measures in consultation with schools and parents to prevent segregation in education and to promote equal opportunities (SDG 10)**
- **Enable all children to participate in sports, school trips and other activities (SDG 1)**
- Contribute to effective youth work
- Stimulate a good connection between the offering of (vocational) education and the local/regional labour market (SDG 8); regionally coordinate the educational offerings
- Invest in safe, healthy, sustainable and accessible school locations, with connection to public transport and sports facilities (link to SDG 3, 7, 11)
- Provide safe and attractive playgrounds
- **Develop an approach to low literacy and linguistic deficiencies (SDG 1, 5, 10)**
- **Good offering of (language) education and further training for refugees and status holders, both men and women (SDG 5, 10)**
- Offer ample development opportunities for all employees in the municipality (SDG 8)
- Measures to remedy teacher shortages, e.g., ensuring affordable housing (SDG 11)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Support pilots and 'testing grounds' for innovative education
- Active commitment to preserve neighbourhood and village libraries
- **Initiatives that allow children with and without disabilities to learn and play together, such as 'Samen naar school klassen' ('Together to school classes') and the SamenSpeelAkkoord ('Playing Together Agreement') (SDG 10)**
- **Attention to resilience at school**
- Commitment to **green school grounds** and low-traffic areas around schools (SDG 3, 13, 15)
- **Youth credit to finish school; ensure that parental contributions are voluntary and not too high (SDG 1, 10)**
- Work with schools, nature and environmental organisations and children's farms to provide a selection of nature education and sustainability (SDG 7, 12, 13, 15)
- Collaborate with schools on global citizenship and youth activities around the sustainable development goals
- Support local foundations and organisations that contribute to good education elsewhere (SDG 17)

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF NOORDENVELD

To ensure that children continuously acquire knowledge, insight and skills during their school career, the SDG Alliance was embraced by the municipality of Noordenveld. On the SDG Action Day of 2020, a number of children, board members and directors of primary and secondary schools signed the alliance. [Read more.](#)

SDG 05

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND **EMPOWER** ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Most relevant targets

- 5.1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.a. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

- 5.b. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- EU Gender equality strategy 2020-2025
- European Charter for Equality of Women & Men in local life and pilot CEMR for suitable indicators
- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) 2021-2027
- Programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action
- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Reporting Authority and Code
- National policies, legislation, programmes and monitoring instruments related to emancipation and gender equality
- **National Charters**
- Programmes such as the Dutch programme **Nu Niet Zwanger** (Not Pregnant Now) with which local and national government supports vulnerable people in making a conscious choice about the time to have children



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- **Focus on gender equality in municipal policies; pay special attention to situations where multiple vulnerabilities intersect, for example women with disabilities and a migration background**
- Ensure safe, adequately lit streets and public areas (SDG 11)
- Combat trafficking in human beings, extra attention for trafficking in human beings at asylum seekers' centres
- In consultation with sex workers, ensure safe workplaces and protection against exploitation and violence (SDG 16)
- Cooperation with social partners to identify and combat (domestic) violence and sexual exploitation; provide safe (emergency) shelter
- Promote women's economic independence and entrepreneurship (SDG 8)
- Promote the participation of women, including low-skilled and migrant women, in local activities, the labour market, social and public functions
- Offer relevant training, including computer skills (SDG 4)
- Provide affordable childcare
- As an employer, pay equal pay to men and women for equal work and ensure proportionate representation of women in management positions; offer room for part-time work (SDG 8)
- Promote active and proportionate participation of women in local politics and governance (SDG 10, 16)
- Socially responsible purchasing, taking into account working conditions in production countries such as the clothing industry; using quality marks (SDG 8)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Experiment with basic income to reduce the gap between paid and unpaid work (SDG 1)
- Join the **'Safe Streets Gemeente'** ('Safe Streets Municipality') programme of UN Women NL
- Attention to vulnerable women and migrant women regarding access to **contraception** and reproductive care
- Open up a conversation with different population groups on sexual harassment in public spaces
- Follow Fair Trade principles
- Support local foundations and organisations that are committed to gender equality in the Netherlands and elsewhere (SDG 17)



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Most relevant targets

- 6.1. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6. By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a. By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b. Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- EU Water Framework Directive
- Goal: clean and healthy water in all European countries by 2027
- EU Urban Wastewater Directive
- National and decentralised laws and regulations, administrative agreements and implementation programmes around water safety, water quality and water management
- Environmental legislation and planning
- Programmes for responsible and economical use of water
- National Roadmaps and Opportunity Maps on the Wastewater Chain



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

• Prevent water shut-offs in the event of debts (SDG 1)

- Collection and disposal of urban wastewater
- Effective collection and processing of drained rainwater, disconnection of rainwater from the sewage system
- Ensure good groundwater level management, with an eye for nature conservation
- Measures to restore the biological and chemical quality of groundwater and surface water
- Encourage efficient water use in your own organisation and by local companies and residents
- Awareness and prioritisation of the use of groundwater and surface water in the event of persistent drought
- Design infrastructure tailored to expected wetness and drought (SDG 9, 11, 13)
- Set up water buffers and reservoirs in combination with tasks such as greenery and recreation (SDG 13, 15)
- Protect water quality through source measures such as building with harmless materials; pay special attention to new toxic substances

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- **Make the public space inclusive with water taps and public toilets, also sufficient toilets for women and gender-neutral toilets (SDG 3, 10, 11)**
- Promote pilots with the reuse of water in business clusters and via small-scale decentralised water treatment, also at the neighbourhood level
- Use of (purified) wastewater as irrigation water or urban recreational water
- Enhance ecological water quality by installing nature-friendly banks and restoring streams; restoring the habitat of animals and plants (SDG 15)
- Regional cooperation on water quality
- Pilots with variable sewage fees
- Reuse water in municipal buildings
- Participate in international cooperation projects and networks (SDG 17)

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF GILZE EN RIJEN

The municipality of Gilze en Rijen established a sustainable course document which is a compass in the area of climate, energy and the circular economy. The Nature and Landscape Association Gilze en Rijen came up with a plan to turn the Gilzewouwerbeek, now just a ditch, into a valley. Water is retained in the area to restore natural values. [Read more.](#)

SDG 07

ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Most relevant targets

- 7.1. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2. By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3. By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a. By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- Paris Climate Agreement
- EU Green Deal
- EU Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
- National energy and climate policy, national objectives in the area of clean energy
- National and decentralised strategy and (subsidy) programmes for increasing the share of renewable energy
- Natural Gas-Free Neighbourhoods Programme
- Green Deals, Region Deals
- Indicators and labels for sustainable construction and buildings, for example [BREEAM](#)
- Instruments like the Dutch [environmental barometer](#) and [CO2 performance ladder](#)
- Codes of conduct and guidelines for large-scale renewable energy generation and resident participation



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- **Prevention of energy poverty and power shut-offs of households due to late payment, ensure that social neighbourhood teams pay attention to this (SDG 1)**
- Actively direct the energetic improvement of sustainability of the built-up environment and both the existing housing stock and (climate-neutral and -positive) new construction, using independent advice, loans, subsidy schemes; **relieving residents and companies; ensuring with housing associations that social tenants can also benefit from the energy transition (SDG 1.10)**
- Ambitious commitment to energy savings, also for reducing costs for residents (SDG 1)
- Connect the energy transition with making homes life course-proof and comfortable, circular construction and district renewal (SDG 11, 12)
- Participatory mapping of the (spatial) potential for the generation, storage and transport of renewable energy in connection with other area tasks (SDG 2, 13, 15)
- Establish clear rules for participation of the environment in the design and use of large-scale generation; distribute benefits and burdens fairly (SDG 10, 16)
- Stimulate energy cooperatives and residents' initiative (SDG 16)
- Set up and implement transition vision of heat; introduce sustainable heat sources on a district basis, using residual heat and green gas via heat grids
- Sustainable design and management of municipal and social real estate
- Maximum utilisation of roofs for the generation of solar energy; strategic commitment to strengthening grid capacity, including in the outlying area

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Set ambitious (intermediate) targets for an energy- and climate-neutral municipality
- Deploy and learn from pilots and example projects
- Discount on land price or real estate tax for climate-neutral and energy-supplying homes
- Purchase green electricity as a municipality; only use sustainable biomass, prevent deforestation (SDG 15)
- Discourage open shop doors and terrace heating

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF EMMEN

In the municipality of Emmen, an initiative has been erected that allows you to generate your own energy together with fellow villagers and neighbours. The developers of solar field or solar parks make 20% of their solar parks available to residents, who organise themselves in a cooperative. [Read more](#)



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Most relevant targets

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth

- 8.1. Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead
- 8.9. By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- **10-year UN Programme Framework for Sustainable Production and Consumption**
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) 2021-2027
- EU programme InvestEU 2021-2027
- EU Green Deal
- National and decentralised economic structural policies, labour market policies
- Regional and local (spatial) economic development strategy, programmes aimed at supporting SMEs, strengthen local/regional labour market
- Region Deals and Green Deals
- Policy and strategy to promote a circular economy
- National and local corporate social responsibility and procurement policies
- **ISO 26000** (international norm for sustainable entrepreneurship)
- Tourism recreation policies and regulations



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- On the basis of joint analysis of opportunities and bottlenecks, regional cooperation on conditions for sustainable economic development, for example via local and regional (innovation) clusters
- Link the economic agenda to investments in the energy transition, climate adaptation, circular economy (SDG 7, 12, 13)
- Active dialogue with entrepreneurs (associations)
- Via a 'human capital agenda', link supply and demand on the labour market; actively link companies and education, including through the choice, planning and design of school locations and campuses
- Ensure an attractive entrepreneurial and business climate, with greenery, varied housing and cultural offerings; ensure (digital) connections and connection of work locations to public transport (SDG 11)
- Address (shop) vacancy
- Support SMEs in digitisation and innovation and in finding good staff
- Support start-ups, also with affordable workplaces
- Encourage socially responsible purchasing and community engagement at local companies
- Encourage sustainable tourism and recreation in the region, including through an attractive network of hiking and cycling trails, linked to restaurants, museums, shops

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Participate in the Regional Innovation Pact as in **Friesland**
- Online platform for connecting supply and demand, such as the **Osse Talent Campus** and **SDG Lokaal Oosterhout**
- Link local support for companies to their commitment to sustainability
- Promote sustainability certification for companies, hospitality and leisure locations (SDG 12)
- **Promote social entrepreneurship (SDG 8)**
- Link permits for festivals and events (sites) with commitment to local employment, positive effects for local residents and countering disruption to people and nature

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF OOSTERHOUT

The municipality of Oosterhout connects citizens, businesses, education and volunteers through an online platform to achieve sustainable economic, social and ecological goals. The SDGs are the foundation for this, being a core driver behind the Energy Transition Roadmap and Platform for the Sustainable Entrepreneur. [Read more](#)



THE SDGS: AN INDIVISIBLE AGENDA CALLING FOR INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE APPROACHES

The UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in its introduction, stipulates the integrated and indivisible nature of the 17 SDGs. Respecting and materializing the interlinkages among the goals is of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the agenda is realized. Sustainable local development requires an approach that links and balances social development, economic development, environmental management and local governance. The figure below visualizes the overlaps among the 'classic' pillars over people, planet and prosperity. Partial integration occurs where two of them meet. Sustainable development is where all three pillars overlap.



A challenge for European countries

EU member states with high GDPs usually perform well with respect to economic development and productivity, poverty reduction and social services. Yet, this in itself does not make their development trajectory sustainable. In much of the EU, high economic welfare indicators go hand in hand with poor performance with respect to the planetary goals, thus putting the long-term viability of development at risk. Neither is a good general level of social services a guarantee for the inclusive character of societies. Indeed, some of the richer EU countries have societies with deeply embedded inequalities, for instance with respect to wealth, the labour and housing market, education, or representation in decision making bodies, including at local level. Balancing the dimensions requires active commitment and design. In this booklet, many suggestions are offered for linking different aspects of sustainable development in municipal policy and practice.

Overcoming sectoral boundaries

In 2016, the signatories of the New Urban Agenda of HABITAT III committed to an urban paradigm shift that will readdress the way human settlements are planned, financed, developed, governed and managed, by adopting 'sustainable, people-centred, age- and gender-responsive and integrated approaches'.

The Pact of Amsterdam, which is at the basis of the Urban Agenda for the EU, acknowledges that 'the complexity of urban challenges requires integrating different policy aspects to avoid conflicting consequences and make interventions in cities more effective'. Yet, integrated thinking and practice are still often the exception in practice.

All municipalities will be familiar with problems arising from insufficient internal and external communication and cooperation. Different units tend to focus on their own targets and budgets in isolation from the targets of other departments. For example, social welfare and the physical environment are often managed as completely separate pillars. Even within these areas, boundaries are common. For vulnerable households, access to jobs, social security, health issues and affordable housing are interrelated concerns. Setbacks in one area can easily trigger problems in others. Yet, in public administration these areas are often looked at separately by different units. Likewise, a lack of integration occurs in spatial planning. Planners often focus on a limited number of functions. Integrated planning requires a multi-disciplinary perspective and pursuing active synergies.

Sector-specific expertise and goals remain important. But it is imperative that actors working in specific sectors take an open-minded look at how their projects or goals can be aligned to those of others. For example, investing in an environmentally clean, inclusive public transportation system can achieve: lowering carbon emissions, reducing air pollution, providing broad public access to city centers and avoiding that central areas are heavily congested by car traffic. This creates space for attractive and green public spaces.

There is growing awareness of the contributions that committed citizens and communities can make themselves to enhance their neighbourhoods and to promote social and environmental sustainability. For example, by greening public spaces, organising alternative home care services or starting local energy cooperatives. Indeed, in many neighbourhoods and villages such citizen initiatives are the ones that initiate a transition from top-down, sectoral approaches towards local, bottom-up, people-centred approaches.

City governments and the private sector need to work in partnership with each other, with civil society and communities to identify and implement sustainable solutions that are responsive to people's needs. Involving people directly in decision making is essential for setting the right priorities.

In sum, integrated approaches require local governments to think and act differently and build their capacities for interacting with other stakeholders within and outside their own organisation. Piloting approaches jointly with communities in area-based projects can be an excellent means for this. Municipalities can also challenge executive agencies, service providers, suppliers and project developers to show how their plans could contribute to multiple goals.

The SDG framework is of great help within this process. It can serve as a starting point for deciding shared values and long-term goals. It can also help ensure that all relevant dimensions are taken into account, and for identifying synergies and possible trade-offs. If trade-offs are present, the SDGs can help balancing different interests. Last but not least, the SDGs can be helpful in a process of joint monitoring and learning.

SDG 08 PART 2

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Most relevant targets

Decent work for all

- 8.5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6. By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7. Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) 2021-2027
- OECD guiding principles.
- National and decentralised policies, laws and regulations and programmes relating to work and income, the labour market, reducing unemployment, social support
- UN Disability Convention
- National or decentralised jobs plans, investment in employment for vulnerable groups and young people, programmes against early school leaving
- Programmes for social entrepreneurship
- Legislation, programmes and covenants relating to (international) corporate social responsibility and procurement
- National laws and regulations relating to the employment and housing of migrants



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Guide people with a distance to the labour market who can work based on an integrated approach to appropriate and permanent work: offer active job coaching and find customised solutions (SDG 1, 3, 4)
- Extra commitment for people with a long distance to the labour market, such as people with low education, little work experience, debts or language problems (SDG 10)
- Make sure that education offerings are properly aligned with the local labour market
- Provide sheltered workplaces
- Guarantee accessibility of workplaces for people with disabilities (SDG 10)
- Increase the opportunities of status holders for suitable work through (language) education and further training (SDG 10)
- Exercise good employership as a municipality: promote diversity and hire people with disabilities or migrant backgrounds
- Provide a safe and healthy working environment (SDG 3)
- Ensure decent housing and working conditions for migrant workers (SDG 10)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Encourage companies to employ disadvantaged groups using the social-return criterion in tendering; pay attention to staff working conditions in establishment policies
- Support and contract with social entrepreneurs: see, for example, the [Eindhoven programme](#)
- Follow fair trade principles, develop human rights criteria for municipal support to local companies
- Encourage suppliers to be affiliated with recognised chain initiatives and covenants to combat forced labour, such as clean clothing and [fair natural stone](#)



BUILD RESILIENT **INFRASTRUCTURE**, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Most relevant targets

- 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2. Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3. Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 9.4. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- 9.c. Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- EU programme InvestEU 2021-2027
- EU programme Horizon Europe 2021-2027
- EU Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
- EU Green Deal
- UN Disability Convention
- **IT standard for accessible building**
- National and decentralised industrial policy and infrastructure and transport policy; investment agendas, and implementation programmes for sustainable infrastructure
- Nature and environment laws and regulations, environmental policy
- National and decentralised agreements, covenants and strategies related to emission reduction, clean energy and raw materials use
- City Deals, Green Deals and Region Deals
- **Covenants on making commercial sites more sustainable**
- Sustainability certification in construction such as **BREEAM**, use of labels such as FSC and sustainability indicators
- Instrument: **Environmental Guide Sustainable Ground, Road and Water Construction Sector**, which provides insight into how sustainable and integral a project or area development is or can be, with attention to people, planet, profit



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- **Construction and maintenance of safe, sustainable and accessible public buildings and infrastructure**
- Provide space for business and work locations, tailored to the local economic agenda and labour market
- For the construction or redevelopment of commercial premises, (at least) focus on statutory sustainability requirements and test plans for environmental effects; work with initiators to maximise sustainability and social added value; set up a municipal sustainability contact point (SDG 7, 12, 13, 15)
- Work with companies and chain parties to focus on sustainable innovation and implement agreements on climate, raw materials and circular economy
- Encourage sustainable mobility, including charging infrastructure for electric (freight) transport and charging infrastructure in new construction
- Increase (digital) accessibility, including in the outlying area
- Facilitate green hubs, sustainability factories, testing grounds
- Ensure good coordination around underground infrastructure and prevent crowding

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Include the environmental and social aspects of sustainability in municipal investments, using instruments such as **BREEAM**
- Promote the use of circular materials and nature-inclusive construction (SDG 3, 12, 13, 15); **Green Deals infranature**
- **Provide work opportunities for people with a distance to the labour market when building infrastructure (SDG 8)**
- Offer experimental space where existing rules work against sustainability
- Examine the possibilities of timber construction without leading to deforestation (SDG 15)
- Resolve bottlenecks in mobility through agreements on less, cleaner and smarter (off-peak) travel
- Protect valuable open landscape by maximising the utilisation and revitalisation of existing buildings/sites and an optimal choice of regionally-oriented business activities; prevent proliferation of 'big box' buildings (SDG 11, 15)

SDG 10

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Most relevant targets

- 10.1. By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2. By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3. Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4. Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.7. Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights
- EU Urban Agenda
- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) 2021-2027
- **Agenda 21 for Culture**
- UN Disability Convention
- Constitution National and decentralised anti-discrimination legislation, legislation on social support and equal opportunities, emancipation
- Local government manifestos to meet the UN Disability Convention, such as the Dutch
- **Manifesto Iedereen doet mee!** ('Everyone participates!') and the **VNG Local Inclusion Agenda Manual**
- **Codes on Diversity and Inclusion**
- Rules about socially responsible procurement
- Tax and income policy, social security
- UN Refugee Convention
- Legislation and administrative arrangements related to (labour) migration, shelter of refugees, asylum
- EU Urban Agenda: **Partnership for Inclusion of migrants and refugees**



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Promote inclusive society by identifying vulnerable groups and establishing and implementing a local inclusion agenda with them
- Ensure that all municipal services are inclusive; be alert to possible discrimination
- Take control of the overall process of care and support for vulnerable groups and actively collaborate with (volunteer) organisations; promote the participation of the elderly and people with disabilities (SDG 1, 3); guide people to work (SDG 8)
- Promote social cohesion in neighbourhoods and prevent division, including through spatial and housing policy (SDG 11)
- Make public spaces inclusive with e.g., meeting places, rest areas, accessible footways
- Make sports, culture and art widely accessible (11.3)
- Combat segregation in education, with special attention to low-income households and people with a migration background (SDG 4)
- Keep libraries at the district level
- Promote participation of young people, minorities and vulnerable groups in municipal activities and in the municipal council
- Via local diversity, minority and LGBT (i)-policy, combat discrimination, harassment and violence against minorities and take positive measures (SDG 16)
- Encourage cultural diversity, also in your own organisation
- Good (emergency) shelter for refugees
- Adequate housing and support for integration, (further) education, health and participation of status holders

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Provide physical and financial space for social (citizen) initiatives from society
- Dialogue with social and religious organisations of (ethnic) minorities
- Become a dementia-friendly municipality
- Organise positive events around world citizenship and (cultural) diversity
- Become a Rainbow Community
- **City deals Inclusieve stad ('Inclusive city') and Eenvoudig Maatwerk ('Simple Customisation')**
- Socially responsible procurement, see the Action Plan for Socially Responsible Procurement & the SDGs of the municipality of Utrecht

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF NOORDENVELD

The municipality of Noordenveld links its inclusion agenda to Sustainable Development Goal 10. Together with residents, hands-on experts, volunteers, entrepreneurs and institutions, the municipality is committed to ensure that everyone in all areas of life can participate independently and on an equal level. [Read more](#)



SDG 11

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Most relevant targets

- 11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- 11.3. By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- UN Habitat New Urban Agenda
- Laws and Regulations relating to living and housing
- Local housing policy
- Policies and financial arrangements for e.g., affordable housing, sheltered housing for vulnerable groups, home-care combinations and social shelter, housing for labour migrants
- Subsidy schemes for making homes 'life course-resistant' and making them more sustainable
- EC programme ELENA
- EU Green Vehicle Directive
- Policies and programmes for road safety and for making transport and infrastructure more sustainable; public transportation procurement procedures
- UN Disability Convention
- Green Deals



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- **Varied and diversified supply of suitable and affordable housing for all target and income groups**
- Maintenance and new construction of sufficient, social (rental) homes in all districts, also in the city centre
- Energetically improve sustainability of the housing stock, where energy poverty is prevented (SDG 7)
- For new construction, take into account the quality of the public space, climate-proofing, good connection to public transport, accessibility of daily needs
- Facilities for protected and assisted living
- **Active policy to combat homelessness (SDG1)**
- Maintain facilities in villages and sparsely populated areas, keep villages liveable and accessible, work with village interest groups on vital communities
- Promote public transport use via multimodal systems, P&R and park & bike facilities, bicycle parking
- Promote emission-free driving through charging infrastructure; encourage electric share-cars (SDG 7)
- Strategic road safety plan based on risk analysis
- Safe layout of streets with priority for pedestrians and cyclists; speed restriction measures; low-traffic city centre and villages; construction of fast-bike paths (SDG 3)
- **Set up public transportation for people with disabilities (SDG 10)**
- **Customised public transportation, target group transportation**
- Make own fleet more sustainable and make performance agreements with municipal suppliers

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- **Make inclusiveness central in living vision and plans**
- Emphasis on liveability and well-being in area planning, development and redevelopment
- Take action against 'slum lords'
- Facilitate innovative forms of living(/care) (SDG 3)
- Bring the attention of eligible beneficiaries to housing subsidies (SDG 1)
- (Sustainability) loans for starters (SDG 10)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Set environmental zones; zero-emission zones for vans and lorries; differentiation in parking rates
- For tendering target group transportation, pay attention to fair working conditions for drivers (SDG 8) and to sustainability

SDG 11 PART 2

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Most relevant targets

- urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- 11.4. Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5. By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6. By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- 11.7. By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a. Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- [Leipzig Charter](#)
- UN HABITAT III: [New Urban Agenda](#)
- [EU Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities](#)
- European Urban Agenda
- EC programme ELENA
- [LEADER/POP3](#)
- European Landscape Convention
- [Natura 2000](#)
- UNESCO conventions
- Agenda 21 for Culture
- UN Disability Convention
- European Covenant of Mayors
- Legislation and policy for spatial planning; environmental visions and regulations
- Erfgoedwet ('Heritage Act')
- Urban Sustainability Policy
- City Deals, Green Deals, Region Deals
- Programmes for Clean Air, healthy living environment
- [TEEB city tool](#)



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Connect commitment to a safe, sustainable and healthy living environment with attention to inclusiveness; area-oriented work, together with residents
- **Ensure early and meaningful participation of residents and stakeholders in the formulation of plans and initiatives (SDG 10, 16)**
- **Accessible public areas, sidewalks, buildings, recreational areas, parks (including the Den Bosch city park, for example) and cultural heritage (see Breda) for everyone**
- Protection and strengthening of valuable landscapes, village and city views
- Keep neighbourhoods and centres liveable and accessible, through e.g., function mixture; combat vacancy and degradation, including in the outlying area
- Protection of tangible and intangible heritage through local cultural and heritage policy
- Collaborate with residents on greening and de-tiling; ensure play greenery, urban nature and parks with a good spread over neighbourhoods (SDG 3, 13, 15)
- Monitoring and measures for air quality, especially around roads and in districts with the greatest pollution (SDG 3)
- Water-robust design with spatial quality (SDG 13)
- Combat noise and other forms of nuisance
- Green city edges, landscape and ecological connection between built-up environment and outlying area

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- For commitment to district renewal and vital villages, **pay special attention to hard-to-reach groups and people with disabilities (SDG10)**
- Give physical, legal and fiscal space to initiatives by residents and cooperatives (SDG 16)
- Clear participation framework for stakeholder involvement in environmental policy (SDG 16)
- Redevelop cultural-historical heritage for living or working; combat landscape degradation due to scaling up, vacancy, XL distribution centres etc.
- Apply SCBA in planning and development
- Encourage initiators in landscape and nature-inclusive design; [Green Deal Groene Daken \('Green Roofs'\)](#)
- Shared playgrounds and [play-nature](#)
- Use art as a connecting element, such as <https://www.sharingartsociety.com/>
- International cooperation on sustainable urban development, for example in [DEALS](#) (SDG 17)



SDG 12

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE AND CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Most relevant targets

- 12.2. By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3. By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5. By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6. Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7. Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8. By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.a. Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- EU Green Deal
- EU Regulation REACH
- EU Single Use Plastic Directive
- EU Circular Economy Action Plan
- EU strategy for plastics in a circular economy
- EU target: 50% reduction in food waste by 2030
- National policies, frameworks and ambitions regarding the circular economy, efficient use of raw materials
- Environmental legislation and spatial planning rules; licensing policy
- Green Deals; Region Deals
- National and local policy on waste collection and reuse
- Rules, agreements and covenants for socially responsible procurement and tendering
- **ISO 20400 framework for sustainable procurement**
- Certifications like **FSC**



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Make municipal operations more sustainable; use circular, toxin-free materials and prevent waste when building and maintaining real estate, grounds and roads (SDG 9)
- Strengthen sustainable procurement through regular further education of buyers and good cooperation between departments
- Stimulate innovative and sustainable business models and work locations; invest in knowledge networks and work with stakeholders to develop **a local/regional circular economy strategy** for closing raw material loops at the area level
Example: **Circulaire stad Almere ('Circular city Almere')**
- Reduce and reuse waste in the municipality through active awareness-raising campaigns and easily accessible and affordable collection facilities that meet the needs of residents; combat litter
- Take enforcement action against dumping of (chemical) waste; prevent dumping of contaminated soil, sludge or construction materials
- The four principles of EU environmental policy are well anchored in environmental policies and rules (e.g., precautionary principle)
- Via RFPs, maximally challenge market parties to improve sustainability and sustainability reporting; use quality marks
- Combat (food) waste, for example through agreements with hospitality and retailers; experimental space for value creation of waste streams and composting (SDG 2)
- **Connect circular companies with circular craft centres as work facilities for people with a distance to the labour market**
Example: **Duurzaamheidsplein Oss ('Sustainability Square Oss')** (SDG 1, 8, 10)
- Promote Fair Shopping Routes; become a Fair-Trade municipality, participate in corporate social responsibility covenants
- International municipal cooperation for sustainable urban development and environmental management

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF OSS

Four students from the HAS University of Applied Sciences were asked to organise the national event 'Day of Sustainable Packaging' together with the Oss packaging industry. The students laid a foundation for the Regional Deal project 'Circular Packaging Oss Innovation Programme'. [Read more](#)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Active environmental education and awareness-raising campaigns on local and global sustainability issues via public information, sustainability days, sustainability contact point, online platforms
- Sustainability loans for circular housing construction (SDG 11)
- Stimulate reduction of chemical pesticides in agriculture and horticulture; establish pesticide-free zones (SDG 2, 3)

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Most relevant targets

- 13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- Paris Climate Agreement 2015
- **EU climate & energy framework 2021-2030**
- EU Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE)
- EU Climate Adaptation Strategy 2013
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- **Covenant of Mayors**
- Climate Alliance
- National climate legislation and agreements
- Environmental policy or spatial planning act
- Legislation on water management; National and decentralised climate adaptation strategy and plans (Local) crisis and disaster plan



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Do a municipal stress test for water nuisance, drought and heat
- Policies and programmes to make the municipality climate-neutral and climate-resistant (SDG 7, 9, 11)
- Water-robust spatial design using natural systems; connect area-oriented measures for water storage and drainage with other tasks and spatial quality.
Example: **Ruimte voor de Waal** ('Space for the Waal') project in Nijmegen (new city island, river park and nature development combined with water storage) (SDG 6, 9, 11, 15)
- **Raise awareness among residents and companies; together prevent heat stress with attractive greenery, such as parks, city and facade gardens, green roofs, tiny forests, also in socially vulnerable districts**
- Ensure comprehensive municipal or regional crisis/contingency plans (SDG 1, 11); water storage at residential buildings
- Relocation of vital infrastructure; no new construction in vulnerable (flood) areas
- Contribute to a well-functioning soil-water system (SDG 15)
- Maintain existing woods and planting new trees and landscape elements (SDG 15)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Ambitious and measurable climate targets for municipalities are anchored in the programme and structural budget for climate policy
- Monitor the CO2 footprint of the own organisation
- Connect with municipal partnerships to achieve the climate goals, such as the **Climate Alliance**; participate in initiatives of citizens and social organisations
- Cooperation with and capacity building in developing countries in the area of climate adaptation

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF MAASTRICHT

A successful Act4GlobalGoals day took place in September 2019. A market outside Town Hall was filled with stands from, amongst others, Maastricht Climate Action Network. [Read more](#)

SDG 14

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Most relevant targets

- 14.1. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2. By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- EU Water Framework Directive
- EU Marine strategy framework directive
- EU Urban Wastewater Directive
- Community fisheries policy (CFP)
- EU Green Deal
- EU Single Use Plastic Directive
- [KIMO](#) network
- Ramsar Convention
- [Natura 2000](#)
- Relevant national legislation and policy on coastal management or rivers, water management, fisheries
- Environmental Management Act, Nature Policy, Policy on packaging and litter
- [MSC/ASC](#) label



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Sustainable municipal sewage management and wastewater management (SDG 6)
- Combat water pollution through awareness raising and source measures at production companies (SDG 6, 12)
- Environmental requirements and collection facilities for seaports and river ports
- Coastline protection through building regulations and reinforcement of beach and dune areas (with central and provincial governments)
- Clean river deltas, beaches and coastal areas; involve students and businesses (SDG 4, 12)

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Municipal plan and public actions for addressing litter and microplastics, in particular in coastal and river communities
- Cooperate with other municipalities, including cross-border ones, such as via [KIMO](#) (SDG 17)
- [Juttersgeluk](#), **Action in which people who are less well-off in society can also work for a clean environment (SDG 3, 10)**
- Green Deal [Schone stranden](#) ('Clean Beaches')
- Promote sustainable fishing; Green Deal [Visserij voor een schone zee](#) ('Fishing for a clean sea')
- Promote MSC/[ASC](#) label



SDG 15

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Most relevant targets

- 15.1. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3. By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.5. Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.8. By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9. By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a. Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- UN Convention on Biodiversity and Strategic Plan
- EU Biodiversity Strategy
- EU Birds and Habitats Directive
- Natura 2000 Network
- EU Green Deal
- NEC Directive, Nitrates Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- European Landscape Convention
- National and decentralised legislation, policies and programmes on nature conservation, woods, soil, environmental management
- National network of nature parks and protected areas
- Environmental policy and regulations, licensing policy
- Instrument: **Environmental Guide Sustainable Ground, Road and Water Construction Sector**, which provides insight into how sustainable and integral a project or area development is or can be, with attention to people, planet, profit
- Region Deals, Green Deals as Infrastructure, which promotes nature alongside existing infrastructure
- **ISO 20400 framework for sustainable procurement**
- Labels like FSC, Rainforest Alliance



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Set up municipal policy for the conservation and strengthening of landscape, nature and biodiversity; realisation of a coherent nature network in the Netherlands
- Via an environmental plan, ensure adequate protection of nature values and the quality of soil, water and air, both in nature reserves and beyond (SDG 3, 11)
- Protect valuable landscapes and ecological connection zones; restore green and blue landscape elements also in agricultural areas (SDG 2)
- Protect (endangered) flora and fauna and their habitat; create municipal species atlas
- Combat disturbance caused by vibration, noise and light
- Independently assess nature effects or MER in the event of permit applications for major developments
- Encourage initiators in nature-inclusive building and design
- Ensure timely and proportional compensation of lost nature where conservation is not possible
- Include healthy soil as a focus in all activities; restore organic matter content in soils
- Preserve existing trees and forests, in particular older deciduous trees, and plant new ones; apply natural and climate-smart forest management
- Combat of invasive exotics with ecological means

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Designate priority areas for nature development and do not allow activities there that conflict with this goal
- Restoration of flower-rich and herb-rich berms through e.g., ecological greenery management and mowing policy
- **Become a bee-friendly city**
- With schools, nature and landscape organisations, provide nature education (SDG 4)
- **Support landscape and nature volunteers, for example with materials or plantings**
- **Raise awareness among residents of simple opportunities to promote biodiversity in their own garden**
- For construction, project development and maintenance work, pay attention to nature-inclusive work and protect nature values
- Promote nature-inclusive circular agriculture (see SDG 2.4); establish spray-free zones (SDG 3)
- Use certified wood for contracts, to prevent deforestation (SDG 10, 17)
- Provide space for tiny forests and (temporary) nature in cities, on commercial sites and fallow land (SDG 9)

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF BAARLE-NASSAU

The municipality of Baarle-Nassau's sustainability vision drawn up in 2019 is connected to the SDGs. The town hall has a thermal storage installation and the community school has been built sustainably. Information evenings on becoming natural gas-free were held as the heat transition vision in order to counter land and air degradation due to the gas industry. [Read more](#)

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Most relevant targets

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.a. Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- [EU Urban Agenda – Security in public spaces](#)
- Municipality Act and General Local Ordinance (APV)
- National and decentralised laws and policies regarding security, organised crime, trafficking in human beings, digital security
- regional and municipal Integrated Security Plans
- Street Harassment Action Guide



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Ensure public order and safety; combat nuisance; focus on prevention
- Efforts of residents in the area (e.g., neighbourhood prevention)
- Effective oversight and enforcement
- **Guarantee street safety for women and girls (safe streets); offer safe shelter**
- Socially responsible procurement, taking into account working conditions in production countries, especially for women and children
- Inhibit the trade and abuse of drugs, also with physical measures such as closing risky areas; prevention of illegal production
- Strengthen police and law enforcement capacity
- Establish local integrity and resilience policies against conflicts of interest and corruption
- Strengthen the resilience of directors in relation to threats

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Connect safety tasks to the care chain and **provide timely help for confused persons**
- Awareness and administrative approach to digital security
- Care for victims of trafficking in human beings

SDG 16 PART 2



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Most relevant targets

- 16.6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.9. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- EU privacy laws
- Municipalities Act
- Provinces and Municipalities Budgets and Accounts Decree
- National and decentralised frameworks for public administration, strengthen local democracy and participation and participation of citizens, local elections
- Laws and regulations on digitisation of administration and digital accessibility, digital security, protection of personal data

HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Close the gap between government and residents by systematically involving residents in decisions affecting them; **extra commitment for young people, the elderly and 'hard-to-reach' groups (SDG 10)**
- Strengthen service-providing and learning attitudes by actively entering the neighbourhoods and conducting satisfaction surveys; work from the tasks
- Ensure effective collaboration between departments within your own organisation and with other organisations and administrative layers
- Provide policy and clear structures for participation in decision-making and implementation
- Provide connection to and ample job opportunities for (sustainable) initiatives from society
- Participation in (regional) equivalent inter-administrative cooperation; involve the municipal council
- Ensure easily accessible polling stations (SDG 10)
- Publicly account for results and costs through a transparent fiscal cycle
- **Proactively inform citizens in understandable language**
- Improve digital access to information, **ensure that everyone can participate in digital society (SDG 10)**
- As a major data processor, actively protect the privacy of citizens; strike a good balance with data linking for security and care tasks

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Experiment with participatory budgeting and neighbourhood budgets
- Provide space for citizens' initiatives by setting low-regulation experimental zones
- Record the right to challenge and right to bid of citizens in local regulation
- Preventing digital applications in the context of 'smart city/society' from violating citizens' privacy

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: MUNICIPALITY OF THE HAGUE

To facilitate citizen's understanding of how they can access to its inclusive justice system, the Municipality of The Hague conducts research to find solutions for easier access to legal services for all residents, axed around SDG 16. [Read more](#)



STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Most relevant targets

- 17.4. Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- 17.16. Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17. Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
- 17.19. By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Relevant national and international legislation, frameworks, programmes, instruments

- UN Habitat New Urban Agenda
- Urban Agenda for the EU
- EU INTERREG
- Green Deals, City Deals, Region Deals
- International partnerships such as UCLG/CEMR, ICLEI, Covenant of Mayors, C40, Delta Cities, Citta Slow etc.; urban partnerships
- Programmes for international municipal cooperation
- UN 2030 Agenda
- OECD Framework Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development and **SDGs**
- EU Green Deal
- Local sustainability agenda with measurable goals and clear transition paths
- Municipal guidelines and best practices such as provided by VNG and VVSG: see example [see example](#)
- Rules for socially responsible procurement and tendering
- **ISO 26000** (international norm for sustainable entrepreneurship)
- National and international SDG progress reports, national statistics on broad prosperity
- Sustainability reports from national and decentralised Planning Offices and other organisations



HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS THROUGH THEIR TASKS, ROLES AND OPERATIONS

- Bring people and resources together from local, regional, intergovernmental and other partnerships
- Municipal Sustainability Fund, subsidies for innovation; connect people, knowledge and money. See, [for example Eindhoven](#)
- Cooperation within and between municipal departments,
- **Talk to residents/organisations about their implementation of partnerships**
- Actively promote cooperation between and with civil society organisations, educational institutions, businesses and residents, support the initiatives of others
- Anchor sustainability in the college and official structures with clear responsibilities
- Integrate SDGs into the programme budget, policy and implementation
- Ask officials or council members to become SDG ambassadors by adopting a SDG. [View the video](#)
- Ensure sustainable development in environmental policy
- Interdisciplinary and task-oriented work, for example tackling sustainable procurement comprehensively with all departments:
- Sustainability as part of training and communication policy
- Include public values in real estate policy

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL EFFORT:

- Organise competitions, challenges, sustainability awards
- Put corporate social responsibility on the municipal agenda; draw attention to people and the environment and the SDGs in trade missions
- Connect with SDG campaigns of Local Government Associations across borders, such as that of VNG in the Netherlands and VVSG in Flanders; stimulate dialogue on the SDGs
- Exchange of knowledge, strengthening (administrative) capacity in partner governments in developing countries and transition countries; offer young officials from low- and middle-income countries a learning experience
Example: Talent for Governance programme of The Hague Academy. Learn about the programme [here](#).
- Connect with Fair Trade principles; use of quality marks; apply ISO 26000
- **Systematically check regulation and decisions for effects elsewhere in the world and on future generations, apply social and environmental cost-benefit analysis; sustainable banking and investment**
- Periodically monitor own sustainability policy and be accountable via municipal sustainability reporting
- Use benchmarking with other municipalities as a basis for improved efforts

COLOPHON

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'Nowadays it is unthinkable to imagine the municipality of Oss without the SDGs. It is not about talking about goals that are on a safe distance, but about acting here and now in accordance with a sustainable world.'

Wobine Buijs-Glaudemans, Mayor of Oss

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