



Global Compact
Network UK

Measuring Up

How the UK is performing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the UK Government joined every other country in the world and committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Goals provide a holistic framework to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, combat catastrophic climate change, and protect our natural environment by 2030. Yet with just eight years to go, and almost halfway through the 2030 Agenda, the UK is far from achieving the Goals. This year, the UN Global Compact Network UK will be *Measuring Up* the UK's performance against each of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets to understand how and where the Government, and other organisations, should focus efforts for the remainder of the Decade of Action.

What's happened so far

In 2018, UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) produced [Measuring Up](#) which reviewed for the first time how the UK was performing against the SDG Targets, the wider policy context, and the historical trends that affect us achieving the Goals. UKSSD mobilised a community of stakeholders to deliver the comprehensive assessment of the UK's performance and recommendations for action.

The following year saw the publication of the UK Government's [Voluntary National Review](#). However, in the three years since the Voluntary National Review little has changed, and progress on the SDGs has stalled and even reversed in some areas of the country. There is an urgent need for the Government to demonstrate top-level political leadership if the UK is to realise these Goals by 2030.

It's time to "Measure Up" again

The success of the first *Measuring Up* report was the result of an open, transparent, and inclusive process where a wide range of stakeholders had opportunities to engage. The UN Global Compact Network UK will be replicating this approach by engaging hundreds of stakeholders to produce an updated report four years on.¹

Measuring Up 2.0 will:

- Mobilise a diverse group of stakeholders to take stock of the UK's performance against the SDGs;
- Illuminate the opportunities and challenges for civil society, government, and business that lie in delivering the Goals;
- Establish key pathways and actionable plans for all stakeholders, including the UK Government, to work together to achieve the SDGs;
- Call on the UK Government to uphold its commitments from the first Voluntary National Review, identify responsibilities within the Cabinet Office to coordinate and lead on this Agenda, and commit to producing a second Voluntary National Review.

How you can help

We are looking for volunteers from business, civil society, and academia, to take part in a stakeholder review of our initial research and test it for rigour ahead of the final publication.

A team of researchers have identified the relevant data from the [UK SDG data](#) platform. Our Chapter Leads, selected from eminent organisations and academics with expertise on the Goal, have reviewed multiple data sources and produced a Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rating for each of the SDG Targets. We need your help to review this analysis, and we'd like to hear your own insights on the local, regional, and national challenges and best practice on this agenda. The analysis is ready to be reviewed here:

- [Goal 1: No Poverty](#)
- [Goal 2: Zero Hunger](#)
- [Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being](#)
- [Goal 4: Quality Education](#)
- [Goal 5: Gender Equality](#)
- [Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#)
- [Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy](#)
- [Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth](#)
- [Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure](#)
- [Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities](#)
- [Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities](#)
- [Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production](#)
- [Goal 13: Climate Action](#)
- [Goal 14: Life Below Water](#)
- [Goal 15: Life on Land](#)
- [Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions](#)
- [Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals](#)

It's important to note that these documents are intended as a starting point and are not a finished or definitive performance assessment. The information is a product of an initial overview completed within a short period of time, and references to policy and legislation are largely illustrative rather than exhaustive. Evidence has not been collected through a systematic review and as a result we expect there will be some omissions or oversights for which the authors apologise.

We would be grateful for your feedback, comments, corrections, and challenges. In particular, we recognise that some of the data and policies have a bias towards England. We would be grateful for additions that enable us to better reflect the variation in context across the different Devolved Administrations.

If you have any broader feedback on the progress of the SDGs in the UK that doesn't specifically align to one of the Goals, we'd also love to hear from you. Please share your comments with us [here](#).

What happens next

The templates will inform a publication which will be published in September. We will be acknowledging all contributors and supporters of the project in the final publication so please add your name [here](#) – even if you'd just like to show your support for the project but do not have any specific comments to add.

We will launch a communications campaign to promote the report and host a number of events to explore ways in which we can further mobilise stakeholders and encourage government action at all levels, leveraging the findings to tackle challenges and drive change in the UK.

To receive updates on the report and more information about our events [sign up to our SDG Advocacy mailing list](#).



With thanks to

Our researchers: Dr Graham Long and his colleagues at Newcastle University, and Dr Kate Roll and her colleagues at Sustainable Development Solutions Network UK (SDSN UK), hosted by UCL IIPP.

Our chapter leads: Arden University, Bristol City Council, Change Agents UK, FareShare, Cardiff University Water Research Institute, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Glasgow Caledonian University, Marine Conservation Society, National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), Newcastle University, Regen, Queen's University Belfast, The Partnering Initiative, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University of Bristol, University of Sussex, University of the West of England.

Our sponsors: Shoosmiths and SSE.

Contact [Jessica Lobo](#), Global Goals Programme Manager, for further details of the project and sponsorship opportunities. More information about UN Global Compact Network UK can be found online: www.unglobalcompact.org.uk.

ⁱ In 2020 UKSSD handed over the mission of their network to the UN Global Compact Network UK to build on our collective SDG advocacy work. More information about UKSSD can be found online: www.ukssd.org.uk.