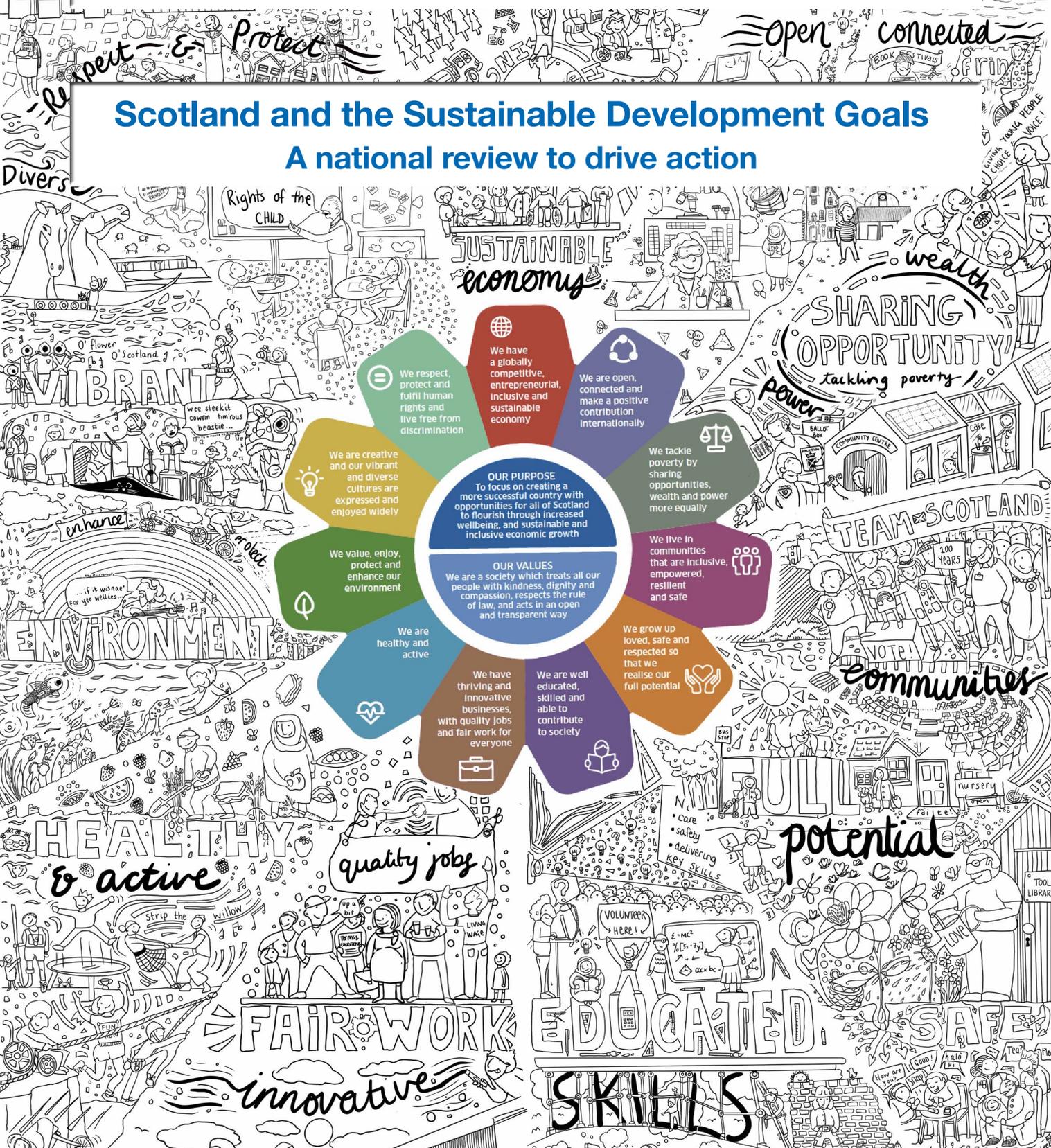




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Scotland and the Sustainable Development Goals

A national review to drive action





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CONTEXTUAL NOTE

This report is a collaborative effort between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Network Scotland, Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). The initial commission for contributions was made in February 2019, with a final draft made publicly available in September 2019 for comment. This publication is the final draft and is current as of September 2019. As such, it does not cover the period of the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland (from March 2020 onwards).

The Supplementary Review is intended to help shape conversations about priorities, how we can learn from success and how to take action as a country to make good on the 2030 Agenda and Scotland's wellbeing framework – the National Performance Framework (NPF). These conversations are now set in the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, its implications for policy delivery, and how we respond to the crisis, recover from the harms it has caused and renew Scotland.

In order to focus our collective efforts on addressing the challenges raised by COVID-19, we have taken a pragmatic approach to publishing this final draft version, with minor amendments, reflecting comments made in response to the version we made available in September 2019. It brings together the evidence, actions and stories of how we were making progress towards the SDGs in the pre-pandemic world. While we believe it to be accurate as of that date, readers are advised to check the latest position, for example, via the websites of the Scottish Government, SDG Network Scotland or COSLA.

In bringing the publication process to a conclusion, we want to look ahead to how the SDGs can inform policy development and strategies for a balanced and sustainable recovery out of the COVID-19 crisis. We trust that this draft review provides a statement of our pre-COVID-19 ambition on driving progress towards the SDGs in Scotland and keeps in sight our achievements so far. We hope it can function as a baseline to track progress towards the SDGs, and a point of reference to track impacts of the pandemic on the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and on our National Outcomes.



INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. As part of this, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action. Scotland signed up to the SDGs in 2015 and this review brings together evidence, actions and stories of how we are making progress to meet the Goals. It contains inspirational examples of how people across Scotland are taking action to make us a more successful country and to ensure we are at the forefront of this international agenda. It also highlights some of the challenges we face.

This review, a collaborative effort between the SDG Network Scotland, Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), scratches the surface of the depth of activity across Scotland. It is intended to help shape future conversations about where our priorities lie, how we can learn from success and how to take action as a country to make good on the 2030 Agenda and our wellbeing framework – the National Performance Framework (NPF). There will be many individuals and organisations across Scotland that have important contributions to make but which have not been part of this review and the SDG work which underpins it. We look forward to extending the reach of the SDGs and the NPF to them in the months and years to come.

This review provides an overall picture of activity and performance based on the evidence currently available. Although the Goals are global by nature, the need to place them in the context of our ambitions in Scotland is important. We recognise too that the targets which underpin each of the SDGs may not always be the most relevant measures of success in a Scottish context. Also, where performance in Scotland is strong, such as with climate action and

education, this does not mean that we are not seeking to go further than the ambitions laid out in the SDGs. Similarly, where we face challenges in meeting Goals, decisions will need to be taken on what to prioritise and what further actions are required. Complementary to this review are [Scotland's Wellbeing: Delivering the National Outcomes](#) report which provides an overall picture of Scotland's wellbeing, and the [Scottish Government's Medium-Term Financial Strategy: May 2019](#) which provides an important backdrop on available resources. Since this review was developed, the Scottish Government published its Programme for Government 2019-20 [Protecting Scotland's Future](#), and particularly relevant actions have been added to this review by way of update on the evidence received in 2019.

The relationship between the SDGs and the powers of the Scottish Parliament is complex and this review does not attempt to narrow or adjust performance on the basis of actions which would be within the powers of the Scottish Parliament. Indeed the actions that individuals and communities are taking often transcend this complexity.

The challenges outlined in this review are not exhaustive and more will emerge in the discussions and actions that follow. This review aims to provide a focus to kick-start these discussions and the collaboration around this.

In total actions from over 300 organisations from across civil society, the public and private sectors are included in this report. While much of this material describes the role of government – local and national – and public bodies, to be successful in delivering on the 2030 Agenda a united effort to mobilise people of all ages from all walks of life is needed.



DELIVERING THE GOALS

Scotland's National Performance Framework



Our Purpose

sets out the direction and ambition for Scotland

Our Values

help guide our actions

11 National Outcomes

describe what we want to achieve

81 National Indicators

give us a broad picture of progress

The SDGs require local adaptation, meaning that they should help foster and enrich existing local and national plans or programmes, helping to identify any gaps and lend momentum. Scotland's NPF is the main mechanism through which we are localising and implementing the SDGs in Scotland. The NPF is Scotland's wellbeing framework and the SDGs share the same aims contained in this: to encourage transformational social, economic and environmental change to achieve increased wellbeing and a more peaceful and prosperous future, recognising our assets and their relevance to future generations as well as our use and distribution of resources.

Scotland's NPF was launched in 2007, put into law in 2015, and was last refreshed in 2018. The NPF sets an overall purpose and vision for Scotland. It highlights the broad National Outcomes that support the Purpose and provides measures on how well Scotland is progressing towards the National Outcomes. The NPF

is intended to inform discussion, collaboration and planning for policy and services across Scotland – encompassing public sector, businesses, civil society and communities. The 2018 refresh of the NPF saw the most fundamental change, and was launched by Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, and COSLA in June 2018. This followed extensive consultation with experts as well as the public, involving over 200 organisations in Scotland and cross-party adoption by the Scottish Parliament. The NPF is not just a government framework but belongs to the whole of Scotland. Therefore, through the NPF everyone has a role to play in making a better Scotland a reality.

The Values statement within the NPF describes a society in which we treat each other with kindness, dignity and compassion, and in which we respect the rule of law, openness and transparency. At their core, the Values inform the behaviours we want to see in everyday life in Scotland and are part of a commitment to improving individual and collective wellbeing. The Values also inform decisions about what we choose to prioritise to progress the National Outcomes and Purpose, and how we shape our behaviour to achieve these priorities. This means placing greater emphasis on openness and transparency, taking action based on listening and understanding real life experiences as well as the quantitative evidence. This, and the focus on improving equality within the NPF, work hand in hand with the leave no one behind agenda which underpins the SDGs.

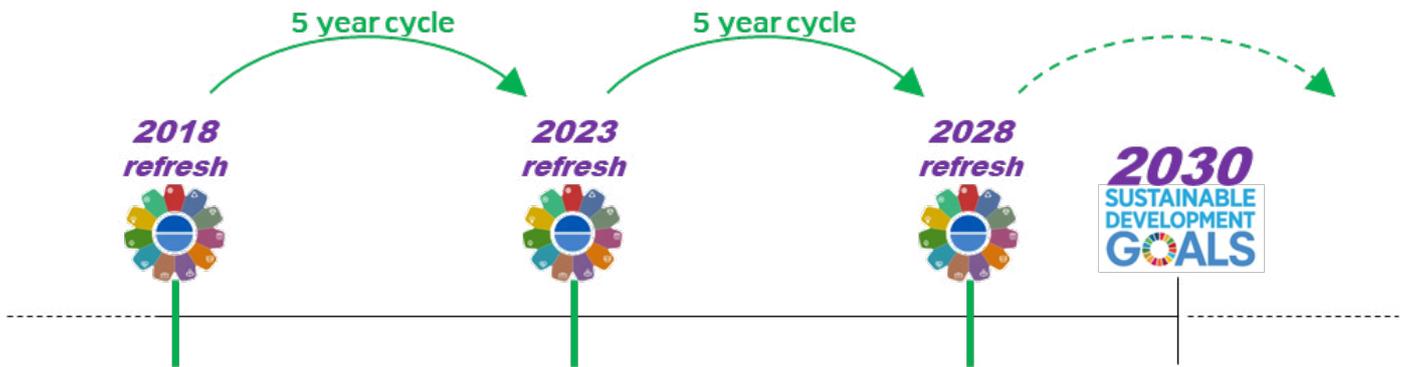
Approach to data and monitoring

Similar to the SDGs, the NPF has a set of indicators which draw on social, environmental and economic measures to help us better understand our performance, and identify priority areas needing further attention. As natural allies, the NPF already embeds the SDGs through mapping alongside the National Outcomes, and we have also aligned Indicators where possible. As part of this review we have learned more about how we can further strengthen Scotland's local mechanism to truly reflect the SDGs and to help us make them a reality by 2030. This review has revealed challenges with the available data. It also shows that in the instances where the NPF and SDGs do not closely align, we need to make sure we do not lose sight of the 2030 Agenda.

Further data and evidence can be found at:
www.nationalperformance.gov.scot

A partnership approach to implementation

The NPF is underpinned by legislation through *the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015*. The legislation places a duty on Scottish Ministers to consult on, develop and publish National Outcomes for Scotland and to review them every five years. This means that every future NPF cycle will help Scotland play its part in achieving the SDGs.



As part of the NPF being a Scotland-wide effort, the legislation also places a duty on public authorities to have regard to the National Outcomes in carrying out their functions. That means that how public bodies deliver services for the people of Scotland, and how they identify priorities and spend money has to contribute to achieving a better Scotland as outlined in the NPF. This also extends to communities. In Scotland, we have Community Planning Partnerships which bring together all the services taking part in community planning. There are 32 of these across Scotland, one for each council area. These partnerships also have to show that their work and focus is aligned with the NPF through the **Local Outcome Improvement Plans**, a mechanism by which improved outcomes for their communities are delivered. They are based on a clear understanding of local needs and reflect agreed local priorities, all of which contributes to the NPF.

Working in partnership is critical to achieving both the National Outcomes and the SDGs, as Goal 17 highlights. No one organisation, including government national and local, can achieve the ambitions alone, which is why we have taken a collaborative approach to this review. In Scotland we already have a good partnership infrastructure in place which the NPF approach has helped to nurture over the years by providing shared Outcomes and a common language. We also know, however, that there is more that can be done to work across boundaries to make a positive difference.

Leave no one behind

Significant advances have been made in tackling discrimination and disadvantage but Scotland is still too unequal and some of these inequalities are long-standing and deep-rooted. There is a range of legislation, plans and policies in place in Scotland that support the leave no one behind agenda, including the Public Sector Equality Duty to support public authorities to deliver services and policies which take account of the differences between us. The **Equality Evidence Finder** is a key resource to find equality evidence to inform policy and decision making.

Scotland's approach to international development

While much of the material provided to this review is focused on domestic implementation, international development is a key part of Scotland's global contribution within the international community. It encompasses our core values, historical and contemporary, of fairness and equality. We place great importance on Scotland being a good global citizen. This means playing our part in tackling global challenges including poverty, injustice and inequality. In 2016, following a public consultation, the Scottish Government published **Global Citizenship: Scotland's International Development Strategy**, which sets out Scotland's contribution to the international community and is specifically designed to align with the SDGs. Our Strategy is focused on four partner countries: Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Pakistan; and has an International Development Fund to support and empower those four partner countries.

Key to Scotland's approach to international development is the concept that Scotland can be a global leader in international development, providing ethical leadership on issues such as climate change. Being a global leader is not necessarily just about size in absolute monetary terms, but the impact that can be made across government policy and through wider involvement outwith government. Therefore, increasingly, we are focusing our international development work through the lens of our commitment to the 'beyond aid' agenda: to do no harm, to eliminate policy incoherence that would detract from Scotland's international development goals or efforts; and going further, identifying policies beyond international development policy that can contribute positively to development outcomes.

The Scottish Parliament, sustainable development and the SDGs

Sustainable development has formed part of the Scottish Parliament's role since it re-convened in 1999. Considerable progress has been made using sustainable development thinking to improve how the Parliament scrutinises the Scottish Government, and makes law. Sustainable development thinking is also being used to assess how the parliament operates as an organisation. This work helps the Parliament meet the statutory requirements placed on all Scottish public bodies, under the [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#), to act sustainably. Standing Orders, the rules of Parliament, require the Scottish Government and others introducing legislation to assess sustainable development impact, and for parliament to scrutinise that assessment and the legislation itself. For legislation to be effectively scrutinised Parliament needs to have the right capability and tools. The Parliament has committed resource to establish sustainable development as a scrutiny lens. Parliamentary officials have sought to integrate sustainable development into work carried out by parliamentary committees. Such an approach improves scrutiny by:

- Garnering a broader range of written and oral evidence highlighting social and environmental issues
- Mitigating committee silos through the more holistic and systemic approach of sustainable development
- Focusing scrutiny on what is important – the root causes of problems and potential unintended or perverse consequences of policy/legislation

The Parliament has developed an innovative Sustainable Development Impact Assessment (SDIA) tool rather than a checklist which can result in assessments being a 'tick-box exercise'. This tool is based on the requirement for users to talk through the implications of any given piece of policy or legislation. This enables users to engage with the issues, question their own and other's assumptions, and develop a deeper understanding of implications. The Parliament's Non-Government Bills Unit is now routinely using the SDIA tool to help shape and assess the impact of legislation. Audit Scotland, Scotland's independent auditor, is also working on developing an approach to using this tool and/or the SDGs to audit public bodies. Such an approach was used in scrutinising the NPF with nine parliamentary committees using sustainable development as a scrutiny lens. The Scottish Parliament plans to further develop this work and share learning with other parliaments.

Approach to this review and link to UK Voluntary National Review published by the UK Government

A partnership

In Scotland, many groups with an interest in sustainability and development have been engaging with national and local government to explore ways of working and to undertake projects, programmes and initiatives. The SDG Network Scotland, an open coalition bringing together the voices of over 380 people and organisations across Scotland, was formed to assist with the development of a Scotland wide response to the SDG challenge.

The UN expects all 193 member states to review national progress towards the SDGs at least once and to present a report on this to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. This process, or Voluntary National Review (VNR), is an important element of the 2030 Agenda and is intended to reflect current SDG performance, identify challenges and achievements, and highlight next steps in relation to these. The UK has not presented a VNR before and has done so for the first time this summer.

The UK VNR, presented to the UN by the UK Government, has been used as an opportunity to take stock and assess progress in Scotland within the context of the NPF and to help consolidate relationships with and between SDG and NPF delivery partners. The Network has worked in partnership with

the Scottish Government and COSLA on production of material to inform the UK VNR. A VNR Working Group was established in 2018 to focus on this work. The group has provided the principal partnership and guiding mechanism through which Scotland's contribution to the VNR was developed and as a catalyst to widen involvement.

Members include Scotland's International Development Alliance, UN House Scotland, One Stone Advisors, Learning for Sustainability Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful, University of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scottish Human Rights Commission, University of St Andrews, Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, COSLA and the Scottish Government. The group has taken an approach based on openness, transparency and inclusion echoing both the Open Government principles and the UN's principles for conducting the Review, for example, making material publicly available for review and comment.

Our underpinning principles for the development of material for the VNR in line with UN guidelines, were:

- For the VNR to develop through and be reflective of our overall effort to meet the 2030 Goals
- To uphold a meaningful partnership approach to development
- To leave no one behind and involve a wide cross-section of different sectors
- To produce an open, honest and constructive account of achievements, gaps, challenges, opportunities and priorities

Further detail on the Network and process, policies and principles for this work and this review are available at www.globalgoals.scot. The approach adopted has helped to establish and maintain trusting, respectful and productive relationships throughout the VNR process. The extent and character of this partnership has provided us with a strong foundation for building our longer term collaborations through this report and beyond.

The approach to developing Scotland's contribution to the VNR included:

- Raising awareness and involvement in the SDGs including through social media crowdsourcing and communications pack
- Survey of views and facilitated conversations on SDGs actions and performance through the Network, Scottish Government and COSLA
- Commissioning independent baseline assessment of Scotland's performance against the SDGs and delivery capacity and infrastructure. This was produced by Dr Graham Long of Newcastle University and has provided an excellent point of reference for this review

In addition, the University of the West of Scotland and Oxfam Scotland published an [independent snapshot review](#) of Scotland's progress in meeting the SDGs. All of this activity has given us the opportunity to reflect nationally on where we are with achieving the National Outcomes and the SDGs, to consider what 'good' practices and processes look like, and to assess where more action is needed on our journey to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The approach taken by the UK Government to the VNR meant that it was decided within Scotland that a Scottish National Review was needed, showing both the full results of the process and valuable contributions received, and the next steps for Scotland. This review provides a more detailed assessment and account of Scotland's story to inform future conversations and actions. Scotland, along with the other devolved administrations in the UK, did however provide a contribution to the [UK's Voluntary National Review](#), published on 26 June 2019 by the UK Government. This review serves to enhance and expand upon the Scottish content presented in the UK VNR.

Approach to data

As Scotland's NPF is a key mechanism to localise the 2030 Agenda in Scotland, NPF indicator data is included throughout this review where it effectively highlights performance and challenges in realising the Goals. This evidence has been supplemented with other data from a range of sources where it is important to illustrate progress with data more closely matching the relevant Goal, target or indicator.

Goal Chapters



Poverty



Education



Children

This goal seeks to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Scotland is committed to tackling poverty, inequality and deprivation. No child or adult should have their chances limited by poverty. We want Scotland to be a place where people are healthier, happier and treated with respect; where opportunities, wealth and power are spread more equally. Our NPF states that we ‘*tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.*’ Extreme poverty, by global definitions, is not evident in Scotland (target 1.1) therefore this chapter focuses on poverty as relevant to Scotland’s circumstances.

The long term trend for reducing poverty in Scotland is positive, though the shorter term trend appears negative. However, some measures of poverty may have stopped rising in the most recent figures, although further years of data are required to confirm this (see data boxes on following page). The Scottish Government is using a range of indicators to monitor poverty, such as relative and absolute poverty, and persistent poverty. A household is in relative poverty if its income is below 60% of the middle household income in the UK (the relative poverty threshold). Relative poverty is a measure of whether the income of the poorest households are keeping pace with the middle income households across the UK. A household is in absolute poverty if its income is below the poverty threshold from 2010/11. This way, it measures whether the incomes of the poorest households are keeping pace with rising prices. ‘Persistent poverty’ identifies the proportion of people in relative poverty for three or more out of four years.

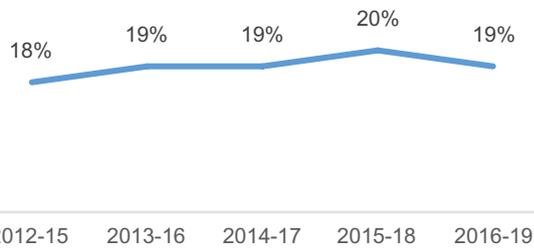
The proportion of people in relative poverty after housing costs in Scotland has been increasing in recent years, up to 20% in 2015-18 but leveling to 19% in 2016-19, while the absolute poverty rate after housing costs have been stable and is at 17% in 2016-19. In 2014-18 period, 13% of people in Scotland were in persistent poverty after housing costs.

The Data Picture: Relative poverty

Target 1.2 (Indicator 1.2.1): 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.

After housing costs, 19% of people in Scotland were living in relative poverty in 2016-19.

Proportion of individuals living in private households with an equivalised income of less than 60% of the UK median after housing costs



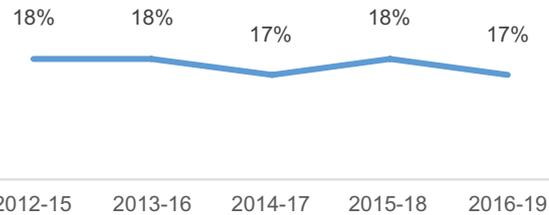
Source: Family Resources Survey

The Data Picture: Absolute poverty

Target 1.2 (Indicator 1.2.1): 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.

After housing costs, 17% of people in Scotland were living in absolute poverty in 2016-19.

Proportion of individuals in absolute poverty (below 60% of inflation adjusted 2010/11 UK median income)



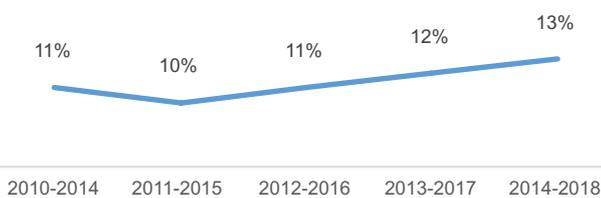
Source: Family Resources Survey

The Data Picture: Persistent poverty

Target 1.2 (Indicator 1.2.1): 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.

After housing costs, 13% of people in Scotland were living in persistent poverty between 2014 and 2018. Children have consistently had a higher risk of living in persistent poverty than working age adults or pensioners, with 17% of children in Scotland in persistent poverty in 2014-18. This compares to 15% in 2013-2017.

Proportion of people in Scotland living in persistent poverty (in poverty for three or more of the last four years) after housing costs



Source: Understanding Society Survey

Fairer Scotland (targets 1.2, 1.5)

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to tackling poverty and increasing social inclusion in our society. National and local government, the third sector, civil society organisations, and the third sector are finding ways of working together to fight inequality. The Poverty Truth Community (previously the Glasgow Poverty Truth Commission) illustrates the importance placed on the voices of those experiencing poverty to inform how Scotland tackles poverty and leaves no one behind.

The [Fairer Scotland Action Plan](#) was launched in 2016, in partnership with the wider public, private and third sectors. Fairer Scotland is a long term initiative to create a fairer country. The Scottish Government is working with communities and learning from those with real experience of inequalities and poverty to shape policies. The ultimate aim is to build a better country – one with low levels of poverty and inequality, genuine equality of opportunity, stronger life chances, and support for those who need it.

The Plan sets out 50 actions to build a fairer and more equal country. As a result, the national Poverty and Inequality Commission was established in July 2017. The Commission's main role is to provide independent advice to Scottish Ministers on reducing poverty and inequality in Scotland and to scrutinise the progress that is being made. Through the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the Commission transitioned to a statutory footing from July 2019.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, introduced in April 2018, places a legal responsibility on the Scottish Government and a range of public bodies in Scotland to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcomes caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. The Duty involves considering evidence relating to both existing inequalities of outcome and the impact of policy decisions on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. Over time this will support a better understanding of where there has been success in improving outcomes for those in poverty. The Duty is subject to a three year implementation phase where the Scottish Government will be working with the Equality and Human Rights Commission – the Duty regulator – to make sure the Duty delivers better decision making.

Communities should be supported to tackle poverty on their own terms. In 2019/20, this includes resource for the new Investing in Communities Fund, enabling communities to find solutions that work for them and support them through multiyear funding to deliver long-term improvements. The fund is designed to be flexible around community needs and aspirations in the design of local solutions including enabling communities to have a direct say in how budgets are spent in their areas; supporting community-led design projects; take ownership of local assets, and the delivery of community-led projects and vital services that help to loosen the grip of poverty.

The Fund supports a wide range of projects such as delivering skills and learning courses to increase employment opportunity, increasing affordable childcare, financial advice support, job creation, community food initiatives, fuel poverty advice and advocacy, and support services that deliver health and wellbeing benefits. In terms of unlocking multigenerational cycles of child poverty, funded projects also currently include proactive support to help young people from a cross-section of challenging backgrounds with their educational attainment; employability skills; confidence and skills building; health and wellbeing; alcohol and drug awareness; and anti-bullying awareness. Since 2015, this programme of work has supported over 450 different community bodies and organisations, and annually supports over 300 projects.

The Scottish Budget 2019-20 is supporting Scotland's communities to tackle poverty on their own terms in a variety of ways. For example, funding for the independent charity PAS (previously Planning Aid Scotland) will support the engagement of communities in the Scottish planning system (see also Goal 11); while the £20 million Empowering Communities Programme enables communities to tackle poverty and inequality and take forward regeneration in their areas on their own terms. Resource for Scotland's Credit Unions supports the provision of affordable lending and savings in the heart of communities and protects people from predatory lenders and unmanageable debt; while our investment in affordable credit is helping to support ethical, affordable, not-for-profit agencies in areas including Falkirk, West Lothian, Fife, Glasgow and Edinburgh. In addition to helping grow the not-for-profit lending sector by facilitating low income households' access to mid-cost

credit, combating for-profit ‘pay day’ lenders, these organisations provide wider financial inclusion advice and support to help increase borrowers’ financial sustainability. Local Authorities are also working with the third sector to establish shared-premises hubs to make it easier for local residents to access advice and support services, and to support the integration of those services such as the West Lothian partnership centre in Bathgate.

Local focus on local outcomes (targets 1.2, 1.4, 1.5)

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 obliges Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland to plan for improved local outcomes with a view to reducing inequalities of outcome, through the participation of socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Local Outcome Improvement Plans place a priority on addressing poverty and inequality. Whilst these shine a light on future ambitions, local authorities and their partners have a long-standing history of supporting people in poverty, and socially and economically deprived communities, through their policies and universal services. These include education and children’s services, housing, employability, transportation, hardship and crisis support, advice and support, and income maximisation. Many of these services are supplemented by additional partnership programmes and projects with a focus on alleviating poverty. Local authorities also use their core resources to support third sector agencies to make complementary contributions, often within and with small geographical communities and with communities of interest.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced a new Duty on local authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare and publish annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs). Through these reports, the first of which were published in June 2019, local areas are required to outline the action taken in the previous reporting year, to contribute towards reducing child poverty, and action which will be taken in future years. The reporting process will aid areas in identifying local needs, mapping existing services and gaps which exist and strengthening key partnerships to maximise the impact of investment.

Several Community Planning Partnerships (including Edinburgh, Dundee, Fife, North Ayrshire and Renfrewshire) have set up Fairness Commissions in

recent years to consider ways to improve the way that they tackle poverty and reduce inequalities. This work has raised aspirations and challenged ways of working, and the most effective actions. Emerging policy and programme priorities have included increasing access to local savings opportunities; access to affordable credit; increased welfare rights, advice and advocacy; enhanced out-of-school holiday provision; innovative child care provision; and a range of measures to address food insecurity.

Closer Look - Access to Free Sanitary Products

Scottish Government is working in partnership with key stakeholders in the public and third sector to support people to access free sanitary products in a dignified way, following a set of Guiding Principles. Scotland was the first country in the world to provide access to these products in all schools, colleges and universities. In January 2019 the Scottish Government announced further funding to increase the number of places where these vital products are available and to reach more people. This is leading to products being accessed from community settings including libraries, community centres and sports centres. It has provided funding to FareShare to expand access to sanitary products through their network of third sector partners, reaching 35,000 people on lower incomes. In total the Scottish Government will invest around £9 million in tackling this issue in 2019/20. COSLA, and its member councils, were amongst the first organisations in Scotland to offer free sanitary products and this wider rollout further enhances this provision. Support for this issue has not been restricted to Scotland, with some of our funding supporting projects in Malawi and Rwanda which allows local women to learn a trade and gain an income through making and selling reusable sanitary towels.

Child poverty (target 1.2)

Poverty remains a human rights issue facing children in Scotland and was raised as a serious concern by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2016 in its report on the UK as a whole. Since then, the Scottish Government has committed to incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots Law.

In the three year period 2015-18, 24% of Scottish children were living in relative poverty after housing costs. The rate of in-work poverty is increasing with 60% of working age adults experiencing poverty between 2015-18 living in households where someone is in paid employment (compared to 48% in 1996-1999). This raises serious concerns for children living in these families, with 66% of children in poverty across Scotland living in families where someone is working. Certain groups of children and young people are disproportionately impacted by poverty. Younger children are at particularly high risk, with almost half of all families with children experiencing poverty in Scotland having a child under five years-old. Children living with a disabled parent/carer and children with a disability are also at higher risk of experiencing poverty, as are children from minority ethnic backgrounds.

The Scottish Government actions focus on influencing the three key drivers of child poverty reduction: increasing income from work and earning; reducing household costs; and maximising income from social security and benefits in kind. The need to mitigate the detrimental effects of poverty on those children who have already experienced it – improving these children’s life chances so that they do not grow up to become the parents of children in poverty – has also been taken into account.

Closer Look - Reducing child poverty

In 2018 the Scottish Government and the Hunter Foundation (THF) announced the creation of a £7.5 million Innovation Fund aimed at delivering systemic change in child poverty – THF will contribute up to £2.5 million over four years with the Scottish Government contributing £5 million. The focus of the fund is to trial new approaches or attempt to scale existing proven approaches that have proven success in reducing child poverty. Central to this approach is that families and carers needs come first, and system needs second.

The Child Poverty Act (target 1.2)

The Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017 places a Statutory Duty on local authorities and NHS Health Boards to work together in their areas to produce annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs). This work is supported by non-statutory guidance that accompanies that Act and reflects the priorities in the national delivery plan. This recognises the pivotal role of local work to contribute towards meeting national targets. Local authorities alongside their Health Board, working closely with local partners, undertake considerable work to tackle poverty, to support low income households to manage their situation, and to narrow inequalities in outcomes.

The Act sets targets towards the eradication of child poverty in Scotland. It sets four ambitious targets, based on single year figures, to be met by 2030 and places duties on Scottish Ministers to prepare delivery plans regularly, and report annually on progress. The targets are that, of children living in households in Scotland:

- Less than 10% experience relative poverty
- Less than 5% experience absolute poverty
- Less than 5% experience combined low income and material deprivation
- Less than 5% experience persistent poverty

MEASURE	2017/18 AHC (Scot)	2023/24 INTERIM TARGET	2030/31 TARGET
Relative poverty	24%	18%	10%
Absolute poverty	22%	14%	5%
Combined low income & material deprivation	14%	8%	5%
Persistent poverty	17%	8%	5%

Achieving these ambitious targets would exceed SDG target 1.2 as regards children. The first Delivery Plan due under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act was published on 29 March 2018, backed by a multi-million pound package of support, including a £50 million Tackling Child Poverty Fund. The Plan, **Every Child, Every Chance**, covers the period 2018-22 and is the first of three to be published, outlining action to progress to the 2030 targets.

The plan identifies six priority families as at highest risk of child poverty – lone parents, minority ethnic families, families with a disabled adult or child, families with young mothers aged under 25, families with a child under one and larger families (3+ children).

Through the Plan and wider commitments, the Scottish Government is taking a range of new action to help families on low incomes, such as increasing the minimum level of School Clothing Grants to £100, estimated to benefit 120,000 children each year; almost doubling publically funded Early Learning and Childcare to 1,140 hours by August 2020; investing in a range of enhanced support through social security; and increasing investment to support children experiencing food insecurity during the holidays. Scotland provides free school meals to all primary 1 to 3 pupils and those most in need from primary 4 to secondary 6. This enables access to healthy, nutritious food and also supports low income families.

The Scottish Government's first annual progress report¹ sets out the range of actions being taken to deliver progress against the ambition of ending child poverty in Scotland. For the first time, it also includes an estimate of spend targeted at low income households and children in poverty. It finds that £1.4 billion of the total 2018/19 spend was targeted at low income families, and within that, £527 million of spend was targeted at children in poverty.

Early learning and childcare (target 1.2)

In Scotland we are committed to reducing inequality. In order to maximise incomes for working families, and to ensure that all children get the best start, the Scottish Government and local government are making an unprecedented level of investment in early years – through universal measures including the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). From August 2020, the entitlement to funded early learning and childcare will almost double to 1140 hours for all 3 and 4 year olds and for eligible 2 year olds (around a quarter of 2 year olds meet criteria). The full 1,140 hours entitlement is estimated to save families over £350 per child per month (£4,500 a year).

The leave no one behind agenda is supported by funded early learning and childcare for around a quarter of two year olds whose parents are in receipt of specified benefits or are seeking asylum. The National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare ensures that all children in receipt of funded hours will get high-quality, accessible services aimed at improving outcomes.

Out of school care (target 1.2)

Out of School Care is care provided to school-aged children outside of normal school hours. It includes breakfast and after school clubs, holiday clubs and childminders. An **NHS Health Scotland evidence review from 2015** found that out of school care benefits both children and their parents - the former mainly in terms of social interaction and play opportunities for younger primary aged children and those from disadvantaged backgrounds; the latter in relation to employment and study and training opportunities.

The Scottish Government has committed within the **child poverty delivery plan** to deliver an out of school care framework and has announced a £3 million fund to delivery community-based out-of-school care which will run over a two-year period starting in April 2020. This also links to areas of food insecurity faced by children and families, as discussed in Goal 2: Zero Hunger. The health and wellbeing of children is important when considering the poverty related attainment gap. If children are arriving at school hungry or are suffering hunger during school holiday periods

1 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-first-year-progress-report-2018-19/>

then we know that it will be more difficult for them to reach their potential.

Work has been carried out with partners to develop the framework, assessing what is currently available and setting out what more needs to be done to ensure accessible and affordable out of school and holiday childcare is available for all children, particularly those who stand to benefit most. A draft Out of School Care Framework was **published for consultation** in August 2019.

Sustainable work (targets 1.2, 1.3)

Sustainable and fair work is a long term route out of poverty for families, and is particularly important given the rate of in-work poverty in Scotland. The Scottish Government is taking action to support parents to work and earn more. Scotland is the best performing of UK countries in paying the living wage, as outlined in Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth, with 80.6% of employees being paid at least that level (£9 per hour). Plans are in place to lift at least 25,000 more people onto the Living Wage through work to build a Living Wage Nation. Additional actions relevant to this Goal include:

- £12 million investment to help unemployed parents move into work and parents in-work to build skills, progress and earn more – focusing on intensive key worker support
- Funding for the Workplace Equality Fund (£800,000) has been increased, with a focus on parenthood, progression, and families at high risk of poverty
- £6 million investment to support disabled parents into employment

Older people (targets 1.2)

According to **Poverty and Inequality in Scotland: 2015-18**, relative poverty rates for pensioners in Scotland is rising. After housing costs, for the period 2015-18, relative poverty for pensioners was 15%. Relative pensioner poverty had been stable for years after a long decline, but started to rise again in 2013-16 (before housing costs) and 2014-17 (after housing costs). The absolute poverty rate (12% AHC) and the proportion of pensioners in material deprivation (6%) are both broadly stable.

To tackle the inequalities that older people face, the Scottish Government published **A Fairer Scotland for Older People: framework for action** in April 2019. The framework is shaped by the voices of older people, through the Older People's Strategic Action Forum, and focuses on older people in their communities; accessing services; and financial security. It outlines the work going on across Scotland to ensure that older people are financially secure and not at risk of poverty. For example, the Scottish Government and Age UK worked together to raise awareness of the financial support available to older people. An estimated £292 million in Pension Credit and Housing Benefit goes unclaimed each year. Increasing public awareness of these benefits would help lower poverty levels among older people.

Social protection (targets 1.2, 1.3, 1.5)

The Scottish Government has set out how it will utilise its devolved social security powers to better meet the needs of the people of Scotland and is working to create a social security system in Scotland based on our values of dignity, fairness and respect. Key aspects of social work and social security remain reserved to the UK Government – notably, Pensions and Pension Credit; Child Benefit; Jobseekers Allowance; Employment and Support Allowance; Housing Benefit; Income Support; Tax Credits and Universal Credit.

UK Government reform of the welfare system is having a negative impact on people in Scotland. The Scottish Government invests over £100 million each year to mitigate against the worst impacts of welfare reforms. In 2019-20 this includes:

- At least £64 million in Discretionary Housing Payments, to mitigate the bedroom tax and support families impacted by other areas of welfare reform
- £38 million in the Scottish Welfare Fund, to support those in crisis and provide Community Care Grants. Evidence shows that 13% of Crisis Grant applications in 2017-18 were due to benefit delays

In 2019-20 the Scottish Government is continuing to invest to support those on low incomes. It is investing:

- £351 million in a Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which saves recipients an average of £701 per year
- An additional £2 million for our Fair Food Fund, increasing it from £1.5 million in 2018-19 to £3.5 million in 2019-20; with £2 million specifically to tackle food insecurity during school holidays
- £1.5 million funding to support advice services to alleviate the impact of welfare reforms. £3.3 million for the Money Talk Team service (see below)
- A total investment of £21 million through the Best Start Grant in 2019-20, this is £19 million more than previously provided by the UK Government

Money Talk Team

The Money Talk Team service (previously Financial Health Check) was launched in 2018 and is delivered by Citizens Advice Scotland and the network of bureaux. The check is aimed at low income families and older people, however, it can be accessed by anyone either face-to-face in their local Citizen's Advice Bureau or through the Freephone telephone number. There are 17 different components, including advice on reducing household energy costs, increasing benefit uptake, council tax reduction, and support for child related costs such as the Best Start Grant, the School Clothing Grant and free school meals. Each check offers tailored, accessible and holistic advice personalised to the individual's circumstances. We know that people don't claim all the benefits they are entitled to for a range of reasons, and the Money Talk Team has been launched to help address this. Ensuring people can get practical help and support to maximise their incomes and understand their rights is fundamental to tackling poverty. In recognition of the impact of the 'poverty premium' – where those on low incomes pay more for essential goods and services – the introduction of the Money Talk Team was a specific commitment in the [Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#). At least 15,000 households each year are expected to benefit from the check.

Carer's Allowance

In 2018 Social Security Scotland made its first payments through the Carer's Allowance Supplement. This increased Carer's Allowance by 13% and is an investment of more than £30 million a year to support carers in Scotland. More than 75,000 carers received the payment which recognises the vital contribution they make to society. It brings the payment in line with Jobseekers Allowance. The Young Carer Grant will be available in autumn 2019.

Best Start Grants

Social Security Scotland started accepting applications for the Best Start Pregnancy and Baby Payment on 10 December with the first payments made before Christmas 2018. The Best Start Grant (BSG) gives families on low incomes some additional money at key stages in their children's early years, adding to the family budget and reducing the need for borrowing. It replaces the Sure Start Maternity Grant (SSMG) in Scotland. The BSG's package of three benefit payments provides extra money to qualifying lower income families during key early years of a child's life:

1. A Pregnancy and Baby Payment of £600 on the birth of their first child and £300 on the birth of any second or subsequent children
2. An Early Learning Payment of £250
3. A School Age Payment of £250

This package of support helps parents and carers to buy the equipment they need for a baby and to support the child's transition to early learning and childcare and then school.

The Best Start Grant Reference Group (with membership from a wide range of organisations) was set up in October 2016 to support the development of the BSG. The group represents the views and interests of people with lived experience of the benefits system and helps facilitate co-production of certain aspects of the BSG with people who will be eligible or in receipt of the benefit.

Scottish Child Payment (Income Supplement)

The Scottish Government announced its intention to introduce a new income supplement – now known as the Scottish Child Payment – which will be a new benefit to provide additional financial support to low income families, and help tackle child poverty. The Scottish Government will be guided by two principles: reaching the greatest number of children in poverty, and topping up incomes sufficiently to lift those households out of poverty. The income supplement is a significant commitment, and shows the scale of the ambition – but designing and delivering it is a complex task.

The Scottish Child Payment will be fully rolled out by the end of 2022, paying eligible families in receipt of qualifying benefits £10 per week, per child – with no cap on the number of children a family can receive a payment for. However, there is recognition that child poverty is deep-seated and that it can affect the life chances of children. As such, it will be introduced for eligible children under 6 at an earlier date, with the first payments being made before Christmas 2020.

It is anticipated that around 170,000 children in around 140,000 households will be eligible for the Scottish Child Payment in this early delivery age group. Almost 60% of children living in poverty are in households where the youngest child is under 6 years old and as such, policies that help families with children in the early year's age groups are likely to be impactful. Once fully rolled out, it will benefit up to 410,000 children and reduce child poverty by 3 percentage points, lifting 30,000 children out of relative poverty.

Further detail is available in a [policy position paper](#) which was published alongside the announcement.

While the Scottish Child Payment is a key action to tackle child poverty – with direct cash transfers widely recognised as one of the quickest and most immediate ways to increase incomes and reduce poverty levels – there is also recognition that they cannot be the only action, and through the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment we want to ensure a sustainable route of poverty. The Scottish Government will work closely with internal and external stakeholders to consider how receipt of the Scottish Child Payment could be used to secure outcomes beyond redistribution, and support people to access wider services and support should they want and require it – for example, fast-tracked access to a financial health check or employment support.

Access to economic resources, basic services and property (target 1.4)

Closer Look - Fairer Scotland Action Plan

The Fairer Scotland Action Plan, launched in 2016, brought together central and local government, the private sector, and civil society to tackle and reduce poverty. Virgin Money and the Carnegie UK Trust both made pledges to increase access to financial services to those who need them most.

“On behalf of Virgin Money, I pledge to do my best to make banking fairer and more accessible for the people of Scotland. We are building a bank that aims to treat our customers fairly. That’s why we recently launched our basic bank account, the Essential Current Account, a fair and simple product that can help those who are finding it difficult to get a bank account. We are currently working with Scotcash to make basic bank accounts more readily available to people in the Glasgow area.” (Jayne-Anne Gadhia, CEO Virgin Money Plc, 2016).

“The Carnegie UK Trust pledges to help improve access to affordable credit in Scotland. Thousands of people borrow money from high cost lenders to meet every day needs. Offering attractive and affordable alternatives could save people in our poorest communities thousands of pounds every year. We want to help Scotland’s not-for-profit affordable credit providers to grow and to reach many more people. And we will commit resources and work in partnership with the Scottish Government, local authorities, affordable credit providers, housing associations, banks and charities to achieve this goal.” (Angus Hogg, Chair of the Carnegie UK Trust, 2016).

Property

Lower rent levels are a factor in reducing poverty rates. In recent years, poverty rates for those living in social or private rented accommodation have typically been higher after housing costs have been taken into account compared to equivalent poverty rates before housing costs are considered, with housing costs generally having a greater impact on poverty rates for those living in private rented homes compared to those living in social rented accommodation, reflecting the higher average rents seen in the private rented sector. This demonstrates the importance of affordable housing in reducing poverty.

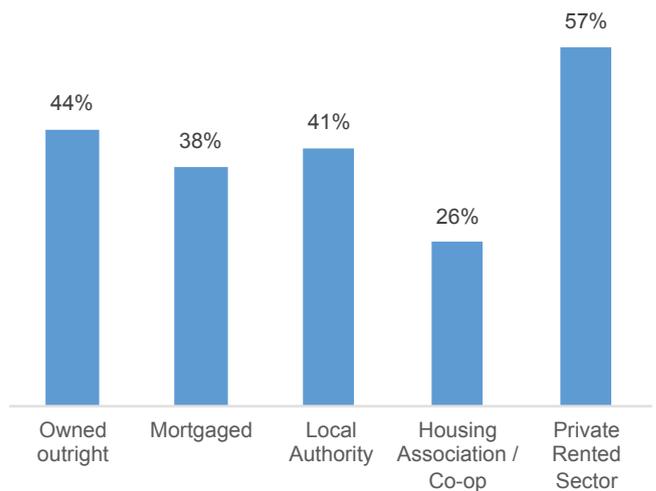
The Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) is helping to revitalise some of the most deprived areas in Scotland. Over the course of this Parliament, the Scottish Government is investing over £3.3 billion in the delivery of 50,000 affordable homes, 35,000 of which will be for social rent. This is the single biggest investment in, and delivery of, affordable housing since devolution. The Scottish Government is currently on track to meet this target within the term of Parliament, with over half already delivered.

The Data Picture: Housing standards

Target 1.4 (Indicator 1.4.1): 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.

The 2018 Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) found that 41% of dwellings, regardless of tenure type, failed to reach the Standard. This improved on the 45% failure rate recorded in 2015. Failure rates varied by tenure type, with the private rented sector having the highest proportion (57%) of dwellings failing.

Proportion of dwellings failing the Scottish Housing Quality Standard, by tenure type



Source: Scottish House Condition Survey

Resilience (target 1.5)

A number of organisations collect disaster loss data in Scotland - a [2018 report](#) for the National Centre for Resilience characterises data collection as “fragmented” and “sometimes sporadic”. There is evidence to show there is an increased risk of fire in more deprived areas of areas of Scotland. In response to this, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is working in collaboration with partners and communities to ensure collective resources jointly tackle issues related to inequality and protect those at greatest risk. The SFRS offer everyone in Scotland a free home Fire Safety Visit, and are particularly focused on delivering this to the most vulnerable citizens. SFRS staff are alert during these visits to the signs of loneliness, fragility, potential slips, trips and falls hazards, signs of drug addiction, alcoholism and general health risks within the homes of our most vulnerable Scottish citizens.

Challenges and next steps

The targets in this Goal are challenging. However, if Scotland achieves its own child poverty targets this will be a significant step towards meeting the ambitions in Goal 1. The complexity of tackling poverty is recognised, and this review does not attempt to summarise or identify all of the relevant challenges. However, in the course of this review the following areas have been identified as particular challenges and possible next steps:

- The impact of UK Government welfare reforms and a decade of austerity has compounded existing problems, with commentators such as the [Child Poverty Action Group](#) predicting a further 200,000 children and young people projected to be pushed into poverty across the UK
- Brexit also presents a series of potential challenges. The need to ensure children have additional protections through the incorporation of the principles of the UNCRC into Scots law is greater than ever. EU Exit may result in a regression of legal rights and protections through the loss of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including its provisions on social security and housing assistance (Art.34) and children’s rights (Art. 24). Further potential challenges include the uncertain short and long term economic impact of Brexit; risks to EU funding for breakfast clubs, education, and training and youth work projects. The Together Alliance has been working alongside Children in Scotland to support the Children and Young People’s Panel on Europe, a group of 19 children and young people aged 8-19 who have been sharing their views on Brexit and working to build recommendations for UK and Scottish Government decision-makers
- The Fairer Scotland Duty has the potential to lead to improved outcomes and representation for some of the most disadvantaged people in our society and there is already some emerging evidence of decisions being changed in light of the duty. However, broader benefits will only be realised if the duty is fully integrated into the policy making process and meaningful, timely and evidence based assessments are routinely undertaken and acted upon
- In order to build on understanding of the causes, consequences and solutions to poverty, the Scottish Government is investing in the new Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit (SPIRU), based at Glasgow Caledonian University. SPIRU is a multi-disciplinary research group providing an independent, evidence-based commentary on poverty, inequality and social policy in Scotland
- The Scottish Child Payment is an important next step for this Goal and presents an opportunity to broaden public understanding of this Goal and the purpose at the heart of the NPF

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- To help meet challenging targets to reduce child poverty, the Scottish Government will bring forward the date for the first Scottish Child Payments to Christmas 2020, which will provide eligible families over £500 per year for each child. This is estimated to lift 30,000 children out of relative poverty when fully rolled out
- The credit union movement in Scotland has more than 410,000 members and provides ethical savings and loans to safeguard people against exploitative rates and cycles of debt. The Scottish Government will introduce a £10 million Credit Union Investment Fund – this will provide loans to support credit unions to grow memberships and improve systems
- Helping more young people with the cost of moving into workplaces after a period of unemployment with the Job Start Payment, to be delivered in spring 2020. Around 5,000 could benefit from this support
- Boosting parental employability programmes to facilitate better local connections between employability services and the expansion of early learning and childcare, back by £4 million of funding
- Introducing a £500,000 Family Learning Scotland Programme to help parents gain new skills and take up learning and training
- Preventing homelessness for low income families through supporting the work of social landlords with a £1.5 million Homelessness Prevention Fund
- Investing £1 million to improve the life chances of young parents and their children, through using key workers to enable young parents to receive the support they need



This goal relates to tackling the drivers and effects of household food insecurity and increasing sustainable agriculture, working hand in hand to achieve zero hunger. The right to food is protected in international human rights law (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNCRC, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

A modern vibrant and successful Scotland, with our abundant natural resources should not tolerate any child or adult going hungry. But too many people are suffering from hunger and many go without to provide for their loved ones. In Scotland, food insecurity is not caused by a shortage of food, but by low and insecure incomes which limit people’s ability to afford sufficient food. The first data set on food insecurity in Scotland, using questions from the UN’s Food Insecurity Experience Scale, was contained in the Scottish Health Survey 2017. Worrying about running out of money for food was more prevalent among: adults with the lowest household incomes (25%); single parent households (21%); single adult households (20%); adults living in the most deprived areas (18%); adults with limiting longstanding illness (18%).

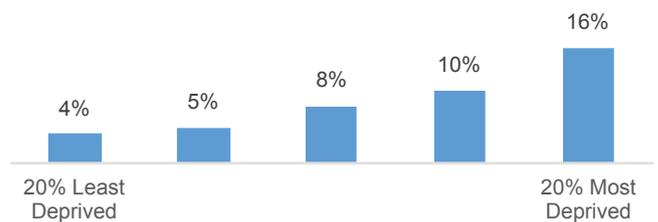


The Data Picture: Food Insecurity

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 around (target 2.1).

The proportion of adults reporting that they were worried they would run out of food because of lack of resources has a strong association with deprivation. 4% of adults in the 20% least deprived areas reported worry over running out of food rising to 16% in the 20% most deprived areas.

The proportion of adults in 2017/2018 reporting that at some point in the last 12 months they were worried they would run out of food because of a lack of money or other resources, broken down by SIMD quintile (20% most deprived to the 20% least deprived)



Source: Scottish Health Survey

Organisations responding to food insecurity have seen an increase in the number of households which they support in recent years. In 2017, food banks in areas of full Universal Credit rollout had seen a 17% average increase in referrals for emergency food, more than double the national average.

Scotland's efforts to address the causes of food insecurity are contained within Goal 1: No Poverty and Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Key actions include promoting the living wage and various measures to maximise people's incomes from social security.

In recognition of this challenge, Scotland is taking a whole systems approach to tackling poor health outcomes, poor diet and food insecurity, working towards achieving targets 2.1 and 2.2 with a close connection to Goal 1 and wider connections to Goal 3 on Health, Goal 8 on the Economy, and Goal 13 on Climate Action.

Tackling food insecurity (targets 2.1 and 2.2)

Scotland's efforts to address the causes of food insecurity are focused on tackling the financial drivers of the problem. Key actions include promoting the living wage and various measures to maximise people's incomes from social security.

No one should be left hungry and have to rely on charitable food. When people do run out of money for food, crisis support is available in the form of the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). This discretionary fund provides a safety net for people on low incomes, with food being the most common Crisis Grant expenditure. The fund helps both with responding to acute food crisis as well as preventing future crises. Taking a holistic approach, the fund requires consideration of all forms of support an individual might need and build connections with local services to enable effective referral, thereby aiming to addressing the root causes of the problem. There are examples of good practice in developing coordinated referral pathways for supporting people with no money for food. North Lanarkshire Council's Food Poverty Referral Gateway ensures that all presentations of food crisis are referred to the Scottish Welfare Fund as the first port of call. This encourages cash grants to be sought before a referral to a charitable food provider and promotes referrals to be made to appropriate

services such as welfare rights advice, housing support and debt advice, to help address the root cause of the problem and prevent future crises. This approach has seen a 22% drop in food bank referrals locally (North Lanarkshire Monitoring Report Five – October 17).

The Scottish Government has also invested in organisations tackling food insecurity in local communities. The Fair Food Fund increased from £1 million in 2016-17 and 2017-18, to £1.5 million in 2018-19, and to £3.5 million in 2019-20. The fund is focused on dignified access to nutritious food and support to tackle the root causes of poverty. £2 million of the Fair Food Fund 2019-20 is being invested in work to tackle food insecurity in the school holidays.

Free school meals are provided to every pupil in primaries 1 to 3 at all publicly-funded schools in Scotland, in order to leave no child behind. More than 130,000 primary 1 to 3 children are benefiting from these meals, delivering annual savings for families of around £400 per child. After primary 3, free school meals continue to be available for children and young people whose parents or carers are in receipt of specific qualifying benefits and older pupils who receive any of those same benefits in their own right.

From the summer of 2019, the Scottish Government started replacement of the UK Healthy Start Food Vouchers scheme for families on low incomes residing in Scotland with a smart payment card. The Best Start Foods payment card enables families to purchase food products such as milk (including first infant formula), fresh, frozen or tinned fruit and vegetables, pulses and eggs. The card will be able to be used in any food retailer, reducing the stigma of paper vouchers and opening up the accessibility and choices for families on low incomes to purchase good value healthy foods. The value of weekly payment is also increased from £3.10 per week to £4.25 for each eligible person in the family.

Closer Look - Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland is leading an innovative project to address food poverty and its links with wellbeing and education. So far the project has focused on working with communities in Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, Eastern Perthshire and North Ayrshire – all areas with significant levels of child poverty. Holiday clubs afford a number of benefits to families and children. For example, holiday clubs help to reduce social isolation, provide a structure for family engagement in physical and social activities, provide free, healthy food, and bring communities together.

Closer Look - Govanhill Community Project

Fresh Food Parcels: As part of this project, donations of fresh food (fruit, vegetables, bread) that would otherwise go to waste are distributed to individuals and families in need each Wednesday. Service users can self-refer by calling on a Wednesday morning to put their name on the list, and the parcels are ready for collection that afternoon. Demand for the service outstrips capacity, with around 35 parcels provided each week but a waiting list of 10-15 people. Most of the people using this service are asylum seekers, who are not permitted to work and have no recourse to public funds. Asylum claimants are entitled to £37.75 a week ‘asylum support’, which has to cover everything from food and other household essentials, as well as to travel to important lawyer and Home Office appointments. To put this into context, in Glasgow a return bus ticket is £4.60.

People come from across Glasgow to access a parcel, often on foot. Between April 2018 and March 2019, the project delivered a total of 1683 parcels to 451 beneficiaries. This organisation also provides Emergency Food Parcels which provides parcels dry food items and household basics for asylum seekers who are rendered destitute when their asylum support is stopped, or for those who arrive in Glasgow with absolutely nothing. Need for this project is assessed by caseworkers who run the Advice & Advocacy drop-in service. The parcels consist of things like pasta, rice, tinned goods, cooking oil, long-life milk, and also toiletries and nappies.

The project receives a few small regular donations from private supporters, and supplement this with small community grants, from which they purchase stock. As the demand for this project increased dramatically, it has supplemented this donation with food drives in the community. The project began distributing around 10 emergency parcels a month, but the average is more like 35 now. Between April 2018 and March 2019, the project delivered a total of 374 parcels to 172 beneficiaries.

The Scottish Government also provides support to Community Food initiatives and networks across Scotland, who are doing vital work at grassroots level, particularly in communities experiencing food insecurity. These projects help a huge number of people access fresh, healthy food and develop the skills needed to prepare nutritious food for themselves and their families. Networks include Glasgow Community Food Network, Edinburgh Community Food, Lanarkshire Community Food and Community Food Initiative North East.

An Independent Working Group on Food Poverty published 19 recommendations in their report 'Dignity: Ending Hunger Together in Scotland' (July 2016), including that Scottish Government monitor food insecurity, and consider enshrining the right to food in law. The Scottish Government broadly accepted these recommendations.

The [Scottish Health Survey](#) has published data on food insecurity for 2017, and the collection and analysis of data for 2018 and 2019 is underway, after which the questions in the Scottish Health Survey will be reviewed. The SDG indicator 2.1.2 measures food insecurity through the use of the Food Insecurity experience Scale (FIES) which comprises of 8 questions. The current National Performance measure uses 3 of these questions providing a partially matched indicator. In February 2019, the UK Government committed to measuring household food insecurity through the UK-wide Family Resources Survey. This will enable data comparison with England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and will facilitate ongoing monitoring of food insecurity in Scotland.

Closer Look - A Menu for Change

A Menu for Change is an innovative partnership project to tackle food insecurity and prevent the need for food banks in Scotland. It is delivered by Oxfam Scotland, Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland, Nourish Scotland and Poverty Alliance. The project emerged following recommendations of the Short Life Working Group on Food Poverty. The project works to improve policy and practice in responding to food insecurity by increasing access to cash entitlements and welfare rights advice. This has been achieved by improving coordinating of local services and influencing local and national policy development. Examples of local initiatives which A Menu for Change is supporting include engaging a support worker based in a community centre which is the most frequent referrer to the local food bank. By focusing on crisis advice and support, the centre has reduced the number of food bank referrals being made and increased engagement with services to help prevent future crisis, including the Scottish Welfare Fund.

Good Food Nation (targets 2.1 and 2.2)

The national food and drink policy, *Becoming a Good Food Nation*, was published in 2014. It set the vision for Scotland: that by 2025 Scotland will be 'a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day'. This vision also helps to delivery against targets 2.1 and 2.2. Activities across Scotland are already helping to make a real and positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland by helping to improve their access to, and understanding of, the benefits of healthy local foods, ensure sustainability of our food industry, and looking to grow Scotland's reputation as a Good Food Nation. Yet, activities often remain fragmented and are not developed concurrently, meaning more work is required to shift to a coherent joined-up approach to food.

A consultation on legislative provisions to underpin the Good Food Nation ambition was launched on 21 December 2018 and closed on 18 April, with the Good Food Nation framework focusing on embedding

processes to ensure that the substance of the right to food has effect as a matter of everyday good practice. During the consultation period, there were more than 30 Good Food Ambassadors across Scotland helping to make people aware of the opportunity to participate.

The Scottish Government will lay before Parliament in 2019-20 a Good Food Nation Bill to provide a statutory framework to support the ambition set out in the vision of Becoming a Good Food Nation.

Diet and healthy weight (target 2.2)

In Scotland, far too many people in Scotland face serious risks to their health associated with poor diet and unhealthy weight.

The Data Picture : Healthy Weight

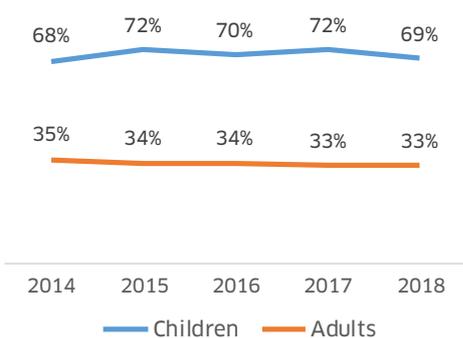
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year around (target 2.1).

Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight) is SDG indicator 2.2.2. In Scotland healthy weight of children has remained relatively stable over the years 2014 to 2018.

The percentage of adults (aged 16+) who are a normal weight (defined as having a Body Mass Index of 18.5 to less than 25) was 33% in 2018 and has remained stable in recent years.

The percentage of children aged 2 to 15 who are considered to be of healthy weight (defined as Body Mass Index (BMI) above 2nd percentile and below 85th percentile of the UK growth reference charts) has remained relatively stable in recent years, with 69% of children being of healthy weight in 2018.

The percentage of children (aged 2 – 15 years old) and adults (aged 16 years+) who are a healthy weight



Source: Scottish Health Survey

Children who are living in the most deprived areas in Scotland are less likely to have healthy weight: in 2017, 70% of children (aged 2-15) living in the most deprived areas had a healthy weight compared to 78% of those living in the least deprived areas.

In order to tackle these health harms, the Scottish Government published **A Healthier Future: Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan** in July 2018. The vision is simple: to create a Scotland where everyone eats well, and we all have a healthy weight. To achieve this, Scottish Government has set an ambition to halve childhood obesity by 2030, and to significantly reduce diet-related health inequalities.

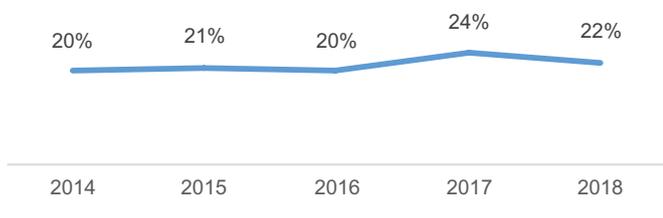
The delivery plan has a strong preventative focus, including a range of measures to support parents to establish good nutrition and healthy eating from the early years onwards. It also aims to tackle the food environment which makes it difficult to make the right food choices.

Measures to change the food environment are likely to be more effective in reducing health inequality rather than relying on individual behaviour change alone. Recognising that too many adults in Scotland are already overweight or obese however, the delivery plan also commits to investing £42 million over five years to support people with, or at risk of, type 2 diabetes to have better access to weight management services. Work with NHS Health Boards is underway.

The Data Picture: Adult consumption of five or more portions of fruit & veg

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 around (target 2.1). In 2018 the proportion of adults eating five or more portions of fruit and veg was 22%, being relatively stable over recent years.

Percentage of Scottish adults eating five or more portions of fruit and veg



Source: Scottish Health Survey

Success demands strong leadership and effective collaboration at all levels to deliver meaningful and lasting change, which is why work is ongoing with partners to develop and champion a whole-systems approach to diet and healthy weight.

Environmentally sustainable agriculture (targets 2.3 and 2.4)

Target 2.3 and 2.4 focus on ensuring that agricultural practices are working in concert with the environment and are leaving no-one-behind. Scotland is making progress in number of areas. The [Scottish Rural Development Programme Annual Report \(2017\)](#) shows percentage of agricultural land under contract for a sustainability practice as increasing, 2014-2017, across all contract types (excluding agricultural land under contract for Less Favoured Area Support). [Latest figures](#) (from 2017) show that the amount of organic farmland in Scotland has slightly increased, the first increase since 2008. A total of 123,000 hectares was certified as organic farmland in Scotland. The total organic land area is now equivalent to 2.1% of agricultural land in Scotland. Sustainable agriculture in Planning policies are in place to protect our most productive agricultural land from development as

appropriate. The Scottish Planning Policy (2014) paragraph 80 sets out that development which is on prime agricultural land, or land of lesser quality that is locally important should not be permitted except where it is essential: as part of a settlement strategy, for small scale development linked to a rural businesses or for energy or minerals development where restoration has been secured. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA's) regulations and guidelines focus on sustainability. The extensive laws covering land use in Scotland cover issues such as farm pollution through a focus on water use, pesticide use, and waste disposal (also see Goal 6).

Target 2.3 requires doubling agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, while leaving no group behind. While some aspects of this target may be less relevant in the Scottish context than they are in low and middle income countries, other aspects of the target are relevant. The Scottish Government collects financial data from nearly 500 farm businesses that allows estimation of incomes across the industry. Farm income in the most recent year of data (2017-18) was estimated at £35,400, a six year high and a 19% increase from the previous year. Dairy farms have the highest spread in income (the difference between the high and low performers) while cereal farms have a lower farm income but with a smaller gap between high and low performers. Sheep farms in "less favourable areas" continue to rely on subsidies the most and have low farm incomes, but also with a low spread between businesses².

Challenges also remain in improving the sustainability of agriculture. For example, overall farmland bird trends have increased over the last 25 years, however within that some species such as lapwing have declined by more than 50%. [Long term changes in farmland birds](#) have been driven by a range of factors including agricultural intensification, reduced heterogeneity of crop types at the within-farm scale and moves away from spring-sown crops.

2 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-farm-business-income-estimates-2017-18/pages/2/>

Scotland is heavily shaped by integration with the EU Common Agricultural Policy through the Rural Development Programme and Direct Payments both of which offer payments to farmers for sustainable agricultural practices, along with wider land management and support for rural businesses and communities. Scotland receives around £500 million each year under the Common Agricultural Policy (2014-2020). This is divided into 2 pillars. Pillar 1 includes the Basic Payment Scheme which acts as a safety net for farmers and crofters by supplementing their main business income. It also includes a Greening payment to improve the environmental performance of farming. It also provides support for beef suckler cows and sheep in certain areas which will help the environmental and social benefits that arise from extensive beef suckler herds and sheep flocks in Scotland.

Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) takes the form of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) which funds a mixture of farm and non-farm schemes. The key priorities are:

- Enhancing the rural economy
- Supporting agricultural and forestry businesses
- Protecting and improving the natural environment
- Addressing the impact of climate change
- Supporting rural communities

Since 2014 the SRDP has committed over £940 million to over 13,000 projects across Scotland along with annual support to farmers and crofters through the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme.

Through both of these pillars and wider agricultural policies, the Scottish Government provides support through the **LEADER** scheme, which is funded by SRDP. Grants are also awarded by Local Action Groups (LAG) to projects that support delivery of a Local Development Strategy (LDS). Local Development Strategies include actions such as driving community actions on climate change; supporting food and drink initiatives; exchange learning and knowledge; and enhance rural services and facilities (target 2.3). For example, funding of a Local Food & Drink Co-ordinator appointed to help grow, support, and innovate the local food system in the area encouraging businesses to work collaboratively to increase local food production, processing, retail and marketing.

The Scottish Government is doing more work to effectively evaluate the tangible benefits that the SRDP funding has provided. This point has also been acknowledged by the European Commission and is one of the main driving elements behind the next CAP. In Scotland, we have undertaken a stocktake of all the information that has been collected by the schemes in order to better inform agricultural policy. An enhanced evaluation of the programme is currently being undertaken, as well as monitoring of the Agri scheme (AECS). Further evaluation is also planned by the end of the year for LEADER and the Farm Advisory Service (FAS).

New entrants (target 2.3)

Sustaining new entrants into agriculture is crucial to the vitality, resilience and competitiveness of the agricultural sector (target 2.3), with the estimated average age of a Scottish farmer at 58 there are often barriers when developing new, sustainable businesses. The Scottish Government is working together with industry on the Farming Opportunities for New Entrants (FONE) group whose remit includes maximising the amount of public land used to help farmers of the future. Up to the end of 2018, FONE has helped provide over 70 new land opportunities across over 5,000 hectares with more expected during 2019. As part of the SRDP, there are three schemes dedicated to supporting new entrants that have helped kick-start over 250 new agricultural businesses to mainly young farmers. The Scottish Government also made access to skills and knowledge available under a free mentoring programme and also an advisory programme involving local workshops, regional meetings, events, guidance notes etc.

Because of the small size of businesses and their wide distribution, skills development in the land-based sector in Scotland poses particular difficulties. The Scottish Government's support for Lantra Scotland, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Scotland's land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation industries, enables them to carry out specific projects aimed at overcoming these difficulties.

Farm Advisory Services and the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (targets 2.3 and 2.4)

Funded under the SRDP, Scotland's Farm Advisory Service is an advisory service designed to facilitate step-changes in the economic and environmental performance and resilience of farms and crofts throughout Scotland. The service encourages greater uptake of agricultural practices that improve economic performance whilst benefiting environmental priorities such as climate change, biodiversity and air and water quality. It also seeks to increase numbers of dynamic young people successfully entering Scottish agriculture.

Also funded under the SRDP, the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KTIF) is designed to support projects that introduce innovative approaches to enhance competitiveness and ecosystems, promote resource efficiency and shift to a low carbon climate resistant economy. The scheme has two main aims. Firstly, it provides financial support for vocational training, skills development and knowledge transfer projects focused on agriculture. This is delivered through workshops, training courses, coaching, information dissemination actions and farm visits and helps translate research into on-the-ground improvements. Secondly, the scheme funds eligible innovation projects, such as benchmarking or pilot projects that aim to introduce new and innovative approaches in agricultural practice. KTIF is aligned with the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agriculture productivity and sustainability which promotes a faster and wider transposition of innovative solutions into practice.

Target 2.4 looks at the overall resilience of the food production system in relation to for example climate change. Scotland has made **significant progress** in reducing emissions from agriculture over the last 25 years, with a 25% fall in emissions over this period. However, agriculture is also a big emitter of greenhouse gas emissions and Scotland's agriculture sector will need to modernise and innovate in order to address the challenges of climate change in the future.

The Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (ACES) promotes land management practices which protect and enhance Scotland's natural heritage, improve water quality, manage flood risk and mitigate and adapt to climate change. It will also help to improve public access and preserve historic sites. Currently ACES provides support to more than 2,500 farming businesses across Scotland, which collectively apply environmentally friendly farming practices in the management of more than 1 million hectares of land. It is important to highlight that funding through the scheme is guaranteed for five years, regardless of what happens with the UK's exit from the EU.

Agriculture and climate change (target 2.4)

Getting the best from our land: land use strategy for Scotland

The Land Use Strategy sets out ways in which we use Scotland's land resources in the future. It sets out our long term Vision towards 2050 "A Scotland where we fully recognise, understand and value the importance of our land resources, and where our plans and decisions about land use deliver improved and enduring benefits, enhancing the wellbeing of our nation" with three clear Objectives relating to economic prosperity, environmental quality and communities.

In order to secure these Objectives, the Strategy identifies key Principles for Sustainable Land Use which reflect government policies on the priorities which should influence land use choices. The Principles are relevant for everybody involved in planning the future use of land or in taking significant decisions about changes in land use.

Climate Change Plan: third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)

This plan sets out the path to a low carbon economy (including agriculture) while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032. We want Scotland to continue be a world-class producer of high quality food – and to produce it sustainably, profitably and efficiently. We are exploring the potential for reducing emissions in agriculture with both the industry and our renowned scientific community, to find solutions that are beneficial for the environment, Scotland's farmers and our wider food and drink industry.

Farming for a better climate

This Scottish Government programme aims to promote low carbon farming practices and improving the environmental and economic sustainability of Scottish Agriculture. The programme works with groups of focus farmers to demonstrate practical ways to help mitigate and adapt to climate change and engage with the wider industry through on-farm events and digital media. Since its establishment in 2009 typically, **Farming For a Better Climate** focus farms have cut their carbon footprint by 10% - 20%, and have saved between £3,000 to £12,000 annually.

For example, farmers Ross and Lee Paton at Torr Farm, a 389 ha organic dairy farm near Castle Douglas in Dumfries and Galloway, participated in the Farming for a Better Climate initiative as a volunteer Climate Change Focus Farm. With help from SRUC specialists, Ross and Lee looked at practical ways to improve farm efficiencies and if these measures could also reduce the farm carbon footprint. Ross and Lee put measures into place, based on the five key action areas:

- Measures to optimise fuel and energy use
- Measures to optimise fertiliser, slurry and manure use
- Measures to protect soils and 'lock-up' atmospheric carbon in vegetation
- Measures to optimise livestock management

Taking a second look at routine practices helped the farm business become more efficient and make better use of inputs. **These practical actions** helped Torr save around £37,000 and reduce the farm carbon footprint by 11%.

Supporting small farms (target 2.3)

Target 2.3 under this goal specifically focuses on the livelihoods of small scale farmers. Crofting continues to form an integral part and contributes towards the social, economic and environmental sustainability of Scotland's rural and remote rural areas. There are approximately 20,500 crofts - 15,000 tenanted and 5,500 owned. Over 33,000 people live in crofting households - approximately 10% of the Highlands and Islands population. **A 2018 Scottish Government** commissioned survey showed that the most common crofting activities were raising livestock (80%) and growing crops (42%).

The **Scottish Crofting Federation** offers support and advice to small scale farmers and producers. The Scottish Government also provides a range of support mechanisms helping support environmental sustainability of agricultural practices and improve the livelihood of crofters. Grants to improve and maintain the standards of crofter housing aim to attract and retain people within the crofting areas of Scotland. Since 2007, over £19 million has been approved to help build and improve over 930 croft homes. Grants to aid and develop agricultural production on crofting businesses, thereby sustain the economic basis of crofting. Since 2011 over 4,600 applications have been approved with a value of over £15 million.

Access to the Cattle Improvement Scheme also enables crofters to benefit from access to high quality, healthy bulls and the supply of quality calves to the beef industry throughout Scotland and beyond. The scheme encourages producers to keep cattle in environmentally sensitive areas – keeping these areas in good condition and encourage local wildlife. Crofters have access to the schemes under both pillars under the Common Agricultural Policy, including over €21 million in Basic Payment Scheme and Greening payments in 2017, and over £8 million in Less Favoured Area Support Scheme payments in 2017. They also have access to the Environment Climate funding which promotes land management practices which protect and enhance Scotland's natural heritage, improves water quality, manages flood risk and mitigate and adapt to climate change. Veterinary support which is provided to subsidise vet bills is also available.

Scotland aims to create a vibrant tenanted agricultural sector as part of a strong rural economy – this includes tenanted farms of all sizes. The **Scottish Smallholders Association** for example is a peer network of small-scale farmers producing food ecologically and sustainably. The **Scottish Farm Land Trust** has been set up to purchase large farms, and break them up into smaller compartments for small scale ecological producers to buy/lease. Work is also ongoing across urban areas to promote urban farming and market gardening, for example as set out in the **Roots to Market** (2018) report from Propagate and Glasgow Community Food Network.

Over half of farms in Scotland are below 10 hectares in size (26,000 farms), and over 40,000 farms do not require the labour of one full-time worker. However, relatively little is known about their characteristics as a group, as they often fall below the threshold to be identified in the Farm Accounts Survey, and some of them do not claim grants, meaning that they do not appear in the Scottish Government's administrative data. However, a third of those who work in the Scottish agricultural sector work on these types of farm. The Scottish Government is currently funding research which aims to:

1. Identify data gaps on small farms in existing datasets and literature
2. Start exploring small farmers as a social and economic group using qualitative research methods
3. Provide recommendations and options for future research based on the project results

For small farms, see for example [Tomnaha Farm](#) which is a community support agriculture farm in Perthshire; [Pillars of Hercules](#), a long running organic small farm in Falkland, Fife, or [Ardunan Farm](#), a mixed smallholding specialising in pork and poultry near Strathblane, Stirlingshire.

Target 2.3 also has a specific focus on the involvement of women. The Scottish Government appointed Women in Agriculture Taskforce aims to bring forward practical long term solutions to improve equality of opportunity for women in agriculture and optimise the economic resources of family businesses. They have funding of £250,000 for 2018-20. The Taskforce are focusing initial activity on progressing the following key themes:

- Women in Leadership - a development programme to provide training, support and confidence building for women to secure leadership positions throughout the sector
- Training – ensuring inclusive and accessible training is available for all, including the provision of women-only training courses
- Charter – a sector engagement programme to help businesses make best use of their resources and improve gender equality in farming and agriculture

The Taskforce are considering a range of other issues, including succession, rural childcare and new entrants. The Final Report of the Taskforce is expected in autumn 2019 and the Scottish Government will consider what relevant short and long term actions are required as a result of the report.

Joyce Campbell is the Minister appointed co-chair of the Women in Agriculture Taskforce and also runs the family owned Armadale hill farm. She runs a flock of 830 pure-bred North Country Cheviot hill ewes and some suckler cows. Joyce emphasises that the farm doesn't only focus on food production but that her work is about sustaining life of the rural community and economy. The farm has a policy of buying and hiring locally and they regularly take on secondary school 3-4 year pupils who are taking up the Rural Skills programme (a vocational skills route) and employs young people and gives them the opportunity to develop their skills before going onto vocational skills training. Joyce also runs holiday cottages and aims to inform about local produce. In 2015 the farm was awarded Agriscot Scottish Sheep Farm and Joyce was awarded the Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies (ARAgS) in January 2017, in recognition of her distinguished achievement in agriculture.

Genetic seed diversity (target 2.5)

Over the forty-plus years of variety testing at Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) and its antecedents, very substantial collections have been amassed and maintained. The collections at SASA are stored in conditions of low temperature and humidity, and regularly monitored for viability, these reference collections also provide the foundation for DUS (distinctiveness, uniformity and stability) trials. The Scottish Government has a commitment to conserve its plant genetic resources as a signatory to international treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992.

The survival of landraces is dependent on a continual cycle of regeneration and sowing; if seed harvest fails, the landrace will be lost unless a sample of the population has been conserved in ex situ storage. For this reason the Scottish Landrace Protection Scheme was set up at SASA in 2006. The ex situ storage contains Landrace (150 accessions) along with UK Vegetable (20,000 accessions), potato (1000 accessions) and cereals (6765 accessions).

These crops also represent a very significant crop genetic resource relevant to the UK's commitment to international treaties such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh is working in partnership to support a range of projects aimed at delivering target 2.5. The Royal Botanic Gardens is a Millennium Seed Bank partner working with RBG Kew. They have sourced seed collections for all target species of Scottish provenance (trees and wild herbs) to be held in the Millennium Seed Bank. The Garden is also working on a project on the taxonomy and systematics of the Black nightshade clade (*Solanum* section *Solanum* and allies), in partnership with NERC/Newton-FAPESP, and several Brazilian partner institutes. Its outcomes are a better understanding of the systematics, relationships, genetics and potential agricultural use of the black nightshades – crops in their own right in the Old World, and also of interest as wild crop relatives of the more economically important New World *Solanum* species: tomato, potato and aubergine; taxonomic data underpinning conservation and sustainable use of *Solanum* species and their habitats; provision of *Solanum* germplasm to other partner institutes (for example James Hutton work on potatoes).

Another project focuses on the Taxonomy and systematics of Zingiberaceae (gingers). The Royal Botanic Gardens work in partnership with Singapore Botanic Garden, Carlsberg Foundation, Darwin Trust of Edinburgh, Herbarium Bogoriense, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, DEFRA (Darwin Initiative), National Parks Board Singapore, BGCI, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Sibbald Trust, Natural History Museum (Oslo), Sarawak Forest Department (Malaysia), among others. The outcome is to enable better understanding of the systematics, relationships, genetics and potential use of the important spice-containing family Zingiberaceae – including an online [Resource Centre](#) – to underpin conservation planning and sustainable use. All of these projects link to Goal 15.

Challenges and next steps

Scotland's performance against Goal 2 represents a mixed picture. Food insecurity in Scotland remains a significant challenge, particularly for those from socio-economically deprived backgrounds. Considerable work is underway in Scotland to mitigate the impact of UK Government welfare reforms, which are a key driver of increasing household food insecurity. This includes providing significant funding for advice services, fully mitigating the Bedroom Tax, and delivering the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the Scottish Welfare Fund. The £3.5 million Fair Food Fund is supporting communities to respond to food insecurity in a way that promotes dignity and provides help to tackle the root causes of poverty. The Scottish Government aims to protect people from against the worst effects of welfare cuts. However, for every pound spent on mitigation measures, there is a pound less that can be spent on boosting the economy, encouraging job creation and lifting people out of poverty.

The Scottish Government also continues to press UK Government to make improvements and ensure safeguards are in place for those who need them. This includes calling for a halt to the rollout of Universal Credit, where the five week wait for a first payment is causing clear hardship. We are further working to ensure people have sufficient income, including by promoting the living wage and embedding a rights-based approach in the design and delivery of our new Scottish social security system – this includes help to ensure that people can claim the money they are entitled to.

On environmentally sustainable agriculture, Scotland is performing well overall but more work needs to be done to encourage and ensure sustainable agricultural practices. The Scottish Government will continue to work together with the agricultural sector to support behavioural change and shift to low carbon farming practices through a range of activity including the Farm Advisory Service, the Beef Efficiency Scheme and Quality Meat Scotland's Monitor Farm Programme and Young Farmer Climate Change Champions.

The EU Common Agricultural Policy and associated funding dictates the framework for agricultural support and environmental standards. A UK exit from the EU will result in great uncertainty for agriculture, including for standards, funding, exports and markets, and labour. The current EU framework and multi-annual budgets significantly impact on the delivery of sustainable agriculture in Scotland – not just for the direct support to farmers, but also for grants and support for other aspects such as environmental land management, forestry, research and advice.

The Scottish Government has proposed a period of stability and simplicity until 2024 to maintain certainty for farmers, crofters and land users. Support schemes for active farming, food production, environmental improvements, forestry and rural development fundamentally will largely stay the same. However, it is intended to simplify and streamline schemes and processes where possible. This should allow continued support for sustainable agriculture. For some time, future budgets were unknown and the Scottish Government and stakeholders had called for the UK Government to confirm budgets, and that Scotland receives their fair share following the current review of intra-UK funding allocations. The Bew Review on domestic farm support funding published in September 2019 recommended that Scotland's farmers should be allocated an extra €60 million over the next two years to reflect Scotland's unique circumstances. This recommendation was accepted by the UK Government.

This contributes to the ongoing delivery of the agriculture policy outcomes set in the current Climate Change Plan and progress towards Scottish climate change targets. In response to the Climate Emergency and following the advice from the Climate Change Committee, the Scottish Government will also be widely consulting on the transformational policies needed to feed into the update of the Climate Change Plan.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- Lay before the Scottish Parliament a Good Food Nation Bill to support the ambition of a Scotland where everyone takes pride in and benefits from the food we produce, buy, cook, serve and eat every day
- Introducing the Rural Support Bill to Parliament, which will enable the amendment of retained EU law relating to the EU Common Agricultural Policy
- Fund the "Food for Life" programme to promote and encourage local sourcing through public sector contracts
- Continue to deliver and further develop agriculture Sector Plans; this year the Scottish Government will launch a Beef Sector Plan and work with industry to develop a Poultry Sector Plan with a Scottish quality mark
- Work will begin this year to support an evidence-based approach to crop selection and production, and strategic development of organic farming
- Supporting the establishment of a land matching service to link new entrants to farming with existing farmers and crofters who wish to retire



Health



Education



Children

Scotland's ambition is to be a 'healthy and active nation', as outlined in the NPF. To be a more successful country we need to close the gap between the health of our wealthiest communities and that of our poorest, and we need to see an overall improvement in our population health. While the solutions to improving our health are not wholly reliant on the NHS itself, we remain absolutely focused on our NHS meeting our needs now and being fit for the future. Scotland is taking a long term strategic approach to fulfilment of Goal 3, focusing on excellent health care services, as well as preventative population health approaches such as introducing minimum unit pricing for alcohol.

Closer Look - Equally Well Govanhill (EWG)

The EWG test site was a localised partnership approach involving the public and third sectors aiming to improve life quality and environmental conditions in this area of Glasgow. Established service structures have limitations when approaching complex issues such as health inequalities. The EWG test site has shown the importance of participation and empowerment, including participatory budgeting and 'community anchors' (community-based organisations involved in public health interventions). This in itself is not enough to improve local outcomes and eradicate poverty, although it may help reduce regional discrepancies as well as further Scotland's progress in meeting Goal 3.

Our NHS is committed to Realistic Medicine, which puts the person receiving health and care at the centre of decision making and encourages a personalised approach to their care. Its aims of reducing harm and waste, tackling unwarranted variation in care, managing clinical risk, and innovating to improve, are essential to a well-functioning and sustainable NHS.

Maternal, infant and young children care (targets 3.1 and 3.2)

Scotland has extremely low maternal and child mortality. Maternal mortality in the UK continues to decline, and between 2013 and 2017 was less than 10 deaths per 100,000 live births. Neonatal and infant mortality in Scotland also continue to decline, with a neonatal mortality rate of less than 2.5 deaths per 1000 live births since 2013 and infant mortality rate of less than 3.6 per 1000 live births since 2013. Following the most recent peak in 2007, pregnancies in young people aged under 20 in Scotland are now at their lowest level since reporting began in 1994. Since 2007, rates per 1,000 in the under 20 age group have decreased by 45.1%, rates for under 18s have decreased by 55% and rates for under 16s have decreased by 60.6% (target 3.7).

Maternal care

The Scottish Government is committed to providing the best start for all children and that begins in pregnancy. In 2019 the Scottish Government announced a £12 million package to transform maternity and neonatal services across Scotland. The vision for maternity and neonatal care set out in [The Best Start](#) is one where all mothers and babies are offered a truly family-centred, safe and compassionate approach to their care, recognising their own unique circumstances and preferences.

This includes a new model for neonatal care, which is currently being tested in two areas covering four health boards, as well as a range of initiatives to give mothers and other family members the support they need. We are also introducing continuity of carer within maternity services which will completely transform the delivery of care. As well as improved relationships between the women and midwife, evidence tells us that we can expect to see other improvements in outcomes for both the mother and baby, for example a reduction in pre term and still births, a reduction in interventions during labour, an increase in spontaneous vaginal deliveries and an increase in successfully feeding their babies.

Postnatal support

The Scottish Government is supporting the delivery of a new universal health visiting underpinned by the Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland, published in October 2015, which sets out 11 core home visits for all families from late pregnancy until school entry, and provide an opportunity for health visitors to build relationships with families and children, in which the health visitor can act as a gateway to other services.

Young people's wellbeing

Children living in Scotland experience some of the poorest health in Europe, and there are marked inequalities in the health they experience. The [RCPCH State of Child Health Report](#) presented worrying statistics about the health of Scottish children. In 2015/16 roughly 23% of children entering school in Scotland were overweight or obese, children from more deprived background were more likely to enter school as obese or overweight. A higher proportion of young people coming from more deprived backgrounds were also likely to smoke. Both smoking and experience of overweight and obesity have been linked to a range of negative health outcomes later in life.

Similarly, outcomes for child and adolescent mental health are extremely troubling. A [2018 Audit Scotland report](#) showed a 22% increase in referrals to specialist services since 2013/14. The report also showed that 26% of children and young people are waiting more than 18 weeks to see a specialist, an increase of 11% since 2013/14. Recent [research](#) by SAMH has also shone a light on the high rejected referrals rate from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The Scottish Government has established and Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce to provide recommendations for improvement in the provision for children and young people's mental health in Scotland. In response to the Taskforce's initial recommendations the Scottish Government has invested an additional £4 million in CAMHS to provide 80 new staff. In the coming year COSLA and the Scottish Government will take forward the Taskforce's concluding recommendations. Community wellbeing services will be established across Scotland, initially focused on children and young people from the ages of 5-24 who, importantly, will be able to self-refer to the service. In addition, a range of other actions will be progressed, including: the provision of additional counsellors across Scotland's secondary schools, and supporting testing of the Distress Brief Intervention programme in Aberdeen, Inverness, Borders and Lanarkshire.

It is recognised by the Scottish Government that children's and young people's wellbeing is a key driver to positive life course trajectories. The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach supports children and young people so that they can grow up feeling loved, safe and respected and can realise their full potential. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2015 defines Child Wellbeing in terms of 8 indicators of wellbeing: Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, achieving, Respected, Responsible, and Included. These wellbeing indicators help make it easier for children and families and the people working with them to discuss how a child or young person is doing at a point in time and if there is a need for support.

In order to provide the best start for children born to first-time teenage parents, the Scottish Government introduced Family Nurse Partnerships. Negative experiences and poor parenting during pregnancy and early childhood can damage a child's brain development, behaviour, learning, and long term health. The Family Nurse Partnerships supports young mothers to make positive decisions for themselves and their children. A specially trained nurse visits the homes of first-time teenage mothers from early pregnancy until their child is two years old.

Childhood Adversity can create harmful levels of stress which impact healthy brain development. This can result in long term effects on learning, behaviour, and health. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have been found to be associated with a range of poorer health and social outcomes in adulthood and that these risks increase as the number of ACEs increase. The Programme For Government 2018-2019 sets out commitments to prevent ACEs and reduce the negative impacts of ACEs where they occur and supporting the resilience of children, families, and adults in overcoming adversity. The four key areas the Scottish Government is taking forward action are:

1. Providing inter-generational support for parents, families, and children to prevent ACEs
2. Reducing the negative impact of ACEs for children and young people
3. Developing adversity and trauma-informed workforce and services
4. Increasing societal awareness and supporting action across communities

The Scottish Government, in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland, have announced funding to deliver a national trauma training program to help the current and future workforce develop skills and services that respond appropriately to people's adverse childhood experiences and other traumatic experiences.

Life expectancy

Long term increases in life expectancy in Scotland have stalled and health inequalities have worsened. NHS Health Scotland report that the pattern is similar in England and Wales, the USA, Iceland and Northern Ireland and that policies of austerity are having an adverse impact. The issues are complex and relate to enduring inequalities, deprivation and poverty, and changes in the pattern of disease.

In December 2018, Glasgow Centre for Population Health published a report into trends in earnings and income inequalities in Scotland and the UK, 1997-2016. It notes that income inequalities in Scotland have widened considerably since the late 1970s. The author said there was "absolutely no evidence of progress" over the last 20 years in tacking the gulf between rich and poor, and claimed attempts to tackle health inequalities are doomed to failure while income inequality remains unaddressed.

Recent work by NRS and NHS Health Scotland showed that the three areas that were impacting on life expectancy the most were: reduced gains from improvements in heart disease mortality, drug-related deaths and dementia.

Mental health (target 3.4)

There has been a steady and significant increase in the proportion of adults who have two or more symptoms of depression (8% in 2010/11 to 11% in 2016/17). Since 2002, the rate of suicide has generally been on a downward trend, to 14 deaths per 100,000 population in 2018. In 2018, the probable suicide rate for males was three times that for females. There is a known link between deprivation and suicide. Between 2014 and 2018 the probable suicide rate was three times higher in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas.

As awareness of the far-reaching impact and danger of poor mental health is better understood, the Scottish Government has committed to further action to tackle it. In March 2017, they published the Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027. The strategy's vision is a Scotland where people can get the right help at the right time, expect recovery, and fully enjoy their rights, free from discrimination and stigma.

In line with the Strategy, the Scottish Government announced a package of measures to increase support for good mental health for children, young people and adults. Over the next five years, the Scottish Government will invest an additional £250 million to support the delivery of this package, through all levels of government, public services, third sector and communities. This includes specific support for new mothers, including counselling (for 11,000 mothers, delivered through the third sector); and specialist help and services (for 7,750 mothers).

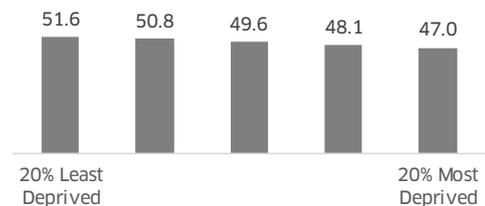
To make sure that children and young people have the support they need at the earliest possible stage, the Scottish Government is investing £60 million in additional school counselling services. This will create around 350 counsellors in school education ensuring that every secondary school has counselling services. There will be an additional 250 school nurses in place by 2022, to provide a response to mild and moderate emotional and mental health difficulties experienced by young people.

The Data Picture: Mental wellbeing

In 2018, the mean Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) for adults in Scotland was 49.4, not significantly different to 2017 but the lowest since the series began in 2008 where it was 50.0.

WEMWBS scores decrease (indicating poorer wellbeing) as area deprivation increases. The mean WEMWBS score in the most deprived 20% of areas (47.0) was significantly lower than in the least deprived 20% of areas (51.6).

Average score on Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2018



Source: Scottish Health Survey

In August 2018 the Scottish Government published its new Suicide Prevention Action Plan Every Life Matters. This sets out ten measures to continue the strong decline in the country's rate of deaths by suicide. It has a target to reduce the rate by 20% by 2022 (from a 2017 baseline).

Health and housing

The relationship between making a homelessness application and more interactions with health services shows that the integration of housing advice in health settings is essential. The right advice, at the right time, can help ensure the housing safety net is in place for anyone who falls into housing crisis, ensuring everyone gets the support they need. Shelter Scotland provides outreach advice services in many health locations, including in GP surgeries and specialist housing advice in A&E in Victoria Hospital, in Fife, as part of a two-year partnership project with Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.

We know that, in general, people who have experienced homelessness have higher health needs than those who have not been through the homelessness system – particularly in relation to mental health and addictions. We also know, from the higher rate of missed appointments for people who have experienced homelessness, that people can find it harder to engage with traditional services during the crisis of homelessness. Again, this shows the need for an integrated response to ensure that the health needs of this group are adequately met, and for health and housing services to work together to tackle health inequalities and both prevent and alleviate homelessness.

Shelter Scotland has commissioned research this year to establish what practical changes are needed to improve service provision for people experiencing homelessness with mental health difficulties so that they can access and receive the right support for them.

Non communicable diseases (target 3.4)

Mortality rates from Scotland's leading causes of death - including cancer, coronary heart disease (CHD), respiratory conditions and stroke - are declining long term following lifestyle improvements and improved health care (target 3.4). Scotland is on track to meet the SDG ambition of a one-third reduction by 2030. The overall mortality rate has dropped by 27%, from 1,560 per 100,000 in 1994 to 1,136 per 100,000 in 2016. This reflects a cumulative decline in cancer (18%, to 311 per 100,000), respiratory conditions (25%, to 149 per 100,000) and cerebrovascular (including stroke) mortality (60%, to 85 per 100,000) between 1994 and 2016.

Scotland has a high prevalence of the risk factors associated with heart disease, such as smoking, poor diet and physical inactivity. The mortality rate for heart disease fell by 35.5% between 2008 and 2017. However, the rate of decline has slowed in the last five years with increases in 2015 for both sexes and in the males rate only for 2017. Overall, it is estimated that around 6.4% of men and 4.0% of women are living with CHD (Scottish Health Survey 2017). Treating and preventing heart disease is a national clinical priority for Scotland, as outlined in the Heart Disease Improvement Plan.

Diet and healthy weight

It has remained challenging for Scotland to meet its dietary goals, and equally challenging to tackle the associated health inequalities. Nearly two thirds of people (65%) who live in Scotland continue to be overweight or obese; 26% of children are still at risk of becoming overweight or obese; and 33% of adults who live in the most deprived areas are obese compared with just 20% in the least deprived areas (Scottish Health Survey 2017).

A number of policies and initiatives aim to tackle obesity and diet as public health issues, for example, the Scottish Government published [A Healthier Future: Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan](#) in July 2018. The plan sets out a vision "to create a Scotland where everyone eats well, and we all have a healthy weight", and includes ambitions to halve childhood obesity by 2030 and to reduce health inequalities significantly. The actions in the plan are framed around five key themes: children and young people; transforming the food environment; weight management services; leadership; and health inequalities.

The Scottish Government has consulted on restricting the promotion and marketing of food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt where they are sold to the public and will bring forward a Bill on Restricting Foods Promotions for introduction in the 2020/21 Legislative Programme.

While legislation is not the only way to make progress, we recognise that there is a clear place for legislation to underpin the considerable work that is already being done to realise our Good Food Nation ambitions. The role of third-party stakeholders in both food provision and efforts to increase food education is significant, and noted as an avenue for expansion in the Scottish Government's Independent Working Group on Food Poverty in 2016. The Scottish Government has committed to an enhanced £2 million fund to respond to food insecurity during the school holidays working with COSLA, local authorities, the third sector and other stakeholders. Further detail on food is included in Goal 2.

Closer Look – Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland co-ordinate the Children’s Sector Strategic and Policy Forum. The Forum is made of leaders from across the children’s sector to tackle issues of strategic importance. The Forum focuses on three main areas of work: Reducing Child Poverty; promoting Health and Wellbeing; and embedding the Meaningful Participation and Engagement of Children and Young People. The Forum has a role in scrutinising the implementation of the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan and will advise the Scottish Government on cross-government co-ordination in delivering the plan.

Reproductive health (target 3.7)

It is widely recognised that short inter-pregnancy intervals of less than 12 months are associated with an increased risk of obstetric and neonatal complications including preterm birth, stillbirth and neonatal death. The provision of post-partum contraception (PPC) has therefore been a policy priority for the Scottish Government for some time. It is set out in the Refreshed Maternity Framework (2011), the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework Update (2015) and the Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy (2016).

The provision of long acting reversible contraception (LARC) methods as part of PPC is particularly key, as these provide a high level of efficacy and are independent of adherence for their effectiveness. However, it is essential that women are always offered LARC as a choice within a range of methods (if any is desired) so that they remain in control of their own reproductive health.

The APPLES (Accessing Post-Partum LARC in Edinburgh South East) project looked at improving access to contraception for postpartum women, with particular emphasis on LARC methods. This is now being rolled out across NHS Lothian. The Scottish Government has provided funding for pilot projects in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Ayrshire and Arran to test rolling out provision of post-partum contraception in those areas.

Sexual health and blood borne viruses (targets 3.3 and 3.7)

In July 2017, Scotland became the first of the UK nations to provide PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis) through the NHS to prevent HIV and in the first year of its availability over 1,800 people started on PrEP. In 2018, Scotland achieved the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets on HIV, with an estimated 91% of people living with HIV knowing their diagnosis, 98% on antiviral therapy, and 97% of those on treatment being virally suppressed.

There is no room for complacency, and the Scottish Government is providing funding of over £2 million between 2018 and 2021 to organisations tackling poor sexual health and blood borne viruses, and is working with third sector organisations to ensure progress is maintained. Current work includes ongoing consultations with the community and wider sector on the challenges of HIV in Scotland through the Scottish Parliament’s Cross-party Group on Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses. There is a wide range of organisations, including Waverley Care, HIV Scotland and Hepatitis Scotland who are working to reduce stigma and improve outcomes for those with communicable diseases.

Tobacco, alcohol and substance use (target 3.5)

Reducing the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is a priority in Scotland.

Smoking

Smoking remains the greatest threat to health in Scotland contributing to over 9,000 deaths per year and over 100,000 hospital admissions per year. The percentage of adults who had never smoked regularly or at all increased from 50% in 2003 to 56% in 2017; the figure for ex-regular smoking increased from 22% to 26%

An action plan on Raising Scotland’s tobacco-free generation was published by the Scottish Government in June 2018. This sets out a five year action plan to continue with our ambition to create a tobacco free generation by reducing smoking rates to 5% or less by 2034. Smoking is an inequalities issue: Health inequalities and socio-economic inequalities tend individuals towards smoking; smoking is a principal driver for health inequality and a contributor to socio-economic inequalities. By setting targets each year

for our stop-smoking services to achieve successful quits in our most deprived communities, Scotland is reducing health inequalities in respect of smoking. In 2018 Cancer Research UK measured the success of this approach and recommended the rest of the UK to follow Scotland's lead. By reducing its levels of smoking, Scotland is likely to be reducing levels of health inequality - when comparing health outcomes between smokers and non-smokers there is a significant inequality relationship. Turning smokers into non-smokers will further help balance the health inequalities between those groups.

The 2018 action plan includes significant shorter-term initiatives such as removing all tobacco from prisons and making it an offence to smoke near hospital buildings. The action plan also includes proposals for the longer term such as more effective pricing interventions and actions that could be taken to reduce smoking in homes and reduce the clustering of tobacco outlets in less well-off communities.

The Data Picture: Smoking

Target 3a aims to strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

In 2018, 19% of adults smoked, not significantly different to 2017 but a significant fall since 2003 (28%).

Adults smoking by gender



Source: Scottish Health Survey

Substance use

Drug-related deaths in Scotland are rising and Scottish ministers have described the situation as a public health emergency. They are convening a taskforce to examine the main causes of drug deaths and advise on what changes could help save lives.

The Data Picture: Drug-related deaths

Target 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

In 2018 there were 1,187 drug-related deaths in Scotland, the highest since records began in 1996. This is more than double the 574 deaths recorded a decade earlier, in 2008.

Drug-related deaths in Scotland, 2007-2018



Source: National Records for Scotland, Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland, 2018

The Scottish Government's approach to drugs policy is underpinned by a public health approach, guided by a principle of ensuring the best health outcomes for people who are, or have been, drug users (target 3.5).

The Scottish Government currently provide £53.8 million each year to Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, supplemented by £20 million annually following its 2017-18 Programme for Government for the combined Alcohol and Drugs Treatment Strategy, **Rights, Respect, Recovery** published in November 2018. The strategy focuses on prevention and early intervention, developing recovery oriented systems of care, getting it right for children, young people and families, and taking a public health approach to justice. This approach represents a strengthened approach to tackling the issue of drug use through a public health lens, seeking to divert people who use drugs

away from the criminal justice system. In addition the Scottish Government committed in its 2019-20 Programme for Government to make an additional £20 million of funding available over two years to address the public health emergency of drug deaths in Scotland. This will allow the new Drug Deaths Taskforce to support innovative projects and test new approaches to improve the quality of services, to establish joint working protocols between alcohol and drug services and mental health services, and allow the development of a national pathway for opiate substitution therapy.

Glasgow City Health and Social Care partnership are pursuing proposals to pilot a medically supervised overdose prevention facility – designed for an estimated 400-500 people who inject publicly and experience high levels of harm. The facility is expected to reduce the risk of further outbreaks of blood-borne viruses, though Scotland does not currently have all of the powers necessary to realise the facility.

Higher-risk alcohol use

The Scottish Government continues to take a whole population approach which aims to reduce alcohol consumption and the risk of alcohol-related harms across a population, because Scotland’s consumption remains too high.

In 2017, Scots bought enough alcohol (10.2 litres of pure alcohol) for everyone aged over 16 to drink 19.6 units of alcohol every week. This is 40% more than the UK CMOs’ low risk drinking guidelines of 14 units a week and 17% higher than in England & Wales. In 2017/18, there were 35,499 alcohol-related hospital admissions in general acute hospitals which represents a 2.5% decrease on the previous year but more than four times the level seen in the early 1980s.

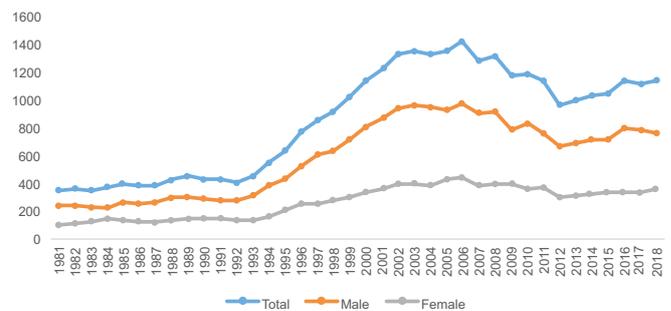
The **Alcohol Framework 2018: Preventing Harm**, published in November 2018, sets out priorities for preventing alcohol-related harm, and builds on the progress made with the previous Alcohol Framework. A key focus is the reduction of health inequalities as there are more alcohol-related hospital admissions and deaths in the most deprived areas compared with the least. Minimum unit pricing targets harmful drinkers with a particular focus on harmful drinkers living in poverty.

**The Data Picture:
 Alcohol specific deaths in Scotland**

Target 3.5 (Indicator 3.5.2) aims to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol. Alcohol related deaths have decreased since 2011 but are still nearly three times more than in the early 1980s.

The number of males suffering from alcohol related deaths is approximately double that of females.

Alcohol-specific deaths by sex: registered in Scotland 1981 to 2018



Source: National Records of Scotland, Alcohol-specific deaths, 2017

Road accidents and injuries (target 3.6)

There were 9,428 road accident casualties reported in 2017, 14% fewer than in 2016. The number of reported accidents has been falling over the past ten years, and in 2017 was 43% lower than in 2007; the lowest figure since current records began in 1970. There has been a long term downward trend in road traffic fatalities. In 2017 there were 146 people killed in road accidents in Scotland, a decrease of 24% on 2016, and the lowest level since annual records began in 1950.

This is mostly due to the governance structure of our road safety policy (where a collaborative approach to take Scotland towards an ultimate vision of zero fatalities and to meet five challenging casualty reduction targets is implemented) and the size of Scotland that allows agile planning and delivery between various partners.

Scotland’s road safety vision is that there will be “A steady reduction in the number of those killed and those seriously injured with the ultimate vision of a future where no-one is killed on Scotland’s road, and the injury rate is much reduced.” In 2009 our Road Safety Framework to 2020 was published setting out Scotland road safety targets to 2020.

The Data Picture: Road deaths

Target 3.6 (Indicator 3.6.1) aims to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

In 2018, 160 people were killed, declining over the longer term from 281 deaths in 2007. There were more male fatalities (109) than female fatalities (51). 1,581 people were seriously injured in 2018.

Road casualty deaths, 2007 to 2018



Source: Transport Scotland, Reported Road Casualties, 2018

Challenges and next steps

There are a number of broad areas where outcomes for young people show substantial room for improvement. Many of these are interrelated. Scotland continues to have some of the highest levels of diet-related poor health in the world.

Among children, diet falls short of recommended good practice, with just over one in ten children eating the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables and only two thirds eating breakfast every day. A substantial minority of children also do not meet the recommended guidelines of an average of 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per day across the week. Maternal obesity during pregnancy has also increased since it was first recorded in 2011 and again displays a strong deprivation gap (Child and adolescent health and wellbeing: evidence review, 2018).

The poor performance on diet and physical activity is also likely to contribute to falling levels of mental wellbeing, another source for concern. Some mental wellbeing measures have shown a worsening position in recent years. The Scottish Government are working with partners in the public and third sector to develop a 10-year Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Action Plan which will focus on improving health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people across a range of domains.

The rising number of drug-related deaths is a public health emergency in Scotland. The Scottish Government and other partners will take action to tackle the issues and harms associated with the use of illicit drugs.

To meet the increasing demands on our Health and Social Care system, the Scottish Government are also developing a new smarter booking system for use in the NHS. The new system is being developed as part of CivTech, the Scottish Government’s innovative technology acceleration programme, and will allow patients to make, change and cancel outpatient appointments online, as well as providing text message reminders. The smarter booking system will also help ensure patients are seen by the right person, in the right place, and at the right time, reducing unnecessary appointments. The Scottish Government will also implement the Digital Health and Care strategy, launched in 2018, to ensure that digital enhances the delivery of health and care services.

The recent increase in government funding and action to tackle poor Mental Health will require good evaluation to understand better what interventions have the biggest impact. One commitment in the Mental Health Strategy is to develop a mental health strategy data framework, recognising that good mental health is not the sole preserve of health services, or even public services. The mental health strategy data framework comprises two elements: a mental health quality indicator profile to illustrate the quality of services; and a mental health population framework to provide an accessible overview for those seeking to understand Scotland’s mental health and wellbeing at the population level. A full progress review of the Mental Health Strategy will be held in 2022 to ensure that lessons are learnt from actions to that point.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- An investment of an additional £20 million over two years to test new approaches and improve services to tackle the number of lives lost to drugs in Scotland. The Scottish Government will also consult on drug law reform, setting out the changes we would want to make to the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act in the event the UK Government agrees to devolve the powers in the Act
- Increase the number of people treated each year for Hepatitis C and work to eliminate it in Scotland by 2024 by getting the message out that anyone who has been at risk should take action
- Expand the current vitamins scheme in Scotland to include all children under 3, in addition to the current scheme which provides free vitamin D for breastfeeding mothers and children under a year old
- Establish Precision Medicine Alliance Scotland, focusing on conditions of major importance in Scotland, including those that disproportionately impact those affected by socio-economic disadvantage
- Create a new national body to strengthen infection prevention and control, which will have oversight for the design, construction and maintenance of major NHS infrastructure developments
- New legislation for drug-driving limits covering 17 different drug types, coming in to force in October 2019
- Introduce a no-smoking perimeter around hospital buildings and seek views on further restrictions on advertising of nicotine vapour products, to discourage non-smokers, children and young people from taking up vaping
- Bring forward a Bill on Restricting Foods Promotions for the promotion and marketing of food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt in next year's legislative programme



A belief in the value of lifelong learning for all can be seen in Scotland through an education infrastructure which spans early years provision through primary and secondary school, college and university, modern apprenticeships and work based learning. Complementing this provision is the community learning and development sector which caters for learners of all ages, interests and abilities in a wide variety of settings. A commitment to addressing education inequalities underpins all of what we do and is most apparent in continued support for free tuition fees at further and higher learning levels, for example.

Scotland performs well on Goal 4 in relation to the ambition of the SDG targets. Additionally, comprehensive, commensurable data is available to successfully measure progress. Extensive disaggregation of data by characteristic including gender and ethnicity further boosts our ability to account for all learners and learning experiences (target 4.5, 4a). We should not, however, be complacent and education remains a priority in Scotland.

Early years (target 4.2)

Early Learning and Childcare Entitlement

The earliest years of life are crucial to a child's development and have a lasting impact on outcomes in health, education and employment opportunities later in life. In Scotland, we are committed to reducing these inequalities and are making an unprecedented level of investment in the early years – through universal measures including the expansion of the **Early Learning and Childcare Entitlement** (ELC). In line with our National Outcome for Children, we provide a range of learning and care support for families with young children, from birth up until starting school, to ensure that all children get the best possible start in life.



Fair Work and Business



Education



Children



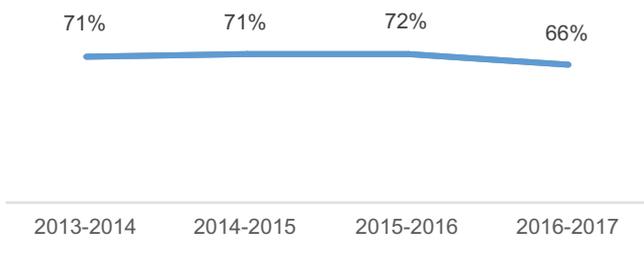
Economy

**The Data Picture:
Child social and physical development**

Target 4.2 aims to 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.

The percentage of children with no concerns at their 27-30 month review has had little change since 2013-14 to 2015-16. However, in 2016-17 the number of pupils with no concern dropped by approximately 6 percentage points.

Percentage of children, eligible for a review, with no concerns at their 27-30 month review



Source: Child Health 27-30 Month Review Statistics

Access to pre-primary provision is also very good, with near universal uptake of funded places in 2017 (99%) (target 4.2). From August 2020 all three and four year olds, and eligible two year olds, will be entitled to up to 1,140 hours of funded ELC per year (target 4.2), a near doubling of the current funded entitlement of up to 600 hours. This is being delivered by local authorities.

Evidence from both UK and international evaluations and studies of early learning and childcare programmes support the fact that all children, and especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, can benefit in terms of social, emotional and educational outcomes from attending ELC. However, it is also evident that, if children are to benefit, early learning and childcare must be of high quality, with poor quality provision shown to have detrimental effects on children (target 4A).

In Scotland, we have committed to ensuring that high quality ELC is at the heart of the expansion to 1140 hours. While quality in ELC settings in Scotland is already high (the latest Care Inspectorate data shows that 91.1% of funded ELC providers achieved evaluations of good or better across all four quality themes in 2017) we have produced a **Quality Action Plan** with focused actions to embed and further strengthen quality. The plan sets out 15 actions that the Scottish Government are taking to ensure that the expansion delivers a high quality experience for all children, including quality education. All actions are currently in progress. In addition, we have introduced a National Standard which all providers delivering the funded entitlement to 1140 hours have to meet from August 2020. At the heart of the national standard are a clear and consistent set of quality criteria. Our expansion of ELC is underpinned by four guiding principles, with quality at the heart and our primary policy goal; quality, flexibility, accessibility, and affordability (target 4.2).

We are also aware that parents and carers need support to enable them to best provide for and nurture their children. Our support for families in Scotland includes offering **baby boxes** filled with useful items to all babies born in Scotland, funding the **Bookbug programme** to provide free books and learning sessions for young children, and publishing resources for parents such as **Play, Talk, Read** to help them to interact with their children effectively.

The **Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative** has been set up to make early years, health, family services and schools more effective and responsive in tackling inequality and improving children's outcomes. This is achieved by supporting local authorities, health boards and the third sector to use Quality Improvement (QI) in their services for children, young people and families.

**Closer Look - Evaluation of Early Learning
 Childcare**

A cross-sectional and longitudinal study has been set up to evaluate the ELC expansion. Baseline data is currently being collected from children and parents accessing 600 hours of government-funded ELC. In 2022-2023, the same data will be collected from those accessing 1140 hours. Measuring before and after the expansion allows for an assessment of the extent to which the expansion's long-term benefits have been achieved. Quality of ELC provision is also being examined. Indicators are focused on measuring these benefit areas and include: child social, emotional, behavioural, and cognitive development; physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and parents; and parental activity in work, training, or study. Full findings will be available in 2024.

**Primary and secondary school
 (targets 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 and 4a)**

Through the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), children and young people in Scotland are supported to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society. Our view is that education should open the door to opportunities and improve the life chances of all our children. In line with this, the vast majority of pupils get a good education in Scotland. Performance on indicator 4.1.1 is good and we set expected levels of attainment beyond the minimum specified in this indicator.

Positive progress has been made on reducing the impact of disadvantage on achievement in Scotland. In 2009/10, the gap between the proportion of school leavers from the most and least deprived areas with one pass or more Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 4 or better was 11.3 percentage points. By 2017/18 this had narrowed to 6.1 percentage points. Similarly, at SCQF level 5 or better, the gap has narrowed from 33.3 percentage points to 20.3 percentage points, whilst at SCQF level 6 or better it has narrowed from 45.6 percentage points to 37.4 percentage points. Concentrated action

continues to focus on further reducing this gap across all social groups. For example, girls outperform boys at every level. By the time they leave school, more than two-thirds (68.6%) of girls have a qualification at Level 6 or above (Highers equivalent or better) compared to less than three-fifths of boys (56%). That difference is slightly greater now than it was in 2009/10. The need to improve standards in education and close the attainment gap is an ongoing challenge.

At the same time, school leavers are now more likely to enter positive destinations. In particular, the proportion of pupils entering higher education has increased from 36.2% in 2009-10 to 41.1% in 2017-18. The number of Higher passes by girls in STEM subjects also increased between 2007 and 2018. Girls achieved more Higher qualifications in mathematics which rose by 7% and chemistry which rose by 13% during the same period (2007-2018).

The Data Picture: Skill profile of the population

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The proportion of adults aged 16-64 with low or no qualifications (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 4 or below) shows an overall reduction since 2004.

The latest figures show that the proportion of adults aged 16-64 with low or no qualifications was 11.6% in 2019. SCQF level 4 refers to qualifications at a level at or equivalent to Intermediate level 1 and General Standard Grade.

**Percentage of the working age population with
 SCQF Level 4 Qualifications or below in Scotland**



Source: Annual Population Survey

The Scottish Attainment Challenge

The £750 million **Scottish Attainment Challenge** was launched by the First Minister in 2015 with the aim of ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed. The challenge has a particular focus on further closing the poverty related attainment gap and on supporting pupils in local authorities with the highest concentrations of deprivation. The nine 'Challenge Authorities' are Glasgow, Dundee, Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire, Clackmannanshire, North Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire and Renfrewshire.

The Fund initially focused on primary schools and is underpinned by the **National Improvement Framework**, CfE and **Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)**. It focuses on improvement activity on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in specific areas of Scotland. The Fund will also support and complement a wider range of initiatives and programmes to ensure all of Scotland's children and young people reach their full potential. The scope of the attainment challenge is being extended to support up to 133 secondary schools. The Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) (see below) and **Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund** are available as part of the **Attainment Scotland Fund**.

We have introduced the **National Improvement Framework: drivers of improvement** to help deliver excellence and equity in education, to assess the effectiveness of interventions at all levels of the system, and to target effective improvement activity (target 4.5 and 4.6). This details all the evidence we will gather to monitor progress. **Scottish national standardised assessments** help to identify children's progress, providing diagnostic information on school children in Primary years 1, 4 and 7 and Secondary year 3, to support teachers' professional judgement.

Poverty related attainment and the Pupil Equity Fund

The Child Poverty Act and **Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan** set ambitious targets to reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland by 2030. This requires delivery plans to be published in 2018, 2022 and 2026 and annual progress to be reported from the Scottish Governments and local partners. The **Fairer Scotland Action Plan** further outlines a vision for a fairer and more prosperous Scotland and includes 50 concrete actions to reduce inequality over the Parliamentary term.

Such contributions are part of a broad agenda to support all children to achieve the best from their education in Scotland. Raising attainment and focusing on ending the poverty related attainment gap are particular priorities for Scotland, as expressed through work on the Scottish Attainment Challenge and attendant Pupil Equity Funding and the Care Experienced and Young People Fund. The Scottish Government has committed £750 million over the parliamentary period to tackle the poverty related attainment gap. The Pupil Equity Fund has helped in the immediate term to focus minds and interventions at the school level on further narrowing attainment. School's own knowledge of family circumstance and ongoing dialogue can assist to some extent, however, social deprivation remains challenging to tackle in broader terms. Improvements in pre-primary provision is expected to produce benefits to assist with this in the longer term. Lifting children out of poverty will help to reduce the multiple negative impacts of poverty. The intention is for positive outcomes from education to support individuals enter higher paid sustainable employment, which in turn should reduce poverty and associated poor health outcomes, for example.

Across all these actions, genuine collaborative working between organisations and across government is difficult to achieve and translate into effective delivery of Outcomes. Significant effort is needed from all parties to ensure goals are shared and actions are brought together to maximise impact. Key actors in this endeavour include the Poverty Alliance who are core funded by the Scottish Government and are instrumental in delivering the Get Heard Scotland campaign. The purpose of this work is to drive forward meaningful change by listening to the views of individuals with lived experience of poverty. The Poverty Alliance also support the Scottish Government's work on the Living Wage, and deliver poverty awareness training across Scotland. The Scottish Government core fund the Poverty Truth Community in order to support individuals with lived experience to meet and offer their insight into how to effectively challenge poverty. This organisation formed a key part of the campaign on the cost of the school day, leading to the increase in School Clothing Grants across Scotland (see Goal 1 for out of school care and the minimum clothing grant).

Literacy and numeracy

Literacy and numeracy are core to all aspects of learning, teaching and skills development in Scotland. The Scottish Government's **Education Governance: Next Steps** document (2017) restated a commitment to creating an education system which ensures that every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy. Literacy and numeracy are two of the three 'responsibilities for all', alongside health and wellbeing, and there is an explicit focus on them within the Scottish Attainment Challenge, the 2018 National Improvement Framework and the related Improvement Plan. Included are stretch aims to decrease the combined Primary 1, 4 and 7 attainment gap in literacy and numeracy to 5 percentage points.

Our focus on literacy and numeracy in schools, is further supported by investment to close the poverty related attainment gap via the Attainment Scotland fund. Other support mechanisms include the literacy and numeracy benchmarks, and the National Improvement Framework (including new national standardised assessments) designed to ensure better quality data and a strong culture of improvement. The new Regional Improvement Collaboratives, supported by dedicated staff at Education Scotland which is the executive agency charged with supporting quality and improvement in Scottish education, will strengthen collaborative working on literacy and numeracy at local and regional levels in line with regional priorities.

Education Scotland's Literacy across Learning and Numeracy resources provide practical material to support schools to plan literacy and numeracy learning across all subject areas. The agency also facilitates the National Literacy Network, the National Numeracy and Mathematics Hub Champions Network, and the Mathematics and Numeracy Principal Teachers and Faculty Heads Network which bring together practitioners to share good practice. The Scottish Government has invested £1.6 million over five years (2014 to 2019) to support numeracy and maths professional development in local authorities through Education Scotland's National Numeracy and Mathematics Hub which is aimed at raising standards and sharing best practice in the teaching and learning of maths and numeracy.

An annual Maths Week Scotland, and associated DFM Holiday Maths Challenges, have been established to raise awareness and enjoyment of mathematics across all sectors of society. Education Scotland will carry out a national thematic inspection focusing on mathematics across a sample of early learning and childcare settings and schools in 2018/19. The Scottish Government's STEM Education and Training Strategy, published in 2017, also commits to providing further support to schools to help them raise attainment and close equity gaps in STEM learning, including in mathematics.

As an avid reader herself, Scotland's First Minister established her Reading Challenge to encourage reading for pleasure among children and young people. This is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Scottish Books Trust. A national strategy for school libraries was also published in 2018 and the Scottish Government are investing £1 million over three years through the School Library Improvement Fund. This is in recognition of the central role school libraries play in helping to drive improvement in all parts of the education system, so reducing the attainment gap.

Progressing gender equality in Scotland

The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 is a key piece of legislation in Scotland. It includes 'provisions for strategic planning to consider socio-economic barriers to learning'. The UK Equalities Act (2010) further outlines duties for schools in this area. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education and Training strategy published in October 2017 also lays out a number of actions aimed at tackling gender inequality in education. Included is the expansion of the Improving Gender Balance project across all schools and the introduction of new Gender Balance and Equalities Officers in Scottish education. A number of Scottish Government strategies focus on equitable education for all children, and adult literacy, for example, in Adult Literacy in Scotland (ALIS) 2020.

We want every child and young person in Scotland to develop mutually respectful, responsible and confident relationships with other children, young people and adults. Gender stereotyping is everywhere in our culture, but schools can make a real difference both by becoming more aware of potential issues themselves, and by helping young people become more aware. Research³ shows that the best way to combat the negative effects of gender stereotyping on young people is through an embedded and sustained approach to raising gender bias awareness.

The Scottish Government embeds gender equality across policy in education and are taking a range of actions to develop mutually respectful, responsible and confident relationships amongst young people through:

- Relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education
- Equally Safe strategy and delivery plan
- Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy
- Expert Group on Preventing sexual offending involving children and young people
- Strengthened guidance on prejudice-based bullying, recording and monitoring
- STEM strategy action to support whole school and cross-curricular approaches to tackle gender stereotyping and gender balance in STEM subjects

The CfE is intended to be an inclusive curriculum from 3 to 18 wherever learning is taking place. The **Building the Curriculum 3** document states that gender should be given consideration from a support perspective to ensure a level playing field when accessing the curriculum. To support gender equality across curriculum delivery, **Education Scotland** published a number of resources on embedding equalities in every aspect of a young person's journey through education. These can be used to inform other equity policies and programs.

These resources were developed as part of the Improving Gender Balance project in STEM. The government's STEM education and training strategy commits us to embedding the approaches from this successful pilot in all schools in Scotland by the end of 2022. Education Scotland are now establishing a dedicated team to work with early learning providers and schools to challenge gender bias and tackle other forms of inequality in STEM, provide professional learning support for teachers and a gender champion network and gender kite-marking to grow and spread best practice. This will build on and reinforce the content delivered through Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes on developing and promoting equality and diversity to address potential discrimination; and the values and personal commitment to social justice included in the General Teaching Council for Scotland's (GTCS) Professional Standards.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority, our national awarding body, places equality at the heart of its work, ensuring that our National Qualifications and wider awards are not discriminatory to any learner. Furthermore, our education system is offering all young people a range of opportunities through their Senior Phase, allowing them to develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed beyond the classroom, whether progressing to training, work or further study.

Following recommendations from the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls to create a commission for gender equality in schools, the Scottish Government will establish a short-life taskforce chaired by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. The taskforce will bring together representatives from key parts of the education system and leaders in gender equality to explore how we can take additional, better connected and bolder action in order to embed gender equality within early years and school education. The Scottish Government will ensure that the taskforce focuses on key questions and brings forward specific actions to increase the pace with which gender equality is embedded in early years, primary and secondary education.

3 <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/sci38-key-findings.pdf>

Closer Look - Gender inequality in education

The STEM Education and Training strategy (2017) includes a range of actions to tackle gender inequality; the expansion of the Improving Gender Balance project across all schools; the introduction of new Gender Balance and; Equalities Officers in Education Scotland. The team will deliver gender and equality training to partner organisations, and develop a gender champion network to grow and spread best practice. This work aims to address unconscious bias, and tackle gender stereotyping and inequality. While the immediate focus is on girls and STEM, it is anticipated that a whole school approach will bring broader benefits, tackling assumptions and addressing inequities more widely.

The learning environment

In Scotland, we recognise the importance of investing in school buildings in order to ensure learning environments are fit for purpose and accessible to all. The proportion of pupils educated in schools of 'good' or 'satisfactory' suitability increased from 76% in 2010 to 86% in 2018. Moreover, the proportion of pupils educated in schools of 'good' or 'satisfactory' condition increased from 61% in April 2007 to 87% in April 2018, though there remains room for improvement on the universal provision identified in this target 4a. Supporting and promoting pupils' health and wellbeing is also an important element in creating the right conditions for learning. As is ensuring children and young people with additional support needs are supported in their learning.

Our Deputy First Minister announced the new £1 billion schools investment programme at the end of November 2018. This maintains the objective of replacing poor condition schools, along with a number of other strategic high level outcomes that we will seek to achieve across our learning estate, and will be aligned to the Scottish Government's National Infrastructure Mission. The government's Vision 2030+ report also sets out the aspiration that all school buildings, grounds and policies should support learning for sustainability. An Action plan has been developed to take this forward.

Learning for Sustainability

Learning for Sustainability (LfS) is an umbrella term weaving together sustainable development education, global citizenship and outdoor learning. It aims to provide learners with the skills, knowledge and values to live socially, economically and environmentally sustainable lives in a global society. In 2013, the Scottish Government made LfS an entitlement for all learners in response to the recommendations of the One Planet Schools Ministerial Working Group.

Closer Look - A corridor of Goals

I am a Biology teacher. In our department we have created an SDG stairway between the two floors of the department so the pupils see the 17 Goals each time they walk up the stairs.

Scotland's CfE sets out that all learners are entitled to study LfS, and that all educators address LfS in their practice to conform to the GTCS Professional Standards. Additionally, the national [How Good is Our School? \[4th Edition\]](#) (September 2015), the official school self-evaluation and improvement guidance, contains a number of references to LfS aimed at ensuring it is an essential consideration in relation to school improvement. We see LfS as a whole school approach that provides an excellent starting point for public understanding of sustainable development and the values that drive the SDGs.

In 2016, the LfS National Implementation Group published the [Learning for Sustainability National Implementation Group – Vision 2030+ \(2016\)](#) report. We have committed to taking forward the 14 recommendations of the concluding report on how sustainability should be promoted within Scottish education. We have been developing an action plan to give effect to those recommendations and plan to publish this in spring 2019. This work will see actions taken forward to further promote the cross-curricular theme of LfS within CfE and ultimately support progress towards SDG 4.7. Action prompted by the Vision 2030+ report has so far seen expectations around LfS included in the professional standards for Scotland's teachers as set by the GTC for Scotland. This places obligations on educators to include themes related to sustainability in their practice.

Closer Look - Review of professional teaching standards (2018)

Children in Scotland worked with the GTCS to ensure that children and young people were involved in the upcoming refresh of the [professional standards for teaching](#). The findings from children and young people provide important evidence to shape these standards and point to the importance of achieving balance in nurturing and respect for boundaries, rules and freedom, equality and equity, and professionalism and creativity.

For Eco Schools please see Goal 13.

Closer Look - Learning for Sustainability Scotland

LfS Scotland is hosted by the University of Edinburgh and is designated as a sustainability centre of expertise by the UN. It is a growing network of over 600 educators, practitioners and key partners working together to embed learning for sustainability and the SDGs into all that we do. The centre engages with large numbers of teachers, schools, colleges, universities, communities, NGOs, and public sector groups across Scotland and beyond. This is achieved through task groups, local and national events, members get-togethers and by sharing best practice via social media and online. LfS Scotland believes that education underpins all the SDGs, contributing to the interconnected, holistic system of sustainability challenges.

Learning about biodiversity

The Biodiversity Route Map Project involves primary, secondary and additional support needs to schools, local authorities and environmental organisations. It supports 100 schools serving the 20% most disadvantaged areas across Scotland to take learning out into a local greenspace on a frequent basis by 2020. The project aims to benefit the wider community and local natural heritage, and encourage lasting improvements to teaching and pupils' achievement, health and wellbeing.

The £600,000 Outdoor Learning in Nature (OLiN) Fund involving schools, local authorities and environmental organisations is intended to support young people from the most deprived areas of Scotland to have regular, frequent, structured and progressive outdoor learning experiences. The project helps them to appreciate, learn about and connect with nature, so improving mental and physical health. It will work with over 100 schools and provide professional learning to approximately 1,000 teachers.

In 2015 Young Scot and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) set up ReRoute, Scotland's Youth Biodiversity Panel. Putting co-design into practice, volunteers from across Scotland aged 13-24 explored ways of increasing young people's engagement with Scotland's natural environment in urban and rural locations. The Panel made further inspiring recommendations in June 2018 which were accepted in full by SNH. ReRoute2 is putting into practice Urban Junior Ranger groups and creating new urban nature parks/reserves which are co-designed with young people.

We respect, protect and fulfil our human rights

Our commitment to supporting LfS and rights-based approaches in schools supports our broader commitment – outlined in the Scottish Government's [Programme for Government 2018-19](#) – to ensuring the principles of the UNCRC are embedded into all policy and legislation in an effective and practical way. The First Minister has underlined her intention to incorporate the principles of the UNCRC into Scots law.

According to **Unicef**, Scotland is leading the way in embedding children’s rights in school with 1,400 schools in Scotland (over 50%) involved in Unicef’s Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRS). Notably, two schools in Aberdeen – Ferryhill Primary and Harlaw Academy – were the first schools in the UK to gain a RRS Gold award under their new Gold/Silver/Bronze criteria. An important aspect of the RRS approach is that it seeks to embed rights across the life and work of the school and to consider rights in a detailed and careful way across the curriculum. When a small group of Scottish Government policy officials visited Gracemount High in Edinburgh last year, for example, it was clear that they had examined their curriculum from a rights-based perspective and that this had a positive influence on learning and teaching as well as wider values and culture across the school. Children’s rights are embedded within our teaching standards in Scotland.

Although schools can develop their own rights based approach, RRS provides a framework to support them deliver rights based learning. In practice, the focus on international SDGs tends to evolve naturally in relation to rights based learning and awareness of rights issues around specific topics or events. Freedom to interpret and respond individually to the SDGs like this is valued by schools, although the opportunity to take part in centrally led international SDG projects would also be welcomed.

Closer Look - My Rights My Say (2018-2022)

The My Rights My Say service is a partnership between Children in Scotland, Enquire, Partners in Advocacy and Cairn Legal. The project aims to support young people aged 12-15 to access new rights to have a say in decisions about their learning under the Additional Support for Learning legislation.

Global Citizenship Education

Global Citizenship Education (GCE), or Development Education, supports involvement across all SDGs by empowering learners to take an active role locally and globally to build more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive and secure societies. This extends beyond individual actions and attitudes to include power structures and the practices of organisations. Scotland’s commitment to embedding GCE within formal education predates the SDGs. The CfE, launched in 2010, prioritised Global Citizenship as a cross-cutting theme, and national and local civil society organisations involved in developing and advocating for GCE in Scotland have worked together as the IDEAS⁴ network for around 20 years.

Closer Look - Development Education Centres

Regionally based Development Education Centres (DECs) offer local, face-to-face support to educators across all local authorities and sectors and work together as key members of the national GCE network, IDEAS. Funded at Scottish, UK and European levels, DECs provide professional learning opportunities, teaching resources and innovative learning and teaching projects to address the global social justice issues at the heart of the SDGs. They use the participative, values based approaches of Global Citizenship Education. The DECs have engaged with teachers in over 60% of schools in Scotland since 2013. IDEAS’s membership also includes civil society organisations which deliver GCE content and opportunities relating to the SDGs.

Since 2010, IDEAS has worked in partnership with statutory stakeholders, such as the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and the GTCS, to embed GCE in practice, from early years through to university-based teacher education programmes. This has included working with academics to support evidence-based policy making in the field.

4 International Development Education Association Scotland: <http://www.ideas-forum.org.uk/>

The Scottish Government is also currently working with IDEAS under its new commitment to Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD).⁵ This work aligns with and supports a cross-government approach to the SDGs. GCE has been taken as a key PCSD focus area. We are not aware of any other examples globally of GCE being highlighted within PCSD in this way.

IDEAS has also sustained Scottish engagement with European GCE processes through Concord⁶ and participation in the European Commission's Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) stream⁷. There are Scottish partners in four projects funded under the 2016 DEAR funding call. One of these, Bridge 47, has a specific focus on the achievement of target 4.7. The other projects support educator and youth engagement with one or more of the SDGs through the vehicle of GCE.

Closer Look - Bridge 47 - Building Global Citizenship

IDEAS is a leading partner in Bridge 47: Building Global Citizenship (2017-2020), a European Commission DEAR-funded project co-created and implemented by 15 European and global civil society organisations. It focuses on advocating for and building GCE capacity, innovation and partnerships at national, European and global levels to ensure SDG 4.7 is delivered. The project builds on the UN's recognition that education is a means to achieving all the Goals. In the case of Goal 4.7, this means using GCE to build a common frame of SDG focused understanding and action that extends beyond educators to policy makers and civil society organisations, for example by highlighting the links between GCE and social inclusion policy.

Closer Look - Antonine Eco Group

Antonine Primary School in Falkirk has worked hard to incorporate the targets and aims of SDG 15, for example by exploring how to produce their own food and in creating areas to grow vegetables and fruit in the school grounds. This has led to a series of Food Technology lessons, with pupils considering how their produce can be turned into food. The school has a team of grandparents who are part of their Eco group, and come into school every Thursday to share their expertise with pupils. During sessions they have grown a variety of fruit and vegetables, which have then been used during school taster sessions. Each class cares for a tree in the orchard, and this year the infant department have introduced Woodland Wednesdays, during which pupils develop their literacy and numeracy skills in the outdoor space.

Loved, safe and respected (targets 4.5, 4.7 and 4a)

In our review of the National Outcomes for Scotland, children told us they wanted to grow up in a country where they felt loved, safe and respected. In order to thrive and achieve their full potential, children and young people need learning environments which are safe, nurturing, respectful and free from fear, abuse and discrimination.

In the seven years since the first National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People was published, Scotland has seen huge legislative and policy change. This includes the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, as well as equality legislation put in place by the UK Government including the Equality Act 2010, that have put greater focus on our children and young people's health and wellbeing.

5 Scotland's action on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development has been led by Scotland's International Development Alliance: <https://www.intdevalliance.scot/>

6 Concord is the European International Development NGO Platform. See <https://concordeurope.org/what-we-do/global-citizenship/>

7 https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/development-education-and-awareness-raising_en

Positive relationships are also an important aspect of children and young people's wellbeing. This is reflected in the percentage of S2 and S4 pupils who have three or more close friends. In 2015, the majority of pupils (81%) had three or more close friends, with 2% reporting that they had no close friends.

Respect for all

Our vision is to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. A place where rights are respected and where children can access all the opportunities and support they need when they need it. Our focus on challenging inequity in order that every child can succeed and gain the skills for life is recognised through the Attainment Challenge and the National Improvement Framework for Education. Health and wellbeing is at the centre of this approach.

In November 2017, we updated our anti-bullying guidance **Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People** which provides a holistic approach to anti-bullying. It makes clear that bullying of all types, including prejudice based bullying, is completely unacceptable and must be addressed quickly whenever it arises. Following the publication of 'Respect for All', a working group was established to develop a consistent and uniform approach to recording and monitoring incidents of bullying in schools. An Operational Support Group, which will be fully implemented by August 2019, is now supporting local authorities to implement the new process on a phased approach. The Scottish Government continues to fully fund respectme, Scotland's anti-bullying service which provides direct support to local authorities, youth groups and those working with children and young people.

Additional support for learning

Additional support needs can arise in the short or long term from the learning environment, family circumstances, health needs or a disability, and social and emotional factors. The **Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended 2009)** places duties on education authorities to identify, provide for and review the additional support needs of all their pupils. A statutory Code of Practice accompanies the Act. We know that looked after children and young people are at a much increased risk of poor learning outcomes and therefore can benefit most from additional support for their learning. In Scotland, education authorities have duties

to assess whether looked after children and young people have additional support needs and whether they require a co-ordinated support plan to ensure this support is provided if needed.

The Act also provides for refugee or asylum seeker children to get the wider support they may need when settling in a new area. This inclusive approach affords all children and young people the opportunity to be part of a community, boosting their emotional wellbeing and aiding the development of social skills. It allows all children and young people to develop an understanding of the challenges which children with additional support needs might experience on a daily basis, contributing to the development of an increasingly inclusive, empathetic and more just society. Scotland's inclusive approach celebrates diversity which aligns with and supports the Equality Act provisions to prevent discrimination and make reasonable adjustments. This work is supported through continued partnership between COSLA, the Scottish Government, the Association of Directors of Education and Education Scotland as well as a wide range of health and wellbeing, equalities and inclusion based organisations which have an education focus.

Protecting children from discrimination

We want all children and young people to learn in schools free from discrimination and get the support they need to reach their full learning potential. By working with a range of partners, including children and young people themselves, we want to celebrate differences and promote understanding, inclusion and respect in our schools.

All children and young people in Scotland have rights to education under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Human Rights Act (HRA) and the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). These rights have been incorporated in Scots Law under **section 1 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000** which sets out the right of every child of school age, regardless of whether they are nationals of the UK, to be provided with school education by, or through arrangements made by, an education authority. In carrying out their duty to provide that education, education authorities must ensure that the education is directed to the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of the child or young person to their fullest potential.

The Equality Act 2010 places duties on responsible bodies, local authorities, managers of independent and grant aided schools, to actively deal with inequality. Young people should not be unlawfully discriminated against. Discrimination includes harassment or victimisation of pupils on the basis, or a perceived basis, of their religion or belief, race, sex (gender), disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity. The provisions includes prospective pupils, pupils at the school and, in some limited circumstances, former pupils.

To support and focus this work, the Scottish Government sets itself equality outcomes, including one on education. Progress towards these are reported on and a further Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Report will be published in April 2019. Education Scotland's self-evaluation tool **How Good is Our School 4 (HGIOS)** includes specific quality indicators on ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. HGIOS supports schools to evaluate and improve their own practice. The Scottish Government's strategic approaches to equality, such as the Race Equality Action Plan, Gender Pay Gap Action Plan, Action Plan on Children's Rights and the Child Poverty Delivery Plan, capture actions that we are taking in education to eradicate discrimination.

Gypsy/Travellers

Young Gypsy/Travellers' educational outcomes are among the worst in Scottish education.⁸ We know that school attendance rates are the lowest of any ethnic group and exclusion rates are the highest, and that many Gypsy/Traveller children do not make the transition from primary to secondary school. Given this, we are working to overcome the barriers to learning that they face and to achieve equality of opportunity and improved educational outcomes for all of Scotland's Gypsy/Travellers. We are committed to working in partnership with the Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP), which supports the development of inclusive educational approaches for Gypsy/Travellers and other Travelling families, the Scottish Government and COSLA.

In December 2018 the Scottish Government published the **Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures: guidance** (target 4.5) on how schools, local authorities and other stakeholders can support engagement in education and adapt to their needs. Education is one of the topics been considered by the Ministerial Working Group on Gypsy/Travellers, and since the group was established in early 2018, we have announced an additional £775,000 to support Gypsy/Traveller education.

Children and young people with a disability

Under the Equality Act 2010 children and young people with disabilities should receive the support that they need to overcome any barriers to learning, including auxiliary aids and services. Where necessary, schools should make reasonable adjustments to facilitate pupils with disabilities in accessing learning opportunities.

Our education system must support everyone to reach their full potential and it is vital that the curriculum is as diverse as the young people who learn in our schools. To ensure this happens the Scottish Government published (2014) the revised guidance **Planning improvements for disabled pupils' access to education**. The guidance, developed following consultation with stakeholders, supports responsible bodies to fulfil their statutory duty to develop and publish accessibility strategies. The aim is to ensure all education authorities support disabled children to be as fully engaged in their learning as they can be, and included in the life of their school.

Health and wellbeing

The **Health Promotion and Nutrition Act Scotland** requires education authorities and schools to be health promoting. We take a range of actions to support the learning of pupils about their health and wellbeing, including physical health and mental health. Health and wellbeing is one of the eight curricular areas in CfE. Its substantial importance is reflected in its position at the centre of the curriculum and at the heart of children's learning – as well as a central focus of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and the National Improvement Framework for Education. Along with literacy and numeracy it is one of the three core areas that are the responsibility of all staff in schools.

8 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/gypsy-travellers-scotland-comprehensive-analysis-2011-census/pages/8/>

In Scotland, health and wellbeing learning is designed to cut across subject areas to ensure that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing. Organised into six areas, it covers mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing; planning for choices and changes; physical education, physical activity and sport; food and health; substance misuse; and relationships, sexual health and parenthood.

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education (RSHP)

RSHP education is integral to the health and wellbeing aspect of the school curriculum. Learning on this progresses from primary to secondary 4 to 6 levels assisted by Education Scotland's [Experiences and Outcomes](#) on RSHP. These are a set of clear and concise statements about children's learning and progression in each curriculum area. Backed up with Benchmarks these are used by teachers to provide clarity on the national standards expected within each curriculum area at each learning level.

Guidance on the Conduct of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education (RSHP) in schools was published in 2014. It is clear that RSHP education should convey to children essential knowledge and skills which help them develop, maintain and enjoy positive, respectful and loving relationships and to keep themselves and others safe. It must do so consistently and progressively to high standards on the basis of equality. It must speak to all children and young people, and be inclusive of their identities and characteristics and the diverse family circumstances in which they grow up. Importantly RSHP education should address diversity and reflect issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people or children with LGBT parents, such as same sex marriage and hate-crime reporting. The Scottish Government is committed to reviewing and updating this statutory teaching guidance and to strengthening LGBT inclusion across Scottish schools, taking forward the recommendations of the LGBTI Inclusive Education working group.

Community learning and development (targets 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7)

Youth work

YouthLink Scotland is the national agency for youth work representing over 100 regional and national youth organisations from both voluntary and statutory sectors. The organisation champions the role and value of youth work and represents the interests and aspirations of the sector. Youth work is part of the wider grouping of informal and non-formal learning which is known as community learning and development (CLD) in Scotland. Scotland's youth work sector is as rich and diverse as the nation itself, with a workforce in excess of 75,000 – including over 70,000 adult volunteers. It reaches in excess of 380,000 young people in youth work opportunities each week.

Youth work has three essential features based around young people making their own choices, building from where they are and recognising they are partners in a learning process. Youth work outcomes have been developed by the sector in Scotland, facilitated by YouthLink Scotland. These can be achieved in a range of youth work contexts and practices. Each outcome has a set of indicators that help youth workers and young people understand the difference youth work is making and how well young people are progressing towards the outcome. The outcome indicators are designed to support reflective practice, self-evaluation and the improvement of youth work services.

The [Nature and Purpose of Youth Work](#) statement recognises that the seven outcomes for individual young people result from a negotiated process between the young person and youth workers as partners in a learning process. In meeting the youth work outcomes the sector is working towards the SDGs and targets 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7 in particular. For example, Scotland's [National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019](#) shows how youth organisations are key partners in taking forward LfS which encompasses outdoor learning, sustainable development education and global citizenship. This helps build the values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and confidence needed to develop practices and take decisions which are compatible with a sustainable and equitable society.

Closer Look - National youth work programmes

YouthLink Scotland is working to improve youth work practice in Scotland ensuring that every young person has access to quality youth work opportunities. Engagements with a range of national programmes and resource development with members, stakeholders and partners include:

- **All In** – A strategic partnership project funded by Erasmus+ with partners from Austria, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Belgium and Slovenia to develop and test training for youth work practitioners, leaders and coordinators
- **#iwill** – A UK-wide campaign to encourage and empower young people to make a difference to their community and to causes they care about through volunteering, fundraising, campaigning and mentoring
- **Scotswummin** – YouthLink Scotland worked with five youth projects and the National Library of Scotland to highlight the incredible Scottish women who helped win the war (We are Youngwummin)
- **Action on Prejudice** – Supported by the Scottish Government, this is the first online hub with information and resources on tackling discrimination, prejudice and hate crime
- **No Knives Better Lives (NKBL)** – Since 2009 the NKBL National Delivery Team (based at YouthLink Scotland) and the Scottish Government have supported partners in 11 selected local authority areas to implement NKBL locally. This support is now available to all local authorities
- **Closing the Attainment Gap** – A Youth Work and Schools Partnership programme, funded under the Scottish Attainment Challenge, to promote and expand the role of youth work in closing the poverty related attainment gap

Scottish Attainment Challenge - Youth Work and Schools Partnerships Programme

YouthLink Scotland, the Scottish Government and Education Scotland have worked together on this programme to strengthen the partnership between youth work and schools to close the poverty related attainment gap. The programme is part of a collective effort the Scottish Government is taking to close the attainment gap as part of the wider Scottish Attainment Challenge. The programme will be delivered by YouthLink Scotland, with up to £324,000 Scottish Government funding over three years.

Youth work plays an important role in a young person's learner journey and in addressing the impact of poverty on attainment. Undertaken in both school and the wider community, it contributes to delivery of the CfE, supporting young people to develop the skills for learning, life and work. Youth workers are particularly skilled in working with the most vulnerable young people, including those affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences and poverty. In particular, youth work supports young people to:

- Increase attainment – by recognising wider achievement and different learning pathways
- Improve health and wellbeing, confidence and resilience
- Develop employability skills
- Engage in extra-curricular activities, volunteering, peer mentoring, outdoor learning, etc.

English for speakers of other languages

In 2015 Scottish Government and Education Scotland produced **Welcoming Our Learners: Scotland's ESOL Strategy 2015 - 2020** which is a vision to provide high quality tuition in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to enable participation and integration in Scottish life through work, study, family and local community. It is aligned with national objectives for adult learning in Scotland, with a focus on the learner. It was created in consultation with all key stakeholders who deliver ESOL including local authorities, colleges, school, community groups and charities. ESOL learners in Scotland include refugees and asylum seekers, learners from settled communities and those coming to Scotland to work. Work is currently ongoing with all stakeholders to ensure that funding for ESOL in Scotland best meets the needs of all learners.

Global Citizen Education

In informal education there is a clear opportunity for GCE to support awareness of and action on the SDGs. Education which takes place within youth work, lifelong learning, CLD and learning opportunities provided by civil society organisations is typically aligned with the values of the SDGs. However, unlike in formal education, there is not a broad awareness of the SDGs amongst CLD practitioners and related agencies. There is, therefore, a significant opportunity for practitioners, funders and agencies to see their work in the context of the SDGs, particularly on supporting the development of active citizens and mobilising people to action within their communities.

Closer Look - Taking part everywhere

“East Haven is a small village of only 80 residents but we have aligned our village sustainability strategy to the 2020 challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity, Sustainable Scotland Themes, Scottish Government Objectives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We want everybody in our village to understand how every action we take links to something on a global level, for example, 80% of street litter in Scotland becomes marine litter so tackling street litter directly improves the health of our seas. In Angus, we persuaded our local authority to establish an Adopt – A - Street scheme to try and prevent street litter reaching the sea”.

Colleges and university (targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7)

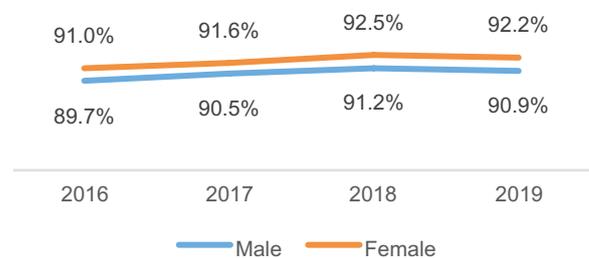
Colleges

Scotland’s colleges are vital to our social outlook and economic growth and success. They equip students with skills to help them into jobs and create the highly-trained workforce employers need. The college sector is also a major employer in its own right. The Scottish Government provides overall strategic direction to Scotland’s colleges which are classed as public bodies and grouped into 13 regions. Ministerial priorities are set out in an annual letter of guidance for colleges. This includes placing greater emphasis on college courses that lead to employment. Funding is distributed by the Scottish Funding Council and each college region must produce an outcome agreement setting out what it plans to deliver in return for this.

The Data Picture: Young people’s participation

Target 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. Gender: the participation rate for 16-19 year old females was 92.2% in 2019, in comparison to 90.9% for males.

Percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment



Source: Skills Development Scotland

In Scotland we are committed to delivering 116,000 full-time equivalent college places in Scotland (target 4.4). In 2016-17 the college sector delivered 117,502 full time equivalent places. We provide **financial support** to students, particularly those who need it most, and the Scottish Government is reviewing the support system to ensure it is fair and effective (target 4.5). A further initiative is the Gender Based Violence Support Cards Sub-Group that is part of the Equally Safe in Colleges and Universities Working Group. This ad hoc sub-group is tasked with the creation and distribution of cards to help college and university staff support individuals who are experiencing gender based violence (target 4.5, 4a).

University

Scotland's universities are amongst the best in the world, four of which are in the top 200 of the [Times Higher Education \(THE\) World University Rankings 2019](#). Scotland has 19 autonomous higher education institutions which are represented by Universities Scotland. These are funded through the Scottish Funding Council.

Ensuring an excellent education is available to all is a driving principle across our entire education system. Following a commitment in the 2015-16 Programme for Government we set up the Commission on Widening Access to advise us on the steps necessary to ensure every child, irrespective of background, should have an equal chance of entering and succeeding in higher education (targets 4.5 and 4a). [A Blueprint for Fairness: Final Report of the Commission on Widening Access](#) (2016) made 34 recommendations covering the whole education system which were accepted in full. This led to publication of [Implementing 'A Blueprint for Fairness': Progress Report](#) in 2017. Our aim is that by 2030, 20% of students entering university will be from Scotland's 20% most deprived background. The focus of our work is on helping more people from disadvantaged backgrounds enter higher education. We:

- Have kept free tuition fees for Scottish and EU students
- Are providing financial support to students, particularly those who need it most
- Have appointed an independent commissioner for fair access to help drive change across the system
- Are supporting a range of initiatives to widening access and setting targets for individual universities
- Are helping more students from deprived backgrounds gain a place to study medicine
- Have set up an Access Delivery Group to help ensure the whole education system works together and monitors progress on the 34 recommendations
- Are working with partners through the Equally Safe in Further and Higher Education Working Group to ensure universities are safe places to study

Closer Look - Strathclyde University Vertically Integrated Projects

Strathclyde University runs a programme of classes called **Vertically Integrated Projects (VIPs)** which encourage students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to original research and development projects. In so doing they take part in multi-disciplinary teams on cutting edge research and development projects working with undergraduate and postgraduate students from all years and staff from across the University. This exposes students to new knowledge and skills while also enabling them to help progress the SDGs. This year's projects include:

- Goals 1 and 8 - Enterprise VIP
- Goals 2, 6 and 7 - Water and Sanitation
- Goal 3 - Drug discovery
- Goal 4 - Text Lab STEM Education and Public
- Goal 5 - Text Lab
- Goal 7 - Sustainable Energy for Development
- Goal 9 - Rover
- Goal 9 - Strathclyde Analytical Institute of Law

Scottish higher education has a worldwide reputation for excellent teaching and research. Our [International Framework and International Policy Statement](#) set out how we want to help universities to continue building educational links and research collaborations around the world (targets 4.7, 4b). Initiatives include; the Saltire Scholarships which offer study opportunities in the areas of science, technology, creative industries, healthcare and medical sciences, and renewable and clean energy; support for students to move between educational opportunities via the Erasmus+ initiative and a pilot scheme by the Student Award Agency for Scotland (SAAS) to fund Scottish domiciled students studying at five universities across the EU; the Scottish Bologna Stakeholders Group to increase student mobility across Europe and establish a common framework for higher education systems; and Connected Scotland which is helping higher education institutions to position themselves as world leaders in teaching, research and knowledge exchange. We also contribute funding to a number of organisations and programmes for international education.

SDG Accord

The SDG Accord was founded by the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC) which is a UK and Ireland-based sustainability charity. While it specialises in supporting tertiary education, there is a growing list of 86 support organisations and networks of various sizes globally which are listed as partners. The SDG Accord is a pledge for universities and colleges, who commit to embedding the SDGs (as many as possible) into their education, research, leadership, operations, administration and engagement activities. They also commit to:

- Aligning all major efforts with the SDGs
- Involving members from all key stakeholder groups including students, academics, staff, local communities and external stakeholders
- Collaborating across cities, regions, countries and continents with signatory institutions as part of a collective international response
- Sharing their learning and being held accountable by both local and global communities on their progress toward the SDGs
- Annually reporting on their efforts

Scotland's universities and colleges have responded well to this initiative, with nine signed up at the Principal level in February 2019. The 'badge' of having signed the SDG Accord is important to these institutions and opens up conversations developing whole-institution-approaches to sustainability extending it beyond the usual departmental silos. Support organisations upholding the SDG Accord as a concept and championing it in their engagement with universities and colleges include Zero Waste Scotland, Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges and Learning for Sustainability Scotland. In July 2018, the EAUC took a report based on information institutional signatories had provided to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF). This report highlights UK institutional progress on the SDGs and includes UK case studies. Another report is currently being prepared for the 2019 HLPF.

Closer Look - The Royal Town Planning Institute

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the UK's leading planning body for spatial, sustainable and inclusive planning and is the largest planning institute in Europe with over 25,000 members. With their international planning and other built environment partners and memberships, the institute promotes the role that good planning and skilled planners can play in helping to deliver on the UN global commitments and implement sustainable development. The RTPI champions the role of spatial planning that gives people a real say in shaping the places where they live and work and ensures that sustainability is at the heart of everything they do. Their work in relation to the SDGs is based within the context of policy debates, establishing new approaches and influencing national planning policy.

RTPI Scotland has focused on inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning opportunities by highlighting its commitment to skilling up of its members through Continuous Professional Development examinations and annual reviews of accredited planning schools across the country. The RTPI also currently accredits courses at four schools across Scotland: University of Glasgow, Dundee, Strathclyde and Heriot Watt. It is developing a workforce strategy and, supported by the Scottish Government, it launched a planning bursary scheme to assure an adequate supply of qualified planners to meet the ambitions of the country and to have a resilient workforce. The international recognition of good quality standard services has led to the planning profession being regarded as one of Scotland's important skills export.

Green Gown Awards

Additional work in the sector includes the [Green Gown Awards](#) which reward outstanding sustainability projects in universities and colleges, and which are now aligned to SDGs.

Closer Look - Glasgow Caledonian University

GCU has signed the SDG Accord (launched by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges 2017), which is the university and college sector's collective response to inspire, celebrate and advance the role of education in delivering the SDGs. In signing the accord, GCU is committing to deliver the Goals, to report annually on its progress, and to share learning with other signatories around the world. The university's research strategy is now aligned with the SDGs:

- Goal 1 - Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit
- Goal 3 - Centre for Living and Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health
- Goal 5 and 10 - Women in the Scottish Economy Research Centre
- Goal 11 - Built Environment Asset Management Centre
- Goal 12 - Fair Fashion Centre
- Goal 13 - Climate Justice Centre

Further, the university is a Living Wage Employer (Goal 8) and is a designated a UN Principles for Responsible Management Education Champion Institution.

Closer Look - St Andrew's University

The university works with a range of partners at all scales, including large international and small local organisations in all sectors. It has adopted a broad approach to adopting the SDGs, focusing on both curricular and non-curricular elements of university life.

The Eden Campus Energy Centre has led to the creation of a district heat network based on a 6.5 MW biomass boiler with a 3MW thermal stores to reduce the University's carbon footprint and help achieve carbon neutral status. SMART Campus involves implementation of SMART energy saving technologies to reduce the University's carbon footprint by 2000 tonnes of CO2 per annum.

The Sustainability in the Curriculum Committee at the University is chaired by the Associate Dean of Arts and Science and attended by academics, support staff, and student representatives. The Committee supports targets 13.3 and 4.7 by working towards incorporating sustainability in the wider curriculum. Additionally, the Sustainable Development Undergraduate Programme allows for innovation, excellence and impact in LfS at St Andrews.

Transition University St Andrews is a community led initiative that drives several projects and leads on sustainability partnerships with other NGOs and small scale community groups - contributing to SDG 16 and 17 through developing new collaborations and institutional models. Edible Campus is another community based initiative which includes a network of 16 community gardens and orchards and is one of the largest campus-based food growing schemes in the country. Finally, the StAndRe-use project collects and redistributes pre-owned items within the student community each year. This year it collected and gave away 5,200 kg of student household goods valued at over £50,000.

Research (targets 4.7)

Scotland's universities have an international reputation for excellent research which delivers economic and social benefits both at home and abroad. Funding for the wider research and innovation sector in Scotland – universities, research institutes, research-led intensive companies, innovative companies, innovation centres, Interface, third sector, NHS Scotland and other public services - supports advancement across all the SDGs.

Our excellence in research is underpinned by extensive collaborations worldwide. Scotland can point to significant successes in working across European boundaries with international research centres that are increasingly attracted to Scotland by the quality of our research base. These include the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Photonics, the £100 million Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) European Lead Factory Programme, which will speed up the development of new drugs, and the Scottish Universities Life Science Alliance (SULSA) with the support of Dutch and English partners. Our university research also works across international boundaries, for example through the Gravitational Waves collaboration that involved scientists from 17 countries in the research and discovery of gravitational waves. Glasgow is the UK's leading university for gravitational research. Although well established, such practice could always benefit from increased international partnership in research and innovation activities that support SDG delivery.

Funding for science centres and science festivals in Scotland also supports a number of Goals by offering accessible science-related activities and events, some of which are targeted at women and girls. Others involve working with communities to explore issues of concern and to empower people to make informed choices, for example around health, transport and energy. The science engagement sector in Scotland – science centres and science festivals – help to make science accessible to a wide public audience including underserved audiences.

Developing the Young Workforce (targets 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5)

Young people are our future and it is vital, therefore, that we do as much as we can to prepare them socially, emotionally and for the world of work. In Scotland a high proportion of 16-19 year olds are in education or training and this is rising. In relation to key workforce sectors, digital competence, for example, is higher than for the wider UK (81% of adults) and enrolment on computing science courses has increased by 10%, in line with the significant increase required by target 4.4. The main digital policy for ICT skills and infrastructure in Scotland is [Realising Scotland's Full Potential in a Digital World](#). Parity between social groupings is a key target under Goal 4, however, and in Scotland only 19% of Higher computing students in 2015 were female. Significant challenges therefore lie with this Goal in relation to gender, as well as the impact of social deprivation and the apparent correlation of ethnicity in relation to achievement.

On a broader level, while we have already met the commitment set out in our youth employment strategy, [Developing the Young Workforce](#), to reduce youth unemployment by 40%, we will continue to support young people by:

- Providing more apprenticeships and expanding vocational courses in schools
- Building greater links between schools, colleges and businesses
- Funding national skills body Skills Development Scotland to deliver an all age careers service
- Providing Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) to help young people from low income families stay on in post-16 education
- Funding Inspiring Scotland's new Our Future Now Fund and Discovering Your Potential, which provides flexible and intensive support for young care leavers
- Delivering a two years NHS internship programme for disabled graduates
- Supporting the Employability Fund and Community Jobs Scotland, while making preparations for these and other existing sources of support form part of the new employability system
- Funding individual Local Authorities directly, as part of No One Left Behind - review of employability services, to deliver employability programmes

The Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Programme is also contributing to the transformation of the education system through achieving a step change in how we work. This is evident in the wide range of local examples of good practice led by councils, who play such a pivotal role in taking the DYW Programme forward across a wide range of services. For example, South Lanarkshire Council have more than doubled the college work-based learning offer in schools and the number of pupils taking part in Foundation Apprenticeships has increased by over 400%.

Fife Council, working in collaboration with Fife College, have seen a notable increase in the uptake of Foundation Apprenticeships, with school-based DYW coordinators appointed to further enhance the links between schools and local businesses. This work is not just limited to Secondary schools, it can be seen in new ways of thinking about employment and new approaches introduced in classrooms of local primary schools across Scotland. Councils have also contributed to the DYW effort in their roles as employers. Aberdeenshire Council have created a WorkPlus programme for young care experienced people, providing them with an 8-week paid work placement in the local authority's services alongside employability and job searching support. As a result, all of the initial participants have progressed into either employment or further training.

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) in Scotland involves employers, schools, local authorities, colleges and Skills Development Scotland, in part to improve employer engagement with education. The programme relates to targets 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 as well as poverty reduction, gender equality, decent work and economic growth. Challenges in implementing the programme have included finding ways of counterbalancing residual views of what education is for and the narrow pursuit of academic excellence. A further challenge around securing the necessary culture change in order to move beyond an assumption that higher education in itself is sufficient to tackle productivity and prosperity issues.

Closer Look - Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE)

The RBGE runs professional certificate courses with the Royal Horticultural Society in disciplines ranging from horticulture to herbology. They also take part in degree, diploma and PhD courses with the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Scotland's Rural College. Over 100 professionals, many from around the world have trained in a complete range of internationally recognised botanical and horticultural courses. The RBGE also provides distance, blended and online learning opportunities (PropaGate) in botanical and horticultural subjects, and free education in sustainability topics such as pollinator security and plant defence, to international professionals with the same delivery partners. The Horticultural Internship Programme provides practical, certificated training for UK and EU nationals in botanic gardens and conservation horticulture.

Their ERASMUS+ 'Learn to Engage' work with the European Commission, Nottingham Trent University, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and other institutions in Italy and Portugal, provides training and professional development for botanic garden staff and museum educators in the UK, Italy and Portugal. This enhances audience engagement at botanic gardens and museums and furthers public knowledge about the natural world and sustainability issues. To the same end, RBGE is also working on new education and building facilities, in part to upgrade their services (target 4a) to provide a child-friendly, accessible, gender sensitive, safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment.

We make a positive contribution internationally (targets 4.7 and 4b)

Education underpins all of the 17 SDGs, and through LfS people can be informed and inspired to engage with sustainability action. The key advantage of LfS is as an overarching approach to addressing the SDGs. Scotland is a recognised leader in this area, having achieved significant progress over the recent UN Decade of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development. The establishment of a UN Regional Centre for Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development (Learning for Sustainability Scotland) has helped to consolidate this work. Such initiatives can assist with deepening learning about the SDGs and opening out democratic participation across the learning fields and internationally. Additionally, Scottish Universities offer provision overseas and collaborations to bring quality education into developing countries (see Goal 17). This enriches the learning experience through an internationalisation agenda, but also allows us to work towards the Goals in other countries, utilising our strength in Higher Education.

Challenges and next steps

Scotland has a deep and historical belief in the power of education to transform individuals and society. This commitment is manifest in our teaching and learning infrastructure which invites participation from all throughout their lives. Ensuring everyone can engage and achieve their best is fundamental to this. To enable this we have outstanding universities and research institutions and a comprehensive infrastructure which spans across early years, pre-school and school, community learning and development, and higher education provision (targets 4 and 1-3). In addition, Scotland has a multitude of museums, galleries, festivals, sports and science institutes, built, natural and heritage facilities which provide an impressive array of learning opportunities across the country. As such, the depth, range and quality of our educational infrastructure is to be celebrated. As is evident above, however, more could be done to further upgrade and adapt our education facilities, especially in schools (target 4a).

The networks, relationships and collaborations between those working in Scottish education both at home and abroad are enormously important, helping to inspire others, create synergies and bring new projects to life. In turn this lifts our horizons as

a nation, challenging what we think is possible and moving us into new areas of discovery which are perhaps more necessary for humanity now than ever before. Important then, is how we facilitate and support the meeting of minds but also how we frame the challenges we face in line with the SDGs and our National Outcomes (targets 4.7 and 4b).

Whatever the outcome of Brexit, in Scotland we are committed to maintaining and growing collaborative working links with European and global processes aimed at progressing the SDGs and the vital agenda contained in them. Both statutory stakeholders and civil society have a role to play in this. Ensuring this agenda is passed on to the next generation is critical. The inclusion of the ability to ‘contribute to society’ in the revised NPF Education Outcome is welcome in this regard.

Continued promotion of LfS, including integration of LfS into all curricular areas in Scottish schools is one way to support the development of responsible citizens with the awareness and skills to act on the SDGs. The Scottish Government’s new **Learning for Sustainability Action Plan** provides a mechanism to achieve this. While Scotland is notable for its longstanding commitment to GCE and the Scottish Government has consistently funded Development Education Centres (DECs), existing and prospective funding reductions from other sources present significant challenges to continued progress on target 4.7. Maintaining and strengthening learning about the different SDGs can also be achieved through more concentrated effort around the CfE, outdoor learning, global citizenship, education for sustainable development and so on.

More widely, we know that across Scotland there are very many activities and projects, new and established, that can progress the SDGs. However, there is still a significant SDG awareness gap, even within sectors that share their values and ambitions. This leaves untapped potential for collaboration and coordination, within and across civil society, business and national and local government. With GCE embedded in the design and delivery of informal education, including in community learning and development/lifelong learning plans at the national and local level, a clear link between these forms of education and progress on the SDGs could be achieved. This would help to motivate partnership between local authorities, civil

society organisations and the Scottish Government to ensure that informal education plays a role in SDG implementation. Crucially, these forms of education also reach communities and parts of Scottish society which are most likely to be left behind by other forms of SDG implementation, including adult learners and communities.

Scotland also has strong teacher training provision domestically. Our national improvement framework and Scottish national standardised assessments are dedicated to driving up standards and achievement across the school population. Despite continued improvements in achievement between pupils from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring that everyone, regardless of background, gender or ethnicity has the same chance to succeed remains a considerable challenge (targets 4.5 and 4.6). As does equal participation and outcomes in particular subject areas such as ICT, STEM, and literacy and numeracy. On balance, however, while there are clear opportunities and some pressing concerns which we need to focus on, educational provision in Scotland is rich, diverse, and comprehensive and as such we have much to be proud of under Goal 4.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- The Scottish Government will continue funding for the Scottish Attainment Challenge at current levels for a further year into 2021-22, to allow schools and local authorities to make plans and to continue efforts to close the educational attainment gap
- On Learning for Sustainability – a cross-curricular approach to learning that aims to help develop a love of the natural world and sense of environmental stewardship – Education Scotland will continue to develop advice, guidance and practice examples to ensure that educators are confident in covering this area of education and the Scottish Government will continue to fund the Eco-Schools Scotland Programme
- The age cap of 26 for the care experienced student bursary will be removed in time for the start of the 2020-21 academic year to ensure people with experience of care are supported into either further or higher education when they are ready, regardless of their age
- The Scottish Government will establish a Teacher Innovation fund, that teachers can apply to in order to help them access professional development, enhancing the attractiveness of the profession



Introduction

Equal rights between men and women is a fundamental principle of the United Nations going back to its establishment in 1945. More than 70 years later, nations across the globe have made significant progress towards challenging and addressing aspects of gender inequality. However, no nation can say that it has achieved equality between women and men. This is why in Scotland we will keep articulating our commitment to upholding women’s rights and taking action to tackle all manifestations of gender inequality. For example, Scotland contributes to the United Kingdom’s periodic reports to the UN and is an active participant in the oral examinations of the UK conducted by the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

In 2019 Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was appointed as the inaugural #HeForShe Global Advocate by UN Women, with the Scottish Government becoming signatories to the UN Women’s global solidarity movement for gender equality which engages men and boys as advocates for equality. As a Global Advocate, the First Minister has pledged to make concrete commitments to advancing gender equality around the world and support UN Women in their work to end global gender inequality. At home, we want Scotland to be a country where women and girls have equal rights and opportunities to men, equal access to power and resources, and live their lives free from gender based violence. We believe that Scotland can be a nation synonymous with equality, that is recognised in the international community for its commitment to, and the steps it is taking to realise equality between women and men.

Setting in place the right legislative environment to support, enable and protect women and girls is fundamental to achieving the equality we seek. It is also important to recognise that different groups of women have different experiences and different needs – including older women, ethnic minority women, disabled women and lesbian, bisexual and trans women. Targeted interventions designed around specific needs are important as part of overall acceptance and recognition. The transfer of new powers through the [Scotland Act 2016](#), including the ability to legislate to achieve gender balance on the boards of Scottish public authorities, has helped to secure opportunities to advance equality. For example,

the **Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act** received Royal Assent on 9 March 2018. In addition to anti-discrimination legislation, a range of devolved Scottish legislation now supports and advances women's rights, including the (target 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5 and 5c):

- **Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005**
- **Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011**
- **Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2015**
- **Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018**
- **Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018**

The National Advisory Council on Women and Girls (targets 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5a and 5c)

The **National Advisory Council on Women and Girls** (NACWG) was established in 2017 to advise the First Minister on what is needed to tackle gender inequality in Scotland. The council is chaired by Louise Macdonald OBE, Chief Executive of Young Scot, and has members from the third sector, government and business – including three members aged under 20 years old. The role of the Council is to raise awareness of gender inequality; to act as a champion for positive progress and policies, and to provide effective challenge and be a catalyst for change where progress simply isn't good enough.

Over the course of 2018, the council consulted a range of stakeholders of all genders across the country, including businesses, and third sector organisations in order to gather the evidence needed to develop its report and recommendations. To support the NACWG, a large group of supportive allies, known as the Circle was established. The Circle welcomed people of all genders, including men, boys, and non-binary people. It included representatives of a wide range of sectors and organisations across Scotland and provided insight and evidence to the NACWG and acted as public "champions" for gender equality.

Three times a year, the Circle and NACWG met to share experiences, evidence from the frontline

and ideas and helped the NACWG shape its recommendations to the First Minister. The Council published its first end of year report and recommendations on 25 January 2019. The report sets out 11 recommendations to realise gender equality, including: legislating for local and national candidate quotas; incorporating the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination into Scots Law; establishing a Commission on Gender Equality in Education and Learning and creating two "Daddy Months" of use it or lose it paid paternity leave. The Scottish Government **published its response** to the recommendations on 26 June 2019.

A further recommendation included setting up a new institute that has the remit to examine and change public attitudes to girls and women's equality and rights. It is intended that the What Works? Gender Institute would develop and test robust, evidence-led, inclusive and representative approaches to changing public attitudes in Scotland to girls and women's equality and rights, including dismantling stereotypes about what girls and women should study, work at, and be. At a gathering of the NACWG Circle on 30 January 2019, the First Minister committed to giving the recommendations the Scottish Government's full and careful consideration.

Political representation (target 5.5)

A century after some women won the right to vote, the total number of women who have ever been elected to the House of Commons is only now surpassing the number of men who sit there today. It is incumbent upon us to take steps to ensure that all women including ethnic minority, disabled women and those from LGBTI communities are properly represented in senior and decision making spaces, whether that be in our Scottish Parliament or in boardrooms across the country. The Scottish Government has a gender-balanced Cabinet, however only 35% of MSPs and 29% of local government councillors in Scotland are women. There are fewer women MSPs today than when the Scottish Parliament was created in 1999.

In November 2018, COSLA hosted the Achieving Gender Equality in Local Politics' conference. This conference brought together women in politics and public life who are in a position to help remove barriers to participation, and some of their supporters. It provided a platform for networking and ideas sharing,

encouraging participants to set their own goals for how they personally can contribute to achieving positive change.

Following the conference COSLA launched both a story sharing campaign and a safe online space, Women in Local Government, which aims to provide peer support both for women considering entering local government and those already active within it. COSLA's Barrier to Elected Office Special Interest Group have developed an action plan focused on:

- Promoting local politics as an opportunity to influence how our communities are run
- Improving terms and conditions for councillors
- Improving cultures within councils
- Developing support networks

In September 2018 the Scottish Government announced that it will bring forward Bills on electoral reform and electoral franchise, as part of its [Programme for Government](#) and it will continue to work with stakeholders on how it can increase women's participation in politics.

Closer Look - First Minister as a mentor

The First Minister announced her intention to mentor a young woman in February 2017. Following a selection process run by Young Scot, Charlotte Liddell was announced as the First Minister's 'first' mentee on 7 August 2017.

Coinciding with International Women's Day 2018, the First Minister announced that she would run the First Mentor competition for a second time, to identify a mentee to follow Charlotte. The competition was open to young women aged between 18 and 23 living in Scotland. Thirteen young women were invited to interview in July 2018 with three candidates invited to meet the First Minister on 2 August.

The First Minister's mentee for 2018/19 is 21 year old Toni Twigg from Glasgow. This was announced at the meeting of the National Advisory Council on Women and Girls on 12 September.

Gender equality in the workplace (targets 5.1, 5.5, 5.7 and 5c)

In March 2019 PricewaterhouseCoopers' [Women in Work Index 2019](#) named Scotland the best in the UK for gender equality in the workplace. Scotland came first for 4 out of 5 indicators: gender pay gap, female labour force participation, the gap between male and female labour force participation and the unemployment rate for women. The gender employment gap (the difference between the employment rates for men and women) was 6.9 percentage points in 2017, lower than the gap of 10.6 percentage points in 2007.

Under current UK legislation, only listed public authorities with 150 or more employees must publish gender pay gap information and statements on equal pay, including occupational segregation (see Goal 8 and target 8.5). However, consistent with Scotland's Fair Work National Outcome, in February 2016 the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee agreed on proposals to lower this threshold to public authorities with 20 or more employees. Listed public authorities began reporting on these new requirements from April 2017, bringing more transparency and accountability to the issue of pay in Scotland.

Furthermore, on International Women's Day (2019) the Scottish Government launched [A Fairer Scotland for Women: Gender Pay Gap Action Plan](#) to deliver a cross-government approach to tackling the cause of inequality women face in the labour market. The plan incorporates an analytical annex which sets out the main causes of the gender pay gap, and examines how the policy commitments in the plan are expected to impact the pay gap and equality more broadly. Equality for women is integral for inclusive growth, as laid out in our Economy National Outcome, and the plan will take decisive action to realise the full economic potential of women. It will also address labour market inequalities faced in particular by disabled and minority ethnic women, those from poorer socio-economic backgrounds and women with caring responsibilities.

It will take a collective effort on everyone's part to tackle gender stereotyping and other equality issues – barriers to implementation include:

- A lack of equality training or time to attend training for staff who educate, train and support pupils and students
- Ingrained cultural perceptions held by staff and/or parents
- Competing priorities

The Fair Work and Gender Equality Ministerial Working Group will provide a challenge function to the action that is being taken. The Scottish Government will also undertake to provide the Scottish Parliament with annual reports on progress in reducing the gender pay gap via the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee.

It is anticipated that the establishment of the Workplace Equality Fund should further help to reduce employment inequalities for women. The £750,000 grant scheme, which opened for applications in February 2018, helps employers to promote equality, particularly across the arts, culture, leisure, tourism, finance, manufacturing, construction, agriculture and fishing, transport and communication sectors. With respect to specific sectors, women and girls are also underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and careers (see Goal 4). This issue is being addressed through Scotland's youth employment strategy, [Developing the Young Workforce](#). As part of this:

- The Institute of Physics is supporting two project officers to work with Education Scotland on a project to improve gender balance in STEM
- The CareerWISE programme through Equate Scotland enables female undergraduates to have the opportunity to take part in STEM work experience placements
- Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has published a five-year [Equalities Action Plan for Modern Apprenticeships](#) (MA) in Scotland. This outlines the actions that SDS and its partners will take to improve underrepresented groups' participation in the MA programme

Closer Look - Women in the Fire Service

The Scottish Fire Rescue Service (SFRS) launched a new recruitment campaign to find 300 new firefighters. At present, 5% of Scotland's firefighters identify as women while less than 1% identify as belonging to an ethnic minority. Ahead of the campaign launch on 21 March 2019, serving firefighters across Scotland will welcome potential applicants at a series of targeted open days across the country to reflect individual needs and requirements, including bespoke sessions for women.

In addition, the SFRS Board is completely gender balanced with the same amount of women and men being represented, and the Chair of the Board is a woman.

Evidence also suggests there are a number of barriers around women returning to work following an extended absence, with many experiencing a 'motherhood penalty' following maternity. Scotland is committed to identifying and addressing the issues which prevent women re-entering the workforce. Particularly through rebuilding skills, knowledge and confidence while enabling employers to gain from recruiting and retaining skilled, experienced staff. In Scotland, the government's [Returner's Programme](#) has assisted experienced women to return to the workplace after a break, helping women to update their skills and knowledge whilst also enabling employers to gain from retaining skilled, experienced staff. The Scottish Government is investing £5 million over the next three years to support around 2000 women to return to work (targets 5.1 and 5.7).

Closer Look - Women in Agriculture

The **Women in Agriculture Taskforce** aims to tackle inequality in Scottish agriculture and ensure that the potential of women in farming is realised in order to better represent the progressive Scotland we live in today. Its activities will centre around, but will not be limited to, the recommendations in the **Women in Farming and the Agricultural Sector: research report**. In doing so, the taskforce will be working to help deliver Scottish Government priorities, including: a sustainable, productive thriving rural economy; inclusive growth; tackling inequality and providing a fairer Scotland for all. The taskforce will be focused on delivery of outputs, rather than discussions. It will:

- Consider each of the 27 recommendations and deliver proposals to take them forward
- Deliver both short-term solutions aimed at delivering specific recommendations and longer-term solutions aimed at cultural change
- Deliver solutions that are practical, effective and future proof
- Consider appropriate actions beyond the 27 recommendations
- Call in experts for further specific advice as required
- Commission further research and reports as required
- Publish a mid-term report in June 2018 and a final report in September 2019, setting out progress
- Put in place arrangements to monitor progress beyond the lifespan of the Taskforce

Women representation on boards (targets 5.1, 5.5 and 5c)

We want our public bodies to reflect Scotland's diversity and to make the most of the talent in all our communities. However, women make up less than 50% of regulated public bodies boards, and they are less likely to enter senior management positions. The **Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018** sets a gender representation objective for a public board that 50% of non-executive members should be women. To help us meet this aim the **Partnership for Change: 50/50 by 2020 campaign** was launched in June 2015 by the First Minister. The partnership is a network of organisations and individuals who want to improve gender balance and diversity on boards. Public, private and third sector organisations are voluntarily signing up to increase the diversity of their boards.

Other activities that support the campaign include:

- Improving the public appointments process by making selection processes more inclusive and application forms more accessible and user-friendly
- Developing a bank of information and opportunities for aspiring board members
- Encouraging stakeholders to offer shadowing and mentoring opportunities

Closer Look - Get on Board

Edinburgh Napier University has developed a **Get on Board** competency pathway framework to encourage young people to get on boards, the majority of applications being female. The Executive Leadership Programme in Board Governance has been developed as a CPD opportunity for senior managers who aspire or are current board members. Opportunities are signposted and support offered.

Closer Look - Association of Scottish Businesswomen

It is the **Association of Scottish Businesswomen's** mission to empower all women with a key focus working in and on their own Scottish businesses. The Association believes that by providing a centralised supportive movement linked to all female professionals and with links to government officials, we can change the positioning of equality and the empowerment of women in leadership opportunities. One suggested outcome from such work would be for governments around the world to support and fund similar movements to allow professional females to develop in business, enterprise and innovation (targets 5.5 and 5.5.2).

Supporting women's participation in sport (targets 5.1 and 5.5)

Although physical activity levels among teenage girls are increasing, it is recognised there is much more to do to increase participation and raise awareness across Scotland to remove the barriers some women and girls still face when it comes to getting involved in sport and physical activity. A **Women & Girls in Sport Advisory Board** has been established with a membership made up of key leaders from the world of women's sport, business and media. The Board's role is to:

- Drive participation, marketing and awareness of Scottish women and girls in sport
- Ensure every woman and girl in Scotland is given best the opportunity to participate in sport and physical activity, no matter their background

In 2018 the First Minister announced funding for **Scotland's Women's National Football Team** ahead of the World Cup to enable them to train full-time for the FIFA 2019 World Cup.

Violence against women and girls (targets 5.2 and 5.3)

Violence against women and girls, in any form, has no place in our vision for a safe, strong and successful Scotland. It damages health and wellbeing, limits freedom and potential, and is a violation of the most fundamental human rights. The Scottish Government, COSLA and key partners are committed to preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls once and for all.

Equally Safe is our country's strategy to take action on all forms of violence against women and girls. It was first published in June 2014, with an updated version published in March 2016. The strategy was developed in consultation with a wide range of statutory and third sector partners and was also informed by feedback from women who use services. The **Equally Safe Delivery Plan** was published on 24 November 2017. To implement Equally Safe, stakeholders and the Scottish Government are working together to prevent violence from occurring in the first place, building the capability and capacity of mainstream and specialist services to support survivors and those at risk, and strengthening the Justice response to victims and perpetrators.

Violence against women and girls is underpinned by gender inequality, and in order to prevent and eradicate it from society we must focus our efforts on delivering greater gender equality, tackling perpetrators, and intervening early and effectively to prevent violence. The Equally Safe strategy therefore complements and contributes to wider efforts to achieve gender equality. The aim of Equally Safe is to create a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from such abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it. Four priority areas have been identified to contribute to the overarching aim of the strategy:

- Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
- Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
- Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people

- Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

Partners are working collaboratively to achieve this change by making best use of available resources and with a clear governance framework underpinning delivery. An Equally Safe Joint Strategic Board (JSB) has been established which is co-chaired by COSLA and the Scottish Government, and comprises senior leaders from across the public sector, third sector and academia. It provides oversight and direction for the implementation of Equally Safe, holding key partners to account for delivery.

Equally Safe has also established three thematic workstreams (focused on Primary Prevention, Capability and Capacity, and Justice) and a further workstream focused on accountability. The members of the different workstream groups are drawn from a wide range of partners with a wealth of experience and informed by the experience of women, girls, children and young people who have been subject to violence or abuse. Working groups have contributed to the development of the delivery plan for Equally Safe.

Actions taken forward since publication of Equally Safe include the following.

Strengthened partnership working:

- Meetings of the Equally Safe JSB
- Four work streams themed around Primary Prevention, Capability and Capacity, Justice and Accountability were established and have contributed to proposals contained within the Delivery Plan
- The establishment of a Children and Young People stakeholder reference group to input to the Delivery Plan and inform our approach to implementation
- With the support and input of the Improvement Service and COSLA, guidance for Violence against Women Partnerships, published in August 2016

Funding:

- £20 million from Justice budgets has been allocated towards tackling violence against women 2015-18
- In June 2017, a further £11.8 million was announced by the Equalities Secretary to support efforts to tackle violence against women and provide support for victims, bringing the total investment from the Equality Budget to almost £30 million over 2017 to 2020
- In February 2017, the Scottish Government announced three year rolling funding for equality and violence against women organisations

Improvement of services, including:

- The continuation of significant levels of funding in front line services supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Publication of guidance for local authorities on the commissioning of domestic abuse services by local authorities by COSLA and Scottish Women's Aid
- The establishment of a Taskforce for the Improvement of Services for children and adults who have experienced rape and sexual assault, to strengthen the governance arrangements for services and improve the provision of appropriate services and facilities for victims who require a forensic examination
- Consultation on legislation to improve forensic medical services for victims of rape and sexual assault

At a local level, **Violence Against Women (VAW) Partnerships** are recognised as the key driver for this multi-agency work. To support this work, the Improvement Service coordinates the **National VAW Network** which aims to improve the capacity and capability of VAW Partnerships to implement the ambitions set out in Equally Safe at a local level and to support partnerships to engage effectively with community planning processes. The network brings together VAW Partnership coordinators/lead officers across Scotland and other key stakeholders including the Scottish Government and COSLA to share information, learning and resources, and to ensure that there is meaningful engagement and a coordinated approach taken on relevant issues. The network meets six times a year and also has a **KHub group** where members can connect to each other on an ongoing basis.

COSLA, the Scottish Government, and the Improvement Service have also published the **Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework**. Developed in partnership with the national VAW Network, the framework provides an invaluable resource to help multi-agency VAW Partnerships measure their progress and performance in implementing **Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls** at a local level. It will also help identify any areas where improvements may be required. The quality standards aim to raise awareness of the types of services, policies and processes that are most effective in tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) and capture data on the extent to which they are currently being delivered across Scotland. Collectively, the resource aims to:

- Provide a consistent basis for measuring the progress being made to implement Equally Safe at a local level
- Measure the activity and performance of VAW Partnerships and identify areas for improvement to help inform future service planning and strategic investment at a local and national level
- Generate data on the social and economic impacts of VAWG to help encourage Community Planning Partnerships to recognise VAWG as a central part of the preventative agenda and identify it as a priority in their strategic plans
- Provide useful data that enables COSLA and the Scottish Government to show the progress being made to achieve the activities and outcomes set out in Equally Safe, and identify any areas of under-performance where additional focus on resources may be required

The **Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework** also offers benefits for elected members, Community Planning partners and communities as a whole by helping them to gain a better understanding of the work that is being undertaken to prevent and eradicate VAWG at a local level and the impact this is having on the lives of women and children.

The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 (targets 5.2 and 5.3)

The **Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016** modernises the law on domestic and sexual abuse. The Act includes the introduction of a: 'statutory domestic abuse aggravator' to ensure courts take domestic abuse into account when sentencing offenders; it gives courts power to make non-harassment orders in cases where they cannot do so at present; requires judges to give juries specific directions when dealing with sexual offence cases to help improve access to justice for victims; extends Scottish courts extra-territorial jurisdiction over sexual offences committed against children to cover the other jurisdictions of the United Kingdom. It has also created a specific offence of sharing private intimate images without consent (commonly known as 'revenge porn') with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. Through the work of the Equally Safe Justice Expert Group, the Scottish Government is looking at both medium and longer term improvements that can be made to the justice system for all victims of this type of violence including domestic abuse victims and their children.

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (targets 5.2 and 5.3)

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 1 February and received Royal Assent on 9 March 2018. This bill creates a specific offence of domestic abuse that will cover not just physical abuse but also other forms of psychological abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour that cannot easily be prosecuted using the existing criminal law. Significantly, the Bill reflects the fact that children are harmed by domestic abuse by providing for a statutory aggravation that the offender either directed behaviour at a child, involved a child in the commission of the abuse, or that a child saw, heard or was present during the abuse. A development which places our National Outcome for children to grow up loved, safe and respected at its heart. When the new offence comes into force, it will be preceded by a public information campaign by the Scottish Government.

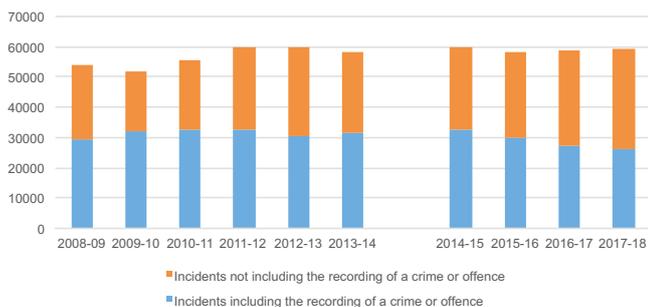
The Scottish Government has committed to providing additional funding specifically to train frontline officers and staff. This dedicated funding will enable Police Scotland to train officers and staff to identify the new offence. Scottish Women's Aid will also receive Scottish Government funding to develop training to help communities better understand the new legislation.

The Data Picture: Domestic abuse

Target 5.2 (Indicator 5.2.1): 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.

Levels of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland have remained relatively stable since 2011-12, with around 58,000 to 60,000 incidents a year. The police recorded 59,541 incidents of domestic abuse in 2017-18, an increase of 1% compared to the previous year.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, 2008-09 to 2017-18 (Chart has been displayed with a gap in the time series to highlight the changes in data collection)



Source: Scottish Government, Crime and Justice Statistics

Female Genital Mutilation (targets 5.2 and 5.3)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. It reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. It is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children Children and Young People National Outcome. In Scotland, the **Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005** made it a criminal offence to have FGM carried out in Scotland or abroad, and increased the maximum penalty from five to 14 years imprisonment. The Scottish Government produced Scotland's **National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate FGM** in partnership with Police Scotland, the National Health Service, councils and third sector organisations. A **year one report on the FGM national action plan** was published in October 2017.

Our approach to tackling FGM is aligned with the priorities in Equally Safe, Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. It recognises the need to:

- Prioritise protection from, and prevention of, FGM
- Provide services and appropriate support for those who have experienced FGM
- Hold perpetrators to account

Closer Look - Kenyan Women in Scotland Association

The Kenyan Women in Scotland Association (KWISA) is an African women led organisation, which promotes empowerment and advocacy for African women, girls and their families to speak for themselves. This is achieved by creating spaces, giving a voice and supporting Africans in Scotland particularly in tackling violence against women. KWISA has pioneered engaging with communities and faith leaders in Scotland and works towards restoration of the dignity of women and girls, preventing FGM and other harmful traditional practices (HTPs) and supporting women and families affected by FGM to protect girls at risk. KWISA addresses all types of FGM because many victims suffer other types which are not addressed by other groups in Scotland and the association works with women, faith leaders and young people in Scotland and in Africa. KWISA facilitates engagement between service providers and women and girls affected by FGM and other HTPs as a means to improving service delivery.

Pregnancy and Maternity Discrimination Working Group (targets 5.4 and 5.6)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) research, [Pregnancy and Maternity-Related Discrimination and Disadvantage First Findings: Surveys of Employers and Mothers](#), found that as many as 54,000 new mothers are forced out of their jobs every year in the UK. The EHRC is working with the Scottish Government to tackle pregnancy and maternity discrimination. The Scottish Government's Minister for Employability and Training also chairs the Pregnancy and Maternity Discrimination Working Group that is tasked with creating guidelines for employers, as well as improving access to guidance for pregnant women and new mothers. Unpaid care and domestic work (target 5.4) which disproportionately involves women is addressed in the Goal 1 chapter.

Engaging with men (target 5.4)

Work on gender equality concentrates largely on women's issues because women disproportionately experience discrimination and inequality. However, we recognise that there are areas where men also experience disadvantage – for example, workplace cultures that do not recognise or support their family or childcare responsibilities. Men also may not always be recognised as active parents by family services. And they experience poor health outcomes across a range of health issues that do not properly take account of their needs.

A range of initiatives to further progress in this area, include:

- Setting out a commitment to encourage fathers to become more actively involved in the care of their children (where safe, practical and in the best interests of the child) in the [National Parenting Strategy](#)
- Establishing a [Fathers National Advisory Panel](#) to help take forward the commitments we have made
- Funding [Families Need Fathers](#) to provide information and support for fathers and other family members facing contact problems after separation. Families Need Fathers are also working to improve understanding of existing legal rights and promote non-resident fathers' involvement in their children's education
- Supporting the [Fathers Network Scotland](#) to deliver Year of the Dad, a national campaign running throughout 2016 to celebrate the difference a great dad can make and the important role dads can play in child development

Challenges and next steps

In many senses Scotland has world class equalities legislation in place. There is always room for improvement, however, and the introduction of a human rights Outcome in the new NPF will help to highlight what further legislative backing we need to set in place to reach our equalities ambitions. Our values of kindness, dignity, compassion and respect will continue to drive all we do in this regard. Our task is both structural and practical, with the need to change sometimes deep seated cultures, social and institutional practices setting long term challenges for us.

To this end, Scotland does have a wide range of civil society, voluntary, third sector and local authority run organisations devoted to progressing the needs and interests and girls and young women as well as all others who suffer from marginalisation, discrimination and unequal treatment. Areas requiring concentrated effort in what is otherwise a largely positive national story around gender equality include the:

- Continued occurrence of violence against women and girls (target 5.2)
- Total eradication of FGM, early and forced marriages and other harmful practices (target 5.3)
- Raising the profile of women within particular sectors of employment and their representation at senior levels across public life and in relation to work (target 5.5)
- The persistence of gender based stereotyping for all sexes and the negative consequences of this for mental health, self-esteem and distorted expectations around the roles we should or should not fulfil in society (target 5.1 and 5.4)
- Lower rate of activity levels among teenage girls as well as unequal value which is still accorded to some women and girls' sports

Many of the initiatives and strategies referred to in this chapter will help us to move forward on these persistent problems. However, we cannot be complacent, and work with partners following the publication of this review will focus discussion and planning around finding practical solutions to these concerns, as well as on positively enhancing action on those areas where we are already having meaningful impact. The achievement of gender equality is a great

opportunity for Scotland socially, economically and in terms of our overall happiness and wellbeing. By re-doubling our efforts together, across organisations, communities and generations, we are confident we can succeed.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- The Scottish Government is consulting this year on creating a statutory "duty to notify", a legal duty on specified Scottish public authorities to notify Police Scotland about suspected human trafficking and exploitation victims
- A consultation on approaches to challenge men's demand for prostitution and continuing to support work to reduce the harms associated with commercial sexual exploitation
- Introducing the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) Bill to ensure that timely healthcare support, including a forensic medical examination, is available to victims whether or not they have reported the crime to the police, or are undecided
- Supporting the rollout of the Caledonian Programme which provides male perpetrators of violence against women with rehabilitation services to address the issues giving rise to their offending
- Create a What Works? Institute to test and promote best practice in changing attitudes and stereotypes around women and girls
- In 2019 the Scottish Government will launch a Women Returners Programme, supporting women to re-enter the workplace following a career break across a range of sectors where women are underrepresented, including in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)
- Establish a Women's Health Plan, which will lead on actions to target women's health inequalities, improving access to reproductive health services and reducing inequalities in health outcomes



Scotland is renowned worldwide for the environmental quality of its rivers, lochs, wetlands and seas. They are some of the country's greatest natural assets; attracting visitors, contributing to the health and wellbeing of its people, supporting a rich diversity of wildlife and providing for the sustainable growth of its economy. Maintaining this reputation is important for Scotland's continued economic success and wellbeing. As well as being used for drinking, water is used by industry (e.g. distilling whisky and supporting fisheries), for producing energy (hydropower), and for recreational activities such as bird-watching, angling and water sports. Scotland has more than 125,000 km of rivers and streams varying from small highland burns to deep, wide lowland rivers such as the Tay, as well as a 220 km Canal network.

Scotland is the world's first Hydro Nation, aiming to be a world leader in the responsible management of water resources. This means managing our water environment and resources to best advantage, and employing our knowledge and expertise effectively at home and internationally, to help improve people's lives. This includes the governance and responsible management of water resources, the performance of our water industry, the role of our water research community in developing international research programmes on key issues; and our approach to develop the value of all of our water resources for the economy.



Children



Communities

Clean water and sanitation (targets 6.1 and 6.2)

Water charges in Scotland are on average £46 less than in the rest of the UK. We are acutely aware that households face many pressures on their budgets and we are committed to working with customers and other stakeholders to ensure charges remain as affordable as possible whilst meeting the investment needs that maintain these vital services. Universal access to safe and clean water and access to sanitation are met in Scotland. The Scottish Government has committed to average water charges rising by less than inflation in the 2015-21 period, and for low income households assistance is available with up to 25% reduction in water and sewerage bills linked to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Publicly owned Scottish Water - who make a vital contribution to the Hydro Nation strategy to develop the value of Scotland's water resources – provides vital water and waste water services, essential to daily life, to 2.52 million households and 153,000 business premises across Scotland. Each day Scottish Water provide 1.38 billion litres of clear, fresh drinking water and take away 929 million litres of waste water (target 6.2), which is treated before returning safely to the environment. About 3.6% of the population (196,000 people) are served by private water supplies and 7% by private sewerage arrangements.

Local Authorities regulate private water supplies with oversight by the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland. The Scottish Government provides financial support for owners and users of private water supplies to support improvements to the quality of their supply through the provision of a non-means tested grant of up to £800 per property. These are available from local authorities to all who own or use a private supply. In 2017/18, £429,968 was awarded for improvements. According to the data provided by local authorities this funding improved 347 supplies⁹. Plans were put in place, through close working by Local Authorities and Scottish Water, to provide emergency supplies of water for domestic purposes to households and businesses served by private supplies who were affected by the water scarcity events of the summer of 2018.

Water is of central importance to the economy of Scotland, both as a sector in its own right and as a critical resource in the manufacturing, agriculture, food and drink, tourism and energy sectors. It also holds important non-economic value, as the quality of Scotland's water environment contributes to both the nation's wellbeing and sense of national identity. What underlies this understanding is a vision of Scotland safeguarding its natural resources responsibly regardless of how plentiful they are. This recognition is enshrined in law through the Water Resources (Scotland) Act 2013, which places a duty on Scottish Ministers to develop the value of our water resources in a responsible way (target 6.4, indicator 6.4.1 and 6.4.2).

As part of its ambition in leading innovation in water management, Scotland is a participant in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Water Governance Initiative as one of 12 pilot countries to test the draft indicator framework to support the implementation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance. Scottish Government engaged with a range of stakeholders in undertaking this pilot. Through this engagement, we are developing an action plan to further strengthen and improve Scotland's water governance.

The 'Your Water, Your Life' campaign, launched by Scottish Water in June 2018, aims to make 'tap' the first choice of Scotland's water drinkers, for the environment, their health and their pocket. The campaign was launched to encourage people to carry a refillable bottle and top up from the tap (also contributing to Goal 12, target 12.5).

Scottish Water is also directly contributing to the wider SDG agenda, having reduced its operational carbon footprint by nearly 32% since it started reporting it in 2006/07. Scottish Water's water service continues to have the lowest carbon intensity in the UK, and the carbon intensity of waste water service is lower than the UK average.

The Data Picture: Surface Water Status

Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Percentage of water bodies classified either by High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad, 2015 to 2017



Source: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

9 <http://dwqr.scot/information/annual-report/>

Closer Look - Water and waste water test facilities

The *European INTERREG programme* has granted funding to Scottish Water and six partner organisations to create a North-West European network of water and waste water test facilities to support innovation within the small-medium enterprise (SME) market.

The partnership consists of water utilities, research institutes and economic development agencies from Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Scotland and The Netherlands. Scottish Water is the lead partner, whilst its commercial subsidiary, Scottish Water Horizons, will project manage and deliver the project.

The project mirrors and extends the Hydro Nation Water Innovation Service model to include international partner businesses and uncover investment opportunities, setting ambitious targets for the numbers of businesses/products supported and tested during the project period. Through access to test facilities and innovation vouchers, innovators will be able to test, demonstrate and verify technologies on location, which will accelerate market uptake and provide an investor-ready pipeline of new products and processes. The project has a target that 120 innovators will be supported by testing 90 new technologies. This funding award was the only successful UK-led project in this round and represents an excellent result for Scotland and Hydro Nation given the close involvement of a range of key stakeholders in bid preparation and support, including Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Government.

Rural service provision for drinking and waste water (targets 6.2, indicator 6.2.1)

Work on rural provision continues at pace, with further trials on small community supply water treatments technologies at Scottish Water's Development Centre for Water at Gorthleck. The first round of trials suggest that multi-stage treatment will be required for the most complex rural waters and so the next step is to test combinations of treatment approaches to establish potential resilient treatment solutions. On waste water provision, a research project is being initiated looking at alternative treatment approaches. A pilot first time provision scheme for private supply users is now under consideration for the 2021-2027 period. Scottish Water is supporting research that will help build criteria for identifying communities that are most in need of water infrastructure support in rural areas.

Blue-Green cities

Scottish Water will also join the international trend towards Blue-Green cities by addressing the management of surface and storm water. Blue-Green cities bring water management and green infrastructure together to provide high quality places for public amenity and help reduce flooding.

The Water Framework Directive (targets 6.3, 6.4 & 6.6 and indicators 6.3.2, 6.4.1 and 6.6.1)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC is an EU directive which commits European Union member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies. Scotland implements the aims and objectives of the WFD through The Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003. The WFD introduced a comprehensive river basin management planning system to help protect and improve the ecological health of our rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal and groundwaters. This is underpinned by the use of environmental standards to help assess risks to the ecological quality of the water environment and to identify the scale of improvements that would be needed to bring waters under pressure back into a good condition.

River Basin Management Plans

Improvement measures to raise 87% of water bodies to Good by 2027 are prioritised through the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). River basin management planning aims to protect and improve Scotland’s freshwater environment in a way that balances costs and benefits to the environment, society and economy (target 6.6). Scotland’s **second RBMPs 2015-2027** are available.

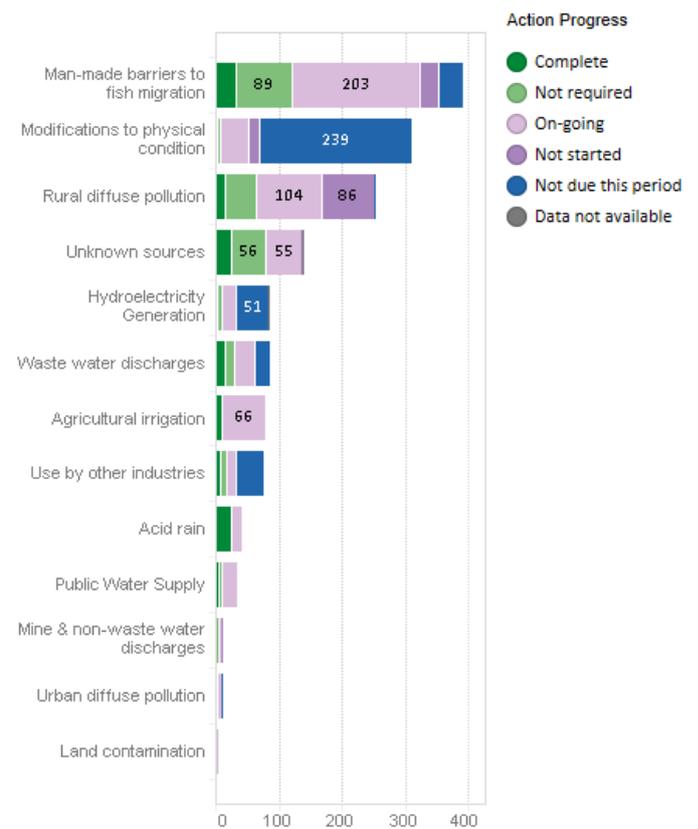
The SEPA is working in partnership with other public bodies, industry and land managers to protect and improve the water environment by integrating the RBMP objectives into **land use planning** and **flood risk management**. The current **condition of water bodies** in Scotland is improving, however, a wide range of pressures are continuing to impact on the condition of a small number of water bodies and protected areas.

There is also a continued effort to prevent deterioration of water bodies from High and Good status. The table below gives an indication of the projects being undertaken by SEPA in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to achieve SDG targets 6.3 and 6.6.

The Data Picture: Water Framework Directive

Target 6.3.2 aims to increase the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality.

Action progress to address pressures affecting overall condition by number of surface waters in 2018



Source: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

The work being undertaken in Scotland to achieve SDG target 6.4 and 6.6 are being driven by the Water Framework Directive River Basin management Plan cycle timescales ending in 2027.

Bathing Water Directive (target 6.3)

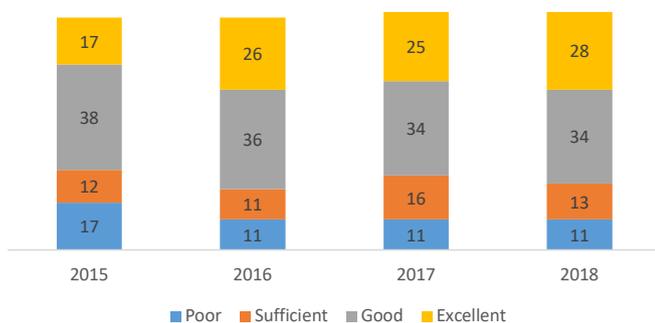
Improving Scotland’s water environment is a priority. The Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) gives certain areas of water, that are popular for bathing, special protection to ensure they are safe for people to swim in. The Scottish Government funds SEPA to produce a report on the quality of Scottish bathing waters every year after the conclusion of the bathing season. Scotland has 86 designated bathing waters where water quality is monitored from 15 May to 15 September. The general water quality condition for each location is described by a classification statement – excellent, good, sufficient and poor – based on four years of monitoring data. These classifications are calculated at the end of one season for display at the start of the following season.

The Data Picture: Bathing waters

Target 6.3.2 aims to increase the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality.

Bathing water quality is described by one of four classification types; excellent, good, sufficient or poor in the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC). The classification is based on several years of monitoring data to indicate the status of normal water quality at each location.

Percentage of bathing waters classified as being in excellent, good, sufficient or poor status, 2015 to 2018



Source: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Improving water quality for wetland restoration: Loch Leven (targets 6.3, 6.5, 6.6 and 6b)

Loch Leven is a large, shallow lake in the Scottish lowlands. It is a Ramsar site, Special Protection Area and National Nature Reserve, largely due to its internationally-important wetland bird populations. For many years, the lake was polluted by discharges from industry and waste water treatment works, and by runoff from agricultural land. These sources introduced large amounts of pesticide and phosphorus pollution into the water, causing frequent algal blooms that impacted the biodiversity and reduced the amenity value of the system. In 1992, an especially large algal bloom resulted in the loss of more than £1 million of income to the local economy over a 3 month period.

Between 1985 and 1995, the phosphorus input to the lake was reduced by about 60% (Goal 6.3). This was achieved by implementing integrated water management (Goal 6.5), through establishment of the Loch Leven Catchment Management Group. This group successfully drove forward management measures to upgrade the waste water treatment works, reduce pesticide and phosphorus discharges from an industrial source, and create buffer strips to reduce the level of agricultural runoff reaching the lake. Although, initially, water quality improvements were slowed by legacy pollution from the lake sediments, by 2007 water quality had begun to improve dramatically (Goal 6.3). By 2012, there were less algal blooms and the water was much clearer. This allowed underwater plants to recolonise areas of deeper water, providing better habitat for wildlife (especially fish and birds) and restoring the biodiversity of the area, including plants last recorded more than 100 years ago (Goal 6.6). The restoration has allowed the site to become an important community asset for recreation through construction of an accessible, but biodiversity-friendly, heritage trail around the lake and the development of a number of small local businesses benefiting from the increased number of visitors.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Edinburgh) and Scottish Natural Heritage have hosted visitors that are keen to learn from this success story, including lake managers from China, India and Indonesia, and participants at a number of international scientific conferences on ecosystem management (Goal 6.A). Many of the lessons learned by taking this catchment-based approach to improving the water quality at Loch Leven are being used to underpin management decisions aimed at improving lake water quality and amenity value in developing countries, such as China, India, Kenya and Indonesia.

Closer Look - Peatland ACTION

Peatland ACTION is the project helping to restore damaged peatlands in Scotland. Since 2012, almost 20,000 hectares have been put on the road to recovery with funding provided by the Scottish Government. With 70% of drinking water supplies coming from upland catchment areas that have peatlands within the UK, this project plays an important role in maintaining high quality drinking water supplies in many areas. The project works with an extremely wide range of national and local partners to restore our internationally important peatlands, one of Scotland's largest degraded ecosystems, as well as help us mitigate the effects of climate change. The project has been recognised by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management – winning their Best Practice Large Scale Nature Conservation Award in 2016, and received the Innovation Award from RSPB's Nature of Scotland Awards.

River restoration (target 6.6)

Rivers harbour high levels of biodiversity, providing opportunities for recreation and wellbeing and resources for farming, drinking water, beverage production and hydroelectricity (target 6.6). River habitats are degrading due to a variety of anthropogenic pressures such as modification by straightening and heavily concreting channels; barriers to fish migration and river bank damage due to invasive non-native species (see Goal 15 chapter). To facilitate this programme of work, the Scottish Government established a Water Environment Fund utilising circa £5 million of annual funding, which is administered by SEPA. The Water Environment Fund (WEF), alongside Greener Scotland and SEPA, enables repair of urban rivers in deprived areas to enhance community wellbeing and health and funds removal of barriers to fish migration. Since 2009 SEPA has eased 41 barriers to fish passage resulting in 1069 km of habitat being made available to Scotland's migratory fish species. Scoping and design work is underway on a further 209 fish barriers.

A multiple project partnership, and match funding from SEPA through the WEF, provided an opportunity for delivering improvements to the water environment in the River Glazert and River Tyne catchments. This WEF funded work was part of the larger **EcoCo LIFE project**.

Closer Look – Water Environment Fund restoration project

The Rivers and Fisheries Trusts for Scotland, Galloway Fisheries Trusts and SEPA worked in partnership to remove a 3.5m high weir on a tributary of the Tarff Water in Dumfries and Galloway. This has opened up 10km of fish habitat with salmon fry found upstream less than one year after works were completed (target 6.6).



Tarff Creamery Weir before removal



Tarff Creamery Weir after removal

Source: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Closer Look - Pearls in Peril

The **Pearls in Peril** project focused on physical restoration of rivers in priority catchments to benefit freshwater pearl mussel, salmonids and trout. It was a UK wide EU LIFE funded project (2012-2017) including 22 partners, such as Scottish Natural Heritage, National Parks, Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise Scotland, SEPA, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Fisheries Trusts and Boards, and water companies. Within Scotland the project created native riparian woodlands along approximately 100km of riverbank, and established livestock fencing along more than 60km of riverbank to reduce diffuse pollution. The project has been identified by the UK River Restoration Centre as the “best partnership project” in the UK. It contributes to Goals 6, 14, and 15.

Flood risk management in Scotland (targets 6.5 and 6b)

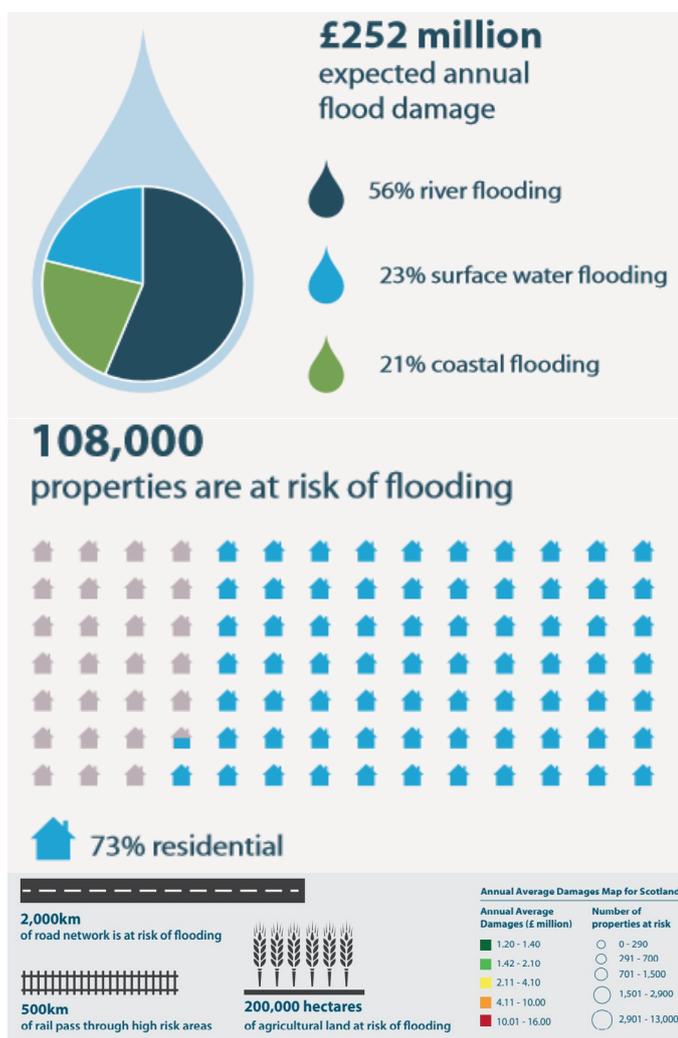
The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 has implemented a range of flood risk management strategies between 2016-2021. The Act works on a whole catchment scale approach, taking action based on risk-based decisions (target 6.6). Across the strategies there are 42 prioritised flood protection schemes which will help reduce the risk of flooding in many communities. Fourteen new flood warning schemes will be implemented between 2016- 2021. Ten thousand of the most vulnerable properties will be protected from schemes which deliver formal flood protection or engineering works.

The Data Picture: Scotland's flooding future

Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Anthropogenic pressures, modifications and climate change can contribute to the risk of flooding in Scotland.

The future of flooding in Scotland 2016-2021



Source: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Scotland's canals (targets 6.1 and 6.4, and indicators 6.1.1, 6.4.1 and 6.4.2)

Scotland's canals, once the catalysts of the Industrial Revolution, have been reimaged to contribute positively to Scotland's circular economy offering a wide range of sustainable and long term benefits for the many people of Scotland, as well as the few.

Valuable fresh water: The 332 million litres of water used daily to operate Scotland's canals have the potential for multiple re-use functions. Canal water has a significantly lower carbon footprint than drinking water as it is 95% gravity fed and currently provides permanent supplies to industry and for recreational activities including supplying the Falkirk Wheel water play parks.

Energy generation: Public body Scottish Canals is currently investigating the potential to generate renewable energy from canal water including low head hydropower schemes and water source heat pumps to offset their carbon footprint.

Biodiversity value: Scotland's 200-year-old canals are home to a wide range of plants and animals including protected species such as otters, bats, and plants, which are rare elsewhere in the UK.

Waste re-use: Scottish Canals is collaborating with organisations from across Europe in the Interreg North-West Europe SURICATES funded project investigating ways to increase the re-use of canal and port waste sediments for erosion and flood control. A high proportion of the 200 million m³ of dredged sediments from across Europe produced each year is currently disposed of at sea; Scottish Canals along with partners are leading the way in testing new uses for this material from road surfaces to paths and even bricks.

Sustainable transport: Our canal network attracts over 22 million visits per annum in partnership with Sustrans; Scottish Canals has upgraded the towpath network offering safe, accessible traffic free routes for all the people of Scotland. To further reduce transport emissions Scottish Canals is in positive discussions with Scottish and Southern Energy on the Coire Glas pumped storage hydropower scheme on Loch Lochy to use the Caledonian Canal for water-based freight transport.

Local participation in water management (target 6b)

2020 has been designated Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, a year that will spotlight, celebrate and promote opportunities to experience and enjoy Scotland's unrivalled coasts and waters, encouraging responsible engagement and participation from the people of Scotland and our visitors. This includes a programme of special events, funded via the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 (YCW2020) Events Programme Open Fund, designed to create new, high profile opportunities to celebrate Scotland's coasts and waters whilst adding value to the existing calendar of events. The funded events programme will create new opportunities for responsible participation, celebration and promotion of the key themes. The four programme strands that we invite events to respond to and celebrate are: Our Natural Environment and Wildlife; Our Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage; Activities and Adventure; Food and Drink. A total of £600,000 has been made available across two funding rounds. Partners include Scottish Government, public bodies, National Lottery Heritage Fund (and others). This programme contributes to SDG 6, 14, and 15.

Closer Look - Water-related expertise

Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters (CREW), managed on behalf of the Scottish Government by the James Hutton Institute, is a partnership between all of Scotland's Universities to develop the coordination of research, analysis and interpretation across the subject area. The aim of CREW is to brigade the best expertise on the management of water, to simplify access by policy teams to water-related expertise from across Scotland and to stimulate innovative thinking in support of water policy for the implementation partners (Scottish Government, SEPA, SNH, and Scottish Water).

Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (targets 6.6 and 6b, indicators 6.6.1 and 6.b.1)

The Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) is a four-year partnership project which aims to work with local organisations and volunteers to control invasive non-native species along riversides in Northern Scotland. It is led by Scottish Natural Heritage and funded together with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and in-kind support from project partners and volunteers. Project staff are working with the ten Fisheries Trusts/Boards who look after the rivers from the Tay in the south to the remote catchments of North West Sutherland, to recruit and train volunteers and work with local groups to enable control of invasive species at a local level, embedded in their community. The project started in 2018, and during the year was successful in working communities to contribute a total of 2,319 days of volunteer effort. After the project ceases in 2021 our aspiration is that local community control of invasive species will continue, making this a sustainable long-term solution to invasive species control.

The project is targeting invasive riparian plant species and American mink, which can have a debilitating effect on local rivers. This is an ambitious project, aiming to create a sense of cohesion between partners, volunteers and communities and working at a large-scale across a third of Scotland to ensure co-ordinated invasive non-native species (INNS) control.

Upstream Battle (targets 6.3 and 6b, indicator 6.3.2 and 6.b.1)

In 2018, Keep Scotland Beautiful launched the source to sea campaign **Upstream Battle**, initially focused on the River Clyde the campaign is changing behaviour and tackling marine litter at source given that 80% of litter comes from land. Working with communities along the river and its tributaries, Keep Scotland Beautiful will work with 16 Anchor Groups to survey and clean up their local area, contribute to a Clyde-wide litter prevention plan and inform decision making. In addition to this, the campaign will be working to make sure that everyone who lives or works near the River Clyde or one of its tributaries knows about the extent of the marine litter problem and is motivated to keep the Clyde clean. The final strand of the project involves working with children and young people to motivate them to reconnect with the River Clyde and to become more aware of potential litter causes and prevent waste.

International (targets 6.2 and 6.5)

Due to Scotland's status as the world's first Hydro Nation and its unique and internationally respected model of governance and regulation and an innovative approach to water policy there is a huge amount of international activity.

A significant milestone has been reached in the Water Futures Project in Malawi project, as now over 55% of mapping its national water asset is complete. Round one mapping was completed in March 2018. Round one mapped over 47000 water points and submitted 75347 sanitation surveys across eight districts across the Lower Shire. This effort is providing an open data resource to evaluate the risks and help address water gaps to a population of 4,852,405 people. National Evaluation mapping continues in 15 districts in the Central Region and Southern Region. To date (22 February 2019), the Programme has mapped 59,825 water points, 194,873 sanitation facilities and 4047 waste disposal sites. Several districts are approaching completion. The two-level approval approach ensures high quality data.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in London in April 2018, the Scottish Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding/ Collaboration Agreement with the National Mission for Clean Ganga on behalf of the wider Hydro Nation family. This will support more detailed discussions between Scotland, the Hydro Nation and India around opportunities for scientific cooperation and collaboration.

Since the establishment of the Hydro Nation Commercial and Advisory Services Group, a number of stakeholders have been successfully awarded further significant projects to deliver Scottish expertise and knowhow, including:

- Governance assistance project in Romania to deliver improvement of River Basin Management Planning support. Discussions are already ongoing for a follow-up Phase 2 project (HNCAS lead Water Industry Commission Scotland (WICS) – Consortium includes SEPA and Scottish Water International)

- SEPA have successfully closed out a significant contract in Cyprus, assisting with the establishment of a new legal and institutional framework for an integrated environmental permitting and inspection system, and are in discussion for follow-up training projects (HNCAS lead – SEPA). Leading HNCAS stakeholders Scottish Water/WICS/SEPA are working together on a formal Business Plan over the next 2-4 years to underpin joint activity

Other work has been completed, or is ongoing by HNCAS partners in China and Czech Republic, led by WICS, who are also developing collaboration MoUs with Latvia, Bulgaria and Kosovo covering training and consultancy support.

The Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee has been leading work on the Hydro Nation-funded Ganga River Health Project (c. £270,000 over the last and current financial years) which aims to provide a framework for the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (CGANGA), supported by the Government of India Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, to determine how research, policy support and capacity building can support the infrastructure development required to restore Ganga water quality and support socio-economic, governance and social benefits.

We are now considering follow-up work focusing on legislation, regulation and implementation of water policy. These projects can help increase the profile of Scotland's water research capability in a global context as well as making a valuable contribution in the spirit of Scotland's commitment to the SDGs.

Challenges and next steps

Scotland is well on track to meeting this goal now. The challenge moving forward will be resilience to climate extremes. Recent evidence indicates that climate extremes are not only becoming a reality in Scotland, but their severity and frequency is increasing. The summer of 2018 was a clear example, a summer drought particularly affected the North and East of Scotland with record low flows observed in several Scottish rivers. Scotland should aim to use less water moving forward which will involve a change in consumer attitude towards a more sustainable usage. Scottish Water will promote increased water efficiency in domestic and non-domestic settings, reduce energy consumption in water and waste water services and produce renewable energy from water resources and assets. The Scottish Government will continue to engage with its stakeholders across Scotland and encourage them to share their observations, experiences, research outcomes, and innovative ideas on building resilience and adapting to low flows and drought conditions.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- In 2020 the Scottish Government will run a competition across Scotland's universities to establish a Hydro Nation Chair to help Scotland's water industry manage the challenges of climate change
- Committing to planting 12,000 hectares of woodland, supported by an additional £5 million investment
- An investment this year of £14 million to fund projects to restore degraded peatlands and seeking to phase out the use of horticultural peat
- Launching later this year, a two-year action plan for flood-resilient repairs and property level flood protection to ensure that property owners are aware of and take up the available support



We believe Scotland should be a world leader in affordable and clean energy. This ambition is shared across the public, private and third sector, and is being advanced through legislation, local and central government policy, community action and a focus on corporate sustainability.

Our ambition is illustrated in the Scottish Government's [Scottish Energy Strategy](#), which recognises that Scotland's social and economic wellbeing, and the sustainable productivity and competitiveness of our economy depend on secure and affordable energy supplies. Published in December 2017, the [Scottish Energy Strategy](#) supports Scotland's climate change ambitions and sets out our vision for a flourishing, competitive local and national energy sector, delivering secure, affordable, clean energy for Scotland's households, communities and businesses. At the heart of the strategy is a commitment to "promote consumer engagement and protect consumers from excessive or avoidable costs, prevent new forms of social exclusion and promote the benefits of smarter domestic energy applications and systems". In short, it reinforces our committed to delivering a people-centred energy transition shaped by and for the people of Scotland.

The strategy focuses on the need for an inclusive transition to our low-carbon future, and sets two ambitious targets for 2030:

- The equivalent of 50% of Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be met from renewable sources
- An increase of 30% in the productivity of our energy use across the Scottish economy

Other targets for 2020 are:

- 100% of electricity demand to come from renewables
- 11% non-electrical heat demand to come from renewables
- 12% reduction in energy consumption
- 10% share of renewable fuels in transport petrol and diesel consumption



Environment



Fair Work
and Business



Children



Poverty



Communities

Renewable energy (targets 7.2, 7.3)

Scotland is uniquely well placed by European, and even global standards, as a natural resource base for renewable energy. While our wet and windy weather may require a more than desirable use of umbrellas and waterproof jackets, it does provide perfect conditions for wind, tide and wave technologies. This, along with our strong, nation-wide and cross-sectoral commitment to developing these technologies has provided the necessary momentum for moving forward our ambitious renewable energy agenda.

We are committed to ensuring that renewable and low carbon energy will provide the foundation of our future energy system. This offers us a huge opportunity for achieving clean economic and industrial growth. To achieve this we are promoting and exploring the potential of Scotland's renewable energy resource and its ability to meet our local and national heat, transport and electricity needs, whilst also contributing to meeting our ambitious emissions reduction targets. By 2030 we aim to generate 50% of Scotland's overall energy (heat, transport and electricity) consumption from renewable sources, and by 2050 we aim to have decarbonised our energy system almost completely. Meeting our long term climate change targets will require the near-complete decarbonisation of our energy system by 2050, with renewable energy meeting a significant share of our needs. The [Scottish Energy Strategy](#) target builds on the previous target we set in 2009, which required 30% of Scotland's heat, transport and electricity needs to be met by renewable sources.

The Data Picture: Energy from renewable sources

Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

The percentage of energy consumption which is renewable energy has increased steadily in Scotland over time, with 21% of Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption met by renewable sources in 2018.

Percentage of energy consumption which is renewable energy



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

We have made good progress to date, with the equivalent of 20% of energy consumption being met by renewable sources in 2017. Reaching the 50% target by 2030 will be challenging, particularly in more uncertain market conditions compared to those in the preceding decades, and due to the fact that not all the relevant policy levers are devolved to Scotland. But the target demonstrates our commitment to a low-carbon energy system and to the continued growth of the renewable energy sector in Scotland. It also underlines our belief in the sector's ability to build on its achievements and progress so far.

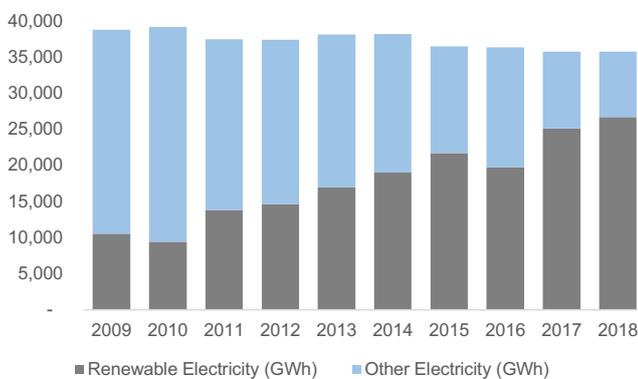
Scotland's renewable electricity capacity has also shown steady growth over the last few years with the average annual capacity increase over 712MW since the end of 2008. In 2018, 75% of Scotland's electricity demand was from renewables and 6% of non-electrical heat demand was from renewables.

The Data Picture: Electricity consumption and renewables output

Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

The share of renewable electricity has increased since 2009 with 75% of Scotland’s electricity consumption provided from renewables in 2018.

Gross electricity consumption and percentage renewables output, 2009 to 2018



Renewable electricity in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England, Energy Trends, BEIS

Electricity generation and supply figures for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, Energy Trends, BEIS

We are also committed to building Scotland’s reputation internationally for excellence in energy. We are keen to continue forging collaborative partnerships with other countries, supporting the internationalisation pillar of **Scotland’s Economic Strategy** and to help meet the aims of our international policy statement and international framework.

Current actions to support low-carbon energy include:

- Establishing the Energy Investment Fund that will invest £20 million in low-carbon energy infrastructure
- Promoting the development of onshore wind in Scotland and across the UK
- Working with partners to develop offshore wind opportunities
- Supporting the marine energy sector and tidal innovation through the £10 million Saltire Tidal Energy Challenge Fund
- Making it easier to invest in local and small-scale renewables

- Developing a bioenergy action plan through research and working with partners
- Investing £60 million in the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP)
- Leading the low carbon transport transition by promoting the use of ultra low emission vehicles and removing barriers to their use
- Exploring the potential for geothermal energy in Scotland
- Obliging suppliers to source more electricity from renewable sources via the renewables obligation

The Scottish Government is investing a further £2 million in 2018-19 to support innovation and help reduce the cost of offshore wind. We are consulting on a new Sectoral Marine Plan identifying future locations for large-scale offshore wind developments.

Community energy has also become an important component in our renewable energy revolution. More and more communities across Scotland are realising that generating their own electricity can have great advantages.

Closer Look - Fintry wind turbine

Fintry in rural Stirlingshire, Scotland, has embraced renewable energy for a more sustainable future for their village. To fight fuel poverty and a reliance on carbon intensive heating systems, Fintry became the first village in the UK to enter a joint-venture agreement with a wind farm developer that secured a wind turbine for the community. From the income stream the turbine generates, Fintry has given free insulation to more than half of all households in the village and is now embarking on new ambitious projects to eventually make the village carbon-neutral. The community has also overseen further projects such as the installation of micro-renewable heating systems, planting a community orchard, and opening a woodland learning area for the local primary school.

Additionally, the solar market is making progress with reductions in technology costs and advances with, for example, the integration of wind and solar output from season to season leading to increased investment opportunities. While solar farms around the UK have historically been established by smaller energy firms and community groups, the entrance of large energy suppliers such as ScottishPower should provide momentum and new life to the sector in Scotland.

The Ocean Energy Scale-up Alliance funded by the North Sea Region Interreg programme brings together expertise from six countries, to accelerate the deployment of marine energy technologies. This includes the deployment of pilots from Tocardo Tidal Power, a tidal energy company; wave energy companies Seabased and NEMOS; Floating Power Plant which is developing a hybrid platform combining wind and wave resources; and floating wind developer SeaTwirl. The Scottish partner in this project is the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC).

Closer Look - Scottish Power

Scottish Power is the first integrated energy company in the UK to generate 100% green electricity, following the sale of their remaining fossil fuel generation. Their focus is on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. Scottish Power's commitment to generate 100% green energy makes a big impact on delivering the Scottish Energy Strategy. The organisation supports Offshore Wind Sector Deal with pledge to build more offshore wind turbines. It plans to engage with the Crown Estate and the Crown Estate Scotland on seabed leasing and to bring £2 billion clean energy investment in 2019 and £6 billion by 2022. ScottishPower is also creating 150 new jobs in the UK renewables sector in just 2019. Their investment plan will support 300 new Scottish Power jobs in 2019.

Many businesses across Scotland are also looking at how they can realign their energy consumption to improve their carbon footprint and make the most of the commercial opportunities associated with ecologically progressive practices.

Closer Look - Scotch Whisky industry

Export sales of Scotch Whisky are important to the UK economy, amounting to £4.7 billion in 2018, that is 20% by value of all the UK's food and drink exports. The product's reputation for premium quality is closely linked to its ecological integrity and raw materials such as barley and water. In 2009, the sector's membership body, the Scotch Whisky Association, announced an environmental strategy committing to sourcing 20% of primary energy requirements from non-fossil fuel sources by 2020 and 50% by 2050 – from a baseline of 3% in 2008. They passed their 2020 target four years ahead of schedule. Over £160 million was invested in renewables between 2008 and 2015, a figure second only to the utilities sector. This commitment to SDG target 7.2, increasing the share of renewable energy, will continue to lower carbon emissions and generate investment and job opportunities in future years.

Closer Look - Scottish Environment Protection Agency

SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) co-hosted the first in a series of Scottish round table events in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative, a global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the financial sector to promote sustainable finance. The Association of British Insurers is also partnering with SEPA to co-host the events, which explore how Scotland can meet the UN's global SDGs through low carbon and renewable energy investment at national and local levels. Businesses, institutions, non-governmental bodies and influential representative bodies are attending the round tables, which focus on the significant low carbon and renewable energy investment opportunities and how to overcome investment challenges. The 2018/19 round tables will culminate in a two-day working event in autumn 2019. The aim is to identify and launch initiatives and actions that could ultimately drive billions in investment in low carbon and renewable energy solutions in Scotland.

Action is not just confined to the private sector, and public sector organisations across Scotland are investing in the renewable energy agenda. For example, Scottish Natural Heritage, supports the renewables sector by helping decision makers achieve the right development in the right place, and to balance the needs of energy generation and transmission with community and society interests and the environment. Their support cuts across the whole of the renewables industry including wind energy (onshore and offshore), solar, hydro, biomass and the required transmission.

Closer Look – Dawyck Garden

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh’s Dawyck Garden has instituted a number of changes to increase the Garden’s environmental credentials and is the first carbon neutral botanic garden in the UK. Dawyck has a hydro-electric scheme which provides enough energy for the Garden’s Visitor Centre and sells surplus back to the Grid. The Centre’s heating is provided by a sustainable biomass boiler, and it has a green roof, providing insulation and temperature regulation.



(Image: the hydro-electric scheme at Dawyck Botanic Garden)

Higher and further education sectors are also important actors. Carbon emissions from Scottish universities have declined only slightly in recent years (from 398,017 tCO₂ in 2015 to 380,014 tCO₂ in 2016), despite the fact that the sector has made considerable progress in energy efficiency. A key underlying issue is that the higher education sector is successful and expanding in Scotland with new research facilities being commissioned, and increasing numbers of international students travelling to Scotland to study. While both of these trends can be said to help achieve the SDGs, for example, in relation to sustainability research and access to education for developing world students, the sector will find it hard to meet carbon reduction targets without national interventions. Actions along these lines could include de-carbonisation of the power supply, large-scale deployment of carbon capture and district heating technologies, carbon off-setting schemes.

Closer Look - University Carbon Reduction Programme

In 2018 SFC provided £16.189 million of interest-free loans to Scottish universities for 15 projects to reduce their carbon footprint. In total, these projects will save 9,322 tCO₂ annually. These projects relate to SDGs 7, 9 and 13.

This kind of funding enables institutions to progress their carbon management plans and in some cases has supported renewable energy projects of significant scale. However, it remains challenging to catalyse more strategic carbon reduction projects (e.g. district heating), which often require longer-term planning and engaging with multiple partners.

Energy efficiency (targets 7.2 and 7.3)

Heating and cooling Scotland's homes and businesses costs £2.6 billion a year and accounts for approximately half of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency in this area is therefore crucial to achieving Goal 7. Using the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) 2012, which is the most up-to-date methodology for assessing energy efficiency, estimates from the most recent Scottish House Condition Survey, show that in 2017 42% of dwellings had an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of C or higher. This is 3% higher than in 2016, and 7% higher than in 2014, so we continue to make good progress.

Through the Energy Efficient Scotland programme our aim is to maximise the number of homes achieving EPC Band C by 2030 through targeted support and enabling action, with all homes to reach EPC C by 2040, and even more ambitious targets for households in fuel poverty and for social housing. The Scottish Government have also recently consulted on the impact of bringing forward the date of the long term target for homes from the current date of 2040. They will consider the responses with partners in local government and look at where we can move faster whilst supporting a Just Transition to a low carbon economy across Scotland. To drive progress, the Scottish Government have already introduced regulation in the social housing sector, from April 2020 in the private rented sector, and will be consulting soon on regulation in the owner occupied sector. So although there may be fewer 'easy wins' in future, we are keeping up the momentum in Scotland through this approach and through ongoing significant investment and delivery programmes.

To support this the Scottish Government has launched a 20-year delivery programme – Energy Efficient Scotland – to improve the use and management of energy in Scotland's buildings and help decarbonize heat supply, which is designed and delivered in strong partnership between the Scottish and local government. The Energy Efficient Scotland programme builds on existing legislation and programmes that are already supporting the improvement of the energy efficiency of homes, businesses and public buildings, as well as the work we are doing with local authorities to develop Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES).

Energy Efficient Scotland is a strategic partnership with local and national government in Scotland which has from the start identified the importance of strategic planning for Energy Efficient Scotland at local and national levels across the 20 years of the programme. Given the need for strategic planning to take place from the outset, detailed consultation around the proposals for LHEES were undertaken and LHEES have been established as the foundation on which the programme is being delivered at a local level. The launch of Energy Efficient Scotland sees us continuing to integrate and streamline our existing support over the next two years of the programme's transition phase. Energy Efficient Scotland actions include:

- transition programme plan
- long term plan
- pilot projects
- monitoring and evaluation
- user guides for homeowners, landlords and tenants
- international collaboration
- **Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)**

In addition to the measures above, the programme is continuing to invest in Area Based Schemes that support local energy efficient measures to lift people out of Fuel Poverty. It is based on the Area Based Programmes, which have seen energy efficiency measures rolled out across whole neighbourhoods, alongside area regeneration.

Our Resource Efficient Scotland (RES) programme is supported by Scottish Government Energy and Climate Change and Zero Waste teams, with match funding from European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). The programme offers technical advice and support, as well as funding, to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on both energy and resource efficiency. Lifetime energy and carbon savings from this programme are quantified annually. For 2015-17, the lifetime impact of RES was 500,000 MWh of energy savings, 70,000 tonnes of waste and material savings, over 300 000 tonnes CO2 equivalent savings (measured on a consumption basis), and cost savings to supported organisations of over £50 million. Many of these savings are supported by ERDF funding.

Other Zero Waste Scotland programmes have the potential to contribute to this Goal in future – for example there is an option for programmes focused on construction and procurement to consider future “in use” energy efficiency at the design, specification, and build stages. The economic and competitive benefits of resource efficiency measures are also captured in our evaluations.

Previous regulatory intervention in the reserved energy sector have not resulted in a well-functioning, competitive market which benefits all consumers. That is why in Scotland we continue to advocate to the UK Government and Ofgem on much need reform. The 2016 package of reforms set out by the Competition and Markets Authority was designed to open up competition and help consumers get a better deal, with many of the remedies transitional pending the rollout of smart meters by 2020. However, the success of reforms has not been consistent across the UK, for example, connectivity and technical metering issues are delaying the smart meter rollout in Scotland.

In May the Scottish Government published the [Energy Consumer Action Plan](#) which establishes a framework to place consumer considerations at the heart of Scotland’s energy policy and influence change across GB. The plan encourages consumers to help shape how Scotland moves towards affordable clean energy. Actions include a commitment to:

- Establish an independent Consumers Commission “to give consumers a more powerful voice” in Scotland and Britain’s energy policy and the development of a charter committing signatories to address consumer issues
- Introduce a duty on public authorities to place people’s interest at the heart of policy and regulatory decision making and invest in supporting new approaches to tackle energy affordability through a new Improving Consumer Outcomes Fund
- Explore ways to provide more holistic support to vulnerable energy consumers, including making it easier to access priority support and providing more help for consumers with energy debt

Decarbonising heat and energy efficient buildings (targets 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3)

Heating our homes and businesses makes up a significant part of our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland. Decarbonising heat by reducing and eliminating the greenhouse gases emitted during its generation and use, is essential to meeting our climate change ambitions. The [Heat Policy Statement](#) which was published in 2015, set out three objectives for decarbonising heat:

- Reducing the need for heat
- Supplying heat efficiently at least cost to consumers
- Using renewable and low carbon heat

We are working to decarbonise heat in Scotland by investing in the things which we can control such as:

- Improving heat efficiency, including reducing demand and supplying it more cost-effectively
- Supporting low-carbon heat solutions in individual buildings off the gas grid or heat networks where appropriate

In areas outside our control, including decarbonising the gas grid, we are working with the UK Government and our partners to determine the best route.

The Scottish Government’s Low Carbon Heat team are playing a key role in scoping the opportunities for, and advising on the technical options to implement, district heating schemes in Scotland, and in furnishing evidence to support policy development. A Heat Network Partnership was established in 2013 to provide coordinated support for district heating, and to develop a district heating strategy programme for local authorities to help accelerate the growth of heat networks. The network is championing efforts to improve the efficiency with which heat is supplied to Scottish homes and businesses. More than 70 public bodies are working to provide the Scotland heat map, a tool for identifying heat supply and demand opportunities across Scotland. The map can be used to:

- Identify where there are opportunities for heat networks
- Assess heat density and proximity to heat sources

The heat map, which is shared with every local authority in Scotland via the Scotland heat map framework and which helps them plan district heating and identify unused excess heat, is updated every year using annual building energy data submitted by public bodies.

Work is also underway to reduce demand for heat by improving the energy efficiency of buildings. Our target is that, by 2040, all Scottish homes will have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of band C where technically feasible and cost effective, and all non-domestic buildings will have their energy efficiency improved to the extent that it is technically feasible and cost effective. By 2032, we aim to reduce residential heat demand by 15% and non-residential heat demand by 20% by improving the fabric of Scotland's buildings and ensuring they are insulated to the maximum appropriate level. This is being achieved through a number of schemes:

- Transition Programme Decarbonisation Fund
- Energy Efficiency Transition Programme
- Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)
- District Heating Loan Fund

We have set standards for energy efficiency in social housing and in private rented housing, and offer schemes to support people in fuel poverty to make their homes more energy efficient ([home energy and fuel poverty policy](#)). The [Energy Efficient Standard for Social Housing \(EESH\)](#) was introduced in March 2014 and aims to encourage landlords to improve the energy efficiency of social housing in Scotland. This supports the Scottish Government's vision of warm, high quality, affordable, low carbon homes and a housing sector that helps to establish a successful low carbon economy across Scotland. The EESH sets a milestone for social landlords to meet for social rented homes by December 2020, based on minimum Energy Efficiency (EE) ratings which vary depending on the type of property and the fuel used to heat it (broadly EPC Band C or D). The rate of compliance with the standard is 80% (2017/18), with attainment of EESH projected to reduce carbon output by 760Kt per annum from the social rented sector. A new post-2020 standard (EESH2) was confirmed in June 2019, for all social housing to meet, or be treated as meeting, EPC Band B (EE rating), or to be as energy efficient as practically possible, by the end of December 2032 and within the limits of cost, technology and

necessary consent. It has also been confirmed that no social housing is to be re-let below EPC Band D from December 2025, subject to temporary specified exemptions. Landlords, including local authorities as larger social landlords, have made significant investments to meet the EESH, with total investment over £300 million since 2015/16.

The [Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme \(LCITP\)](#) was also launched in March 2015, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Futures Trust, the Scottish Government, and sector specialists. The LCITP has been awarding funds backed jointly by the EU and Scottish Government. There are four large scale district heating projects which are currently in the construction and commissioning stages in Fife (£8.5 million), West Dunbartonshire (£6 million), Stirling (£2 million) and Dundee (£2.9 million). Scotland also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Denmark on cooperation covering the decarbonisation of heating systems, district heating, and energy efficiency in buildings, and we have used this relationship to further knowledge exchange.

There are approximately 200,000 non-domestic buildings in Scotland, and these vary widely in terms of construction, size, and use. The diverse nature of non-domestic buildings means we know less about their energy performance compared with those in the domestic sector. As of July 2017 there were around 30,000 non-domestic buildings with an EPC assessment. Scotland has energy efficiency standards in the non-domestic sector as well as energy efficiency standards in the public sector. Given the wide variety of building size and use in the non-domestic sector, we have proposed to move to a benchmarking system in Scotland for assessing energy efficiency. Views were sought on this in February 2019 through the Energy Efficient Scotland consultation.

We also proposed to build on the current Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency (NDEE) regulations under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. These currently only apply to buildings over 1,000m², and buildings can defer improvement by reporting their energy use. By 2040 we aim to have extended the regulations to all non-domestic buildings, and for them to be improved to the extent that this is technically feasible and cost effective. The regulations will be phased in so that they are extended to progressively smaller buildings over time.

Further consultation on plans for the non-domestic sector will be undertaken in 2019 to inform proposals for this sector by 2020, ahead of new regulations commencing in 2021. Proposals will focus on our advice and support services, as well as Resource Efficient Scotland, Local Energy Scotland, and the public-sector NDEE Project Support Unit, who together provide advice and project support to SMEs, communities, and public sector organisations. A guide on improving energy efficiency within SMEs has been produced, [Energy Efficient Scotland user guide: small and medium enterprises](#).

Industrial energy efficiency (targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3)

In our efforts to improve Scotland's overall energy efficiency, it is essential that we engage with the industrial and commercial sector which accounts for around 40% of total final energy consumption in Scotland. Given this, we aim to improve industrial and commercial energy productivity by at least 30% by 2032, through a combination of fuel diversity, energy efficiency improvements and heat recovery. Work with Scottish industry includes the eight most Energy Intensive Industries (EII) – cement, ceramics, chemicals, food and drink, glass, iron and steel, paper and pulp, and oil and gas refining – to overcome the challenges associated with investing in energy efficiency or decarbonisation measures.

Supporting industrial energy efficiency is a key priority in the [Scottish Manufacturing Action Plan, the Energy Strategy and the Climate Change Plan](#). Our understanding is that greater energy efficiency can have many benefits for industry, such as:

- Reduced operating costs
- Protection against energy price rises
- Additional income streams such as through the recovery or use of captured excess heat

However, investing in energy efficiency measures presents challenges to industry. Payback periods for equipment or technology are often considered too long, and business cases for greater efficiency may struggle to gain board approval due to the multinational nature of many companies.

Given that the industrial sector accounts for more than half of Scotland's exports and sustains many high-value jobs, it is however, crucial that we support rather than force industry to save energy. We are developing a coordinated approach to incentives for Scottish industry to make their processes more energy efficient and to discourage them from relocating to countries with less stringent energy regulations (known as carbon leakage).

To achieve this we are engaging with industry to:

- Build industrial cross-sector working that includes trade associations from the EII sectors and Scottish site representatives
- Raise awareness of existing energy efficiency advice and support for industry
- Gain detailed insight into investment barriers and work together on how to overcome them
- Examine the roles of government, agencies and industry to collectively achieve greater industrial energy efficiency

Scottish Ministers chaired an EII roundtable in November 2017 to build an effective platform for engagement and collaboration with stakeholders in Scotland. Feedback from the roundtable directly influenced the industrial part of Scotland's Energy Strategy, published on 21 December 2017. Workshops were subsequently held with a range of industrial stakeholders during 2018. These events allowed us to gather evidence on the nature of Scotland's industrial landscape including the challenges and opportunities for decarbonisation, which include:

- The cost of energy (including as a result of policies on renewables)
- Re-using excess heat so that industrial process become more efficient or emit less carbon
- Unattractive payback periods on measures so investment is diverted to other areas
- Limits to growth, change or decarbonisation due to network infrastructure

A paper on **decarbonisation and energy efficiency in the industrial sector** that summarises our engagement with industry to date has been published. This outlines the identified barriers to investment in decarbonisation, references the support currently available and proposes next steps to create an improved Scottish support framework. Discussions on how to overcome barriers to investment with Scottish energy intensive industry stakeholders are taking place through 2019.

Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) and the hydrogen economy is a further area which is relevant for industrial decarbonisation, and where there is interest among sectors in Scotland. Work across teams and agencies is being undertaken on this and industrial stakeholders will be invited to be part of these discussions.

Transport and clean energy (targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3)

Transport Scotland is the national transport agency for Scotland. It oversees the operation and improvement of the transport networks, concessionary and accessible travel schemes, traffic and travel information, and promotes sustainable transport and active travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve public health. The organisation also supports the National Transport Strategy which determines our vision for transport in Scotland over the next 20 years. Transport Scotland had a budget of nearly £2.4 billion in 2017 to 2018 and its priorities for delivery are:

- Improved connections across Scotland
- Increased safety and more innovation
- Continuously improved performance
- Better journey times
- Better reliability
- Greener transport alternatives
- Reduced emissions

These aims provide a clear focus to support the development and delivery of efficient, effective and sustainable transport infrastructure and services for Scotland.

The protection and enhancement of our natural environment should be an important aspect of all transport projects in Scotland. In recognition of this Transport Scotland is undertaking work on:

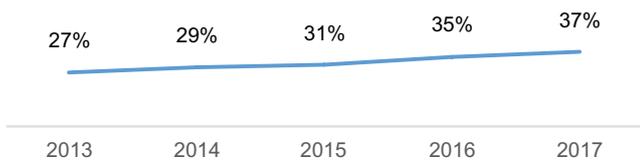
- Air quality - minimising environmental impacts by measuring, monitoring and managing transport impacts on air quality
- Low Emission Zones - transforming towns and cities into cleaner, healthier places to live, work and visit
- Carbon reduction on roads - aiming to reduce carbon emissions from the road transport sector
- Climate change - aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions wherever practicable from our operations, projects and maintenance activities.
- Landscape and biodiversity - acknowledging and respecting our country's remarkable landscape and wildlife
- Sustainability - using the Civil Engineering Environment Quality Assessment and Award Scheme (CEEQUAL) on a number of transport infrastructure projects

However, as the data below shows, the challenge remains to reduce our overall transport emissions as well as the relative balance of contributions across the different forms of transport.

The Data Picture: Transport emissions

Transport (including international aviation and shipping) accounted for 14.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, representing 37% of net greenhouse gas emissions allocated to Scotland in 2017. Within transport emissions, road accounts for the largest proportion (10.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). Transport's percentage share of total net emissions has increased in recent years as non-transport emissions have fallen.

Transport emissions as a percentage of total net greenhouse gas emissions



Source: Scottish Transport Statistics 2019 Edition

Since 2011, the number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) in Scotland has increased from less than 500 to over 10,000 - an increase of over 2000%. By 2017, a distance of almost 40 million miles had been travelled in electrically charged vehicles in Scotland: the equivalent of going to the moon and back 95 times.

As well as investing £15 million to add an additional 1,500 new charge points in homes, businesses and communities including 150 new public charge points, over 1,200 people have received one of our interest free loans to help purchase a low emission vehicle. We now have one of the most comprehensive charging networks in Europe with Charge Place Scotland (CPS) providing a single network operator for the whole country: a unique asset for Scotland's increasing community of ULEV owners. Our programme of investments since 2012 means that the number of public charge points on the CPS network has grown to almost 1,000. The network has been used over 1.5 million times since 2011, with the average distance between charge points in Scotland at just over two miles. We are supporting sustainable charging options by installing charge points at park and rides, transport hubs and providing charging infrastructure for taxi owners switching to ULEV.

Across Scotland's public sector, we are supporting a transformation in the use of ULEVs, with the total number in Scotland's public fleets now over 1,000. This assists with reducing air pollution in cities and displacing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Transport Scotland is also committed to increasing levels of cycling and walking for transport and leisure in Scotland. This is being achieved in part through Walking and Cycling: Developing an Active Nation which includes an active nation commissioner for Scotland and close working with partners and local authorities to deliver the Active Travel vision, underpinned by the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and the National Walking Strategy. Funding for projects throughout Scotland are designed to improve our public spaces, such as creating segregated walking and cycling lanes and safer junctions and crossings. Transport Scotland also supports educational and behaviour change projects, making walking and cycling the easy choice for everyday short journeys.

Transport Scotland is also committed to encouraging more people to make active travel choices for short everyday journeys wherever possible, to improve health, wellbeing and the environment. Our long term vision sets out how Scotland will look in 2030 if this is achieved. Linked to this vision are the **National Walking Strategy**, the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020 and the Active Travel Task Force report which makes suggestions for overcoming barriers to the delivery of innovative and new walking and cycling infrastructure. Transport Scotland's work to develop an Active Nation encompasses actions in this area. The Scottish Government doubled the already record level of investment in walking and cycling from £39.2 million in 2017-18 to £80 million per year in 2018-19. Much of this budget is allocated to active travel delivery partners who work across Scotland delivering projects that will get more people walking and cycling for shorter everyday journeys. These partners in turn distribute much of this funding to local authorities, community groups, third sector groups and others.

Fuel poverty (targets 7.1)

Scotland has introduced world leading legislation to tackle Fuel Poverty. The Fuel Poverty (Target, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act sets a target relating to the eradication of fuel poverty; creates a new definition of fuel poverty which more closely aligns with income poverty; mandates the preparation of a new, long term fuel poverty strategy and makes provision for reporting on fuel poverty. The ambitious target set by the Act is that, in the year 2040, no more than 5% of households in Scotland are in fuel poverty; no more than 1% are in extreme fuel poverty; and that the median fuel poverty gap of households in fuel poverty in Scotland is no more than £250 in 2015 prices before adding inflation. Within this ground-breaking legislation, Scotland is one of the few countries in the world to define fuel poverty, let alone set a target which, if achieved, will go a long way towards eradicating it. The achievement of this target is closely connected to Scotland's delivery on SDG 7.3, because low energy efficiency is one of the key determinants of fuel poverty. The policy is supported by the Scottish Government national fuel poverty programme, Warmer Homes Scotland. In 2017/18 4,903 households received assistance, each of them saving on average £318 per year off their energy bills.

Challenges and next steps

It is clear that Scotland is uniquely well placed in terms of our natural, knowledge and skills environment to become a world leader in renewable and clean energy. We also have the political will and leadership across the sectors to set and drive an ambitious programme of reform. However, despite Scotland's commitment to renewable energy, and wide spread public support for on-shore wind, the cheapest form of renewable energy, UK energy policy prevents a route to market for further expansion. Finding a path through these and other constitutional, resource, commercial, cultural and behavioural barriers to progress has taken on increased urgency in the light of recent reports on global warming and biodiversity.

In Scotland we do, however, have a community of government, civil society, private sector and third sector partners which is working together to take a holistic approach to making energy clean and affordable. Local government in particular is a key partner in a wide range of programmes and policy initiatives, driving progress in collaboration

with Scottish Government, or as part of their own political mandate. For example, options for Local and Scottish Government co-designing a publicly owned energy company are currently being scoped out. Such a company would contribute to reducing fuel poverty, carbon reduction and sustainable economic development. Other examples of collaboration between Scottish and local government are highlighted above in the Energy Efficient Scotland Programme among others. It is clear that continued close partnership between national and local government, public and private sector, are essential for creating the collaborative relationships, practices and infrastructure we need to meet our ambitions on affordable and clean energy.

The public, as energy consumers are important actors in this nationwide project, and fostering better relationships with consumers is critical to our success. Better understanding consumer needs and the factors which enable and/or restrain behaviour change is a priority. Consumer mistrust in the energy sector is a significant barrier to engagement in Scotland, for example. As part of our vision to build a Fairer Scotland, the Scottish Government is raising the profile of consumers and placing them at the heart of Scottish policy making. This transformational programme aims to fundamentally change the way consumer issues are viewed and tackled across public policy making in Scotland and will be reflected in the work of the Just Transition Commission.

In January 2018 the Scottish Government convened a summit of energy suppliers and consumer groups to address issues affecting vulnerable energy users living in Scotland. Building on the success of the 2016 summit it called on suppliers and consumer groups to work collaboratively for the benefit of vulnerable consumers. This group are developing a Consumer Vision and Action Plan to give detailed consideration to consumer issues across the energy landscape. The plan will ensure consumers' needs, interests and motivations are understood and addressed as we move towards a low carbon Scotland. To support this work we established an Energy Consumer Expert Advisory Group in October 2018. The newly established group brings together Ofgem, Energy UK, academics and consumer group representatives to help shape the Scottish Government's approach to a fair and inclusive energy transition. The developing Consumer Vision & Action Plan will complement the

Scottish Government Gas and Electricity Networks Vision to ensure regulatory interventions and the price control processes led by Ofgem take the Energy Strategy and our wider policies into account.

Fuel poverty also continues to be an issue for us, particularly in remote and rural areas. In 2017, 25% of households in Scotland were estimated to be in fuel poverty. The Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership noted in 2017 that the Western Isles faces one of the highest levels of fuel poverty within the UK and there are four main elements which contribute to this. These are: low incomes, fuel bills, energy efficiency, and how energy is used in the home. In the Western Isles, this is exacerbated by a high population of elderly people, extreme weather conditions, many low income families and almost one third of properties in single occupancy. In addition, the lack of mains gas and a high proportion of older houses and detached houses (leading to higher heat loss) all increase the prevalence of fuel poverty whilst also placing a burden on local health services. From this example we can see that the conditions which underpin fuel poverty and the resulting policy solutions for this are complex.

We must, however, ensure that inclusive policies continue to be embedded at a local and community level to ensure that energy is affordable for all. This is particularly important now, since the equilibrium of generation, consumption and the grid is changing with increasing intermittent renewable generation, inclusion of energy storage, changing heating technology and property efficiency levels as well as smarter grid and metering capabilities.

The [Scottish Energy Strategy](#) committed the Scottish Government to publishing an Annual Energy Statement, the first of which was published on 15 May 2019. The Statement highlights key developments in the sector, progress made to date and key plans for delivery of the strategy in the coming year and beyond. The Scottish Government is committed to publishing a Heat Decarbonisation Policy Statement in summer 2020 setting out our actions to decarbonise the heat supply, a timeframe in line with the Committee on Climate Change's advice. The Policy Statement will take into account the responses received from the Call for Evidence on the Future of Low Carbon Heat for Off Gas Buildings which closed in June 2019.

The barriers to the uptake of low carbon heat options must be explored, as well as opportunities and challenges for the supply chain, and how to avoid any potential adverse effects on fuel poverty. The Climate Change Plan outlines an ambitious trajectory to supply 35% of domestic heat and 70% of heat used by non-domestic properties, from low carbon sources by 2032. At the same time, the Scottish Government's goal is that no more than 5% of the population will be living in fuel poverty by 2040. Evidence from this exercise will help us ensure the transition to low carbon heat does not have an adverse impact on this target.

Although these are ambitious policies, they need to be supported by sufficient levels of public finance and a regulatory regime through which to lever in private finance to achieve the targets set. Providing adequate finance and setting in place effective policy integration and coherence are fundamental to enabling Scotland to be the affordable, clean energy nation we aspire to be.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- Introduction of the Heat Networks Bill which will introduce regulation of the heat network sector to support, facilitate and create controls for the development of district and communal heating in Scotland
- A Low Carbon innovation Fund, targeting a minimum of £30 million of support for renewable heat projects
- An assessment of the use of hydrogen across various applications, and informed by this assessment, the publication of an action plan for the development of a hydrogen economy
- Continue to support Scotland's offshore wind potential, by producing Offshore Renewable Energy Decommissioning Policy Guidance by the end of the year and aiming to publish a final version of the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind by 2020
- Champion wave and tidal energy including through the £10 million Saltire Tidal Energy Challenge fund and a further £10 million to the Wave Energy Scotland programme
- Continue to work to deliver the ambition of creating a new public energy company by summer 2021 which will help Scotland tackle fuel poverty and tackle climate change

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Sustainable economic growth has been a long term ambition for the Scottish Government, and the notion of inclusive growth as a strategic priority underpinning our economic ambitions was set out in ‘Scotland’s Economic Strategy’ in 2015. The Scottish approach to inclusive growth centres on both the pace and pattern of growth across the country, and across different groups within our society. Emphasis is placed on building a strong labour market to achieve inclusive growth through the creation of more good quality jobs and ensuring people can access them.

By delivering sustainable and inclusive growth in Scotland, we seek to directly address SDGs 8 and 10 as well as important interlinkages to Goals 1 and 2. In addition to sustainable and inclusive economic growth sitting at the heart of the NPF as the defined purpose, two specific National Outcomes focus on Business and Fair Work and the Economy.

We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.

We have thriving and innovative jobs and fair work for everyone.



Environment



Fair Work
and Business



Economy

The [Economic Action Plan](#) sets out a number of new and existing actions that will work together to build a strong, vibrant and diverse economy to deliver sustainable inclusive growth, improve wellbeing and attract investment across Scotland.

Economic performance (targets 8.1 and 8.2)

Scotland’s Chief Economic Adviser published its tri-annual **State of the Economy** report which summarises and analyses the performance of and outlook for the Scottish, UK and global economies. In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Scotland’s economy continued to expand in the second half of 2018, in quarter 3 2018 growing 0.2% over the quarter and 1.3% over the past year, broad based across the service, production and construction sectors. In 2018, the most influential industry sector was manufacturing where output increased by 3.2% in total, including strong increases in the manufacture of computer, electrical and optical products, contributing towards the focus of target 8.2 on increasing productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation. On an annual basis growth in Scotland is broadly in line with the UK.

Using recent OECD¹⁰ data to look at Scotland’s long term productivity in an international context: while over the last decade from 2007 to 2017 Scotland’s productivity has growth faster than the UK as a whole and only marginally behind the OECD average. Scotland’s overall productivity (in terms of GDP per hour worked) ranked Scotland 16 out of 37 key OECD trading partners. This position has remained unchanged in recent years.

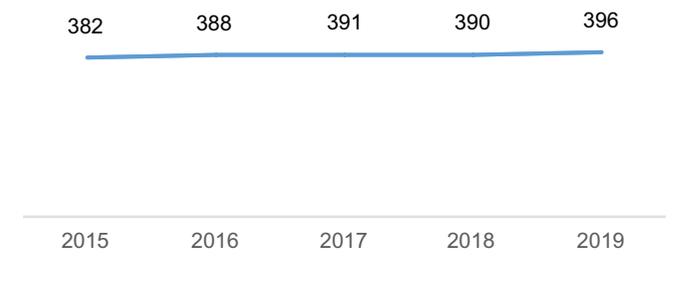
10 <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=54563>

The Data Picture: Number of businesses

Goal 8 aims to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

The provisional 2019 registered business stock rate, of 396 businesses per 10,000 adults, represents an increase from 2018. Since 2013 there has been a general trend of an increasing business stock rate, although there was a slight decrease in the rate between 2017 and 2018.

The number of businesses per 10,000 adults



Source: Registered enterprise count, *Businesses in Scotland*. Mid-year Population Estimates, National Records of Scotland.

In 2019, 1.1% of all registered businesses were high growth, up from the 2018 rate of 1.0%. The 2019 rate marks a return to growth for the high business growth share, following a decline between 2017 and 2018.

The percentage of businesses which are high growth as a share of all registered enterprises



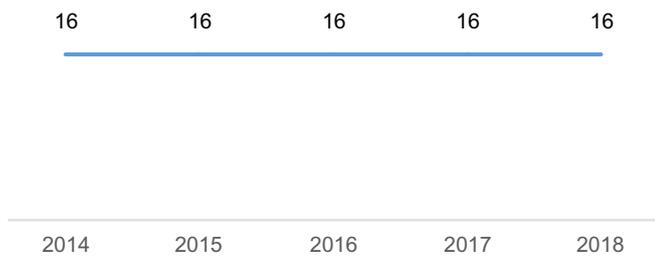
Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register

The Data Picture: Productivity

Target 8.2 aims to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.

In 2018 Scotland was ranked in 16th place (out of 37 countries) for productivity levels amongst OECD trading partners. There has been no change in ranking in recent years.

Scotland's Rank for productivity against key trading partners in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



Source: Scottish Government

The Scottish Government's ambition remains to reach the top quartile of OECD countries in terms of productivity. Improving our productivity is about making better use of all our resources – whether they are our people, infrastructure, or natural assets. It is the principal long term driver of economic growth. More productive economies can produce greater quantities of goods and services for a given set of resources, typically leading to higher incomes, living standards and wealth. Over the long term, increased levels of productivity are essential to support the economic growth needed to ensure rising living standards.

As part of the drive to deliver higher productivity, fair work and inclusive growth, the Scottish Government is reforming its system of enterprise and skills support through the business-led Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board, ensuring that we maximise the return for our annual £2.4 billion spend in this area. The Strategic Plan set out a comprehensive range of actions for the agencies and recommendations to government with a clear and deliberate focus on shifting the dial

on productivity and inclusive growth through the enterprise and skills system across Scotland.

More broadly, the Scottish Government and its enterprise agencies are investing in infrastructure, skills, exports, innovation and growth capital for business as part of a concerted programme of action to raise Scotland's productivity performance.

To facilitate the delivery of inclusive growth across Scotland, Scotland's Centre for Regional Inclusive Growth (SCRIG) was launched in July 2018 and the Economic Action Plan in November 2018.

SCRIG will deepen the evidence base on what works in regional inclusive growth and promote best practice policy and decision making through Regional Economic Partnerships and working with other stakeholders. SCRIG hosts an interactive dashboard which contains regional economic data for Scotland to allow users to conduct an inclusive growth diagnostic for their local area. The inclusive growth diagnostic is a six-stage framework that identifies the constraints to inclusive growth and prioritises actions to address these. The approach has been successfully piloted in Local Authorities in Scotland and is being used to inform City Region and Growth Deals across Scotland.

Employment support, fair work and the living wage (targets 8.5 and 8.6)

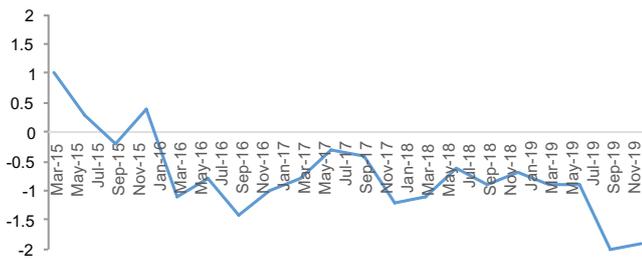
Scotland's labour market is performing well for many people however there is more to do to ensure that no one is left behind. The unemployment rate in January-March 2019 has fallen to 3.2%, the lowest rate recorded in Scotland. Scotland's employment rate for 16 to 64 year olds was at 75.4% in the same period, and is higher than 10 years earlier (73.1%). Even so, we know that many people continue to face real challenges to move into work. For example, in 2018, the employment rate for those aged 16-64 who were disabled was 45.6%, compared to 81.1% of non-disabled people. This is a disability employment gap of 35.5 percentage points.

The Data Picture: Economic participation

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Last year, in Q1 2019, Scotland had an employment rate of 75.4%, compared with England, whose employment rate of 76.3% was the highest of the 4 UK countries. The gap between these rates was therefore 0.9 percentage points to Scotland's detriment. Scotland's employment rate of 74.7% for Q1 2020 is the second highest across the 4 UK countries, 2.4 percentage points below the rate for England.

Gap with the best performing of the other three countries in the UK as a percentage



Source: Labour Force Survey

From April 2018, Fair Start Scotland will provide tailored, person-centred support, with capacity to support around 38,000 people in their journey towards and into work. The service is voluntary and underpinned by wider principles of dignity and respect, meaning people can choose to take part without fear that it will affect existing benefits. The service has been developed by listening to the views of people who rely on employment support and is delivered in nine areas across Scotland, reflecting the reality of Scotland's geography, regional economies and population spread. The service is delivered collaboratively across a range of private, public and third sector delivery partners including a range of specialist providers to ensure people receive the right type of support for them. It encourages Service Providers to commit to the Fair Work, Workforce and Community Benefits agendas (for example by promoting living wage employment, no use of zero hours contracts or umbrella companies and supporting the Scottish Business Pledge). The service also includes an offer of supported employment - an internationally recognised 'place and train' model enabling disabled people to learn on the job with support from colleagues and a job coach, to ensure no-one is left behind (target 8.5).

Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) is our national strategic partnership framework for responding to redundancy situations. Through providing skills development and employability support, PACE aims to minimise the time individuals affected by redundancy are out of work. PACE offers free and impartial advice and is available to all individuals affected by redundancy no matter the size of the business nor how many employees are involved. There are 18 local PACE Teams across Scotland to ensure speedy and effective responses to redundancy situations. PACE support is tailored to meet individual needs and local circumstances and may include one-to-one counselling, information packs, training, seminars on skills and starting up a business, and access to IT facilities. During the year April 2018 until March 2019, PACE supported 13,353 individuals and 304 employers across 453 sites

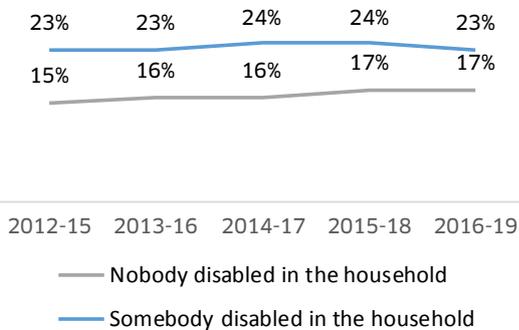
There is more to do on ensuring we leave no one behind. The Scottish Government also made a commitment to halve the disability employment gap, as set out in its disability employment action plan in December 2018 which was developed in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including disabled people themselves.

The Data Picture: Relative poverty of families with a disability

Target 10.2 (Indicator 10.2.1): Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

In 2016-19, 23% of all households with at least one member with a disability were below the relative poverty line compared to 17% of those where there was nobody disabled in the household.

The proportion of individuals living in private households with an equivalised income of less than 60% of the UK median after housing costs



Source: Family Resources Survey

Closer Look - Enable Scotland Case study (targets 8.5 and 8.6)

Since 2009, ENABLE’s Stepping Up programme has supported over 1500 young people with learning disabilities - people like Daniel. Daniel was a High School pupil in West Dunbartonshire in his final year of school, he faced a lot of confidence issues as well as struggling with his speech. His speech difficulties prevented Daniel from wanting to communicate with his peers which left him feeling isolated. In addition, Daniel has global learning difficulties which meant he struggled to scope out his future, even though he was someone who strived to achieve - it was just about finding the right path for him. Daniel was focused on achieving paid work when leaving school, together with his ENABLE Coordinator he began to explore the options of an enhanced transition. One of the key roles of an Employment Coordinator is to help build up an individual’s confidence in themselves and their ability to become successful in employment. The Coordinator began work to establish a working partnership with ASDA and Daniel began his work placement which has seen him flourish. Daniel was successful in his application and was offered paid employment upon leaving school. Daniel was then welcomed into the team and made to feel part of it. Daniel is now in a much happier place in his life and is very proud of his achievements. He now looks forward to his future.

The Scottish Government produced a review of employability services in December 2018 which specifically focuses on leaving no one behind in line with the SDG 2030 agenda (target 8.5).¹¹ The review sets out the next steps for alignment and integration of employability support in Scotland. The ambition is to produce a system that provides a flexible and person-centred approach and is more straightforward for people to navigate. Better integration and alignment with other services, in particular, although not exclusively with health provision is critical. The system also needs to support all people, particularly those facing multiple barriers, so that paths into sustainable and fair work, the right jobs at the right time are available.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/one-left-behind-review-employability-services/>

Constructive and effective partnership working across the employability system is essential for us to deliver on our ambitions, and those of our delivery partners and stakeholders, particularly in the face of increasing labour uncertainty. The review and the publication gives us the opportunity to work collectively with service users, Local Government, the Third Sector and employers to design, develop and deliver improvements to the system.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Local Government signed a **Partnership Working Agreement for Employability** 5 December 2019. Fair Work is a key driver of inclusive growth and central to the Scottish Government's commitment to creating a fair and inclusive jobs market in which every individual can participate to their full potential. Given powers over employment law are currently reserved, our approach to delivering fair work is built on collaboration, engagement and using our wider powers to exert strategic influence.

The **Fair Work Action Plan** (target 8.5), published in February 2019, sets out how we will deliver our ambition of becoming a world-leading Fair Work Nation by 2025. Our focus will be on: supporting employers adopt Fair Work practices, delivering Fair Work to a diverse and inclusive workforce; and, embedding Fair Work across the Scottish Government. The Action Plan was developed in consultation with the Scottish Trade Union Convention, the Fair Work Convention, employers and other stakeholders. It will help the Scottish Government meet a number of other UN SDGs, in particular, 1, 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10 and contains an action to measure, monitor and report on progress in delivering a Fair Work Nation.

Other actions set out in the Action Plan include:

- Working with employers and partners to deliver Fair Work First – the default position to harness the financial power of the Scottish Government to, by the end of this Parliament, extend fair work criteria to as many funding streams, business support grants and public contracts as we can
- Aligning the Scottish Business Pledge to the Fair Work Framework
- Co-hosting an International Fair Work Summit with the Fair Work Convention to showcase Scotland's achievements

- Extending the Workplace Equality Fund
- Supporting trade unions to embed Fair Work in workplaces
- Increasing the number of people employed who are paid the real Living Wage
- Embedding Fair Work across Scottish Government portfolios
- Engaging with the UK Government to enhance worker's rights
- As an employer, demonstrating our leadership by adopting Fair Work practices

The full set of actions are available on the **Fair Work Action Plan** site.

The Scottish Government recognises the important impacts that work-relevant mental health can have on individuals, their families and their employers. The 10-year **Mental Health Strategy** specifically identifies actions to address this. The Scottish Government funds Healthy Working Lives through NHS Health Scotland to deliver advice to employers on means of promoting both physical and mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. Healthy Working Lives delivers a number of popular training programmes aimed at improving mental health in and through the workplace.

In addition NHS Health Scotland and the Scottish Government are working with a range of stakeholders to explore what more could be done to improve work-relevant mental health which will consider the recommendations of the UK Government's Farmer/Stevenson report on mental health in the workplace.

Workplace innovation (target 8.3)

Scottish Enterprise (SE) continues to evolve its Workplace Innovation service to stimulate demand for the introduction of fair and progressive work practices; and strengthening SE's work to promote employee ownership, co-operatives and social enterprises through the focus on Inclusive Business Models. Nine hundred and sixteen companies were helped to introduce fair and progressive work practices in 2018-19. Programmes such as the Workforce Innovation Engagement Programme have secured productivity improvements through enhanced cost control, workflow, customer service and innovation.

Closer Look - Barclays Investment in Glasgow

In July 2018 Barclays announced its investment in a major new campus in Glasgow that will help create up to 2500 jobs in the city. The financial services investment, supported by a £12.75 million grant from SE, has involved close partnership working between the Barclays, SE and Glasgow City Council. The project demonstrates the potential, through strong, sustained partnership working, to achieve scale in the 3 pillars of SE's approach to inclusive growth: **Job Quality** – more than 1000 high value jobs will be added to the Glasgow economy. **Who Benefits** – around 340 of the new jobs will be targeted at disadvantaged and disabled workers in a city which still has among the lowest employment rates in Scotland. **Where Benefits** – the campus will regenerate an underutilised area of central Glasgow and can connect with developments such as the renewal of the Gorbals and the digital media hub at Pacific Quay to revitalise the south bank of the Clyde.

Fair work practises (target 8.5)

Encouraging more businesses to adopt fair work practices is a key part of Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise's pursuit of inclusive growth. The payment of the living wage, transparency on gender-equal pay and exclusion of inappropriate use of zero-hour contracts have been introduced as key criteria for the award of large job-related public sector grants. Since April 2019, SE is taking into account an applicant's approach to fair work practices when offering them grant support (target 8.3). This will apply to all RSA grants (it is the grant with the strongest link to job creation/safeguarding), and other grants over £100,000 where an applicant has to create new jobs or safeguard existing jobs before the grant is paid. This includes grants such as Large R&D, Aid for Start Ups, Training Aid, Aid for Disadvantaged & Disabled Workers and Environmental Aid.

The Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board has emphasised an ambition to realise the full potential of progressive business models, work place innovation and fair work to enhance productivity, equality, wellbeing and sustainability. We will achieve this through a programme of work, shaped by industry and delivered through the mobilisation of an initial pathfinder agency fluid team that promotes and supports development of highly capable businesses with long term strategic orientations who utilise progressive workplace practices, technology, skilled resources and innovation to remain competitive. Ambitious targets have already been developed for SE to double the number of social enterprises it account manages and, through a new industry leadership group, for Scotland to increase the number of employee-owned businesses from 100 to 500 by 2030. SE will continue to lead in workplace innovation through developments such as a new Values Based Leadership Programme.

Equality Fund

In Partnership with Impact Funding Partners, the Scottish Government supports the Workplace Equality Fund. The fund of £750,000 has funded 22 projects including a mix of private sector companies and third sector organisations. It is designed to support private businesses reduce employment inequalities, discrimination, and barriers in the workplace. Applications for the Workplace Equality Fund opened in February 2018 and focuses on the art, culture, leisure, tourism, finance, manufacturing, construction, agriculture and fishing, transport and communication, and STEM sectors.

Closer Look - Flexible Working Hours

Evidence shows that flexible working has proven business benefits including a more engaged and motivated workforce which drives up productivity. Family Friendly Working Scotland (FFWS) received 49,925.00 to work with four businesses; one large and three SMEs from the construction, STEM, finance and furnishing sectors to develop a more flexible approach to working to address employment barriers, inequality and lack of progression in the workplace. The construction company was Glasgow based City Building. FFWS carried out a survey with City Building's employees which showed that a number of employees were keen to work more flexibly in order to be able to undertake child care commitments and look after elderly relatives. Through workshops FFWS worked with the City Building employers to agree and implement new flexible working hours for employees.

Dr Graham Paterson, executive director at City Building stated that "the world we live in is constantly changing and people are increasingly juggling work and family commitments. City building recognises this. Employees wellbeing is a top priority for us and we want to support a healthy work life balance. We are already seeing the benefits of flexible working with employees feeling supported in both their working and family lives, meaning that they can give 100% when they are work".

Living wage (target 8.5)

Scotland actively champions the real Living Wage which helps to ensure peoples' basic pay meets the cost of Living, that translates the central ambition of the SDGs of providing decent work into decent pay (target 8.5). Scotland has already achieved our target of reaching 1,000 accredited employers by autumn of 2017. This has helped ensure that, at 81.5%, Scotland has the highest rate of workers in the UK earning the real Living Wage.

In collaboration with the Poverty Alliance, the Scottish Government announced in November 2017 plans to build on the success and create a 'Living Wage Nation' including commitments to increase the number of people receiving a Living Wage by 25,000 for the year 2020; and increase the proportion of accredited organisations in low-paid sectors such as hospitality and tourism.

Scotland's Economic Strategy sets out our aim to maximise opportunities for women and families through actions such as increasing the availability of free childcare and encouraging employers to give equal pay and offer flexible working (target 8.5).

The Scottish Government is encouraging employers to commit to using fair work practices, such as paying the real Living Wage, by signing up to the Scottish Business Pledge. Currently over 660 businesses have made their commitment to the Business Pledge which is a total of around 1,565 business sites across Scotland, and over one third of these are situated in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In March of 2018 a review of the Business Pledge was announced, the focus of this was to understand what the key barriers are for businesses seeking to make their commitment and measures needed to attract greater business buy-in and impact on delivery of the NPF, which embeds the SDGs.

Closer Look - Dundee - Living Wage City

Dundee City Council, SE, Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce and the private and third sectors have all joined forces in order to boost the number of jobs which pay the voluntary living wage of £9. More than 50 employers in Dundee have already committed to paying their staff and subcontractors the living wage, covering a quarter of all workers in the city. An alliance has been formed to deliver a three-year action plan that will see the number of living wage employers in Dundee double which comes just over a year after the Scottish Government set out plans to make Scotland a “living wage nation” over the next three years.

Scotland has 21 industry-led regional groups dedicated to Developing the Young Workforce. They were set up to encourage and support employers to engage directly with schools and colleges, and to challenge and support employers to recruit more young people into their workforce. The working groups provide support by offering work placements, mentoring, and assistance in developing application and interview skills.

To support young people from low income families continue with post-16 year old education, either in school or on a college course, the Educational Maintenance Allowance is provided by local authorities and colleges on behalf of the Scottish Government. Changes to the programme were made in January 2016 making support available to part-time college students and increasing the eligible income threshold for households. The income thresholds are now £24,421 or less before tax (for households with one dependent child) or £26,884 before tax (for households with more than one dependent child).”

Developing the young workforce (target 8.6)

Target 8.6 particularly focuses on the reduction of youth not in employment education or training. The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment between April 1st 2017 and 31st March 2018 (the 2018 Annual Participation Measure (APM) figure) was 91.8%, an increase of 0.7 pp compared to the equivalent 2017 APM figure (91.1%).

Table: 2018 Annual Participation Measure (%)

APM Headline	Age				
	16	17	18	19	16 to 19
Count of 16-19 Year old Participating % 16-19 Participating	50,104 98.9%	49,176 94.6%	48,003 89.9%	46,712 84.5%	193,995 91.8%
Count of 16-19 Not Participating % 16-19 Not Participating	436 0.9%	1,852 3.6%	2,626 4.9%	2,328 4.2%	7,242 3.4%
Count of 16-19 with Unconfirmed Status % Unconfirmed Status	104 0.2%	940 1.8%	2,746 5.1%	6,228 11.3%	10,018 4.7%
Count of 16-19 Cohort	50,644	51,968	53,375	55,268	211,255

Source: Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 year olds in Scotland, 2018.

Modern apprentice scheme (target 8.6)

Over 28,000 people started Modern and Graduate Apprenticeship jobs in 2018/19, suggesting Scotland is on track to meet targets for 30,000 new apprenticeship starts each year by 2020. Scotland's Modern Apprentice scheme includes a supplement for training providers to account for the additional costs of running a Modern Apprenticeship in rural areas and enhancing of contribution rates providing young disabled people and those with experience of care with the highest level of funding up to and including the age of 29. Scotland's Graduate Level Apprenticeships allow people to study for degree-level courses while in employment. After a pilot scheme in 2016, almost 900 places were made available in 2018.

Skills Development Scotland introduced an apprenticeship equalities action plan in 2015, to help more young people from diverse backgrounds benefit from training opportunities (target 8.6). An update on the action plan was published in July 2017. Scottish Enterprise works with all successful applicants for Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) to help them develop Invest in Youth policies that build opportunities for young people into their workforce planning. They have had a continued 100% response rate from applicants (302 projects since April 2014). Scottish Enterprise also support companies to address the employment and development of young people through promotion of the Business Pledge to its client companies.

Growing Scotland's exports (target 8.1)

While Scottish export value has increased every year since 2005 (we now export over £30 billion worldwide) it has remained static as a proportion of the economy. This is not the case for many comparably sized economies over the same period who have managed to grow the proportion of their GDP from exports.

Between 2010 and 2017 international exports increased by 34.6%, from £24.1 billion to £32.4 billion. This growth still demonstrates strong performance compared with 17.6% in the previous eight years (2002-2010). The Scottish Government published **A Trading Nation: a Plan for Growing Scotland's Exports** in May 2019. The plan represents the most comprehensive analysis of Scotland's export performance and market opportunity ever undertaken by the Scottish Government. The plan seeks to grow the value of Scotland's exports as a percentage of GDP from 20% – 25% over the next ten years. This could increase GDP by approximately £3.5 billion and create 17,500 jobs with an increased tax take of £500 million per annum, helping to fund the vital public services our communities depend on. The Scottish Government will invest £20 million over 3 years in addition to our existing export support budget to achieve this target, bringing benefits to individual businesses and the wider economy.

All the evidence shows Scotland needs to drive up the value of exports by our top exporters to achieve the greatest export growth. But we will also continue to increase the total number of exporters. The evidence shows that the top 100 exporters generate 60% of exports. The next 400 generate 20% of exports. This is typical of smaller economies. 65% of our top 500 exporters are SMEs so they will get proportionately more support than larger companies. The Scottish Government analysis shows that increasing value of exports from top 500 exporters by 50% increases overall exports by £13 billion. Increasing the value of exports from the next 10,500 exporters by 50% increases overall exports by less than £3 billion. Analysis shows almost 70% of future opportunities will come from our top 15 target countries. Between the enterprise agencies alone there is over £300 million in the wider business support system. Companies and sectors will still be able to access a broad range of support and advice that will help them grow. The purpose of **A Trading Nation** is to help us to identify where trade-specific resources and

interventions should be more effectively targeted. The Scottish Government consulted with more than 30 organisations to complement and inform its export data with expertise and knowledge across a wide range of businesses and sectors.

Safe working environments (target 8.8)

Target 8.8 focuses on protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers. For fatal injuries, data are collected from reports made by employers under RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). Fatal injuries in Scotland for 2017/18 were 0.63 cases per 100,000 workers compared to 0.45 cases in Great Britain. The estimated incidence and rates of self-reported workplace non-fatal injury, for people working in the last 12 months, averaged rate per 100,000 workers, was 1,710 for Scotland compared to 1,920 in Great Britain (Source: Labour Force Survey). See also targets 10.2 and 10.3 on equality and discrimination legislation at work.

Gender pay and employment gap (target 8.5)

Scottish Government has recently published its first ever [Gender Pay Gap Action Plan](#) (target 8.5). The plan highlights the early and sustained action we and our partners will be taking through a young girl's early life right into further or higher education and skills and training programmes to break down gender stereotyping which can lead to occupational segregation, one of the main causes of the gender pay gap. The plan is aligned to and builds on other key plans and strategies including DYW, STEM, Equally Safe Delivery Plan, SFC equality Action plan and SDS Equality Action Plan.

Partners include public bodies, local government, enterprise and skills bodies, trade unions, parents, teachers, training providers, further and higher education providers, employers, DYW groups, early learning providers. Scottish Enterprise has been on the steering group of Close The Gap for over ten years and has advised on a number of initiatives including support for SMEs to address any pay gap. The GPG Action Plan is also linked to Goals 1, 4, 5, and 10. We will measure the impact of this action plan across a range of indicators and measures which we will publish separately.

Societal attitudes are key influencers on behaviours and from an early age impact upon and shape the attitudes of girls and boys with respect to career options for women. As an annex to the GPG Action plan the Scottish Government published an [analytical paper](#). Subject choice at school is a key determinant of career choice. Subject choice is often skewed by gender with boys more likely to make subject choices which lead to a wider range of better paid jobs.

Equality education, with a focus on the workplace, is an important way to shape attitudes. While this cannot be expected to overcome all of the wider influences on children and young people's attitudes to gender stereotyping, it is an opportunity to equip them with the ability to form their own views. Workplace and educational environments which tolerate harassment and violence against women, narrow women's study and occupational choices and constrain their career ambitions. Women go to university in much higher numbers than men and often predominate on high demand courses such as medicine. Despite this across disciplines we see women's graduate earnings fall behind men's as soon as five years after graduation.

We need time to implement the 50 actions within the plan. We have stated that we will continue to reduce the gender pay gap for employees in Scotland by the end of this parliamentary term (May 2021) and to tackle the labour market inequalities faced by women, particularly disabled women, older women, minority ethnic women, women from poorer socio economic backgrounds and women with caring responsibilities.

It will take a collective effort on everyone's part to tackle gender stereotyping and other equality issues – barriers to implementation include:

- A lack of equality training or time to attend training for staff who educate, train and support pupils and students
- Ingrained cultural perceptions held by staff and or parents
- Competing prioritise

The Scottish Government notes both the severity of the gender employment gap in the digital technologies industries and the fact that it is closing. Analysis of the most recent ONS Annual Population Survey shows the number of women in tech has risen from 18% to 23.4% in the last two years to 2018. Scottish Government efforts to close the gap further are led by Skills Development Scotland, working with organisations like Girl Geek Scotland, Education Scotland, Equate, Scottish Government, ScotlandIS and of course the industry itself.

The Fair Work and Gender Equality Ministerial Working Group will provide a challenge function to the action that is being taken. The Scottish Government will also undertake to provide the Scottish Parliament with annual reports on progress in reducing the gender pay gap via the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee.

Sustainable growth (target 8.4)

Target 8.4 requires us to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. Scotland's **NPF** makes clear that it is vital that our sustainable economic growth is not achieved at the expense of our social interests or those of the environment, including the valuable development opportunities offered by our natural capital and the green economy. In March 2019, Scotland published its first **Natural Capital Accounts**, a report showing that Scotland's natural capital is worth a £273 billion to our economy and society - over a third of the UK total. To calculate the value of Scotland's natural capital we first measure a range of benefits which the environment gives us. We then put a value - in pounds and pence - on those benefits. Until now, these benefits have mostly been hidden on the nation's balance sheet. However, by recognising nature as a form of capital, we can better include the environment in policy-and decision making.

Our findings show how things have changed over time. For example, we have seen a fivefold increase in Scotland's production of renewable energy from 2000 to 2017. Scotland has world-leading climate targets, capabilities in low-carbon technologies, and vast natural assets suitable for removing greenhouse gas from the atmosphere (for further information on Scotland' Just Transition Commission, see Goal 13 and for Scotland's work on the circular economy relating to resource efficiency in consumption and production in target 8.4, see goal 12.

WeGO

While our approach to inclusive growth is place-based and focused on resilient communities within Scotland, the Scottish Government also acknowledges the importance of drawing on international experience when developing policy. The group of Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGo) was established in November 2018 and comprises of the governments of Iceland, Scotland and New Zealand. This group brings together officials, working in similar areas across the world, to share experience and expertise with the aim of embedding wellbeing outcomes in practice. Through collaboratively identifying practical and scalable examples of effective policy WEGo aims to deliver SDG 17.

WeAll Scotland

The Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) is a new global collaboration of organisations, alliances, movements and individuals working together to change the economic system, so it is a wellbeing economy: one that delivers human and ecological wellbeing. Its primary focus is to influence societal values and norms, and to help catalyse the formation of an effective and dynamic global movement. This focus will be supported by the creation and dissemination of positive new narratives and will be underpinned by a strong and coherent knowledge and evidence base. WEAll connects, organises and amplifies the work of its members, like-minded groups and individuals by:

- Creating place-based cross-disciplinary hubs, from local to national, which formulate and implement change strategies and creating thematic clusters which develop strategies and activities for change both within their own sector and for wider society
- Creating a WEAll citizens movement whereby individuals can contribute to change in their local communities by supporting hubs and also by adding their voice globally

More information can be found here:
<http://wellbeingeconomy.org/Scotland>

Modern slavery and human trafficking (target 8.7)

Please see Goal 16, target 16.2 for information on [Scotland's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy](#).

In order to address target 8.7, the Scottish Government launched practical guidance to help businesses identify and prevent human trafficking and exploitation across their operations in October 2018. The guidance recommends that checks should be undertaken by all types of businesses to ensure workers have access to identification documents, are not being held in debt bondage and are not being coerced. The guidance also states that employees should be given training to spot signs of exploitation and encouraged to report concerns to Police Scotland or the UK Modern Slavery Helpline. Following this publication, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice wrote to a number of prominent Scottish businesses who appear not to have met their duty [under the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015] to publish an annual statement outlining steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery in their business and supply chains.

Part 4 of the [Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) introduces two new court orders, Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Orders and Trafficking and Exploitation Risk Orders. The first Orders were imposed in March 2018 and place restrictions and prohibitions on convicted traffickers to limit what they can do. The National Human Trafficking Unit within Police Scotland are working in partnership with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to maximise all available opportunities to use the Orders to protect individuals from harm and to disrupt trafficking and exploitation activity.

The [second annual progress report](#) following the 2017 strategy was published in June 2019 and sets out key achievements and the progress towards implementing the strategy. There is a statutory obligation for Scottish Ministers to review the Strategy every 3 years. The number of adult victims of labour exploitation identified and recovered in Scotland has increased from 33 in 2013 to 99 in 2018. The rise reflects an increasing awareness of this complex and often hidden crime and that more victims are being supported and provided with assistance to help them recover.

The number of child victims of labour exploitation identified and recovered in Scotland has increased from 7 in 2013 to 34 in 2018. The Scottish Guardianship Service (SGS), which has been funded by the Scottish Government since 2010, provides a guardian to children and young people when they claim asylum or are trafficked and are cared for by health, education and welfare services. A Guardian will support a child or young person to be actively involved in decisions that affect their lives and get the help they need, when they need it. A Guardian can explain what is happening to them, will listen to their views and experiences and speak up for them when needed. A Guardian will also help a child or young person to plan for their future. The support a Guardian provides can be vital in the prevention of victims being re-trafficked. SGS has supported over 370 young people since 2010.

Section 11 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, will, when implemented, make provision for an Independent Child Trafficking Guardian (ICTG) to be appointed to provide additional support to a child where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child is, or may be, a victim of human trafficking and no person in the UK has parental rights or responsibilities in relation to the child. This will put the role of the Guardian on a statutory footing with other support services. A consultation to clarify the detailed roles, responsibilities and functions of the ICTG is being developed in collaboration with key sector partners to ensure that the best possible support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children is provided. In the meantime, the position remains that Scotland provides additional support for those children who have been trafficked, and for whom no one in the UK holds parental responsibilities, through the Scottish Guardianship Service. The support provided by the current Scottish Guardianship Service will remain in place until the new statutory service is implemented.

Innovation (target 8.2 and 8.3)

Our vision for Scotland is one where innovation is an intrinsic part of our culture, our society, and our economy. Our long term ambition is to boost Scotland's innovation performance to match the levels of the best performing countries in the OECD.

Scotland CAN DO

Scotland CAN DO is our statement of intent to be a world-leading entrepreneurial and innovative nation: a CAN DO Place for business. Developed and delivered jointly with partners across public, private and third sectors, it embodies a shared vision where growth and innovation go hand-in-hand with wider benefits to all of society. Crucially it involves a focus on driving up business investment and engagement in innovation, an entrepreneurial mind set, and on building a confident collaborative culture where enterprise is seen as a valid and viable option for all.

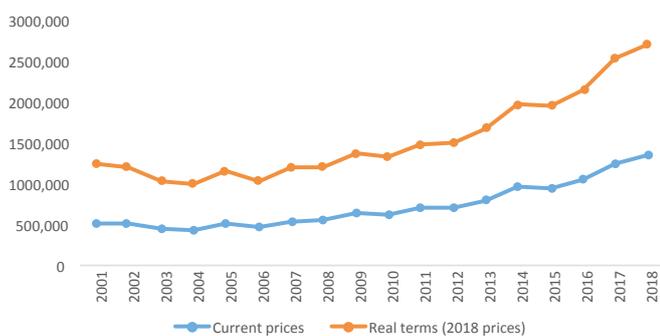
Innovation Action Plan

As part of the Scottish Government’s focus on innovation, we have published an **Innovation Action Plan** to which sets out 4 key steps to enact our vision:

1. Directly encouraging more business innovation
2. Using public sector needs and spend to catalyse innovation
3. Supporting innovation across sectors and places
4. Making best use of University research knowledge and talent to drive growth and equip Scotland’s people with the tools and skills needed to innovate

The Data Picture: Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) Spend in Scotland

In 2018, BERD spend in Scotland reached £1.356 billion, the highest level in the series. In 2018 BERD spend in Scotland was mainly split between Manufacturing products (49.8%) and services products (44.8%).



Source: Business Enterprise Research and Development, Scotland: 2017

There are signs that these approaches may be paying off, as business enterprise research and development spend in Scotland is increasing over time in recent years.

Additionally, according to recent research carried out by Prof Jonathan Levie of Strathclyde University, Scotland’s ecosystem is now ranked as the fifth most supportive globally, ahead of all other UK nations, and up from 13 in 2013.

Meanwhile:

- The proportion of people in Scotland actively trying to start a business has doubled since CAN DO inception
- The gender gap in people starting businesses has also reduced in Scotland – whereas in the rest of the UK it has increased. In Scotland the enterprise gender gap is now on a par with other leading entrepreneurial nations like the US and Canada
- The early activity rate for young people is at a high and now matches the number of people over 30. Scotland’s youngest entrepreneurs are now poised to enter the top quartile of other innovation-driven economies

Equally encouraging, Scotland is now home to over 70 FinTech companies and counting and has been voted the best European place to start a tech business. Scottish FinTech firms are tackling societal and economical challenges with innovative solutions and technologies.

This is helped by a supportive ecosystem in Scotland. The Scottish Government is committed to the development of Scotland’s FinTech sector and together with Scottish Enterprise has contributed funding totalling £250,000 over the two years 2017-19 to establish a body to support the Scottish FinTech sector – FinTech Scotland. FinTech Scotland aims to encourage data driven innovation and collaboration activity across Scotland to deliver inclusive growth and achieve critical mass in the sector. New companies receive help, guidance and funding from Scottish Enterprise and many other organisations. Entrepreneurs and companies wanting to relocate to Scotland or expand internationally can benefit from the services provided by Scottish Development International. Scotland benefits from a large talent pool represented by our many world class universities.

Scotland has a diverse range of biotech companies based in Scotland, covering fields such as cell therapy, antimicrobials, and whisky-based biofuels. Similar to the FinTech sector, the Scottish BioTech sector benefits from a supportive ecosystem, receiving support from the EU, enterprise agencies, Scottish Funding Council and UK Research and Innovation. Many of the BioTech firms in Scotland are spun out from Scottish universities, giving them a solid scientific basis. Scotland's **Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre** (IBioIC) acts as a focal point to connect industry with academic expertise and government to accelerate and de-risk commercialisation, to bring new biotechnology processes and products to the global market.

Through the Digital Scotland Business Excellence Partnership, the Scottish Government has invested £15.5 Million in delivering initiatives designed to help Scottish Businesses of all sizes increase their digital awareness, use and capability. Our Digital Growth Fund, announced in 2017, provides loans to companies to provide training for their staff in digital skills such as cyber security, data analytics, and software engineering. This support will enable up to 6,000 to be trained annually.

Closer Look - Code Base

The company started off by creating a big space that was affordable, city-central, with awesome WiFi to help tech startups and scaleups focus on building their businesses, and not have to worry about onerous long term leases, negotiating for property, etc. They hit the ground running. Since 2014 they've grown five-fold in size in Edinburgh, CodeBase in Stirling came online in 2017, and another space is opening in Aberdeen in summer 2019. The company has built strategic corporate partnerships with Barclays and PwC. As well as the three core cities, part of the Barclays partnership involves delivering mentorship and business support to 21 Barclays Eagle Labs throughout the whole of the UK.

Closer Look - CivTech

CivTech brings together public sector expertise and private sector creativity to solve real problems, develop new products, and deliver better, faster and easier services for everyone. Central to the approach is co-production with the citizen. CivTech's approach is already helping transform public sector engagement with tech and innovation, delivering significant benefits to public services, and producing genuine uplifts for the Scottish economy. And along the way, it's making people's lives better.

Over three years, CivTech has worked with 18 public sector organisations across health, environment, transport, cyber, tourism, and young people. Since leaving the programme, as of December 2018, 14 of the 17 companies from beta and 2.0 are still operational and, combined, have won over £4.5 million from 69 contracts and created 73 jobs (54 FTE). CivTech has run 26 challenge based procurements and awarded 92 contracts to 47 companies.

The challenge in CivTech 2.0 produced a CRM at the fraction of the cost and facilitated the opportunity to co-design a solution that met their needs. The innovative approach to the procurement has resulted in cost avoidance of £1.5 million. Communities around Scotland are benefiting. For example conventional flood warning systems cost up to £250,000 per community. The flood warning challenge for SEPA delivered a low-cost solution based on a motion sensor with Lo-Ra transmitter and community-based LED displays. SEPA has achieved a huge cost-saving and as the service is rolled out, communities are made safer by access to live localised information.

City and Growth Deals

Our cities and their regions make up around two-thirds of Scotland's economy. When they thrive, all of Scotland benefits. We are supporting Scotland's strengths in research and innovation through City and Growth Deals across Scotland, including Edinburgh Region's approach to data-driven innovation and our investment in a network of learning centres across the Highlands and Islands, which is transforming science, technology, engineering, mathematics and digital creativity (STEMD) education across the entire region as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal. Beyond our cities we are taking action that recognises the particular needs of the South of Scotland by introducing legislation to establish a South of Scotland Enterprise Agency. Too many communities in Scotland have suffered a negative economic legacy from the decline of their local industries and Regional Economic

Partnerships have the potential to develop and prioritise needs at a local level, driving prosperity and equality. As part of the Local Governance Review we will consider what more can be done to enable more Regional Economic Partnerships. And whether urban, rural or island we know that with limitless ambition, and the right support, communities can develop and regenerate places and spaces where they live and make them even better.

Closer Look - The Bio-therapeutics Hub for Innovation

The Bio-therapeutics Hub for Innovation in Aberdeen is a £40 million investment project to double the number of life sciences companies in North East Scotland and support the national ambitions for the sector to collaborate, innovate and commercialise the next generation of therapies and healthcare solutions. It will be a focal point for sector ambition and growth and has secured £20 million of capital funding from the UK and Scottish Governments through the Aberdeen City Region Deal, a partnership between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils and private sector led economic development body Opportunity North East (ONE). The project has been developed by the ONE Life Sciences sector board, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, NHS Grampian and Scottish Enterprise and the ONE team is leading its delivery.

The innovation hub will be located on the Foresterhill Health Campus in Aberdeen – one of Europe's largest integrated clinical, research, teaching and commercial health sites. The 69,000 square foot new-build facility will include accommodation for spin-outs, start-ups and established companies; collaboration space; and shared facilities for events, small conferences and networking. Sector-specific support programmes in the hub will include incubation, acceleration, mentoring, commercialisation and growth planning. The hub will also be a catalyst for international collaborations and investment into research and companies. A design team has been appointed to support the delivery of the project with a target of opening in December 2020.

Activity to support business innovation

The Scottish Government is encouraging more business innovation through collaboration with Scotland's Enterprise Agencies, committing to double Business Enterprise Research and Development from £871 million in 2015 to £1.75 billion by 2025. This includes a commitment to providing an additional £45 million over the next three years to Research and Development grants for businesses. Scotland has also launched VentureFest Scotland, a festival encouraging and enabling discovery, innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

A £9 million CAN DO Innovation Challenge Fund was launched in November 2017 to encourage private sector businesses to innovate and solve public sector challenges. 16 organisations have been funded so far. Like with CivTech, the Scottish Government is using public sector issues to drive innovation and growth in the private sector.

An increasing range of international evidence indicates that the most productive and innovative businesses are also the most purposeful. Or, to put it another way, that business for good is good for business. We have therefore worked with B Lab UK, CAN DO partners and wider policy colleagues to develop an outreach programme, called Scotland CAN B, that encourages businesses of all kinds to embed values more explicitly in how they function across the board (target 8.4). At its heart is the Quick Impact Assessment (QIA), which is a shortened version of the full Business Impact Assessment (BIA) undertaken by certified B Corps. This walks you through a series of questions to help you learn what it takes to build a better business – better for your workers, community, the environment and customers. Scotland CAN B is the first ever nationwide programme run by B Lab, which has previously delivered similar campaigns in places ranging from New York to Geneva.

The Scottish Government also recognises that best use must be made of University research knowledge and talent. £5 million has been invested in an Interface to connect businesses and academia and companies supported by Interface contribute an estimated £64.2 million (Gross Value Added) to the economy each year. The programme has introduced almost 3,000 businesses to academic partners.

Scotland is also an established, successful financial hub and the financial services sector continues to play a significant role in Scotland's economy – both in its own right as one of our most significant employers, with 86,000 employed directly in the sector, and also as a driver and supporter of wider economic activity across the country.

Life sciences

Life sciences is a key sector of the Scottish economy as highlighted in Scotland's Economic Strategy, recognised for the distinctive capabilities of our business base and research institutions, international reputation and potential for significant growth and creation of high value jobs. Investment to support company growth, particularly SMEs, is a priority of the Scottish Government. In 2017/2018, the Scottish Investment Bank (SIB), the investment arm of Scottish Enterprise (SE), invested over £8 million and leveraged £104 million. This covers funds directly managed and externally managed by Scottish Enterprise and represents investments in 38 companies.

Scotland has a diverse range of companies, covering such fields as cell therapy, antimicrobials, and whisky-based biofuels. Similarly to the FinTech sector, the Scottish life science sector benefits from a supportive ecosystem, receiving support from the EU, [Scottish Enterprise](#), and [Innovate UK](#). A lot of the companies in Scotland are spun out from major universities in the respective regions, including Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh, giving them a robust scientific basis.

The Scottish Government also recognises that best use must be made of University research knowledge and talent. £5 million has been invested in an Interface to connect businesses and academia and companies supported by Interface contribute an estimated £64.2 million (Gross Value Added) to the economy each year. The programme has introduced almost 3,000 businesses to academic partners.

Sustainable tourism (target 8.9)

Please see Goal 12, “Preserving and promoting our historic and cultural environments”.

Access to banking and financial services (target 8.10)

The Scottish National Investment Bank

The Bank has the potential to transform Scotland’s economy, providing capital for business at all stages in the investment life cycle whose investment decisions will reflect wider social and ethical interests. The Bank will be a cornerstone institution in Scotland’s financial landscape with a focus on long term patient capital. The Scottish Government has committed to providing £2 billion over 10 years to capitalise the Bank. This is both ambitious and achievable. This will make a material difference to the supply of capital to the Scottish economy by leveraging in additional private investment, supporting ambitious firms to flourish and enabling transformational change.

A Bill was introduced in February 2019 to underpin the establishment and capitalisation of the Scottish National Investment Bank so that from 2020 the Bank will be investing in businesses and communities across Scotland. The Bill, informed by consultation, places a duty on Scottish Ministers to establish the Bank as a public limited company (PLC) and gives Ministers the necessary powers to capitalise the Bank.

Ministers will also be given the power to set the strategic direction of the Bank by the setting of Missions that will address socio-economic challenges. Work will continue throughout the Implementation Phase to identify possible missions for the Bank for Ministers to consider. We will continue to engage with stakeholders to inform this work.

Access to ATMs

The Scottish Government supports calls to protect the ATM network, especially in rural communities and areas already affected by previous and proposed bank closures, where ATMs provide a life-line service to consumers and small businesses. Cash remains an essential part of day to day life for many, especially for vulnerable consumers and those in rural communities. The introduction of fees to previously free to use ATMs, on top of the wave of bank branch closures across the UK, will hit Scotland’s communities and businesses disproportionately hard. However, the UK Government

has legislative and regulatory responsibility for banking and financial services and has made clear that it will not intervene in branch closure decisions. Yet, there needs to be a long term, sustainable banking service for all communities and the Scottish Government will continue to work with banks to ensure that essential services remain accessible to all.

Ethical Finance Hub

The Ethical Finance Hub (EFH) is a Scottish Government-backed, practitioner-led body committed to creating a fairer, more inclusive and socially responsible financial system. At current private sector participation levels an additional US \$2.4 trillion+ p/a is required to achieve the SDGs. The EFH recognises that business-as-usual in the global financial arena will not deliver the 2030 Agenda and a step-change in private investment in SDGs is required. As such the SDGs are a core focus area for the EFH.

In terms of advocacy, through a combination of one to one meetings, group sessions and conferences, the EFH (in partnership with the Global Ethical Finance Initiative - GEFI) has sought to raise the profile of the SDGs and positively influence the behaviour of banks, credit unions, asset managers, social investors and wealth managers. By highlighting global best practice and emphasising the business benefits a number of EFH stakeholders have developed plans to better align with the SDGs. Earlier this year the EFH gained national press coverage for becoming the first Scottish-focused financial body to endorse the UNEP FI Principles for Responsible Banking. The EFH is now in talks with UNEP FI regarding the promotion of the Principles for Positive Impact Finance in Scotland.

As well as advocacy the EFH is developing an SDG advisory offering that includes services such as capacity building, developing the business case, mapping, updating policies / procedures, measuring, monitoring and reporting. With a lack of academic or professional courses available to provide commercially-focused SDG training the EFH has launched an executive education course, to be delivered in partnership with UNDP and Scottish Government in May 2019, that will provide Scottish finance practitioners with the knowledge and tools to bring the SDGs to life within their organisations.

At the global level, the EFH has worked in partnership with UNDP, Scottish Government, FaithInvest and

GEFI to develop and refine the project scope for a £1 million, 2 year programme of collaboration aimed at mobilising private capital for SDGs.

Challenges and next steps

While Scotland's productivity growth over the past ten years from 2007 to 2017 has been faster than the UK as a whole, our position compared to international trading partners in the OCED has remained unchanged.

To respond to these challenges, the Scottish Government's Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board has developed a Strategic Plan with a clear focus on driving up productivity and maximising the return on the investment in Scotland's enterprise and skills system. The Scottish Government is supporting businesses to harness digital technology to promote business innovation and productivity. It is committed to ensuring that Scotland has a skilled and productive workforce, both now and in the future and its Future Skills Action Plan outlines how we will re-orientate Scotland's skills system towards future opportunities and challenges. In recognition of the role that innovation plays in driving improved productivity, competitiveness and growth, the Scottish Government have increased existing business research & development annual grant funding and are investing £48 million in a National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland.

In 2018 the employment rate of disabled people was 35.5 percentage points lower than non-disabled people. Overall there are challenges around supporting people with disadvantages into flexible sustainable employment: with insufficient focus on individualised support and tackling the root causes of people's reluctance or inability to work. Employment support tends to be a one-size-fits-all service. As such the increasing focus on one-to-one services, such as those offered by PACE services, will be of increasing importance.

In 2018, the employment rate for the minority ethnic population aged 16-64 was 55.4%, lower than the white population which had an employment rate of 75.1%. This is a gap in employment rates between minority ethnic and white people aged 16 to 64 years of 19.7 percentage points. Over time, the white population has consistently had an employment rate which exceeds the minority ethnic population. The minority ethnic employment gap was much higher for women than men in 2018; for women the minority ethnic employment gap was 26.8 percentage points and for men it was 11.2 percentage points.

Further, people with a disability experience lower rates of employment and lower pay than non-disabled people. Employment rates vary considerably by impairment with people with depression and learning disabilities the least likely to be in employment.

We are at the end of the beginning of the digital age. Until now, the development of the digital economy in Scotland has followed a path similar to most other countries, focusing on the bulk provision of connectivity, skills and promotion of the opportunities presented by the new technologies. In parallel though, there has been an awakening amongst both government and society to the less-benign side of the story, with digital technology making it easier to provide sub-optimal employment solutions, to move wealth from poor to rich and to avoid redistribution thereafter. The digital economy is also revealing a 'winner takes all' phenomenon leading to almost total market domination by those who have the deepest pockets. The situation is summed-up well in the recently published report from Nesta, [Imagination Unleashed: Democratising the Knowledge Economy](#). In discussions between the authors and Scottish representatives, it was clear that Scotland recognised the threats more than other regions of the UK, and that treading a 'vanilla' path was no longer a palatable option for Scotland, and is not supportive of the SDGs. The possible future paths are captured well in the recent EIT Digital report, [Digital Transformation of European Industry: A Policy Perspective](#) (which is likely to set the EU agenda on this issue). Hard choices will need to be made, but if Scotland actively decides to follow the digital economy path that best resonates with its other social policies, there is a clear opportunity to be a leading "fair digital nation".

Scottish Enterprise are currently working through a proposal from **UNGSII Foundation**, with a view to creating a Sustainable Development Hub in Edinburgh against theme 3: Good Health and Wellbeing. This was an inward investment enquiry and we have met with representatives on UNGSII Foundation and the World Health Innovation Summit and are currently undertaking diligence against the opportunity. If it proceeds, there could be a very positive connection to make not only for that theme, but to then link into the other 16 SDGs and the networks which connect them together.

Scottish Enterprise is also currently working with the Scottish Government on the new mandatory diversity element of the Pledge which will focus on encouraging more companies to address their gender pay gap through effective action planning. This along with changes to the Pledge such as peer-to-peer networking, having a business led advisory group and making internationalisation an optional element should encourage greater take up of the initiative and increase fair work practices in the business community.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- A £3 billion Green Investment Portfolio over the next three years for projects supporting Scotland's response to the climate emergency
- Extending the current Growth Accelerator to become a Green Growth Accelerator, allowing local authorities to invest in emissions-reducing infrastructure for their area
- Working with Skills Development Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Government will develop and publish a Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan, which will set out a framework for skills investment as our economy transitions to net zero
- The Scottish Government's support for manufacturing through the National Manufacturing Institute Skills Academy and the new Advanced Skills Academy at the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc will help businesses take advantage of new supply chain opportunities as Scotland and other countries seek to decarbonise
- The Scottish Government will continue its support for the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre, with further funding of up to £11.1 million agreed up to 2023
- A refreshed Scottish Business Pledge, more closely aligned with Fair Work principles and incorporating environmental impact for the first time, will be launched this year

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



A strong economy with growing, competitive and innovative businesses is essential to supporting jobs, incomes and our quality of life. Our economy must also be environmentally sustainable and inclusive – involving and providing benefit and opportunity for all of our people and communities.

Scotland has seen the fastest productivity growth in the UK since 2007. Our exports are growing and we have the highest proportion of employees in the UK paid the living wage. The Scottish Government is committed to investment in new technologies, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure and broadband which will improve our productivity, boost our exports, and help make Scotland the most competitive place to do business. In turn, it will also increase our wellbeing as a nation.

The Scottish Government has set an infrastructure investment mission to steadily increase annual infrastructure investment so it is £1.5 billion per year higher at the end of the next Parliament than in 2019-20. This will increase Scottish Government capital investment by an addition 1% of current Scottish GDP and to achieve it we will need to continue to innovate in our models for investment and work across the public sector. On our current estimates that would mean around £7 billion of extra infrastructure spending by 2026. This is all in line with our commitment articulated in the NPF to:

'have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy' and to 'have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.'



Environment



Fair Work and Business



Economy



International



Communities

Infrastructure (target 9.1)

Since 2007, Scotland has invested almost £20 billion in Transport Infrastructure and Services, including £8.2 billion on our Motorways and Trunk Road Network, to ensure the strategic road network is safe, available for use, efficient and well maintained. The Transport and Storage industry directly contributes more than £5 billion Gross Value Add annually and employs around 113,000 people.

Since 2007, 26 major improvements projects have been constructed, including the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvement Project and the Queensferry Crossing and most recently the £745 million Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route project fully opened to traffic on 19 February 2019.

Since 2011, 330 miles of newly constructed walking and cycling infrastructure were created with a further 95 miles upgraded or resurfaced. Six major cycling infrastructure projects (full segregation) with a total value of £53,204,720 have been started with the first, Glasgow's South City Way, due for completion in autumn 2019.

The Data Picture: Transport and Travel in Scotland

Overview of travel trends in Scotland - Rail and air passenger numbers, as well as car traffic and distance cycled, are estimated to have increased between 2007 and 2017. Rail showed the greatest percentage increase (31%). Bus passenger numbers showed a substantial decline over ten years (22%)

Traffic and passenger numbers 2012-17:

- Car traffic (m/veh km) 33,777 (2012), 35,362 (2016), 36,206 (2017) 2.4% change over 1 year, 7.2% change over 5 years
- Cycle traffic (m/veh km) 310 (2012) 288 (2016) 290 (2017) 0.7% change over 1 year, 6.5% over 5 years
- Rail passengers (millions) (internal) 83.3 (2012), 94.2 (2016) 97.8 (2017) 3.8% change over 1 year, 17.4% change over 5 years
- Bus passengers (millions) 420 (2012), 393 (2016) 380 (2017) -3.3% change over 1 year, 9.5% change over 5 years
- Air passengers (millions) 22.2 (2012) 26.9 (2016) 28.9 (2017) 7.1% change over 1 year, 29.8% change over 5 years
- Ferry passengers (millions) 7.89 (2012) 8.32 (2016) 8.36 (2017) 0.4% change over 1 year, 5.9% change over 5 years

We have invested in excess of £8 billion in rail services and infrastructure since 2007, reflected in an increase in ScotRail passenger numbers by 31% over that same period. This unprecedented level of funding supports a safe network as well as investment in new services, lines, stations and trains across Scotland including 76 km of new railways delivered (for example Airdrie-Bathgate Rail Link and Borders Railway) and 14 new stations opened (for example Conon Bridge, Eskbank, Stow, and Edinburgh Gateway).

Transport Scotland continues to take forward major infrastructure projects to improve Scotland's road network including the A9 and A96 dualling programmes and to ongoing rail investment and enhancements. We have doubled annual investment in walking and cycling from £39.2 million in 2017-18

to £80 million in 2018-19. The doubling of the active travel budget will allow us to invest in major capital infrastructure projects. We are also taking forward a Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR), which will identify potential transport investment as part of a Scotland wide appraisal of strategic transport options and is intended to inform investment priorities for the next 20 years. It will consider at a national level the important contribution that transport interventions and infrastructure projects play in enabling and sustaining Scotland's inclusive economic growth.

**The Data Picture:
Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport in Scotland**

Road:

- In 2017, an estimated 107.6 million tonnes of goods were lifted within Scotland by UK HGVs and transported to destinations within Scotland
- About 15 million tonnes of goods from Scotland were delivered to destinations elsewhere in the UK, and around 19 million tonnes were brought into Scotland from elsewhere in the UK. In comparison, the volume of international road freight by UK HGVs travelling to and from Scotland is very small: less than 1 million tonnes in 2017

Rail:

- In 2012-13, 8.4 million tonnes of freight was lifted in Scotland by rail, 15% less than the previous year, and 41% less than the 2005-06 peak. Since 2005-06 minerals and coal have fallen by 63% while other goods have increased by 25%. Of all freight lifted in Scotland, 34% was delivered elsewhere within the UK and about 5% was delivered out with the UK (because of the way that the statistics are compiled, this figure includes freight)
- Passenger journeys on ScotRail services increased by 4% to 97.8 million in the 2017-18 financial year, an increase of 31% since 2007-08
- There were 94.2 million rail passenger journeys originating in Scotland in the 2016-17 financial year. This was 0.8 million (0.8%) more than the previous year

The Scottish Government's **Economic Action Plan 2018-20** announced plans for a new Infrastructure Commission to identify infrastructure needs. This is part of a wider set of actions to increase investment and collaborate with the construction sector, branded a "National Infrastructure Mission".

The Scottish Government made energy efficiency a national infrastructure priority in 2015, in recognition of the many benefits of improving the energy performance of Scotland's buildings. Through our Energy Efficient Scotland programme, the Scottish Government is taking direct and supporting actions to improve the use and management of energy in Scotland's buildings, transportation, industrial processes and manufacturing. The **Energy Efficient Scotland route map** sets out the journey we will take to achieve this.

Manufacturing (target 9.2)

The Scottish manufacturing sector had a total employment of 183,000 in 2017, an increase of 4% compared to 2016, and accounted for 7.4% of total employment in Scotland (indicator 9.2.2). In 2016 Scotland launched its Manufacturing Action Plan. **A Manufacturing Future in Scotland** outlines how the Scottish Government will work with industry, our Enterprise Agencies and other key stakeholders to increase investment, innovation and productivity in the sector. It commits Scotland to delivering concrete initiatives to boost productivity including leadership, employee engagement and skills, energy efficiency and the adoption of circular economy approaches across the manufacturing sector. We will stimulate innovation and investment in Scottish manufacturing sectors to better compete globally. To deliver these ambitions, the Scottish Government, the Enterprise Agencies and other public agencies will launch an enhanced programme of support to enable companies to capture new opportunities presented by the circular economy - and its impact on product design, manufacturing process and supply chains - through Zero Waste Scotland's new European Regional Development Fund Circular Economy Programme.

The strategy outlines the Government's support to manufacturing SMEs to help them keep pace with technology and process developments by working in partnership with industry to develop and deliver a Smart Manufacturing Excellence Programme, and to support more Scottish companies to achieve supply chain excellence by reviewing sector and cross-sector supply chain capabilities.

The National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland, a new joint centre for manufacturing excellence, is under construction in Renfrewshire. NMIS will be delivered in partnership through Scottish Enterprise. Partners include the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Funding Council, Renfrewshire Council and University of Strathclyde. The Institute will help manufacturing businesses in Scotland become world leaders in innovation.

Sustainable Industries (target 9.4)

There are linkages with Goal 7: Clean and Affordable Energy in this area. Scotland's businesses and industries are working with local and central government to identify sustainable practices, supply chains, and energy usage. In 2018, Construction Scotland (a leadership organisation for the construction industry in Scotland) launched its **new strategy**, which aims to make the industry more sustainable, productive, innovative and profitable, enhancing its contribution to Scotland's economy.

The strategy outlines Construction Scotland's intention to promote the uptake of digital technologies and automation by the industry, demonstrating the positive impact on both the productivity and profitability of companies who are prepared to embrace change and new ways of working. Construction Scotland are working collaboratively with the industry, the public sector and financial institutions to identify new and innovative procurement and business models, including ways of financing for future construction projects and ways in which growth companies in the industry can access development finance.

There are also examples in the food and drink industry of collaboration to improve sustainability and drive innovation. In 2017, Scotland Food & Drink and the Scotch Whisky Association became the latest signatories to the Courtauld 2025 commitment, which sees leading industry bodies and businesses working together to produce food and drink products more efficiently, make best use of residues and by-products, and tackling food waste.

The commitment is led by The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and backed with funding from the Scottish Government through Zero Waste Scotland. It is just one part of a range of activities set to drive progress against the Scottish Government's target to cut food waste by one third by 2025. WRAP and Zero Waste Scotland have collaborated with partners across the food and hospitality industries to make progress and lay the groundwork for future action.

Zero Waste Scotland also delivered the successful Love Food Hate Waste campaign as well as launching a free food waste audit and improvement service for small businesses. It is also evaluating potential new measures to help Scotland achieve its EU-first target to reduce food waste. That includes action under four key themes:

- Encouraging organisations to show leadership on food waste
- Empowering people to make better choices
- Improving standards and regulation
- Supporting new technology and innovation

Closer Look - FUTUREquipped in Scotland's colleges

Colleges are a key part of our innovation system; supporting businesses to improve their innovation performance and developing the workforce of the future. The FUTUREquipped project saw thirteen colleges and four innovation centres work in partnership with industry to develop an innovative new training programme for people working in the Smart housing sector. The project saw ICT, Construction and Health disciplines working together for the first time collaborating to create a large portfolio of Online Library content that will be accessible by all college staff across curriculum areas. The content was piloted with students to teach them about the three disciplines and how they interact in this new sector. Students were also made aware of the innovation centres and the support they provide. The project also worked with industry partners to research the use of smart technologies in areas such as energy efficiency in housing. As well as the tangible outcome of the Online Library content, the project has developed an appetite in the college sector to develop innovative programmes to support emerging sectors.

Scientific research (target 9.5)

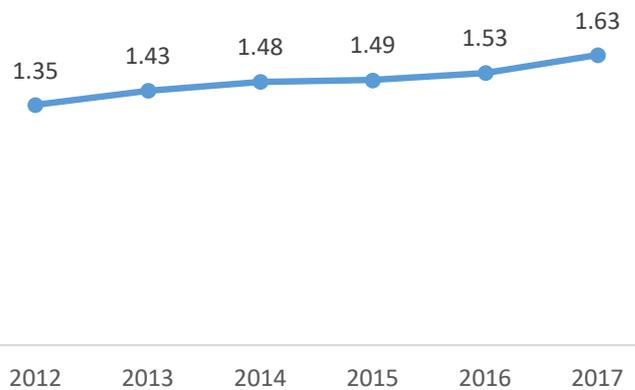
Scotland has a high level of research excellence combined with an extensive network of knowledge exchange and innovation activities, which includes partnerships with developing countries. Private investment in research and development (R&D) in Scotland is low but increasing with the Scottish Government aim to double it by 2025. Public investment in R&D is relatively high, and spend on R&D has increased consistently between 2012 and 2017.

The Data Picture: Spend on Research and Development

Target 9.5 (Indicator 9.5.1): Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries by 2030.

Total research and development spending as a share of GDP was 1.63% for Scotland in 2017.

Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) as a percentage of GDP



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Research and development spend in Scotland as a share of GDP has increased both over the last year and over the longer term, with targets in place to double the investment in business research and development between 2015 and 2025.

The Scottish Government has recognised the economic challenges associated with historically low business R&D and committed £15 million per annum to support additional business R&D activity since 18/19. The latest figures show that Business Enterprise R&D (BERD) expenditure in Scotland is at a record high and we are on target to increase BERD expenditure to £1.75 billion by 2025.

Closer Look - Inclusive Science

The science engagement sector in Scotland is making science accessible to a wide public audience including under-served audiences. An example of this is work between the four Scottish Science Centres (Glasgow Science Centre, Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, Dundee Science Centre, Aberdeen Science Centre). The Scottish Government provides annual funding specifically to enable better engagement between the science centres and under-served audiences. This includes events for women and girls, people from BAME backgrounds, people with disabilities, vulnerable adults and their families, and adult literacy groups. A big part of this work is about co-production, with the Science Centres finding out what science-related topics are of particular interest to the audience concerned, and then working with the communities to develop and deliver activities and events that meet their needs. In this way, science is made more accessible and the events have a bigger impact on the audience, and are therefore more likely to lead to positive behaviour change (an example – a climate change activity being presented through the lens of fuel poverty, a much more tangible approach than focusing on the more abstract science involved).

Digital infrastructure

By the end of 2017 Scotland had over 95% fibre broadband coverage. To ensure that we continue to be at the forefront of the digital revolution, we are awarding contracts for the first phase of our Reaching 100% programme. Our £600 million investment will unlock superfast broadband of 30 Mbps for all homes and business by the end of 2021.

Superfast broadband coverage in Scotland is improving, in large part due to Scottish Government investment via the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme. Thinkbroadband figures from January 2019 show that superfast broadband coverage in Scotland has increased from 59.3% in 2014 to 93.4% now – 34 percentage points up in Scotland, compared to 19 percentage points in England over the same period.

In July 2018, the Scottish Government awarded the contract for the Scottish 4G Infill Programme to WHP Telecoms Ltd. In this programme, the Scottish Government is investing up to £25 million to deliver 4G infrastructure and services to selected 4G “notspots” over the four years from 2018/19-2021/22. The programme launched with an initial 16 mast sites, and following a public consultation conducted in autumn 2018, we are currently progressing the delivery of 45 sites – with an expectation that the programme will deliver 50-60 sites in total. We are currently in discussion with mobile network operators to secure their commitment to delivering services over these masts – this is an important pre-requisite to any of the masts entering build phase. Initial mast build activity in the project will commence during 2019, whilst regular updates to the programme are being communicated on the Scottish Government’s website.

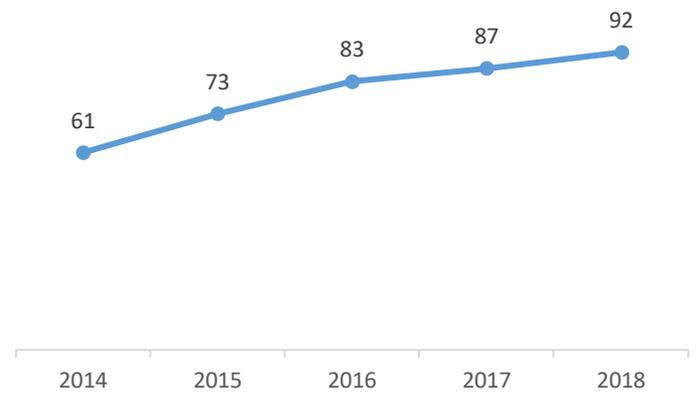
Our digital infrastructure will create greater opportunities for education, work and leisure as well as enabling economic growth – particularly in rural Scotland.

The Data Picture: Access to superfast broadband

Target 9c (Indicator 9.c.1): 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.

The percentage of residential and non-residential premises where superfast broadband is available increased from 73 per cent in 2015 to 92 per cent in 2018.

Proportion of residential and non-residential addresses where superfast broadband is available (as a percentage)



Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Report

Challenges and next steps

The impact of the EU Exit on Scotland’s industry, infrastructure and capacity for innovation is unclear. There is significant concern that it will limit funding for regeneration projects, research and development, and infrastructure. Much scientific research in Scotland is funded through European research initiatives, such as the Horizon 2020 programme. By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 emphasizes excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation. Continued funding in this programme for Scottish universities beyond EU Exit is unclear.

There are more than 4,500 staff of EU nationality working in our 19 universities (more than one in every ten members of the university workforce), and Scottish higher education is home to another 22,400 EU students. This presents huge risks for the Higher Education sector in the face on EU Exit.

The University sector in Scotland is continuing to work with the Scottish Government to maximise the impact of the funding they provide and to ensure that our universities remain attractive, competitive and truly excellent in global terms. Since 2012-13, the Scottish Government have provided over £1 billion of funding each year to universities.

Universities Scotland – the representative body of Scotland’s 19 Higher Education institution – continues to engage with the Scottish Government through the Strategic Futures Group on a variety of issues of importance to the sector. They have been working closely through the University Forum on Brexit to identify ways to mitigate the impact of Brexit on students, staff and institutions.

Transport Scotland are committed to providing an update to the Strategic Transport Projects Review conducting an examination of the strategic transport infrastructure interventions required to support the delivery of Scotland’s Economic Strategy, in the context of the new priorities to be set out in our successor National Transport Strategy. Transport Scotland are currently undertaking a collaborative review of the National Transport Strategy and are committed to a consultation later this year and publication post consultation by the end of 2019.

Commitments in the Scottish Government’s 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- Following the Infrastructure Investment Commission for Scotland publishing its advice on priorities by the end of this year, the Scottish Government will set out its plans for the next five years, including the Infrastructure Investment Plan early in 2020 – this will have low carbon infrastructure as its key priority
- Following the establishment of the Scottish National Investment Bank, it will invest a minimum of £2 billion over 10 years, with its primary mission being securing the transition to net zero
- The Scottish Government will establish the Scotland 5G centre to help deliver social, economic and environmental benefits by reducing travel and addressing isolation and remoteness
- The first wave of new or refurbished schools through the Scottish Government’s £1 billion school investment programme



Scotland has a long and proud tradition of challenging disadvantage, discrimination and inequality wherever it occurs. We share a commitment to equality and to ensuring that we do all that we can to open up opportunity by delivering a strong, sustainable economy and supporting a fairer society. These commitments go hand in hand and are underpinned by our collective desire to create opportunities and to take action where barriers exist.

The 2018 review of Scotland’s NPF provided an opportunity to reword Scotland’s Purpose statement to better reflect the new National Outcomes and inclusive growth, which is also part of Scotland’s Economic Strategy. Review participants asked for a simpler Purpose statement that is inclusive beyond government and public services, which gives equal prominence to economic, environmental and social progress, and which focusses on reducing inequalities. The NPF therefore articulates Scotland’s purpose as:

‘To focus on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increased wellbeing and sustainable and inclusive economic growth’.

The economy is important, but it is only considered to be one means by which our Purpose can be achieved. In Scotland, regional inclusive growth is addressed at a spatial level through investment in City Region and Growth Deals. From these deals, Regional Economic Partnerships are being created to keep a range of actors (public, private, third and education/skills sectors) working together to identify regional plans to promote inclusive economic growth.

The review of the NPF also introduced an Outcome relating to the Human Rights:

‘We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination’

Scotland is part of a group of Wellbeing Economy Governments - an initiative that seeks to promote policy innovations, expertise and best practice among countries with a shared ambition of championing a wellbeing economy for their citizens and the environment. Please see Goal 8 for more information on this.

-  **Human Rights**
-  **Fair Work and Business**
-  **Culture**
-  **Health**
-  **Education**
-  **Children**
-  **International**
-  **Communities**
-  **Economy**
-  **Poverty**

Building on policies and legislation already in place, the Scottish Government has introduced measures to strengthen provision and to help advance equality. For example, the Scottish Government has funded commitments to pay the living wage (Goal 8); removed the public sector pay cap; expanded early learning and childcare and free school meals for children from p1-3 (Goal 4); and produced a delivery plan to eradicate child poverty (Goal 1). We have invested to improve educational attainment for those living in less advantaged communities (Goal 4) and maintained concessionary fares and passes on public transport (Goal 11). We have also used our new powers to establish a Social Security Agency and an employability programme that have dignity and respect at their heart (Goal 1, and 8) while mitigating, where we can, the impact of the UK government's welfare agenda. Leave-no-one behind is central to the 2030 Agenda and therefore links to all other Goals. For greater detail on action to tackle poverty please see the chapter on Goal 1.

Equality and discrimination legislation (targets 10.2 and 10.3)

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination (direct or indirect), harassment or victimisation of anyone who shares one or more of the protected characteristics listed in the Act (that is: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or, sexual orientation). [Section 149](#) of the Act places a duty (known as the Public Sector Equality Duty, or PSED) on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Although the Equality Act 2010 is largely reserved to the UK Government, application of the public sector equality duty is devolved. Therefore Scottish Ministers have supplemented the general duty (PSED) by placing detailed requirements on Scottish public authorities through the [Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2012](#).

The 2012 Regulations are aimed at supporting the bulk of Scottish public authorities to improve implementation of the PSED by requiring them to: report progress on mainstreaming equalities; propose and publish equality outcomes; assess policies and practices from the perspective of equalities; and publish employee information on pay and occupational segregation. In Scotland there is both [non-statutory guidance and technical guidance](#) on the Public Sector Equality Duty for public bodies. Enforcement and compliance are matters for the courts and for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). EHRC is independent and cannot be directed by Scottish Ministers. As it is a reserved public body its powers cannot be changed by the Scottish Parliament.

Equality at work (targets 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4)

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for employers to discriminate against job applicants and existing workers because of a protected characteristic. Legislation covers direct and indirect discrimination, as well as discrimination by association or perception. Failing to offer a job applicant a position because of a protected characteristic amounts to direct discrimination. Employers also need to take care not to apply criteria and conditions to job requirements and the recruitment process that may result in unjustifiable indirect discrimination against job applicants. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has also published [recruitment guidance](#) for employers.

The Workplace Equality Fund has delivered employer led innovative solutions to overcome workforce and workplace inequality in Scotland. The Fund has a key focus on supporting older workers, women, disabled people, and those from a minority ethnic background. The Scottish Government recently funded 22 projects with a collective £750,000 of funding. One project involved a collaboration between the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and the Marriott Hotel Group. Together they recently launched a [toolkit](#) aimed at helping employers support workers with sight loss.

The Scottish Government will shortly launch our expanded Workplace Equality Fund, which will now also aim to provide support for workers transitioning through the menopause, victims of domestic abuse, and actions for tackling social isolation and loneliness. It will also seek to encourage businesses with innovative projects to embed fair work dimensions in the workplace.

Race equality in Scotland

Our vision is that in 2030 Scotland is a place where people are healthier, happier and treated with respect, and where opportunities, wealth and power are spread more equally. Results from the 2011 Census in Scotland show that Scotland is becoming more ethnically diverse, with an increasing number of people who live in Scotland being born outside of the UK. The emergence of an increasingly multi ethnic population enriches our culture, providing opportunities to mix together new influences with old, creating a more diverse Scotland and helping ensure that our dynamic, progressive country continues to evolve.

The Race Equality Framework for Scotland sets out how we aim to progress this ambition over a 15-year period from 2016 to 2030. A variety of engagement activities were used throughout the development of the Framework to ensure that a wide range of organisations and individuals, from grassroots community organisations to practitioners working in the public sector, had an active role in contributing. As a result, each of the six themed Visions and related Goals set out in the Framework have been shaped by this involvement process.

Closer Look - Kindness

Carnegie UK Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have assembled a body of evidence around the role of kindness in tackling isolation and loneliness in society, which informed the Our Vales statement in the new NPF.

They recently published a report, “Quantifying kindness, public engagement and place”, presenting findings from the first ever quantitative survey on kindness in communities and public services. The data reveals a reassuring and yet complex picture of kindness in the UK and Ireland, with generally high levels of kindness reported, but at the same time variations in experiences between jurisdictions and across social groups.

Carnegie UK Trust is currently coordinating two projects that seek to address these challenges and complexities, and to encourage a shift in focus. The Kindness Innovation Network and Kindness in North Ayrshire are two parallel networks of professionals and people, which are developing ideas and delivering small tests of change to encourage kindness in local and national government, in organisations and public services, and in communities.

Inequality and public sector service reform (target 10.3)

Scotland’s wider approach to public service reform is built on a recognition that inequalities tend to affect people, households and communities in complex and inter-connected ways and therefore, we utilise “whole system” approaches across agencies, built on an understanding of our people and communities to address this. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 gives community planning a statutory purpose focused on improving outcomes and tackling inequalities of outcome on locally identified priorities, including in places where communities experience the poorest outcomes. Each Community Planning Partnership has in place an agreed Local Outcome Improvement Plan, prioritising themes that are fundamental to people’s wellbeing

and focusing on reducing inequality and improving outcomes for those most disadvantaged communities. These plans might typically include: inclusive growth and improving employment prospects; positive physical and mental health; children's wellbeing, and sustaining fragile communities. Each plan is addressing such priorities in a way that is shaped around distinctive local circumstances in Scotland.

Equality budget statement (target 10.3)

We are now in the tenth year of publishing an Equality Budget Statement (EBS) alongside the Scottish Budget to highlight the consistent commitment of the Scottish Government to examining the impact of the Scottish Budget on the diversity of Scotland's population. This approach supports our ambition for a fairer Scotland; an approach which is recognised as progressive and inclusive. We are not complacent. There is room for improvement in equality and human rights budgeting processes and we are committed to continuing to improve our understanding of inequality of outcomes within the limits of technical feasibility and practical resource implications.

The [Equality Budget Advisory Group](#) (EBAG) has supported the Scottish Government's efforts to bring equality considerations into budget preparations since the early years of devolution. During 2017, the EBAG was represented on the Scottish Parliament's Budget Process Review Group (BPRG), discussing the implications of proposed changes on the equality assessment of the Scottish Budget. In summer 2018, Ministers decided that EBAG would benefit from having an independent external chair who could offer additional challenge. In September 2018, Dr Angela O'Hagan was announced as the chair of the group and a work plan was developed and agreed. EBAG has been tasked with working with the Scottish Government to improve equality assessment and to help them identify the range of products that could be provided to improve articulation of the budget over time. In 2018, the Equalities and Human Rights Committee asked for human rights budgeting to be specifically included as part of EBAG's remit, and the Scottish Human Rights Commission was invited onto EBAG to provide this expertise moving forward.

Taxation (target 10.4)

The Scottish approach to Taxation is founded on four principles of efficiency, convenience, certainty and proportionality to the ability to pay. The Scottish Government has applied these principles to implementing and developing tax policy, taking a progressive approach that reduces inequality.

The Council Tax Reduction scheme, funded in full by the Scottish Government, provides reductions of up to 100%. Council tax reductions depend on individual means, circumstances and need, to the Council Tax liabilities of around 500,000 households in Scotland. It therefore ensures that those households who would otherwise struggle to pay their full Council Tax are instead only required to pay what they can afford. The scheme takes particular account of household circumstances, including unemployment, disability, caring commitments and the number of children, and it does not cap the number of children (see also Goal 1).

The Scotland Act 2016 gave the Scottish Parliament powers to set the rates and bands for income tax paid by Scottish taxpayers. The Scottish Government will continue to use its additional powers over income tax in a progressive way that protects low income taxpayers and provides additional revenue to invest in high-quality public services. The impact of income tax policy is limited to those who are in receipt of a taxable income. In Scotland, there were almost two million adults in 2018-19 with no income tax liabilities as their income was below the Personal Allowance of £11,850 – this is over 40% of the 16+ population. This percentage is likely to increase slightly following the UK Chancellor's decision to raise the Personal Allowance significantly to £12,500 in 2019-20. Ongoing work on the Living Wage and Equal pay within by the Scottish Government may lift more people into the tax base (see Goal 5 and Goal 8). Even with further new income tax powers, the Scottish Government has limited powers to define the tax base or adjust tax reliefs, and National Insurance remains reserved to the UK Government.

Target 10.5 asks us to improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations. While this falls outside the competency of Scottish Government, please see Goal 8 for action in Scotland to promote ethical finance. Similarly, Targets 10.6, 10a are largely outwith devolved competence. target 10b is addressed in Goal 17.

Fairer Scotland Action Plan (targets 10.2 and 10.3)

In 2015, we launched a nation-wide Fairer Scotland conversation. Our intention was to speak to as many people as possible – through events, online and in person - to hear first-hand the issues that matter to our people and how we can become a Fairer Scotland by 2030. At the very outset of this journey, we committed to having an open and transparent discussion and to ensuring that everyone’s voice was listened to and heard.

Over 7,000 people took part in Fairer Scotland public events and locally organised discussions. Even more engaged online, with the number of visitors to social media platforms edging towards 17,500. This consultation exercise was further analysed to inform Scotland’s new National Outcomes.

Following this engagement, the Scottish Government launched the **Fairer Scotland Action Plan** in 2016 that aims to help build a better country - one with low levels of poverty and inequality, genuine equality of opportunity, stronger life chances, and support for all those who need it. The Action Plan is built on five high-level ambitions that will be focused on until 2030. They are:

- A Fairer Scotland for All
- Ending Child Poverty
- Strong Start for Young People
- Fairer Working Lives
- A Thriving Third Age

At the heart of the Plan are 50 fairness actions for the current parliamentary term that will help us meet these ambitions, ranging across the responsibilities of government. The Action Plan features commitments from a range of organisations from across the UK who want to help us build a Fairer Scotland and is the start of a long term commitment to help shape a fairer Scotland.

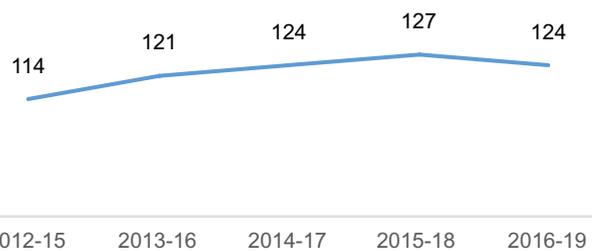
For action to meet target 10.1 see specifically Goal 1 on child poverty and Goal 8 on employability.

The Data Picture: Inequality

Target 10.1 is to progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

Income inequality is broadly stable. The total household income of the top ten percent of the population had 24% more income compared to the bottom forty percent in 2016-19. This compares to 27%, 24% and 21% more income in the previous periods.

Income share of the top 10% of the population in Scotland divided by income share of the bottom 40% (Palma ratio) expressed as a percentage



Source: Family Resources Survey

Promotion of the Fairer Scotland Duty

The Fairer Scotland Duty (FSD), introduced in April 2018, is a mandatory assessment for the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and a range of other public bodies. It requires those bodies to consider actively (on the basis of evidence) how inequalities of outcome arising from socio-economic disadvantage could be reduced when making ‘strategic decisions’. The Office of the Chief Social Policy Adviser in Scotland has been working with a range of policy areas to test out approaches to meeting the Fairer Scotland Duty and has recently become the policy lead for this duty. The duty has the potential to begin to address some of the deep seated inequalities of outcome that exist across areas such as health, education and employment (see Goal 1).

Migration and asylum and refugee integration in Scotland (targets 10.2, 10.7 and 10c)

Immigration is reserved to the UK Government, although the Scottish Government has set out its views on how it believes the UK Government should frame migration policy by adopting a more open and welcoming approach, including in a [February 2018 discussion paper](#). A particular focus in recent years has been supporting EU citizens who face uncertainty and potential disruption as a result of the vote across the UK to leave the EU in the 2016 referendum. This has included funding an additional advice service delivered by Citizens Advice Scotland, and significant outreach and marketing activity to ensure EU citizens who have made Scotland their home are reassured that they are welcome here, and are directed to the available support they may need to help apply to guarantee their immigration status.

Scotland has also become home to people from all over the world seeking safety and anyone who seeks asylum here in Scotland should be welcomed and supported to integrate into our communities from day one. When refugees and asylum seekers arrive, they need understanding, support and hope for their future; and children should be able to be children, whether they arrive with their family or on their own. Scottish local authorities have led the way in the UK in refugee resettlement, and since 2015 COSLA has worked with all 32 local authorities to support the resettlement of over 2700 refugees across Scotland as part of our participation in the Syrian Resettlement Programme. This work is supported by the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy which was jointly developed by COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council and the Scottish Government.

In 2018, the second [New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy](#) was published. This was developed in partnership with COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council and Scottish Government. The views of more than 2,000 asylum seekers and refugees were heard during the consultation process. The outcomes and actions that the strategy seeks to deliver are grounded in an approach that places refugees and asylum seekers at the heart of the communities in which they reside. As such, it recognises that, for approaches to integration to succeed, they must be about working in and with local communities, as well as with refugees and asylum seekers.

Fair Start Scotland

To mitigate the drastic reduction in UK funding for employment programmes, Scottish Ministers have committed an additional £20 million above UK Government funding in each year of Parliament to support Fair Start Scotland – committing up to £96 million overall. As part of Scotland's inclusive economic growth we are developing a system that will enable people to gain recognition for their skills and experience, regardless of the context/county in which they were gained. The Scottish Government is also funding a recognition of prior qualifications, skills and learning pilot project being led by a key stakeholder group to explore processes for recognition with a focus on migrants who have come to live in Scotland.

Tackling hate crime (target 10.3)

Hate crime and prejudice threatens community cohesion and has a corrosive impact on Scotland's communities as well as broader society. It is never acceptable and we are committed to tackling it. In June 2017, we published our [Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan](#) – our ambitious programme of work to tackle hate crime and build community cohesion. We have established an Action Group chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities with key stakeholders to take this work forward. The Action Group has prioritised work on under reporting, third party reporting, hate crime data and campaign activity.

Within the Action Plan, Scottish Government committed to develop a public awareness campaign and in October 2017 we ran our six week 'Hate Has No Home in Scotland' campaign. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of what hate crime is and encourage both victims and witnesses to report it. The campaign evaluation was positive and showed that it was particularly successful among those who have experienced hate crime. On 26 September 2018 a hate crime campaign was launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Cabinet Secretary for Justice in partnership with Police Scotland. It aimed to encourage witnesses to report hate crime.

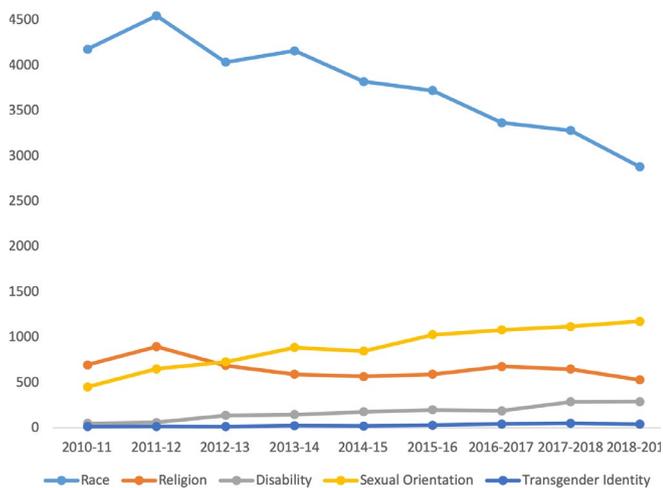
The Scottish Government has formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism. Adoption of the IHRA definition reflects the value we place on tackling anti-Semitism and on ensuring people in Scotland feel valued and have a sense of belonging.

The Data Picture: Hate crimes

Target 10.3 (Indicator 10.3.1): 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.

Racial crime remains the most commonly reported hate crime. There were 2,880 charges reported in 2018-19, with a decreasing trend in recent years.

Trends in hate crime charges reported



Source: Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service

Poverty and Inequality Commission (target 10.3)

The Poverty and Inequality Commission was initially established by Scottish Ministers in July 2017. In July 2019, a statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission was established through the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act. The Commission’s main role is to provide independent advice to Scottish Ministers on reducing poverty and inequality in Scotland and to scrutinise the progress that is being made. Specifically it will:

- Have a strong focus on child poverty, providing advice to Scottish Ministers on Child Poverty Delivery Plans and commenting on annual progress towards the child poverty targets
- Have a strong scrutiny role in monitoring progress towards reducing poverty and inequality and advise Scottish Ministers on any matter relating to poverty or inequality in Scotland, including the impact of policies and the use of resources in reducing poverty and inequality

- Have scope to develop its own work programme to promote the reduction of poverty and inequality in Scotland

Reducing health inequalities (target 10.3)

Reducing health inequalities is one of the biggest challenges facing Scotland as such inequity is a symptom of wider social inequalities. The focus is on those communities showing consequential poorer health outcomes, primarily those most deprived. Scotland is singled out by Cancer Research UK as the only part of the UK where our targeted approach to smoking cessation is helping to reduce inequalities, and the most deprived communities benefit from the healthier environments produced across Scotland by preventative measures such as Minimum Unit Pricing for alcohol. Further population health improvements will be achieved through an increase of £20 million per annum to support alcohol and drug treatment.

The Family Nurse Partnership programme has now been rolled out across mainland Scotland for all eligible young women. The focus on young, pregnant women targets families who are likely to be most disadvantaged. Over the past nine years, more than 6,000 families have benefited from this support, many for the full duration of 2.5 years. Levels of vulnerability within this cohort are very high and complex, and the intensive, ongoing support is highly valued (see Goal 3).

Key areas of investment as part of the Scottish Budget 2019-20 include ongoing support for breastfeeding, with the latest statistics showing a reduction in inequalities with increased breastfeeding rates in the most deprived areas. The forthcoming introduction of Best Start Foods to provide financial support for purchasing specified healthy foods, aimed at pregnant women and families with young children on low incomes; and the full implementation of the **Universal Health Visitor Pathway**, which includes routine enquiry on household income from health visitors or family nurses allowing families the opportunity to maximise their income and be signposted to appropriate services. To support and maximise the role and impact of Health Visitors, the Scottish Government has made a significant investment of over £42 million of phased funding for recruitment and training.

In 2019-20 we are investing in implementation of the new GP contract and wider primary care reform, which will focus GP time on complex care. Individuals living in deprived communities exhibit higher comorbidity and premature mortality; this focus will mean better management of patients in need of additional clinical support. Investment and activity by Sport Scotland in 2019-20 is adding resources and support to Community Sports Hubs with greater targeting to areas of deprivation. This is helping sports governing bodies and local authorities to increase physical activity levels of the least active, who are over-represented among socially disadvantaged communities. Attracting and retaining the right people, and raising the status of social care as a profession, is key to delivering quality care. Scottish Government funding continues to enable adult social care workers to be paid the Scottish Living Wage, a move that has benefited up to 40,000 care workers – mostly women – and is now being extended to sleepovers.

In 2018, the Scottish Government published a range of health strategies all of which had a focus on reducing health inequalities (see Goal 3):

- **Scotland's Tobacco Action Plan** focuses on addressing health inequalities and targeting smoking rates in the communities where people find it most difficult to quit
- **Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan** sets out our vision for everyone in Scotland to eat well and have a healthy weight (see Goal 2)
- **Active Scotland Delivery Plan** sets out the 90 practical actions the Scottish Government and its delivery partners are taking to support and encourage everyone in Scotland to be physically active – it aims to cut physical inactivity in adults and teenagers by 15% by 2030
- Our **Alcohol and Drug Treatment Strategy** looks at ways to improve health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use, harm and related deaths
- The **Alcohol Framework** sets out bold measures to prevent alcohol-related harm, including reviewing the minimum unit price and our plans for restrictions on alcohol advertising

The prison population experiences high levels of severe, multiple deprivation, including health inequalities. The Scottish Government has established

a new Scottish Prison Care Network and published a Prison Health Information Dashboard. In 2019, it is beginning to test new approaches in delivering integrated social care which will improve the services provided to people in custody, helping them to rehabilitate and return to their communities when they are released.

Social isolation and loneliness (target 10.2)

Scotland is proud to be one of the first countries in the world to publish a national strategy on social isolation and loneliness. Social isolation can affect anyone at any point in their life, and the Government has an important role to play in tackling this issue. **A Connected Scotland** was launched by the Scottish Government in December 2018 – a national strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness and build social connections. An additional £1 million funding is available over the next 2 years to back our commitments and pilot innovative approaches. A Ministerial Steering Group, chaired by the Minister for Older people and Equalities will drive Scottish Government cross portfolio work and oversight of the strategy. In developing this approach, the government will continue to engage with a range of stakeholders including the recently established Action Group on Isolation and Loneliness. Progress on the national strategy will be reported every 2 years between now and 2026.

For action on target 10b please see Goal 17.

Challenges and next steps

LGBTI

Scotland is recognised as one of the most progressive countries in Europe on LGBTI rights. We were the first country in the UK to consult on introducing same sex marriage, with the Parliament passing the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. But we recognise the particular disadvantage experienced by trans people across many walks of life and are supportive of all measures to increase inclusion in schools for pupils and staff alike. A 2017 study by LGBT Youth Scotland of more than 600 LGBT young people in Scotland showed that:

- 82% of transgender young people surveyed had experienced homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying in school

- 63% of LGBT young people surveyed who had experienced bullying believed that it had negatively impacted on their education
- 27% of transgender young people surveyed left education as a result of homophobia, biphobia, or transphobia in the learning environment

It is paramount we continue efforts to tackle all forms of prejudice, including any linked to gender identity. Scotland is on its way to becoming the first country in the world to have lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) inclusive education embedded in the curriculum.

Our education system must support everyone to reach their full potential and it is vital that the curriculum is as diverse as the young people who learn in our schools. The guidance is one of a range of tools available to schools and education authorities in their support for transgender pupils.

Work is continuing to reform the Gender Recognition Act 2004 to ensure that the process for trans people to access a gender recognition certificate is in line with international best practice. The Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Equalities, Shirley-Anne Somerville, announced in the Scottish Parliament on 20 June that the Scottish Government will publish a draft Gender Recognition (Scotland) Bill later this year, with the bill being formally introduced to Parliament after that consultation.

Disability

In December 2016 we launched a **Fairer Scotland for Disabled People: Our Delivery Plan to 2021** for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The plan represents the culmination of over two years of detailed discussion, negotiation and co-production with disabled people's organisations and with individual disabled people. Implementation of the plan is now under way across Government, and our partnership with the sector will continue as we drive forward the specific actions which have been identified.

Over a million disabled people contribute to Scotland's communities and add talent, diversity and richness to our society. Yet so many people are still unable to make their contribution or live their lives as they would want because of the barriers in their way. Our

homes, transport, workplaces, public services and our local environments are all too often designed or operated in ways that can exclude disabled people. Inaccessible communication, negative attitudes, low expectations, discrimination and inequality impact in ways which interact and affect the chances of disabled people - even to have social connections and human interaction.

We are already taking steps to address these barriers. Fair Start Scotland, which commenced in April 2018, is providing support to disabled people to find work and treating them with fairness, dignity and respect. More effective integration of employment support and services is also key. In **No One Left Behind: Next steps for employability support** (2018) we have set out actions we will take towards achieving this and, in so doing, improve support for disabled people to enter, stay and progress in work. We will invest £6 million in employment support for disabled people – complimenting and enhancing the support offered through fair start; all contributing towards reaching our ambition to halve the disability related employment gap. But there is far more to do. The Fairer Scotland for Disabled People Action Plan outlines the next steps we will take to work across government, with employers and other partners to meet our ambition to halve the disability employment gap. It also sets out the timescales for doing so. To realise the ambition will require collective leadership and action across public, private, and third sectors. A new Partnership Working Framework in Employability has been agreed with COSLA, which will help facilitate this. For our wider approach to social security, and our offering for the enhanced Carer's Allowance please see Goal 1 chapter.

Working in partnership has helped us to achieve a lot more than we could have done individually. Engagement with and involvement of refugees and people seeking asylum is vital, but can be difficult to achieve on a consistent basis. An Anti-destitution strategy is being developed to support action to mitigate destitution among people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) to be published in 2019.

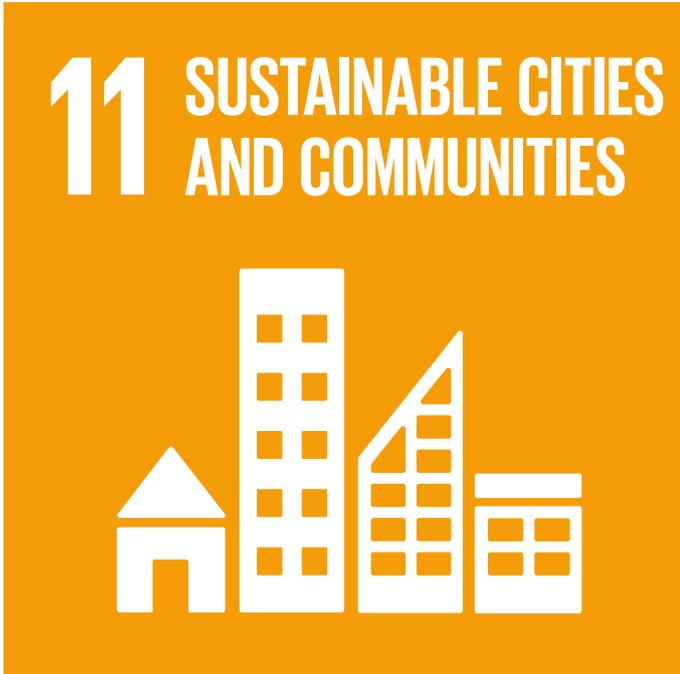
We will continue to work to implement the actions within our **Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan** and we will publish an update on progress in 2020. In 2019, Public Health Scotland will be established to deliver

on Scotland's public health priorities. It will build on the work of NHS Health Scotland and the Scottish Public Health Observatory to focus the whole system on factors which have the greatest impact on healthy life expectancy and to help reduce the deep and persistent inequalities in health.

Building on the Race Equality Framework published in March 2016, the Scottish Government published the **Race Equality Action Plan and Highlight Report** in December 2017 outlining more than 120 actions to secure better outcomes for ethnic minorities in Scotland. At the first annual Race Equality Action Plan Conference in December 2018, the Minister for Older People and Equalities met with key stakeholders and gave the keynote address highlighting the work that has been done so far as well as the areas for continued development. As part of the Action Plan, in recognition of the multiple barriers experienced by Gypsy Travellers, a Ministerial working group is focusing on the four key areas of accommodation, education, poverty and health. A set of draft actions will be published in spring 2019, and following consultation, the Scottish Government will publish a firm set of commitments that are to be delivered before May 2021.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- Providing a further £380,000 to the Poverty Alliance to continue their work with employers to make sure more people are paid the real Living Wage
- Making funding available so the real Living Wage can be paid to all workers delivering funded early learning and childcare hours from August 2020
- Review what more Fair Start Scotland can do to support more people from minority ethnic communities into work
- Invest up to £1 million in a new Public Social Partnership to address barriers faced in recruiting and retaining disabled people and invest up to £500,000 to help disabled people undertake work experience
- Recommendations to embed LGBTI inclusive education within our school curriculum are being implemented and changes will be made to Scotland's Census processes where optional questions on transgender status will be asked on a voluntary basis for the first time
- Consult on the detail of a draft Gender Recognition Bill by the end of this year, setting out proposals for reform and how this will bring Scotland in line with international best practice
- Establish an Inclusive Scotland Fund to support a number of local areas to involve people with lived experience of severe, multiple disadvantage in developing whole system approaches to improve outcomes
- Publish a new Health and Social Care Strategy for Prisons over the coming year



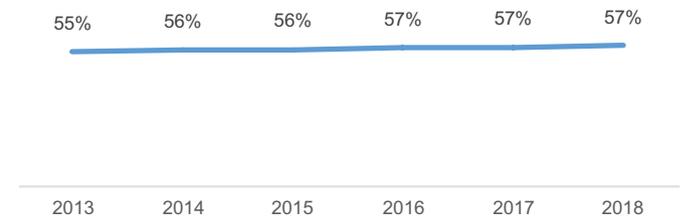
Cities are hubs for commerce, culture, science, productivity, economic development, and human development. Scotland’s cities, towns, and urban environments have vibrant and unique cultures and we are committed to developing our cities and urban environments to be sustainable, safe, and inclusive. This goal is about creating places which are good for communities and work sustainably with the environment. Scotland already has a strong focus on place as part of the refreshed NPF. The new indicator set under the **National Outcome for Communities** ‘We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe’ aims to capture how people feel about their communities, neighbourhoods, environment and relationships with each other. The Communities National Outcome therefore enriches the story Scotland can tell under Goal 11 which focuses more on the sustainability of cities and infrastructure.

Safer cities and community spaces (targets 11.1)

The Data Picture: Perceptions of local area

Overall ratings of neighbourhood have been consistently high, with over nine in ten adults typically saying their neighbourhood is a ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ good place to live. The percentage of people who rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live had been gradually increasing from 51.1% in 2006 to 55.9% in 2011, remaining around this level since. The figure is at 57.4% in 2018.

The percentage of Scottish adults who rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live



Source: Scottish Household Survey



Culture



Communities

A place-based approach (targets 11.3, 11.4, 11.7)

Community empowerment

We know that place matters. Empowering communities to participate in shaping the places they call home is key to creating happy and sustainable communities. Community planning and ownership is therefore central to Scotland's place-based approach to reform. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires public sector organisations who deliver and resource local services to work together and with local communities, so they can improve outcomes on themes they agree as priorities for their area.

The Scottish Government's land reform agenda also plays a key role in promoting and supporting sustainable communities. Community ownership has often been about communities responding to market failure (for example the loss of facilities) or poor practice by landlords. Scotland now has a variety of legislative routes to community ownership of land and land assets, including pre-emptive rights to buy and compulsory rights to buy. These are supported by an annual £10 million Scottish Land Fund. This recognises the value of communities being able to make decisions about things that matter to them where community ownership is seen as a normal function of communities for their long term benefit.

Community ownership has historically been focused on rural areas. Recent legislation enables urban communities to take advantage of rights to buy, and we expect to see an increase in the number of community acquisitions in urban areas in Scotland as a consequence. We have tended to measure community ownership by the scale of land owned by communities. In recognition of the new urban rights to buy, and the differences in the scale of land available, we are shifting to a measurement of the number of communities who own land. This is likely to provide a better indicator of the success of this policy.

Local Place Plans

The **Planning Bill** introduces more opportunities for community engagement in the land use planning system. The aim is to significantly enhance engagement in development planning, effectively empowering communities to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places.

It introduces a new right for communities to produce local place plans (LPPs), which will set out the community's vision for the future development of their places. A local place plan is a proposal for the development or use of land, which may also identify land and buildings that the community body considers to be of particular significance to the local area. In preparing a local place plan, a 'community body' must have regard to the National Planning Framework and the local development plan. Much of the detail about how LPPs will work in practice will derive from secondary legislation, backed up by supportive guidance. In practice, it is expected that there will be an opportunity to link LPPs with wider locality plans that emerged in some areas as a result of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The **Revised Financial Memorandum for the Planning Bill** (March 2019) sets out details of anticipated costs and resources linked to LPPs. Based on existing costs for similar activities, it is assumed that the average cost of preparing a LPP will be £13,000. It is estimated that there may be 92 LPPs per year, this results in a total cost of around £1.2 million per year. There has been some criticism that this is lower than the cost of charettes funded by the Scottish Government, however it is not intended that every LPP should require the intensive large-scale approach of a charette.

The costs of preparing LPPs are to be found by the community in the first instance. Some costs may be covered by support in kind from volunteers, the public sector and third sector bodies and local businesses. Money may be raised by local fundraising or from grants from various sources, including the Scottish Government, Big Lottery Fund, the planning authority or third sector funding organisations.

In 2018-19, the Scottish Government allocated over £280,000 towards grant funding for community organisations or public bodies to carry out community-led design events. This is in addition to wider funding to help communities develop their capacity and resilience and improve local outcomes, both directly and through support to organisations such as the Scottish Community Development Centre, Coalfields Regeneration Trust and PAS (previously Planning Aid Scotland). In addition, tools available to communities include the Place Standard, which allows for a community to assess the quality of their place with no

cost for the use of the tool. As communities become more engaged and empowered they may choose to take forward their aspirations in different ways, and LPPs will be another option available.

Closer Look - Bonnymuir Green Community Trust

Bonnymuir Green Community Trust: The group purchased the former Bonnymuir Bowling Green and the accompanying pavilion building, using the Community Right to Buy legislation, and with a Scottish Land Fund (SLF) award of £164,750. It plans to create a unique external green space within the city including a market garden and a community building with a café, meeting space and retail space for locally grown produce.

Action Party: The group purchased the former Portobello Old Parish Church and Halls situated on Bellfield Road, Portobello, Edinburgh using the Community Right to Buy legislation, and with an SLF award of £647,500. This will bring a previously well-used local amenity into community ownership and create the opportunity for it to be developed into a multi-purpose community hub.

Barmulloch Community Development Company: The group purchased the former All Saints Church and associated church house, known locally as the Broomfield Road Centre, with an SLF award of £85,000. The centre currently houses a popular boxing gym and training/meeting rooms, all of which will continue to flourish when the premises are brought into community ownership.

The Pyramid at Anderston: The group purchased the 'B' listed Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church situated in Anderston near Glasgow City Centre, with an SLF award of £324,000, to improve the access and flexibility of the accommodation to maximise the use of the building and improve its long term viability.

Planning for all of Scotland (targets 11.3)

Stromness Regeneration Plan

This 10-year plan has transformed this town in Orkney following the community warning that Stromness was being 'left behind'. In May 2018, the Royal Town Planning Institute awarded the Stromness Regeneration Plan the Silver Jubilee Cup at their annual awards ceremony.

Through collaboration between Orkney Islands Council, the local community and a variety of other stakeholders, the plan has resulted in 12 major projects implemented across the town. These include new and upgraded public spaces, new shops and businesses and a new primary school. The council have also begun work on a new international research facility and infrastructure for tidal and wave energy generation, which has received funding from the joint COSLA/Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

All of this has been possible because of council planners working closely with the community and involving them from the start, and putting place at the heart of the plan to establish the community's key priorities.

COSLA has worked with member councils to identify up to £600 million of budgets that could be within scope for mainstream Participatory Budgeting. This reaches far beyond the 1% framework agreement agreed by local authority leaders in 2017. It shows both ambition and ability to involve communities more meaningfully in decisions that affect them. Working closely with the Scottish Government, COSLA is creating practical local and national support through a training and a social inclusion officer who will work with council officers and elected members to share, develop and improve practice.

Participatory Budgeting continues to develop across the diverse range of policy/service delivery areas including procurement, education, health and social care, planning, transport and justice. Projects ranging from small grants giving to multi-million pound service delivery. In doing so local authorities continue to put people and communities at the heart of decision making processes. The Planning (Scotland) Bill, which makes provision about how land is developed and used, was passed on 20 June 2019.

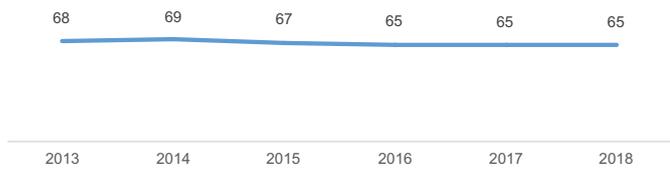
Providing greener, inclusive cities (targets 11.7, 11.6, and 11.4)

The Data Picture: Access to Green and Blue Spaces

By 2030, globally there needs to be universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, provided. In particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities (target 11.7).

In 2018, 65.3% of adults lived within a 5 minute walk of their nearest green or blue space, compared to 67.6% in 2013.

Proportion of adults who live within a 5 minute walk of their local green or blue space



Source: Scottish Household Survey

Closer Look - Central Scotland Green Network – Europe’s largest greenspace project

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a long term initiative which aims to restore and transform the landscape of Central Scotland and to promote environmental quality, woodland cover and recreational opportunities. It covers an area stretching from Ayrshire and Inverclyde in the west to Fife and the Lothians in the east (target 11.7). The initiative aims to make Central Scotland a more attractive place to live in, do business and visit, help absorb CO2, enhance biodiversity, and promote active travel and healthier lifestyles. The vision states that by 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people’s lives are enriched by its quality. The Scottish Government’s *National Planning Framework 3* designates the CSGN as one of only 14 National Developments critical to the delivery of the Government’s spatial strategy.

Supporting Scotland to respond to climate change

Scotland has world-leading ambitions on responding to climate change. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is central to understanding the impacts of climate change on Scotland’s cultural heritage assets, and leading the way on mitigation and adaptation as necessary. *HES Climate Change and Environmental Action Plan 2019-24*, currently in draft, details how we will work towards making the organisation and the broader historic environment more resilient to and prepared for changes in our climate. HES have a key role to play in adapting existing traditional buildings to be less carbon ‘hungry’ and to promote traditional construction and materials as the truly sustainable opportunities they are. HES will continue to use our knowledge and experience to engage with those throughout the wider historic environment in Scotland and beyond, and to support the transformational change that will be necessary if society is to adapt to, and mitigate the effects of, climate change.

Air pollution is an increasingly important issue. Particularly around schools and nurseries, citizens are concerned about the impact of pollution on children. But progress is being made both at the local and the national level in making cities safe and sustainable through an increased awareness of air quality and an increased focus on Active Travel, supported by organisations such as SEPA, Sustrans Scotland, Living Streets, and Pedal on Parliament.

Eco-schools, like the Sciennes School in Edinburgh, are actively involved in this topic. Pupils recently campaigned in Clean Air Day 2017 and 2018 and were featured in UNICEF’s Toxic Air campaign. Schools across the country are also implementing no-drop off zones to protect children from traffic fumes on their way to school and designating schools as cycling friendly to ensure children can safely travel to their school by bike.

Closer Look - Green Infrastructure Strategic Investment Fund

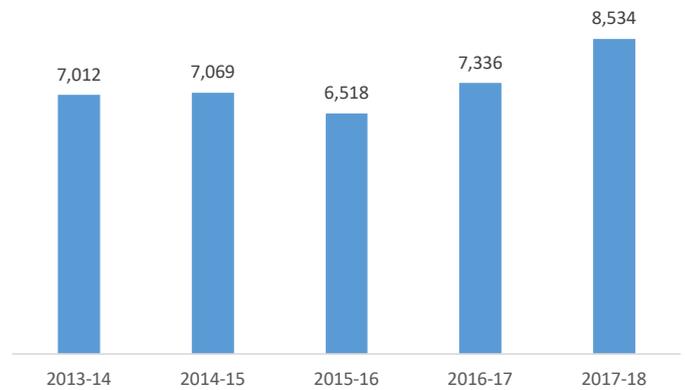
The Scottish National Heritage organisation (SNH) is running a **Green Infrastructure Strategic Investment Fund** which represents a strategic intervention under the European Rural Development Fund. Local authorities, public bodies, environmental organisations, and communities work together to deliver transformative change in some of Scotland’s most disadvantaged urban areas through the creation and improvement of green spaces, contributing both to the ambition of Goal 11 and the leave no one behind agenda. The fund makes available £15 million to provide total project support of £38 million, from 2016-2020. Fifteen capital projects across Scotland, that improve or create at least 140 hectares of urban green infrastructure, plus 10-15 smaller community engagement projects, where the focus is on working with people to help them make the most of their local greenspace, making them more attractive places to live and work as well as to stimulate inward investment, economic activity and employment (Goal 8). The first round of projects (£6.9 million) is due for completion in 2018-19.

Housing (target 11.1)

The Data Picture: Affordable Housing Supply

In 2017-18 there were 8,534 units completed through all Affordable Housing Supply Programme activity, up by 16% compared to the previous year and the highest annual figure since the series began in 2000-01. The majority (62%) of these were new build houses.

Units completed through affordable housing activity, 2013-14 to 2017-18



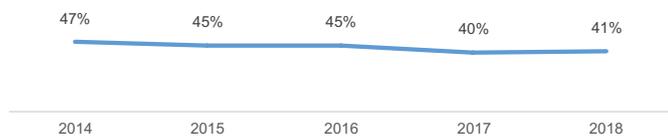
Source: Affordable Housing Supply Programme

Providing good quality, sustainable housing for all is an important objective for Scotland. Local authorities in Scotland are responsible for assessing housing need and demand and setting out how the requirement for housing will be met. They set these out in their Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Investment Plans. Between 2016 and 2021, 50,000 affordable homes will be delivered in Scotland, including 35,000 for social rent. Local authorities also set targets for the delivery of wheelchair accessible housing across all tenures within their areas.

The Data Picture: Housing Quality

The Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) is the common standard for assessing the condition of Scottish housing. In 2018, 41% of all dwellings failed to meet the SHQS with an improving trend in recent years.

Percentage of dwellings failing SHQS 2014-2017



Source: Scottish House Condition Survey

In Scotland, we support the delivery of flexible housing capable of being adapted to suit peoples' changing requirements. Therefore, wherever possible, all homes delivered through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme are built to Housing for Varying Needs standards. A flexible grant subsidy arrangement also supports the development of specialist housing identified by local authorities as a priority, helping disabled people with more complex needs live independently in their own homes and older people to stay in their own homes for longer. In addition, the Affordable Housing Supply Programme also has a strong focus on enhancing energy efficiency by incentivising delivery of new homes to meet a greener standard through a subsidies scheme.

In 2018, the Scottish Government launched work to develop a vision for Scotland's homes and communities in 2040, and a route map to get there. When completed in 2020, it is anticipated that it will set the overarching framework for housing policy for a generation. For existing housing, the Scottish Government launched its [Energy Efficient Scotland Route Map](#) in May 2018, setting out a long term programme to improve the energy efficiency of all buildings by 2040 to help tackle fuel poverty and meet Climate Change targets.

We believe that every empty home is a missed opportunity to provide someone who needs it with a warm, safe, sustainable roof over their head. To address this [Scotland's Empty Homes Partnership](#) was established in 2010 to tackle the blight of empty homes on local communities and make better use of this wasted resource. The Partnership works with local authorities and other organisations to help them develop policies and processes for engaging with private sector empty home owners. The Scottish Government delivered on the Programme for Government commitment to double funding for the Partnership, to £423,000 per annum, until 31 March 2021. The numbers of homes brought back into use are on the rise, with the Partnership annual report for 2018/19 showing that 1,128 homes were brought back into use in the last year, bringing the total to 4,340 since 2010. The majority of homes brought back into use each year are attributable to the network of dedicated empty homes officers. Our aim is for all local authorities to recognise the benefits of this approach and have dedicated empty homes officer support operating in every area across Scotland. The funding also supports the development of an enhanced empty homes advice service and new online digital resources.

Local authorities also have access to a number of additional tools to help them encourage owners to bring their homes back into use. The Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 allows them to charge higher council tax rates on long term-empty properties. These powers, in conjunction with dedicated empty homes officer support, have resulted in the more accurate classification of properties and more efficient marketing of help and support measures. The recently refreshed guidance on compulsory purchase has resulted in an upturn in the use of these powers by local authorities to help unlock empty homes which are causing blight on local communities. The Scottish Government has also provided dedicated funds to tackle empty homes, including the £4.5 million Empty Homes Loan Fund and the £4 million Town Centre Empty Homes Fund. Further funding is available from the £30 million Rural and Islands Housing Fund which, as well as offering grant support for the direct provision of new affordable housing, also includes the refurbishment of existing empty properties.

Homelessness (target 11.1)

The Data Picture: Homelessness

In 2017/18, Local Authorities received 34,972 homelessness applications, a small (1%) increase compared to the previous year, breaking a trend in falling numbers of applications since 2008/09 where 57,212 applications were received. The proportion of applications where a household member reported sleeping rough at least once during the 3 months prior to the application was 8% in 2017/18.

Number of applications and assessments under homelessness legislation 2013-14 to 2017-18



Year	Number of applications and assessments
2013-14	36,825
2014-15	35,964
2015-16	34,939
2016-17	34,570
2017-18	34,972

Source: Homelessness in Scotland

Tackling homelessness is a key objective to ensure we leave no one behind. Scotland is committed to eradicating rough sleeping, transforming temporary accommodation and ending homelessness. The [Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan](#) was published by COSLA and the Scottish Government in November 2018 and Scottish and local government are now jointly overseeing delivery of this plan over the next 5-10 years. This wide-ranging and comprehensive plan is based on a housing-led response to homelessness, which increases prevention, ensures effective responses through a person-centred approach and recognises that housing is important to ending homelessness, but that action from partners such as health, social care, justice and children's services will be crucial to achieve our goals.

Scotland has committed to 'the Housing First model', building on the evidence from other countries and small projects, which have been successfully running in some areas of Scotland for several years, which ensures people are allocated permanent tenancies with intensive wraparound support helping to prevent repeat homelessness. The aim is that this shift will also support wider positive outcomes including accessing employment and education; tackling any addictions; preventing offending or reoffending and improving mental and physical health and wellbeing. Housing First Pathfinders have already been established in five cities to test the model with funding from the Scottish Government, Social Bite and Merchants House, administered by the Corra Foundation. The programme is managed by Glasgow Homelessness Network and the Pathfinders are in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Stirling and Aberdeen (working with Aberdeenshire).

This shift to Housing First for those with multiple complex needs will be supported by a wider shift for all homeless households to rapid rehousing by default, minimising the time any household facing homelessness spends in temporary accommodation. Following the recommendations of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, local authorities recently completed their Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans, which set out how each authority will transition to a 'rapid rehousing by default' approach, including Housing First for those with multiple complex needs. The ambition of rapid rehousing is to see everyone identified as homeless provided with settled accommodation as a first step rather than being housed in temporary accommodation while they wait for a settled home.

City deals

Scotland's cities and their surrounding regions represent the most significant concentrations of economic assets in the country. City Region and Growth Deals act as enablers to unlock these in order to fully realise their potential, drive economic growth and maximise impact. They are a tripartite agreement between Scottish Government, UK Government and groups of regional partners brought together by one or more local authorities. The Scottish Government is investing over £1.8 billion over the next 10 to 20 years for deals and associated regional investment in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, Edinburgh, Stirling and Clackmannanshire, the Tay Cities, Ayrshire, Moray and the Borderlands Region.

Each deal is bespoke to the city region reflecting different regional economic strengths and weaknesses. They reflect the particular circumstances, assets and challenges in each location and ensure each city region has the ability to shape the strategy and approach best suited to their area. By empowering local authorities to operate strategically at a regional level, the deals encourage collaboration across and between cities and their surrounding areas to build their international competitiveness and long term approaches to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Deals can include measures such as skills and employment interventions that maximise the impact of any infrastructure investment.

Partnership arrangements for the city region deals are now inspiring regional economic partnership arrangements. These partnerships bring local authorities together with government agencies, the private and third sectors and others to develop region wide approaches to key interlinked inclusive growth issues such as economic inactivity, driving business growth and crucial social challenges such as child poverty.

Public transport (targets 11.2 and 11.6)

Scotland is investing over £1 billion per year in public and sustainable transport to encourage people out of their cars and onto public transport and active travel modes:

- 525 million public transport journeys were made in 2017/18 and of public transport journeys 74% were made by bus; 19% by rail; 5% by air and 2% by ferry
- 30% of journeys to work were by public or active travel in 2017, the same as 2007. Public and active travel to work has remained at around 30% since 2007, with cycling retaining a low modal share
- 388 million passenger journeys were made by bus in 2017/18, 1.5% less than in 2016/17 and a fall of 8% over the last five years, but still accounting for 74% of all public transport journeys
- In 2016, 82% of Scottish adults thought that access to public transport was very or fairly convenient

Buses provide an essential service to millions of people in Scotland. The Scottish Government continues to provide funding of over £250 million per annum to the bus industry, through the Bus Service Operators Grant and the National Concessionary Travel scheme. This helps support the viability of bus networks across the country, as well as providing over 1.4 million older and disabled passengers with access to free bus travel throughout Scotland.

Scotland's National Transport Strategy imbeds the Sustainable Travel and Investment Hierarchies in decision making. This prioritises walking, cycling and public and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car, and includes consideration of investment aimed at reducing the need to travel unsustainably.

The 2019 Programme for Government set out transformational long term funding of over £500 million for bus priority infrastructure to address the impacts of congestion on bus services.

We know that people in low income households are more likely to travel by bus. Currently 44% of people living in a household with less income than £10,000 use a bus at least once a week, compared to 16% of those with an income greater than £40,000. By

reducing the impacts of congestion on bus services, which make services slower and less reliable, we expect investment in bus priority infrastructure to support the just transition towards our net zero 2045 ambition as a result of more people making more sustainable travel choices.

In addition to supporting bus services, and to help people make more sustainable travel choices, the Scottish Government over the last eight years has supported bus operators to deploy almost 500 low emission buses through capital funding and other incentives. We are currently awaiting State Aid approval for a new capital fund for green buses developed in consultation with the bus industry. It remains our intention to launch the fund in the 2019/20 financial year.

Scotland is also committed to phasing out the need for new petrol and diesel powered cars or vans by 2032. Over £30 million has been invested since 2012 to fund the development of a comprehensive electric vehicle charging network across Scotland, which now includes over 1,000 publicly available charge points. We have set out our vision for a 'Mission Zero' for Transport and will create the conditions to phase out petrol and diesel cars in Scotland's public sector fleet by 2025, and the need for all new petrol or diesel vehicles by 2030. The successful Switched on Fleets programme has already provided over £13 million to public bodies, to support investment in zero or ultra-low emission vehicles.

Scotland is also funding concentrated action through Switched on Towns and Cities; with up to £12.5 million funding available for local areas aimed at incentivising the uptake of electric vehicles in Scotland's towns and cities. This also includes helping individuals and business convert to electric vehicles with interest free loans of up to £35,000 to cover the cost of purchasing a new pure electric/plug-in hybrid vehicle.

In 2016, transport accounted for 58% of emissions of oxides of nitrogen, 18% of particulate matter PM10 and 23% of particulate matter PM2.5. There are 38 active Air Quality Management Areas related to these pollutants. Since 2015, Scotland has a separate air quality strategy [Cleaner Air for Scotland - The Road to a Healthier Future](#), which sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to achieve further reductions in air pollution and fulfil the legal responsibilities as soon as possible. It contains a range of transport related actions, including the development of the National Low Emissions Framework, which will support local authorities to consider a range of transport interventions to improve air quality. The impact and success of 'Cleaner Air for Scotland' is currently being reviewed and will report later in 2019.

Scotland is in the process of implementing Low Emission Zones (LEZs) in its four biggest cities between 2018 and 2020 and into all other Air Quality Management Areas by 2023, where the National Low Emissions Framework appraisals support this approach. The first of Scotland's LEZs commenced in Glasgow in December 2018, with Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee developing their plans.

Scotland has doubled its active travel funding in 2018 from £39.2 million to £80 million and since December 2018 has an Active Nation Commissioner to act as a national advocate for walking and cycling across the country, raising the profile of these inclusive and sustainable modes of travel while promoting the health, environmental, social and economic benefits to everyone who lives, works in, or visits Scotland.

Cultural and natural heritage protection (target 11.4)

Historic Environment Scotland

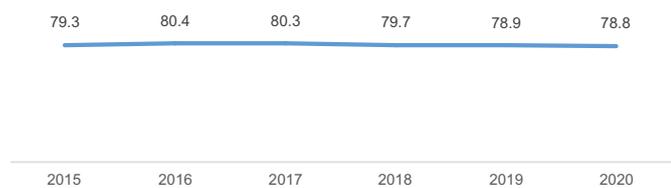
Historic Environment Scotland (HES) plans are just one part of much bigger ambitions to build a successful Scotland and to ensure that our cities and communities are sustainable. Cultural and heritage protection (its sustainable management use and reuse) is a key contributor to realising these goals.

Scotland's Historic Environment strategy **Our Place in Time** 2014 states that Scotland's historic environment is "the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand". HES aims to use the past to make a better future, for the historic environment to make a real difference to people's lives: to our health, to our economy, to our culture, to our environment. Heritage should involve everyone so that we all benefit. Historic Environment Scotland's Corporate Plan is informed by and makes a contribution to wider national strategies and to the SDGs. By working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to successfully achieve its five strategic outcomes, HES contributes to the achievement of the National Outcomes and the SDGs.

The Data Picture: Protected nature sites

Target 11.4 aims to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. By the end of March 2020, 78.8% of natural features were assessed as being in a favourable condition, 0.1 percentage points lower than recorded in March 2019 and 2.8 percentage points higher than recorded in 2007.

Percentage of natural features on protected nature sites found to be in favourable condition



Source: Scottish Natural Heritage

Built Heritage Investment Plan

HES is leading on the development of a Built Heritage Investment Plan to ensure that Scotland's entire built heritage assets are managed sustainably and properly integrated into national master planning. Community groups and local authorities have been extensively involved in the process, alongside technical building and heritage experts, asset owners and funders, informing issues in the current process and identifying where opportunities lie. The plan is intended to produce a toolkit to help funders, planners and other sector stakeholders make decisions around sustainable funding and planning for the sector.

Sustainable reuse of historic properties from the BARR

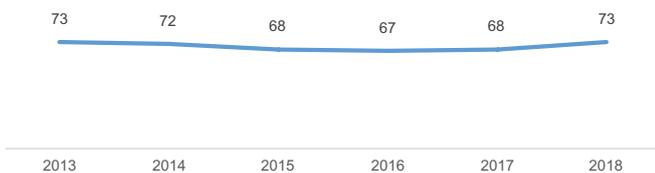
The **Buildings at Risk Register** (BARR) was established in 1990 to raise awareness of **buildings that are listed** or in Conservation Areas but vacant or in disrepair. Since 2008, we've seen over 750 historic buildings on the Register saved. In total, the scheme has helped save almost 2,000 buildings (since 1990) and more than 200 others are currently in the process of being restored. We work with developers and individuals to bring buildings back into use, but with the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, giving community bodies in Scotland **the right to buy**, we hope even more buildings at risk will be given a new lease of life through communities. With the right care, they will last the next 100 years and more, in new roles benefiting local communities.

The Data Picture: Historic sites

Target 11.4 aims to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

73% of pre-1919 dwellings were classified as having disrepair to critical elements in 2018, a similar rate to that measured in 2017 (68%). The proportion of pre-1919 dwellings classified as having disrepair to critical elements gradually increased from 73% in 2007 to a peak of 80% in 2012. The proportion decreased by 12 percentage points to 68% in 2015, and remained at a similar level in 2016 and 2017. In 2018, while the proportion appeared to increase 5 percentage points, from 68% in 2017, to 73% in 2018, this is within the survey's margin of error.

The percentage of pre-1919 dwellings classified as having disrepair to critical elements



Source: Scottish House Condition Survey

Working with partners to build social capital (target 11.3)

Volunteering

Volunteering in Scotland is already making a crucial contribution to building social capital, fostering trust, binding people together and making our communities better places to live and to work.

Action to increase volunteering participation for all and to address inequalities is vital to continue to expand opportunities for more people to volunteer and participate in society. Although an estimated 51% of the adult population in Scotland has volunteered

at some point in their lives, 49% have not.¹² An increase in volunteering will also make a considerable contribution towards our individual, community and national economic and social wellbeing, particularly in the face of demographic and societal change. The annual value of volunteering in Scotland is estimated to be £2.26 billion.¹³

Scotland's National Volunteering Outcomes Framework was developed over 2018 by the Scottish Government with partners from the volunteer and community sector, local government and NHS, with academics and social researchers, and with volunteers.

The objective of the Framework is to:

- Set out clearly and in one place a coherent and compelling narrative for volunteering
- Define the key outcomes desired for volunteering in Scotland over the next ten years
- Identify the key data and evidence that will inform, indicate and drive performance at national and local level
- Enable informed debate and decision about the optimal combination of programmes, investments and interventions

The development process included a broad and systematic literature review, completed by Stirling University, including consideration and analysis of evidence on volunteer characteristics, motivations, activities, benefits, outcomes, barriers and policies. The establishment, in partnership with Young Scot and Project Scotland, of the National Youth Volunteering Improvement Project, which tasked 25 young volunteers from across Scotland with exploring volunteering practice and experience and making recommendations for action. A series of roundtables and workshop discussions with key strategic and delivery partners also took place.

¹² [Volunteering Trends in Scotland: 2007 - 2017](#), Volunteer Scotland, Dec 2018

¹³ [Volunteering Trends in Scotland: 2007 - 2017](#), Volunteer Scotland, Dec 2018

Closer Look - Enabled and Supported

“It can be daunting when you first start as a Samaritan Listening Volunteer to think you’ll be supporting people who are facing all sorts of challenges, often at a time of deep distress or crisis.

But right from the start, Samaritans provides support and training to overcome those nerves and develop your confidence. I benefitted so much from the mentoring I received when I started and it’s really rewarding to now be able to help other new volunteers to find their feet. And I still benefit from the support of the wider volunteer team – I know that if there’s anything I’m struggling or concerned about I can talk it over.

I’ve also made some long-lasting friendships and I’ve really enjoyed getting to know volunteers from all walks of life. In the busyness of our everyday lives it can be easy to get caught up in our own world of work, family commitments and such. Volunteering is an opportunity to take a step back from that, connect with other people and feel part of something bigger.

Knowing I’ve got that support system behind me helps me to be the best Samaritan I can be – it’s given me the confidence to be there for others when they need it most.”

Julia, a Samaritans volunteer in Scotland

The **National Planning Framework 3** is Scotland’s long term spatial strategy. A new National Planning Framework (NPF4) will be developed. This has potential to bring together a wide range of actions on the SDGs. Under the **Housing Beyond 2021** programme, the Scottish Government is engaging with local government, businesses, the third sector, home owners, tenants and others to plan together how Scotland’s homes and communities should look and feel in 2040 and the options and choices to get there. The outputs from these engagements will be used to develop a vision and route map for housing to 2040.

Commitments in the Scottish Government’s 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- An investment of over £500 million in improved bus priority infrastructure to reduce the impact of congestion on bus services and increase bus usage
- Extend the two-year £6 million package of funding through the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund by making another £3 million available to invest in new projects in 2020-21, to further enhance the experience of visitors to our rural and island tourist sites

Challenges and next steps

The refreshed National Performance Framework (NPF) has kindness and wellbeing at its heart. The Scottish Government is engaging with stakeholders in conversations about how to place these at the centre of policy making and service delivery. Work is currently underway to better understand how wellbeing and kindness can be measured. The Scottish Government are working with Carnegie Trust, Edinburgh University and colleagues across public, third and private sectors, to find specific actions that will improve the influence of our values in our collected actions and systems.




Economy


Environment


Fair Work
and Business


Poverty


Health

There are fundamental changes needed to the way that all of society produces and consumes good and services. Multilateral action between government, business, and non-state organisations is required to make the changes needed to encourage and grow sustainable production and consumption. Scotland is recognised for its leadership in encouraging and promoting a more circular economy. There are great examples of innovation and good practice which support some positive trends across the targets in this goal. With the 2030 deadline our collective efforts need to intensify.

**Circular economies and waste reduction
(target 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4)**

Scotland’s circular economy strategy, **Making Things Last**, was published in 2016 (target 12.1). Zero Waste Scotland, together with partners, are working with enterprises, the public sector and local authorities to promote and showcase more circular practices. For example, they provide a material brokerage service, a one-stop-shop for growing Scotland’s reprocessing sector, helping local authorities and the public sector get a better deal for the recycled materials collected in their communities. Sponsored by the Scottish Government, it is a partnership between Scottish local authorities, Zero Waste Scotland and Scottish Procurement. It aims to match up the supply and demand for high value recycling, which will provide certainty of supply for those who wish to invest in Scottish reprocessing plants, and certainty of demand for local authorities.

There is also a Circular Economy Investment Fund in place which offers £18 million as grant funding to small and medium sized enterprises who are helping to create a more circular economy. There are now many area based initiatives such as Circular Edinburgh, Circular Glasgow, Circular Tayside, which are based on partnership approaches between Chambers of Commerce, local authorities and others.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)'s **statutory purpose** is to **protect and improve the environment** in ways that, as far as possible, also help create health and wellbeing benefits and sustainable economic growth. In fulfilling its statutory purpose, SEPA are **directly contributing** to the Scottish Government's Purpose and National Outcomes as well as contributing to the SDGs. Growing the nation in ways that makes our natural capital available for future generations is the core of SEPA's regulatory strategy **One Planet Prosperity**, through which it is developing ambitious and innovative approaches that help the businesses it regulates to reduce water, energy and materials use in ways that improve their profitability and long term viability. SEPA's aim, through the implementation of its regulatory strategy, is to migrate away from separate media based regimes into an integrated framework of authorisations, placing sectors at the heart of everything it does.

Sector plans, providing a clear, coordinated approach to regulation and engagement, represent the foundation for developing new partnerships, engaging operators and stakeholders and informing how SEPA staff work to produce guidance and evidence for decision making.

Integrating the cross-cutting SDGs into its support for sectors, SEPA are also delivering the SDGs through sustainable growth agreements (SGAs) (target 12.6). **SGAs** are shared agreements that enable regulated businesses and other organisations to set their own 'beyond compliance' actions and targets that also improve profitability, for example by driving reductions in water, energy and material use and waste. The 21st century challenges SEPA is seeking to tackle are so large and inter-connected that most solutions will come through partnership working (Goal 17). By using these approaches SEPA is hoping to encourage others to meet outcomes that are aligned to the SDGs.

The Data Picture: Carbon Footprint

Target 13.2 is to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

Between 1998 and 2016, Scotland's carbon footprint (emissions from all greenhouse gases) fell by 12.3 per cent, from 84.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) to a record low of 73.8 MtCO₂e in 2016.

Million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent



Source: Scotland's Carbon Footprint, 2016

Waste (targets 12.5 and 12.8)

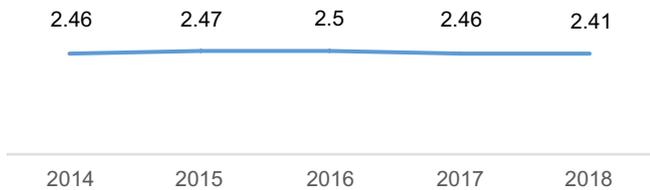
Closer Look - The Edinburgh Remakery

The community-led re-use, repair and recycling sector is attracting interest in Scotland. There are many, mostly small, enterprises, often social enterprises or charities engaged in a variety of activities. They often have social objectives as well as environmental. The Edinburgh Remakery, for example, is an environmental social enterprise committed to diverting waste from landfill and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups by promoting and teaching repair and reuse skills.

The Data Picture: Waste Generated

By 2030, the globe needs to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse (target 12.5). The amount of household waste generated in Scotland fell by 2% (56 thousand tonnes) between 2017 and 2018. There has been a reduction of 8% since 2011, which was the first year comparable data was collected.

Household waste generated in million tonnes



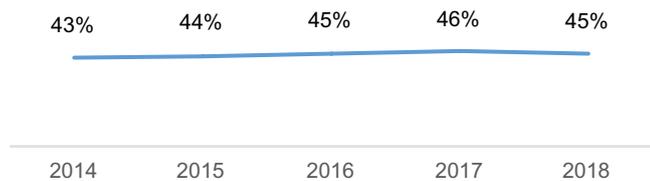
Source: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

The Data Picture: Recycling

By 2030, the globe needs to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse (target 12.5).

In 2018 the Scottish household waste recycling rate was 45%. The amount of household waste recycled in 2018 was 1.07 million tonnes.

Scottish household waste recycling rates



Source: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Scotland has a set of ambitious targets for waste reduction: 33% reduction in waste by 2025, waste prevention (15% reduction in waste from 2011) and recycling (70%) for 2025, as well as targets and regulations to reduce landfilled waste (banning biodegradable municipal waste to landfill from 2021, and setting a target of just 5% of all waste going to landfill by 2025). These targets are co-owned by Zero Waste Scotland, SEPA, and the Scottish Government and work is currently underway to develop a meaningful baseline, and measurement strategy to ensure Scotland is delivering on these targets and is on track to meet the SDG 2030 deadline.

Zero Waste Scotland also has a dedicated food and drink waste prevention team, which runs a business support service, consumer engagement campaign (**Love Food Hate Waste**) (LFHW), and engages with key sectors at a strategic level. LFHW campaigns are largely focused on awareness raising and driving behaviour change. Over the six month period October 2017–March 2018, LFHW campaigns reached approximately 300 million views via multiple media platforms. Scotland’s Food & Drink Advice and Support Service (2016-2018) suggests there was a total lifetime attributed cost saving of £4.9 million and lifetime attributed carbon saving of 12,000 tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

Work to date has helped local authorities transform waste and recycling collection infrastructure in Scotland, with related shifts in crucial behaviours such as food waste collection and reprocessing. The proportion of households making use of local authority-provided food caddies was 55% in 2017, similar to the 56% in 2016. This represents a substantial increase from the 26% of households using food waste recycling caddies in 2012 (**Scottish Household Survey 2017**). In reprocessing, initiatives have been started to turn **Bread to beer** and to use **anaerobic digestion for electricity**.

The Scottish Government is developing a **Food Waste Reduction Action Plan** in collaboration with Zero Waste Scotland to set out a range of actions that will help to achieve the 33% food reduction target (target 12.3). Scotland is developing a deposit return scheme for drinks packaging. This approach to dealing with empty drinks containers aims to bring an increase in recycling, improve the quality of material collected for recycling, help combat littering, and prevent plastic and other materials polluting our rivers, oceans and countryside. This scheme will specifically contribute to target 12.5.

The issues of littering, single use plastic and overall concern with waste reduction has gained momentum in Scotland, especially accelerated by the catalytic role of Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet episode. It inspired a huge range of community led activities supported by charities, like Keep Scotland Beautiful, such as [beach cleans](#) and [community clean ups](#).

Roadside Litter Campaign

In 2016, Keep Scotland Beautiful launched a [national campaign to tackle roadside litter](#), with the aims of raising awareness, improving infrastructure and starting to change the behaviour of those responsible. The campaign, with its slogan Give your litter a lift, take it home, has worked with a wide range of partners including Transport Scotland, Zero Waste Scotland, Visit Scotland, road operators and local authorities. The second phase of the campaign, which started in August 2018, focusses on developing new interventions, focusing on behaviour change and working to make necessary improvements to litter legislation and remove barriers to effective enforcement.

Glasgow Cup Movement

Keep Scotland Beautiful and Paper Cup Recovery and Recycling Group (PCRRG) have launched Scotland's first single use cup recycling initiative [Cup Movement](#) in Glasgow, where 95 million disposable cups are used annually. The initiative aims to tackle the city's single use cup waste problem by improving recycling infrastructure and encouraging Glaswegians to change their behaviours. The partners are working with retailers, local authorities and other key organisations to install cup collection points across the greater Glasgow area and display educational posters aimed at encouraging consumers to switch to reusable cups, or to recycle their disposable ones. The PCRRG is calling for waste management firms to improve their recycling infrastructure for paper coffee cups. Such cups are commonly sealed with a plastic lining to make them waterproof. Although both materials are recyclable, the lining cannot be handled by most recycling facilities, while the paper is subjected to contamination issues. Progress will be tracked throughout 2019 with the aim to gather evidence on this type of model, for potential wider adoption in the future.

Sustainable public and business consumption (target 12.7)

Sustainable public procurement

Scottish Government views procurement as a strategic enabler to delivering social, economic and environmental outcomes. Scotland has a range of sustainable procurement measures in place. The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 includes a [Sustainable Procurement Duty](#) that requires public bodies to consider how procurements could be used to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing and enable small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), [supported businesses](#) and the third sector to access contract opportunities. [Statutory guidance and sustainable procurement tools](#) that underpin delivery of the duty, have been developed to help buyers consider a range of social, economic and environmental factors including: climate change; employment, skills and training; equality; and fairly and ethically traded etc. For example, In addition to climate change and energy efficiency regulatory requirements, and to maximise the contribution that public procurement can make to carbon reduction and climate change, the Scottish Government focusses on resource and energy efficiency, including the circular economy. The tools and supporting guidance were developed from a United Nations Environment Programme product that aligned to the SDGs and were tailored to align to the NPF.

The Scottish Government will publish the first Scottish Ministers' Report on procurement activity in Scotland based on information contained within individual annual procurement reports from across the public sector. Research to assess the impact and value of the sustainable procurement duty on inclusive economic growth (focusing on the contribution to National Outcomes) will commence later this year.

Scottish Government has worked with partners across the wider public sector, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Zero Waste Scotland, to develop our approach to delivering sustainable outcomes through public procurement. An extensive programme of training and mentoring support has been widely provided, with over 700 people across the public sector receiving.

Zero Waste Scotland has worked closely with Scottish Government on improving sustainable procurement practices. Initially they focused on supporting compliance with the Marrakech Approach to Sustainable Public Procurement, and then shifted to a focus on encouraging circular procurement. They have worked with key partners such as NHS Scotland, Scotland Excel, and Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges, and contributed to the development of more sustainable central frameworks for the Scottish public sector, as well as providing more targeted training and project-specific support.

Closer Look - Scottish Building Federation

The Scottish Building Federation sees procurement as the essential driver of achieving economic, societal and environmental goals. In the Construction Leadership Framework the organisation examines best practice for procurement based on the Scottish Procurement Model which links deliverables with outcomes. Aligning policy with strategy and linking it to the whole procurement system enables a more focused delivery of the National Outcomes and SDGs. The Framework is a detailed 320 page reference manual which shows how this can be achieved in detail.

Closer Look - Business reporting on SDGs (target 12.6)

SSE is a major energy provider headquartered in Scotland and a recognised leader in sustainability reporting. Its 2018 sustainability report provides a comprehensive review of sustainability strategy and performance, and identifies a total of eight SDGs and fifteen SDG targets that are most material to its business and its stakeholders. The report's overview page connects existing corporate targets to the SDGs at goal level, and applies a simple 'red-amber-green' snapshot of progress. For stakeholders who want more detail, the importance of all eight material SDGs and their relevant SDG targets is explained, and a description of the company's contribution to each one given. This clear reporting makes SSE an exemplar of SDG 12.6 in Scotland.

Preserving and promoting our historic and cultural environments

Sustainable tourism

VisitScotland, Scotland's National Tourist Organisation, is a key actor in promoting sustainable tourism across Scotland. It produces an annual sustainability report which highlights the key actions VisitScotland is taking to influence and drive sustainability within the tourism sector. The latest [report was published May 2018](#). Some key highlight activities undertaken in 2017/2018 include:

- Increase sustainability minimum requirements as part of the VisitScotland Quality Assurance accreditation
- Continue to work on internal sustainability activity.
- Recruitment of restaurants and cafés to Taste or Best accreditation, providing advice and support to increase the sourcing and promotion of Scottish food and drink
- Business guides with advice and support on topics from energy, water, waste, community engagement and adapting to climate change
- Ongoing promotion of Green Tourism programme.
- Working with Glasgow City Council to support the sustainability of the destination
- Promotion of low carbon travel options

The organisation provides sustainability advice and carries out basic assessments. Since January 2015, sustainability minimum requirements have been incorporated into the Quality Assurance scheme for businesses, with increasing minimum requirements year on year since then. Information from 2853 Quality Assured businesses on activity undertaken in 2016, shows that around 97% of these meet the sustainability requirements set of 2016.

Perth based Green Business is the not-for-profit company that operates the Green Tourism programme which has three key roles: 1) to analyse the performance of businesses against over 150 sustainability indicators, issuing sustainability assessments every two years; 2) to offer support and advice about how businesses can better their performance; and 3) to provide a badge of honour for those businesses making practical steps to reduce

their impacts and improve their efficiency. Depending on the level of achievement tourism operators can be awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold award and use this in their marketing to customers.

In addition to aligning to the SDGs, the programme also aligns with Scotland's Economic Strategy Green Tourism and supports the objective of boosting competitiveness and Scotland's economic performance while addressing inclusive growth, low carbon and reduced waste and aiming for a fully circular economy. It also aligns with Scotland's Tourism 2020 (TS2020) strategy, launched in June 2012, with an ambition to grow visitor spend. Sustainability is an underpinning principle of this national strategy, so that growth is achieved in a way that is viable for the long term, to enhance Scotland's communities and improve our natural environment. Amongst the strategy's sustainable objectives are: help the sector adapt to climate change, reduce resource use and waste and reduce transport and tourism's impact. This underpins Green Tourism's role in working with members, helping them realize these objectives and contribute to a sustainable Scotland.

The Scottish Government is in the process of refreshing the strategy - [Scotland's tourism strategy beyond 2020](#) – which will seek to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth across all of Scotland, including our most fragile rural communities, and will be underpinned by fair work principles. It will create a world-class tourism destination that attracts visitors from across the world to enjoy high-quality and unique experiences and enhances Scotland's global reputation.

For the future, the Green Tourism programme aims to focus on intensifying and building benefits for, e.g. the circular economy, reduced waste products, better sustainable fish choices, better reporting on CO2 to consumers and in the supply chain etc. They plan to take action and be more proactive in advising businesses what actions to take, to maximise benefits for the planet and business. At the heart of Green Tourism will be the use and application of digital technologies and services, to make assessments more productive, provide advice and make reporting easier and more efficient.

Closer Look - Cultural and Environmental Tourism

Historic Environment Scotland

Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body set up to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment, looking after a wide range of sites and historic visitor attractions across Scotland, amongst which are Edinburgh, Urquhart, St Andrews, Doune and Stirling castles, Linlithgow Palace and Dryburgh Abbey. Properties vary in scale and from being open all year round to seasonal.

HES has been working with Green Tourism since 2001 when Stirling and Craigmillar castles first joined. HES's corporate commitment now sees 67 of its properties with Gold (40) and Silver (27) awards. This commitment sees common quality and sustainably standards sought and applied throughout the portfolio of visitor attractions, including e.g. conversion to LED lighting, access statements and information about public transport for all sites, local and Scottish procurement where catering is provided and for retail facilities, information on site about walks in the area, identification guides about flora and fauna, recycling processes etc.

Central to HES's approach and success has been the corporate adoption of the principle of Green Tourism and the induction and gaining support of staff at the venues, to translate corporate policies into practical outcomes for each venue.

Closer Look - Cultural and Environmental Tourism

Glenuig Inn

Glenuig Inn, on the Sound of Arisaig, clearly demonstrates that leisure and tourism businesses can run efficiently and profitably with a minimal environmental footprint whilst opening all year round. From the start in 2007, the vision was that environmental sustainability should be at the fore and 10 years on, that's still the case. No decision is made without full consideration of environmental impacts and fully engaging the team in the process. A traditional highland inn with modern,

spacious accommodation, serving locally sourced Scottish food to visitors from around the world, Glenuig Inn attracts those who appreciate its unique location and ethos. A long term Green Tourism Gold award holder, achievements include:

- 100% renewable energy
- Zero food waste leaving site - dried, sterilised and added to biomass as fuel
- One domestic bin per fortnight to landfill
- No single use plastics or black bin liners
- Lower energy bills in winter than summer
- Sustainable supply chain management - packaging take-back scheme
- LED lighting throughout

The combined infrastructure measures, and integrated operating procedures not only significantly reduce carbon emissions, but also have reduced total energy consumption to almost half whilst growing the business substantially.

Scottish Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) reporting working group

The **Working Group** is hosted in partnership by SEPA and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS). It is informal and time bound bringing together a pool of leading thinkers to focus on two key challenges:

- How can businesses seize the opportunities of the SDGs by building them into their business models and also benefit the Scottish economy, environment and most importantly, our people?
- How can the Scottish approach to One Planet Prosperity and SDGs create transformational impact across the UK and globally?

The group will work together to develop practical tools and approaches that help businesses from SME's through to large corporate bodies build the SDGs into their reporting frameworks. The practical SDG tools developed by the group will help businesses identify new opportunities and set ambitious targets that make them more sustainable, resilient and marketable with benefits for the economy, environment and people. The project will deliver against all the SDGs. It will focus on looking at SDGs using the areas of people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership. It will also host a meeting to look at the connections between SDGs.

Partnerships also span beyond Scotland and the UK in order to make the best of the available opportunities to learn from others. Zero Waste Scotland, for example, and involved in UK networks (e.g. Courtauld) and are members of the EU's expert **Platform On Food Losses and Food Waste**. A key focus of this work is understanding how the SDGs and EU goals and measurement in this area relate to Scotland, as well as transferring knowledge of what works between countries.

Challenges and next steps

The development of metrics to enable us to assess the quantities of materials being consumed and the impact that is having on our planet is very important. One of the key challenges for Goal 12 is to fill in the data gaps to help Scotland evidence its progress. For example, material footprint – a measure of how much material is consumed per person – is measured at UK level but there is no breakdown available for Scotland. Also, material flow and consumption data is based on weight and, although this can be complemented with information on carbon, it still falls short of giving us the full picture in terms of environmental impact. The work currently underway through, for example, establishing a baseline and measuring framework for waste reduction will be helpful in this. The work of the ICAS group to encourage the private sector to embrace and report against the SDGs will also help paint a better Scottish picture.

In addition to the data and monitoring challenge, there is also the challenge in the length and international nature of supply chains. This makes it complicated to regulate production and to introduce standards with regard to materials used, design of products and good practice.

Achieving further shifts in consumer behaviour will require work and collaboration across Scotland. The Scottish Government has committed to developing an Environment Strategy for Scotland. In 2018, an online discussion was held to seek feedback on six draft outcomes to help achieve the Strategy's overall vision, including: 'The global footprint of our consumption and production is sustainable'. There was strong support for this outcome in feedback from the discussion. Further work will be undertaken during the development of the strategy to identify priorities for action to deliver the outcomes.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- The Scottish Government will consult on draft proposals to be included in a new Circular Economy Bill, and bring forward legislation in the coming year – this will embed an innovative approach to reducing, reusing and recycling materials that we know cause environmental harm
- Action to meet or exceed the standards set out in the European Union's Single Use Plastic Directive, including consulting on raising the minimum charge for the single-use carrier bag from 5p to 10p and banning the most problematic single use plastic items by 2021
- A consultation on legislation to require public bodies to set out how they will meet climate change and circular economy obligations, mobilising the £11 billion of annual public procurement to support the climate emergency response



Environment



Economy

Tackling climate change is the defining issue of our time and it is crucial that we all take action to prevent the acceleration of a global crisis. Across Scotland and the globe, public awareness and concern are increasing, as the recent youth strikes and protests indicate. The Scottish Government is acting accordingly. The First Minister of Scotland has declared a climate emergency in April 2019, in line with the existing evidence on climate change and the recent scientific advice, including from the [Committee on Climate Change](#). As a first step in response to this emergency, the Scottish Government has introduced amendments to Scotland’s Climate Change Bill to introduce a net zero target for all greenhouse gases to 2045.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published their [report](#) on limiting global warming to 1.5°C in October 2018. This indicates that the consequences of 1°C of global warming are already being seen through such phenomena as more extreme weather events, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice. The report highlights a number of impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C or more. For instance, the report states that by 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 centimetres lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C, and the likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2°C. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions need to be balanced by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere.

In Scotland too, we are already starting to feel the impacts of a changing climate, as average temperatures in Scotland increase in line with global trends, annual rainfall has increased since the 1970s and sea levels have risen around our coasts.¹⁴ And more serious impacts are being felt across the world, particularly by communities that are already vulnerable and have done the least to cause global warming. The IPCC report however, tells us that it is not too late to turn things around, but that transformative change is needed. And Scotland is leading the way in the transition to a carbon neutral world.

Following independent, expert advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) in May 2019, the Scottish Government responded immediately with amendments to Scotland's Climate Change Bill to set a 2045 target for net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases and increase the targets for 2030 and 2040. The Scottish Parliament's Environment Committee voted in favour of these targets at Stage 2 of the Bill process in June and subsequently the Scottish Parliament voted to pass the Bill at Stage 3, in September 2019. This means that Scotland's ambition is to end contribution to climate change, definitively, within a generation.

We are working hard to ensure our high ambition is matched by on-the-ground delivery. The Scottish Government has committed to updating the current Climate Change Plan within 6 months of the Bill receiving Royal Assent. We are looking across our responsibilities in Scotland to make sure we continue with the policies that are working and identify areas where we can go further, faster. The Scottish Government has already announced new and ambitious action on deposit return, agriculture and renewables and a change in the policy on Air Departure Tax. It has also announced help for social landlords to improve energy efficiency; measures to empower energy consumers to shape Scotland's move towards affordable, clean energy; and funding to promote locally sourced food and drink. The Government is also significantly increasing funds available for peatland restoration in 2019/20 by providing an additional £11 million. The CCC has been explicit that "Scotland cannot deliver net zero emissions by 2045 through devolved policy alone". It is welcome that the UK Government has followed Scotland's lead to legislate for a net zero target.

UK-wide policies will need to ramp up significantly, and the Scottish Government has called on the UK Government to act in reserved areas.

Scotland has already almost halved emissions since 1990, which are down 47% in 2017, while growing the economy, increasing employment and productivity and we will continue in this vein. Our transition to net zero will be just and fair to everyone. No-one will be left behind. The Scottish Government's **Big Climate Conversation** is engaging the public, communities, businesses, industry, and the public sector in a discussion about what more can be done.

Scotland's overall contribution to the newly proposed emissions target will be based upon a shared understanding between government, society and business of what needs to be done. Whilst Scotland has already made great strides in delivering on Goal 13, we recognise that we need to deliver the transformative changes that are needed to meet our increased ambition, and require a fundamental shift across all sectors of the economy and all parts of society. This offers social and economic opportunities, but it is also important to recognise that there will be risks and challenges to overcome.

Integration into national planning, strategies and policies (target 13.2)

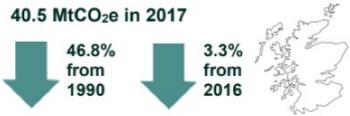
Climate Change (Scotland) Act and current Climate Change Bill

Scotland has a long-established statutory framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change, which is subject to ongoing scrutiny and review. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 introduced ambitious targets and legislation to reduce Scotland's emissions by at least 80% by 2050. As well as domestic emissions, Scotland was the first country in the world to include a fair share of emissions from international aviation and shipping in its targets and to mandate that we achieve our goals by domestic effort alone.

¹⁴ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Final-Assessment-of-the-first-SCCAP-CCC-2019.pdf>

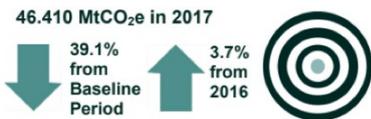
SOURCE EMISSIONS

A measure of the actual emissions or removals in Scotland. Includes international aviation and shipping. Used for UK and international comparisons.



ADJUSTED EMISSIONS: FOR REPORTING AGAINST TARGETS

Emissions adjusted to account for Scotland's participation in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU-ETS). These adjusted emissions are used to measure progress against the targets set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.



As well as setting the statutory basis for emission reductions, the Act additionally places duties on public bodies relating to climate change and requires all Public Bodies in Scotland who appear on the 'Major Player' list to submit an annual report on compliance with their climate change duties. Local government has made a political commitment to combatting climate change, through the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The full scale of such activity is captured in the annual reports produced as part of the public bodies reporting duty. The reports set out progress made with reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change across the public sector including the NHS, local authorities, transport authorities, government agencies and universities and colleges. The reports are published on the [Sustainable Scotland Network website](#).

Closer Look - NHS Lothian

NHS Lothian holds the Carbon Trust Standard (and has done so consecutively for 8 years) and submits a mandatory climate change report to the Scottish Government. The NHS Board receives a report on Sustainability and Climate change on an annual basis. NHS Lothian, along with other NHS Boards in Scotland have participated in a Sustainability Assessment Exercise, which addresses all the SDGs. Many of these goals have been core to the NHS for some considerable time.

In 2018, Scotland became one of the first countries to respond to the United Nations Paris Agreement with legislation when it introduced the new [Climate Change Bill](#) to the Scottish Parliament in May 2018 to raise the ambition of its domestic emissions reduction targets in line with the Agreement. The targets in the Bill have been further updated in response to the publication of the [Committee on Climate Change's advice](#) to set a legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. This means that Scotland's contribution to climate change will end within a generation.

Climate Change Plan

Scotland has annual targets for greenhouse gas emissions and Scottish Ministers are required to report regularly to the Scottish Parliament on Scotland's emissions and on the progress being made towards meeting our targets. Regular reports are also required setting out proposals and policies for meeting these targets, Since the 2009 Act was commenced, three such plans have been published.

Policies and proposals through which Scotland's statutory emissions reduction targets from 2017 - 2032 will be met are set out in the Scottish Government's third [Climate Change Plan \(RPP3\)](#), published in February 2018. The policies and proposals in the Plan include plans for the energy, buildings, transport, industry, waste, land use, land use change and forestry, and agriculture sectors.

Energy, transport and environment

The Plan was developed alongside the first whole-system [Energy Strategy](#) published in December 2017 setting out the Scottish Government's 2050 vision for energy supply and use in Scotland, to ensure this is aligned with and supports our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. More information about this strategy and Scotland's support for clean and affordable energy is in Goal 7.

Tackling climate change reaches every aspect of the Scottish Government's responsibilities and is designed to enable everyone to contribute to one of the most global challenges of our time. For example, the draft National Transport Strategy will have climate change action embedded throughout. The draft strategic framework for our National Transport Strategy (NTS2) has four priority themes and 12 outcomes and vision:

We will have a sustainable, inclusive, and accessible transport system helping to deliver a healthier, more prosperous and fairer Scotland for communities, business and visitors with four priority themes: Helps our Economy Prosper, Improves our Health and Wellbeing, Takes Climate Action and Promotes Equality.

In 2018, the Scottish Government invited feedback on a draft Environment Strategy Vision and set of supporting Outcomes. The draft Vision is based on the concept of 'one planet prosperity', which means 'protecting nature and living within the Earth's sustainable limits, while building a more prosperous, innovative and successful nation'. The Scottish Government takes seriously the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' recent warning](#) about the damage human beings are causing to the planet. Its report finds that the drivers of that damage have accelerated over the past 50 years, and climate change is one of the top five causes. Taking action to mitigate climate change will therefore be a key element of living within the Earth's sustainable limits.

One of the Strategy's Outcomes focuses specifically on climate action: 'We are a climate leader and play our full role in limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C'. This is draft wording presented for feedback in an online discussion last year and will be reviewed taking account of feedback received through the online discussion, and other recent policy developments, before finalising the Outcome wording for the Environment Strategy. When developing the Strategy, the Scottish Government will identify high level priorities for action to deliver this Outcome; outline the wider economic and social benefits this will create; and demonstrate how this will help to deliver our contribution to the UN's SDGs.

For other relevant strategies, such as the Land Use Strategy, see Goal 15 and the Tourism Strategy, see Goal 11 and 12.

Local delivery

As major players under the Climate Change (Scotland) 2009 Act, local authorities play a critical role in the delivery of Scotland's climate change ambitions. Local authorities work in partnership with the Scottish Government and other stakeholders to design and deliver a wide range of programmes, in transport (for example active travel, electric vehicles), planning (sustainable town centres), housing (energy efficiency measures), energy policy (local heat and energy efficiency strategies), education (both in schools and in the wider community), waste management (circular economy, recycling, landfill bans) to name but a few.

The [Sustainable Scotland Network \(SSN\)](#) is the national network for public sector sustainability and climate change professionals. It exists to support professionals and their organisations, so that the public sector is better able to deliver on sustainable development and climate change. The network also showcases action taken to reduce emissions and supports deeper commitment, action and innovation on climate change and sustainability. The SSN supports members and public sector organisations to address their climate change duties and demonstrate leadership on climate change and sustainable development by:

- Raising awareness and understanding of climate change and sustainability across the Public Sector
- Building capacity to scale up and improve public sector action on climate change at officer, leadership and project levels
- Ensuring climate change reporting is effective and efficient and supports decision making across the Public Sector

A SSN Steering Group provides a senior-level, trusted space for public sector practitioners and decision-makers to engage directly with the Scottish Government, to work directly with peers from across the public sector, and to steer the development of SSN. The Steering Group is made up of SSN members, strategic partners, the Scottish Government, and delivery partners, Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation and Sniffer.

Closer Look - Dynamic Coast: Scotland's National Coastal Change Assessment

Dynamic Coast is a multi-stakeholder project led by the Scottish Government, managed by Scottish Natural Heritage, carried out by the University of Glasgow and is funded by CREW (Centre for Expertise in Water). Phase one of the project forecasts coastal change to 2050 based on past erosion rates. Key findings: four fifths of Scotland's coastline is hard but 19% (3,802 km) is soft and at risk of erosion. Scotland's beaches and dunes play a vital role in protecting £13 billion worth of buildings and roads, more than twice the £5 billion currently protected by engineered seawalls. Natural defences currently protect 9,000 buildings, 500 km of road, 60 km of rail track, 300 km of water supply lines, and airport runways such as Islay.

The second phase (Jan 2018 to Dec 2020) is investigating the anticipated impact of climate change on future coastal erosion and erosion exacerbated flooding and developing Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience Plans at "Super Sites", including Montrose Bay, St Andrews and Skara Brae.

Improved mitigation, adaptation and resilience in all countries (targets 13.1 and 13.3)

Climate change adaptation and mitigation are intrinsically linked. The more global mitigation the less we have to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Whilst Scotland is striving for the most ambitious, credible, climate emissions targets, our climate is already changing. No matter how successful we are at reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, it will still be necessary to adapt to climate change because many impacts of past emissions are already happening and will lead to changes in our climate for decades to come. As part of that it is also important to consider how efforts to tackle climate change – both in terms of mitigation and adaptation, can be delivered in a way that promotes social cohesion and equality.

Mitigation

To date, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which includes domestic emissions as well as a fair share of emissions from international aviation and shipping in the targets, has been effective in driving action. Scottish greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have almost halved since 1990.¹⁵ And Scotland is also already seeing the economic benefits of the low carbon transition. In 2017, the Scottish low carbon and renewable energy sector supported over 46,000 jobs, and generated over £11 billion in turnover.¹⁶

The agriculture sector contributes to 90% of the total ammonia emissions in Scotland. Whilst ammonia emissions have slightly decreased since 1990, a recent increase in the use of urea-based fertilisers has led to emissions increasing, resulting in a plateauing of emissions. The Scottish Government's [Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future](#) (CAFS) strategy is currently being reviewed to assess progress to date and make recommendations for future priorities. A working group looking specifically at agricultural, domestic and industrial emissions will consider and make recommendations on ammonia emissions as part of the review. We propose to consult on recommendations made later this year, 2019.

We understand that a fine balance must be found to ensure greenhouse gas reductions can continue to take place whilst Scotland continues to, for example, produce secure and sustainable food. To achieve this balance we are committed to working with our agricultural industry and our renowned scientific community, to find solutions that are beneficial for the environment, Scotland's farmers and our wider food and drink industry. Our industry has a positive story to tell, such as the fact that we have seen a 29% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 1990 baseline year, and as world-leaders in quality assurance and the priority we give to animal welfare for example.

We believe, that while steps are taken to reduce emissions from agriculture, for example, this should not be done in a way which simply exports the problem to countries which, in this instance, have a poorer track record in terms of animal welfare and production methods. We must also not forget that,

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-emissions-annual-target-report-2016/>

¹⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/finalestimates/2017#direct-and-indirect-activity-in-the-low-carbon-and-renewable-energy-economy-generated-796-billion-turnover-in-2017>

Scottish farmers do a lot to contribute to emissions reduction through forestry, land use and electricity generation and we should recognise that emissions counted against agriculture in the Greenhouse Gas inventory do not reflect all that farmers do to reduce Scotland's emissions. Balancing and reconciling this complex picture is an ongoing challenge across all our mitigation efforts.

The Scottish Government has taken a range of other actions to tackle climate change and reduce Scotland's GHG emissions. For example, it has:

- Launched the low carbon innovation fund – a £13.5 million development and capital funding award, and support for a number of world leading hydrogen demonstration projects, providing £6.3 million to date for the Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project, and £1.3 million for Orkney's Surf N Turf Project, the only project in the world producing hydrogen from tidal power
- Supports a young farmer climate change champions scheme, which will work through peer-to-peer learning to highlight how farmers can improve efficiency, reduce GHG emissions, reduce costs, and enhance the sustainability of businesses

We acknowledge that transport is currently Scotland's biggest emitting sector and that emissions from transport have been rising since 2013. That is why Scotland has bold plans in place and we intend to take further action. Our existing plans for transport, including our commitment to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars by 2032, will see the greatest emissions reduction, in absolute terms, of any sector over the lifetime of the [Climate Change Plan](#) (2018-2032). However, we acknowledge that further action to decarbonise transport is required to achieve net zero emissions by 2045. We are currently taking steps to further strengthen our policy framework on climate change through a review of the *National Transport Strategy* (NTS), for which taking climate action is a priority. In addition, a number of areas in the Transport Bill will contribute to our emissions reduction agenda including Low Emission Zones and the Workplace Parking Levy.

Following Scotland's commitment to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars by 2032, 2018 saw 48% growth in registrations of ultra-low emission cars in Scotland. 2019 will see the 1000th public EV charge point installed in Scotland. Scotland has one of Europe's most comprehensive charge point networks. The Scottish Green Bus Fund has assisted the purchase of 475 low emission buses, and the proportion of ScotRail passengers travelling on electric trains has now reached 72%.

Since 2008, the Climate Challenge Fund has provided 1,097 grants totalling more than £101 million to 658 communities to support their move to low carbon living. The projects themselves cover activities that help deliver SDG 13 such as increasing the energy efficiency of community buildings, food growing, cutting waste, and the expansion of active and sustainable transport options. Projects aim to improve the climate literacy of their communities, and must have a measurable carbon emissions reduction.

The range of commitments in our Climate Change Plan mean that our climate action also helps to deliver other SDGs. For example our commitment to increase our woodland creation target to 15,000 hectares per year by 2025, increase woodland cover from around 18% to 21% by 2032, restore 250,000 hectares of Scotland's degraded peatland by 2030 (see Goal 15), energy efficiency measures for housing including the launch of Energy Efficient Scotland (see Goal 7, 11), and continued efficiency improvements in Scottish agriculture (see Goal 2).

Further examples of action taken across Scotland is set out in the case studies below. Case studies in Goal 7 also show action taken to reduce emissions.

Closer Look - SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks' £20 million Green Economy Fund is supporting delivery of Scotland's most innovative low-carbon transport and heating projects, from electric buses to water-powered underground heat pumps. Second round applications to the fund are to support a wide range of different activities that can be seen to impact the Energy Network and demonstrate measurable social and/or environmental impacts.

Closer Look - Creative Carbon Scotland

Since 2018, Creative Scotland has required all Regularly Funded Organisations to produce a Carbon Management Plan covering the period of their funding as well as reporting annually on their carbon emissions. The response in the sector has been overwhelmingly positive, with over 99% of organisations reporting their emissions in September 2018, and 111 providing Carbon Management Plans for their funded period 2018-21. For 2019, organisations will be asked to provide a review and update of the Carbon Management plans they submitted in 2018 and report on carbon emissions for the period April 2018-March 2019.

For the organisations involved, the process of emissions reporting through to Carbon Management Planning in 2018 has been a learning process which has instilled a growing confidence in 'Carbon Literacy' and an appreciation of the benefits of managing resources to save carbon. The implementation of these Carbon Management Plans will involve more learning and development of different systems. Experience from manufacturing and other business sectors has shown that the best way to reduce emissions is to plan ahead, to examine the sources of the emissions from our past activities and make changes to find better, lower carbon ways to achieve our objectives. Like all plans, the outcomes of changes may not be what we expect with results in some cases exceeding expectations and in others disappointing, but in all cases our understanding grows.

Closer Look - The Green Arts Initiative

The Green Arts Initiative is an interactive community of Scottish arts organisations working to reduce their environmental impact. Run by Creative Carbon Scotland and Festivals Edinburgh since 2013, the Green Arts Initiative supports Scottish arts organisations to be at the forefront of growing an environmentally sustainable Scotland. network which aims to build and maintain a Scottish green arts community. Run by Creative Carbon Scotland and Festivals Edinburgh, it operates by:

- Supporting the sharing of relevant knowledge, ideas and experiences
- Enhancing the sustainability competencies of arts organisations across the country

All members use the Green Arts Initiative branding on their publicity, online, and in their building, to demonstrate their commitment to developing a greener arts sector throughout Scotland.

Closer Look - Edinburgh Open Streets

Edinburgh was the first city in the UK to join the [Open Streets movement](#), joining Paris, Bogota, New York and many others with a programme of people friendly routes around the old town. Open Streets are programmes that temporarily open streets to people by closing them to cars.

On Sunday May 5 2019 Edinburgh closed a number of city centre streets to vehicles from 1200-1700 with blue badge holders being the exception. The programme is developed around five objectives and a vision to create a “people friendly” route around the Old Town. Open Streets seeks to help to increase public exploration, use and awareness of the connected areas in the old town. We are keen that this isn’t an events-led programme, but one that is shaped by the community, especially residents and businesses. The Open Streets team is currently looking to work with residents, communities, interest groups, and businesses that are keen to be involved.

The aim of open streets is to promote a healthy, active and inclusive city, tackling air pollution, as well as celebrating and adding to the culture of the city, and contributing to its economy.

Adaptation

Scotland has also made significant achievements in climate change adaptation over the past decade. Adaptation has been increasingly integrated into public bodies’ regular business and national strategies and guidance. Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Forestry, Historic Environment Scotland and Marine Scotland have long track records of working on adaptation.

In order to strengthen the resilience of our communities, society, economy and environment to the effects of climate change, the Scottish Government has had a national climate change adaptation programme since 2009. The first five-year [Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme published in 2014](#) was designed to address over 130 climate risks through around 150 individual policies and proposals spanning three themes: natural environment; buildings and infrastructure; and society. The Programme contains a broad package of measures that help Scotland adapt to the effects of climate change, create a more resilient country for us to live and work in, and help to protect Scotland’s much loved natural environment.

The Scottish Government has published four progress reports, the [Fourth Annual Progress Report](#) was published in 2018. The Committee on Climate Change produced an [independent assessment](#) of the programme in March 2019. The assessment highlight areas of progress (including on peatland restoration, marine resilience and flood risk), concern (declines in seabird population, soil health, and increases in pests and disease in forests), and important evidence gaps (health impacts from climate change and the extent of housing and infrastructure development in flood risk areas).

Scotland’s second five-year Adaptation Programme under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 is to be published in 2019. The new programme has an outcomes-based approach derived from both the UN SDGs and Scotland’s NPF and will include adaptation behaviour change. The following diagram illustrates these connections and shows how the outcomes align with the 17 Goal as well as the 11 National Outcomes of the National.

The aims for the new Programme are to ensure that Scotland is resilient to the intensifying impacts of climate change as a crucial step to delivering a greener, fairer and more prosperous country, and help to create a better society for everyone who lives in Scotland.

The Programme's seven high-level outcomes are centred on communities, climate justice, the economy, supporting systems, natural environment, marine environment, and international partnerships. It provides a strategic framework which integrates adaptation into wider Scottish Government and international policy making and delivery. It will deliver a step change in cross-cutting collaboration, emphasise the wider co-benefits of climate action, and bring a new focus on results, performance and measurement. For the first time, Scotland's Adaptation Programme will explore adaptation behaviour change - how individuals, communities and businesses make the most important choices in respect of our changing climate.

Adaptation has been increasingly integrated into the public sector regular business and national strategies and guidance (target 13.2). The SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Forestry, Historic Environment Scotland and Marine Scotland have long track records of working on adaptation. £42 million is invested annually by the Scottish Government and local authorities on flood risk management, one of Scotland's biggest climate risks, with specific work on flood risk disadvantage.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency, has a Climate Change Commitment Statement which includes a small number of powerful actions, where the agency has a strong role and influence, deploying staff to where they can make the biggest difference in tackling climate change. Climate change is a key crosscutting theme that underpins and re-enforces all the work SEPA does. It is at the core of regulation and flooding protection and will be integrated into all of SEPA's sector plans.

Adaptation Scotland Programme (targets 13.1 and 13.3)

Specialised support on climate adaptation is provided through the [Adaptation Scotland Programme](#), funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by sustainability charity [Sniffer](#), which has supported important regional initiatives delivering on adaptation (for example the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve, Climate Ready Clyde, Edinburgh Adapts and Aberdeen Adapts – see below) and has increasing engagement with the business community. Through Adaptation Scotland, organisations, businesses and communities are supported to adapt to the impacts of climate change through connecting science and practice and building strong partnerships for planning and action.

Closer Look - Sniffer

Sniffer is a Scottish charity based in Edinburgh and has brokered knowledge on sustainability issues since 1994.

They believe that taking a collaborative approach to understanding and responding to environmental change will have the greatest benefit for people and places. Their aim is to bring people and ideas together to create a sustainable and resilient Scotland where people are working together so that the places where we live, work and play are ready for the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate and environment.

Sniffer delivers the Adaptation Scotland programme for the Scottish Government, helping the public sector, businesses and communities to understand what climate change will mean across Scotland, and to identify the best way for them to plan for the impact. They have initiated a number of place-based adaptation initiatives including Edinburgh Adapts, Aberdeen Adapts, and Climate Ready Clyde for which it now provides the technical secretariat. They also run a programme of activities on flood risk management as well as having a role in the secretariat for the Sustainable Scotland Network.

Climate Ready Places

Scotland is developing a unique place-based approach ([Climate Ready Places](#)) to climate change adaptation. This includes establishing regional initiatives and working at a localities scale to tackle local adaptation challenges as part of wider development and regeneration initiatives.

Closer Look - Climate Ready

Climate Ready Clyde

[Climate Ready Clyde](#) is an initiative to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan for an adapting Glasgow City Region. 1.8 million people live and work in this region. A large number of businesses and organisations based here are increasingly impacted by the effects of climate change, from both local changes in weather and those happening around the world. Climate Ready Clyde brings partners together to work strategically to minimise the risks and seize the opportunities this brings for our economy, society and environment. In 2018 Climate Ready Clyde published a detailed [climate risk and opportunity assessment](#) for the Glasgow City Region and is now working to develop a regional strategy and action plan.

Climate Ready Business

The past year has seen an increase in business engagement and understanding of the climate risks and opportunities. The Climate Ready Clyde initiative has pioneered research to identify the economic implications of climate change for Glasgow City Region, including the headline impacts of climate change on the City Region's economy and implications for key business sectors. Climate Ready Clyde is also developing an assessment of the City Region's 'adaptation economy', i.e. the goods and services that the City Region provides which support adaptation and resilience to climate change, and key areas for growth.

[Clydeplan](#) also played a pivotal role in ensuring Glasgow City Region's future economy, through development of their [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#). The assessment analysed future flood risk to planned housing, strategic economic investment locations, industrial land, freight hubs and the City Region's strategic centres to help inform decision making for future development.

The novel, innovative approach won an award in the process category for the Scottish awards for Quality in Planning 2017. Adaptation Scotland published a new [Climate Ready Business guide](#) in partnership with the 2020 Climate Group, Scottish Enterprise and VisitScotland and supported two business engagement events including a successful business day held as part of the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference held in Glasgow in June 2017.

The VIBES Scottish Environment Business awards have added an adaptation award category and are working with Adaptation Scotland to increase awareness of business adaptation options as part of their engagement and events.

Closer Look - Edinburgh Adapts

Edinburgh Adapts began as a joint initiative between Adaptation Scotland and the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP). In December 2016 it published Edinburgh's first Adaptation Action Plan and Vision. Progress on this plan and further adaptation engagement is now directed by a dedicated Steering Group, with members drawn from across key city organisations. Progress on the Action Plan has begun. In spring 2017 Edinburgh Adapts partnered with the University of Edinburgh to set a public engagement challenge on climate and food in the city with postgraduate students. Following this in April 2017, a workshop on Edinburgh's coastal adaptation challenge brought together researchers and stakeholders to raise awareness of climate impacts coming from the sea. These are just two of the many actions specified in the plan which have already been completed.

Along with working towards the goals of the action plan, the Edinburgh Adapts team have participated in a number of events to raise awareness of Edinburgh adaptation challenge and ambition, including the United Nations House Scotland Climate Change Conference in March 2016, the Forth Estuary Forum Conference in November 2016 and the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference in June 2017.

A full [progress report](#) on Edinburgh Adapts' achievements in its first full year, giving details on actions completed, actions started and areas in need of greater attention, is available.

Closer Look - Aberdeen Adapts

[Aberdeen Adapts](#) aims to help the city become more resilient to the impacts of climate change by creating its first climate change adaptation strategy. The project was selected for support from Adaptation Scotland following an open call for place-based partnerships in summer 2016. Jointly led by Aberdeen City Council and the University of Aberdeen, the project has used a wide range of engagement activities to collect views from local stakeholders on how best to prepare for the risks, and seize the opportunities inherent in our changing climate. A draft Aberdeen Adapts Action plan and governance options provide a strong foundation for action by partners in Aberdeen.

Closer Look - Levenmouth Adapts

The **Levenmouth Adapts** project aims to promote climate ready decision making in a way that incorporates community interests and champions the value of creative approaches to bring about change. The Levenmouth area of Fife is the location of a number of programmes of regeneration – including the ambitious River Leven Catchment Programme – which is being undertaken for the benefit of the local environment, people and businesses.

The programme is looking long term at projects that can be developed in the area through to 2030. Levenmouth is a priority area identified in the Levenmouth Strategic Assessment 2018 and Plan for Fife. This area one of the most deprived in Scotland and is also vulnerable to climate change; Levenmouth is like to be impacted by increased flooding, temperature changes, sea level rise and coastal erosion. It is therefore vital to think about the impacts of a changing climate and how to adapt as part of delivering a regeneration programme.

The Levenmouth Adapts project has been created as the first step in considering climate ready place making.

Just Transition Commission (targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3)

The Scottish Government has established a **Just Transition Commission** to advise Ministers on how to transition to a carbon-neutral economy in a way that is fair for all. The Commission operates independently from Government, developing its own work plan and priorities.

‘Just transition’ is a concept which has its roots in the international trade union movement. As we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the employment landscape shifts, we must take care to ensure no-one gets left behind. There are clear links between action to support a just transition and the SDGs and the concept was enshrined in the preamble to the Paris Agreement. Achieving a truly just transition means making links between climate, social and economic objectives. It is about integrating climate change measures into other national policies, strategies and planning.

Membership is drawn from a wide range of expertise, including business, industry, trade unions, third sector, youth and environmental groups. The Commission Chair is Professor Jim Skea, who, as well as being an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change co-chair, is an expert in technological innovation and energy systems.

The Commission met for the first time in January 2019, and over the next two years will get out around the country hearing from both experts and members of the public to help better understand the opportunities (and risks) arising from the move to a carbon-neutral economy.

Within two-years of its inaugural meeting, the Commission will provide a written report to Scottish Ministers that provides recommendations for action. These will help Ministers take action that:

- Maximises the economic and social opportunities that the move to a carbon-neutral economy by 2045 offers
- Builds on Scotland's existing strengths and assets
- Understands and mitigates risks that could arise in relation to regional cohesion, equalities, poverty (including fuel poverty), and a sustainable and inclusive labour market

Scotland's Just Transition Commission provides an opportunity to highlight and build on the synergies between meeting climate change targets, delivering sustainable economic growth and supporting fair and inclusive employment.

Preparing for natural hazards (target 13.1)

In Scotland we produce the Scottish Risk Assessment (SRA) which is a civil contingencies risk assessment product that focuses on natural hazards and accidents. In the initial iteration it includes risk assessments on flooding and severe weather. Our SRA supplements the UK level National Risk Assessment by providing a set of risk scenarios that are more tailored to the Scottish context. The purpose of the SRA is to help the resilience community in Scotland to understand the disruptive challenges that we may face, and to use this to anticipate, assess, protect, mitigate, prepare, respond and recover.

To further improve the SRA, the next iteration - which the Scottish Government will publish in 2020 - will contain a number of new risk assessments which are aligned to climate change. By including scenarios on wildfire, surface water flooding, water scarcity and landslide, as well as a dedicated chapter on climate change impacts we will raise awareness and help build capacity across the resilience community to build mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction into local plans for dealing with disruptive events.

A robust risk assessment process ensures that planning is based on a sound foundation, to support this we have developed the Risk and Preparedness Assessment (RPA). The RPA process allows resilience partners to assess risks within their region and their level of preparedness to deal with the consequences of the identified risks. The RPA process focuses on developing resilience and dealing with consequences rather than causes of emergencies. This approach is an efficient way to build capacity and capability to deal with a wide range of different risks as many diverse events will generate similar consequences.

This all supports the commitment under our Climate Change Adaptation programme that the Scottish Government should assess the current level of capability within the emergency response system to deal with extreme weather events and take further steps as necessary to prepare for climate change.

Under target 13.1, indicator 13.1.1 asks for Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people. While a number of organisations collect disaster loss data in Scotland, the **2018 report** for the National Centre for Resilience characterises data collection as "fragmented" and "sometimes sporadic". Deaths in Scotland are classified using an internationally recognised system (the World Health Organization's **International Classification of Disease**) which includes relevant codes for deaths resulting from disaster, however no deaths have been coded this way in Scotland since at least 2000. Hence at the present time it is challenging to generate specific and robust numbers on deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster for Scotland in the manner intended by target 13.1.

Closer Look - Flooding - A significant climate risk

Having invested over £300 million since 2008, in 2016 the Scottish Government committed to a further £420 million over a decade for local authority flood risk management measures.

The Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme was launched in February 2017. The scheme will protect approximately 600 properties (residential, business, agricultural, commercial and recreational) and critical infrastructure. The Scottish Government covers 80% of the estimated total cost of £31.4 million with the remainder being financed by Scottish Borders Council. The Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme won the Environmental Award at the Saltire Civil Engineering Awards last year. The Awards Panel was impressed with the multi-agency collaborative working which ensured multiple benefits were provided by the scheme, which has already protected properties from flooding on many occasions.

Elgin Flood Protection Scheme was launched in March 2017. The £86 million scheme is the largest civil engineering project to be undertaken in Moray. The Scottish Government covers 80% of the cost of the scheme. On 11 August 2014, whilst only partially completed, the scheme protected approximately 270 residential and 75 business premises from flooding, avoiding damages of an estimated £29 million.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency's comprehensive programme on flood forecasting and warning includes: community engagement with Safer Communities partners; a new digital and radio campaign; and "RiverTrack" flood alerting pilot projects. Floodline provides live flooding information and advice to more than 26,000 people on how to prepare for, or cope with, the impacts of flooding. A daily Flood Guidance Statement is issued to over 500 emergency responders in Scotland.

Tackling sewer flooding is a high priority for Scottish Water. In 2010-15 studies were completed in six cities including Glasgow. The new Storm Water Management Strategy, published in February 2018 recognises the need for more sustainable solutions to remove surface water from the sewers and manage it on the surface. Scottish Water has committed £170 million in 2015-21 to tackle sewer flooding.

International (targets 13a and 13b)

As climate change is a global issue it requires all countries to take action to reduce green-house gas emissions, and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. The Scottish Government is committed to working with international partners to help us all meet our climate goals.

The Scottish Government takes a climate justice approach in recognition of the fact that it is the poor and vulnerable at home and overseas are the first to be affected by climate change, and will suffer the worst, yet have done little or nothing to cause the problem. The negative impacts of climate change are felt the most by those who are already vulnerable because of geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, and disability.

The Scottish Government set up a Climate Justice Fund in 2012, through which it will distribute up to £21 million on climate justice related activities by 2021 in its international development partner countries of Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda. From 2017, the fund has primarily been directed through two major programmes, the Climate Challenge Programme Malawi (CCPM) and the Climate Justice Innovation Fund (CJIF). The CCPM is a 3-year, £3.2 million contract being delivered with Scottish international development organisation SCIAF. It is a community-led programme of direct climate change-focused interventions such as agro-ecology, livestock distribution, business management training and renewable energy installation, working alongside a programme of advocacy focused on amplifying marginalised voices in the climate change conversation. Key to this programme is the leadership role that the communities themselves play in identifying

their needs and designing the interventions that will work best in their community.

The CJIF is a commitment of £2 million towards small-scale projects in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia that display innovative solutions to the problems of climate change, with a view towards scaling up in the future. The Scottish Government currently funds twelve such projects, with work conducted on areas as diverse as biogas, artesian well technology, permaculture and organic pest control.

The Climate Justice Fund also supports the Water Futures Programme which is part of our HydroNation programme (see Goal 6). In addition to the Climate Justice Fund, the Scottish Government funds a number of international initiatives designed to support the global transition to a carbon neutral economy in a fair, just and inclusive way, including:

- Support to the [UNFCCC](#) for their Gender Action Plan to promote the development of gender responsive climate policies
- Support to the UNFCCC for the Marrekesh Partnership for Global Climate Action to increase collaboration between governments and the cities, regions, businesses and investors that must act on climate change
- Support to the Women's Delegates Fund to promote equal participation in global climate decision making
- Support for the Futures Fund which accelerates climate action in developing regions
- Support for the Solar Impulse Foundation to develop innovative solutions to climate change

Education and awareness-raising (target 13.3)

The Scottish Government recognises that public engagement on climate change is a vital part of the transition to a carbon-neutral society and is working with a number of partners to deliver key programmes. Last year the Scottish Government concluded a review of our current public engagement strategy in line with requirements in the 2009 Climate Change Act and is now revising its climate change engagement strategy to ensure our approach to behaviour change is commensurate with Scotland's national and international ambition. To inform the development of the new public engagement strategy, the Scottish Government will hold a series of public workshops across Scotland this summer.

In 2018 the Scottish Government provided funding to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society to develop a climate literacy qualification. This will support businesses, local authorities and senior managers to understand climate change better and encourage them to play an active role in reducing global emissions.

Closer Look - Keep Scotland Beautiful

Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) supports community-led organisations to gain an understanding of the carbon impacts of their activities, and be able to make informed choices about the lower carbon options available to them. KSB supports community-led organisations to be more confident in engaging with their communities and communicating about climate change. They offer an accredited carbon literacy training course that aims to have communities up to speed with the science behind climate change and likely impacts, but more importantly it builds confidence for members to speak about climate change and identify opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in the community. Since starting to offer Scotland's first ever accredited carbon literacy training course for communities, over 300 attendees from the Hebrides to the Scottish Borders have been certified as carbon literate.

We want everyone in Scotland to be informed, prepared and active in tackling climate change and are working with partners to deliver programmes with children and young people, supporting education and action on climate change from pre-school to adulthood.

The Scottish Government has supported the Eco-Schools Scotland Programme since its creation 25 years ago, to provide support to schools in addressing environmental issues. To ensure continued climate awareness beyond primary education the Scottish Government recently funded the development of a new secondary school project: 'Climate Ready Classrooms'. Eco Schools Scotland were the first country to incorporate the United Nations SDGs into the 'Green Flag Journey'.

Closer Look - Eco Schools

Keep Scotland Beautiful run the *Eco-Schools Scotland Programme* and in doing so contribute to the delivery of target 4.7 and others related to environmental sustainability. *ECO Schools Scotland* is well embedded in Scottish schools and as an accredited scheme potentially provides data on progress on achieving the SDGs within schools. The programme provides schools with a straightforward means of linking their learning for sustainability work to the SDGs, acting as a stimulus and context for any projects being undertaken within this context. Challenges can arise around finding sufficient pupil and teacher time to sustain projects. The initiative is ideally placed to promote engagement, and although there is an existing high level of uptake, targeted support could encourage more schools to take part. Sciennes Primary School in Edinburgh has, for example, actively promoted the SDGs since their launch in September 2015. The SDGs have regularly featured in assemblies over the years and the school aligns relevant SDGs to *Rights Respecting Schools* and *ECO Schools Scotland*. The school finds that the SDGs have a natural fit with the Curriculum for Excellence, National Improvement Framework, and agendas around health and wellbeing, sustainability, pupil participation, youth social action, wider achievement, and *Developing the Young Workforce* (target 8.6, Goal 8).

The Scottish Government is also empowering climate leaders of the future in Scotland by funding the 2050 Climate Group's Young Leaders Development Programme. This award-winning 12 month programme gives young adults the knowledge, skills and opportunities to take climate action.

Statistics suggest that, taken collectively, this work is making a difference. Survey data from the [Scottish Household Survey published in 2018](#) show that the proportion of young people (age 16-24) who see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem increased by over half from 38% in 2013 to 58% in 2017. Among adults of all ages this proportion increased by one third from 46% to 61% during the same period.

The Scottish Government has also supported the 2050 Young Malawian Climate Leaders Project which is delivered in partnership by the 2050 Climate Group and Scotland Malawi Partnership in Scotland and the Malawi Scotland Partnership in Malawi. The project was designed to build a network of young people in Malawi who will be active in advocating for action on climate change, mirroring the approach of the 2050 Climate Group in Scotland. Activities have included workshops, knowledge sharing and cultural exchanges, focusing particularly on uplifting the views of young people in response to climate change.

Closer Look - 2050 Climate Group

2050 Climate Group is a youth-led, volunteer driven charity focused on tackling climate change. They engage, educate and empower young people to lead the transition to a low carbon Scotland. Over the last 3 years, nearly 400 young people have been through the Young Leaders Development Programme (a programme which combines leadership training and climate change education). On the ground change is being achieved through Young Leaders taking action, and influencing through personal, professional and political spheres. From developing community permaculture gardens; to starting new businesses such as a new vegan takeaway in Glasgow; as well as individuals strengthening environmental policies within their own organisations.

They have increased youth participation in decision making around climate change through a number of focus groups, policy consultations, co-producing a Sustainable Growth Agreement with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), representing the voice of young people with a 2050 Climate Group Commissioner on the Just Transition Commission and at an international level at the last four UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COP). They are establishing roots for a social movement which is already changing Scotland.

Closer Look - ScottishPower

In 2018 ScottishPower delivered a pilot project in collaboration with Glasgow Science Centre to train more than 100 teachers in Scotland on climate change. This Climate Change initiative, funded by ScottishPower, sees specialists deliver training sessions with teachers, exploring climate change through science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects. ScottishPower will fund training a further 100 teachers in 2019.

Challenges and next steps

Scotland has a strong performance on Goal 13 Climate Action. However, we know that more needs to be done, and the Scottish Parliament has recently passed the new Climate Change Bill to further increase our ambition with a target to achieve net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. Independent advice from the Committee on Climate Change indicates that meeting this target by 2045 will require extensive changes across society and the economy, unprecedented in their overall scale. This will require us to take difficult decisions, raise awareness across Scotland, and enable cultural and behavioural changes.

In May 2019, Scottish Ministers announced that following updated advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change – and the new 2045 target for net zero emissions proposed as a result – reducing Air Departure Tax is no longer compatible with Scotland’s new emissions reduction targets. Additional announcements have also been made in response to the climate emergency, this includes a new, ambitious deposit return scheme; funding to strengthen the rail freight industry and reduce the amount of freight that travels by road; and a new farmer-led initiative to drive low-carbon, environmentally sustainable farming practices as well as new funding for e-bikes. The next iteration of the Scottish Risk Assessment (to be published in 2020) will also contain a number of new risk assessment aligned to climate change.

The Scottish Government are reviewing a range of policies across Government to ensure that we can meet those targets, to see what we can do to bring forward existing policy commitments and to identify areas where we can go further.

It also plans to update our Climate Change Plan six months after the new Climate Change Bill receives Royal Assent. The Scottish Government will be placing climate change at the heart of everything it does and it will be at the core of the next Programme for Government.

Scotland has always been an innovator. Responding to the climate emergency will not take us along an easy path, but Scotland is not in the business of taking the easy way out. We must all take this journey together, seize the economic opportunities available to us and redefine what world leadership means. Scotland has declared a global climate emergency and now Scotland must act as one to safeguard our planet for future generations.

It is important that our transition to a net zero GHG economy does not leave anyone behind. Scotland's Just Transition Commission provides an opportunity to highlight and build on the synergies between meeting climate change targets, delivering sustainable economic growth and supporting fair and inclusive employment.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- Acknowledging the answer to the climate emergency will require working across the public, private and third sectors. The 2019-20 Programme for Government commits to the following in response to the Climate Emergency Response Group:
 - o Mobilising public procurement to support the climate emergency response
 - o Developing guidance so more people are encouraged to eat more locally produced, sustainable and healthy food
 - o Create a new Agricultural Transformation Programme
 - o Make regional land use plans to maximise the potential of land to contribute towards responding to the climate emergency
 - o Unlocking additional resource for emissions-reducing investment through the Green Growth Accelerator
 - o Consult on Scotland's ambition to make our city centres zero or ultra-low emission by 2030
 - o Explore with partners the Climate Emergency Response Group ask on establishing a public interest company to operate Carbon Capture and Storage infrastructure
 - o Set new standards to reduce energy demand within new building by 2021 and require new homes consented from 2024 to use renewable or low carbon heat
 - o The Scottish Low Carbon Heat Funding Invitation will target a minimum of £30 million to support innovative low carbon ways of heating buildings
 - o The next Energy Statement will set out the extent to which renewable and low carbon energy generation will need to combine in order to meet net zero
 - o The primary mission of the Scottish National Investment Bank will be to ensure the transition to net zero



Environment

Scotland is a maritime nation with a sea area that is six times bigger than the land mass and a coastline that stretches over 18,000 km. Forty-one percent of Scotland's population live within five kilometres of the coast and marine industries contribute £3.8 billion Gross Value Added (GVA) to our economy in 2016. In 2020 we are celebrating a year of Scotland's Coast and Waters. Scotland has some of the most beautiful and diverse marine ecosystems in the world and we are committed to protecting and enhancing these amazing ecosystems to ensure they are safeguarded for future generations to enjoy. Scotland's vision is for clean, healthy, safe, productive and diverse seas that are managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people.

The marine environment in Scotland is covered by two key acts: the [Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#), which covers its inshore waters, and the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#), which covers the offshore waters (known collectively as "the Marine Acts"). The Marine Acts introduced a new framework for marine planning to support better management of the competing demands on marine resources.

Using powers in the Marine Acts, the [National Marine Plan \(2015\)](#) was adopted to ensure increasing demand for the use of our marine environment is managed, economic development of marine industries is encouraged, and environmental protection is incorporated into marine decision making. The plan provides a single framework for developers and regulators of marine sectors to achieve sustainable development. Through this, Marine Scotland work with an number of national partners including SNH, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland to manage Scotland's seas. In addition, eleven Scottish marine regions have been created which cover sea areas extending out to 12 nautical miles. Currently two Marine Planning Partnerships (Clyde and Shetland) are developing Regional Marine Plans to enable more local ownership and decision making about specific issues within their area. A third Partnership is planned for the Orkney Islands.

Scotland's Marine Atlas, published in 2011, provides information for the National Marine Plan and an assessment of the condition of Scotland's seas. It is based on scientific evidence from data and analysis, supported by expert judgement. It was prepared by Marine Scotland working with SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS). A new assessment of Scotland's seas is due for publication in 2020.

The **Marine Strategy Regulations 2010** apply in all of Scotland's Seas and provide a framework for management, monitoring, and assessment of environmental status. This involves managing human activities to ensure the marine environment remains in a healthy state that can provide ecosystem services to current and future generations.

The Scottish Government and SEPA work together to develop a better environmental regulation programme. This aim is to protect and improve the environment in ways that, as far as possible, also help create health and wellbeing benefits and sustainable economic growth. SEPA was set up to reduce the impacts of pollution, principally through ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and supporting businesses to meet their legal obligations. Their regulatory strategy is an important part of the implementation of this work. Where necessary, SEPA takes firm action, including using enforcement powers.

Closer Look - Save Scottish Seas

The **Save Scottish Seas campaign** has been running for over 10 years and is a result of collective effort of Scottish Environment LINK member organisations to secure better marine conservation legislation and policy. The purpose of the campaign is to achieve a vision of healthy, well-managed seas, where wildlife and coastal communities flourish and ecosystems are protected, connected and thriving by ensuring the effective implementation of the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**. The main outcomes of the campaign so far have been to help secure the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010** and engage over 40,000 people on the measures required to implement it (e.g. marine protected areas (MPAs), and marine spatial plans).

Fishing (target 14.4)

The management of sea fisheries in Scotland is devolved, with Scottish ministers responsible for managing fishing activity in the Scottish zone, and Scottish vessels wherever they are fishing. Scotland has long advocated the principles of responsible and sustainable fish stock management informed by the best available science. This is consistent with policies set out in the National Marine Plan, and National Discussion Paper on the Future of Fisheries Management in Scotland. Fish are a public resource to be managed for long term sustainability.

The Scottish Government is committed to delivering a sustainable, evidence based approach to the management of Scottish fisheries based on high quality scientific data. This commitment forms a key part of an overall approach to managing Scotland's marine environment. It directly contributes to delivery of the Scottish Government's Purpose and supports the delivery of the NPF, specifically the National Outcome: 'We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment'.

The previous 'Marine Environment' National indicator was not well suited for tracking progress on the objective to improve the marine environment. It was based on Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of commercial stocks: something which is decided at international negotiations and which the Scottish Government could not therefore determine on its own. The last published indicator (calculated as a three-year moving average), for 2017 showed that 67% of stocks were managed in line with scientific advice. This demonstrated that performance between 2016 and 2017 was maintained. The longer term trend shows an improvement since early 2000 when around 40% of stocks were managed in line with scientific advice. This indicator has been replaced for 2019. By focusing solely on fish stocks, the indicator did not consider other aspects of the marine environment. It has been replaced with a new pair of indicators measuring (a) the state of commercial fish stocks and (b) cleanliness of the marine environment. These indicators better reflect the breadth of Scottish Government objectives for the marine environment and SDG targets. Additionally, a project is underway to investigate the feasibility of a combined terrestrial and marine biodiversity indicator.

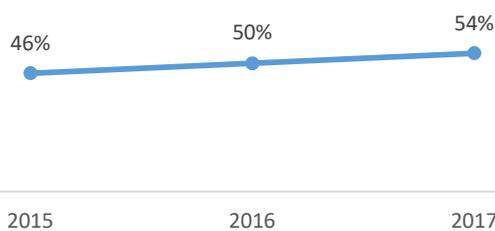
This is the first year that the ‘sustainability of commercial fish stocks’ indicator has been produced. Based on 2017 (latest available data), it was retrospectively calculated to 2015 to provide trend data and a direction of travel. This indicator more directly considers the percentage of commercial stocks where fish mortality (the amount of fish captured: landings plus discards) compares against the maximum sustainable yield of fish stocks. The indicator shows an improving situation from 46% in 2015 to 54% in 2017.

The Data Picture: Sustainability of fish stocks

Target 14.4 (indicator 14.4.1) aims to 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.

In Scotland, the proportion of key commercial Scottish fish stocks where fishing mortality is below sustainability thresholds was 54% in 2018, having been rising in previous years.

The percentage of fish stocks fished sustainably in Scotland



Source: International Council on Exploration of the Seas

Illegal fishing (target 14.4)

Fish stocks must be managed effectively, and Marine Scotland scientists provide the highest quality science to inform decisions and negotiating priorities, taking into account wider policy objectives, public attitudes, socio-economic implications and the precautionary approach. Marine Scotland Compliance has a budget of around £18 million for deterring and detecting illegal activities through effective compliance and enforcement arrangements. 262 staff are employed, split between various functions, including Marine Surveillance and Coastal Inspection.

The European Court of Auditors found in 2017, that more effort is needed across the EU to have an effective fisheries control system in place. On a visit to Scotland, auditors considered that there was a high proportion of vessels with more than five infringements, with 169 single operators committing more than five infringements between 2013 and 2015.

The Scottish context is important in terms of compliance. Scots law requires corroboration, which places extra demands on enforcement agencies. In Scotland we record all infringements, irrespective of how serious and the extent to which they are evidenced, but only in the most serious cases do we take punitive action such as offering a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or referring a case to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for consideration of prosecution. This does however mean that many of the infringements recorded in Scotland are relatively minor and are often regulatory offences, such as late or non-submission of statutory returns, or involve small amounts of fish. This is from a fleet of just over 2,000 vessels as at the end of 2017.

Marine Scotland has the powers to issue FPNs in lieu of court action, up to a maximum value of £10,000. There are very few repeat offenders and if a third infringement is detected and sufficient evidence is secured, a referral to the Crown Office is the most likely outcome. Similarly, if an FPN remains unpaid, then referral of the case to the Crown Office is the next step. There are few referrals to Crown Office as the payment rate for FPNs is very high. This also means that referrals to Crown Office and therefore criminal convictions are low.

Fishing capacity control (target 14.6)

The statutory limit on UK fleet capacity is established in Annex II of EU Regulation 1380/2013. The Scottish Government, in line with all UK Fishing Administrations, operates a restrictive licensing policy, which maintains the regulatory limits on fleet capacity. No grants or subsidies are available allowing increased capacity and overall the fleet segments remain in balance.

UK fishing vessels are required by law to be registered. Fishing vessels must also have a licence that specifies the conditions they must adhere to. UK fishing vessel licences authorise the sea areas in which a vessel can fish and the species of fish that can be caught. Scottish based vessels are those registered to a port in Scotland licenced and administered by a Scottish district.

In 2017, the number of active Scottish based vessels was 2,065, a 2% increase (32 vessels) since 2016 and a 6% decrease (135 vessels) since 2008. The Scottish fleet is dominated by vessels that are ten metres and under in length, with a total of 1,503 vessels falling into this category in 2017, accounting for 73% of the Scottish fleet. There were 562 registered vessels over ten metres in length. The ten metre and under fleet mostly fish using creels. In 2017, 88% (1,323 vessels) of the ten metre and under vessels were fishing using creels. Of the 562 over ten metre vessels, 64% (358 vessels) targeted shellfish, whilst one third (33%) targeted demersal species. Only 20 vessels targeted pelagic species.

Sustainable aquaculture (target 14.7)

In Scotland we are supportive of the continued growth of aquaculture but are clear that growth must be sustainable, with due regard to the marine environment and alongside other marine users. In March 2017, the Scottish Government published a [joint ministerial aquaculture policy statement](#), reaffirming that an appropriate balance is struck between the continued growth of the aquaculture industry and regulating the potential environmental impacts.

Since 1 April 2007, all new shellfish and finfish farm developments in Scotland have required planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act from the relevant Planning Authority. Fish farms also need up to 4 further consents to operate, issued by Marine Scotland, SEPA and the Crown Estate Scotland. In coming to a decision for a spatial planning consent for a shellfish or finfish farm, local authorities consider a wide range of issues which include, for example, considering the potential environmental consequences of the proposal prior to granting planning permission and interaction with other users of the marine environment, as well as considering the landscape with advice from Scottish Natural Heritage.

All fish farms must meet strict guidelines to ensure that the environmental effects are assessed and managed safely. Most finfish developments will require to be screened as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is necessary. Scotland's 10 year [Farmed Fish Health Framework](#) provides a strategic and evidence based approach to the short and long term improvement of fish health in Scotland. A dedicated subgroup has been established under the framework to consider Climate Change and Ocean Acidification and its potential impacts.

Small scale artisanal fishers (target 14b)

The Scottish Government through its Inshore Fisheries Strategy 2015 recognises the valuable socio-economic contribution inshore fishers make to Scotland's rural economy. This Strategy sets out a vision to support development of a more sustainable, profitable, and well-managed inshore fisheries sector in Scotland, and focuses on improving the evidence base, streamlining fisheries governance and stakeholder participation, and embedding inshore fisheries management into wider marine planning.

Over the last three years, the Scottish Government has introduced a package of conservation measures for scallop, crab and lobster fisheries, introduced catch limits for unlicensed fishermen, and established a razor fish trial. Three inshore fisheries pilot projects are also being progressed to test a more localised approach to fisheries management and whether greater use of spatial management can yield greater benefits to Scotland. This is complemented by a network of regional Inshore Fisheries Groups that are now implementing local management plans.

Provision is also made for smaller inshore and creel fishers, with national quota pools for target stocks, including **langoustine** and mackerel. The majority of our inshore stocks do not have limits of allowable catches and there are limited constraints to small-scale artisanal fishers accessing these. £1.5 million is being invested to modernise the management of inshore fisheries, with enhanced monitoring and tracking technology for Scotland’s commercial inshore fleet.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) programme in Scotland supports fisheries, inland waters, aquaculture, the supply chain (including processing and fishing communities), maritime sectors, and supports communities to deliver economic benefits during the transition phase of the Common Fisheries Policy reform programme. Since 2016, the EMFF has funded 560 projects with over £100 million grant, this has enabled £160 million investment in safety, research, harbours, selective gear, marine planning, aquaculture production, community projects and more.

Specific examples of EMFF funded projects in Scotland include:

- £950,000 to the Gear Innovation and Technology Advisory Group to develop & trial innovative fishing gear technology to improve selectivity
- £1.5 million to support the Scottish Inshore Fisheries Integrated Data System (SIFIDS), this will aid collection, collation and analyse data from the Scottish inshore fishing fleet to inform fisheries management
- £1.6 million to the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre for a collaborative project with industry to pilot non-medicinal sea lice treatments

Marine pollution (target 14.1)

The revised NPF includes a Clean Seas indicator. It measures the extent to which levels of contaminants are sufficiently low that they are unlikely to cause harm to marine organisms in Scottish waters. The indicator looks at five contaminant groups, in biota and sediments, for four regions around Scotland.

The Data Picture: Clean seas

Target 14.1 aims to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

In Scotland, the concentrations of metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in biota (fish and shellfish) and sediment are at acceptable levels in 82.5% of contaminant assessments.

The percentage of biogeographic regions with acceptably low levels of contaminants



2015	2016	2017
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Source: UK Clean Seas Environment Monitoring Programme

The majority of ocean pollution originates from land. Types of pollution include fluid chemicals and solid macro- and micro-plastics, which threaten marine ecosystems, and our economy. Reducing the amount of pollution and debris entering our seas is important and working internationally is key to solving this global problem. The UK has achieved Good Environmental Status for Contaminants and Eutrophication, but not for marine litter. Marine litter is a global issue which requires partnership working, which is mainly undertaken through the **OSPAR convention** and its Marine Litter Regional Action Plan. Scotland’s Marine Litter Strategy has a clear purpose to develop measures to ensure that the amount of litter entering the marine and coastal environment is minimised to bring ecological, economic and social benefits.

The National Litter Strategy, which works in parallel with the marine litter strategy, has five clear directions; public and business behaviour change, reducing litter sources, contributing to a low carbon economy, improve monitoring and increase co-operative working in both the UK and internationally. Additional actions have been taken to develop and introduce legislation such as the ban on microbeads in toiletries and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. We are also first in the UK to commit to introducing a deposit return scheme, and we have established an expert panel to consider how best to reduce demand for single use materials. We are supporting coastal communities adversely affected by the litter of others at litter sink locations, and fishing communities to better manage disposal of their end of life fishing gear. Please see chapter Goal 12 for Scotland's action to encourage a circular economy.

Behaviour change projects come in many forms, from school education programmes to social media. Scotland is also tackling a more sensitive source of marine litter; sanitary products, which are high in plastic content and are making their way into our seas and onto our beaches. We have recently committed to supporting a project to encouraging the use of reusable sanitary products, which will also build on the success of our free provisions.

Currently, marine plastics are regularly monitored in Scottish marine waters in four separate programmes:

- 1) Seabed litter (monitored throughout the year using data collected by the demersal fish stock assessment trawl survey programme. Data reported to ICES);
- 2) Floating microplastics (Data collected annually in a round-Scotland offshore survey);
- 3) Beach litter (data collected by the Marine Conservation Society using citizen scientists);
- 4) Plastic particles in fulmar stomachs (coordinated by OSPAR)

In addition, research and development is under way to develop monitoring in offshore sediments and biota (including fish stomachs), to enhance laboratory analytical methods for microplastics in beach sediment, and to understand dynamics of marine plastics using modelling. Our data is being used internationally but also demonstrates that Scotland is also affected by the global litter problem.

Closer Look - Nurdles

Scotland is showing further leadership with new approaches to reduce marine litter. Nurdles are pre-production plastics which come in the form of pellets, powders and flakes and are an essential part of plastic product manufacture. Unfortunately, during handling across the supply chain, some of these plastics are being lost to our water courses and make their way into our seas. The wide distribution of these microplastics have been recognised through a citizen science project hosted by Fidra, [The Great Nurdle Hunt](#). The plastics industry developed guidelines to reduce pellet loss in [Operation Clean Sweep](#) and they are now working with Scottish Government to further develop an auditable supply chain approach to further reduce loss.

Closer Look - SCRAPbook – Scottish Coastal Rubbish Aerial Photography

SCRAPbook is an initiative, led by the Moray Firth Partnership and UK Civil Air Patrol (Sky Watch), using aerial photographs taken from light aircraft, to create a map showing all the coastal litter and pollution hotspots around the coast of Scotland. Throughout 2018, images were captured covering the mainland coast and these images were then classified by a team of volunteers according to how much litter was visible. For the first time, these data provide a spatially comprehensive overview of where litter is accumulating on the mainland coast, the initial step towards understanding the distribution of marine litter sinks around the country. The map is now informing targeted cleaning operations to clean up Scotland's coastline.

The UK implements the OSPAR Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Strategies. Contaminants and effects monitoring is undertaken in Scottish coastal and offshore areas as part of the UK Clean Seas Environment Monitoring Programme (CSEMP). The main focus of the CSEMP to date has been to meet the temporal trend monitoring requirements of the OSPAR Convention and in respect of compliance with EC Directives such as Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (Directive 2008/56/EC). Only one coastal region around Scotland, the Ythan estuary, is regarded as problematic in respect of eutrophication, that is, over-enrichment by nutrients.

Clean water is vital in areas where shellfish are produced to ensure a good quality product which is safe for human consumption. The Scottish Government has produced regulations for setting the environmental objectives for shellfish water protected areas, of which there are 84 in the Scotland River Basin District.

Management, protection and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems (targets 14.2 and 14.5)

Scotland's National Marine Plan and Marine Licensing ensures sustainable development in the marine environment. Specific action is taken to develop and manage the Marine Protected Area Network and put in place specific measures and strategies to protect specific species. Protected areas are used to ensure protection of some of the most vulnerable species and habitats. The Scottish Marine Protected Area (MPA) network includes sites for nature conservation, protection of biodiversity, demonstrating sustainable management, and protecting our heritage. In total, the network covers approximately 22% of our seas and comprises of:

- 217 sites for nature conservation protecting a broad range of habitats and species that are found in our seas. Habitats range from rocky shores and sea caves at the coastline to deep sea habitats such as coral gardens and *Lophelia pertusa*. Species range from harbour porpoise to common skate to puffins
- 5 other area based measures which protect species such as sandeels and blue ling, as well as vulnerable marine ecosystems
- 1 Demonstration and Research MPA around Fair Isle to investigate the factors affecting seabird populations demonstrate the socio-economic benefits of the marine environment
- 8 Historic MPAs to preserve sites of historical importance around the Scottish coast

The network as a whole is representative of the range of biodiversity and geodiversity found in Scotland's seas.

Closer Look - Community-led marine conservation

Fauna and Flora International (FFI) – a wildlife conservation organisation - coordinate a project on community-led marine conservation in Scotland. The project aims to help the voices of local community groups be heard in the decision making and management of their seas. With support and advice from FFI, a number of local communities in Scotland are actively involved in promoting the values of Marine Protected Areas. These include the community of Arran, which through a local NGO (COAST), established the first and only community-managed No-Take Zone in UK waters, and the community of Fair Isle, which set up the first ever Demonstration and Research MPA in 2016. The project has now helped to establish the [Coastal Communities Network, Scotland](#) – an active (and growing) group of currently sixteen different community associations across Scotland's coast, who have come together to strengthen their voice on issues of shared concern.

Closer Look - Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project

Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project (Deep) is a groundbreaking initiative to restore Native European oysters to the Dornoch Firth. It has been pioneered by Glenmorangie in partnership with Heriot-Watt University and the Marine Conservation Society. The project's vision is to restore long-lost oyster reefs to the Firth, to enhance biodiversity and also act in tandem with Glenmorangie's new Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant, which is purifying the by-products created through the distillation process – an environmental first for a Distillery. The AD plant is expected to purify up to 95% of the waste water that the Distillery releases into the Firth, with the remaining 5% of the organic waste naturally cleaned by the oysters – nature's ecosystem champions. DEEP aims to shift the ambition of marine conservation. This is not just about protecting the resources we have today, but restoring ecosystems to their full potential. To achieve this, DEEP has brought together the best brains from the business, scientific and academic communities.

Ocean acidification (target 14.3)

Ocean acidification is seen as a key pressure on ecosystems for the future as higher acidity has been associated with stifled shell growth in marine animals as well as being suspected to cause reproductive disorders in some fish. It may also lead to diminished capacity of oceans to store carbon meaning more of the CO₂ produced by us will remain in the atmosphere, exacerbating climate change. Understanding the role and impact ocean acidification has and the amount of related data now available has dramatically increased since 2010. Through OSPAR, Scotland is building the evidence base by monitoring, collecting samples to measure carbonate chemistry parameters and look at changes in shells.

Closer Look - Blue carbon research

The Scottish Government established a Blue Carbon research forum in 2018, in partnership with St Andrew's University, Glasgow University, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh Napier University, and the Scottish Association for Marine Science. The programme will measure the ability of Scotland's marine environment to store carbon dioxide and mitigate against the effects of climate change. The programme aims to begin to identify and map blue carbon resource in Scottish waters over 2018-19. Through the establishment of the Scottish Blue Carbon Forum, Scotland is taking a lead in the development of an integrated programme of research into different aspects of blue carbon sequestration and storage. This will provide essential information to help inform what is required to be done to enhance and protect these key habitats into the future, which is essential for the mitigation of future climate change. This project has a direct link to Goal 13 on Climate Action.

Challenges and next steps

Scotland's performance is good across Goal 14 – there is, overall, provision to “sustainably manage and protect marine ecosystems” around Scotland. Scotland shares seas with neighbouring countries and achievement of Goal 14 is only possible through strong national action coupled with international cooperation. Some activities that impact on the marine environment are managed at a European or international level, for example fisheries and shipping, and other impacts can cross national boundaries such as litter, eutrophication, noise. Therefore, national action to protect the marine environment needs to be supported by a framework to ensure action is taken across Europe.

Scotland collaborates with other EU member states and NGOs through a number of EU frameworks to implement the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, Wild Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive. We also work internationally in the North East Atlantic with the other contracting parties of the OSPAR Convention to protect the marine

environment. The private sector and NGO observers actively participate in OSPAR, for example bringing forward proposals for MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction or helping develop best environmental practice for specific industry sectors.

Clearly, there is an important European context for delivery in light of the EU common fisheries policy. The EU has provided Scotland with an array of legislative drivers for environmental regulations, including requirements to develop marine plans and sustainably use our seas and oceans. The outcome of EU exit has potential implications on all of these policy areas. The Scottish Government has taken the necessary steps to ensure that EU law in these areas is retained upon exit.

Within the context of Brexit, Scotland has a chance to look afresh at how fisheries are managed to ensure they remain productive and sustainable for future generations. The Scottish Government's Future Fisheries Management Strategy contains a range of ideas and proposals to help deliver a future management structure, which will firmly establish Scotland's place as a world leader in responsible and sustainable fisheries management. The overarching objective will be to maintain the long term structure of small family owned businesses to support target 14b and increase inclusive long term economic growth of the Scottish fishing industry. [Future of Fisheries management in Scotland: national discussion paper](#) was launched in March 2019. This will inform and develop our future fisheries strategy.

Target 11 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity as part of the Aichi targets is more ambitious than the SDG indicator 14.5.1 of protected area spatial coverage. Aichi target 11 states: ‘By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.’

The [Marine Protected Area \(MPA\) Network covers 22% of Scotland's seas](#). Over the next six years work on the MPA network will focus on completing the network and implementing management measures.

Alongside this, monitoring and assessment of what the network is achieving for biodiversity will continue. By the next report the network should be complete, well managed, with results showing what the objectives of the network have achieved.

The challenges around marine litter will take significant amount of effort and time to address. It will require significant changes to a lot of the resources that we use every day and our practices for disposing of them. This is about changing behaviours of both businesses and households, across a wide range of supply chains. Scotland is working towards developing actions to reduce input of litter into the marine environment – e.g. ban on plastic stemmed cotton buds expected in 2019, and actions to follow the guidelines in the European Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy.

Ocean acidification is recognised in the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment 2017 common indicators as a driver of ecosystem change, but strong causal links and mechanisms have not been identified. This means it is difficult to understand why an indicator has changed or not changed as a consequence of climate change and climate variability in the ocean, atmosphere and cryosphere.

The issues and challenges outlined above can be considered holistically in the context of the National Marine Plan. Scotland completed its first review of the National Marine Plan in 2018 with the next review due in 2021. This offers the chance to review and consider the effectiveness of the marine planning system in managing Scotland's marine environment.

When the Scottish Government embraced the recommendations made by the Committee on Climate Change in May, it acted immediately, setting out increased ambition for net zero emissions by 2045. It is looking across responsibilities to make sure Scotland continues with the policies that are working and increases action where necessary. Scotland's **Energy Strategy** recognises the important role of the oil and gas industry in the energy transition and the achievement of our climate change targets, both in terms of the transferable skills and infrastructure, but also the use of natural gas as a bridging fuel, and the potential for the production of hydrogen from natural gas using Steam Methane Reforming coupled with Carbon Capture and Storage. The role of the oil and gas sector in the successful development of

hydrogen products and Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) is particularly crucial. A significant deployment of CCS, particularly if it builds up a required skills base and industry which was internationally deployable, would also go some way to reconciling the continued level of supply of fossil fuels in Scotland relative to consumption. The Climate Change Committee's report into the feasibility of a net zero emissions UK stated that "CCS is a necessity not an option".

The Scottish Government's continued support for oil and gas exploration and production in the North Sea will now be conditional upon a sustainable, secure and inclusive energy transition. This will include an increased net zero investment by industry and government. Reducing emissions from the extraction of offshore oil and gas will make a significant contribution to tackling global climate change, particularly if technologies applied in the North Sea can be exported and deployed in other countries.

To drive this change, the Scottish Government will support in principle the Oil and Gas Technology Centre's plans to establish a new Net Zero Solution Centre, enabling the North Sea to become the first net zero hydrocarbon basin in the world. This centre will support the development and deployment of carbon capture, utilisation and storage, hydrogen and renewables technologies that can be integrated with existing offshore oil and gas infrastructure.

The Scottish Government established the Just Transition Commission to advise Ministers on how to move to a carbon-neutral economy in a way that is fair for all. Oil and gas will be the subject of a Just Transition meeting this autumn. The Commission is engaging with a trade unions, business and industry leaders, across all sectors, in delivering its remit. The oil and gas sector can play a positive role in this transition, helping to design the diverse energy system that will be required for the future.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- The Scottish Government will update its Marine Litter Strategy in 2020, increasing the focus on litter removal alongside litter prevention
- A new virtual centre to coordinate marine climate change science and research will be established



Environment

Enhancing and protecting Scotland's biodiversity and ensuring the health of its environment is critical in the fight against climate change and ensuring the environmental, social and economic benefits they bring for future generations. Biodiversity sustains our lives and is at the core of what makes Scotland so distinctive. The wildlife, habitats and other forms of nature in Scotland are valuable in their own right, as well as the ways in which they support and sustain people. Increasing understanding of how nature sustains us, and the connections between biodiversity, healthy ecosystem functioning and wider benefits to individuals and society is vital to facilitate protection of Scotland's environment.

Biodiversity plays an essential role in meeting the Scottish Government's vision of a smart, sustainable and successful Scotland, and lies at the heart of our economic strategy. Our natural environment plays a vital role in the prosperity of Scotland and in our national identity. Biodiversity supports our tourism, farming, forestry, aquaculture and fishing industries, and is crucial to attracting investment and marketing of our food and drink. Our urban green spaces vastly contribute to our health and wellbeing.

Scotland's Land Use Strategy 2016 – 2021 (targets 15.3, 15.5 and 15.9)

Scotland's first [Land Use Strategy](#) (LUS) 2016-2021 was a step change in the Scottish Government's approach to land use, adopting the ecosystems approach defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The first Strategy provided a policy agenda for all land in Scotland and set out a direction of travel towards a more integrated and strategic approach to land use. It recognised the benefits we all derive from land, including underpinning our economic prosperity, assisting with measures to both mitigate and adapt to climate change and the need to ensure a sustainable future for our land. Decisions about the way land is managed are important to balance pressures on ecosystem services due to climate change. The increasing complexity of land related matters in Scotland is recognised and the second LUS deals with the key issues which we believe would impact upon Scotland during the five years from 2016 - 2021.

In light of the UK's potential exit from the EU and other strategic drivers such as planning reform, the Scottish Government are currently taking stock of the Land Use Strategy proposals. This will help to identify any future actions which will most significantly contribute to the strategy's vision for land use and its objectives. In particular, the Scottish Government are taking opportunities to build policy alignment in a number of key areas such as the development of an Environment Strategy for Scotland, Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-29, preparations for the development of the next National Planning Framework and long term policy on the rural economy, including land management support. As part of this process the Scottish Government will consider how best to take forward proposals that deliver against a range of Goal 15 targets.

Planning policies (targets 15.3 and 15.9)

Scotland has planning policies in place to support and enhance the natural environment, taking into account environmental assets in decision making. The Scottish Planning Policy sets out that planning should "seek benefits for biodiversity from new development where possible, including the restoration of degraded habitats and the avoidance of further fragmentation or isolation of habitats". More widely, planning authorities, and all public bodies under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, have a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. This statutory duty must be reflected in development plans and development management decisions. Scotland also has a strong and effective system of environmental assessment in place for both planning, and related consenting regimes. The [Conservation \(Natural Habitats &c.\) Regulations 1994](#), mentions planning specifically, and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, lay out Environmental Impact Assessments for planning.¹⁷

Biodiversity (targets 15.5 and 15.9)

Progress on halting biodiversity loss will be measured in great part by Scotland's success or failure in meeting a key set of targets: the Aichi targets as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This is a ten-year framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to save biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people. This and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation targets are both part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Scotland, like many other countries, is facing the challenge of declining biodiversity and is currently reporting a mix of successes and challenges.

[Scottish Natural Heritage](#) reported that seven Aichi targets are assessed as being on track. A further twelve are showing progress, but requiring additional action if we are to meet these targets by 2020. Only one of the twenty targets, related to funding, is moving away from target, which is critical to the work that underpins projects helping to meet all other targets.¹⁸ While the UK indicator shows a decline in funding for biodiversity since 2010/11, overall government funding for biodiversity in Scotland has increased over the same period, mainly through specific targeted projects, such as the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention Programme and the Peatland Action Programme. Whilst core funding of organisations with a specific biodiversity remit has declined since 2010/11, targeted projects have led to an increase in total financial resources allocated to biodiversity in Scotland over the last two years.

Other data on biodiversity show a more granular picture. The [Scottish Biodiversity Strategy report to the Scottish Parliament 2014-2016](#) of July 2017, contains a summary of Biodiversity State indicators. Of the current indicators in the report, three (abundance of terrestrial breeding birds; notified species in favourable condition; notified habitats in favourable condition) were considered to be improving, three (wintering waterbirds; breeding seabirds; butterflies - specialists) were worsening, and one was stable (butterflies - generalists).¹⁹ A subsequent report has found that specialist butterflies long term trends are

¹⁷ Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents/made>

¹⁸ <https://www.snhpresscentre.com/resources/3lfef-0uagk-5qmqq-3b8t0-41k91>

¹⁹ Scottish Government, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Report to the Scottish Parliament 2014 - 2016 (2017). <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00522533.pdf>

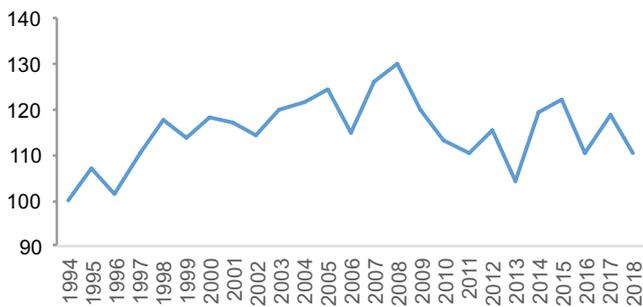
stable compared to when records began in 1979.²⁰ Scotland's NPF Indicator for biodiversity shows a 19% increase in terrestrial breeding birds since 1994, however key species of farmland birds are in decline.

The Data Picture: Biodiversity - Terrestrial Breeding Birds

Target 15.5 aims to 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.

The latest figures show a significant change in the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds between 2017 and 2018. In 2018, the index was 110.3 compared to 119.0 in 2017 (against a value of 100 in 1994).

Index of abundance of Terrestrial Breeding Birds (1994 = 100)



Source: Breeding Bird Survey

In recognition of this challenge, the Scottish Government, set out the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity. This, in line with the global targets, aims to protect and restore biodiversity, support healthy ecosystems, connect people with the natural world, and maximise the benefits of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, overall contributing to sustainable economic growth in Scotland. To do this we recognise that we must tackle key pressures on biodiversity, including climate change, invasive non-native species and habitat fragmentation.

Scotland's ground breaking statutory biodiversity duty requires public bodies to report on their conservation and biodiversity activities. Currently 66 public sector organisations are reporting on their work to conserve biodiversity.²¹ However, a recent examination of the duty implementation by the Scottish Parliament noted a low level of compliance with the reporting duty. At the end of the last reporting cycle in January 2018, compliance with the reporting duty was 41%. The Scottish Government acknowledged that while compliance was increasing, there remained a number of public bodies which are not engaged in the reporting process and that compliance with the reporting duty was directly linked to the compliance with the biodiversity duty. In order to improve public body compliance performance with the duty the Scottish Government is working closely with Scottish Natural Heritage on a range of actions to address the recommendations from the Scottish Parliament.²² These range from improving guidance for public bodies, including information on how to conduct local and public engagement, sending reminders to public bodies ahead of the reporting cycle to raise awareness, and improving the report publication process to enhance transparency.

The Scottish Government works closely with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to meet its biodiversity goals. SNH is in ongoing to discussion on how to report on Scotland's Biodiversity progress to 2020 Aichi targets for 2018. This report will follow earlier ones and set the design standard for UK reporting on the Aichi targets. Progress is described under the five Aichi Strategic Goals, which encompass the 20 targets:

- **Mainstreaming** – good progress on public awareness and engagement and embedding biodiversity values through policy and practice on natural capital: the Scottish Nature Omnibus Survey (SNO) revealed around 65% of people were concerned about biodiversity – but while there is evidence of influencing decision making across key sectors of government and society, there is still scope for greater integration, for example through a renewed emphasis on the importance of compliance with the public sector biodiversity duty, and in ensuring production and consumption are within safe ecological limits.

20 <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-07/Scottish%20Biodiversity%20Indicator%20-%20Terrestrial%20Insect%20Abundance%20-%20Butterflies%20-%20July%202018.pdf>

21 Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2004/6/pdfs/asp_20040006_en.pdf; see here for collated reports <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/biodiversity-duty/biodiversity-duty-reporting>

22 <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107616.aspx>

- **Pressures on biodiversity** – there remains much work to be done but there is evidence of positive changes in relation to sustainable management, pollution reduction and protection of ecosystems vulnerable to climate change, but more targeted action required on herbivore impacts and invasive species. The designation of marine and terrestrial protected areas now exceeds the international target.
- **Management, representativeness, integration, and connectivity** - further work required to identify additional actions for certain species, including seabirds, waders, upland birds and specialist butterflies. As of March 2018, 79.7% of natural features on protected nature sites were assessed as being in favourable condition.²³ From a total of 3,710 designated features on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Scotland, 1,928 have had no Site Condition Monitoring assessments undertaken in the last six years. This represents 52% of all designated features on SSSIs in Scotland. However, some SSSI features were instead subject to a Site Check process, which involves a shorter site visit which can trigger further action by Scottish Natural Heritage, including Site Condition Monitoring or management intervention. Taking into account those features assessed by a Site Check, the extent of all designated features on SSSIs in Scotland not assessed in the last six years is 21%²⁴.
- **Benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services** – good progress on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Peatland restoration in Scotland is increasing each year and the ecological status of freshwaters habitats is continuing to improve. Ambitious targets for native woodland restoration and improving condition are in place, with measures to improve the management of lowland and upland deer.

- **Enhanced implementation** - continued implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the Route Map to 2020 is regularly reported to the Scottish Parliament and Ministers. The protection of traditional knowledge and the rights of communities are contributing positively to Scotland's biodiversity. The improved collation of data and data management are ensuring decisions are informed and information is shared and accessible. More work is required to address improved data recording, data analysis gaps and data relating to ecosystem functions.

Part of the response to these challenges set out by the data includes the Biodiversity Challenge Fund, a competitive fund with a budget of up to £2 million over 2 years designed to accelerate progress on 4 Aichi targets up to 2020:

- Habitat loss (Aichi target 5)
- Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry (Aichi target 7)
- Invasive species (Aichi target 9)
- Ecosystems vulnerable to climate change (Aichi target 10)

Around 80% of SNH's £46 million budget contributes to SDGs 14 and 15. This includes a range of activities: management of protected areas, notifications and consents, for example, consents to land managers and others to manage protected areas. Wildlife management, licensing and authorisations, for example, licencing activities that affect protected species, such as bats, badgers or geese and the management of wild animals such as deer and seals. Planning and development advice, for example, statutory and good practice advice through the marine and terrestrial planning systems to local authorities, Marine Scotland and development interests on the siting, design and mitigation of development to achieve the right development in the right place. SNH events over the coming months will enable stakeholders to contribute their thinking on how to shape our strategy post 2020. The Scottish Government is preparing to participate actively in discussions with the UK Government and others to influence these outcomes.

²³ <https://www2.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator/naturesites>

²⁴ <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-21208&ResultsPerPage=10>

National nature reserves (targets 15.1, indicator 15.1.2)

Scotland has 43 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) showcasing the very best of Scotland's nature. They include mountain tops, ancient woodlands, remote islands with huge colonies of breeding seabirds, and lowland lochs that are vitally important staging posts for migrating birds. The NNRs had around 600,000 visitors during 2017/18 and over 93% were satisfied with their visit. They complement SNH's work in tackling inequality by hosting school visits, and offering volunteering opportunities and a venue for health walks, targeting groups and individuals from disadvantaged communities or those facing particularly challenging personal circumstances, ensuring no one is left behind. SNH supported 16 wheelchair users to access the NNRs with Pony Axe S – a company that gets people in wheelchairs to wild places.

Peatlands (targets 15.1 and 15.3, indicator 15.1.2)

Peatlands are a key part of the Scottish landscape, and an internationally important habitat and carbon store. Scotland's peat soils cover more than 20% of the country and store around 1600 million tonnes of carbon. However, according to a 2016 report, it is estimated that over 80% of our peatlands are degraded.²⁵ This is why Scottish Natural Heritage's internationally-renowned work on peatland restoration is of such importance. It mitigates against climate change and has benefits for flood management, water quality and biodiversity. The Scottish Government-funded Peatland ACTION programme, is the principal funding mechanism for this work. Annual targets are vulnerable to spells of bad weather, but almost 20,000 hectares of peatland have been restored in total.

Wetlands (targets 15.1 and 15.5, and indicator 15.1.2)

Globally wetlands are amongst the most threatened habitats. They are often very rich in species and provide important ecosystem services such as flood mitigation, provision of water and food, and recreation. Wetlands are at risk from climate change, pollution, invasive non-native species, drainage, over-exploitation and development. The Ramsar convention was signed in 1971, and originally focused mainly on protection of wetlands for water birds. It has since broadened out to cover other species and now encompasses 2341 sites around the world.²⁶ The UK has the highest number of sites of any country and over a quarter of these (51 sites covering about 313,000 hectares) are in Scotland. The main types of wetland in Scotland are marine and coastal wetlands, such as estuaries and rocky shores, and inland wetlands such as rivers, lochs, and marshes. All Ramsar sites are also either designated as Natura sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are protected under the relevant legislation. Where Ramsar interests are not the same as Natura qualifying interests but instead match SSSI features, these receive protection under the SSSI legislation rather than Natura regulations.

Green infrastructure (target 15.9)

Finally, over £36 million has been committed to green infrastructure since 2015. This money has gone to support urban biodiversity and help urban dwellers, particularly those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods, to have access to nature and the benefits this brings, ensuring that no-one is left behind.²⁷

25 https://www.hutton.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/publications/Peatlands%20final_web_reduced%20size.pdf (2016)

26 <https://rsis.ramsar.org/>

27 Examples can be found at: <https://www.greeninfrastructurescotland.scot/our-projects-0>

Closer Look - Middlefield Greenspace and Regeneration Project (Aberdeen City Council)

This Project has been developed with the community, during a consultation process that commenced in 2014. A 'Total Place' audit was undertaken of this neighbourhood. One of the identified actions was to upgrade this Park. The Project will provide a high quality, outdoor recreational space that is readily accessible to those whose life choices are limited by their personal circumstances. It is intended that these persons will also be supported in participating in a wide range of activities within this park. It is anticipated that these improvements and activities will have a positive effect on a range of deprivation indicators.

Closer Look - St Eunan's Community Greenspace (West Dunbartonshire Council)

West Dunbartonshire Council is planning to develop the former St Eunan's Primary School site which is located within a residential neighbourhood of Clydebank and is currently inaccessible and severely contaminated. The site will be transformed into an attractive and exciting new Community Green Space with biodiversity areas, raised bed allotments, recreational areas for children, outdoor exercise equipment, and outdoor education areas as well as interpretation about the heritage of Clydebank. In addition, new pedestrian routes will be provided through the site.

Edinburgh Living Landscape consists of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Government (targets 15.9 and links with Goal 3, 11 and 13). This project focuses on achieving changes across Edinburgh, from bringing wildlife into people's gardens to integrating green infrastructure into Edinburgh's biggest networks, turning grey into green in densely-populated areas, and ensuring green areas are sustainable and resilient, creating meadows and more natural areas that can be explored and enjoyed. In new developments, nature will be seen as an asset and natural features will be built into the infrastructure.

- Confor is a membership organisation that promotes sustainable forestry and wood-using businesses
- The Institute of Chartered Foresters is the Royal Chartered body for foresters and arboriculturists in the UK. The Institute works to foster a greater public awareness and understanding of forestry in order to serve a variety of commercial, recreational, environmental and scientific interests
- The Community Woodlands Association aim to help communities to connect people with nature and build social capital in communities across Scotland, to manage their woodlands to meet local needs, and to deliver a broad range of social, environmental and economic public benefits
- Woodland Trust Scotland works with government, communities and individuals to plant new native woods, restore existing ones to peak condition, and halt the loss of ancient woods and trees to inappropriate development
- Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations, with over 35 member bodies representing a range of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society
- Scottish Land and Estates is an association for landowners and rural businesses

Forestry (targets 15.1 and 15.2 and indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1)

In 2019, Scotland's forests and woodlands covered more than 1.45 million hectares, equivalent to 18.5% of the country's total land area. This is a higher percentage than other UK countries, but is below the European Union average of around 40%. The Scottish Government has the most ambitious woodland creation targets in the UK, and aims to increase the forest area from 18.7% to 21% by 2032. Forestry contributes £1 billion per year to the Scottish economy and supports more than 25,000 jobs.²⁸ Scotland's forests and woodlands are also home to 172 protected species, they absorbed around 9.5 million tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere in 2016, and provide opportunities for people to engage in healthy activities - 63% of adults in Scotland visited a forest or woodland in 2014.

The Scottish Government is committed to the international principles of sustainable forest management and endorses the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). The UKFS defines the agreed approach to sustainable forest management across all the administrations of the UK. The UKFS sets out the regulatory requirements for forestry and meeting its requirements is a pre-condition of felling licences, forest plans and government forestry grants.

A new era for sustainable forestry in Scotland

From 1 April 2019 Scottish Ministers will be accountable to the Scottish Parliament for forestry policy, regulation, grant funding, forest research and managing Scottish Ministers forested land, as a result of completing the devolution of forestry. A key part of the devolution process was the passing of the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018. The Act places a duty on Scottish Ministers and Scottish public authorities to promote the internationally recognised principles of sustainable forest management. It also places a duty on Scottish Ministers to publish a forestry strategy to set out how it would deliver its ambitions for forestry including the promotion of sustainable forest management.

A new forestry strategy, **Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029**, was published by the Scottish Government on 5 February 2019. The Strategy sets out the 10 year strategic framework for forestry in Scotland. It has sustainable forest management at its core and will be delivered in partnership with public, private and third sector organisations. The implementation of the Strategy will support Scotland's ambition to deliver greater economic, social and environmental benefits now and for future generations.

The new strategy has a 50-year vision for forestry in Scotland that reflects the long term nature of forestry and includes the commitment to sustainable management:

'In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodlands, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient, adaptable resource, with greater natural capital value, that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment, and healthy and flourishing communities'.

This vision will be delivered by meeting the following 10 year objectives:

- Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth (target 15.9)
- Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high quality environment (target 15.2)
- Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, wellbeing and life chances

Underpinning these objectives are six priority areas for action. This includes the priority of *'Ensuring forest and woodlands are sustainably managed'*. The activities identified to achieve this priority include:

- Maintaining and promoting the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) as the benchmark of good forestry practice, and assessment of the quality of forest and woodland expansion proposals and forest management plans

28 <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/woodland-statistics/>

- Further developing our shared understanding of the application of sustainable forest management principles in a Scottish context

The Scottish Government will publish a more detailed implementation, monitoring and reporting framework to support the delivery of the strategy by 1 April 2020.

Scotland is making good progress on the indicator to sustainably manage forests. Scotland has the largest proportion of independently certified forests (process to verify forest are sustainably managed) in the UK - 59% against a UK average of 44%.²⁹ Scotland exceeded its 10,000 hectare a year woodland creation target by planting 11,210 hectares in 2018/19 – 84% of all woodland planting in the UK. That included over 4,000 hectares of new native woodland meaning Scotland's native woodland area is expanding. Native woodland accounts for 22% of Scotland's forests, and 46% of native forest is in satisfactory condition for biodiversity³⁰. In March 2017, 68.1% of native woodland features in protected areas were in good condition³¹. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: 2020 route map has targets to improve both the extent and condition of Scotland's native woodland (see below). The new forestry strategy re-iterates these commitment and has a number of priority actions to support their delivery including *“Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands” that in particular will focus on “protecting and enhancing associated biodiversity.”*

As part of its commitment to sustainable forest management the Scottish Government seeks to prevent inappropriate woodland loss, particularly of ancient woodland. The regulatory framework for forestry, the requirements of the UKFS and the implementation of the Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy support this commitment. Between 2006 and 2015 1,700 hectares of woodland was permanently removed mainly as a result of built development. Of that 11 hectares was ancient woodland.

Scotland has also signed up to the Bonn Challenge, which aims to regenerate deforested and degraded landscapes across the world. The Scottish Government has committed to a range of actions as part of the pledge to the Bonn Challenge, including:

- By 2030, 165,000 hectares of new woodland will be planted. This is part of Scotland's wider ambitions to increase woodland cover from 18% to 21% by 2032
- Delivering a greater level of carbon sequestration with around 10MtCO₂e of emissions being soaked up each year up to 2032 – some 130 million tonnes of CO₂e
- Increasing the annual woodland creation target of 10,000 hectares a year to 15,000 hectares by 2024/25
- A commitment to improve the condition and extent of native woodlands – delivering a target to ensure 3,000 to 5,000 hectares of new native woodland is established each year

The Scottish Government is committed to protecting, enhancing and valuing Scotland's environment and increasing stocks of natural capital. Scotland's forests and woodlands can help to support delivery of the biodiversity strategy as well as the Scottish Soil Framework and approach to River Basin Management Planning.

All Scotland's forests, woodlands and associated open ground habitats provide some biodiversity value. However, suitably managed native, and in particular ancient and semi-natural woodlands, including appropriately restored plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), will contribute the most.

There are also opportunities to manage Scotland's forests and woodlands to enhance the environmental benefits they provide, including helping to manage water quantities in times of flooding or water scarcity, protecting and improving water quality, helping to reduce soil erosion and improve slope stability.

²⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/pages/4/>

³⁰ *ibid*

³¹ *ibid*

Many of Scotland's existing forests and woodlands were planted before the formal concept of sustainable forest management was adopted, around 20 years ago. Scotland is therefore still dealing with the impacts of some forestry practices carried out prior to this. These practices included the siting and design of forests and woodlands that did not reflect sensitive landscapes, take into account priority habitats and areas of deep peat, or appropriately consider other land-use objectives. These impacts are now being addressed when the forests and woodlands are harvested, with their redesign and replanting meeting the requirements of the UKFS.

Invasive non-native species (target 15.8, indicator 15.8.1)

Scotland has many non-native species but only a small number of those count as invasive (they cause damage to the environment, economy, and our health). Scotland's Biodiversity Route Map frames invasive non-native Species (INNS) as a key driver of biodiversity loss in Scotland. Among the 1,161 non-native species established in Scotland, 183 (16%) have negative ecological impacts, with the majority of INNS species being higher plants.³²

The **official statistics report** on protected areas condition states that invasive species constitute 'the single biggest negative impact on feature condition' in Scotland. Island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to INNS impacts, a major concern given the important, protected biodiversity that Scotland's islands host. *Rhododendron ponticum*, originally from Spain, is the main INNS threat to terrestrial biodiversity, especially woodlands. *Rhododendron ponticum* forms dense thickets, shading out flowering plants, bryophytes and lichens, and preventing tree regeneration. SNH and Scottish Forestry have drawn together the experiences and outcomes of past and current projects to create a national strategy that identifies priority areas for *rhododendron* control associated with woodland in Scotland, and to produce supporting information and guidance. Public and private land managers are working together in several areas of Scotland, including Glen Creran in Argyll and Torridon. Funding is available through the Forest Grant Scheme to support such work in priority areas.

Notable partnerships to address this target in Scotland include work being undertaken by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) with ten Fishery Trusts/Boards and the University of Aberdeen on the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) (target 15.8). This is a four-year partnership project which aims to work with local organisations and volunteers to control INNS along riversides in Northern Scotland, for the benefit of our native wildlife and communities.

Partners in the **Centre of Expertise for Plant Health** include the Scottish Government, BioSS, Forest Research, James Hutton Institute, SRUC, NERC CEH, SEFARI, SASA, University of Edinburgh, University of Strathclyde, and the University of Exeter (target 15.8 and links with SDG 13). Coordination of needs and activities across Scotland to strengthen resilience to pests and pathogens. RBGE is the data hub for monitoring and managing pathogen risk within horticultural settings.

The Scottish Government is working with partners across the UK to minimise the risk posed, and the negative impacts caused, by INNS in Scotland and action to address this is coordinated across the UK, particularly across Great Britain. The GB Programme Board, comprising senior representatives from the three administrations and their agencies, gives strategic consideration of the threat of INNS across Great Britain. Much of the work carried out is underpinned by The Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy, which the Scottish Government launched in partnership with Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government in 2015.

The following two groups have been set up in Scotland:

- The Non-Native Species Action Group, to ensure effective policy co-ordination and practical implementation in Scotland
- The Statutory Group on Non-Native Species, to oversee the use of new statutory powers and coordinate work between the statutory bodies with specific responsibilities for non-native species in Scotland

32 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gb/gb-nr-oth-p1-en.pdf>

The **Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011** enabled Scotland to adopt the internationally recognised three-stage approach to dealing with invasive non-native species, which aims to:

- Prevent the release and spread of non-native animal and plant species into areas where they can cause damage to native species and habitats and to economic interests
- Ensure a rapid response to new populations can be undertaken
- Ensure effective control and eradication measures can be carried out when problem situations arise

With these mechanisms in place, Scotland's performance on these non-statistical indicators, in terms of compliance in legal and policy terms, is strong.

Closer Look - Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE) works with partners: Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Forestry, Cairngorms National Park (NP), Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, Glen Creran National Nature Reserve (NNR), Glasdrum National Nature Reserve - on ex situ conservation, restoration, reintroduction and translocation of priority Scottish native plant species. RBGE helps to deliver target 8 of the GSPC for Scotland, maintaining ex situ populations of 83% of target species (156), and reintroducing priority species including *Cicerbita alpina*, *Salix lanata* and *Woodsia ilvensis* to the highlands. Targets 15.1: 15.2: 15.3: 15.4 and 15.5 and links with SDG 13.

RBGE also works with the Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Forestry, Cairngorms NP, Loch Lomond & Trossachs NP, Glen Creran NNR, Glasdrum NNR, RSPB, Butterfly Conservation, BSBI, Plantlife and other local partners on various plant diversity programmes. RBGE's extensive research, conservation and outreach programmes further the understanding the plant diversity of Scotland (including globally rare temperate rainforest,

outstanding diversity of cryptogams, and iconic pinewoods, blanket bogs and machair grasslands). RBGE determines how Scotland's plant communities may respond to environmental change, develop solutions to protect them (including ex situ conservation, species reintroduction and restoration programmes, and urban and rural habitat management), and connect plants and people resulting in enhanced sustainability and environmental stewardship. Target 15.1 and links with SDG 13.

RBGE works with Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Forestry, Cairngorms NP, Loch Lomond & Trossachs NP, Glen Creran NNR, Glasdrum NNR, on expanding our knowledge and providing tools for understanding and conserving Scotland's outstanding cryptogam diversity, including a toolkit for risk analysis of Scotland's epiphytes, the impact of Scotland's free-ranging reindeer herd, and translocations into Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. Target 15.1 15.4: 15.5. and links with SDG 4 and 13.

International contribution (target 15.6)

Scottish Forestry will encourage the sharing of best practice and case studies (Scotland has long shared its experience internationally), such as through existing platforms such as WWF's New Generation Plantations programme. And will continue to work closely with DEFRA on developing the UK Government's international forest policy.

SNH has contributed advice internationally on approaches to species conservation and management, including multi-partner conservation and management, translocations, reintroductions, non-native invasive species control and conservation frameworks.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh works on a number of international projects which include:

The International Conifer Conservation Project (target 15.5) with Rainforest Concern which aims to purchase a £2.6 million, 5,000 acre piece of Andean rainforest, home to threatened conifers some of them more than 5,000 years old, to save it from development such as wind farms and protect the animals and plants that depend on it and the carbon locked into it. Their International Conifer Conservation Project also maintains ex situ populations containing 13,000 trees of threatened conifer species at 170 'safe sites' across the UK, including material of genotypes no longer found in the wild.

Genetic studies of Theobroma cacao (cocoa tree) (target 15.6, links with Goals 1, 10 and 12) consists of a partnership between RBG, the University of Rosario, University of the Andes (Colombia), University of Miami, and USDA. The project aims to generate information on genetic diversity and genetic traits (such as disease resistance and drought tolerance) within *Theobroma cacao* and related species, to help improve the viability, quality and quantity of the crop that can be grown in situ, supporting the livelihoods of local people in Colombia in a changing climate.

Biodiversity surveying work in the mountains of Nepal, China, the Himalaya, Oman, and the Andes, among others (target 15.4 and links with Goal 13). The numerous, partners in this project include the Government of Nepal's Department of Plant Resources, Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and the University of Tokyo, Kunming Institute of Botany (CAS), Institute of Botany Beijing (CAS), Government of Oman, Earthwatch Oman, Oman Botanic Garden, IUCN SSC Arabian Plant Specialist Group, British Council, CONICET (Argentina), UK BEIS, IANIGLA (Argentina), IMASL (Argentina), CIMA (Argentina), Universidad de Concepción (Chile). Outcomes from this work have included numerous publications, workshops and networks. Awareness-raising opportunities include the ongoing Flora of Nepal, the establishment of the Jade Dragon Research Station and Lijiang Botanic Garden in the Hengduan Mountains (Yunnan), the discovery of important plant areas in Oman feeding into

national development plans, and the trans-Andean workshop 'Plant dynamics and Climate Change in the Andes.'

Invasive Plants of Nepal (target 15.8 and links with Goals 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 12 and 17). The project partners are DEFRA (Darwin Initiative), Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Forest Resource Studies and Action Team, Nepal Department of Plant Resources, Tribhuvan University Central Department of Botany, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal, and the Nepal Alternative Energy Promotion Centre. Outcomes have included improved scientific knowledge-base and in-country capacity to tackle the increasing challenges from invasive plants in Nepal by engaging local communities in recognition, controlling and utilizing the invasive plants, and restoring the infested lands in three districts, covering 750 households and at least 4,000 people. Other benefits include:

- Enhanced national capacity for detailed surveying and early detection
- Knowledge gaps filled in botanical identification, appearance and characterisation
- Multi-lingual manuals on recognition and control,
- Raised awareness among local people on identification and impacts of invasive plant species
- Local people empowered to control/manage invasive plant species

DNA barcoding and fingerprinting to support law enforcement and track threatened species and habitats (target 15.7, links with Goal 12). The People's Postcode Lottery, researchers and wildlife protection agencies in South Africa, and the Roslin Institute are involved in this work. Aims include the development and employment of molecular methods to identify and track the source and movement of endangered species such as cycads and illegally-logged timber from threatened habitats.

GCRF Trade, Development and the Environment Hub (targets 15.7, 15b, links with Goal 1, 9, 10, 12). The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre is the main project partner – see [here](#) for a full listing of other collaborators. Outcomes include the production of research and influence across supply chains to help ensure that trade becomes a driver of positive change for threatened species, with biodiversity loss halted and people permanently lifted out of poverty.

Taxonomic research (target 15.5, links with Goal 12, 13, 17) involving the Scottish Government, national and international academic and research institutes, national and international NGOs, UKRI research councils and other funding bodies, and national and international students. The RBG Edinburgh provide the baseline data necessary to underpin the action defined in target 15.5: we discover and describe new species around the world, document their distributions and assess their conservation status, to provide baseline data for conservation planning and sustainable use. Target taxa include conifers, cryptogams, Solanum (tomato, potato, aubergine), Theobroma cacao (cocoa), Zingiberaceae (gingers), Sapotaceae, Begonia and Gesneriaceae.

Challenges and next steps

Scotland's overall performance against goal 15 represents a mixed picture. The number of Aichi targets being on target has increased. The condition of biodiversity is stable or slightly worsening. Key success stories are to be highlighted, such as breeding woodland bird numbers. Scotland shares with other countries the threat represented by climate change to its biodiversity health. Damage may only become exacerbated as Scotland's climate continues to change. According to a recently published report, [Scotland's Nature on Red Alert: climate change impacts on biodiversity](#), evidence suggests that Scotland's biodiversity is already experiencing a changed climate, affecting species abundance, distribution, their food sources, breeding and ability to adapt. According to the report, some of Scotland's most well-known and iconic wildlife, including Atlantic salmon, capercaillie, freshwater pearl mussel and kittiwake, are under threat from climate pressures.

In response to the Climate Emergency and following the advice from the Climate Change Committee, the Scottish Government will be widely consulting on the transformational policies needed to feed into the update of the Climate Change Plan. It will also intensify its commitment under the Biodiversity Route map to 2020 and is committed to helping to shape the new post-2020 international biodiversity targets. The Scottish Government is working with Scottish Natural Heritage to co-ordinate this thinking, including ensuring that there is a sound evidence base on which to base future action and to help develop our strategic response to new targets.

Proper management for protected sites is also important. Without a robust monitoring system, it is not possible for the relevant government agencies to fully establish the condition of these sites, put in place remedial management measures where necessary and assess whether the Scottish Government is meeting its statutory obligation to protect these nature sites. Collaboration with partners across the public, private and third sectors will continue to be vitally important to improve compliance by public bodies with their duty to enhance biodiversity, where they can, in carrying out their functions.

Scotland is also participating in international discussions about the proposed [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, approved by the General Assembly, will run from 2021 to 2030 and emphasize scaling-up of restoration work to address the severe degradation of landscapes worldwide. The goal of the UN Decade is to boost landscape restoration work to the top of national agendas, building on a public demand for action on issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and the resulting impacts on economies and livelihoods.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- The Scottish Government will make an additional £2 million available to the Biodiversity Challenge Fund, funding projects which address biodiversity and climate change
- Informed by a careful consideration of the recent **IPBES** global biodiversity assessment, the Scottish Government will write to Parliament with its initial assessment of current activity, what more needs to be done and what we need to do differently. This will inform a step change in the Government's programme of work to address biodiversity loss, which will take account of the new post-2020 international biodiversity framework and targets
- A strategic approach to wildlife management, putting animal welfare at the centre while protecting public health, economic and conservation considerations will be developed with a set of principles to be published next year

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Human Rights



International

Scotland is a country that values and understands the importance of having strong institutions and a trusted government to benefit the people living here. Goal 16 can only be achieved if we value kindness, dignity, compassion, respect for the rule of law and act in an open and transparent way, as Scotland's NPF set out. The NPF guide Scotland's approach to government and public services, with treating all our people with kindness, dignity, and compassion as our core values. These values should be put into practise across public services. We are driving this through an ambitious and wide ranging programme of public service reform and through implementing the policies and practise of open government, across the work of the Scottish Government.

Security and justice (targets 16.1, 16.2 and 16.3)

The [Justice in Scotland: vision and priorities](#) sets out the vision for a 'safe, just and resilient Scotland' and is focused on improving outcomes for people across Scotland, providing an over-arching and consistent framework to which everyone across the sector can align their efforts.

Scotland has become safer over the past decade. Overall, levels of crime and victimisation have fallen. The 2017/18 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), which includes crimes not reported to the police, estimates that the overall number of crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2017/18 has fallen by 42% since 2008/09, and by 16% since 2016/17 to the lowest level ever estimated by the survey. The SCJS also shows that there has been an 11 percentage point increase in the proportion of adults who said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone after dark in their local area between 2008-09 and 2017/18 (target 16.1).

Additionally, recorded crime in 2017-18 is at its second lowest level since 1974. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2017-18 was 244,504. Over the past ten years crime has decreased and by over a third (35%) since 2008-09 in Scotland.³³ The SCJS also confirms that the proportion of adults experiencing crime in Scotland has fallen from around one-in-five (20.4%) in 2008-09 to one-in-eight (12.5%) in 2017/18.

33 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2017-18/pages/5/>

The Scottish Government reported in 2017 that the number of people under 18 convicted of handling an offensive weapon has fallen by 85% since 2008-2009.³⁴ Action has been taken to reduce and prevent violence through our ongoing support and investment in the Violence Reduction Unit, and specific interventions including the Mentors in Violence Prevention Scotland Programme, Medics Against Violence ‘Ask, Support, Care’ programme, the **No Knives Better Lives Programme** and the hospital-based **Navigators programme**.

Over the past ten years the number of victims of homicide has fallen by 39% from 97 in 2008-09 to 59 in 2017-18. Over the same period the rate of homicide victimisation fell by 43% from 19 to 11 victims per million population. For male victims, this rate fell by 40% from 28 to 17 victims per million population and for female victims the rate fell by 53% from 10 to 5 victims per million population.³⁵

The Data Picture: Crime victimisation

In 2018-2019, 12.4% of adults reported being a victim of crime in Scotland. This has been on a downward trend in recent years.

Percentage of adults who were victims of one or more crimes in the past year



Gaps in the graph reflect the fact that annual data on this question is only available from 2016-17 onwards.

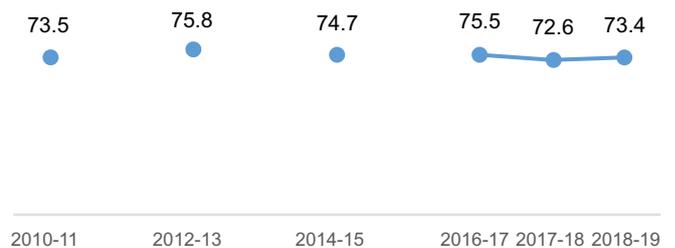
Source: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

The number of sexual crimes recorded by the police have increased by 97% over the past ten years from 6,331 in 2008-09 to 12,487 in 2017-18.³⁶ This long term rise is due to a range of factors. Part of this trend of increased reporting may reflect a greater willingness by victims to come forward, including to report crimes which may have not taken place recently. Another component to the increase of total sexual crime in 2017-18 is also due to there being 421 new crimes of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image. These are as a result of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Act (which commenced in July 2017) and are new to the sexual crime group. Previous Scottish Government research highlighted that a growth in sexual ‘cyber-crime’ accounts for a significant proportion of the growth in sexual crime in recent years.

The Data Picture: Perceptions of local crime rate

Around three quarters of adults in Scotland believe that the local crime rate has stayed the same or reduced in the last 2 years.

Percentage of adults who think crime in their area has stayed the same or reduced in the past 2 years



Gaps in the graph reflect the fact that annual data on this question is only available from 2016-17 onwards.

Source: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

³⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/justice-scotland-vision-priorities/pages/3/>

³⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/homicide-scotland-2017-18/pages/4/>

³⁶ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2017-18/pages/5/>

Cyber security (targets 16.10)

Digital technology offers huge opportunities for Scotland as a modern, progressive nation. However, these fantastic digital opportunities are not without risk and that risk is increasing. The National Crime Agency assesses that the cost of cybercrime to the UK economy is billions of pounds per annum.³⁷

Safe, Secure and Prosperous: A Cyber Resilience Strategy for Scotland published in 2015 provides a framework for improving Scotland's cyber resilience. It sets an ambition for Scotland to become a world leading nation in cyber resilience by 2020 and ensure everyone can share in the social, economic and democratic opportunities of the digital world. Cyber resilience is about getting the most out of online technologies while keeping ourselves, our families and our organisations safe and secure, and able to manage the threat.

The Programme for Government 2017-18 committed the Scottish Government to working with the National Cyber Resilience Leaders' Board (NCRLB) to develop and implement a suite of action plans to help drive Scotland towards our strategic ambitions. The action plans seek to support the development of cyber resilient behaviours amongst Scotland's population, and to build a skilled and growing cyber security profession. Actions are being taken to ensure that Scotland's public bodies have in place a common baseline of good cyber resilience practice. The Scottish Government has committed to make £500,000 available to smaller businesses and charities to ensure critical controls in place to defend against the most common cyber threats, while working with Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International to promote Scotland's reputation for robust cyber security products and services, and to provide seed funding of over £350,000 for a Cluster Management Organisation to support the growing number of businesses in this sector with further dedicated funding of £250,000 for a cyber-resilience innovation call, to stimulate fresh thinking in our private sector to meet the future cyber-resilience challenges our public sector will face.

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation (targets, 16.1, 16.2 and 16b)

Scotland is fully committed to tackling the issue of human trafficking and exploitation, including trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation (target 16.2). The Scottish Government, criminal justice agencies and support organisations work in partnership, both to make Scotland a more hostile environment for trafficking and exploitation and to ensure that victims are identified and given the support and assistance they need.

The **Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy** published in May 2017 identifies three areas of action where the Scottish Government will focus efforts: Identify victims and support them to safety and recovery, identify perpetrators and disrupt their activity, and address the conditions that foster trafficking. Sections 9 and 10 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on Scottish Ministers to provide support and assistance to victims of all forms of human trafficking and exploitation and of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. This duty came into force on 1 April 2018. Support and assistance that may be provided includes but is not limited to:

- Accommodation
- Day to day living
- Medical advice and treatment
- Counselling, legal advice, repatriation
- Information about other services available

Following publication and enactment of the National Strategy, **in 2018** there were 228 referrals to Police Scotland of potential victims of human trafficking. This is an increase of 10% from the 2017 indicative figure. The rise is indicative of a greater awareness of the issue of human trafficking which is a positive move forward to eradicating trafficking and exploitation in Scotland. The Scottish Government has provided funding of nearly £800,000 between 2017-2018 to support all adult victims of human trafficking in Scotland, including specialist psychological trauma support. The support period offered to adult victims of human trafficking was doubled in April 2018 to at least 90 days.

37 <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/cyber-crime>

Trafficking and exploitation of children has long been recognised as child abuse in Scotland and triggers child protection procedures. Ongoing support and protection is provided by local authorities and other partners.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 has introduced a single offence for all kinds of trafficking and raised the maximum penalty for Human Trafficking to life imprisonment. The act also introduced two new court orders to allow for the disruption of trafficking and exploitation: Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Orders and Trafficking and Exploitation Risk Orders. The first Orders were imposed in March 2018 and place restrictions and prohibitions on convicted traffickers to limit what they can do. The Act also introduced a presumption against the prosecution of victims of trafficking and exploitation, providing clear support and preventing victims being prosecuted inappropriately. The National Human Trafficking Unit, Police Scotland are working in partnership with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to maximise all available opportunities to use the Orders to protect individuals from harm and to disrupt trafficking and exploitation activity.

Our vision of a strong and flourishing Scotland is one where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence, as well as the attitudes that perpetuate it (target 16.1).

Domestic abuse, however, remains a prevalent issue – **latest findings** from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey show that in 2016/18 15.6% of adults report having experienced physical or psychological partner abuse since the age of 16, with women (20.0%) almost twice as likely as men (10.9%) to have experienced such abuse. To tackle this, the Scottish approach is framed by our **Equally Safe strategy**. The **Equally Safe strategy** for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls was originally produced in 2014, updated in 2016, and further updated in 2018. It focuses on the need for prevention of violence and sets out how we will develop a performance framework to determine whether we are realising our ambitions. The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 has introduced a ‘statutory domestic abuse aggravator’ to ensure courts take domestic abuse into account when sentencing offenders.

In 2016 the Scottish Government launched a **Child Protection Improvement Programme** to make improvements in all areas of child Protection, including child sexual exploitation and trafficking (target 16.2). In March 2017 the **Child Protection Improvement Programme report** was published. This was followed in March 2018 when the Scottish Government published Protecting Scotland’s **Children National Policy and Child Abuse Prevention Activity**. The Scottish Government are currently working with Evaluation Support Scotland to develop a Child Abuse Prevention Framework.

The Scottish Government has set up a national awareness-raising campaign for parents, carers, and young people in partnership with organisations including Barnardo’s Scotland, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, WithScotland, The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation, and members of the Public Awareness Advisory Group of Child Protection Committees Scotland. And since April 2017, Rape Crisis Scotland has delivered 372 workshops to 4594 pupils in 47 schools.

Closer Look - Whole community approach to addressing and tackling child sexual exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness raising sessions for retail staff/landlords/licenced premises were delivered by Barnardo’s Scotland with the public protection unit and two community police officers. It was a positive example of a whole community approach to managing this issue. People were able to share their concerns with the police support present and links were made between establishments. The awareness session also highlighted the personal impact that CSE has on those who are taking part in the training. Individuals who were present were keen to talk to Barnardo’s Scotland staff about concerns they have for their own teenage daughters and online dangers. Had they not been part of the awareness event they may not have known or had the confidence to come and talk to Barnardo’s Scotland staff.

Scotland is working to ensure that we are in full compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Scottish Government is working with partners such as Together and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, to ensure that children and young people's voices are at the heart of decision making. Together produces an annual assessment of UNCRC implementation in Scotland. The Scottish Government is committed to incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law within the current parliamentary term.

In the **2017 Programme for Government** the Scottish Government made a commitment to invest in the development of a Digital Evidence Sharing Capability. This will improve how evidence is accessed across the justice system, making it easier to share and for cases to be resolved more quickly. The Scottish Government is working with the Scottish Legal Aid Board, which manages and administers legal aid, and the Law Society of Scotland to streamline and modernise the way criminal legal aid fees are structured. This will improve access to justice by making the system more effective and reducing unnecessary costs.

Justice for all (target 16.3)

The **Caledonian System** works with men convicted of domestic abuse offences to help them recognise their abuse and take responsibility for themselves and their relationships with others. **An evaluation** of the Caledonian System, set up to address men's domestic abuse, shows that women feel safer and that men who complete the Caledonian System programme pose a lower risk to partners and children. The Scottish Government has provided approximately £2.3 million of funding for 2016 and 2017.

Evidence has demonstrated that community sentences are more effective at reducing reoffending than short prison sentences, as these interventions provide better opportunities to address the underlying causes of offending. This underpins the Scottish Government's ongoing approach to making more effective use of community sentences to reduce reoffending. Local authorities work closely with Community Justice Scotland and Social Work Scotland to promote community sentencing and support rehabilitation and reduce reoffending. In addition planned penal reform includes the extension of the current presumption against short sentences from 3 to 12 months.

In 2015 the Scottish Government published the **Serious Organised Crime Strategy**, which aims to reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime by ensuring all partner bodies collaborate together (target 16.4). Since then the final provisions of the Criminal Finances Act 2017 have come into force (April 2018), enabling the recovery of the proceeds of crime in Scotland to be maximised.

The Scottish Government is continuing to ensure that public access to information is clear and easy to understand. **Mygov.scot** translates government legislation and policy into clear and easy to understand information for the public. The website is evolving as the single point of access for finding out about public services in Scotland. This includes information regarding civil and criminal justice issues.

A Victims Taskforce has been established by the Scottish Government to improve support, advice, and information for victims of crime. The Taskforce will monitor, support, and facilitate the Programme for Government commitments. These commitment are to:

- Reduce and, where possible, eliminate the need for victims to have to retell their story to different organisations as they look for help, working with Victim Support Scotland and others
- Widen the range of serious crimes where the victim can make a statement to the court about how the crime has affected them, informed by consultation
- Ensure victims and their families have better information and greater support ahead of prison release arrangements
- Increase the openness and transparency of the parole system
- Establish a new support service for families bereaved by murder and culpable homicide
- Improve the experience of victims of rape and sexual assault

The Taskforce will be informed by the direct views of victims and has discussed the best methods for widening public engagement in the initial meetings.

The Scottish Government published a **Victim's Code for Scotland** in 2016 which clearly and simply sets out the rights of victims of crime in a single place. An **Easy Read** version of this code was published in July 2018. Victims and bereaved relatives have been provided with new rights to access information and reasons for the decisions made about their case.

Democracy, public participation, public services, and society (targets 16.6, 16.7, 16a, and 16.10)

Open Government Partnership

The Scottish Government's membership of the **Open Government Partnership**, a multilateral initiative, aims to secure concrete commitments from national and subnational governments to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. This is a key example of work between government (national and local) and civil society to rebuild trust in government and institutions. In Scotland this will now be delivered in partnership with COSLA, which represents local authorities across Scotland, and with civil society.

Scotland is a pioneer country at working with members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), our work with them explicitly supports the delivery of SDG 16, particularly targets 16.6, 16.7 and 6.10. The current **Scottish Open Government Action Plan**, was developed in partnership between Scottish Government, COSLA and the Scottish OGP civil society network to seek to reach across the system of public services. The Action plan contains commitments in five areas:

1. Financial performance and transparency
2. Providing a framework to support systemic change in Scottish Government to improve the way people are able to participate in open policy making and service delivery
3. Improvements to the way information and data are used
4. Improving the accountability of public services
5. Transparency and participation in Scotland as the UK exits the European Union

The first commitment is to have a specific focus on fiscal and performance transparency. The recently established Scottish Exchequer and the new Scottish National Investment Bank are being developed as effective, accountable and transparent institutions. The Scottish Government's **Scottish Parliament Budget Process Review Group** has published a report including recommendations that the Scottish Government budget process establishes a core objective to 'improve transparency and raise public understanding and awareness of the Budget'. This is supported by the Scottish Government's agreement with COSLA that 1% of local authority budgets will be subject to participatory budgeting by 2020/21 proactively and transparently involving local people in making decisions for how public money is spent in their community.

The Second and Third commitments of the Open Government Action Plan underline Scotland's commitment to provide more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making (target 16.7). Scotland is improving and developing open policy making with a participation framework and a programme to improve access to data and information alongside making the data and information accessible and easily understood.

The **Scotland Civil Society Open Government Network** is a coalition of citizens and civil society organisations committed to improving how the Scottish Government works for people through enhanced transparency, participation, and accountability. Civic participation is a core element of an open government, as such, the network service as an engine for the generation of new ideas and as a collective voice to collaborate with and challenge government. The Civil Society Network does this by initiating outreach and increasing engagement across society. Membership of the network is open to any individual or civil society organisation.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act gives the right to access information held by the Scottish Government and other Scottish public authorities. In April 2017, following a dip in performance regarding FOI requests and reviews responded to on time by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Information Commissioner started an intervention process. In July 2019, the Commissioner published [a progress report](#) on the intervention. Monthly performance statistics on FOI requests handled by the Scottish Government are published on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Citizens' Assembly

The Scottish Government has recently convened an independent Citizens' Assembly. Citizens' assemblies are a methodology to help societies discuss and better understand significant, complex or divisive issues in an evidence-informed and reasoned manner. The [Citizens' Assembly of Scotland](#) will comprise up to 130 members of the public and will be run independently of government by two co-convenors. It will consider three broad questions:

- what kind of country are we seeking to build?
- how can Scotland overcome the challenges we face?
- what further work needs to be done give people the detail they need to make informed choices about the future of the country?

The Scottish Government will respond to the recommendations of the Assembly within three months.

Local Governance Review

A joint Scottish Government and COSLA [review local governance](#) in Scotland is underway. We are committed to Scotland's different places and diverse communities having a greater, and more direct, say over decisions which affect them. In order to do this the review will recalibrate how power and resources are shared between national and local government and with communities. Any new decision making arrangements required to support this shift and bring democracy closer to people will be rights based and flexible enough to take account of local circumstances. The fourth commitment brings government in partnership with some of the scrutiny bodies to map and deliver improvements to the accountability of public services (target 16.6).

That commitment supports the work identified by the Scottish Government's [Scottish Parliament Budget Process Review Group](#) in its [report](#) published in 2018. Scotland is committed to participatory budgeting as a tool for community engagement and for developing participatory democracy in Scotland. Participatory budgeting events are run by public bodies and local communities across Scotland.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have a right to be listened to and to be taken seriously. There has been clear progression within Scotland over recent years in terms of involving children and young people in policy making. The development of the previous [Child Poverty Strategy](#) and the peer led approach to substance misuse education are good examples of involving children within the policy development process. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduces a provision to take account of the views of children in decisions that affect them and has resulted in the introduction of the [Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment](#) (CRWIA).

In 2018 Children in Scotland, with Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) supported the development of a Children and Young People's Panel on Europe to ensure that children and young people's voices were heard about Brexit. The Panel engaged directly with Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitution, and the Scottish Government's Standing Council on Europe to ensure that the Scottish Government were able to respond to the views of children and young people.

Closer Look - Together

Together is an alliance of Scottish children's charities that works to improve the awareness, understanding and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is done by:

- Promoting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Helping children's organisations to integrate the UNCRC into their work
- Monitoring and reporting on the progress made at a Scottish and UK level

Over 380 members range from large international and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through to small volunteer-led after school clubs, academics, professionals and individuals with an interest in children's rights.

Human rights in Scotland

The Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) was established by The Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006, and formed in 2008. SHRC is the national human rights institution for Scotland and is independent of the Scottish Government and Parliament in the exercise of its functions. SHRC has a general duty to promote human rights and a series of specific powers to protect human rights for everyone in Scotland. SHRC is accredited as an A-Status NHRI within the UN human rights system institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles³⁸ (indicator 16.A.1). A-Status accreditation enables SHRC to report directly to the UN on human rights issues. It also means it is the only Scottish organisation that can make direct contributions to the UN Human Rights Council on issues affecting people in Scotland.³⁹

SHRC has engaged with the SDG agenda since the publication of the Goals in 2015. Their work has focused on bringing international best practice in human rights monitoring, to support alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) reporting. SHRC also contributed a [supplementary report](#)⁴⁰ to the VNR in July 2019 which focused on monitoring and accountability of the SDGs. SHRC's forthcoming Strategic Plan 2020-2024 has four strategic priorities, two of which contain focused action on supporting the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

In 2013, Scotland became the first and only country in the UK to have a National Action Plan for Human Rights – a key United Nations recommendation for all countries. Led by SHRC and launched with a strong coalition of around 50 in partnership with the Scottish Government, Civil Society, and public authority stakeholders, Scotland's National Action Plan (SNAP) was an ambitious programme of work across a range of themes that had been identified through a major national research report – Getting it Right?⁴¹ SNAP's long term 2030 goals made explicit connection with the SDGs.

The first SNAP ran from 2013-2017. A draft proposal for SNAP 2, has been developed by Development Working Group of around fifteen representatives from across civil society and the public sector. The Group has drawn on an independent evaluation of SNAP 2013 – 2017⁴², engaged with and analysed the most recent evidence on a range of human rights issues, triangulated with the SDGs targets and analysed the findings from a national participation process designed to inform the future of SNAP. The draft sets out over 60 potential actions across 25 human rights themes, and is being published for wider consultation in the autumn of 2019.

Human Rights are at the core of our NPF stating that our values are that "We are a society which treats all our people with kindness, dignity, and compassion, respects the rule of law, and acts in an open and transparent way." Scotland's NPF also has an outcome focused on human rights stating that we respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.

38 The Paris Principles were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993.

39 The Commission was first accredited with A-Status in 2010 and then re-accredited in 2015. It is due to be reassessed in 2020. In 2015 concern over inadequate resourcing was raised. This is likely to be raised again in the 2020.

40 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=2241&menu=3170>

41 <http://www.snaprights.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Getting-it-Right-An-Overview-of-Human-Rights-in-Scotland.doc>

42 <http://www.snaprights.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SNAP-Evaluation-vFinal-16-July-2019.docx>

The First Minister’s Advisory Group on Human Rights was set up Scotland’s First Minister to make recommendations on how Scotland should continue to advance in the field of human rights. The Advisory Group published their recommendations in December 2018. As part of the response to these recommendations, a taskforce has been created to develop a new statutory framework for human rights, to ensure Scotland is a world leader in putting human rights into practice.

Satisfaction with public services (target 16.6)

Satisfaction with public services (local health services, schools and public transport) among people who use those services, is generally higher than that of the whole adult population, and is more stable over time. In 2017, satisfaction with both schools (87%) and public transport (76%) was higher among those who use these services, than the corresponding satisfaction level for the whole adult population. However, satisfaction with health services (83%) among users was similar to the whole adult population. Overall, adults living in urban areas and remote small towns were more satisfied with the quality of public services than those in accessible small towns and rural areas. This is mainly due to differences in satisfaction with public transport in remote and rural areas. Satisfaction with public transport in large urban areas was 79%, compared to only 48% in accessible rural areas.

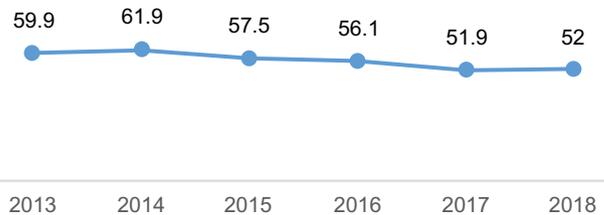
Overall, the trend in satisfaction in public services has declined to 52% in 2017, from its peak of 66% in 2011, driven by a decline in satisfaction with each of the three public services. Local schools have seen the largest fall, from 85% in 2011 to 70% in 2017. While the number of people who were fairly or very dissatisfied with local schools has remained stable over the period, the decline in satisfaction is due to more people expressing a neutral opinion (neither satisfied nor dissatisfied) which has increased from 11% to 25%. The percentage of people who described the overall care provided by their GP practice as “excellent” or “good” was 83% in 2017/18, and has also reduced over time from 90% in 2009/10

The Data Picture: Satisfaction with local services

Indicator 16.6.2: Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services.

Satisfaction with public services (local health services, schools and public transport) has fallen in recent years to 52% in 2018.

Percentage of respondents who are fairly or very satisfied with the quality of local services (local health services, local schools and public transport)



Source: Scottish Household Survey

Challenges and next steps

To deliver the SDGs and ensure trust our public services need to be more transparent so that the people in Scotland have effective means to see, understand and be involved in decisions that affect them. To do that they need to have access to clear information and data, and to create systems and processes for effective participation for stakeholders and citizens.

There is evidence of levels of participation and engagement of children in policy decision making processes, this is not yet evenly distributed. Older individuals and those from a more advantaged background tend to participate in the process more often. Further efforts are underway to ensure children's voices are more routinely part of the policy process.

Domestic abuse remains a prevalent issue and disproportionately affects women. Scotland will continue to address this issue through our [Equally Safe: Delivery Plan](#) to implement our [Equally Safe strategy](#).

The Scottish Government's Action Plan for Progressing the Human Rights of Children 2018-2021 includes the development of a Strategic Participation Framework which aims to mainstream the participation of children and young people in decision making across Scotland. There is opportunity for the SDGs to form an integral part of the framework and for the voices of children and young people from under-represented and seldom heard groups to have an active role in informing the development of the participation framework to ensure that the broader outcomes and aims of the Action Plan reflect their needs. The Scottish Parliament is currently considering a Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill, which would contribute to target 16.2, to end all forms of violence against children.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- Deliver the legislation needed to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scotland law by the end of this Parliamentary term
- Launching a consultation on further improvements to remove the barriers some people face in accessing legal aid, including in cases of domestic abuse
- The National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership will focus on the development of a new statutory framework – a Scottish Bill of Rights - which will help to safeguard the human rights of everyone in Scotland. It will drive work to give practical effect to the protections provided by other treaties and obligations



Human Rights



International

Speaking at the Closing the Inequality Gap: in Scotland and around the globe conference in November 2015, the First Minister made a dual commitment to tackling poverty and inequality at home and to helping developing countries to grow in a fair and sustainable manner. She said, “Our view is that Scotland cannot act with credibility overseas if we are blind to inequality here at home, and our ambitions for a fairer Scotland are undermined without global action to tackle poverty, promote prosperity and to tackle climate change.” International development is therefore, a key part of Scotland’s domestic agenda and our global contribution, encompassing our core values, historical and contemporary, of fairness and equality. International development is about Scotland acting as a good global citizen.

In December 2016, the Scottish Government published [Global Citizenship: Scotland’s International Development Strategy](#). This set out our international development contribution to the international community and is aligned with other policies that include Scotland’s International Framework, the Scottish National Action Plan on Human Rights, Education Scotland’s International Strategy, the Trade and Investment Strategy, and the Internationalising Social Enterprise Strategy. Our International Development Strategy was specifically aligned to the UN SDGs.

As stated in Ben MacPherson MSP’s introduction to our subsequent [Contribution to international development report: 2018-2019](#),

“Scotland is committed to realising the UN Sustainable Development Goals, both within our own communities and in the wider world. We believe we have a lot to contribute to the international community. By sharing our knowledge, skills and technical expertise for global good, we continue to make distinctive contributions towards addressing global challenges and injustices; and to do so through a partnership approach.”

Scotland aims to equal the best small countries in the world with our contribution to international development. To achieve this we have adopted a pan-Scottish Government approach which considers our overall contribution to international development – not only our international development funding but the policies and work of wider Ministerial portfolios which contribute to international development outcomes. Civil society organisations and the Scottish Government have also worked together on policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) to promote positive outcomes and to ‘do no harm’.

Goal 17 outlines the different means countries can mobilise to support implementation of Agenda 2030. While it focuses on considerations around finance, technology, capacity building, trade and systematic issues, the Goal also highlights the action expected around partnerships. Many of the associated targets are directed to overseas action, but a few are actionable domestically. In its assessment of the SDGs in Scotland, our baseline report notes that Scotland performs well in relation to the presence of particular frameworks and policies to support this work.

National Performance Framework (targets 17.13, 17.14 and 17.15)

Scotland was one of the first countries to show political leadership in committing not just to the SDGs, but also to our intended method of domestic implementation through the NPF.⁴³ The 2017-18 review of the NPF involved extensive consultation with the public, organisations and experts in policy delivery and practice across Scotland. The resulting framework provides a long term vision for Scotland, outlining our values as a nation and, for the first time, linking the National Outcomes to the SDGs (targets 17.3, 17.14, 17.17 and 17.19). Included in this is a National Outcome to be ‘open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally’, a commitment which potentially applies to all of the Goal 17 targets. The NPF provides us with a whole of Scotland framework for making Scotland a more sustainable country across the full range of UN Goals.

Scotland’s international Outcome is an important addition to the NPF because it demonstrates our willingness as a nation to judge ourselves not only by how we treat each other here in Scotland, but also by considering the effects our decisions have on other parts of the world as well. The way we are perceived in other countries, the way we choose to trade internationally, the global partnerships we develop, and the development approach we take, are all interconnected and contribute to our ability to create a truly successful country. So while the addition of an internationally focused National Outcome is welcome, we also need to recognise that many of the other NPF Outcomes have the potential to impact on our international contribution.

Policy coherence for sustainable development (targets 17.9 and 17.14)

In our International Development Strategy we have made a clear commitment to an international ‘do no harm’ approach and to the Beyond Aid agenda, and have identified areas of the Scottish Government in line with this. We have adopted an approach to eliminating policy incoherence and are identifying where overall policies can contribute to the achievement of international development outcomes.

Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) ensures that no policy area, whether agriculture, tax, migration or trade, should detract from our international development goals and actions. This is not simply an international development issue but one that is universal – trans and intra boundary as well as transgenerational. While the international development aspect remains crucial, leadership on PCSD, like the SDGs more widely, must be made central to domestic work across the piece. The NPF is a natural home for this collective work, and any mention of PCSD should explicitly recognise this. Achieving this would help to make Scotland a genuine leader in the field on this issue.

⁴³ Contribution to International Development: Report 2017-2018, Scottish Government, P 16.

Our overall contribution to development should be re-enforced by interlinked policy action rather than being limited to our aid budget. A key example of this is in the area of climate change, where Scotland's climate targets support a 'do no harm' approach, whilst the Climate Justice Fund provides both additional international development funding and support for water governance between the governments of Scotland and Malawi. Civil society representatives have been involved in identifying initial areas of cross portfolio policies, which we can work collaboratively on as part of our longer term partnership for positive development outcomes – Contribution to International Development Report; 2018-2019 (targets 17.13, 17.14, 17.16, and 17.16).

Open government (targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, and 17.18)

We are working with Open Government Scotland and the Open Government Partnership internationally and nationally to support delivery of the SDGs through Open Government principles and practices. This will be achieved through our Second **Open Government National Action Plan 2018-2020**. The **Open Government network in Scotland** includes major civil society, domestic sector and voluntary organisations, academics and community activists as well as interested individuals. The work maintains strong links with the Scottish SDG Network, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and a number of international NGOs working on transparency, accountability and participation – including the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency and Transparency International. In such a manner, work on transparency of information, data and spending decisions within Scotland can help to enhance practice models internationally (target 17.16).

Civil society (targets 17.16 and 17.17)

Civil society in Scotland plays a valuable role as an agent of change and on holding others to account on meeting the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Importantly, civil society groups in Scotland advocate on behalf of global issues and encourage decision makers to foreground these considerations in their work. Many such organisations are driven by a commitment to equality, social justice and empowerment, and as such align their interests with those contained in the NPF and the SDGs. The role of civil society is essential to the realisation of both

of these policy frameworks. Cooperation between civil society, public and private sectors and the Scottish Government continues to progress actions around promoting and protecting human rights, enhancing sustainable development and maximising resources to fund this work (target 17.17). Key contributors which are funded under the IDF include the following networking membership organisations – the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, Scotland's International Development Alliance, the Scotland Malawi Partnership and its sister organisation in Malawi, the Malawi Scotland Partnership (target 17.16).

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (targets 17.16 and 17.17)

Scotland's approach to international development is founded on working in 'partnerships of equals' both within Scotland and with our partner countries. We believe that this people-led, bottom up, partnership of equals approach to international development is a particular Scottish strength. We recognise that successfully facing the challenges we share depends on collective action and collaborative working, what we call the One Scotland Approach (**Reflecting on the Emergence of the UN SDGs: A Call for Action in Scotland**, P53.).

Scottish local government activity, for example, supports the overall intent of Goal 17 through existing international partnerships and memberships. COSLA is party to international networks working on sustainable development, supporting the UN targets 17.16 and 17.17 to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development and encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships. The convention frequently exchanges with local governments across Europe and beyond on the SDG localisation agenda, supporting target 17.19 that concerns data, monitoring and accountability. In working with the Scottish Government to realise the SDGs in Scotland through the NPF and National Indicators, COSLA is also supporting the implementation of UN indicator 17.16.1 in support of reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development of effectiveness monitoring frameworks.

Scotland therefore has a distinctive development contribution to make, which is founded on our expertise and our capacity to innovate and employ our unique partnership approach for global good

(targets 17.14, 17.15 and 17.17). Our ambition is to be a global leader in international development, not necessarily through the size of our investment in monetary terms, but in the impact we make. Being an ethical leader internationally is key to achieving this, both in our policies and messaging. Scotland provides an ethical voice through its policies on issues like climate change, equality and human rights. And, through all our partnership work we convey a message of ethical leadership which holds that all people, organisations, businesses and government share a duty to consider the impact of choices for sustainable development in Scotland and in developing countries. This includes choices on environmental and climate issues as well as fair trade (target 17.15).

The **SDGs in Scotland** report highlights the ever present language of partnership in the national strategy and how the cooperative spirit of partnership is evident within agreements with the Malawi Government, other donors and civil society organisations, for example (target 17.6). While the report noted the existence of general partnership agreements between Scotland and the governments of developing country partners, it also suggested that it is difficult to account for how far particular funded projects mesh with the national plans of these partner countries. Perhaps the 'respecting policy space' target 17.5 is easier to understand at the level of intention and practice approach than as a systematic policy effect. The point is worth noting as an analytical challenge.

The Scottish Government funds a range of Scottish based organisations with a strong emphasis on partnerships, such as registered charities (iNGOs), universities, local authorities, NHS Boards, private sector companies and social enterprises. Promoting sustainable development in partner countries and raising awareness of international development work within Scotland is also facilitated through networking membership organisations, which are core funded by the Scottish Government - such as The Scottish Fair Trade Forum, the Scottish Malawi Partnership, Malawi Scotland Partnership and Comic Relief. Scotland's International Development Alliance, funded by the Scottish Government, is the umbrella group for Scottish NGOs which work in international development.

Development assistance – finance (targets 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3)

Scotland's official development assistance (ODA) spend is included by the UK Government within its overall ODA return to the OECD, and is counted by the UK towards its commitment to spend 0.7% of gross income (GNI) on ODA (target 17.2). In Scotland, we also make an additional contribution to international development within the devolved constitutional context, in part through the three Scottish Government international development/humanitarian funds detailed below, but also through wider policy activity that supports development outcomes and participating organisations across Scotland. Scottish Government international development assistance is primarily focused on Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda and Pakistan. However, Scotland has wide engagement across the globe through our partner organisations.

This focus on four particular countries within our 'global partnership' is regarded in the SDGs in Scotland report as compatible with countries which also base their assistance on existing and historic partnerships. It is suggested that while this is a positive approach, in some instances it could result in poor overall distribution of development assistance. This is not found to be the case in Scotland, however. In terms of the levels, sources, components and targets of development assistance, the focus of the Scottish Government's international development activity is regarded as being clearly aligned with the SDGs in the report. It may also be noted that the refocusing of the Scottish Government's International Development programme to four partner countries under its 2016 Strategy followed on from a wide public consultation; that consultation found strong support for the proposed geographical focus of the Scottish Government's International Development Fund and other related work to where it could make a real difference, and the biggest impact in relation to its budget.

Additionally, COSLA which has been working on decentralised cooperation (international development led by sub-national actors) for a number of years, has noted that the capacity of local authorities in Scotland to be involved in international development could be strengthened. If, for example, Scottish Councils were positioned to support governance capacity building in Scotland's international development programme, it could enhance Scotland's ability to deliver on these aspects.

Development funding (targets 17.1-17.5)

Scotland's contribution to [international development](#) is framed around the following funds and actions:

1. International Development Fund (IDF)
2. Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF)
3. Climate Justice Fund (CJF)
4. Policies and work of wider civil society, public and private sector, and Scottish Government Ministerial portfolios

In 2017, the annual £10 million (up from £9 million) IDF consists of three funding streams, Development Assistance, Capacity and Strengthening, and Investment (targets 17.2, 17.3 and 17.4). Priority areas are country specific, agreed with and prioritised with each partner country according to its own prioritisation of SDGs, and include education, health, sustainable economic development, civic governance and society, food security, renewable energy, climate change and water, all of which are compatible with the SDG Goals and targets identified for special assistance. All initiatives under these streams must align with our vision and priorities as set out in the strategy. For example, by embedding the SDGs, so contributing to sustainable development and the fight against poverty, injustice and inequality internationally.

A million pounds was pledged to HEF from April 2017 to provide immediate and effective assistance to reduce the threat to life and wellbeing caused by disasters, disease or conflict (target 17.3). The CJF recognises that the poor and vulnerable are the first to be affected and suffer the worse from climate change. In 2017, £2 million of the CJF was distributed via the Climate Challenge Programme Malawi and the Climate Justice Innovation Fund. The remaining £1 million was spent on the Water Futures Programme in Malawi (target 17.3).

The Scottish Government continues to provide funding through a range of Scottish based organisations who work with their local partners on the ground. These include registered charities, universities, local authorities, NHS Boards, private sector companies (acting on a not-for-profit basis) and social enterprises, with an emphasis on respectful partnership with organisations in our partner countries. In Scotland

we are also forming strategic partnerships, such as through our collaborations with other donor organisations like Comic Relief in partner countries, and have secured match funding of £1 million of private investment monies in Scotland to double our Malawi Investment Fund (target 17.3). Additionally, the Scottish Government International Development Strategy makes clear that we believe trade and investment is important, as is the role of the private sector, in supporting our partner countries as they move beyond aid in developing sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Leave no one behind (targets 17.9 and 17.17)

Scotland has introduced the first National Outcome for human rights within our NPF. Through this and our values of kindness, dignity and compassion, we place the interests of all people at the heart of the nation. This, along with a longstanding emphasis on community empowerment in Scotland and embedding a human rights approach in all that we do, underpins our approach to international development and leaving no one behind.

Scotland's [International Development Strategy](#) makes clear that "Our development work will have at its core, and as a primary focus, the interests of our partner countries and their people. We will also embed human rights in all our development work. We believe that this dual approach is vital in achieving the spirit of global citizenship and solidarity with developing countries". This commitment to human rights deliberately encompasses all protected characteristics and seeks to ensure that nobody is 'left behind' in our work. In January 2017, the Scottish Government Minister for International Development, introducing the (then new) International Development Strategy to the Scottish Parliament stated that "the new strategy embeds human rights in all our development work, and I am happy to confirm our commitment to eliminate all discrimination and to work actively for the inclusion of women and girls, the disabled, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and other marginalised groups".⁴⁴

44 Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alastair Allan, [Scottish Parliament Official Report, 11 January 2017](#).

For example, through our International Development funded **Sense Scotland** project on equal access to education, we helped to promote equal access to education for disabled people in Northern Malawi. We currently have a specific disability focused project in each of our partner countries. In relation to gender equality, our international development funding includes support for girls and women's education in Pakistan; women's health in Malawi; gender based violence training between Police Scotland and the Malawi and Zambia Police Forces; and developing girls' leadership through sport in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda. A focus on disability, gender awareness and the most marginalised, therefore, informs our development funding and programming. More can always be done, however, to ensure that the principle of no one is left behind is systematically embedded within our international development efforts at all levels.

Capacity building (targets 17.6, 17.9 and 17.16)

As stated in our **International Development Strategy**, we believe that development partnerships can also be realised through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing on key areas of mutual interest. Through this, institutions can strengthen their knowledge, harness expertise, skills and capacity and empower their people. Where a need for institutional assistance has been identified with a partner country, we seek to match and enable support in relation to this. Initiatives have involved link-ups between similar institutions in partner countries, promoting and enabling targeted skills sharing from relevant sectors and providing scholarships.

For example, by aligning one stream of our International Development Fund on capacity building we have been able to respond more fully to the capacity building objective within the SDGs. As part of this effort, the Scottish Government provided £300,000 in 2017-18 for its Pakistan Scholarship Scheme for Women in Higher Education and its Pakistan Scholarship Scheme for School Children, delivered through the British Council Pakistan. Additionally, the Scottish Government further collaborated with the British Council Pakistan on a £100,000 capacity strengthening for young Pakistani scientists study visit to Scotland.

Closer Look - The Police Scotland Programme

In their 2016/17 Food Insecurity Plan, the Malawi Government highlighted a risk of violence within areas affected by extreme flooding from the previous two years. Of particular concern was the risk of abuse, such as transactional sex in exchange for food, water and shelter for displaced women and children.

During 2016-19, the Scottish Government are providing a total of just over £1 million to enable Police Scotland to deliver capacity building training in our sub Saharan African partner countries (targets 17.8, 17.9, 17.15). This takes the form of specialist training, which Police Scotland officers deliver with their peers in each country. It focuses on tackling gender-based violence and improving child protection.

The Police Scotland Programme in Malawi aims to reduce violence, abuse and exploitation among disaster affected communities by deploying police officers specialised in child protection and gender based violence to Malawi. These officers provide specialist training to the Malawian police. Through this partnership and the sharing of high quality technical training, the Malawian Police Service has undertaken a transformation of its ICT work stream to better record and manage crimes of this nature and provide an enhanced service to vulnerable children and women.

While Zambia did not experience the same disastrous flooding as Malawi, it became clear that there was an appetite amongst the Zambia Police Service to work with Police Scotland to develop capacity amongst officers who specialise in gender based violence (GBV) and child protection in order to reduce violence, abuse and exploitation of children and reduce the prevalence of GBV. The geographical proximity of the 2 countries also lends itself to peer to peer learning, and for Police Scotland to learn from both Forces too.

Technology, science and innovation (targets 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.14, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.18)

Scottish Universities offer provision overseas and collaborations to bring quality education to developing countries. This enriches the learning experience, through an internationalisation agenda but also allows us to work towards the Goals in other countries, utilising our strength in higher education. Scholarship programmes in individual Scottish universities enrich the student experience for both the home students as well as learners from abroad. Such initiatives are an important part of our overall attempt to create an inclusive, welcoming and diverse educational environment, which actively promotes the transfer of knowledge and experience between nations.

Additionally, a key tenet of our [International Development Strategy](#) is to harness existing Scottish and in-country expertise in specialist areas which are of benefit to global development. Through our international development programme we have harnessed and shared many of the things that Scotland does best. Areas of expertise exchange include higher education capacity strengthening, mental health and non-communicable disease, education inspection and quality improvement, sustainable economic development, renewable energy, climate change and climate justice, governance and water management. Our development work looks at how best to align our national expertise to the agreed priorities and tangible needs of our partner countries. It is also important not to undermine the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs when devising this work.

Scotland has a strong history of innovation in medical science and practice, and this experience has been shared through a number of medical projects in partner countries. Currently, partnership working is being supported by the Scottish Government between the University of Glasgow and the Blantyre College of Medicine Dental School, the Blantyre Clinical Research Facility, and the College of Medicine Governance Project, Malawi; and with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow for Livingstone Fellowships for surgeons in Malawi and Zambia to come to Scotland for specialist training to meet their clinical needs (targets 17.6, 17.8 and 17.9). Elements of the Global Challenges Research Fund support Scottish Universities to address technology transfer and the Climate Justice Innovation Fund supports projects to develop innovative solutions for strengthening African communities against the effects

of climate change (target 17.7). It may however be possible to further investigate the extent to which we undertake and encourage technology research and transfer in the developing world.

Closer Look - Global Challenges Research Funding

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) distributes formula funding to Scottish Universities for research to address the SDGs in developing countries. In 2017, SFC distributed £2.392 million of GCRF, which supported 120 projects involving 51 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) country partners. The main research themes addressed by these projects were health, agriculture, security, energy, pollution and cultural heritage.

In 2018, SFC distributed £4.012 million of GCRF, which supported 330 projects involving 75 DAC country partners. The main research themes were health, agriculture, displacement, economic development, cultural heritage and environment. In 2019, SFC is distributing £10.279 million of GCRF. Funding is expected to continue at a similar level in 2020 and 2021.

The main SDGs addressed by the research to date are Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14 and 15. Additionally, the SFC has invited all Scottish universities to develop GCRF strategies. These are available on the [SFC](#) website. SFC seeks to promote collaboration between Scottish universities on GCRF, by analysing and sharing information on research and institutional strategies, and presenting at events.

The GCRF aims to deliver tangible impacts with its (initial) 5 year term (2016 - 2021). Some of the Scottish projects are piloting prototype technologies (for example instruments, tests), but most are at the stage of gathering data and establishing research partnerships and networks. Perhaps the key observation to date is that there has been a significant investment in capacity (involving funding for developing researchers in DACs and in Scotland), establishing relationships, and in institutional learning about research with impact in DACs. Some institutions have established global development 'hubs' to build and sustain this capacity over the longer term.

With nearly 1.5 billion people around the world without access to modern energy services and twice that number reliant on wood, coal, charcoal and animal waste for heating and cooking, lack of access to modern fuel compounds poverty and disadvantage. In 2012, Scotland was invited by the then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to support the global **Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)** initiative in recognition of our leadership on renewable energy and climate change. Our response has focused on capacity building and policy support. We have supported numerous projects in Malawi to progress the SE4ALL agenda, including University of Strathclyde Sustainable Off-Grid Electrification of Rural Villages and the Community Energy Malawi Sustainability Extension; The Wood Group Powering Development in Mulanje; and the International Resource and Recycling Institute Enhancing Stability for Rural Off-Grid Energy Kiosks. Work on the Rural off-Grid Energy Kiosks helped to advance the adoption of environmentally sound technologies in developing countries (target 17.7). In Zambia, most recently the Scottish Government has co-funded with local private companies and donors the provision of solar panels for rural Chitambo Hospital in Central Province. A local Zambian company also partnered this, undertaking to contribute training for long term maintenance of the panels at the hospital under their own CSR policy.

Closer Look - Rwanda Coffee Market Building for People and Prosperity Project

The project aimed to promote sustainable development by building the capacity of coffee cooperatives and community members in Rwanda to use renewable energy and improved technology to improve business performance. This work was complemented by a climate justice initiative, which helped the cooperatives to reduce operating costs and carbon emissions by promoting uptake of renewable energy for coffee washing. This inter-linked project approach exemplifies Scotland's policy coherence approach to development, which seeks coherence and integration between funding streams and breaking the normal 'silo' approach to programming (Challenges Worldwide).

Global governance and regulation (targets 17.10 and 17.13)

As the UK is the signatory state to UN agreements, holding member of the WTO and a key actor in the World Bank, Scotland's contribution to global governance and regulation can only be informal. There may, however, be some scope for further assessment of informal Scottish initiatives and strategies to encourage SDG fulfilment of global financial regulation or reform of global institutions (see the **SDGs in Scotland report**).

Trade (targets 17.3, 17.10, 17.11 and 17.12)

Trade and investment rules have immense potential to support the achievement of the SDGs, particularly in the Global South. However, as currently configured they often contribute to worsening outcomes in areas related to inequality, environmental protection and climate change, access to public services, decent work and industrial development. Since trade and investment rules are negotiated behind closed doors, they can be developed without reference to the SDGs, human rights and other international commitments. They can also limit countries' policy space by acting as a disincentive to regional integration or prevent countries from choosing the most appropriate policy mix to achieve their development goals. This effect is most apparent where an Investor to State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism is included in a deal, because it can deter countries from taking policy decisions for fear of being taken to arbitration, and impact revenues where large awards are made against countries.

Although the powers to create fairer trade and investment rules (targets 17.10 and 17.12) lie outwith the powers of the Scottish Government, there may nonetheless be opportunities to actively promote fairer rules to other national governments as part of Scotland's own trade and investment strategy. While this strategy and the accompanying 8 point investment plan focus on increasing trade, attracting inward investment and promoting Scotland as an attractive place to do business and invest, learn, live and work, it also addresses responsible business and the impact of trade on sustainable development, especially in developing countries. Specific actions referenced in chapter 6 of **Global Scotland: trade and investment strategy 2016-2021** provide a basis upon which to further consolidate work in this area. The section 'Supporting Development through Trade' highlights work already being undertaken in relation to:

- Support for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Ruggie Principles, being taken forward through [Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights](#) (SNAP)
- Our £9 million International Development Fund
- Work with the [Scottish Fair Trade Forum](#) which has enabled us to reach more people than ever before with the message that choosing to buy Fairtrade products really does make a difference to people's lives
- Further development and promotion of social enterprise and responsible business

The above actions in part relate to target 17.11 on increasing the exports of developing world countries, which the Scottish Government is able to take action on. Our trade and investment strategy seeks to build on and extend this work by:

- Helping business play its part in promoting and respecting human rights
- Working with priority partner countries to support development through trade and
- Internationalising Scotland's world leading approach to social enterprise

The recent consultation on refreshing our international development policy sought views on how we might retain the most effective elements of current international development work and how to target the IDF and other work to achieve maximum impact. In particular, it asked how we might encourage better trade and investment links with our priority partner countries to support sustainable growth. This consultation will inform specific action in this area which could, for example, include:

- Working through the enterprise agencies and business organisations in Scotland to help businesses from priority partner countries make connections with potential customers
- Using trade as a way of facilitating knowledge and technology transfer between Scotland and priority partner countries
- Learning from countries such as Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands, establishing a 'Good Growth Fund' to help Scottish businesses support and deliver responsible investment and development in priority partner countries

Internationalising social enterprise (targets 17.3, 17.11 and 17.17)

The social enterprise sector, the mission of which is to blend economic growth with social purpose, is thriving in Scotland. More than 5,000 social enterprises which are active across the country have a combined annual income of £3.6 billion, support over 112,000 jobs, and contribute nearly £1.7 billion of Gross Value Added to the Scottish economy ([Social Enterprise in Scotland: Census 2015](#)). Social enterprises in Scotland own and manage land, harness renewable energy for communities, create employment, provide support to the most vulnerable, and deliver an increasingly diverse range of products and services. As well as being part of the fabric of communities, this places the sector as one of Scotland's key industries and at the leading edge of the international social enterprise movement. This success has been achieved through long term collaborative working between the sector and the Scottish Government, underpinned by supportive policy, legislation and investment in the sector's development.

Building on Scotland's leadership and support for the [Social Enterprise World Forum](#), a broader international role for the sector is taking shape through, for example, the 'social licensing' of Scotland's [Social Enterprise Academy](#) building a network of ecosystem partners in 14 countries from South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda to Malaysia, Pakistan, India, China and Australia led by its Global Learning Lab in Scotland, and an International Social Enterprise Programme, which supports five international social enterprises to base their global headquarters in Scotland. Furthermore, a small but growing number of Scottish social enterprises are already operating internationally. Indeed, 7% of Scottish social enterprises are already collaborating with international partners, contributing to the development of international projects, or selling overseas and that around 5% have exported or licensed goods or services to overseas markets in the last financial year.

Our global strategy signals a commitment to stepping up this process of internationalisation and associated support as a key element of Scotland's approach to trade and investment. This will often entail [Scottish Development International](#) (SDI) supporting social enterprise businesses in the same way as it supports 'traditional' businesses. However, there is also a need to consider the distinct nature of the social enterprise

sector and the opportunities for overseas growth and investment. Given this, the social enterprise sector in Scotland is also working closely with the Scottish Government to produce a 10 year social enterprise strategy (**Building a new economy: Scotland's Vision for social enterprise 2025**) to reflect Scotland's position as a global leader in responsible business. This focus will contribute to sustainable economic growth domestically, build the profile and impact of social enterprise across the world, and in doing so enhance Scotland's reputation and attractiveness to others.

This focus on human rights, trade for development and internationalising social enterprise signals the start of a wider and deeper approach to trade, international development and responsible business. Looking ahead, the Scottish Government will engage with business and other stakeholders to consider what more might be done to ensure our approach to trade and investment supports the SDGs and Scotland's role as a good global citizen.

Investment (targets 17.3 and 17.5)

At present funding for supporting trade and investment to promote economic investment lies with the Malawi Investment Initiative (£1 million over 3 years, match-funded by £1 million by the private sector in Scotland) and has not yet expanded to our partner countries. The first investments were made in Malawi in 2018. The Scottish Government will also, however, support such action in Zambia and Rwanda in line with their wider government policies. Scottish social enterprises are also seeking to expand internationally and there are opportunities for them to share the benefits of the social enterprise model with partner countries. The Scottish Government has provided international development funding to Social Enterprise in Scotland to support the establishment of SEAs in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda, all of which are now up and running joining an international franchise linked to the SEA Scotland.

Data monitoring and accountability (targets 17.18 and 17.19)

While the UN 2030 Agenda is applicable for all countries, there is a need for more support for sustainable development in the global south. Goal 17 is therefore largely focused on official development assistance, global macroeconomic stability, foreign direct investment, exports, tax and trade. The UN level indicators concern finance; technology; capacity building; trade; systemic issues; policy and institutional coherence; multi-stakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring and accountability. Eurostat also measures EU progress on this Goal through indicators concerning official development assistance and EU financing to developing countries, based on OECD sources.

Given that the competence for these areas rests largely at Westminster, to realise them in Scotland and ensure we are fully contributing to their external delivery, we will have to work creatively and across sectors to further develop meaningful indicators to monitor progress. In order, for example, to clarify which National indicators already existing in Scotland relate to this Goal. We believe that multi-level governance approaches, stretching across national, local government and beyond, should be at the core of SDG 17 indicator discussions, as should enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development (UN indicator 17.14).

The NPF and UN Goals share the same spirit of ambition and vision for a better world and a sense of national wellbeing which reaches beyond gross domestic product (GDP). In 2018, the Scottish Government and Gaia Education presented this model of national and local SDG implementation and measurement in an exhibition at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) (targets 17.4, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8 and 17.19).

As noted in the [SDGs in Scotland discussion paper](#) commissioned to support Scotland's Voluntary National Review, Scotland has an effective national statistical service and a regular census. The paper also echoes the earlier point that the SDG Goal targets may have more meaning in Scotland than some of the specific indicators, which the UN provides to track at the global level. Such questions over the applicability of the indicator measures in a Scottish context will be addressed in more detail in the near future. Examining the effectiveness of policy synergies and partnership arrangements, which are essential to Goal 17, will be a challenge within any reporting mechanism.

Although the indicators used in Scotland to monitor SDG progress will be different to those used in other countries and indeed by the UN itself, we are keen that we remain in step with the international developments and also the original intent of the 2030 Agenda – to support sustainable development at home and abroad. Crucially, all levels of government, civil society, third, voluntary and business sectors in Scotland should be involved in considerations about how this Goal is realised domestically, and which indicators will be used to measure progress. This Goal underscores the intent to work internationally on sustainable development, and as such, it is important Scotland supports this agenda as an internationally minded country. The collection and use of inclusive, disaggregated data is critical to supplying evidence to ensure no one is left behind in achieving target 17.18 - international support for statistical systems.

Challenges and next steps

Strategic alignment between NPF Outcomes and UN Goals

Public, political and policy commitment to the SDGs is in part given voice through the many related strategic documents which frame and support action. If we are to be as effective as possible, however, we need to ensure that all elements of our strategic environment are aligned together to coherently reflect the SDG challenge. Achieving strategic alignment, rather than simply a broad commitment in principle, is more difficult to arrive at in a meaningful and coordinated way. For example, the International Outcome in the NPF should be interlinked with a number of other NPF Outcomes as well as other UN Goals. Given this, it would be advantageous for us to make the links between the NPF Outcomes and Goal 17 more explicit

and, as part of a wider conversation about how the NPF explicitly links the 11 Outcomes alongside all 17 Goals. The alignment of the SDGs through the 5 Ps (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership) principle could be drawn on as an exemplar to assist this thinking.

A comprehensive measurement account

SDG implementation should involve both coherent policy action and coherent measurement of this effort. Our measurement set, therefore, should also be integrated to properly assess achievement across both the UN Goals and our National Outcomes. Given this, any indicators used to assess the NPF Outcomes must knit these conclusions alongside reckoning on achievement of the SDGs. The aim is to have a comprehensive account of performance, which fully reflects the complexity of our policy actions in both areas. In Goal 17, for example, this would mean showing how environmental, educational and business indicators also positively contribute to our international aspirations in addition to the NPF and UN indicators which lie under the international Goal/ Outcome. Our measurement set should also account for the interconnected nature of our Outcomes domestically and internationally. If we do not make an explicit connection between the impact of Outcomes domestically and internationally, then we are not approaching our new NPF through a coherent lens. Although the relaunched NPF has gone a long way towards setting these principles in place, more work needs to be done to expand and increase the effectiveness of our performance story to fully reflect what we are doing and what needs to be done to achieve both the Outcomes and SDGs in the round.

Policy coherence for sustainable development

In addition to achieving strategic alignment and an integrated measure of this, we also need to attend to the coherence of our development methodology/ practice. Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) challenges us to ensure all policy action complements and promotes our development goals and practices. By doing so, we lift international development out of its position as a discrete concern into a universal policy agenda, one which is shared by and adopted across the whole of government and beyond. One benefit of this approach is that our overall contribution to development would be re-enforced by interlinked policy action rather than being simply limited

to our aid budget. To achieve this, consideration should be given to how the Scottish Government and partners can facilitate a broadening of the PCSD agenda across directorates, agencies and sectors in Scotland. The NPF is a natural home for this collective work, and achieving this on a national scale would help to make Scotland a genuine leader in the field on this issue.

The SDGs in Scotland report suggests that providing a more detailed analysis of where policy incoherence might arise and how key synergies might be leveraged could be of benefit. Outwith parliamentary scrutiny, better PCSD could be achieved by developing policy 'screening' tools and mechanisms to be used by all Scottish Government directorates to assess policy coherence and consider trade-offs and synergies between the policies in question and other sustainable development outcomes. In particular, these should look at transboundary and transgenerational effects. Developing a systematic information exchange mechanism that improves both vertical and horizontal policy coordination across and within different levels of government could also be considered.

Leaving no one behind

The UN SDG framework is underpinned by commitment to leave no one behind (LNOB). However, the International Rescue Committee report, [SDG progress: Fragility, crisis and leaving no one behind](#) notes that internationally the LNOB agenda is failing many people around the world. In Scotland, it is apparent that not all minority groups are accounted for in our current [International Development Strategy](#) and related Scottish Government funded projects. LGBTI prioritisation is conspicuously absent, for example. Under the competitive funding rounds for international development projects in our partner countries, the Scottish Government does seek projects which align with partner country's priorities. As an example, in the most recent Malawi Funding Round in 2017/18, the Scottish Government specifically sought projects which would deliver to one or more elements of the list provided by the Government of Malawi: this included, under the Civil Society and Governance Strand, support for organisations advocating for human rights. However, the Scottish Government did not receive applications in response to this strand for funding.

The Scottish Government is therefore proactively looking at how it can support governance and human rights initiatives (including LGBTI) better in the future through the separate capacity building funding stream. This includes widening of the current Police Scotland funded training with their peers in the Malawian and Zambian Police Forces, beyond the GBV and child protection work to date to a wider concept of Protection of Vulnerable Groups. It will also continue to encourage suitable applications under the competitive funding rounds, including the annual Small Grants Programme; and continues to welcome discussions with any organisations on how it can better encourage minority groups to apply for international development funding. It has also previously discussed this issue with the Equality Network and Stonewall in Scotland.

The human rights angle to LNOB requires that it is inclusive of all marginalised groups. Given this, and notwithstanding the above actions, more could be done in Scotland to systematically address the needs and interests of the full range of these communities. One possibility could be to ensure the LNOB principle is made into a specific, resourced component of the Scottish Supplementary Review and any subsequent SDG action planning in Scotland. We could, for example, reinforce our commitment to LNOB through an explicit statement of intent. The Scottish Government could also engage more explicitly with and collaborate and fund civil society and other organisations representing left behind groups. Those furthest left behind should be a priority in this. Finally, consideration could also be given to setting out a commitment to LNOB in Scotland along the lines espoused by the [UK Government](#).

Technology, science, innovation and knowledge

Scotland has a strong record of achievement in relation to technology, science, innovation and knowledge exchange. The benefits of this can be substantial and therefore it is incumbent on us to continue to seek out new opportunities to deliver. Drawing in new collaborator organisations, funders and practitioners would help to further progress and expand this provision.

Trade, investment and responsible business

Although actions in this area are limited by our constitutional arrangements, we can, and should, look to where there may be opportunities for us to actively promote fairer trade and investment practices. We should, for example, aspire to being an exemplar nation for trade and investment which promotes human rights and positively enhances achievement of the SDG outcomes with developing world countries. Creating an environment and the right regulatory, trade and investment conditions, which enable progressive decision making and subsequently support the right policy actions, is essential. Revisiting our commitment to actions contained in chapter 6 of [Global Scotland: trade and investment strategy 2016-21](#) and [Scotland's Vision for Social Enterprise 2025](#) is a necessary step in this direction.

Commitments in the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Programme for Government that relate to this Goal

- The Scottish Government will continue to invest in its overseas networks to foster long term connections and Scotland will continue to implement its International Development Strategy in its Sub-Saharan Africa partner countries
- This year, the Scottish Government will support a newly-expanded programme to protect vulnerable groups in Malawi and Zambia
- A progress report on Scotland's New Scots refugee integration strategy will be published in spring 2020 and in the next year the Scottish Government will publish an Anti-Destitution Strategy focused on people who have no recourse to public funds
- The Scottish Government is working with local government partners to develop our approach to the future of refugee resettlement when current programmes, including the Syrian Resettlement Programme, end early next year



NEXT STEPS

This review has highlighted some of the key legislation, policies, services and actions that contribute to the SDGs and the challenges and next steps relevant to each Goal. We know that the accelerated pace of change in Scotland and across the world will reveal as yet unknown challenges on our journey to 2030. Producing this report has given us the opportunity to reflect on priorities for our local adaptation of the Goals in line with our National Outcomes. It is intended that this report, in conjunction with *Scotland's Wellbeing: Delivering our National Outcomes*, is useful to inform these conversations and decisions, and to provide a stimulus for others to make Scotland a more successful country.

The SDGs in Scotland – progress so far

Undertaking this review has provided us with a valuable opportunity to focus and accelerate our thinking and planning around SDGs implementation in Scotland. It has also thrown into sharp relief underlying practical questions about how progression of the SDGs can be interlinked with delivery of the National Outcomes. Further, by mapping the actions we have taken to deliver the SDGs and assessing how well we are performing against these, it has provided us with a good evidence base upon which to judge future performance. The challenge now is to reflect closely on Scotland's story, and drive action. This report is an important step in what will be a long journey through to 2030.

Rather than simply meeting our obligations, we have the ambition in Scotland to turn the SDGs into a positive advantage socially, environmentally and economically. Much has been achieved to set in place the right conditions for moving forward on this vision, for example through action to support and invest in innovation and new thinking.

Framing the achievements and challenge

The UN Goals are necessarily far reaching and interdependent, which creates a challenge in itself. Ensuring we are well placed culturally and in terms of our planning, systems, skills and capacities to encompass the scale of the task is essential. It is also apparent that meeting the 2030 Agenda will require intensive, multi-partner cooperation across all aspects of our delivery eco-system. We will need to use all the tools we have at our disposal to achieve this. Through the work of the SDG Network Scotland we have identified key elements of the SDGs and the National Outcomes delivery eco-system in Scotland. The building blocks and challenges in the summary below apply to both the NPF and the SDGs, however, the summary of achievements relates to what has come through the process of this review of the Goals.

Scotland's SDG and National Outcomes delivery eco-system		
Building blocks	Achievements	Challenges
Policy and enabling environment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation • Strategic base – national, local and regional planning processes 	Localising the Goals, targets and indicators into the national arena through the NPF	Knitting together national and local strategies and plans, and clarifying the links between the SDGs and Outcomes
Leadership		
Political commitment and leadership across sectors	Secured effective, cross sectoral and cross political party support for this agenda	Enrolling leaders and champions from all areas of Scottish society including children and young people
Institutional mechanisms		
Institutional principles, norms, rules, roles, mechanisms and practices	Focus on Goals evident in organisations and Parliament	Extending examination of organisation and system delivery readiness across sectors
Creating ownership		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and professional awareness • Partnerships, relationships and trust 	Established the Scottish SDG Network and close working partnerships between civil society, the Scottish Government, local government and other sectors based on an Open Government approach	Increasing awareness of and interest in the SDGs and the NPF across the population and with the full range of potential delivery agents
Leaving no one behind		
Enabling environment for all	Introduced NPF Values based on kindness, dignity and compassion, strong legislative framework	Removing barriers to involvement and creating the conditions for everyone to take part
Delivery		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and professional level actions • Skills, knowledge, training • Resources and budgetary considerations • Delivery infrastructure – organisations, initiatives and programmes 	Undertaken multiple SDG target focused actions across communities, organisations and sectors – as detailed in the Goal based chapters of this report	Reaching and equipping new actors, intensifying and coordinating delivery efforts, focusing on the right things and resourcing activities
Data and reporting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence on performance • Reporting systems • Parliamentary scrutiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence focus through the NPF • Reviewed Scottish performance on the SDGs, contributed to UK Government VNR and provided an overview of existing policy, practice and delivery infrastructure in Scotland 	Improving the development and reporting of our performance story, meeting data challenges

We are aware that it will not be possible to tackle all elements of our delivery eco-system simultaneously, and as meeting the Goals and the related National Outcomes is a long term commitment, our approach will be built up incrementally over time and informed by a wider discussion.

Our transformation pathway

It is clear from our evidence and from those working closely to deliver the SDGs that we do face challenges around:

- Low profile of the SDGs and NPF among the general population and within specific sectors
- Resolving possible conflict of resources, priorities and trade-offs
- Achieving a balance in data between the universality of the SDGs as a framework for all countries and the recognition that they need to be localised and adapted by each country

Whilst identifying where we need to improve, deciding what to prioritise and what is right for Scotland is critical, reaching agreement on what approach to take is also important. The SDG Network Scotland has provided an invaluable home for discussions around this, drawing together ideas and helping us reach broad consensus on our underlying principles, approaches and expectations. Our approach to delivery in Scotland is based on the following characteristics:

- Sharing responsibility and building around strong partnerships
- Being realistic about our priorities and resources
- Adopting an enabling approach and sharing resources and good ideas
- Taking a long term, incremental approach – a phased and focused method
- Basing action on evidence and honest appraisal
- Being broadly inclusive, open and participatory and adopting an Open Government approach
- Creating and generating influence and ripple effects

The NPF provides an overarching platform for collaboration across the whole spectrum of Scotland's civic society, including public and private sectors, voluntary organisations, businesses and communities. It is based on delivering the National Outcomes and the Goals to improve quality of life for the people of Scotland and beyond. Action is therefore required on both the National Outcomes and Goals simultaneously. Much of what we are trying to achieve sits in the places in between traditional policy parameters and to be effective we need to work flexibly across boundaries, institutions, sectors and the Outcomes and Goals themselves.

Initial considerations for this, our longer term transformation, could include:

- **Awareness**
Increasing public and professional awareness and understanding of the SDGs and NPF – leaving no one behind
- **Collaboration**
Working across sectors to establish new and active networks and partnerships to drive the agenda forward
- **Support**
Providing guidance and skills support to encourage organisations and communities to become involved
- **Policy alignment**
Progressing integration of the SDGs alongside the National Outcomes and securing greater policy coherence at local and regional level to help embed the agenda into practice
- **Systems**
Building internal systems, and reforming key governance structures and processes within sectors and organisations
- **Measurement and reporting**
Improving evidence on achievement on the National Outcomes and SDGs, policy reporting, and connection to spending

With over 380 members, the SDG Network Scotland is a key mechanism through which to animate and pursue these aims. Supporting and extending the reach and ambition of this group would greatly help to move this work into new communities of practice and zones of influence. The strength of this partnership and the work of others around it has been instrumental in delivering our achievements so far and on producing this review. Encouraging the growth of other networks and collaborative models would diversify our delivery infrastructure. Drawing the National Outcomes and the SDGs into the frame of these groupings would help to clarify what our joint and transformational vision consists of in practical terms. It would also encourage the coherent, nationwide response required to meet the 2030 Agenda and to drive the direction and ambition of the NPF.

A call to action

The 2030 Agenda and the NPF provide us with a blueprint to create a more successful country and play our part in nurturing a peaceful and prosperous planet. Scotland faces choices on how to meet the challenges and make the most of the opportunities the journey to 2030 will present, and through this review we ask you to make the choice to join us in realising this ambition.

To join the conversation please visit:
www.globalgoals.scot.



APPENDIX

List of UN Sustainable Development Goal Targets

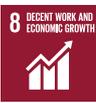
	<p>1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day</p>
	<p>1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions</p>

	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed</p>
	<p>2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries</p>
	<p>2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round</p>
	<p>2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility</p>

 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing</p>
	<p>3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol</p>
	<p>3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p>
	<p>3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate</p>
	<p>3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all</p>
	<p>3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states</p>
	<p>3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks</p>

	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries</p>
	<p>4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States</p>

	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
	5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
	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

 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	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
	7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7% 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
	8.5 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
	8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
	8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
	8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
	8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

	<p>9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human wellbeing, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending</p>
	<p>9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States</p>
	<p>9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities</p>
	<p>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</p>

	<p>10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality</p>
	<p>10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations</p>
	<p>10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions</p>
	<p>10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies</p>
	<p>10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements</p>
	<p>10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes</p>
	<p>10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%</p>

	<p>11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries</p>
	<p>11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning</p>
	<p>11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels</p>
<p>11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials</p>	

	<p>12.1 Implement the 10Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries</p>
	<p>12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>
	<p>12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle</p>
	<p>12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</p>
	<p>12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature</p>
	<p>12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production</p>
	<p>12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products</p>
<p>12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities</p>	
	<p>13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p>
	<p>13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</p>
	<p>13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p>
	<p>13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible</p>
	<p>13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</p>

	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information</p>
	<p>14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation</p>
	<p>14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism</p>
	<p>14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries</p>
	<p>14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets</p>
	<p>14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”</p>

	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed</p>
	<p>15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</p>
	<p>15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems</p>
<p>15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation</p>	
<p>15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities</p>	

	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
	16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
	16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels
	16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
	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
	16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
	16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

	<p>Finance</p>
	<p>17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection</p>
	<p>17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7% of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20% of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20% of ODA/GNI to least developed countries</p>
	<p>17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries</p>
	<p>Technology</p>
	<p>17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism</p>
	<p>17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed</p>
	<p>17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology</p>

Capacity-building
17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
Trade
17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access
Systemic issues
<i>Policy and institutional coherence</i>
17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development
<i>Multi-stakeholder partnerships</i>
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 SDGs 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
<i>Data, monitoring and accountability</i>
17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
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



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