

The Water Forum's Contribution to the SDGs in Ireland



What are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?

In September 2015, 193 countries met in New York and signed the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda has become the guide to the world's social, economic, and environmental actions to achieve a sustainable future by 2030. The framework consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) encompassing 169 targets requiring Governments, agencies and society to work in partnership to achieve an eradication of poverty and inequality, environmental sustainability, equal access to health and education and to address climate impacts. Each country provides target indicators to identify the data that will be used to measure progress towards these targets and to determine if it has been achieved successfully by 2030.

An Fóram Uisce – The Water Forum, through its work contributes to nearly all of Ireland's SDG National Target Indicators. The Forum represents a wide range of organisations (with economic, environment and social interests) who work in partnership to inform water policy. Giving equal voice to all members and committed to social and environmental justice the Forum seeks to address unprecedented environmental challenges. Focussed on adding value to water resource management, science output and expert knowledge is synthesised to create new thinking and innovation in water governance and policy to provide solutions to achieve and future proof clean and healthy waters for all.



How An Fóram Uisce – The Water Forum contributes to Ireland’s SDG National Targets



Target : 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

1.5 The Water Forum is committed to social justice ensuring equity of consideration for all members of society. Reflected in policy submissions and our membership representation.



Target : 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

2.4 The Forum seeks to ensure that public money supports public good and that agricultural systems are supported to contribute to environmental enhancement over environmental degradation. [The Framework for Integrated Land and Landscape Management \(FILLM\)](#) seeks to encourage co-creation of actions to protect water quality whilst accounting for biodiversity and climate mitigation.



Target: 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3.9 Policy recommendations prioritise water quality protection and pollution reduction. [Water Matters](#) video creates awareness of actions to prevent pollution. Advise on Irish Water’s implementation of drinking and wastewater services.



Target : 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.2 Raise awareness through the website, twitter account, [weekly news](#), quarterly newsletters and [press releases](#). Education resources for Science Week on the [physics](#), [chemistry](#) and [ecological wonder](#) of water.

 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Target : 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</p>	<p>5.1 The Forum has an active EDI Policy that aims to achieve a 50% gender balance on all AFU committees and working groups. The Forum's principles aim to give equal voice to all members.</p>
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>Target : 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</p> <p>Target : 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes</p> <p>Target : 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management</p>	<p>6.5 The Forum's policy submissions and research output all aim to improve water quality and quantity so that Ireland meets its legislative objectives.</p> <p>6.6. FILLM policy recommends integrated catchment management requiring agency collaboration and policy integration. A catchments-based systems approach that seeks to identify co-benefits and trade-offs required to maximise environmental outcomes in all spheres.</p> <p>6.b The FILLM also supports community engagement at all stages of river catchment management.</p> <p>6.6. The Water Forum engages with Irish Water (IW) and the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities on IW progress against its own Strategic Plan and its requirements under the WFD and the River Basin Management Plan.</p>
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>Target : 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services</p>	<p>7.1 Heating water in the home uses approximately 19% of household energy. Water Matters identifies actions to reduce energy and therefore Greenhouse Gas emissions. This will increase the affordability of energy to households.</p>

 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p><i>No National targets listed on Ireland's Hub for Sustainable Development Goals (geohive.ie)</i></p>	<p>The Water Forum research aims to identify innovative solutions using nature-based solutions for water and wastewater treatment and methodologies for the implementation of technological innovations for water conservation in the home.</p>
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p><i>No National targets listed on Ireland's Hub for Sustainable Development Goals (geohive.ie)</i></p>	<p>The Forum aims to give a voice to all members of society and makes representations on their behalf in consultations and submissions on water policy. Research on public participation has informed policy actions to facilitate equitable and equal access for all citizens and organisations.</p>
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Target : 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>Target : 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>11.6 The Forum continues to highlight the vulnerability of water services in the Greater Dublin Area. Water conservation research outputs will contribute to water knowledge, actions and policy measures. Exploring innovative nature-based solutions will highlight green measures for Sustainable Urban Drainage.</p> <p>11.6 Encourage IW to greater urgency in delivering wastewater treatment systems in urban areas without adequate systems.</p> <p>11.b FILLM policy proposal seeks to ensure a more holistic integrated approach giving communities a voice in local river catchment planning.</p>

 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>Target 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>12.8 The Water Matters video promotes more sustainable consumption. Water conservation research recommendations support the development of a Framework for Domestic Water Conservation. Water Forum education initiatives support this (Water Matters video, Factsheets, Newsletters).</p>
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Target : 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</p> <p>Target : 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p>	<p>13.2 The FILLM proposes a whole ecosystems-approach that considers water, biodiversity, soils and climate actions. Synergies and trade-offs are identified for more effective environmental outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated catchment management • Cross-agency collaborations <p>13.3 Water conservation measures (Water Matters video and research outputs)</p>
 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>Target 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels</p> <p>Target : 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information</p>	<p>14.3 Raise awareness of ocean acidification through short videos, website news and newspaper articles.</p> <p>14.5 The Forum’s submissions on the Marine Planning Framework and Expanding Irelands Marine Protected area supports the expansion of Marine protected areas to 30%.</p>
 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>Target : 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>Target : 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water</p>	<p>15.5 Research output and Policy recommendations informs the proper management of peatlands to protect and restore habitats that supports biodiversity and water quality as well as reduce GHG emissions.</p> <p>15.8 Invasive Alien species research and policy recommendations are shared with agencies.</p>

	ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species Target : 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	15.9 FILLM supports the integration of biodiversity with water management in catchments and the accounting of co-benefits for biodiversity from water measures.
	Target: 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels Target : 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.6 A guiding principle of the Forum is transparency and ensuring equitable access to information. 16.10 Leading by example, we encourage agencies to work together to share information and support public participation in environmental management.
	Target : 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development Target : 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	17.14 Policy Coherence research supports integrated, innovative governance to deliver better environmental management outcomes is necessary for a just transition. 17.17 The Forum's work programme delivers and promotes inter agency and community partnerships for the provision of more effective environmental outcomes.

The challenge of achieving the SDGs by 2030 is significant. There is a danger that if we can't do everything, we will not do anything. It is important to remember that every positive action no matter how small helps towards achieving the Goals. All local actions contribute to Global outcomes.

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