

LOCALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Local support for global challenges



THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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*Localizing the Sustainable
Development Goals*



The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations are universal and apply to every country in the world. They contain economic, social, political and ecological aspects of sustainability. Every citizen, government, company, school or organisation needs to be involved!

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Introduction and reading instructions

Why this publication?

The 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) were approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015. They succeed the Millennium Development Goals with the main difference that they are no longer based on the traditional North-South division. The Sustainable Development Goals are universal and apply to all countries in the world, north and south, east and west. This implies that there are many challenges but at the same time many opportunities to support this universal agenda together.

The Sustainable Development Goals are aimed at governments, companies, universities and scientific institutions, associations and organisations, and at citizens, all around the world. For cities, municipalities and public centres for social well-being (PCSW), as first-line governments, the Sustainable Development Goals offer an interesting framework to establish links between the local and global level, starting from local policies and local practice. Searching for solutions for climate changes, ensuring more accessible services for everyone, aiming for a shorter food chain together with citizens... These are just a few examples of how the Sustainable Development Goals can be translated to a local policy level, also in Flanders. They also present an excellent opportunity to act upon the mission given to each municipality as set out in article 2 of the Municipal Decree:

The municipalities aim to contribute at a local level to the well-being of the citizens and to the sustainable development of the municipal territory. In accordance to article 41 of the Constitution they have jurisdiction over the matters of municipal interest for the achievement of which they can take all initiatives.

How this mission is fulfilled during the current municipal legislation is outlined in the Policy and Management Cycle document – the multiannual plan of municipalities – of 2014-2019. That is why it is essential to start from what has already been planned and prepared when starting the exercise of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals locally. Indeed local governments contribute already to the realisation of the global agenda, ranging from fighting poverty to climate plans or local job creation. These initiatives will be demonstrated in this publication by means of examples of local policy and local practices in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Goals thus become outlines, a source of inspiration for local policies.

Who is this publication intended for?

A lot of information is already provided about the Sustainable Development Goals, but in this publication we want to give an onset for a local translation of the goals seen from a policy-

making perspective. The mayor, aldermen, councillors, management team, municipal staff and other actors involved in the municipal policy (like the advisory councils) can use it to work with. In practice the North-South staff, the international departments and the advisory councils will be able to use the publication to set up a dialogue within their municipal authority. The present publication does not pretend to be complete. In the course of the following months and years new examples and additions will be provided based on conversations and discussions with the local governments. Local governments refer to the municipal authorities, public centres for social well-being (PCSW), police districts, intermunicipal partnerships. For cities and municipalities who are engaged in a city-to-city partnership or have plans with a partner town (twinning city, network), the Sustainable Development Goals are an excellent framework to fill in the content of the cooperation. The Sustainable Development Goals are indeed universal and cover many aspects of local policy.

What is the content?

The United Nations approved 17 Goals which should be attained by 2030. Each goal consists of targets or 'subgoals': 169 in total. These targets are a first step to explain and implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The indicators belonging to these targets are expected in the spring of 2016 and will mainly be followed up at other government levels (federal and Flemish). 169 targets are quite something, and we have made a provisional selection of the targets that we think are relevant for local administrations, with examples from local practice. These examples are certainly not complete, but give an indication of how Sustainable Development Goals can be filled in 'locally' in Flanders. This publication will be improved, complemented and enriched in the future to ensure that it can continue to be an inspiration to local authorities, in the current period and in the next legislature.

Everything is connected

The Sustainable Development Goals often use the words 'transversal, integral or multidimensional'. Fighting poverty, switching to other energy sources, careful water management, resilient infrastructure... cannot be tackled at just one government level or by one institution. Collaborations and consultations are required in addition to a clear outlook on the entire (local) policy, as from a helicopter. Local governments certainly do not have all levers under control, but they have the big advantage that it is easier to experiment and test pilot projects, in which the nearness of citizens is a great asset. The results of the policy are usually immediately visible. That comparative advantage of local authorities exists everywhere in the world. That is why they are a crucial link in the implementation of these Sustainable Development Goals and they rightfully claim the *sine qua non*. ●

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

The goals are based on the 5 pillars of Sustainable Development

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals can be grouped in 5 clusters. This makes them more organised and easier to work with. These 5 clusters or Ps of sustainable development are People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.



The different goals do not stand isolated but are interconnected

Every goal is connected to one or more other goals. Working on goal 1, which is about fighting poverty, also involves a contribution to many other development goals (food, health, housing, inequality, etc.). It is important not to lose sight of this interconnection of goals. A municipality which makes a contribution to one goal will automatically contribute to the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals.

Interactive game methodology about the Sustainable Development Goals in your municipality

The VVSG developed a game methodology, together with 11.11.11, which facilitates dialogue and vision development for local authorities, advisory councils and other groups who want to learn about Sustainable Development Goals in their own municipality. ●



A global policy in your municipality

On the [website VVSG](https://www.vvsg.nl) > International > North-South > Sustainable Development Goals you can download this game methodology.

The Sustainable Development Goals and local authorities



For each Sustainable Development Goal below we will give a short description of what the goal implies, the corresponding targets; an indication of which target might be relevant for local authorities (recognisable by the symbol), and a series of examples which show how local authorities can (could) work on the Sustainable Development Goal.



1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

What is it about?

Today many people in developing countries are living on less than USD 1.25 per day. In Belgium the fight against poverty also stays at the top of the political agenda. The aim of this goal is to reduce poverty at a national level by 50% by 2030. The idea is to eventually eradicate poverty in all its forms.

Targets relevant for local authorities

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

Translation for local authorities

Poverty reduction has to do with the realization of fundamental rights and focuses on all areas of life including housing, health, education, access to employment, access to care, etc.

Poverty reduction requires efforts by all levels of government together. The levers for structural changes often lie with the federal and Flemish governments. This includes:

- Higher incomes so that everyone can be given the chance to live with dignity and be able to pay basic needs like rent and energy. The current Belgian incomes should be raised at least to the European poverty line. This European standard is based on three aspects: income, material deprivation and/or low work intensity;
- Better and affordable housing: improving the energy performance of the housing, expansion of social housing, expanded rental subsidies and expanding the range of Social Letting Agencies (SVKs);

- More opportunities for (social) activation: this involves a range of possibilities adapted to the capacities of the most vulnerable groups and individuals;
- The actual realization of rights;
- Extension of the beneficiaries of certain allowances: social maximum prices for energy (read: social rate).

Poverty reduction at the local level may include the following:

- Strong management role with power of implementation. This requires a multidimensional approach;
- Realize fundamental social rights, as a thread through the pursued local social policy;
- Municipalities and public centres for social well-being (PCSW) enter into (local) partnerships with all relevant actors;
- Municipalities and PCSWs take initiatives to strengthen social cohesion;
- Initiatives to combat child poverty (including concrete measures guaranteeing access to childcare and education). Sign and implement the Charter against child poverty;
- Work on activation ensuring that less educated people get access to employment;
- Work on aid that makes people stronger, through empowerment and increased independency;
- Encourage participation in leisure activities (introducing social tariffs and eliminating other barriers for sports and cultural activities);
- Offer debt mediation services;
- Mediate in the access to water and energy in case of unpaid bills;
- Assistance to people to claim what they are entitled to;
- Ensure adequate quality care for the elderly, also for the most vulnerable groups;
- Work on home care, with particular attention to vulnerable groups;
- Coordinate the cooperation with volunteers in a (care) network;
- Strive for application of the concept of '[Housing first Belgium](#)', which first addresses homelessness and then the other problems (looking for work, attending training, rehab);
- Ensure adequate shelter and transit homes to accommodate people in need (cf. problems of homeless people and refugees);
- Apply methods of proactive action to detect and tackle hidden poverty;
- Utilize the tools in place to improve housing quality (including cheap loans, declaration of unsuitability and uninhabitability);
- Collaborate with diaspora organizations and other associations that take initiatives in other regions outside Belgium or Europe to reduce poverty.

The specific approach varies from municipality to municipality, depending on many factors, e.g. socio-economic criteria. For example, the context of a large city will also be different than municipalities in the countryside. Rural communities generally also have to deal with poor transport infrastructure, making it even more important to bring the services and assistance to the population. Also hidden poverty plays a bigger role due to the vastness. More than a city a rural municipality shall:

- Use close-knit networks: e.g. receive signals from the vet or milkman, if necessary set up care networks of volunteers and specifically inform elderly residents about social activities.
- Organise mobile services and assistance, e.g. a mobile municipal information point.
- Also setting up a local service center in sub-municipalities or arrange transportation to an industrial estate in the region is one of the options. The latter will have a positive impact on employment and health (Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 3).



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

What is it about?

Everyone has access to affordable food. By using new agricultural techniques healthy and high-quality food is cultivated in a sustainable manner. This will guarantee food security for everyone.

Targets relevant for local authorities

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

Translation for local authorities

Cities and their inhabitants are very vulnerable in their access to affordable and healthy food. A good connection between the cities as a market and local producers from the surrounding rural communities increases both the access to affordable and healthy food for city dwellers, and the chance of a guaranteed salary and a market for local producers. The use of agricultural land is also crucial. Very small farms are under increasing pressure from the trend of urbanization (and real estate) and of the intensive recreational use of the land. That is why preserving the agricultural activity and the generation change in farming is so difficult. Many fertile lands threaten to disappear from active farming. How can a local government support sustainable, small-scale and creative agriculture? The ambition may be to become self-sufficient, but also to strengthen sustainable development and give underused space a reason to exist. Local governments (including PCSWs) can e.g. lease their own land and make it available for organic and urban agriculture (e.g. Community Supported Agriculture, picking gardens).

Other initiatives:

- Develop a sustainable food strategy, where different policy objectives can be addressed with one strategy (more food security for vulnerable groups, better health, stronger local economy, environment and mobility benefits thanks to short chain, more consumption of local products and organic farming, etc.). Many cities and towns can already start with making an inventory of all existing initiatives that contribute to this, in order to outline a further guiding and supporting policy on the basis thereof;
- Encourage the short chain and the connection between consumers and local producers, for example by facilitating organic markets, or by providing the kitchens of the municipal schools and other services and institutions of the local government with organic food produced in the area;
- A range of healthy and balanced food at the Service 'Meals' in the local service centres; in addition care providers in family care and additional home care can also ensure that their customers get a healthy meal;
- Support and promote organic agriculture;
- Promote all kinds of urban agriculture, for example, set up allotment gardens or support community work to create edible façades;
- Train and deploy compost gardeners;
- As a municipality committed to Fair Trade (cf. FairTradeTown campaign) conduct all kinds of promotions (such as debates, competitions, eco-city plan, calls for projects, etc.) to stimulate citizens, catering business, associations and other businesses to consume or sell sustainable and fair trade food (fair wages, social protection in the workplace, etc.);
- Support organisations working in developing countries on sustainable agriculture and food chains with local communities, farmer cooperatives, local authorities etc.

In an urban context more initiatives are being set up in relation to food surpluses, either or not in collaboration with supermarkets. There are e.g. social restaurants, social groceries, food banks and feeding distribution points often in close collaboration with poverty organisations or PCSWs.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

What is it about?

Child and maternal mortality must be reduced. The same goes for alcohol and drug abuse. Information about infectious diseases is required in order to prevent these diseases from spreading. The United Nations wants more attention for mental illnesses and plead for less traffic deaths.

Targets relevant for local authorities

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
-  3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
-  3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
-  3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
-  3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
-  3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 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
- 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
-  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

Translation for local authorities

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as: *Health is a state of complete physical, mental, economic and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.*

The health policy is a matter for which the levers can generally be found on other policy levels. Local governments ask:

- A combination of federal and Flemish resources for health promotion, disease prevention and access to health care;
- Better coordination between federal and Flemish authorities on health and disease prevention.

Efforts for health and well-being by local authorities may include:

- Integrate health in various policy areas (in environment, sports, education, mobility, etc.);
- Cooperation on health initiatives e.g. between sports services and welfare;
- Pursue a healthy HR policy and communicate good examples to local partners and the population;
- Cooperate with the Logo units (local health consultation), the regional networks for prevention and health promotion;
- Develop a municipal health policy and use the 'Healthy Community' format to this end. Such policies should pay attention to disease prevention, health promotion and access to care and health. It is important, within this framework, that attention is paid to vulnerable groups;
- Consult and cooperate with organisations that have expertise on prevention with regard to certain topics (tobacco, alcohol and drugs, suicide prevention, disease prevention such as cancer charity, Centres for Mental Health, etc.);
- Aim for local service centres that mainly take preventive action and play an important role in community-oriented care (social networking, combating isolation);
- Develop sound volunteering activities that make it possible to expand the range of activities in local service centres;
- Include (mental) health objectives in the vision and strategy of the housing policy and encourage new forms of housing (and reconsider and specify new standards and regulations) e.g. for kangaroo housing (the elderly and young families living in adjacent units) or cohousing, but also by safeguarding the quality of housing (energy, ventilation, dilapidation, deal with slum landlords);
- [Create areas of silence](#);
- Use the qualities of the countryside;
- Home nursing services have an eye for the various aspects of healthcare (physical, mental, social and economic). That is the advantage of home nursing services within a Public Center for Social Well-being (integrated operation);
- Facilitate cooperation and exchange between e.g. hospitals or actors in the care sector from the own municipality with those in poor regions outside Belgium or Europe.

Health and well-being are interrelated with numerous policy areas. A transversal health policy can contribute to goals of other policy areas and be a win-win. If local governments develop a health policy, it is important to build on what is already going on and to provide a growth path.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

What is it about?

Boys and girls are free to go to primary and secondary school. They are also given the opportunity to continue to go to school. Technical, vocational or university education must be freely accessible, regardless of sex or origin.

Targets relevant for local authorities

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

Translation for local authorities

With the municipal schools, the local authorities are relatively small players in the educational landscape in Flanders, but they have a complementary role because they are nearby the school environment. Education is an important lever for local social and well-being policy and for building society.

Local authorities are in a good position to take accompanying measures such as:

- Organising consultations with all school directories located in the municipality;
- Organising consultation between schools and the police on security at the school gates;
- Paying attention to urban planning in the school area to ensure that the schools are easily and safely accessible;
- Provide safe cycle lanes with clear route signs (near schools);
- Setting up awareness campaigns for Stappen - Trappen - Openbaar Vervoer (Walk-Cycle-Public Transport);
- Offering support to parents and school teams on pre-school participation, language stimulation, truancy prevention;
- Policy of social benefits: before and after school care, school transport;
- Paying attention to poverty and social exclusion in education by supporting school teams and school policy;
- Creating a better connection between education and the labour market;
- Setting an example about lifelong learning by focusing on further education and training for municipal employees. Particular attention is paid to those employees who due to various circumstances did not fit in in the normal circuit. Furthermore, encourage participation in education and apprenticeships, supporting a range of language initiatives, working on a competence policy...;
- Supporting associations working on improved access to education in developing countries.





Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

What is it about?

We must get rid of gender inequality: the glass ceiling, the pay gap and gender violence. Women, like men, are entitled to good health and knowledge about sexuality and reproduction.

Targets relevant for local authorities



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

Translation for local authorities

The pursuit of equal opportunities for men and women is a task for all policy levels.

Local governments can set a good example in this context:

- Screen the municipal staff and PCSWs for equal opportunities;
- Ensure equal access of (young) men and (young) women to leisure activities (sports, youth, culture) whereby monitoring takes place on the basis of participation figures which may lead to certain adjustments;
- Incorporate the gender aspect in the initial stages of policy planning, with special focus on spatial planning in which e.g. transport, (street) lighting and safe footpaths (including for vulnerable groups) play an important role;
- Endorse the European Charter for the equality of men and women at a local level and use it as a source of inspiration <http://www.charter-equality.eu/the-charter/la-presidence-en.html>;
- Pay attention to gender in the municipal education system;
- Support and strengthen rural women (they do not always have an income of their own);
- Ensure in all international partnerships (e.g. twinning, city-to-city partnerships, exchanges, projects, etc.) that both men and women participate and are involved.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

What is it about?

Everyone has the right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The water quality must improve, such as by reducing pollution, reduce the dumping of chemicals and waste by fifty percent. Water scarcity must be addressed.

Targets relevant for local authorities

-  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

Translation for local authorities

The regulations and the definition of standards for water quality are mainly a European affair. By 2027 water systems must be in good condition due to the river basin plans.

There are several players in Flanders including the Flemish Environment Agency (VMM) which monitor drinking water, e.g. the associations of municipalities, the provinces. Sustainable water management requires a comprehensive approach including waste, drinking water, storm water management, spatial planning in both urban and rural areas.

Local authorities are an important partner for water management and have to cooperate with various agencies to achieve sustainable use and reuse of water;

- Preparation of the river basin plans, which must take into account agriculture, household waste and the pursuit of a healthy flora and fauna;
- Adaptation of the sewage systems according to the European standards;
- Work on infrastructure for the collection and reuse of rainwater (primarily in new constructions);
- Set the example, as a municipality, by reusing rainwater in the municipal buildings (schools, sports hall, administrative buildings, etc.);
- Redevelopment of public space in the context of climate adaptation (type of tiles, small ponds, reservoirs, heat-resistant measures, provide flood areas, etc.);
- Draw up an emergency plan for flooding;
- Work on raising the awareness of citizens: the three Ps of Protection, Prevention and Preparedness;
- Rural Municipalities: make room to buffer water, try to balance water and agriculture. Large-scale farming indeed uses a lot of water. In addition, it is important to prevent erosion and maintain the fertile soil;
- Facilitate the exchange and sharing of knowledge between professional actors involved in (supra) local water management in our own town and those in developing countries.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

What is it about?

Energy must be produced and used more efficiently. Universal access to modern, affordable and sustainable energy. Renewable sources are becoming increasingly important.



Targets relevant for local authorities

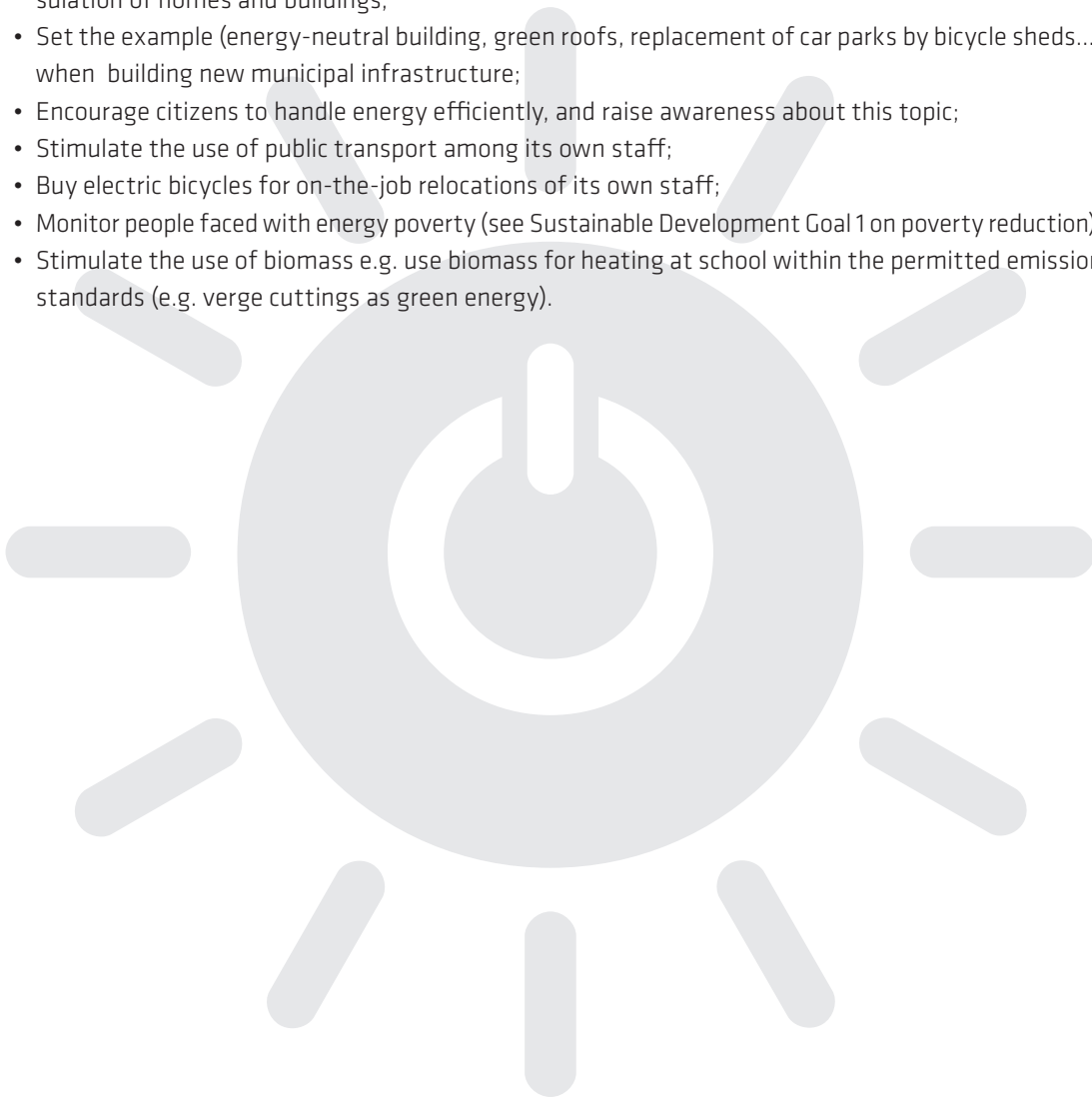
- 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation 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 land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

Translation for local authorities

The levers for energy policy are at the European, federal and Flemish level. The White Paper on Renewable Energy includes many proposals for measures.

Local governments can create the conditions for a transition to sustainable energy by investing in infrastructure.

- Provide space for wind turbines;
- Provide electric charging stations and bicycle pumps in the public area;
- Encourage insulation of homes and buildings; help propagate financial support options for the insulation of homes and buildings;
- Set the example (energy-neutral building, green roofs, replacement of car parks by bicycle sheds...) when building new municipal infrastructure;
- Encourage citizens to handle energy efficiently, and raise awareness about this topic;
- Stimulate the use of public transport among its own staff;
- Buy electric bicycles for on-the-job relocations of its own staff;
- Monitor people faced with energy poverty (see Sustainable Development Goal 1 on poverty reduction);
- Stimulate the use of biomass e.g. use biomass for heating at school within the permitted emission standards (e.g. verge cuttings as green energy).





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

What is it about?

Particularly the least developed countries need economic growth. Safe working conditions, dignified work for men, women and young people and the protection of labour rights can contribute to this. The United Nations want to eradicate slavery, forced labour and child labour. Economic growth should in no case damage the environment and living conditions of people.

Targets relevant for local authorities

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
-  8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
-  8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
-  8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead
-  8.5 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

Translation for local authorities

Local governments play a leading role for the economy and employment.

- Develop a vision and strategy on the local economy based on a SWOT analysis of local strengths: the interaction between public works and public utilities, tourism and the environment as a lever for local economic growth;
- Invest in the preservation of existing industrial estates: provision of communal services, integration with nature, making it CO2 neutral through cogeneration;
- Invest in new sustainable industrial estates;
- Experiment with projects for the innovation of agriculture and horticulture as part of the short chain on food (safety);
- Invest in smart urban distribution: sustainable distribution of goods to the city centre while making use of local facilities (roads, waterways, etc.);
- Develop a sustainable and efficient logistics system (combining types of transport, electric vehicles);
- Invest in regional development with a focus on tourism, local embedding, the local handicrafts and crafts;
- Invest in small-scale agriculture which can function as part of the short chain on food (safety) (urban agriculture, cooperations, etc.)
- Invest in the liveability and attractiveness of the village or town centres (access for both citizens and businesses): low-traffic districts, accessibility;
- Raising awareness about “Clean Clothes” and set a good example by including it as a criterion in specifications;
- Include sustainability criteria in the purchasing procedures of the municipality, including socio-economic criteria e.g. on fair commercial practices (proper wages, social protection at work, etc.);
- Provide the new trading relationships with criteria aimed at respect for people and the environment (sustainability criteria) , for example, between own industrial estates or port and international players.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

What is it about?

A strong economy and social welfare are based on solid sustainable infrastructure. Innovative industry and internet are also essential for everyone.

Targets relevant for local authorities

-  9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
-  9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
-  9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
-  9.5 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

Translation for local authorities

Local governments are key investors for infrastructure: in Belgium and Flanders respectively they are responsible for about half of the public investment.

- Focus on sustainable procurement taking into account the environmental and social criteria;
- Invest in public space that takes into account climate changes (roads, bridges, or cycle paths);
- Invest in making existing or new business more sustainable (see Sustainable Development Goal 8);
- Attract small-scale (sustainable) industry (subsidies) that can be integrated into the existing fabric;
- Combine offices with production units, through which functions are mixed and the quality of life increased;
- Cooperation with colleges and universities to give opportunities to spin-offs;
- Stimulate innovation and research by making rooms available for young researchers and starting entrepreneurs and offer them communal services, counselling, promotional campaigns;
- Invest the funds of the municipality in sustainable financial products and companies that offer both economic but also social and ecological benefits;
- Invest in sustainable infrastructure in the partner municipality of the twinned city.





Reduce inequality within and among countries

What is it about?

Inequality - both between countries and within countries themselves - must be addressed. Low wages, for example, should grow faster and developing countries should have more say in the decision-making of international financial and economic institutions.

Targets relevant for local authorities

-  10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
-  10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
-  10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
-  10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
-  10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- 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
-  10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 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
- 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
- 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Translation for local authorities

Tackling inequalities within and between countries requires a comprehensive cross-sectoral strategy. The structural reforms that are necessary for this can mostly be found at the national and regional level.

Local governments can play a complementary role in tackling inequalities between their citizens on their territory. Local authorities are first and foremost service providers: they offer more than 1,500 services to their citizens, ranging from access to registry services, libraries, sports facilities, licenses, etc.

- Local services should (continue to) be accessible to everyone without any form of distinction;
- In its own HR policy (including police, inter-municipal cooperation, autonomous municipal companies, etc.) local authorities are alert to possible discrimination and exclusion and apply the principles of equal treatment;
- Invest in inclusion and integration of newcomers;
- Fulfil a signal function by deploying role models who are a testimony of diversity both in the political and administrative area;
- Give a clear and positive image of diversity in communication material;
- Make a solid investment, in collaboration with other local authorities, with organisations and volunteers to receive and integrate newcomers and refugees (asylum crisis);
- Make the procurement policy of the municipality more sustainable by including social criteria that guarantee fair remuneration for all the producers, suppliers, technical staff concerned... both for local products and services and products and services from developing countries;
- Assist catering businesses, shopkeepers and other entrepreneurs to also provide their purchasing procedures with criteria that guarantee fair remuneration.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

What is it about?

The housing of the future must take into account a growing population.

That is coupled with safe, clean and sustainable construction techniques. Residential areas get more green areas and nature. Decent public transport provides an answer to traffic pollution.

Targets relevant for local authorities

-  11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
-  11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
-  11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
-  11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
-  11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
-  11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
-  11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 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
- 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Translation for local authorities

Urban policy in all its aspects has transversal links with other Sustainable Development Goals. Local authorities can start from existing initiatives to demonstrate the links with the Sustainable Development Goals.

- The European Covenant of Mayors to which more than two thirds of the cities and municipalities in Flanders have subscribed, an absolute record in the European Union;
- Initiatives on climate change adaptation (water policy, see Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 13);
- Gradually increasing the sustainability of the urban agenda in which [TRAKSIS](#) can be used as an instrument to fine-tune the ambitions;
- Cooperation in networks of domestic and foreign cities to adopt a pioneering role in the transition to sustainability;
- Support transition initiatives of civil society.

As a community or “human settlement” rural communities have themes of their own such as the management of open spaces, increasing the resilience of rural areas, safeguarding the quality of life in villages, addressing climate challenges or fighting poverty (see also SDG1).





Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

What is it about?

Our consumer society produces a lot of waste. Commodities should therefore be managed sustainably and used efficiently. People worldwide have to be warmed to a more sustainable lifestyle. Furthermore, it aims to decrease food waste and produce less waste.

Targets relevant for local authorities

- 
 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 
 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 
 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 
 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 
 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 
 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 
 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 
 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 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

Translation for local authorities

The regulations and standards for waste management are mostly determined by Europe and the national or regional government. EU Directive 2008/98/EC requires that plans are drawn up for waste management and prevention of waste production. By 2020, 50% of household waste and 70% of construction waste must be recycled. Incineration may be a new source of energy. Waste is increasingly approached as a resource rather than as a problem. This is consistent with the new European proposals for the circular economy in which waste and resource management play a crucial role.

Waste policy is one of the core tasks of local authorities: they implement the regulations imposed by the EU.

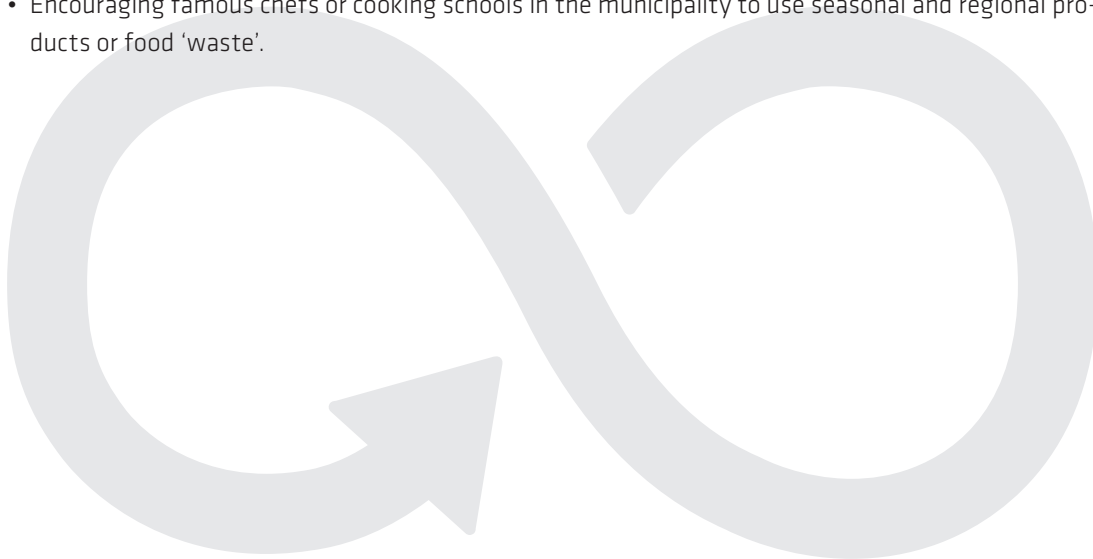
- Processing organic waste into compost and the installation of specialised compost staff;
- To continue efforts to raise awareness among citizens about waste prevention, waste separation and prevention of litter.

Local authorities can work on a sustainable procurement policy by taking into account economic, environmental and social criteria when issuing public tenders:

- Lever for sustainable materials management;
- Adopting a steering role in the sustainability of all kinds of economic activities;
- Invest in fair trade, for example by participating in the campaign of Fairtrade Towns.

Local governments can set up a sustainable local food strategy, where citizens are made aware of sustainable food consumption, e.g. by:

- Organising veggie-days;
- Offering a selection of seasonal fruits and vegetables at the municipal schools and in their kitchens, and in the municipal administration;
- Encouraging famous chefs or cooking schools in the municipality to use seasonal and regional products or food 'waste'.





Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts¹

What is it about?

Climate change affects every country on every continent. Therefore, the administration should provide measures, and citizens should become aware of how to adapt to climate change. The United Nations wants to empower vulnerable nations against natural disasters.

Targets relevant for local authorities



13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries



13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning



13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

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

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

¹ Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Translation for local authorities

Local governments can make a significant contribution to combat climate change through their policies, though most structural measures should be implemented at European, national and regional levels.

- Develop a strategic planning to make the city or town CO2 neutral (planning for 2020 or 2030) in which transversal links are established with several policy areas such as mobility, water, energy, waste, spatial planning, housing, economy and industry... Climate mitigation and adaptation require an integrated approach;
- Use the European Covenant of Mayors as a tool to outline a policy;
- Collaboration with companies, scientific institutions and organisations to implement climate plans locally;
- Cooperation and dialogue with citizens in order to create support for the implementation of the local climate plans;
- Sometimes there is a tension between nature and agriculture (see conservation measures / Nature 2000 areas). It is necessary for local governments to analyse and determine how they can provide added value. Rural municipalities are working on climate buffers, an area where nothing can be changed, allowing nature to take its course. This allows us to see how the climate changes and adapts. This may be an area with a nature reserve or swamps where (special) plants and animals (including birds) can thrive. A crucial question for the future is to examine how we can restore the balance between climate and the agricultural food policy;
- Enter into international partnerships with local authorities and regions in developing countries, to mutually learn from each other's approach to reduce climate changes, or how to cope with it.





Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

What is it about?

Seas and oceans are at risk and should be protected. Overfishing, waste and illegal fishing are at odds with a sustainable policy. Our use of water and wastewater on land plays a key role in the protection of seas and oceans.

Targets relevant for local authorities



14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution



14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans



14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

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

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

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

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

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



14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets



14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, 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

Translation for local authorities

Especially the 10 coastal municipalities are responsible, in collaboration with the Flemish (and federal) government, for maritime management:

- Continue to work together with the Flemish government to protect the coastline by broadening the beach, reinforcing the breakwaters, building dams;
- Cooperation between the coastal municipalities, among others via the consultations between mayors of seaside towns;
- Encourage sustainable fishing in the North Sea by consulting fishermen ;
- Facilitate actions to clear waste on beaches, often in collaboration with volunteers and organizations.

But all the other municipalities not situated along the coastline of a sea or ocean, along with the various actors who are responsible for the water and wastewater management on land, also play a key role in the protection of seas and oceans. The municipality can do this, for example, by:

- Raising awareness among citizens about the use of micro-plastics in our daily life that end up in the waste water and which sustainable solutions could prevent this;
- Steering new and existing industrial estates towards sustainable waste water management;
- Informing and raising awareness among citizens about endangered species and MSC and ASC certification for fish (comparable to FSC label for wood);
- Supporting programmes of sustainable wastewater management and the protection of seas and oceans in developing countries through the own city-to-city partnership or through supporting civil society organisations.





Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

What is it about?

Ecosystems on land such as forests, swamps and mountains should be protected. Conservation of biodiversity is a priority. Affected natural areas are restored.

Targets relevant for local authorities

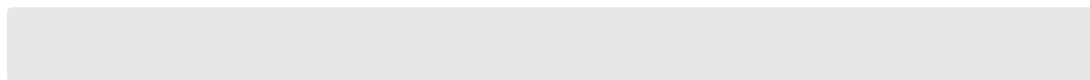
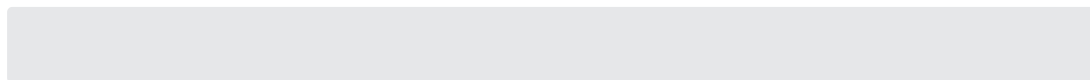
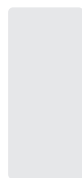
-  15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland fresh-water ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
-  15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
-  15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4 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
-  15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6 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
-  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
-  15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
-  15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 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
- 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

Translation for local authorities

The policy for the conservation of nature and forestry is mainly a Flemish competence. Local governments play a supplementary role.

Local authorities can:

- Use public forests for recreational use as partners of the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests;
- Fulfil a bridging role between conservation and economics/agriculture (e.g. sow field edges with flowers by means of subsidies). See also management agreements with the Flemish Land Companies;
- Pay attention to biodiversity in their own landscaping and spatial policy;
- Invest on raising the awareness of citizens (by not using exotic species in gardening and landscaping...) and among gardening companies;
- Work with volunteers of youth and environmental organisations for forest and nature management (bird counts, minor repairs of footpaths, etc.);
- Through twin cities or through civil society organisations, support programmes of sustainable nature and forest management in developing countries.





Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

What is it about?

Peace, security and legal protection are essential for a better world. This includes the protection of children from abuse or ill-treatment and the fight against corruption. People have a right to competent and fair governance at all levels.

Targets relevant for local authorities

- 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

Translation for local authorities

Local authorities are well placed to contribute to a safe, inclusive and rights-based society by:

- Working on social cohesion, with special attention to coexistence in the public space;
- Conducting an adequate integration policy by using the Local Civic and Integration Monitor (LIM) and ensuring a range of languages courses;
- Opting for a diverse HR policy;
- Invest in consultation and participation of the general public and of specific groups (e.g. ethnic and cultural minorities; men and women; underprivileged groups);
- Give recognition to local communities and enter into dialogue with them;
- Ensure neighbourhood development;
- Support citizens in the exercise of their rights;
- Better adjust the municipal services to the local needs;
- Manage, support and/or facilitate the safety on municipal territory;
- Contribute, through partnerships with local governments in developing countries, or through NGOs to peace, inclusion, transparency and better functioning of public services in developing countries or regions.





Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

What is it about?

The United Nations expect more cooperation: between businesses, governments, citizens and organizations, but also between all players. Technology, knowledge sharing, trade, finance and data are very important. Collaboration is the key to further sustainable growth.

Targets relevant for local authorities

Financial

-  17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
-  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 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
-  17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

-  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
-  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
- 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

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 sustainable development goals, 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

Policy and Institutional coherence

- 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

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

- 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

Translation for local authorities

The task to strengthen the implementation resources and build partnerships applies to all levels of government, civil society, companies, organisations and institutions.

Local authorities can choose to mobilize local resources (e.g. 0.7% of the municipal budget) to support the local global policy.

Local authorities are also involved in numerous relations and partnerships to carry out and shape their policies.

In the international context, they may choose to mobilize local resources (e.g. to start up a twinning project, to work with a partner municipality so that both administrations benefit in their service to the citizens and their policies. They may also choose to involve e.g. NGOs, socio-cultural associations, diaspora organizations, hospitals, schools, companies, etc. in the municipality or to support these in programs of sustainable development in developing countries. The Sustainable Development Goals are an excellent framework for working together on certain themes and topics.



Additional information

United Nations

- General: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- Knowledge platform: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>
- Cifal Flanders: www.cifal-flanders.org

Belgium:

- Federal Institute for Sustainable Development: <http://fido.belgium.be/nl> (enter in search function: Sustainable Development Goals, and the English, French and Dutch translation and other news and documents will be displayed).

Flanders

- <http://do.vlaanderen.be/sdgs>

Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG vzw)

- <http://www.vvsg.be/Internationaal/Noord-Zuid/Pages/De-duurzame-ontwikkelingsdoelstellingen.aspx>

11.11.11

- The political vision of 11.11.11: <http://www.11.be/wat-doet-11-11-11/item/pistes-voor-de-uitvoering-van-de-duurzame-ontwikkelingsdoelstellingen-in-belgie>
- The coalition 'De Tijd Loopt' : <http://www.action2015.be/info-sdgs>

EDITORS

Team International VVSG

PHOTOGRAPHY

Bart Lasuy
Stefan Dewickere
Team International VVSG

LAYOUT

Ties Bekaert,
communications department VVSG

Association of Flemish
Cities and Municipalities
Paviljoenstraat 9
1030 Brussels
T 02 211 55 00
F 02 211 56 00
internationaal@vvsg.be
www.vvsg.be

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