



Ireland's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

Submission to the Joint Committee on Environment and Climate Action



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1. Introduction

Social Justice Ireland welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Committee on Environment and Climate Action on progress in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Context

The SDGs call on all nations to combine economic prosperity, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. The goal of the SDGs is to change the perspective of public policy and our analysis shows that while Ireland has made some progress, the scale of the challenge facing Ireland under the headings of economy, society and environment remains substantial. Events over the past few years have highlighted the interdependence of our economic, social and natural spheres. It has also made the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs even more challenging, both for the EU and globally. However, they must remain at the top of the policy agenda if we are to ensure a more sustainable future for all.

Social Justice Ireland tracks Ireland's progress on achieving the SDGs annually through the Sustainable Progress Index. This annual report measures Ireland's performance across all 17 SDGs and compares our performance against 14 EU countries. The 2024 report uses 82 indicators across the 17 goals to analyse performance. Our submission to the committee is based on the findings of the 2024 Sustainable Progress Index.¹

3. Sustainable Progress Index 2024 – main findings

The Sustainable Progress Index 2024 compares 14 EU countries across all UN SDGs, assesses their performance on each individual SDG, creates a ranking table for performance overall. The Index provides a snapshot of Ireland's record across three dimensions: economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability and ranks Ireland against 14 EU peer countries. There is value in attempting to understand how countries are doing on these three aspects of progress - all are interconnected and are crucial for the wellbeing of individuals and societies. The 17 SDGs are divided between across the three indices, economy, society and environment. The economy index is comprised of SDG 8 'Decent work and economic growth' and SDG 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure'. The society index is comprised of eight SDGs that capture the theme of social inclusion. These are SDG 1 'No poverty', SDG 2 'No hunger', SDG 3 'Good health and wellbeing', SDG 4 'Quality education', SDG 5 'Gender equality', SDG 10 'Reduced inequalities', SDG 16 'Peace, justice and strong institutions', and SDG 17 'Partnership for the goals'. The environment index combines seven SDGs: SDG 6 'Clean water and sanitation', SDG 7 'Affordable and clean energy', SDG 11 'Sustainable cities and communities', SDG 12 'Responsible consumption and production', SDG 13 'Climate action', SDG 14 'Life below water' and SDG 15 'Life on land'.

Ireland ranks 8th out of 14 comparable EU countries in this year's Sustainable Progress Index. On the social index, Ireland is in the middle of the ranking, in 7th place. Ireland is towards the bottom of the ranking on the environment index, in 11th place highlighting the major challenges we face in meeting our environmental goals set out in Agenda 2030.

¹ The full report is available at <https://www.socialjustice.ie/system/files/file-uploads/2024-02/Sustainable%20Progress%20Index%202024%20Body%20WEB%20Version%200.pdf>

Table 1: The Sustainable Progress Index 2024		
Ranking by Country		
Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	0.6329	1
Denmark	0.6270	2
Netherlands	0.6006	3
Finland	0.5692	4
Austria	0.5288	5
Germany	0.5049	6
Luxembourg	0.5026	7
Ireland	0.4922	8
Belgium	0.4875	9
France	0.4467	10
Portugal	0.4441	11
Italy	0.4319	12
Spain	0.4183	13
Greece	0.3740	14

Table 1 outlines our composite Sustainable Progress Index (SPI) for 2024. It provides a simple report card to track Ireland's overall performance on the SDGs compared to its EU peers: countries that have experienced similar levels of development. We see the Nordic countries, along with the Netherlands, top the index rankings. Ireland is in 8th place in 2024.

Table 2 presents Ireland's performance across all 17 SDGs across the three dimensions of the index, economic, social and environmental.

Table 2: Ireland's Rank by Dimension and by SDG		
Economy		9
SDG 8:	Good Jobs and Economic Growth	7
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	10
Society		7
SDG 1	No Poverty	8
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	13
SDG 3	Good Health and Wellbeing	6
SDG 4	Quality Education	1
SDG 5	Gender Equality	10
SDG 10	Reduced Inequality	6
SDG 16	Peace and Justice	5
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	14
Environment		11
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	11
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	14
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	2
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	10
SDG 13	Climate Action	9
SDG 14	Life Below Water	8
SDG 15	Life on Land	7

Strengths

- Ireland is in the top 5 for just 3 SDGs; 'Quality education' (SDG 4), 'Peace and Justice' (SDG16) and 'Sustainable cities and communities' (SDG11).
- Ireland's relatively good performance on 'Peace and Justice' where Ireland ranks 5 points to Ireland having relatively safe quality of life in our cities and communities with a reasonably good transparent, effective and accountable institutions.
- We continue to perform very well on the SDG for 'Quality Education' (SDG 4) where Ireland ranks 1, much as expected. From basic education to tertiary education, Ireland's reputation

for 'quality education' is evident, although some consideration should be given to the low rate of adult participation in learning.

- The good score on SDG 11 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' where Ireland ranks 2nd indicates that Ireland offers a good quality of life in cities and communities, performing very well on air quality in particular.

Weaknesses

- Ireland is in the bottom 5 for 7 SDGs; 'Zero Hunger (SDG 2)', 'Gender Equality (SDG 5)', 'Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)', 'Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7)', 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9)', 'Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)', and 'Partnership for the Goals (SDG 17)'.
- Challenges lie ahead for progress on achievement of some goals. For example, several of the SDGs reflecting the environment present a less favourable picture of Ireland.
- Clearly, there are pressing sustainability issues that must be addressed, as reflected by Ireland's ranking of 10 for three SDGs relating to the environment; SDG 6 'Clean Water and Sanitation', SDG 7 'Affordable and Clean Energy', and SDG12, 'Responsible Consumption and Production'.
- The low score of 13 on SDG2 'Zero hunger' emphasizes the need to embrace fully the idea of sustainable agriculture and the impact of obesity on health.
- Ireland's rank of 10 on SDG9, 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, points to the need for further policy action with regard to logistics and broadband capacities.

Somewhere in the middle

- Ireland is in the middle of the rankings for several of the SDGs; 'Good Jobs and Economic Growth (SDG 8)', 'Reduced Inequality (SDG 10)', 'Climate Action (SDG 13)', 'Life Below Water (SDG 14)', 'Life on Land (SDG 15)' and 'Peace and justice (SDG 16)'.
- These rankings imply there is much scope for improvement. While certain areas have witnessed progress, it is important that we do not become complacent; there remains a proportion of indicators that are stagnating or progressing too slowly.
- While certain areas have witnessed progress, it is important that we do not become complacent; there remains a proportion of indicators that are stagnating or progressing too slowly. Continuous monitoring of all the indicators that make up the goals is required in order to fully meet the aims of Agenda 2030.

4. Conclusion and policy recommendations

At the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a reality check reveals significant challenges are still evident in meeting some goals. There are obvious pressing sustainability issues in the areas reflected by SDG 7 'Affordable and clean energy' and SDG12, 'Responsible consumption. The low proportion of renewables in our energy mix points to the need for significant policy action to ensure that current energy needs continue to be met without jeopardizing future generations. Ireland is also seriously underperforming in areas such as clean water, innovation and infrastructure, gender equality, and sustainable agriculture. This is dragging our overall ranking down even though we are performing well in some areas. At present, we are failing to balance core essentials such as economic and social progress, sustaining the planet's environment and resources and combatting climate change.

Equipped with the global goals as tools for guidance and accountability, Government has the opportunity to address current social imbalances, lead the way towards a new generation of politics shaped by policies for the common good which promote well-being and support the economic, social and environmental demands of a truly healthy society.

The SDGs are designed to refocus efforts towards policies that directly help people and communities in the long run. In this regard, the SDGs are complementary to Ireland's Well-being Framework, with significant cross-over between the SDGs and the eleven dimensions of the Well-being Framework (see Appendix B). Explicitly linking each of the seventeen SDGs to the eleven dimensions of the Well-being Framework would help mutually reinforce each another and ensure policy coherence between our national targets and our international commitments. This reinforcement would support coherent policy making and improve outcomes. A properly functioning Well-being Framework would support Ireland to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and likewise, a commitment to achieving the SDGS would lead to improved well-being and living standards for all.

Appendix A: Ireland's SDG performance 2024

*Economy Index*

Despite significant improvement in many aspects of the economy, (Ireland's GDP per capita continues to be at the top end of the scale relative to other countries), this broader measure of the economy shows there is significant room for progress. Ireland ranks 9th relative to its EU peers on the Economy Index². Below, we explore elements of each SDG separately.

SDG 8 'Decent work and economic growth'

SDG8 identifies the importance of sustained and inclusive economic growth, economic productivity and global prosperity. The goal recognises that growth is essential for employment (particularly well-paid quality jobs), living standards, and prosperity. It focuses on providing opportunities to eradicate forced labour, human trafficking, and child labour globally by promoting labour rights and safe and secure working conditions.

We use 6 indicators to reflect SDG8. As well as GDP per capita and a measure of unemployment, we include additional measures to capture the theme of the goal: the employment rate, the NEET rate (youths not in employment, education or training), accidents at work, and a measure of low pay. At EU level, SDG8 shows continued signs of recovery after the pandemic's impact on the economy and the labour market. This is also the case in Ireland. Ireland's NEET rate has improved steadily and at 8.7%, it is half-way in the ranking on this indicator. The employment rate continues to improve also, and in 2022 it stood at 78.2%, above the EU average.

The indicators 'accidents at work' and 'low pay' are used here to mirror decent work although it would be preferable to have a good measure of 'decent work' (there is yet no agreed measure developed for use in the SDGs). While ranked 7th on accidents at work, Ireland's performance on low-pay is less

² The arithmetic mean and the geomean averages were explored as two approaches to aggregating the data. Both indexes show a high degree of correlation (Pearson's correlation coefficient of 0.98). For ease of interpretation, we settle on the arithmetic mean.

impressive (ranked 13th on latest data). The combined total of measures of SDGs give Ireland a relative ranking of 7 overall.

SDG 8: Rank =7

SDG 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure'

SDG9 focuses on supporting inclusive and sustainable development, technological progress, and human wellbeing, with the aim of improving living standards. In doing so, the goal is to promote increased access to financial services, and information and communication technologies, and it recognises the importance of research and innovation for achieving the goals.

6 indicators are used to compute SDG9. At 0.96%, expenditure on R&D (as a percentage of GDP) in Ireland is the lowest of the EU14. Belgium, Sweden, Austria and Germany top the rankings. They all have expenditure greater than 3% of GDP.

Other indicators under this SDG - internet use, and number of researchers as a percentage of population - show Ireland performing better over the recent past, but there is still significant room for improvement. Ireland's share of R&D researchers, as a percentage of population has increased. We score relatively well on the extent of high-speed internet coverage. The Logistics Performance Index - an indicator that attempts to measure the quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure from the World Bank, scores Ireland in 12th place for logistics capacity.

Ireland's overall score on SDG9 puts it in 10th place.

SDG 9: Rank = 10

Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	0.7693	1
Denmark	0.7693	2
Netherlands	0.7435	3
Finland	0.6538	4
Luxembourg	0.6346	5
Germany	0.5576	6
Austria	0.5191	7
Belgium	0.5063	8

Ireland	0.4871	9
France	0.3523	10
Portugal	0.3396	11
Spain	0.3203	12
Italy	0.1920	13
Greece	0.1728	14

Society Index

The Society Index score and country ranking are presented in Table 4. The index is computed by combining 8 SDGs that together, we believe capture the theme of social inclusion. Ireland is halfway in the ranking, in 7th place. Strong performance on several SDGs impact the overall score, in particular, the education theme, (SDG4), peace and justice goals (SDG16) and good health and wellbeing (SDG3). Vulnerable households in employment.

SDG 1 ‘No poverty’

SDG1 pleads for an end to poverty in all its manifestations. It aims to ensure peoples’ basic needs are met, by focusing on equal rights and access to economic and natural resources, including technology, property and basic financial services.

Monitoring SDG1 in the EU context involves tracking aspects related to multidimensional poverty and basic needs. The EU is characterised by considerable improvements in all poverty dimensions of SDG1 monitored in Eurostat’s recent report, including an increasing share of people being able to meet their basic needs. However, “most of these improvements took place in the period up to 2019, while poverty rates have remained rather stable in 2020 and 2021” (Eurostat, 2023, p. 10).

Our SDG1 is constructed using 3 indicators; one from the OECD, and two taken from Eurostat. They are chosen to reflect the broad objectives and ambitions of the goal. The indicators are: the poverty rate (the share of the population whose incomes fall below half the median disposable income for the entire population after taxes and social transfers – this is closely aligned with the UN indicator); severely materially deprived people (percentage of the population); and low-work intensity households. Ireland scores well on the poverty rate measure (3rd place). However, less favourable scores on the other indicators from Eurostat (which they argue are meant to capture poverty among more developed countries) gives an overall score on SDG1 that puts Ireland in 8th place.

SDG 1: Rank = 8

SDG 2 ‘No hunger’

SDG2 is concerned with food security, the eradication of hunger, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Many of the official indicators under this goal are more applicable to developing countries. Food security, in terms of sufficiency and supply, is generally not considered a major concern for the

EU countries, but malnutrition problems are evident. Achieving healthy diets and ensuring agricultural systems remain productive and sustainable are the key challenges associated with this goal in the EU.

At EU level, including Ireland, trends in the area of malnutrition remain unfavourable, with a clear increase in the share of obese people in the EU since 2014 (Eurostat, 2023, p.14). Obesity in Ireland is the highest among the EU14, according to the latest available data. Over 25% of the population are categorized as obese.

The sustainability of agriculture and ensuring long-term productivity are also key elements of SDG2. 4 indicators are used to reflect this part of SDG 2: cereal yield efficiency; the extent of organic farming; ammonia emissions from agriculture, and a measure of pesticide use.

At just 2%, Ireland's organic farming share of the total utilised agricultural area (UAA) is well below the EU average: it scores lowest of the EU14 on this indicator. On the plus side, Ireland scores highest (1st place) on the cereal yield indicator, although the ranking on the ammonia emissions and pesticide is much less favourable. Combining all the 5 selected indicators for this goal gives a rank of 13 for Ireland.

SDG 2: Rank = 13

SDG 3 'Good health and wellbeing'

SDG3 focuses on improving healthy lives and promoting wellbeing of all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health. It aims to end epidemics of major communicable diseases; and reduce non-communicable and mental diseases. It also focuses on reducing behavioural and environmental health-risk factors. Hence, in addition to indicators like life expectancy, maternal and neo-natal mortality rates, subjective wellbeing measure, etc., indicators such as death due to chronic diseases, incidence of alcohol and smoking are included under this SDG.

While strong progress was observed at EU level on this SDG prior to 2019, assessment of the goal is now impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is likely to be true in Ireland also. A more expansive range of data is available to reflect this SDG compared to others. We compute SDG 3 using 9 indicators, many from the Eurostat database. We exclude indicators that are more relevant to the developing countries. Ireland scores relatively well overall. Sweden and the Netherlands top the ranking, in first and second place, respectively.

SDG 3: Rank = 6

SDG 4 'Quality education'

The aim of SDG 4 is to ensure **access to equitable and quality education through all stages of life**. It focuses on increasing the number of youth and adults with employment and entrepreneurship opportunities and advocates life-long learning. It also aims to **eliminate gender and income disparities in access to education**.

Education is seen as key in meeting other SDGs; it aims at reducing poverty, inequality, gender inequality and contributes to growth, employment, productivity, innovation, competitiveness and healthier lifestyles (Eurostat, 2017:89).

Our 6 indicators that are used to compute SDG4 reflect education at all levels of life. Ireland scores high on several indicators: Ireland is ranked first on the share of the population aged 30 to 34 that

have completed tertiary or equivalent education (a measure of 3rd level outcomes) and first on the PISA³ score (a measure of 2nd level outcomes). Ireland also does well on the early-leavers indicator and an indicator capturing childhood education. We also do well on a new Eurostat indicator capturing the extent of basic digital skills in the population. We do less well in one area in particular: adult learning – which is used to reflect life-long learning. Overall however, the strong performance of several measures mean that Ireland scores very well on this SDG and is ranked first overall.

SDG 4: Rank = 1

SDG 5 'Gender equality'

SDG 5 aims at ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls. It calls for equal rights, recognition and equal opportunities of leadership at all levels of political and economic decision making.

Our SDG5 is computed using 5 indicators, mainly drawn from the Eurostat database. At EU level, SDG5 shows a quite favourable picture in most of the areas monitored. Regarding employment, women's hourly earnings are catching up with those of men, and the gap between men and women who are outside the labour force due to caring responsibilities has narrowed since 2017 (Eurostat, 2023, p. 12)

However, we see a somewhat mixed performance for Ireland based on the selected indicators. The data shows that we are still below the EU average on indicators for both the share of women in national parliament (13th place) and in senior management roles (12th places); this, despite observed improvements. The employment gap indicator also puts Ireland at the lower end of the ranking, as many more women than men still remain economically inactive due to caring responsibilities.

In the EU, the gender pay gap has narrowed slightly over the years in the EU but remains about 13.9%. The latest data for Ireland puts the gap at 9.9%, which is below the EU average. Also on a positive note, Ireland is ranked first on the female education indicator (female education as a percentage of male education).

Overall, Ireland is ranked in 10th place on this SDG indicating there is some scope for improvement. Denmark, Sweden and Finland are the highest ranked countries.

SDG 5 Rank = 10

SDG 10 'Reduced inequalities'

SDG 10 aims at reducing disparities in terms of income, sex, age, disability, race, class, ethnicity, and religion, within and among countries.

Trends regarding inequalities in the EU reveal a relatively favourable picture over the most recent five-year period of available data (Eurostat, 2023, p. 120). Our SDG10 draws on four indicators to capture the theme of this goal. The data for the Palma Index⁴ shows Ireland is ranked 6th. Data for the Gini

³ The Programme for International Student Assessment (*PISA*) is an international assessment of the skills and knowledge of 15-year-olds. *PISA* assesses students' performance on reading, maths and science.

⁴ The Palma Index is a measure that attempts to capture inequality. It is the ratio of the richest 10 per cent of the population's share of gross national income divided by the poorest 40 per cent's share. Increasing the income of the bottom 40 per cent of the population by adopting policies and legislation is another aim of SDG10.

coefficient shows Ireland is ranked 7th. Ireland's performance on the social justice indicator puts it in 6th place and a measure of household debt also ranks Ireland 6th.

Finland, Belgium and Denmark are the best performing countries overall on this goal. Ireland's overall score puts it in 6th place.

SDG 10: Rank = 6

SDG 16 'Peace, justice and strong institutions'

SDG16 seeks to promote a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainability, supported by human rights, protection of the most vulnerable, access to justice, and secure governance.

We use 7 different indicators to reflect and assess the theme of SDG16. The theme of peace and personal security is captured by indicators of homicides, occurrence of crime/violence/vandalism, proportion of prisoners in the population, and feeling safe walking home. The theme of access to justice and strong institutions is measured by: an indicator of confidence in the judicial system (Eurostat); the perception of corruption (Transparency International); and the number of unsentenced detainees (as per cent of the population – an official UN indicator).

The data paint a favourable picture: Ireland is a relatively safe society with a low number of deaths associated with homicide or assault, and a lower perceived occurrence of crime, violence and vandalism. We conclude Ireland is doing well on this SDG based on the selected indicators, with an overall rank of 5.

SDG 16: Rank = 5

SDG 17 'Partnership for the goals'

A strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation is critical for the achievement of Agenda 2030. This is the aim SDG17, which focuses on the global macro economy to ensure an open universal multilateral trading system for sustainable development under the WTO. Global partnership and cooperation with developing countries can promote and develop sustained economic activity, which aids on achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

However, the most recent overall assessment of EU developments regarding SDG17 is moderately negative (Eurostat, 2023, p.16) The EU has focused on global partnership and financial governance within the EU to reflect SDG17. They note that " [o]verall EU financing to developing countries has fallen strongly since 2016, and the EU's ratio of official development assistance (ODA) to gross national income (GNI) has not progressed towards the 0.7% target set for 2030" (Eurostat, 2023, p. 16).

We compute SDG17 using 4 indicators. The most recent data indicates that Ireland's contribution of 0.3 per cent of GNI in 2021 is well below the EU average, placing it in 10th place on this indicator. As a member state of the EU, Ireland is clearly a long way off meeting its commitment. Only four countries met the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI: Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Luxembourg.

Data for our second indicator comes from Eurostat; the share of environmental taxes as a proportion of revenue. They note that "the already low share of environmental taxes in total tax revenues declined even further and reached a new low in 2021" (Eurostat, 2023, p.16). Ireland is on a par with the European average on this indicator, and is ranked 8th out of the 14 countries.

To capture the theme of financial governance, we include an indicator of General Government Gross Debt. This indicator is important as the EU stipulates that EU countries' debt level should not exceed 60 per cent of GDP. Ireland's debt has fallen over the years and at 44.4% of GDP in 2022, was well below the EU27 average of 83.5.9%. However, Ireland's performance on the final indicator, which measures expenditure on health and education as a % of GDP, shows Ireland in 14th place on this indicator.

Combining our indicators puts Ireland last on SDG17. We emphasise that the indicators here do not necessarily capture fully the theme of the goal, given data limitations. Better quality data is required to fully capture the theme of this goal.

SDG 17: Rank =14

Table A2: The Society SDG Index – Ranking by Country		
Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Denmark	0.6614	1
Sweden	0.6486	2
Finland	0.6304	3
Netherlands	0.5654	4
Belgium	0.5394	5
Austria	0.5274	6
Ireland	0.5120	7
Luxembourg	0.4745	8
Portugal	0.4651	9
France	0.4589	10
Germany	0.4478	11
Italy	0.4371	12
Spain	0.4126	13
Greece	0.3275	14

Environment Index

The Environment Index sees Ireland in last place among our peers. Significant challenges exist if Ireland is to meet our commitment to the environment goals set out in Agenda 2030.

SDG 6 'Clean Water and Sanitation'

SDG 6 calls for universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. It aims at improving water quality, water use efficiency and sustainable supply.

Available data paint a rather mixed picture for the EU. Trends in water scarcity are somewhat unfavourable, with the EU's water exploitation index showing a slightly increasing trend in recent years. However, on a positive note, "the share of people without appropriate sanitation facilities in their households has been steadily decreasing in the EU, and connectivity to at least secondary waste water treatment has been improving slowly" (Eurostat, 2023, p. 15).

The results for Ireland are also mixed. Relative to other countries, we score well on Eurostat's water exploitation index - Ireland is ranked in 4th place. Less favourable is our performance on the proportion of waste-water that is treated - Ireland is in 9th place. Also, indicators for access to improved drinking water and sanitation show further development is required. Ireland's overall rank on this SDG is 11.

SDG 6: Rank = 11

SDG 7 'Affordable and Clean Energy'

Access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy services to fulfil demands is a key aim of SDG7. Specifically, it focuses on improving energy efficiency, access to modern energy services and increasing the share of renewable energy.

Our assessment of SDG7 indicate Ireland is performing poorly relative on this goal. We use 4 indicators to compute our measure. The share of renewable energy is one of the lowest relative to our EU peers and is well below the EU average. We also do poorly on the measure of CO2 emissions from energy fuels combustion/electricity output (MtCO2/TW). We do better on the indicator of final energy consumption in household per capita (Ireland is in 6th place). Our final indicator - the proportion of people who are unable to keep their home adequately warm places – shows Ireland ranked 10th. Overall, our combined indicators give Ireland a score with a rank of 14 – last among the countries examined here.

SDG 7: Rank = 14

SDG 11 'Sustainable cities and communities'

The focus of SDG11 is on designing cities, towns, and communities in a safe, resilient and sustainable manner. It aims to make cities safe and sustainable by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, investing in infrastructure, and improving planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

Some of the official indicators for this goal are more relevant to developing countries. We use 5 indicators, drawing mainly on Eurostat's data, to reflect this goal. Air pollution is less of a problem in Ireland's urban areas compared to other countries, outranked by just the Scandinavian countries. Our

second indicator attempts to capture ‘satisfaction with public transport’ and we are in the middle rankings for this measure. A third indicator captures the extent of rent over-burden – we use OECD data to reflect the theme of ‘safe and affordable housing’. OECD proposes that households that spend more than 40 per cent of disposable income on housing are considered “overburdened” (OECD, 2019). Compared to other countries, Ireland does relatively well on this indicator, although the data does not reflect the current crisis. Our final two measures are CO2 emissions from passenger cars (Ireland is ranked 7) and the proportion of fatal car accidents (Ireland is in 3rd place).

Ireland does well on this SDG: the overall score for quality of life in our cities and communities shows Ireland in 2nd place.

SDG 11: Rank = 2

SDG 12 ‘Responsible consumption and production’

Economic growth has long been linked to an increase in resource and energy consumption. SDG 12 calls for adopting sustainable practices and procedures for business and an increase in environmentally friendly activity by consumers to enhance sustainable consumption and production. In the EU, the focus is on developments in the area of decoupling environmental impacts from economic growth, energy consumption, and waste generation and management.

Trends concerning SDG 12 have been mixed in the EU. Indicators for this SDG focus on waste generation, circular material use, electronic waste, raw material consumption and the recycling of waste.

Our analysis shows that Ireland continues to generate a significant amount of municipal waste per capita, (11th place), while the recycling rate of municipal waste and circular material use is low (11 and 14 rank respectively). Combining all our indicators show Ireland continues to struggle on the achievement of this goal. The overall score puts Ireland in 10th place on this SDG.

SDG 12: Rank = 10

SDG 13 ‘Climate Action’

On fulfilling the promise to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and operationalising the Green Climate Fund, SDG 13 integrates climate change mitigation and measures into strategies and policies to reduce the severity from the effects of climate related hazards and natural disasters.

In the EU context, SDG13 focuses on three themes: climate mitigation, climate impacts, and climate initiatives that support climate action. There have been improvements in this SDG in the EU. According to provisional estimates for 2021, “the EU has already reduced its net greenhouse gas emissions by about 30% since 1990”. However, “stronger progress will be required to meet the ambitious 55% reduction target for 2030” (Eurostat, 2023, p. 15).

Problems with data availability however (for example, reliable and comprehensive measures of mitigation, impacts and initiatives) make this one of the SDGs that international agencies still find problematic when attempting to determine important trends. A key indicator used by Eurostat is GHG

emissions. In recent years, Ireland has witnessed a fluctuation in its' GHG emissions but it continues to be well above the EU average. Ireland is ranked second last on this indicator, based on most recent data, second only to Luxembourg. We do better on the indicator that reflects the carbon pricing score⁵ and the overall score ranks Ireland in (joint) 9th place on this SDG.

SDG 13 Rank = 9

SDG 14 'Life below Water'

The conservation of the oceans by safeguarding and ensuring their sustainable use is the aim of SDG14. It aims to reduce marine pollution, ocean acidification and overfishing as addressed through policy. The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Hence, a key priority for a sustainable future is the careful management of this goal.

Available data measuring the themes of this SDG are still limited in scope. Hence caution is advised in interpreting the findings here. For example, it has, and continues to be, difficult to estimate how each country is contributing to ocean health. Ocean acidification poses a risk to the marine environment and global climate regulation. The EU has “made only moderate progress towards SDG14, based on the most recent data” (Eurostat, 2023, p. 14). Similarly, available data for protected marine sites do not provide an indication of the sites' conservation status nor the effectiveness of the protection they offer to species and habitats (Eurostat, 2022, p.13).

Given the data limitations at country level, our SDG14 is computed using 3 indicators for 12 countries⁶, based on data on protected marine sites and quality of bathing sites by locality from Eurostat. Estimates of ocean health, including ocean acidity are available from the Ocean Health Index⁷ which measures ocean health by country. The overall score gives it a ranking of 8 on this SDG. Given time, it is hoped better quality data will allow for more reliable estimates of SDG14.

SDG 14 Rank = 8 (out of 12)

SDG 15 'Life on land'

SDG15 seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, inland water and mountain ecosystems. It is one of the key goals, along with SDG14 that incorporates environmental considerations for all UN member countries.

Data availability means monitoring of SDG 15 also remains somewhat limited. At EU level, recent trends in the indicators selected show “some slight improvements combined with a few clearly

⁵ The Carbon Pricing Score (CPS) (also called the effective carbon tax rate) measures the extent to which countries have attained the goal of pricing all energy related carbon emissions at certain benchmark values for carbon costs. The more progress that a country has made towards a specified benchmark value, the higher the CPS. The measure here comes from the OECD and excludes CO₂ from biomass.

⁶ Both Austria and Luxembourg are landlocked – hence there is no data for this goal.

⁷ <http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/region-scores/annual-scores-and-rankings>. We use the clean waters score from the Index.

negative developments that result in an overall slightly negative goal-level assessment” (Eurostat, 2023, p. 16).

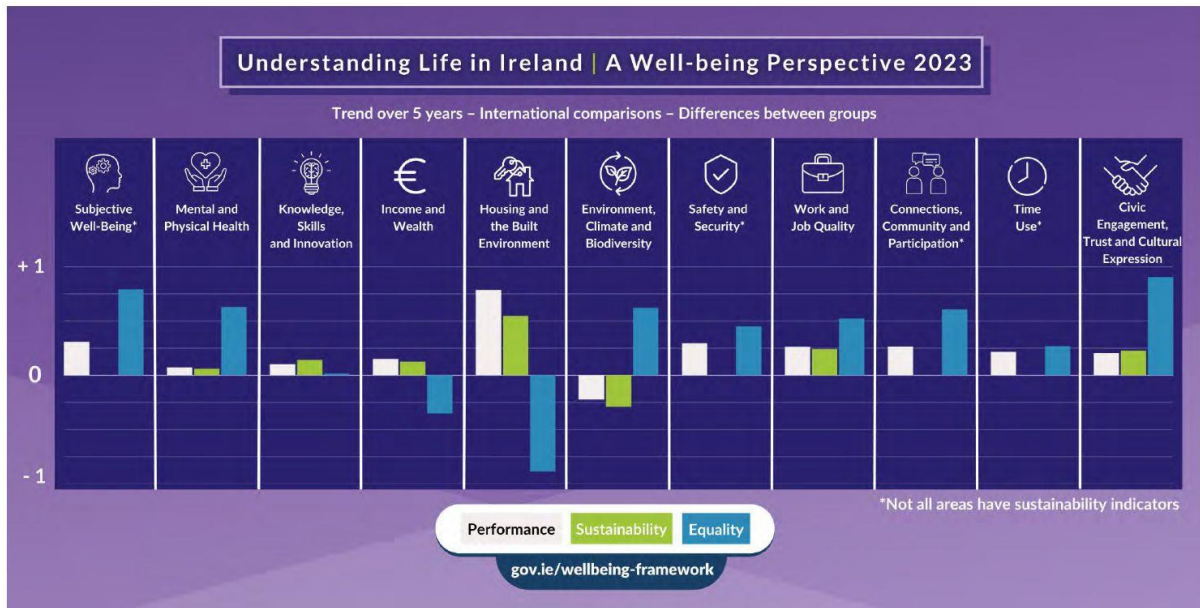
Five indicators are selected here to mirror SDG15. Ireland scores high on indicators of the share of protected terrestrial areas and share of freshwater areas. The score on the Red List index which estimates biodiversity loss is less favourable, Finally, Ireland has a low share of land dedicated for forestry and woodland (19%) which is well below the EU average – Ireland is ranked 12 on this measure. The final indicator from Eurostat, the Soil Seal Index, gives a score that puts Ireland in 13th place. Combining the indicators gives Ireland an overall rank on this SDG15 of 7.

SDG 15 Rank = 7

Table A3: The Environment SDG Index – Ranking by Country		
Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	0.5899	1
Netherlands	0.5781	2
Denmark	0.5527	3
Germany	0.5525	4
Austria	0.5423	5
Greece	0.4929	6
Italy	0.4918	7
Luxembourg	0.4898	8
Finland	0.4750	9
France	0.4681	10
Ireland	0.4627	11
Spain	0.4584	12
Portugal	0.4500	13
Belgium	0.4227	14

Appendix B: Well-being Framework and SDG Alignment

Figure B1:



Source: Understanding Life in Ireland: The Well-being Framework 2023, p.7

Figure B2: Well-being Framework and SDG Alignment

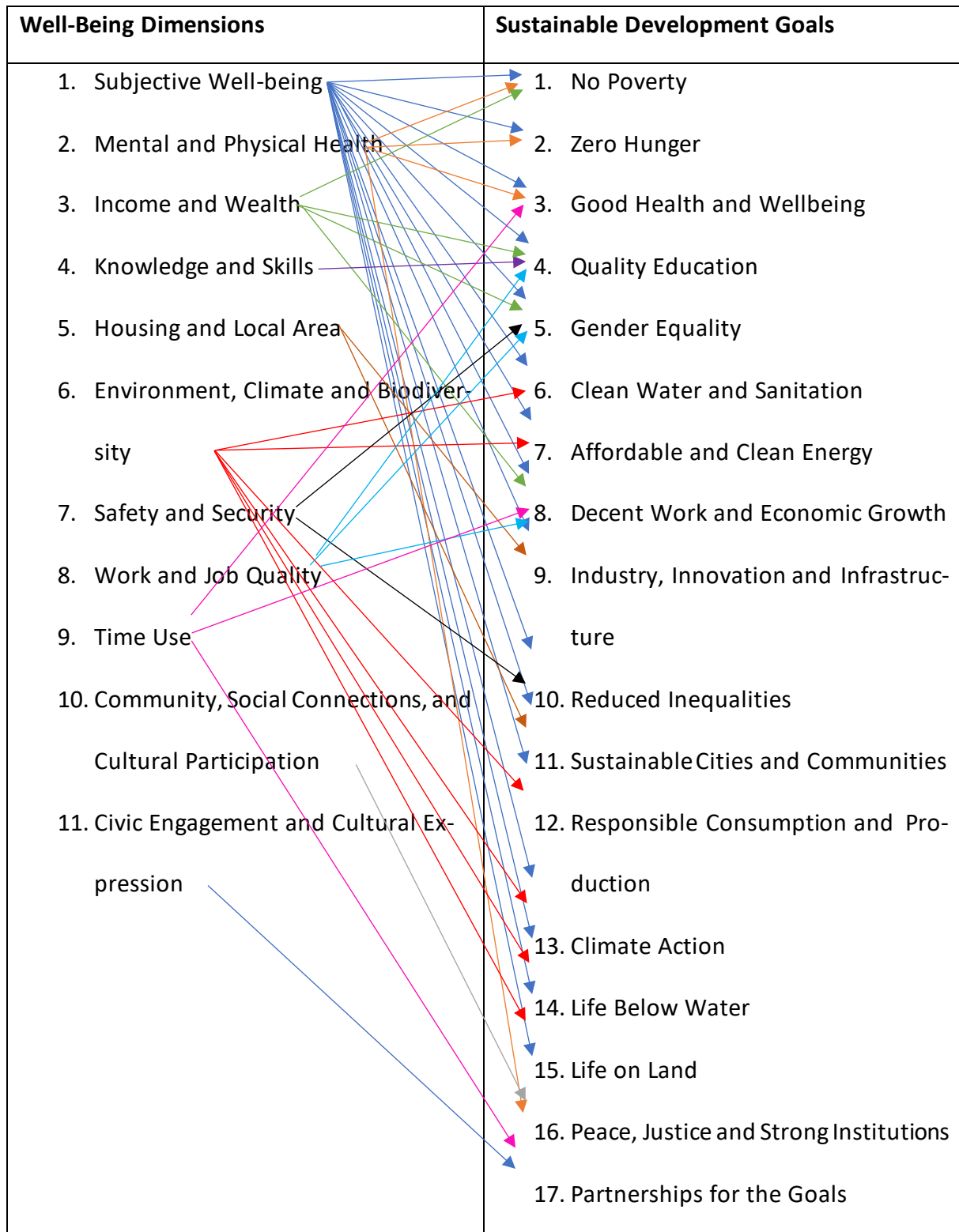












Table B1: Policy recommendations to improve Ireland’s performance on the SDGs and progress the Well-being Framework


Wellbeing Indicator 8: Work and Job Quality		
SDG Number	National Level	Local Level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a Refundable Tax Credit System to support the working poor. • Recognise the challenges of long-term unemployment and of precarious employment and adopt targeted policies to address these. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a major investment programme focused on prioritising initiatives that strengthen social infrastructure, including a comprehensive school building programme and a much larger social housing programme. • Support the widespread adoption of a Living Wage so that low paid workers receive an adequate income and can afford a minimum, but decent, standard of living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the sustainability of jobs created through LEOs and develop plans to ensure the security of decent work.
Wellbeing Indicator 4: Knowledge and Skills		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the improvement of educational outcomes for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and disadvantaged communities a policy priority, with additional resources focused on addressing the persistence of educational disadvantage. • Commit to increasing investment in Early Childhood Care and Education by 0.1 per cent of GDP annually to reach 1 per cent of GDP by 2027. • Commit to reducing class sizes and pupil teacher ratios at primary and post primary level by 1 point per annum to 2030. • Revise our lifelong learning target to reach 20 per cent by 2026, ensuring sufficient resources are made available. • To meet the digital and green transition challenges develop an integrated skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance community education programmes and life-long learning through the library network. • Ensure full implementation of the ‘Our Public Libraries 2022’ strategy and ensure that its implementation is inclusive and supportive of smaller branch libraries as a hub for local communities.





	<p>development, digital transition, vocational training, apprenticeship and reskilling strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully resource ‘Adult Literacy for Life’ by increasing the adult literacy budget to €100 million by 2030, including €25 million to improve ancillary and support services. 	
Wellbeing Indicator 1: Subjective Wellbeing		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support policies that enhance the standard of living of people who are most marginalised, including people with disabilities. Specifically, address poverty among people with disabilities, starting with the introduction of a cost of disability payment. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase educational campaigns promoting health, targeting particularly people who are poor, acknowledging that a preventative approach saves money in the long run. Properly resource and develop mental health services and facilitate campaigns giving greater attention to the issue of suicide. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to eliminate the barriers faced by people with disabilities in accessing basic services such as housing, healthcare, and education. 	
Wellbeing Indicator 2: Mental and Physical Health		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund research on food poverty through stakeholder groups such as the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice, St. Vincent de Paul and MABS. Expand the ‘hot school meals’ programme, particularly for schools and pre-schools in disadvantaged areas and those with a high concentration of homeless children / children living in Direct Provision who do not have own cooking facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for research on local initiatives on sustainable food production. Support ‘farm to fork’ and short supply chains in food production.




	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that announced budgetary allocations are valid, realistic and transparent and that they take existing commitments into account. • Complete the roll-out of the Community Health Networks and increase the availability and quality of Primary Care and Social Care services. • Ensure medical card-coverage for all people who are vulnerable. • Act effectively to end the current hospital waiting list crisis. • Create a statutory entitlement to Home Care Services. This will require increased funding, but will save the State money long-term, as home support allows people to remain living in their own homes, rather than entering residential nursing care. • Implement all aspects of the dementia strategy. • Adopt a target to reduce the body mass index (BMI) of the population by 5 per cent by 2025. • Work towards full universal healthcare for all. Ensure new system structures are fit for purpose and publish detailed evidence of how new decisions taken will meet healthcare goals. • Enhance the process of planning and investment so that the healthcare system can cope with the increase and diversity in population and the ageing of the population projected for the next few decades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the integration of primary care networks and GP led community healthcare services. • Support the roll-out of ‘Smile agus Sláinte’ as part of primary care provision.
<p>Wellbeing Indicator 5: Housing and the Built Environment</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an Equity Scheme for Borrowers in Long Term Mortgage Arrears. • Increase the provision of ‘Housing First’ accommodation for families in emergency accommodation, with wraparound supports. • Introduce legislation to limit the length of time families can spend in Family Hubs and other emergency accommodation. 	

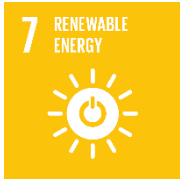


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a target of 20 per cent of all housing stock to be social housing and achieve this through building more social housing. • Ensure that no State land suitable for housing is sold by a Local Authority or State agency. • Address affordability through supply-side initiatives such as new methodologies and procurement processes, rather than demand-side subsidies. • Develop a spectrum of housing supports for people with disabilities. • Resource the enforcement of legislation targeting short-term lettings. • Begin the process of reducing the reliance of the rental sector on Housing Subsidies. • Allow local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies pool resources to finance this increased supply in a sustainable way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan, commencing with those with the largest proportion of premises dependent on it. • Improve the primary road network across the country to support the increased provision of public transport. • Invest in a deep retrofitting programme for community spaces. • Ringfence continued funding to encourage sports participation and active lifestyle programmes. • Invest in the provision and maintenance of community spaces, playgrounds, and youth centres.
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Wellbeing Indicator 10: Connections, Community and Participation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Economic and Social Dialogue / Partnership to include all five pillars. • Ensure that all voices are heard and include all stakeholders. • Restore funding to the Community and Voluntary Pillar. • Broaden discussion beyond pay and taxation • Review planning legislation to ensure that its terms are consistent with the objectives of the Goals and democratic engagement. • Introduce impact assessment and poverty proofing on all Government initiatives. • Ensure that Budgetary allocations are valid, realistic and transparent, and take account of existing levels of service. • Legislate for enforcement mechanisms where Local Authorities do not use their full allocation for Traveller Specific Accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a sustainable strategy for public participation, to include medium and long-term objectives and associated budget commitments. • Move from an annual funding model for PPNs to a 3 to 5-year renewable commitment.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate funding for civil legal aid. • Greater transparency of lobbying activities. • Establish a Dialogue Forum in every Local Authority involving Local Authorities and the Public Participation Networks (PPNs). Fully implement recommendations of the Commission for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination within a reasonable timeframe. • Introduce an ex-ante social impact assessment of all policy proposals to be discussed at Oireachtas Committees. • Review building regulations to ensure good ventilation, heating and fire safety standards across all building. 	
<p>Wellbeing Indicator 3: Income and Wealth</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately provide for an additional €8 per week (€20 in total) in core social welfare rates in the Social Welfare Bill 2022. • Adopt targets aimed at reducing poverty among particular vulnerable groups such as children, lone parents, jobless households and those in social rented housing. • Acknowledge that Ireland has an ongoing poverty problem. • Commit sufficient resources to achieve policy targets on poverty reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of social and affordable housing on State lands. • Seek to replace the Local Property Tax with a Site Value Tax and increase the tax-take, while including hardship measures for those who cannot afford to pay it in full.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt and implement a national financial literacy strategy. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a Universal State Social Welfare Pension. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support high-quality community childcare, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
<p>Wellbeing Indicator 7: Safety and Security</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following our ratification of the Istanbul Convention, Ireland is obligated to have 472 places for victims of DSGBV, however we are falling far short of this target. • The Programme for Government referred to an “epidemic” of domestic abuse. But as like 	

	<p>any epidemic, adequate resources are needed to combat it. Government must meet their commitments under the Istanbul Convention and provide further refuge spaces for victims of Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implement the recommendations of the Commission for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination within a reasonable timeframe. • Fully implement the recommendations of the 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report. • As more and more make the move to online and digital money services, especially those who may be unused to using these services, effective education and fraud prevention measure must be enhanced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise the full allocation for Traveller specific accommodation and support the development of sites for this purpose. • Fully implement the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.
<p>Wellbeing Indicator 11: Civic Engagement and Cultural Expression</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase ODA as percentage of GNI, with a move towards the UN Target of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2025. • Adopt targets and a reporting system for the Sustainable Development Goals • Tag all Government policies and policy proposals with the relevant Goal(s). • Adopt targets and a reporting system for each of the Sustainable Development Goals. • Develop a new National Index of Progress, ensuring social and environmental issues are incorporated into our national accounts. • Include, in the Commission for Regulating Lobbying’s Annual Reports, policy areas with the greatest lobbying activity, the lobbying organisations and the designated public officials engaged to highlight to the general public those influencing the political decision-making process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategic partnerships with Local Authorities and local government organisations, in Europe and Internationally, to support the implementation of the Goals. • Ensure coherence between national and local government policies.
<p>Wellbeing Indicator 6: Environment, Climate and Biodiversity</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide support and advice to farmers to improve water quality under the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme. • Invest in Ireland’s wastewater system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Drinking Water Safety Plan, following EPA Guidelines, for each public water supply, identifying all potential risks and detailing mitigation and control measures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the national grid and invest in infrastructure necessary to support a transition to renewable energy. • Invest in research and development for the use of renewable energy in our public transport systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in renewable energy transition programmes for Local Authority offices and community spaces.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a circular economy package for Ireland across all areas of economic activity. • Research cradle-to-cradle development. • Place a levy on single-use plastics. • Invest in the development of short supply chains. • Clarify and enforce the Vacant Site Levy legislation to ensure it achieves its original purpose. • Introduce an aviation fuel tax. • Reintroduce the Windfall Gains Tax at 80per cent. • Explore new initiatives to promote behavioural change through the tax system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate all single-use plastics from Local Authority buildings and public spaces. • Develop open consultation on ambitious waste management plans beyond 2021. • Adopt the principles of a circular economy, particularly for construction and demolition waste.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Just Transition and Adaptation Dialogue to ensure rural areas are not disproportionately impacted by low carbon policies and are supported to meet the challenges posed by the future of work. • Develop a comprehensive mitigation and transition programme to transition to a low carbon economy. • Increase carbon taxes in line with IPCC recommendations. • Ensure that all people are treated fairly in the creation of policies and projects that address climate change as well as in the systems that create climate change. • Develop a comprehensive mitigation and transition programme to support communities and people in the transition to a low carbon society. • Set ambitious emissions reduction targets for 2030 and ensure sufficient resources to support implementation of these targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in each Local Authority area, with the collaborative input of local communities and Public Participation Networks, supported by dedicated sustainable funding in the medium to long-term.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implement the National Integrated Maritime Plan. • Regulate harvesting and end over-fishing. • Implement policies to restore fishing stocks to sustainable levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put a plan in place to tackle pesticides in drinking water. • Implement the 'Nature' programmes set out in the Climate Action Plan published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase afforestation of native trees and reduce planting of Sitka spruce. • Ensure that sustainable agriculture policy, sustainable land management, and short supply chains for farmers and consumers form the basis of future agricultural policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in programmes to rewet the boglands. • Implement the 'Nature' programmes set out in the Climate Action Plan published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.
<p>Wellbeing Indicator 9: Time Use</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that the term "work" is not synonymous with the concept of "paid employment". Everybody has a right to work, i.e. to contribute to his or her own development and that of the community and the wider society. This, however, should not be confined to job creation. Work and a job are not the same thing. • Give greater recognition to the work carried out by carers in Ireland and introduce policy reforms to reduce the financial and emotional pressures on carers. These should focus on addressing the poverty experienced by many carers and their families and on increasing the provision of respite opportunities to carers and to those for whom they care. • Request the CSO to conduct an annual survey to discover the value of all unpaid work in the country. 	

Appendix C: List of Indicators Used in the Construction of the Sustainable Progress Index 2024

Table C.1: List of Indicators Used for each SDG in Sustainable Progress Index 2024

SDG	Indicator	Source
1	Poverty rate after taxes and transfers; poverty line 50% (% of population)	OECD
1	People living in households with low work intensity	Eurostat
1	Share of severely deprived people	Eurostat
2	Prevalence of obesity, BMI>30 (% of adult population)	Eurostat
2	Cereal yield (kg/ha)	World Bank
2	Ammonia emissions from agriculture	Eurostat (from EEA)
2	Pesticide exports hazardous to human health	FAO, Sachs et al (2023)
2	Area under organic farming (% of UAA)	Eurostat
3	Life expectancy at birth, total, years	Eurostat
3	Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1000, age15-19)	UNDP, Sachs et al (2023)
3	Subjective wellbeing (average ladder score)	Gallup (2023)
3	Smoking prevalence (% aged 15+)	Eurostat
3	Self-reported unmet health needs (% of population)	Eurostat
3	Deaths from NCDs (per 100,000)	UNDP
3	Suicide Rate	OECD
3	Alcohol Consumption (litres per capita, age 15+)	Eurostat
3	Universal Health Coverage Index	WHO
4	Tertiary education (% of population, age 30-34)	Eurostat
4	PISA Score	OECD
4	Share of population with basic digital skills	Eurostat
4	Adult participation in learning (%)	Eurostat
4	Early leavers from education and training	Eurostat
4	Early childhood education coverage	Eurostat
5	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	Eurostat
5	Proportion of women in senior management positions (%)	Eurostat

5	Gender pay gap in unadjusted form (% of male hourly wages)	Eurostat
5	Gender employment gap	Eurostat
5	Ratio of female years of education to male mean years (% of males), population aged 25 and above	UNDP
6	Population using safely managed water services	World Bank
6	Population using safety managed sanitation services	World Bank
6	Water exploitation index	Eurostat
6	Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	EPI, Sachs et al (2023)
7	Share of renewable energy in consumption (%)	Eurostat
7	CO2 from fuels and electricity	IEA, Sachs et al (2023)
7	Population unable to keep adequately warm (%)	Eurostat
7	Final energy consumption per capita in households	Eurostat
8	Real GDP per capita	Eurostat
8	Long-term unemployment rate (%)	Eurostat
8	Low Pay (%)	Eurostat
8	NEET rate (youths not in employment education or training (%))	Eurostat
8	Employment rate	Eurostat
8	Fatal accidents at work (per 100,00 workers)	Eurostat
9	R&D expenditure, % of GDP	Eurostat
9	High speed internet coverage	Eurostat
9	Mobile broadband subscriptions	ITU, Sachs et al (2023)
9	Number of R&D researchers (% of active population)	Eurostat
9	Logistics Performance Index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (worst 1-5 best)	World Bank
10	GINI index	OECD
10	Household debt, % NDI	OECD
10	Palma Index	OECD
10	EU Social Justice Index	Hellman et al (2019)
11	Exposure to air pollution of PM2.5 in urban areas	Eurostat
11	Satisfaction with public transport (% of population)	Gallup (2023)

11	CO2 from new passenger cars	Eurostat
11	Road fatalities	Eurostat
11	Rent over-burden rate in the population (%)	OECD
12	Municipal waste generated per capita	OECD
12	Raw material consumption per capita	Eurostat
12	Recycling rate of waste, excluding major mineral waste (% of total waste recycled)	Eurostat
12	Circular material use rate (%)	Eurostat
12	E-waste (kg per capita)	ITU, Sachs et al (2023)
13	GHG emissions per capita	Eurostat
13	Carbon Pricing Score from non-road energy, excluding emissions from biomass	OECD
14	Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	Birdlife International et al. (2023); UN
14	Ocean Health Index	Ocean Health; Sachs (2023)
14	Bathing sites of excellent quality (coastal and inland)	Eurostat
15	Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	
15	Percentage of land covered by forestry	Eurostat
15	Soil Sealing Index	Eurostat
15	Red List Index	Bird Life International (2023); UN
15	Mean area that is protected in freshwater sites important to diversity (%)	Bird Life International (2023); UN
16	Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International (2023)
16	Homicides per 100,000 population	Eurostat
16	Population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area (%)	Eurostat
16	Perceived independence of the justice system (%)	Eurostat
16	Prisoners (% of population)	UNOCD (2023), Sachs et al (2023)
16	Feel safe walking at night (%)	Gallup (2023)
16	Unsentenced detainees (% of prison population)	UNODC (2023), Sachs et al (2023)

17	Overseas Development Assistance (% of GNI)	Eurostat
17	Environmental taxes as % of tax revenue	Eurostat
17	Government spending on health and education (% of GDP)	UNESCO (2023); Sachs et al (2023)
17	General government gross debt	Eurostat

Social Justice Ireland is an independent think-tank and justice advocacy organisation that advances the lives of people and communities through providing independent social analysis and effective policy development to create a sustainable future for every member of society and for societies as a whole.



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