

**Scottish Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
Reporting Working Group Launch Report
Monday 17 September 2018**

Hosted by The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) &
ICAS (The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland)

The scale of environmental, social and economic challenge facing humanity is enormous, with a real urgency to act. Scotland was one of the first countries to adopt the global targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our businesses have a critical role to play in leading Scotland's contribution to achieving them while also realising the economic benefit of increased resource efficiency, innovation and resilience. This vision is underpinned by SEPA's own regulatory strategy One Planet Prosperity.

The SDGs are a universal call to action to tackle poverty and inequality, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

SEPA and ICAS invited Scotland's leading businesses, institutions and most influential representative bodies to be part of the Scottish SDG Reporting Working Group. Launched on Monday 17 September 2018 in Edinburgh, the group is bringing a focus to some of the most challenging issues of our time.

The launch followed on from the SDG Roadshow 2018: Making Global Goals Local Business, hosted by the United Nations Global Compact Network UK ([report available](#)).

Thanks to all who attended or offered their support for this exciting new initiative. Forty delegates from business, finance, public bodies and NGOs attended the working group launch, many other organisations expressed interest in being part of the group (see Annex 1).



Bringing together a pool of leading thinkers, the group is focusing on two key challenges:

- How can businesses seize the opportunities of SDGs by building them into their business models and also benefit the Scottish economy, environment and most importantly, our people?
- How can the Scottish approach to One Planet Prosperity and SDGs create transformational impact across the UK and globally?

Key messages

The following key messages came from discussion at the launch on the challenges above:

LEADERSHIP:

- ❖ Strong leadership and action is what delivery of the SDGs is all about, and this is a key role for the Scottish SDG Reporting Working Group.

PLANNING

- ❖ A first step for a business to build the SDGs into their business model is to prioritise the SDGs, and particularly the targets behind each goal, that are most material to their organisation, both in terms of positive and negative impacts.
- ❖ There are many SDG tools already available e.g. [UN Global Compact Guidance and Reports](#), [PWC SDG Selector](#) and [SDG Compass](#). Rather than creating brand new tools, it is better to draw on and perhaps combine the best of existing tools, and try them out for real in the Scottish context and for different types of organisations.

EXECUTION

- ❖ Businesses can use the SDG framework to identify business opportunities as well as ways to reduce impacts, using the framework as a fresh and positive challenge to business strategy and reporting. This can help a business integrate the SDGs into core business and reporting, rather than simply mapping them across to work a business is already doing.

REPORTING

- ❖ Success stories are a powerful way to show how businesses, from SMEs to large corporations are building SDGs into their business models and delivering practical action. They can inspire other businesses to take action and be included in reporting alongside data.
- ❖ Transparency of reporting is essential. Businesses may have a direct and indirect impact on SDGs and stories are a way of helping to illustrate this.
- ❖ Communicating and involving all staff in a business with the SDGs in practical ways, especially younger generations, will ensure high engagement levels and innovative ideas.



Presentations

Thank you to the following people for presenting at the launch.

- ❖ Anne Adrain, Head of Sustainability and Assurance, ICAS
- ❖ Terry A'Hearn, CEO, SEPA
- ❖ Steve Kenzie, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network UK
- ❖ Cath Preston, Head of Innovation, SEPA

If you would like a copy of the slides please get in touch or download from *we transfer* until the **22nd of October 2018**.

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/2fad8e2b78cf8b8bd76b98da73baa34620181015103858/9b09ef742630d7159309ef191589145720181015103858/bc86fb>

Terms of Reference (ToR) working group

The group is drafting their remit with the help of a smaller working group. We always need more volunteers. If this something you would like to support or want more information about please contact [Catherine Preston](#), Head of Innovation, SEPA. We hope to present the draft ToR at the next meeting for your approval.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the group is on **10 December 2018 (9.30am to 4pm)**, hosted by Standard Life Aberdeen, 40 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2BY.

This is Human Rights Day and 70 years since the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. People and Prosperity will therefore be the key themes at the next meeting.

For more information on the group, please contact [Catherine Preston](#), Head of Innovation, SEPA

Annex 1: Attendees & apologies

Scottish SDG Reporting Working Group Attendees	
Name	Organisation
Aleks Schmidt-Hansen	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Alison Munro	Scottish Enterprise
Amy Koo	UN House Scotland
Andrea Coulson	Strathclyde University
Andrew Cave	Baillie Gifford
Andrew Nelson	Superglass
Anne Adrain	Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland
Anne Conrad	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Bethan May Freire	SSE plc
Catherine Preston	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Cynthia Marks	Business in the Community Scotland
Esther Black	Crown Estate Scotland
Ewan MacDonald-Russell	Scottish Retail Consortium
Franceska van Dijk	Ethical Finance Hub
Gari Donn	UN House Scotland
Graham Young	Scotland Food and Drink
Jessica White	Financial Conduct Authority
Jo Green	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Kathryn Stanners	Scottish Power
Lauren Davidson	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Linda White	Scottish Power
Lynn Anderson	The Poverty Alliance
Lynne Higgins	Crown Estate Scotland
Marc Robin	UN Global Compact Network UK
Mark Williams	Scottish Water
Michael Alexander	Diageo
Mike Kelly	Financial Services Expert
Mithil Shah	Royal Bank of Scotland Sustainable Finance
Neil McDougall	Scotch Whisky Association
Rachel McEwan	SSE plc
Rachel Ruxton	Tesco Bank
Ryan McQuigg	OXFAM
Sandra Howells	Herriot Watt University
Sandy Macdonald	Standard Life Aberdeen
Sarah Deas	Scottish Enterprise



Scottish SDG Reporting Working Group Attendees	
Name	Organisation
Sarah Freeman	Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
Stephanie Leggett	Standard Life Aberdeen
Steve Kenzie	UN Global Compact Network UK
Terry A'Hearn	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Warren McIntyre	Zero Waste Scotland

Apologies from	
Association of British Insurers	Institute of Directors
Change Works Recycling	Scottish Government
Community Energy Scotland	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Confederation of British Industry	The Investment Association
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	