Unlocking the UK’s potential

This data has been collected by staff and researchers at Newcastle University and shared with stakeholders in the UK. UKSSD and Newcastle University would like to use this data as the starting point for a project to build consensus for the SDGs in the UK working in partnership with the organisations and individuals in the network. We are actively seeking funding for this project.

If you would like to partner with us please contact chair@ukssd.co.uk.
16.8% of people in the UK are living in poverty*.

Target 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. *according to our national definitions.

3m people in the UK are undernourished; 1.3m of them are elderly.

Target 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.

Approximately 40,000 premature deaths in the UK are caused by air pollution.

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

47% of young people fail to achieve 5 GCSEs.

Target 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. *expected level of attainment.
The UK’s performance against the UN Sustainable Development Goals

**5. GENDER EQUALITY**

19% of UK women aged 16-59 have been victims of sexual assault in their lifetime.*

*ONS: Crime Survey 2016

**Target 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.

**6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

Of 24 water authorities 9 are reported as having serious stress levels, and 14 moderate*.

By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater.

*2013

**Target 6.4** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater.

**7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

8.31% of energy in the UK is from renewable sources, the UK is on track to miss its own target of 15% by 2020.

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

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

**17.5% of young people in the North East are not in employment, education or training compared to 10.9% in the South East.**

**Target 8.5** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training – though the UK trend is down, the “substantial reduction” ambition is still relevant, especially bearing in mind large regional disparities.

**8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
20% of homes failed to meet the Decent Homes Standard; Shelter put this figure at 40% earlier this year.

Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.

In 2013 15 million tonnes of food and drink were wasted in the food chain.

Target 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.

21% of people in the UK live on less than 50% of average income*.

Target 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.

*after housing costs

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Target 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.
The UK’s performance against the UN Sustainable Development Goals

13 CLIMATE ACTION

According to the IMF, EAC and OECD the UK has substantial subsidies for fossil fuels.

Goal 13 deliberately defers to the Paris agreement on specific ambitions around climate change mitigation and adaptation, but it does prompt a question about ensuring adequate UK Disaster Risk Reduction planning and about the coverage, ambition and content of the UK’s climate change plan.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Some UK fish stocks and areas fare better than others: cod, especially, is coded red for “reduced capacity”.

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices.

15 LIFE ON LAND

Over 20% of “habitats of European importance” and over 10% of species, are in both “unfavourable” and declining condition.

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands.

15.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices.

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE

UK public institutions do not mirror the constituents they represent and trust in national government is very low at 31%.

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The Government has not created any mechanisms or structures to support multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs in the UK.

17.6 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.

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