



Catherine Preston, Head of Innovation, SEPA

17 Reasons Why - Scotland takes UN sustainable development goals to heart

Published on October 26, 2018



Catherine Preston

Head of Innovation at Scottish Environment Protection Agency

1 article

+ Follow

SEPA and ICAS launch new working group to translate global goals into local action

The scale of environmental challenge facing humanity is enormous, with a real urgency to act.

So it was hugely exciting to launch a new Scottish working group that will help tackle some of the world's most urgent environmental, social and economic challenges.

Ending poverty, inequality, hunger and combatting climate change are among [17 sustainable development goals](#) (SDGs) adopted by the 193 member states of the [United Nations](#).

Here in Scotland, we've launched the Scottish Sustainable Development Goal Reporting Working Group – to help businesses translate these universal calls to action, to promote prosperity for all whilst protecting the planet.

The [Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#) (SEPA) and [The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland](#) (ICAS) hosted the inaugural meeting – but very much want

enterprises large and small to take the lead in developing this programme.

Scotland was one of the first countries to adopt sustainable development goals – so they’re very close to our heart! 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 aligns perfectly with SEPA’s own regulatory strategy, [One Planet Prosperity](#). This reflects that society is currently using the resources of three planets, and needs to live within its means to create a prosperous, sustainable Scotland. ICAS also recognises the importance of building sustainability measures into the reporting of company accounts, to help drive decision-making in this area.



The opportunities are huge – and many businesses in Scotland are already doing brilliant work to tackle global challenges from the ground up, through local, targeted initiatives – with measurable outcomes.



We were delighted to see a huge cross section of organisations at our launch event, including fund managers, manufacturers, utilities, landowners, bankers, retailers, charities, lobby groups, business networks and universities. All have a shared vision to show leadership in practical delivery and reporting on the SDGs to drive change in our country.

If your organisation wants to help shape the future of SDG action and reporting, please get in touch with [Catherine Preston](#), Head of Innovation, SEPA.