Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Development of Ireland's Third Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan
Public Consultation

December 2025

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1 Purpose of this Paper

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) has launched a public consultation in the context of the development of Ireland's new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan (NIP).

This will be Ireland's third SDGs National Implementation Plan and will build on the progress made in the previous SDG National Implementation Plans.

This open public consultation process is one of several different strands of consultation, both online and in-person, taking place to assist in developing the new NIP and ensure that the widest range of stakeholders are reached.

2 Context

The Programme for Government sets out that the Government is committed to accelerating Ireland's progress toward the 17 SDGs by 2030, addressing critical areas such as poverty eradication, climate action, and improved living standards for all and commits to: -

- adopt a coordinated approach to drive impactful action both at home and abroad and
- to implement a Whole-of-Government Strategy to fully integrate the SDGs into national policies and initiatives, ensuring that each goal is actively pursued across all levels of government.

The Programme for Government also commits to supporting the work of young people to help their communities and support the SDGs.

Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024 was published on 5 October 2022 and its implementation is ongoing.

The NIP sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence including actions from the: -

- Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development
- National Volunteering Strategy, and
- Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy

Table 1: SDGs National Implementation Plan Strategic Objectives

NIP Strategic Objectives
1. To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
2. To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs
3. Greater partnerships for the Goals
4. To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms
5. Strong reporting mechanisms

Table 2: Examples of Progress under Ireland's Second NIP for the SDGs

Action	Progress to Date
Publish a list of points of contact for all Government Departments (Action 2)	The list of contacts is published on gov.ie
Review of the SDG statistical reporting process (Action 3)	The CSO, DCEE and other Departments are working on an ongoing basis via the SDG Data Governance Board Chaired by CSO. Each of the 17 UN SDGs has a publication available at cso.ie and further information is available on the GeoHive. CSO is currently updating each of the SDG Publications.
Preparation of Ireland's second VNR (Action 7) including Youth Consultation Process (Action 47)	Ireland's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) was published June 2023 and presented at the HLPF in July 2023. The VNR is available to view at www.gov.ie/sdgs. A specific youth consultation took place in February 2023 and Ireland's first ever Youth Chapter was included in the VNR.

Support the development of the second Joint Synthesis Report of the European Union (Action 8)	The [EU's First Voluntary Review](#) was presented at the HLPF in July 2023
All new national policies to incorporate reference to relevant SDGs and targets (Action 23)	Work is ongoing to ensure all national policies incorporate reference to relevant SDGs and targets. Some best practice examples include [Climate Action Plan 2025](#), [Food Vision 2030](#) and the [National Marine Planning Framework](#)
Identify and apply for funding to obtain OECD support in the areas of policy coherency (Action 24)	The OECD Multi Country Project with Portugal and Belgium was completed in September 2025 and for Ireland focused on "Building Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) across national and local government in Ireland". The [OECD Policy Coherence Scan of Ireland](#) was published in July 2025.
Incorporate the SDGs into new Guidelines and the 2025 Local Authority Corporate Plans (Action 30)	The SDGs were incorporated into the [Guidelines for Local Authority Corporate Plans](#) in 2024
Supporting a 'whole of society' approach to achieving the SDGs through the National Stakeholder Forum (Action 34)	The [SDG National Stakeholder Forum](#) was established to provide a mechanism for stakeholders from all sectors to discuss and workshop innovative ideas and solutions for achieving and communicating the SDGs in Ireland. The Forum aims for open and inclusive engagement with representatives across different stakeholder groups. Several successful fora have taken place to date covering a range of themes from Leaving No One Behind to Education for Sustainable Development, the role of Business in achieving the SDGs and Biodiversity and Community.

	A number of SDG Forum Committees have been appointed in recent years from a variety of sectors and backgrounds to develop the work plan for the Forum and to design a well-publicised, accessible, and inclusive National Stakeholder Forum format that ensures no one is left behind. A new SDG National Stakeholder Committee will be appointed in December 2025 for a period of 18 months.
SDG Champions Programme (Action 35)	The [SDG Champions Programme](#) was established to raise public awareness of the SDGs through partnership and promotion. The Champions, through their organisational practices, illustrate ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs. An improved SDG Champions Programme was launched in 2023 with more clearly defined roles, responsibilities and key events and tasks. Resources were also developed including SDG Champion brand assets, reporting templates and an information and communications pack. new section for the SDG Champions is also live on the SDG Geohive where quarterly reports and champions activities will be showcased. To date 54 organisations have been appointed as SDG Champions. The most recent call for Applications opened in June 2025 for the 2025-2027 Programme which will run for 18 months, with the new Champions soon to be announced. Many SDG Champions have opted to become SDG Ambassadors after their tenure as Champions end, continuing to contribute to the promotion, awareness-raising, and implementation of the SDGs.

Further development of Ireland's SDG GeoHive (Action 36)	Work has been completed on a review in conjunction with Tailte Éireann, CSO, and ESRI and the new version of the Geohive launched. Further development of the Geohive will continue, to include other elements, to reflect national initiatives, regional and local initiatives, etc.
Further integration of the SDGs into the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition (Action 42)	To create and increase awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy sponsors four SDG prizes in the Tidy Towns competition including a best entry from a village/small town, best entry from a large town or urban centre, an overall runner-up prize and a special youth award. The SDG Prizes will be further developed for 2026.
SDG Week (Action 45)	Sustainable Development Goals Week marks the anniversary of the day the SDGs were agreed in 2015. The week comprises activities to celebrate and raise awareness of the SDGs. SDG Week in Ireland forms part of the wider European Sustainable Development Week. Ireland's first SDG Week was held in September 2022 to celebrate and raise awareness of the SDGs and in 2024 there almost 200 events registered in Ireland. This year's SDG Week ran from 19-28th September 2025 with over 100 events registered on the calendar at https://esdn.eu/esdw
Embedding the principle of Leave no One Behind (Action 51)	The first SDG National Stakeholder forum of 2023 was dedicated to developing a definition of Leaving No One Behind from an Irish perspective. The definition of leaving no one behind agreed om the day is "An inclusive and empathetic society that empowers everyone to engage with and be represented in decision-making, accelerating dignity and enabling

	equal opportunities and equitable outcomes". A report on the outcomes of the Forum is available on gov.ie

3 How to Respond

Submissions may be made based on the questions set out in Section 7. It is not necessary to answer all questions. Additional comments outside the questions posed are also welcome.

In preparing responses, please note that the aim of the National Implementation Plan is to set out the overarching national governance, coordination and monitoring framework for the SDGs in Ireland. The detailed policy approached to progress individual SDGs and targets are addressed in relevant national policies set out in the SDG Policy Map.

The following documents may be considered in the preparation of responses to the consultation process

OECD Policy Coherence Scan of Ireland (July 2025)

The OECD Policy Coherence Scan of Ireland was published in July 2025 as part of the Multi-Country Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) Project. The report examines Ireland's efforts to achieve the SDGs through enhanced PCSD and assesses Ireland's progress against the OECD Recommendation on PCSD. It provides an overview of Ireland's legislation, institutional mechanisms, policy tools and processes for promoting PCSD, identifying strengths, weaknesses and possible ways forward.

Report from the SDG National Stakeholder Forum (September 2025)

An SDG Stakeholder Forum took place on 9 September 2025 as part of the consultation process for the development of the new NIP. This document outlines the events of the day and the key feedback from the breakout sessions.

4 Closing Date

The closing date for submissions is 5.30pm on Friday 16 January 2026.

Submissions can be made by email to sdgs@dcee.gov.ie or by post to:

SDG National Implementation Plan Consultation

SDGs Team

EU and International Environment and Circular Economy Division

Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Tom Johnson House,

Haddington Road,

D04 K7X4

5 Data Protection

We are committed to engaging with stakeholders in a clear, open and transparent manner. Any person or organisation can make a submission in relation to this consultation. We will consider all submissions and feedback before we publish the draft version of the Third SDGs National Implementation Plan for further consultation in 2026.

Your response to this consultation is subject to:

- the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI)
- the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations 2007-2018 (AIE)
- the Data Protection Act 2018

Important - Publishing of responses

We will publish the contents of any submissions received to our consultations on our website. We will redact (remove) personal data before publication.

Please indicate any sensitive information

In responding to this consultation, clearly indicate where your response contains any information which you would not wish to be released under FOI, AIE or otherwise published. This can include:

- personal information
- commercially sensitive information
- confidential information

Read our Data Privacy Notice

We would like to draw your attention to our [Data Privacy Notice](#) which explains:

- how and when we collect personal data
- why we do so
- how we treat this information
- your rights in relation to the collection of personal information

- how you can exercise those rights

6 Next Steps

Following the consultation, the Department will consider all responses as part of the overall development of the new NIP along with the outcomes from other strands of consultation, including the outcomes from the SDG Stakeholder Forum in September 2025 as well as the recommendations from the OECD Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Project. A summary of the key themes arising in this consultation will also be published on www.gov.ie. A draft new NIP will be published in early 2026 for further consultation with a final plan to be submitted to government for consideration before end of Q2 2026.

7 Consultation Questions

1. What are the key areas of progress in achieving the objectives and actions of the current NIP and how can these be built upon?

2. What are some of the key challenges in achieving the objectives and actions of the existing NIP and how can these be addressed?

3. Do you agree with the NIP's current key objectives? In your view, are there further or alternative objectives that should be included?

4. Are you satisfied that the Governance structures in place are sufficient to ensure increased policy coherence for sustainable development across all levels of government?

5. Stakeholder Engagement - what is working well and what needs to be further developed e.g. better reaching the furthest behind first?

6. How can youth voices and the voices of groups identified as being in danger of being left behind best be included?

7. Are there specific actions that should be considered for inclusion? If so, please specify.

8. Are there new topics or areas which need to be considered for inclusion (e.g. AI and Digitalisation, Pact for the Future, etc.)?

9. How can the monitoring and reporting framework be improved, particularly in preparation for Ireland's next Voluntary National Review?

10. What role can partnerships play in furthering the implementation of the SDGs in Ireland?

11. Do you have any other comments or feedback on the content of the draft Plan?