

SDG CHAMPIONS 2023-2024



An Post: As one of Ireland's largest employers, operators of one of the largest fleets, and with Ireland's largest retail network, we recognise that our operations impact every community, household and business in Ireland. With such a presence, we are committed to having a positive impact and creating everyday opportunities to make sustainable living commonplace by embedding sustainability in everything we do. Our sustainability strategy is guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with primary focus on

five sector-specific Goals, but we take a holistic view, encompassing all seventeen of the Goals and we are mindful of their inter-connected nature - making progress on climate action is not possible without taking care of our employees; investing in sustainable infrastructure; supporting and being part of sustainable communities; and adopting a circular economy business model. Our Sustainability Report details the breadth of our commitment and by sharing our knowledge we continue to raise awareness of the UN SDGs.



An Taisce
The National Trust for Ireland

An Taisce is one of Ireland's oldest environmental organisations and is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2023. The organisation works tirelessly to protect our environment and plays a key role in promoting all of the Sustainable Development Goals through its wide-ranging remit.

An Taisce's education programmes operate across Ireland engaging with schools, students, teachers, community groups, coast-care groups, climate ambassadors,

third-level communities and many committed individuals and volunteers of all ages. This inter-generational engagement and meaningful impact across society embraces the overall ethos of the Sustainable Development Goals. We see the Goals as an integrated framework that aligns with our vision and mission to create a sustainable future for all. We value the partnerships, support, collaboration and participation from all who work with us.



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AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation, is committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. AONTAS' work supports Ireland's ambition to fully implement the SDGs by 2030, with a primary focus on poverty eradication, achieving gender equality, ensuring healthy lives, supporting decent work for all, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and advocating for educational equality. AONTAS is a membership organisation and hosts the Community Education Network, a 150-member strong network of

community education providers. Actions being taken by AONTAS include our Learners as Leaders programme, which supports learners to develop and promote solutions to global issues at a local-level, and our National Further Education and Training Learner Forums, which empowers learners to become advocates for positive change. As a member of Coalition 2030 (C2030) and as a member of Saolta, we continue to highlight the importance of creating an equitable lifelong learning system to achieving the SDGs in the years ahead.



Ballyhoura Development is a community-led Local Development Company supporting integrated social, environmental, and economic development across the Ballyhoura region of east Limerick and north Cork, through the delivery of 25 complimentary national and EU programmes.

Ballyhoura Development's vision, mission and values align closely with those of the shared vision outlined in the National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024. The organisation's programme operations contribute to nearly all of the SDGs, and increasingly, our work is focussed on programmes and projects which

empower communities to address the challenges of climate change and to prepare for a Just Transition, aligning closely with SDGs 7, 11 and 15.

Ballyhoura Development's whole-of-community approach facilitates reach to all areas of society to promote and champion the SDGs and to promote the core messages that the SDGs are relevant to everyone, and that everyone has a role to play in contributing to the achievement of a just and equal society, at local, regional, national and global level.



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**Chambers
Ireland**
Advancing business together

Chambers Ireland is the State's largest business representative network. We are an all-island organisation with a unique geographical reach; our members are the Chambers of Commerce in the cities and towns throughout the country – active in every constituency. Each of our member Chambers is central to their local business community and all seek to promote thriving local economies that can support sustainable cities and communities.

Chambers Ireland and its Network of Chambers are rooted in communities and are a progressive voice for business across Ireland, which is why we use our platform to amplify

the SDGs, the achievements of our stakeholders, and our Network in their own initiatives to implement the Goals.

Each of our policy outputs identify how the goals interact with our policy agenda and are used to identify parallel areas of interest and activity which can sometimes be missed in the consideration of a policy area. Our work through the Chambers Ireland Sustainable Business Council, the Sustainable Business Impact Awards, and the recently published Chambers Ireland SDG Toolkit for Business are a selection of examples of ways that we advocate for the Goals.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Clare County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Clare. We are responsible for the provision of important services such as rural, community and tourism development, economic development, roads and transportation, environment, housing, arts, emergency services, recreation, and sport. For more on our wide range of public services visit: clarecoco.ie. Connections to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across our service areas include: SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality,

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 10: Reduced Inequality, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water, SDG 15: Life on Land, SDG 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions; SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals



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Credit unions all over Ireland, governed by their own Operating Principles, have been promoting and delivering sustainable business for over sixty years.

Today, there are 202 active credit unions with 478 offices disseminated in every county of the Republic of Ireland. These credit unions currently have 3.5 million members, representing the highest level of penetration in any credit union movement in the world¹.

Sustainability is deeply embedded into every aspect of the credit union

operating principles and ethos. The Irish credit union movement, driven by purpose to deliver goals rather than results, provides credit to ordinary people on reasonable terms and conditions.

The long-established credit union operating principles map easily to the United Nations SDGs and enable the credit union movement to demonstrate how they are inherently sustainable businesses and how they can use this sustainable advantage as a strategic opportunity to serve their communities.

¹ World Council Statistical Report 2021



Development Perspectives has a track record of raising awareness, building understanding and supporting action related to the Goals across Ireland since 2016. In 2016, we initiated the SDG challenge and in 2017 was the winner of the Dóchas SDG Champion award. Development Perspectives has a range of programmes, projects and activities that contribute and connect to the SDGs on an ongoing basis.

- The annual SDG Advocate training has yielded very impressive results, which can be seen in our “Stories of Action”
- Monthly SDG Information packs are disseminated to 2,500 adult and community educators across the country. We also have SDG workbooks for Further Education and Community Education practitioners.

- In 2021 and 2022, we organised and cycled the “SDG Roadshow” with the support of Coalition 2030, EirGrid and Irish Aid. In total, we cycled 1500km on our two SDG themed cargo bikes delivering 15 workshops and doing interviews as we went.
- Through a range of programmes, we have worked with local authorities, Public Participation Networks and councillors since 2016 to embed the SDGs into County Development Plans.
- Development Perspectives hosts the “SDG Challenge Schools” project, which is funded by Worldwide Global schools. This allows us to work with 12-20 schools each year with their students and teachers.



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ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's leading youth environmental education organisation. We educate, inspire and empower young people and channel their passion and energy into positive environmental action. We work with over 10,000 young people aged 10 – 25 years every year from all over the island of Ireland.

We promote and align our wide range of programmes with the Sustainable Development Goals. Our Young Environmentalist Awards encourages, supports and rewards young people to carry out local

environmental action projects and raise awareness, our Youth for Sustainable Development Programme builds capacity and leadership skills in young people, our Learning 2 Change secondary schools programme builds environmental knowledge and skills in young people, our Green Youth Employability programmes upskill young people in employability and the green economy, our ECO-Choices programme promote young people's health and well-being. ECO-UNESCO advocates for the key role of education and youth engagement in achieving sustainability.



The Football Association of Ireland has a long history of programmes focused on inclusion with various social groups, with football used as a driving force to bring everyone together across the community on both a national and local level.

As an association, we believe it is important to continue developing our Football and Social Responsibility Strategy set out by our Sustainable Development Goals built on four priority areas: Health and Wellbeing, Ethical leadership, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability/Climate Action.

Promoting our Football Social Responsibility strategy as well as key activities delivered under the 4 priority areas in a parallel with our League of Ireland clubs and other stakeholders, will help raise awareness broadly of the SDGs.

We look forward to progressing in these key areas and broadly raise awareness of our Sustainable Development Goals.



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Fáilte Ireland's role is to support the long-term sustainable growth in the economic, social, cultural, and environmental contribution of tourism to Ireland. Tourism is of critical importance to the national economy and to regional development and employment. Pre-coronavirus, the sector generated revenue of €7.5 billion annually and supported 260,000 jobs nationwide while contributing €1.7 billion to the Exchequer. We work in partnership with Government, State agencies, Local Authorities, representative groups, and industry, to sustainably develop tourism across Ireland by creating destination development plans and networks, investing in

infrastructure, activities, visitor attractions and festivals. Fáilte Ireland provides consumer and buyer insights, mentoring, business supports and training programmes and buyer platforms that help tourism businesses innovate and grow. We are responsible for domestic holiday marketing across four regional experience brands: Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Dublin. We approach our work programmes through a sustainability and climate action lens and we build awareness for targets on key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are most relevant to our business.

FAIR SEAS

At Fair Seas, we are working towards SDG 14 by calling for 30% fully protected Marine Protected Areas to be created in Ireland with strong stakeholder participation. Fair Seas is a coalition of Ireland's leading environmental non-governmental organisations and networks seeking to protect, conserve and restore Ireland's unique marine environment. While 'Life Below Water' SDG 14 is an obvious focus for Fair Seas, our work also relates to SDG 3 'Good health and well-being', SDG 13 'Climate Action', and SDG 15 'Life on Land' and SDG 8.9 'Sustainable Tourism' which Fair Seas would also champion as interlinked and fundamental to the SDG 14 cause. At Fair Seas, we are primarily focused on SDG 14, 'Life Below Water', which aims to "conserve

and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". The interconnectedness between this and Fair Seas' objectives becomes clear when looking at the targets of SDG 14, which include the significant reduction in marine pollution by 2025, the conservation of at least 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020, ending overfishing and the subsidies that contribute to overfishing by 2020, as well as supporting small scale fishing. Achieving the protection and sustainable use of the world's seas inevitably impacts society, the economy, and biodiversity.



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The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is Ireland's largest sporting and community organisation. It promotes Gaelic games such as Hurling, Football, Handball, and Rounders and with our sister associations, Ladies Football and Camogie. Through our 1,600 Clubs across the island the GAA is also committed to developing healthy and sustainable communities. Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3) is a direct outcome of participation in physical activity through our games and meaningful social engagement, reinforced through our Healthy Club Project. We are innovators in Quality Education (SDG 4) through our Volunteer Education Programmes and our Youth Leadership initiatives. Our club network ensures that we have a footprint in nearly every community

in Ireland. Conscious of our impact on the physical environment, we endeavour to work in harmony with our surroundings to support biodiversity and life on land (SDG 15). Our Green Club Programme and Toolkit, developed in collaboration with the Local Authority sector and expert partners, supports our Clubs in sustainable development. By reinforcing and developing partnerships (SDG 17), the GAA endeavours to embed sustainable development concepts and practices throughout the organisation and broader society. Our Clubs have been innovators in addressing many of Ireland's social concerns and are rapidly rising to the challenge of supporting the SDGs.



The Heritage Council aims to enhance an understanding of the vital contribution heritage makes to our social, environmental and economic well-being. The Heritage Council has a responsibility to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in national heritage, and also provides in-depth policy advice to Government on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

Ireland's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme (CTCHC), which championed the need for a Town Centre First policy since 2019¹, is keen to support the UN SDGs. The data-driven CTCHC Programme, which is included in the Programme for Government (PFG, 2020) seeks

to guide the design, delivery, and evaluation of sustainable environmental management, socio-economic and cultural development, regeneration and investment programmes. Internationally, the CTCHC has recently established an Irish Towns Diaspora Network (ITDN) based on the global impact of its first-ever podcast series entitled "Putting Town Centres First"² (10 podcasts). This 'reach' enables the CTCHC to have a significant and lasting legacy as an SDG Champion for Ireland.

¹ www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Submission-to-Louth-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027.pdf

² <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/podcast-series-putting-town-centres-first>



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Iarnród Éireann, a subsidiary of Córas Iompair Éireann, provides national passenger and freight rail services as well as managing the operation of Rosslare Europort. Rail is widely recognised as one of the most sustainable forms of transport and Ireland's rail network is an invaluable national asset providing the backbone for a sustainable, integrated public transport system across the country.

Iarnród Éireann is at a critical transformation stage, whereby all aspects of the company's activities are being appraised to ensure operations are as sustainable and efficient as possible. The UN

Sustainability Development Goals provide a systematic framework of goals and targets to enable Iarnród Éireann assess environmental, social, economic and governance performance and to allow planning for progressive improvements.

Iarnród Éireann will continue to provide safe, accessible, reliable transport for all rail users while decarbonising its business and operations where possible. This transition is currently underway, and utilisation of the SDGs will link the Iarnród Éireann sustainability action plan to transparent performance indicators and targets.



Jiminy.ie is the world's first eco-activist toy store, founded in 2018 by Sharon Keilthy, after she needed a gift for her daughter's 4th birthday, but couldn't buy the plastic-wrapped-in-plastic anymore.

The toy industry is the world's most plastic-intensive industry, with 90% of toys made from virgin petro-plastic, emitting so much CO2 it's like deforesting 1 billion mature trees. "The gifts we give our children should be protecting their planet and their future - not the opposite," says Sharon.

www.Jiminy.ie makes it easy to choose a gift that delights both

child and planet - with hundreds of climate-neutral, minimal-waste toys for all ages from babies through teenagers.

Jiminy.ie is mainly active on the environmental SDGs 11, 12 and 13 - but also on equality SDGs 5 and 10, e.g., they're a Let Toys Be Toys Inclusive Toystore awardee. Sharon and team are excited to be an SDG Champion organisation. They find toys a joyful, non-threatening context in which to share information and inspire people to take action on these important goals.



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Macra Na Feirme is a voluntary youth organisation with a thriving membership of 10,000 young people from rural Ireland with a network of 160 clubs across Ireland. Macra na Feirme and our members work towards the achievement of many of the SDG targets within Macra clubs and regions and local rural communities on issues particularly relevant to young people living in rural Ireland. We are a member led organisation that empowers young people to become active members of their local community, become

active citizens and encourage and promote our members to become active leaders within and outside of the organisation. We have three national member led committees that each play a big part in contributing to the SDGs, Agricultural Affairs Committee, Rural Youth Committee and Competitions Committee. Macra Na Feirme empowers our members to create a sustainable impact in their local communities and their work, in their farming practices and other areas of rural life.

Musgrave is Ireland's leading food retail, wholesale and foodservice company and was one of the first companies in Ireland to integrate the principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals into its day-to-day business activities. Our Sustainability Strategy 'Protecting the planet and benefitting our communities' is all about working with retail partners, suppliers and customers to make every community

a sustainable community; it's about shifting consumer behaviour by making it easier for shoppers to make sustainable choices; and it's about reducing our carbon emissions to reach net zero carbon by 2040. Musgrave was selected to become one of Ireland's original SDG Champions in 2019 due to its ongoing commitment to operating as a sustainable business, and the notable achievements to date.



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NYCI National Youth Council of Ireland

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is a national organisation which represents and supports community, voluntary, and not-for-profit youth organisations in Ireland. NYCI has over 50 youth organisations in membership which represent the scope, scale, and diversity of the youth sector, working with almost 400,000 young people in every community throughout Ireland.

NYCI looks forward to using this SDG Champion role to engage and empower the youth sector in Ireland around important global justice issues that form the core of the Sustainable Development Goals. How successful we and the world are in achieving the SDGs will determine the future of the planet we call home and shape how current and future generations of young people will live their lives. NYCI has actively engaged with the

SDGs from a personal, local, national, and global perspective since before 2015, through policy and practice:

- creating educational resources
- developing an online SDGs Map
- running SDGs trainings, consultations, and events.
- influencing policymaking at Irish, European, and Global levels
- supporting youth organisations and young people to take leadership roles on the SDGs in Ireland and globally

We look forward to working with fellow SDG Champions and all our partners to build momentum, knowledge, and action around the SDGs.



Peter McVerry Trust

Peter McVerry Trust is a national housing and homeless charity committed to reducing homelessness and the harm caused by substance misuse and social disadvantage. Our vision is an Ireland that supports all those on the margins and upholds their rights to full inclusion in society. Peter McVerry Trust services and housing expand across 28 of the 31 Irish Local Authorities, providing low-threshold entry services, primarily to younger persons with complex

needs, and offering pathways out of homelessness based on the principles of the Housing First model. The organisation works within a framework of equal opportunities, dignity and respect. In 2022, we supported over 12,000 unique individuals across the country. With such an extensive reach, we recognise our responsibility in implementing the SDG agenda.



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RTÉ

RTÉ fully recognises its responsibility in context of sustainability and environmental performance and for many years has strived to maintain a leadership role.

Our commitments under the Government's Climate Action Plan are not entirely separate from the overarching principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard the SDG Champion Programme is a great opportunity for us to refresh and strengthen our

focus in context of their fundamental link with the work we are doing. We have through our environmental management always recognised the value of engagement and collaboration. As a business and as a broadcaster we look forward to the collaboration and engagement which will take place on this journey as part of this programme. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to this important programme and to support the global challenges we all face.



Rush Tidy Towns (RTT) is a volunteer-based organisation with strong roots within the community in Fingal, Dublin.

We strive to “deliver long term, sustainable, tangible benefits and improvements to the infrastructure, amenities, and aesthetic landscape of Rush in an eco-friendly manner for the benefit of, and through engagement with all sections of Rush Community.”

Our community-based approach encompasses multi-generational involvement in multi-faceted programmes massively contributing to the achievement of the SDG goals through our overall objectives:

- Foster a sense of community, inclusivity, engagement, and empowerment to make Rush a wonderful place to live, work and visit
- Protect and enhance the natural, built, and cultural assets of our town by delivering projects of community interest
- Ensure the actions and projects of RTT are delivered sustainably, in partnership with others, always adhering to the highest standards and based on best practice
- RTT projects will raise awareness and leave a lasting positive impact for this and future generations



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THE SUSTAINABLE LIFE SCHOOL

LEARNING MORE. LIVING BETTER

The Sustainable Life School is a social enterprise with the mission to empower and inspire people to live more sustainably through climate friendly lifestyle changes and being part of a community. The Sustainable Development Goals are a key part of who we are and what we do as a social enterprise, helping people live more sustainably by educating them on the environmental and social issues whilst sharing the solutions, tips and motivation to act in a very

accessible and simple way. Through our Sustainable Living programme, classes, events and communications, we engage individuals to create new habits that contribute to a more responsible consumption, to care about human rights and life on land and water. We also strongly believe in leaving no one behind, everyone should have a voice and be engaged in this growing movement and benefit from a sustainable life.

The Tesco logo consists of the word 'TESCO' in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Below the letters are four horizontal blue lines of varying lengths, creating a stylized underline.

At Tesco our core purpose is to serve our customers, communities and planet a little better every day.

With over 165 stores, more than 13,000 colleagues, working with over 500 Irish suppliers, the overall economic impact of Tesco's expenditure is approximately €3 billion each year in Ireland alone. Tesco also has a significant global footprint, as such, we recognise the important role we play in helping to address some of the most important social and environmental issues of our time.

Tesco has been a proud signatory of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) since 2015 and have been committed to implementing and promoting the UNGC ten principles in support of human rights, labour rights, the environment and anti-corruption. The scale and scope of our business affords us a unique opportunity to not just address these issues within our own operations, but throughout the value chain, bringing awareness to suppliers, producers, business partners, customers, community organisations and more.



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TIER

TIER Mobility is the world's leading shared micro-mobility provider, with a mission to Change Mobility for Good. By providing people with its e-scooter, e-bike and pedal bike services, the company enables cities to create more sustainable environments and move towards a zero-emission future. TIER is present across Fingal county in Ireland as well as in 560+ cities and communities in 31 countries with a fleet of more than 350,000 vehicles. This makes

TIER the largest multimodal micro-mobility operator globally. With a focus on providing the safest, most equitable and most sustainable mobility solution, TIER has had the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the core of its business since being founded in 2018. Five key goals have been adopted to shape our company strategy and TIER has been climate neutral since 2020.



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

University of Galway is a community of 20,000 students, 2,500 staff and over 100,000 graduates. Together, we are critically aware of the leading role that universities can play in the achievement of the SDGs. Sustainability is one of our four core values and a key pillar of our strategic plan, Shared Vision, Shaped by Values. As a signatory to the SDG Accord, we have committed to align our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities with the SDGs and to share our learnings. Our Climate Action and Sustainability Policy and our

Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025 formalise our commitment to lead the transition to a sustainable future, and we produce a detailed report each year on the actions we have taken to advance each individual SDG.

University of Galway is recognised by the 'Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022' as Top University in Ireland and Top 50 in the world for our efforts in progressing the SDGs. We are ranked 5th in the world for our progress on SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production.



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