



Sustainable Development Goals and the post 2015 agenda

**European Resources Forum
November 2014**

UN Open Working Group proposal for the SDGs

- *Proposes 17 goals and 169 targets.*
- *Good read-across with priority areas in the Commission Communication of June 2014.*
- *Integrates the MDG priorities of poverty eradication with the Rio priorities of sustainable development, for example by making economic growth inclusive and sustainable.*
- *Strong sustainability elements reflected in targets on resource efficiency, decoupling growth and resource use, management of transboundary waters, and phasing out of fuel subsidies.*
- *Means of Implementation also need to be integrated (i.e. avoiding trade-offs or cherry picking).*

Open Working Group proposed goals and targets on resource efficiency (examples)

2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	2.3 By 2030 double the agricultural productivity, and the incomes of small-scale food producers.....
6. Ensure availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all	6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity...
7. Ensure sustainable energy for all	7.3 Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.2 Achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation... 8.4 Improve progressively through 2030 global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation in accordance with 10YFP
12. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.2 By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and re-use.
14. Conserve and promote sustainable use oceans, seas and marine resources	14.4 By 2020 effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing.....

Universality

- *Goals and targets will be global in aspiration.*
- *Many will contribute to protecting and enhancing global public goods.*
- *The goals therefore need to be universal in application, i.e. all countries (developed, developing, emerging) have to play their part, to achieve this common vision.*
- *Progress will depend on countries working in partnership and upholding their commitments.*
- *Accountability, monitoring and review will therefore be crucial elements of the Global Partnership.*

Practical examples – how to achieve the goals in an integrated fashion

To shift taxation from labour to resource use and pollution is an appropriate tool to simultaneously promote job creation, strengthen the economy, and tackle resource scarcity. Studies show that additional revenues can be generated if environmentally harmful subsidies are removed.

All countries should take action to remove subsidies that encourage inefficient resource use such as fossil fuel subsidies, and to tax unsustainable practices such as landfilling.

Examples 2

The transition to a circular, 'no waste' economy will create new jobs in services that society wants but that have become almost unaffordable, such as maintenance and repair services, and in designing and making new, more sustainable products.

Countries could promote legislation similar to ecodesign which places minimum requirements on products to make them more energy efficient, easy to recycle and more durable.

Examples 3

Resource efficiency improvements all along the value chain could reduce material inputs needs by 17%-24% and save up to €630 billion per year for European industry.

Resource efficiency targets, and green public procurement strategies can provide incentives and increasing market share of resource-efficient businesses.