SDG implementation in G20 countries
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United
Kingdom

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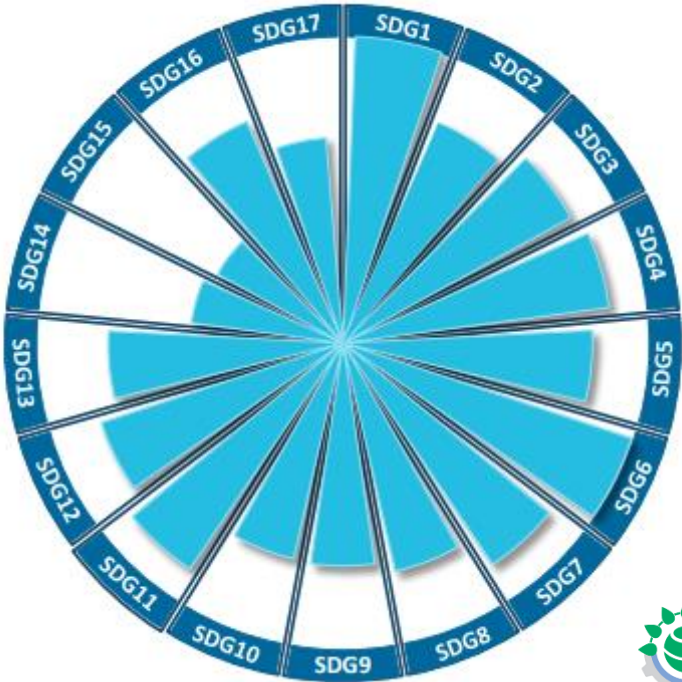# United Kingdom – UNSDSN SDG Index Ranking

Global Rank: 10 (out of 149)

Key challenges for United Kingdom:

SDG 2 Zero Hunger

SDG 7 Affordable & clean energy

SDG 10 Reduced inequalities

SDG 13 Climate action

SDG 14 Life below water

SDG 15 Life on land

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OVERALL SDG PERFORMANCE	Global rank	Score or value	Regional average
SDG Index	10 (of 149)	78.1 /100	75.3 /100

Comparison with other development metrics			
Human Development Index, 2014	14 (of 188)	0.91 /1	0.88 /1
Subjective Wellbeing, 2015	21 (of 149)	6.9 /10	6.6 /10
GDP per capita, PPP, 2015	23 (of 149)	US$ 40958	US$ 40671
Global Competitiveness Ind., 2016	10 (of 140)	5.43 /10	4.9 /10
Environmental Perf. Index, 2016	12 (of 180)	87.4 /100	84.4 /100

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG

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- Although departmental responsibilities include commitments relevant to SDGs, 2015-2020 Single Departmental Plans do not incorporate the SDGs with the exception of DFID (Department for International Development) & FCO (Foreign & Commonwealth Office).

  The UK government has recognized the need to update these plans & revised versions are expected to be available in 2017.

- DFID champions SDG implementation supported by the Cabinet Office. The Secretary of State for International Development is responsible for coordination of domestic implementation in addition to supporting international implementation through DFID.

- Currently there is no cross-government plan or formal mechanism to oversee implementation.

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- In its report (June 2016), the International Development Committee of the House of Commons emphasizes the need for a whole of government approach & recommends the UK government to:

  - ➢ Spread accountability across all departments through a formal mechanism that will allow responsible departments & ministries to gather to discuss implementation at the highest level,

  - ➢ Employ a bold communication campaign on SDGs targeted at both government agencies & business,

  - ➢ Strengthen reporting on policy coherence to go beyond the traditional "case-by-case" approach,

  - ➢ Support the development of international benchmarks against the SDGs to enable business to monitor & report on progress against the SDGs,

  - ➢ Incentivize sustainable development in the capital markets.

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- UK Government will be reporting against its domestic progress on the SDGs annually, as part of its responsibility to the UN's global monitoring process.

  The International Development Committee recommends that this report, as well as a full breakdown and analysis of the data, to be made publicly available to enable the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) and departmental select committees to track progress and hold relevant Government departments to account on any areas where it is falling short.

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- Despite the Committee's assertion that the Government's manifesto does not equate to a cross-government plan for SDG implementation, the UK Government argues that its manifesto emphasizes SDG relevant commitments such as:

  ➢ saving 1.4 million children's lives through immunisation,

  ➢ helping 11 million children gain a decent education,

  ➢ improving nutrition for at least 50 million people,

  ➢ and helping at least 60 million people gain access to clean water and sanitation.

- In response to Committee recommendations, the UK Government has also communicated that there will be regular coordination meetings at Director- and policy official-level, co-hosted by DFID and the Cabinet Office, to ensure cross-departmental coordination.

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- In April 2017, the Environmental Audit Committee, appointed by the House of Commons, published a report that reiterates the need for a clear cross-government plan to implement the SDGs in the UK through:

  ➢ The establishment of an independent advisory body to provide evidence-based advice to the responsible minister & the Prime Minister, & whose job it is to audit successive governments' performance against the SDGs.

  ➢ The publication of a report that sets out how the government intends to take an integrated, cross-government and policy-coherent approach to implementing the SDGs in the UK & how it will bring together elements of the updated Single Departmental Plans that support the Goals

  ➢ The appointment of a Cabinet-level Minister in the Cabinet Office with strategic responsibility for implementing the SDGs across Government.

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- The UK Office for National Statistics contributed to discussions on the global set of indicators.

- In its report, the Environmental Audit Committee supports a strong role for UK's National Statistical Agency in the development of national indicators for SDG implementation.

- The Environmental Audit Committee also recommends the UK government to participate in UN's Voluntary National Review at the HLPF in 2018.

United Kingdom – Examples of what business can do

- The UK Government believes in the importance of building the business case for sustainable development as a means to encourage more businesses to integrate sustainability in their operations. **Spread the word** & **engage with peers on the SDG agenda** to create a tipping point for business engagement in sustainability.

- UK's DFID is committed to encourage private sector investment in developing & fragile states. Support government efforts towards sustainable & inclusive growth globally by creating **decent employment & jobs,** providing **products & services that positively impact the SDGs,** & building **resilience**.

- In conjunction with the City of London, HM Treasury has launched a **Green Finance Initiative** to help incentivize & advance private sector finance in the green economy. Demonstrate **market leadership on green finance** & **openly advocate** for policies that enhance the development of the green finance sector globally.

- **Understand, measure & disclose** how your business activities translate into economic, environmental & social impacts in the context of SDGs. Boost your performance & reputation by integrating these impacts in your internal strategy & decision-making.

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