

How the UN Sustainable Development Goals can drive profitable transformation

The Ethical Finance Hub (EFH) has developed an advisory offering to enhance understanding and support the uptake of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the financial sector in Scotland.

EFH Associate Fran van Dijk is Scotland's leading advisor on sustainability strategies that join the dots between organisations, business opportunities and the SDGs, while Omar Shaikh has a deep practical understanding of the financial services landscape in Scotland. Together we are supporting local organisations as they use the SDG framework to explore investment approaches and drive positive business growth. Globally, financial institutions across pensions, banking and insurance are already using the SDGs to guide their strategies.

The Goals

The 17 SDGs aim to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and protect the planet — nothing less than a transformation of global civilization.



Can you afford to ignore the UN SDGs?

- UN member states are referencing the SDGs in 2015–2030 policy frameworks
- Governments, public bodies, multilaterals and aid agencies will spend \$bns in this area
- Partnerships between the UN, private sector, governments and civil society are forming to achieve the goals and their targets
- For companies who act now, the SDGs offer a US\$12 trillion annual market opportunity by 2030
- Asset owners and asset managers are already using the SDGs to re-shape investment strategies
- Successful implementation will strengthen the enabling environment for doing business and build global markets

Business involvement is crucial: without private sector action to help scale innovative solutions, the 'Global Goals' will not be achieved.

Why do the SDGs matter to the financial services sector?

At current private sector participation levels there will be a US\$2.4 trillion+ p/a funding gap.

Despite the funding gap only a fraction of the worldwide invested assets of banks, multinationals, pension funds, insurers, philanthropists and foundations are aligned with the SDGs. Business-as-usual in the global financial arena will not deliver the 2030 Agenda. A step-change in private investment in SDGs is required.

We want to support local financial institutions to take up the SDG framework as a tool for fresh investment approaches and to drive positive business growth.



How can we help?

We support financial services organisations in Scotland, regardless of size or complexity, to embrace the Global Goals and help balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: **economic, social and environmental**.

Whether you are starting out on your SDG journey or want to integrate the Global Goals more deeply into your business we have the knowledge and skills to help. We can add value at the strategic, policy and product or service levels.

With experience and contextual knowledge of BOTH sustainability and finance we can help you to:

- Understand how your organisation can effectively contribute to the SDGs
- Show leadership by implementing a transition plan to integrate the SDGs into your organisation
- Evaluate performance and promote continuous improvement



OUR ASPIRATION IS TO BE THE TRUSTED SDG ADVISOR TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN SCOTLAND

What impact will my organisation make if we adopt the SDGs?



About

The EFH is a Scottish Government-backed, industry-led initiative established in 2016 with the aim of raising awareness, building capacity and facilitating practical activities (such as research, events and projects) that support the growth of the ethical finance sector. This will help create a fairer, more inclusive and responsible financial system as well as improve the environment, social and governance performance of businesses.



www.ethicalfinancehub.org

Contact

Chris Tait (Project Manager, Ethical Finance Hub) - chris@ethicalfinancehub.org or +44(0)7931 103573

