

Sustainable Development Goals for the Irish offshore Islands

Goal 1: No Poverty

- Poverty can be hidden in rural areas and small communities like the Islands. Social Protection Services to be available on the Islands including an Island-specific SICAP lot for all islands in a region.
- Equal rights to economic resources and to basic services.
- Housing for all on the islands

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

- Nutrition programmes like “Healthy Ireland” to be extended to the Islands.
- Ensure sustainable food production systems for the Islands.
- Maintain ecosystems and traditional farming methods.
- Slow food movement to be extended to the offshore Islands.
- School lunches to be provided where needed.

Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

- Implement the “Island’s Primary Care Implementation Plan.”
- To reduce health inequalities on the Islands.
- Provide elder care services.
- Services for people with special needs
- Deliver and implement “Healthy Ireland 2013-2025” on the Islands.
- The “National Physical Activity Plan” to be delivered and implemented on the offshore Islands.

Goal 4: Quality Education

- That all children and youth on the Irish Islands have access to free, equitable and quality primary and second level education.
- Identify those at risk of educational disadvantage on Islands and those with learning difficulties or special needs and services to be put in place on all islands to cater for these target groups.
- The Creative School’s initiative to be delivered on all Irish Islands.



Toraigh Árainn Mhór Gabhla Inis Fraoich Inis Caorach Inis Mhic an Doirn Inis Oirthir Inis
Bó Finne Oileán Ruaidh Inis Bigil Clare Island Clynish Inishlyre Inisturk Inishbofin
Inis Mór Inis Meáin Inis Oírr Dursey Bere Whiddy Long Heir Sherkin Oileán Cléire

- Further Education and Training to be provided on islands to ensure active inclusion of individuals of all ages and abilities.
- Ensure the Higher Education services connect with people on the Islands, giving all an opportunity to participate.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

- Services mitigating against domestic, sexual and gender-based violence to be implemented on Islands.
- Access to these services to be available to islands.
- Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health on islands.
- To improve women's health outcomes and experience of healthcare.
- Specialist Doctors to visit Islands e.g. Doctors specialising in female health issues

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- Water is a finite resource on many of the Irish Islands. To provide safe and affordable potable water for all Islands as a matter of course.
- Improve the water quality on all Islands.
- All islands to be considered for waste water treatment plants to protect the natural resources and the environment.
- Reducing Pollution and eliminating dumping by providing services and recycling centres on all islands.
- Conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the marine environment surrounding all Islands.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- That each Irish Island be supported to compile an energy master plan so as to actively engage in green energy measures.
- To ensure that those islands with Energy Master Plans are funded to implement their plans.
- That ferries are supported in moving to green sources of fuel.
- To support and promote the use of renewable, green energy across the offshore islands: to support those organisations involved in renewable energy creation.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- The Irish Islands to be recognised as a stand-alone regional area for the purposes of Rural Development funding.
- Island-specific budgets to be in place for all mainstream funding programmes.
- Supports for remote working (ex the Gúrá app on Arranmore and their mentoring system).
- Supports to business's on Islands such as an island-specific tax rate for employers and employees.

- Tourism to be recognised as a key area of economic growth on islands and a specific sustainable tourism policy for the Irish Islands.
- Social Enterprises provide many of the essential basic services on islands. Specific operational budgets to be provided to social enterprises on the Irish Islands.
- The Circular Economy to be promoted and developed on the Irish Islands.
- Seasonal Enterprises on islands to be supported during the off season.
- Increased State Intervention is required in the delivery of the National Broadband Plan on the Irish Islands if they are not to be left behind.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Communities

- Develop quality and fit for purpose infrastructure on Islands to include piers, community buildings, airstrips, helicopter pads, health centres, schools
- Support for and provision of environmentally sound public toilets on all of the offshore islands to benefit both local residents and tourists.
- Greater adoption of green and environmentally sound infrastructure in all public utilities
- Emission reduction of transportation services
- Upgrade and retrofit all community facilities.
- Implement the Waste Action Plan for a circular economy on Islands.

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

- Implement Island-specific programmes and social inclusion measures on Islands.
- Recognise islands as a specific lot for the delivery of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme due to the specific constraints of Islands.
- That all Island dwellers are considered a specific target group.
- Reduce and remove barriers to inclusion and participation.
- Balance the economy on islands by providing more supports to employers and employees.
- Reduce the VAT rate for seasonal enterprises on islands.
- Reduce/eliminate VAT on transport of cargo to the offshore islands: Islanders are the only citizens who pay VAT on food, for example, because of this. It seriously contributes to a 33% increased cost of living overall and creates a totally inequitable economic situation.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Ensure access to adequate and affordable housing on all the Irish Islands.
- Ensure that all basic services are provided on Islands.
- Ensure that there is adequate public transport available to Island residents.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- Sustainable management of natural resources to be implemented on Islands.
- Protecting and restoring our environment through sustainable resource use.

- Restoring and enhancing biodiversity – carry out biodiversity surveys on all islands.
- Promote farm diversification supports for all Island farmers.
- An Island-specific agri-environment programme for all Irish islands
- To substantially reduce waste generation on Islands through prevention, recycling and re-use. To fund the infrastructure measure, e.g., recycling plants to support this measure.

Goal 13: Climate Action

- Support and fund actions on Islands that support the transition towards climate neutrality measures.
- Actions that build climate resilience on Islands
- renewable energy production on all islands, green ferries,
- charging points for EVs.
- Expand the EV Public vehicle system.
- More supports for issues caused by weather related events e.g. storm damage, erosion.
- Engaging with the Irish Islands to identify challenges and obstacles to feed into the Climate Action Plan 2021
- Expand and improve management of protected areas and species on Islands.
- Conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems services in the marine environment.
- A greater increase in awareness raising and improving education and local community group to be funded to carry out this aim.
- Research to be carried out so that the key risks and vulnerabilities of the offshore islands are recognised, and actions identified to mitigate against the risks.
- Each island supported in compiling and implementing an energy master plan and a workplan to work towards climate neutrality.
- Targeted agri-environment schemes that includes all the offshore islands.
- Sustainable tourism practices on islands to be supported by having an island-specific tourism policy for the Irish Islands
- Reduce fossil-fuel use and dependence on the Irish Islands

Goal 14: Life below Water

- Support the Island producer Organisation Irish Islands Marine Resource organisation (IIMRO) to support and sustain island sustainable fishing.
- Continue investment in FLAG which benefits island and coastal communities.
- Support means of preventing and reducing marine pollution of all kinds in the waters surrounding islands.
- Support local community groups to manage the protected marine areas and species.
- Conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the marine environment surrounding the Irish offshore islands.

- Increase awareness and education of biodiversity and ecosystems on the Islands.
- Involve and engage with Island dwellers in the protection and management of coastal ecosystems.
- Support island inshore fishers to fish in the sustainable traditional manner of which they are accustomed for generations.

Goal 15: Life on land

- To actively engage island dwellers in the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems e.g. woodlands, wetlands and drylands, mountains, beaches and dunes on islands.
- Supports for conservation where needed to protect/increase biodiversity and ecosystems on islands. Support local community groups in awareness raising and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems on the Islands.
- Land resources are scarce on islands: building regulations and planning laws to be designed in conjunction with island communities to allow islanders to build dwellings that are in keeping with the biodiversity and ecosystems whilst recognising that human habitation is also integral to the survival of our islands.
- More affordable housing to be provided by local authorities or housing associations.
- Waste treatment plants on all islands with permanent populations to protect the natural environment.
- The Development of Walks and Trails on all offshore islands and the expansion of the Walks scheme to landowners.
- The Development of Blueways to and from the Irish islands where feasible and safe to do so.
- Actions to encourage more local food production.
- Actions that support artisan producers on Islands
- Actions that support organic farming with growers and producers.

Goal 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions

- Policy makers to proactively engage islanders on all relevant policies to ensure participatory and representative decision making when it involves islands.
- Law and order structures to be in place. Garda presence to be available on Islands, if and when needed, and particularly during the busy tourist seasons.
- Proactive measures to identify vulnerable people in the community.
- Proactive measures to assist victims of domestic violence.
- Measures to ensure islands are not crime destinations during busy periods e.g. people using islands for drug use and sale due to no Garda presence.

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- Island Representatives to be consulted in the delivery of all goals.
- Access to State Boards: Island representation to be considered for relevant state Boards.
- Encourage and support Inter-Departmental collaboration in overcoming challenges faced by offshore islands. Support collaboration with relevant EC groups (e.g. SEArica, CPMR, DG Regio, etc) and ESIN, the European Small Islands Federation.