# CERTIFICATE

Awarded to

# S2S Group



# **Business SDG Ambition Rating**

By supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, this company is taking action to make the world a better place by 2030.

**Awarded** | 11/03/2025

**Expires** | 11/03/2026

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# **SDG Ambition Report**

How does your business support five key areas aligned with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals?** 

**Produced for:** 

S25
GROUP

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Background	4
Chapter 1: Introduction	6
Chapter 2: Embracing the SDGs	8
Chapter 3: The rating	10
Chapter 4: Our SDG Ambition Rating & comparisons	16
Chapter 5: Calls to action	18







# **Background**

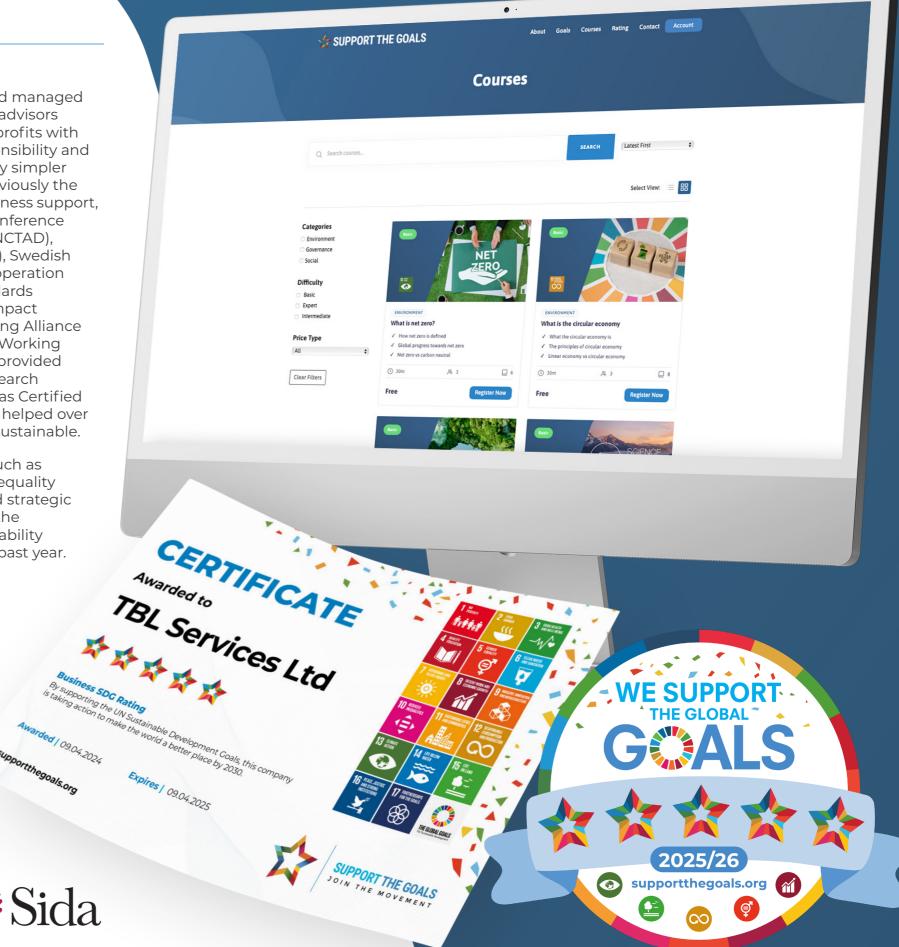
Support the Goals is an online platform that shares free and accessible sustainability education resources for businesses. It focuses on five main sustainability themes: net zero, biodiversity, diversity and inclusion, human rights, and sustainable procurement. All resources are underpinned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the only universally agreed-upon framework for a more equitable and sustainable future.

The platform targets small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that commonly lack the resources to keep up with growing pressures and expectations to make their businesses more sustainable. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are responsible for 90% of businesses and over 50% of employment worldwide. The fact that 77% of suppliers are SMEs is not surprising given their dominant influence.

These businesses must be held to the same ethical and responsible practices as large corporations, as this creates a fair and just environment for all businesses. By upholding the same ethical standards, SMEs can foster trust and respect among their stakeholders, build a strong reputation, and ultimately achieve success in the long run. It is, therefore, critical to ensure that all businesses, regardless of size, are held to the same high standards of ethics and responsibility.

Support the Goals is funded and managed by **TBL Services Ltd**, a team of advisors that helps businesses balance profits with environmental and social responsibility and makes the sustainability journey simpler and more successful. It was previously the world's largest database of business support, endorsed by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the British Standards Institution (BSI), UN Global Compact (UNGC), the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) and Global Goals Week. Working with various universities, it has provided over 100 young people with research experience, with 80% qualified as Certified Sustainability Researchers, and helped over 300 businesses become more sustainable.

As the world's big challenges such as poverty, climate change and inequality worsen, the need for timely and strategic changes increases. This is why the platform has prioritised sustainability education over research in the past year.

















# Chapter 1: Introduction

# A sustainability review

The United Nations defines sustainability as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainability is a complex concept that encompasses environmental, social, and economic dimensions. In 2024, it continued to evolve as a global priority, driven by the urgency of addressing climate change, resource depletion, and social inequalities.

Despite commitments to limit global warming, such as the 2015 Paris Agreement, recent years have seen record-breaking temperatures. 2023 was the hottest year ever, with a temperature increase of 1.48°C against pre-industrial levels.<sup>1</sup> The impacts of climate change are more frequent and widespread than ever before. Impacts such as melting polar ice, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and ecosystem disruption pose severe threats. Montana's Glacier National Park has lost over 120 glaciers in the past decade, whilst coastal cities like Miami, New York, and Jakarta are increasingly vulnerable to flooding. Additionally, hotter and drier conditions fuel large and destructive wildfires like the 2018 Camp Fire in California, and increased ocean temperatures have bleached 91% of the Great Barrier Reef, significantly threatening marine life.<sup>2</sup>

Climate change has far-reaching impacts, exacerbating existing social issues such as poverty, economic inequality, racism, discrimination, healthcare access, education inequality, and gender inequality.

The UK poverty rate is expected to increase by 18% in 2025, and developing countries are spending record amounts on external debts, preventing investment in critical needs like health and education.<sup>3</sup> Children from wealthy families are more than four times as likely to attend secondary school as those from low-income families. The World Health Organization estimates that climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050, primarily from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, and heat stress.<sup>4</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, high inflation, and extreme weather events have significantly hindered progress towards a fairer, greener, safer future. Despite this, technological breakthroughs in renewable energy, stringent environmental rules and reporting frameworks are compelling the public and private sectors to take action. Governments and policymakers must rigorously enforce these regulations to ensure accountability for environmental impact.

As we navigate this critical period, every individual, business, and government entity must recognise its role in the global effort to foster a sustainable and resilient world.

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will change it.

Robert Swan



1 in 6 children are growing up in extreme poverty globally; stunting their health, learning, social and economic opportunities. UN, 2023



**7,500** people die each day from unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. **UNGC** 



Over the last 65 years, 17 million metric tons of plastic waste that have entered the Atlantic Ocean. UN, 2023



More than **500,000+** terrestrial species have insufficient habitats for long-term survival. **UN, 2019** 



It will take 257 years to close the global gender gap. UN, 2022



Due to climate disasters, **1.2 billion** people could be displaced globally by 2050. **CNN, 2020** 



100 million hectares of net forest area has been lost over the last two decades. UN, 2023

This isn't everything, but it's enough to make a point. The world is facing key challenges, and businesses need to step up to start solving them. It's lucky that doing what's right also helps retain employees, strengthen reputation, and reduce risk.

6 | SDG Ambition Report

# Chapter 2: Embracing the SDGs

# Introduction

In September 2015, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched to create a fairer and more sustainable world. As part of the agenda, 193 world leaders agreed on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to tackle the world's most pressing issues. These targets aim to end poverty, combat inequality, and address the urgency of climate change. They serve as indicators for the achievement of the SDGs and play a crucial role in tracking our progress towards reaching the SDGs.

The SDGs are the only universally established framework to save our people and planet. Businesses, governments, and civil society are responsible for supporting these Goals and continuing to develop a better future for all by tackling the urgent economic, social, and environmental challenges our world

The SDGs provide all businesses with a new lens through which to translate the world's needs and ambitions into business solutions. United Nations



Inspire and motivate employees, attracting and retaining top talent committed to driving positive change. Research shows that 33% of Generation Z workers reject job offers due to misalignment with

ESG values.



**Enhance reputation** by fostering trust among customers, employees, and suppliers. Studies indicate that 90% of individuals consider it essential for businesses to support the SDGs.



Stay ahead of the curve by embracing the SDGs as a global framework that positions businesses for future legislative and policy advancements.



Mitigate risks by establishing a sustainable supply chain, reducing exposure to price volatility, disruptions, lost sales, and dissatisfied customers.



**Drive economic growth** and prosperity by gaining a competitive edge, increasing revenue, and preparing for upcoming challenges while cutting costs through improved resource efficiencies













15 LIFE ON LAND



















AND STRONG



**8** | SDG Ambition Report

# Chapter 3: The rating



The SDG Ambition Rating rewards businesses for supporting key sustainable development areas outlined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With five criteria, businesses gain stars for developing a strong sustainability strategy aligned with the SDGs, communicating their targets against this and showcasing their actions.

# The scoring

17 goals – that's a lot of goals. The SDG Ambition Rating breaks it down with a 5-star system, measuring ambition and action across five key areas aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The rating is simple and objective – points are awarded to businesses for communicating their actions towards these issues and setting measurable targets.

Businesses are awarded no star, half a star, or a star against each criterion. The minimum a business can achieve is zero stars; the maximum is five stars.

Based on research of 1000 SMEs conducted between 2024-2025, businesses receive:

0 - 1 stars	1.5 - 2 star  ☆ ☆	2.5 - 3 stars  ☆ ☆ ☆	3.5 - 4 stars  ★ ★ ★ ★	4.5 - 5 stars  ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
96.4%	2.6%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%

Contrastingly, 2025 FTSE 100 research that analyses business contributions to the SDGs among the 100 largest companies in the UK shows:

0 - 1 stars	1.5 - 2 star  ☆ ☆	2.5 - 3 stars  ☆ ☆ ☆	3.5 - 4 stars  ★ ★ ★ ★	4.5 - 5 stars  ★ ★ ★ ★
3.2%	7.4%	27.4%	33.7%	28.4%

# The rating criterion

A star is awarded for each rating criterion. The criteria are not dependent on each other. All criteria are based on publicly disclosed information – e.g., websites and any reports hosted there.



### Net zero

**The criterion:** A business must evidence its target and action towards achieving net zero.

Aligns to Goal 13:



# **Examples**

### **Targets**

• A net-zero target(s) with a target year.

#### Actions

- Completing a corporate GHG inventory or carbon footprinting
- Using renewable energies
- Aligning targets to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)



### No star

No measurable net-zero targets or action to achieve net zero.



### Half a star

Clear and evidenced actions in place supporting the net-zero strategy.



### Half a star

A clear target in place to achieve net zero.



# Full star

Fulfilling both 'half star' criteria.

## **Example that meet this criterion (target)**



An organisation aiming to achieve net zero by 2040.



### **Example that meets this criterion (action)**

An organization using 50% more renewable energy in the last year to support a long-term net zero target.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (target)



An organisation aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

### Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

Carbon neutrality is often used synonymously with net zero but they are not the same thing. Carbon neutrality is about balancing emissions produced with emissions removed, often by offsetting. This target cannot be accepted for this criterion.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (action)



An organisation creating an environmental policy.

### Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

An environmental policy doesn't directly or automatically support a net-zero target.

10 | SDG Ambition Report supportthegoals.org | 11

# Chapter 3: The rating





**The criterion:** A business must evidence its target and action towards increasing and supporting biodiversity or preventing biodiversity loss.

Aligns to Goal 14, 15:





# **Examples**

### **Targets**

- Stating a target for financial investment in biodiversity projects
- Introducing corporate biodiversity initiatives with set goals and deadlines
- Setting a goal to match business actions with investments in nature

#### Actions

- Tree planting
- Supporting (directly or through fundraising) peatland restoration, conservation programmes or monitoring programmes.



### No star

No biodiversity target or actions in place to support an increase in biodiversity or to prevent biodiversity loss.



### Half a star

Clear and evidenced actions in place to increase biodiversity or prevent biodiversity loss. The action(s) should aim to restore, conserve or increase biodiversity.



### Half a star

A target or ambition in place to support and increase biodiversity or prevent biodiversity loss.



### Full star

Fulfilling both 'half star' criteria.

### **Example that meet this criterion (target)**



An organisation committed to investing £50k in tree planting initiatives over the next two years.

### **Example that meets this criterion (action)**



An organisation restoring a natural peatland area in the last 12 months.

We believe that any biodiversity-related target/action is helpful.



#### Waste

**The criterion:** A business must evidence its commitment to waste reduction and supporting the circular economy.

Aligns to Goal 12:



# **Examples**

### **Targets**

- Zero waste to landfill
- Setting a waste reduction target
- Setting a target to increase the use of recycled content in products by FYXX

#### **Actions**

- Introducing a reduce, reuse, recycle initiative
- Using recycled material in products and packaging initiatives
- Conducting a waste audit



#### No star

No waste reduction targets or actions in place to support circular economy and sustainable waste management solutions.



### Half a star

Clear and evidenced waste reduction actions in place to support waste reduction target and sustainable waste management solutions.



#### Half a star

Clear waste reduction targets in place to support waste reduction and sustainable waste management solutions.



#### Full star

Fulfilling both 'half star' criteria.

# **Example that meet this criterion (target)**



An organisation committing to all its products being made from 100% recycled materials by 2030.

# Example that meets this criterion (action)



An organisation reducing its use of single-use plastics in 2024 by 20%.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (target)



An organisation making a general statement to reduce its waste in the next year.

### Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

This target is not SMART and does not clarify exactly what the waste reduction target aims to achieve.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (action)



An organisation claiming all its products ae made from sustainable materials.

### Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

The phrase 'sustainable materials' is vague and unclear. Aim for clarity by stating what materials are used and what makes them sustainable.

12 | SDG Ambition Report supportthegoals.org | 13

# Chapter 3: The rating





# **Gender equality**

**The criterion:** A business must evidence its commitment to increasing gender equality within the workplace and/or industry.

Aligns to Goal 5:



# **Examples**

#### **Targets**

 Setting engagement or reach targets for an outreach, awareness or inclusion programme

#### **Actions**

- Launching a women's leadership programme
- Establishing women-inclusive policies



# Living wage

**The criterion:** A business must evidence its commitment to supporting a living wage.

Aligns to Goal 8:



# **Examples**

#### **Targets**

 To become a living wage employer by FYXX

#### **Actions**

- Signing up to a fair pay initiative
- Applying for Living Wage Foundation accreditation



### No star

No ambition or action to increase gender equality within the workplace or industry.



### Half a star

Clear and evidenced actions taken to increase gender equality within the workplace or industry.



### Half a star

Clear ambition/target to increase gender equality within the workplace or industry.



#### **Full star**

Fulfilling both 'half star' criteria.



### No star

No ambition or action to increase or support a living wage.



### Half a star

Clear actions in place to support becoming a living wage employer.



# Half a star

A clear ambition/target to be a living wage employer.



### **Full star**

Fulfilling both 'half star' criteria.

### **Example that meet this criterion (target)**



A tech organisation committed to rolling out a women in tech programme in 2025 to support women in STEM.

### **Example that meets this criterion (action)**



An organisation having an inclusive hiring policy, gender equality awareness campaigns, mentorship or internship programmes for young women leaders.

# **Example that meet this criterion (target)**



An organisation with a goal of ensuring the whole organisation will earn a living wage by 2030.

# **Example that meets this criterion (action)**



An organisation obtaining an living wage accreditation for their business.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (target)



An organisation making a general statement about implementing a more inclusive hiring policy.

#### Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

The target is not SMART and does not clarify any key details about what the inclusive hiring policy aims to achieve.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (action)



Making a general statement about ensuring fairness and respect in hiring and treatment of women.

#### Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

Vague statement that does not provide details on 'the how' of this action.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (target)



An organisation stating that they pay a competitive wage.

# Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

Vague target that isn't SMART.

# Example that doesn't meet this criterion (action)



Stating that company wages are "adequate" or "competitive".

### Why doesn't this meet the criterion?

No clarity as to whether "adequate" or "competitive" amount to a living wage.

14 | SDG Ambition Report supportthegoals.org | 15

# Chapter 4: Our SDG Ambition Rating



# **S2S Group**

S2S Group is a company that specializes in IT Asset Disposal (ITAD), focusing on providing secure and sustainable solutions for end-of-life IT equipment. We offer a range of services, including secure data erasure and destruction, IT recycling, and asset refurbishment, with a strong emphasis on data security and environmental responsibility. Working across various sectors, we ensure compliance with industry standards and aim to help clients maximize returns on their IT assets through resale and refurbishment.

Our publicly disclosed information has been researched and reviewed against the SDG **Ambition Rating criteria.** 

# We have been awarded 5 stars: **Biodiversity** Gender Living wage Waste equality Source Source **Source** Source **Source**



# Targets & action insights: examples of our progress

# **Targets**



**Commitment to achieve** net zero emissions by 2050



**Commitment to 99%** recycling rate every year



**Commitment to maintain** being a National Living Wage employer

# **Actions**



**Gas forklifts replaced** with electric trucks



Feasible IT parts like hard drives, memory and batteries harvested for re-use



**Planted 500 trees** in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales **Millennium Trust** 

# A criteria-specific comparison against the FTSE 100:



96.8% achieved a full star for net zero



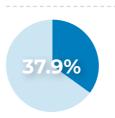
50.5% received a full star for biodiversity



67.4% received a full star for waste



77.9% received a full star for gender equality



37.9% received a full star for living wage

# Chapter 5: Calls to action

# **Educate and** raise awareness:

Ensure that everyone in your company knows about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and why they're important. Hold workshops and training sessions and include SDG awareness in the onboarding process.



# **Engage your** suppliers:

Incorporate the SDGs into your supply chain to maximise your company's impact. Host webinars, events, and workshops to educate and encourage your suppliers to adopt the SDGs to build a more resilient and responsible supply chain. The Support the Goals platform offers educational tools and resources to support engaging with your supply chain.



# Fine-tune your strategy:

Determine which SDGs are most relevant to your industry, business model, and operations.



This means looking at how each SDG connects with your business activities, risks, and opportunities. The five key areas outlined by the SDG Ambition Rating are a good starting point and relevant to all business.



# Invest in sustainable innovation:

Prioritise putting resources into researching and creating sustainable products, services, and technologies. This will drive economic growth and ensure that you meet global sustainability standards.



# **Enhance** transparency and accountability:

Embracing transparent reporting practices on sustainability efforts and outcomes can help establish stakeholder trust. It allows you to communicate your positive impact effectively and follow guidelines such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) or Climate Related Financial Disclosures (CFD).



# Collaborate across sectors:

Collaboration with governments, non-profits, and other businesses can make sustainability efforts more effective. We can share value and make greater progress towards the SDGs through collaboration.







