



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

An Overview

Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles. Our production and consumption behaviours are impacting not only the environment around us but the lives of others in communities across the world.

One such example is food. The food sector accounts for around 30% of the world's total energy consumption (SDG 7) and accounts for around 22% of total Greenhouse Gas emissions (SDG 13). Poor food production methods are resulting in land degradation, declining soil fertility, unsustainable water use (SDG 6), overfishing and consequent marine and environmental degradation (SDG 14 & 15). This further impacts the ability of the land to support future food production (SDG 2), leading to a circular decline of land quality and food production. Poor food consumption practices are evidenced by an estimated 1/3 of all food produced going to waste in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices.

Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less”, reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole lifecycle, while increasing quality of life. It involves different stakeholders including producer, business, consumers, policy makers, researchers, scientists, retailers, media, and development cooperation agencies. It also requires consumer-engagement and education, as well providing consumers with adequate information through standards and labels. 93% of the world's 250 largest companies are now reporting on sustainability, but there is a long way to go to embed sustainability within both production and consumption behaviours.

SDG 12 Keywords

This list is comprised of the Scopus queries generated by Elsevier in order to identify research that supports SDG 12, as part of the assessment undertaken by the global THE Impact League.

environmental pollution	hazardous waste	hazardous / toxic chemicals	chemical pollution
ozone depletion	pesticide pollution / stress / reduction	life cycle assessment / analysis	low carbon economy
environmental / material footprint	harvest efficiency	solid waste	waste generation
corporate social responsibility	corporate sustainability	consumer behaviour	waste / resource recycling
resource reuse	biobased economy	zero waste	sustainability label
global resource extraction	material flow accounting	societal metabolism	food / resource spill
resource efficiency	sustainable food consumption	green consumption	sustainable supply chain
circular economy	cradle to cradle	sustainable procurement	sustainable tourism
fossil-fuel subsidies / expenditure	sustainability label	consumption / production and resource use	

SDG 12 Targets & Indicators

Consider if your research could support a specific target in order to maximise impact.

TARGETS		INDICATORS	
12.1	Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing	12.1.1	Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies

	countries		
12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	12.2.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP
		12.2.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP
12.3	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	12.3.1	Global food loss index
12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1	Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement
		12.4.2	Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	12.5.1	National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
12.6	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	12.6.1	Number of companies publishing sustainability reports
12.7	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	12.7.1	Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans
12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	12.8.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment
12.A	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	12.A.1	Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies
12.B	Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	12.B.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools
12.C	Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities	12.C.1	Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels

Useful Links

- [The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production](#)
- [UN Environment Programme – Resource efficiency](#)
- [FAO website for Sustainable Production](#)
- [International Telecommunications Union](#)
- [UNDP page for Sustainable Production & Consumption](#)