



**REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

One of the GAA's strengths is in its network of communities and the partnerships it weaves through them and around them. The Association builds awareness of the power and value of connection and strives to work in collaborative ways in all its endeavours.

**ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**



The GAA recognises its role in supporting the health of its members and the communities it serves, and seeks to enhance the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of its members throughout the lifecycle. The Association also recognises the contributions of a sense of purpose and belonging to the state of wellbeing and seeks to foster in all its members the opportunity to experience both.



**SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

With a physical presence in rural and urban communities across the island of Ireland, the GAA champions respect for our land and waterways. The GAA is committed to promoting a better understanding of the impact of our activities on life on land and to working to preserve and enrich the biodiversity in our Clubs and Counties.

**ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**



The GAA is an innovator in Quality Education through its Volunteer Education Programmes and in its contributions to mainstream education. It seeks to serve the needs of its members and communities as well as reflecting the priorities of the Department of Education and Skills. The Association is continually evolving the principles underpinning its programmes in line with best international practice.



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland



**NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS CHAMPION  
2019/20**





## What are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?

In September 2015, 193 countries met in New York and signed the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda has become the guide to the world's social, economic, and environmental actions to achieve a sustainable future by 2030.

The framework consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs). Each of these goals has a number of targets associated with it (169 in total). Indicators identify the data that will be used to measure progress towards these targets and to determine if it has been achieved successfully by 2030.

The global progress is monitored by the UN. Individual countries must provide voluntary national reviews including stakeholder involvement. In Ireland, the overall responsibility for implementing the UN SDGs lies with the Department of Communications, Climate Action, and Environment (DCCAE).

Inclusion is at the core of the UN SDGs, and as a result, governments, the corporate sector, and citizens are called upon to make the SDG agenda a reality.

 [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

## SDG Champions Programme

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Champions Programme is an initiative established by the SDG Unit in the Department of Communication, Climate Action, and Environment. The Minister and the Department believe that the SDG Champions Programme has the potential to achieve nationwide prominence and raise public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The purpose of the SDG Champions Programme is primarily to raise public awareness of the SDGs, and secondarily to illustrate practical ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs, using Champion organisations' practices as examples.

Each Champion organisation is focusing primarily on a select number of SDGs each. As individual Champions will promote specific SDGs, each of the twelve campaigns will be distinct in terms of the goals they are championing.

However, all twelve campaigns will be built around the core message that the Sustainable Development Goals are for everyone in society and that everyone can make a contribution, large or small, to their success.



The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is Ireland's largest sporting and community organisation. It is celebrated as one of the great amateur sporting associations in the world, promoting Gaelic games such as Hurling, Football, Handball, and Rounders and working with sister associations to promote Ladies Football and Camogie.

The Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance, and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. The GAA is based on the traditional parishes and Counties of Ireland and with 1,600 Clubs on the island the GAA is committed to developing healthy and sustainable communities. GAA activities support a variety of the SDGs. Good Health & Wellbeing are direct outcomes of participation in physical activity and meaningful social engagement. We offer opportunities for both through quality coaching and initiatives delivered by our Community & Health Department, such as the Healthy Club Project.

We are innovators in Quality Education through our Coach Education and Officer Development Programmes as well as in mainstream education with our GAA Future Leaders Transition Year Programme. The GAA club ensures that the Association has a footprint in the physical environment of nearly every community in Ireland. Conscious of our impact on the physical environment, we endeavour to work in harmony with our surroundings to support biodiversity and life on land and are building a Green Club Toolkit to further our contribution in a sustainable way.

By building partnerships with other stakeholders at all levels of the Association, the GAA endeavours to embed sustainable development concepts and practices throughout the organisation. Our Clubs have been innovators in addressing many of Ireland's social concerns and are already rising to the challenge of supporting the SDGs.