NGOS LEADING THE WAY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
INTRODUCTION

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. More and more companies are signing on to reach the SDGs through corporate actions such as reducing water, curtailing emissions, enacting better labor practices and more.

One key way to scale corporate social and environmental programs is to partner with organizations that are already building traction and strong foundations in reaching the SDGs. To help the Sustainable Brands® community build the strongest and most effective partners, we’ve compiled a list of NGOs that are each focused on the SDGs.

This collection lists each of the 17 SDGs and several corresponding NGOs that focus on each of the goals. Such a compilation will encourage flourishing partnerships between the private and non-profit sectors, and ultimately help to reach the UN’s ambitious Sustainable Development Goals.
Sustainable Development Goal #1

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

ACUMEN

Changing the way the world tackles poverty

Raises charitable donations for companies/leaders/ideas that are working on poverty issues. Corporations can partner with Acumen to provide financial and human capital. Partners can participate in multiple networking events, reports, and more.

International non-governmental organization that promotes children’s rights, provides relief, provides quality education and preschool programs, books, supplies, educational toys and helps support children in developing countries.

Save the Children

Promotes and protects children’s rights by building powerful partnerships and alliances in and across communities, and from the local to the regional and global level.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Global Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice; uses an impactful community development approach to empower children and families to break the cycle of poverty.

World Vision

Develops support services in human rights and social empowerment, education and health, economic empowerment and enterprise development, livelihood training, environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness.

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Main areas of work include HIV/AIDS, food security, education, gender equality, climate change mitigation, water and sanitation, and economic development in developing and least-developed countries.

care


Sustainable Development Goal #2

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Works to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency.

Helps to guarantee proper nutrition by working on food fortification (increasing the vitamin yields in foods), maternal and infant nutrition through nutrition supplements, and developing more nutritious crops on community farms.

Provides manually-powered water pumps for irrigation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Uses donor funds to design the pumps, establish the supply chains, demonstrate and promote the pumps, and educate farmers about the benefits and methods of irrigation.

Seeks to eradicate poverty and end hunger by empowering smallholder farms in developing countries. Methods to achieve goals include financing for farm inputs, distribution of seed and fertilizer, training on agricultural techniques and market facilitation to maximize profits from harvest sales.

Packs and ships meals to feed people in need, and educates thousands of people each year about hunger to inspire them to help end it.
Sustainable Development Goal #3

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

The largest humanitarian network in the world working to alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity especially during armed conflicts and other emergencies. The ICRC ensures that people affected by conflict can get basic health care that meets universally recognized standards.

Delivers emergency medical care to millions of people caught in crises in more than 60 countries around the world. MSF provides assistance when catastrophic events—such as armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, or natural disasters—overwhelm local health systems.

Works across Africa and Asia to ensure that more people—particularly women and children—receive the essential nutrients needed to build healthy immune systems and live happy, productive lives for years to come.

Works closely with the local government of nations and their medical and academic institutions to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care. Establishes long-term relationships with sister organizations based in settings of poverty and strives to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need of them and to serve as an antidote to despair.

Works to improve market dynamics for medicines and diagnostics; lower prices for treatment; accelerate access to lifesaving technologies; and help governments build the capacity required for high-quality care and treatment programs.

Trains health workers of Africa in the medical areas which affect the continent to the greatest extent; equips communities with the knowledge, skills and means to maintain their good health and break the cycle of poor health and poverty.

Works to improve the health of people in the developing world by focusing on serious challenges like a lack of family planning, HIV and AIDS, barriers to maternal health, and the greatest threats to children under five, including malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition.
Sustainable Development Goal #4

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING

Encourages the growth, development and distribution of free, multilingual, educational content, and provides the full content of these wiki-based projects to the public free of charge.

Contributes to literacy worldwide by innovating and implementing simple, scalable, and cost-effective solutions, especially using mass media and information technologies.

Focuses on literacy and gender equality in education and works with communities and local governments across Asia and Africa to develop literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children. Supports girls to complete secondary school with the life skills they’ll need to succeed in school and beyond.

Demystifies technologies and decentralizes their uses by transferring the access, control, management and ownership of sophisticated technologies to rural men and women who can barely read and write.

Works to improve the quality of education in India. As one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the country, Pratham focuses on high-quality, low-cost, and replicable interventions to address gaps in the education system.
Sustainable Development Goal #5

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

FAWE works hand-in-hand with communities, schools, civil society, NGOs and ministries to achieve gender equity and equality in education through targeted programs.

Provides world’s poorest and most vulnerable women with quality family planning and reproductive healthcare. Works with individuals in remote rural areas and in urban slums whose poor access to family planning and reproductive health care only exacerbates their poverty and vulnerability.

Leads a locally owned, globally connected civil society movement that provides and enables services and champions sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, especially the underserved.

A college for women in East Africa offering a unique model of market-relevant education that enables young women to achieve economic independence and obtain leadership roles in the workplace and in society.

Strengthens grassroots women’s organizations in war, disaster and their aftermath to help women build new skills and step up as leaders valued in their communities.

Works with grassroots women’s and human rights organizations and individual activists [as] they document violence and discrimination against women and mobilize international action to support efforts to stop these abuses.
Sustainable Development Goal #6

ENSURE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Provides innovative, market-based water solutions, and partners with local communities to determine what type of water project will be needed, what technologies will be used, and how this project will be maintained.

Publishes water resource education materials, provides training workshops on diverse water topics, organizes inspiring community water events, builds a worldwide network of educators, water resource professionals, NGOs, water scientists.

Designs water access projects using a human rights-based approach, to integrate rights and dignity into the plans and processes of development.

Works in the world’s poorest countries helping communities to set up and manage practical and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

Works with local partners to select water point locations based on geography, assessments of need and potential for building strong relationships with local stakeholders.
Eradicates energy poverty by empowering women with economic opportunity. The organization is creating a deliberately woman-centered direct sales network to bring the breakthrough potential of clean energy technology to even the most remote communities in rural Africa.

Promotes safe motherhood and reduces maternal mortality in developing regions by providing health workers with reliable lighting, mobile communication, and blood bank refrigeration using solar electricity.

Leads initiatives to deliver climate and clean energy policies, models, and partnerships that accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy.

Addresses energy poverty by providing solar-powered lighting to schools that lack access to electricity.
Sustainable Development Goal #8

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

A nonprofit social investment fund that grows rural prosperity in poor, environmentally vulnerable places in Africa and Latin America by lending capital and delivering financial training to farmer associations and various private businesses to aid their development.

Haiti’s largest microfinance institution, offering a full range of financial and development services to Haiti’s rural poor. Provides women with the required resources and job training to escape poverty.

Aims to develop positive economies through micro-finance strategies, and has become a large-scale movement offering both financial and non-financial services, improving the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

Through lending, individuals are able to improve the living conditions of people even while living outside of communities with access to traditional forms of finance, credit, and banking.
Sustainable Development Goal #9

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Works with pro bono architects and engineers to create a design that takes into account local resources, topography and climate to create an efficient and sustainable structure that meets the needs of the local organization.

Focuses on climate change, green growth and sustainable development. Works in partnership with domestic and international organisations, to contribute effectively to climate change adaptation and be a leading NGO in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation in Vietnam.

Programmatic areas include building resilient infrastructure, transforming energy systems, managing data and information to support sustainable development governance and more.
Sustainable Development Goal #10

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Works across the globe to ensure that ordinary people have access to essential public services like education and health care and stop tax dodging so that everyone feels the benefits not just the few.

Represents 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors and is a force in global solidarity taking up the fight for better working conditions and trade union rights around the world.

Publishes more than 100 reports and briefings on human rights conditions in some 90 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media. Meets with governments, the UN, regional groups, financial institutions, and corporations to press for changes in policy and practice that promote human rights and justice around the world.

Verité aims to ensure that globalization is made to work for poor and vulnerable people around the world, and that powerful institutions - particularly the private sector - take responsibility for solving human rights problems where goods are made and crops are grown.
Sustainable Development Goal #11

MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

C40 is a network of the world’s megacities committed to addressing climate change. Brings together a unique set of assets and creates a shared sense of purpose. C40 offers cities an effective forum where they can collaborate, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.

IUFN is a sustainable food systems for city regions international hub, bringing together [the] international research community and local authorities around local food challenge[s].

100RC supports the adoption and incorporation of a view of resilience that includes not just the shocks—earthquakes, fires, floods, etc.—but also the stresses that weaken the fabric of a city on a day to day or cyclical basis.

Helps members to make their cities and regions sustainable, low-carbon, resilient, ecomobile, biodiverse, resource-efficient and productive, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure.
The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a CEO-led organization of forward-thinking companies that galvanizes the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment.

GreenBlue is dedicated to the sustainable use of materials in society. They bring together a diversity of stakeholders to encourage innovation and best practices to promote the creation of a more sustainable materials economy.

Works to enable businesses and consumers to make informed choices about the forest products they buy. Their membership consensus sets the FSC Principles and Criteria - the highest standards of forest management which are environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable.

An institution for scientific research, outreach and transfer activities on sustainable consumption and production.

A knowledge network of professionals working at the interface of material consumption, human well-being, and technological and cultural change.
Conducts independent research and draws on the latest technology to develop new insights and recommendations. Uses research to influence government policies, business strategies, and civil society action.

The nation’s largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization; recently has led the charge to move away from the dirty fossil fuels that cause climate disruption and toward a clean energy economy.

An independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to advance strong policy and action to address our climate and energy challenges. C2ES is the successor to the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

NRDC creates solutions for lasting environmental change, protecting natural resources in the United States and across the globe. Has more than two million members and online activists, 500 scientists, lawyers, and policy advocates across the globe.

A leading independent campaigning organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and to promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future.

A worldwide network of over 950 NGOs in more than 110 countries, working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.
Sustainable Development Goal #14

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES

Ocean Conservancy works to protect the ocean from today’s greatest global challenges, and creates science-based solutions for a healthy ocean and the wildlife and communities that depend on it.

Explores the global ocean, inspiring and educating people throughout the world to act responsibly for its protection, documenting the critical connection between humanity and nature, and celebrating the ocean’s vital importance to the survival of all life on our planet.

Uses directed policy campaigns that achieve measurable outcomes that make oceans more bio diverse and abundant.
Sustainable Development Goal #15

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

Promotes practical, innovative solutions to create a prosperous, low-carbon future that is cleaner, healthier, and more secure for everyone.

Combines global reach with a foundation in science, involves action at every level from local to global, and ensures the delivery of innovative solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature.

Works closely with those who span the social and political spectrum, but who are connected by a common commitment to conservation.

Helps craft markets that value nature and people, scales solutions by partnering with unlikely allies, builds strong, nonpartisan support for policy progress, and uses science to critically evaluate and measure work and results.

The nation’s original and largest nonprofit environmental law organization, leverages expertise and commitment to fight for justice and advance the promise of a healthy world for all.

Entrepreneurs, businesses, and industries around the world use the Rainforest Alliance to connect with a growing community of conservation-oriented consumers.
Sustainable Development Goal #16

PROMOTE JUST, PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

One of the largest advocacy organizations globally, and works on all the following issues, and more: prisoner rights, poverty and human rights, the death penalty, refugee rights, torture, human rights, LGBT rights, and censorship and free speech.

Involved with promoting anti-corruption measures while ensuring that victims and witnesses are given voices in over 100 countries.

Work covers three objectives: increase the influence of civil society in decision-making processes, connect civil society organizations and citizens to the available resources in their community, and enable civil society work through legal protections.

Encourages the development of tolerant democratic societies where the diversity of opinions are heard, rather than repressed by governments. Works in 5 core areas: education, governance, health, media, and justice.
Sustainable Development Goal #17

REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mobilizes a network of investors, companies and public interest groups to accelerate and expand the adoption of sustainable business practices and solutions to build a healthy global economy.

Engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

The Global Partnership focuses on enhancing countries’ capacity to improve results in basic education in equity, inclusion, learning, and to build stronger education systems.

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) is an open platform that unites CSOs from around the world on the issue of development effectiveness. It welcomes the participation of any CSO that endorses its vision, mission and goals.
ABOUT SUSTAINABLE BRANDS

Sustainable Brands® is the premier global community of brand innovators who are shaping the future of commerce worldwide. Since 2006, our mission has been to inspire, engage and equip today’s business and brand leaders to prosper for the near and long term by leading the way to a better future. Digitally published news articles and issues-focused conversation topics, internationally known conferences and regional events, a robust e-learning library and peer-to-peer membership groups all facilitate community learning and engagement throughout the year.

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