







Global Action Award

2023 Activity Guide for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors









Global Action Award

In 2015, leaders around the world agreed to work together to accomplish 17 goals by 2030. These are referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals—"SDGs" or "global goals" for short. The goals focus on things like taking care of the environment, making sure all people have enough to eat, and improving people's health. They're big goals, but Girl Scouts know a thing or two about changing the world!

The Girl Scout Global Action award calls for girls to address the global goals by discovering, connecting, and taking action in their communities and the world. In 2023, the award focuses on SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Learning About the Global Goals

If the global goals are new to you, start by teaming up with an adult to go online and learn about the SDGs at www.globalgoals.org. You can also read a short booklet about the goals called The World We Want: Guide to the Goals for Children and Young People, available for free at World's Largest Lesson. Or read The Sustainable Development Goals booklet.

Once you know what the goals are, you're ready to move on to the activities you can do to earn your Girl Scout Global Action award.

Note: Some of the targets that the United Nations created for the Sustainable Development Goals refer to sensitive issues. Volunteers should talk with parents and guardians and obtain parental/caregiver permission before discussing this topic with troop members. Choose the issues or targets that are appropriate for your group and context. Your council may have a "sensitive issues" form that you can use. Please consult with your council before discussing content of a sensitive or controversial nature to ensure that appropriate training, planning, and permission is established.

Girl Scouts of the USA understands that parents or guardians are the primary decision makers for their children, and therefore does not expect or require troop members to participate in any activities relating to the Sustainable Development Goals that may be inconsistent with their family's faith or beliefs.



































The 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015

^{1.} GSUSA acknowledges the Global Goals Campaign. For more, see https://www.globalgoals.org/asset-licence (accessed April 14, 2021)

^{2.} Arenas, Paola, and Dora Bardales, The World We Want: A Guide to the Goals for Children and Young People, August 2015, Global Movement for Children of Latin America and Caribbean – MMI-LAC, PDF. 3. "The Sustainable Development Goals," United Nations, 2017, https://issuu.com/unpublications/docs/sdg_yak_en.

Earning Your Global Action Award

This year, the Global Action Award focuses on Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. By exploring this goal, you'll think twice about the waste we create and how it impacts us and our planet.

Every Girl Scout must complete five steps to earn her Global Action award. The first, second, and fourth steps have three activities to choose from. You only need to do one activity in each of those steps to earn the award, but don't let that stop you—you can do as many as you'd like!

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Steps:

- 1. Explore the Global Goals and Global Action Award.
- **2.** Explore what responsible consumption means.
- **3.** Create a responsible consumption challenge.
- **4.** Find out what responsible production means.
- **5.** Create a responsible production challenge.

When you've earned this award, you'll understand how the things we use and the waste we create impacts us and our planet. You'll create two separate challenges for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Goal 12 wants to make us think twice about the things we use, the waste we create, and how that impacts us and our planet. Changing our behavior to take more sustainable actions, such as recycling, really makes a difference when everyone—that includes individuals, companies, and governments—contributes. There are many little things we can all do to achieve this goal. Goal 12 aims to improve the quality of life of all people, and not just a few, everywhere on the planet.

For responsible consumption, you'll challenge yourselves, each other, and your community about how you consume things and deal with waste.

For responsible production, you'll challenge businesses and governments about production and manufacturing practices, sustainability, distribution, imports and exports, and protection of land for materials.







STEP 1. Explore the Global Goals and Global Action Award

Start your award experience by learning more about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This activity is a good one to do with your Girl Scout troop or a group of friends. Look at the Global Goals Icon Grid and Descriptions included in this packet so that you are familiar with them.

Think of the goals as a compass or roadmap to sustainable development. The goals cover three basic areas:

Economy: Address ways to end poverty.

Environment: Tackle climate change action.

Society: Speak to the fight against inequality.

Choice 1. Get to know the Global Goals themes.

Look at the goals and write the number and keyword for each goal underneath the three categories outlined above. Were there any goals you felt fit into more than one category? Which ones?

As a group or individually, choose a goal and research it by answering these questions:

- ➤ What do I know about the goal?
- ▶ What does the world know about the goal?
- ▶ What can we do about it?

Then, with a focus on the theme for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, read a story from pages 10 to 23 in #What Do You Care

About: Stories for a Sustainable Future. These can help give ideas on what type of message to create for SDG 12.

Finally, create a graphic or meme that sends a message about SDG 12. Share your work with your troop and get feedback from each other.



Choice 2. Track the goals' progress.

Our World in Data created an <u>interactive SDG Tracker</u>. Their aim? To show the progress as targets for the goals are achieved.

In this activity, you'll need a computer with internet.

Browse the targets for each of the goals to get more specifics about what each goal is trying to achieve. Make sure to look at SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.⁴

Next, go online to the SDG Tracker. Click on the full list of definitions and find the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Become familiar with the items under SDG 12. Discuss these with your troop.

Click on each of the 17 goal icons to find out how they're progressing. What goal is progressing more than others? How is the world doing on SDG 12?

Finally, look at the findings in the latest publications on the Our World in Data website. Read at least two stories that interest you and share the information and data with friends and family. Did you learn anything that might explain why some of the goals are progressing faster than others?

Choice 3. What world do you want in 2030?

One definition for sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." What does this mean to you? We need to consider how the plans and changes we make now affect the future.

What are some ways you can leave a responsible footprint that considers the world you live in today and the one that you will ultimately leave behind for future generations? You can do things like recycle, use less energy, eat local, plant a garden, avoid the use of plastics, or ride a bike instead of taking a car.

In this activity you will work in groups or individually to create your vision for Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Before you do a deeper dive into the subject to earn your award, start by imagining how your community practices responsible consumption and production.

Draw a map of areas in your community where you might explore responsible consumption and production. It might be a factory, a landfill, a recycling plant, or your waterways.



Consider these questions:

- ► How does your community handle its environment and natural resources?
- ▶ Are there solar options and other alternate energy options available?
- ➤ What does your community do for water sources and waste management?
- ➤ Are there easy-to-read handouts or posters that you or any community member can find to explain how they can be responsible citizens?

STEP 2. Explore What Responsible Consumptions Means

Worldwide, our consumption and production habits are a driving force of the global economy—but they also waste our limited natural resources and destroy the environment.

Sustainable, responsible consumption and production is about doing more and better with less.

It's also about reversing economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency, and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Being sustainable and responsible will help alleviate poverty and our transition to low-carbon and green economies.

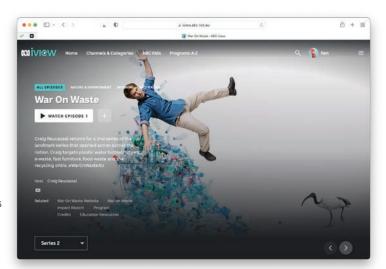
In this step, you'll explore consumption—how we consume things and deal with waste.

Choice 1: Conduct a waste audit.

Waste is unavoidable. No matter how much we try, we end up wasting. Most people don't realize the amount of waste they produce. The important thing is we can manage and control what we waste by making some lifestyle changes.

If it's available, watch the Australian threepart documentary series called *War on Waste*. ⁵ Check out the different types of waste: food, plastic, fashion, and more.

Read this list: 16 Fun Recycling Facts. 6 Which of these surprised you the most?





In this activity, you will conduct a <u>waste audit</u> to see what you are throwing away that should not go into the trash.⁷ An actual waste audit requires going through trash and separating out items into categories. If you decide to do the audit this way, make sure to wear heavy duty gloves and have a place outside to lay out and sort the trash.

Another way to do a trash audit is to team up with your friends to make a list of everything you and your family might throw out in a day. Make sure to have a pen and paper for this activity; a scale is optional.

To prepare for this activity, track your family for a week and record what items you all throw out. Before you empty a trash can, you might want to look at what's in it to see if it matches up with what you've recorded.

With your friends or at your troop meeting, think about common things we throw out:

- ➤ Plastic bottles
- ➤ Other plastic
- ➤ Glass
- ➤ Food waste
- ➤ Packaging materials
- ➤ Aluminum cans
- ➤ Paper products

Imagine and estimate how much you and your family throw out, or use the data you've collected beforehand. For example, how many aluminum cans? Pieces of paper? Plastic bags? Packaging? Can you estimate how many pounds of food waste you discard?

Then, categorize the waste. What goes to:

A landfill?

Composting?

Recycling?

Donations?

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If you have access to a scale:

- ➤ For fun, put some food scraps on a scale to get an idea how much food weighs.
- ➤ If you have a trash can in your home or meeting area, weigh it. Then weigh it again one week later after you have done the waste audit. Do you see a reduction?





















With your friends, discuss:

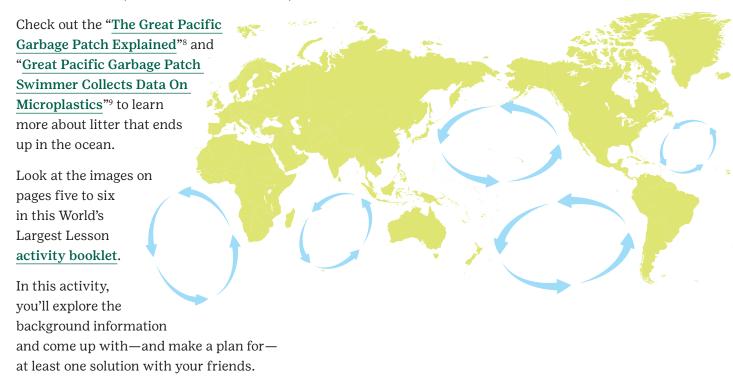
- ▶ How many plastics came from the bathroom? Kitchen?
- ▶ What kind of trash do you produce the most of?
- ▶ How will keeping track of waste help keep things greener?
- ➤ What can you do to take action against unnecessary waste? What kind of recycling plan can you start at home or for your school or troop?

What are some innovations you think can help avoid waste?

Choice 2: Explore waste in our oceans.

It is estimated that 8 million tons of plastic waste end up in the ocean every year.

Plastic is one of the main waste products that end up in the sea, although marine waste can include anything from glass to cans to abandoned sailing boats. Many of the objects in the ocean end up in giant accumulation zones called "gyres." These are massive areas formed by ocean currents where waste gathers. Much of it is actually under the surface and made up of microplastics. There are five known gyres: two in the Pacific Ocean, two in the Atlantic Ocean, and one in the Indian Ocean.



⁹ Credit: Forbes Magazine, https://www.forbes.com/

For example, you might:

- ► Get the word out about using fewer plastic products and share it on social media. See the box for ideas.
- ➤ Coordinate a volunteer day to help keep waterways (streams, lakes, and rivers) trash-free.
- ► Keep a record of the types of plastics and sources found in waterways to report to your local government, community leaders, and retailers.
- ▶ Attend a community gathering to come up with solutions about avoiding plastic that originates from various sources. For example, replace plastic straws with paper ones at your local eateries.
- ▶ Volunteer with a local community group engaged in creating and sharing solutions.
- ➤ Come up with an innovative solution like edible cutlery to replace plastic utensils or another idea that reduces your community's use of plastic.



Avoid Ocean Debris

- ➤ Don't drop litter. Always put your garbage in a trash can.
- ➤ Carry a reusable water bottle; avoid buying plastic bottles.
- Grocery shop with cloth or reusable bags to avoid using plastic bags.
- Consider packaging before buying an item.
- ► Be careful how you throw away a fishing line.
- ➤ Carefully choose grooming and beauty products that don't have microbeads.
- ➤ Recycle whenever possible.
- ➤ Decorate plastic containers and reuse them to store things.
- ➤ Repurpose worn-out clothes into rags or bed linings for pets.

Choice 3: Get inspired by Earth Overshoot Day.

Earth Overshoot Day marks the day each year when humans collectively use up all the resources for a year's worth of living sustainably on the planet.

When we overshoot, we go off the path of sustainability.

To determine Earth Overshoot Day each year, the Global Footprint Network calculates the number of days of that year that Earth's biocapacity is enough to provide for human's ecological footprints. Biocapacity is the capacity of an ecosystem to provide natural resources and absorb and filter waste, like carbon dioxide.

Biocapacity is used together with the ecological footprint to measure human's impact on the environment.

Until the 1970s, our human demands were still in line with Earth's biological capacity. But since then, we have been eating into more and more of future generations' resources and decreasing what the planet needs in order to regenerate, as we clear more land, create more waste, and pump more carbon into the atmosphere.

Here's the formula: (Earth's Biocapacity / Humanity's Ecological Footprint) x 365 = Earth Overshoot Day

Watch *Ecological Footprint of Countries: Deficit or Reserve?* and Look at the data footprint for the United States. Check out the list of countries with biocapacity reserves and deficits. Where does the United States rank?

In this activity, you will measure your ecological footprint on the Global Footprint

Network. 10 You'll find out much land is required to sustain the way you use natural resources.

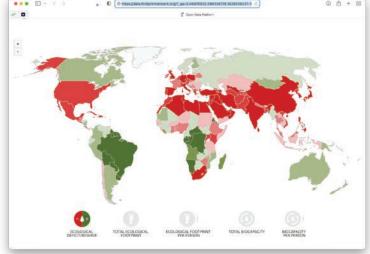
In other words, find out what you do every day that might create stress on the planet.

After you measure your ecological footprint, discuss your results and possible solutions with your friends or family:

If everyone lived like you, how many earths would we need?

What was your reaction to your results: shocked, inspired, helpless, intrigued, worried, embarrassed, confused?

What solutions would you add? How can you help #MoveTheDate of your personal overshoot day?



STEP 3. Create a Responsible Consumption Challenge

In this activity, you will create a challenge for how you, your friends and family, and community can practice responsible consumption.

Your challenge might be tied to how to reduce the amount of waste in your home, school, or community. Or create a challenge to reduce plastic use and waste in your waterways. You might educate and then challenge your friends, family, and community to assess their ecological footprints and help #MoveTheDate for Earth Overshoot Day.

Start by deciding what challenge means most to you and how you'll deliver your challenge message.

Share what you know about responsible consumption with others by creating a social media message, video, poster, or blog. Let them know what personal pledges and actions you've taken to becoming more responsible about consumption and waste.

If you decide to share on social media, be sure to talk with your parents or caregivers first and get their permission. Review the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for more information. Be sure to tag Girl Scouts of the USA and your local council and use the hashtag #GlobalGoals12.

How will you get people to participate in your challenge? What do you want them to commit to? Can you help people come together to work toward a collective goal?



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STEP 4. Explore What Responsible Production Means

Responsible production is when goods and services are manufactured and delivered in ethical and sustainable ways. This might include practices that:

- ➤ Minimize carbon emissions at all stages of production (carbon harms the atmosphere).
- ▶ Use renewable energy in production and service facilities.
- ▶ Control and reduce harmful emissions and pollutants.
- ▶ Use environmentally safe chemicals, dyes, soaps, and solutions.
- ➤ Use energy-efficient lighting.
- ► Ensure all supplies are sustainably sourced and certified.
- ▶ Reduce the volume of packing materials.
- ➤ Invest in eco-friendly packaging.
- ▶ Make environmental health and safety a priority.

Find out more about responsible production and your role in it.

Choice 1: Find out about palm oil.

Almost all land that is used for farming today was once forest or jungle. As the world's population has grown, our need for more food has also increased. The demand for more food and products means that more land is turned from forest or jungle into farmland, which can have a lasting impact on the environment, plants, and animals.

Palm oil is the world's most popular vegetable oil and is found in 50% of consumer products, including vitamins, soap, toothpaste, bread, margarine, and even dairy. Palm oil is made from oil palm trees which are easy to grow in the tropics and need less land than other vegetable oil crops.

By growing oil palm trees in a sustainable way, farmers can protect animals, the environment, and people who live in the area and work to make palm oil. This is why Girl Scouts supports the production and use of sustainable palm oil.

Watch this short video: Ensuring Sustainable Palm Oil. 11

Palm oil is also an ingredient used in Girl Scout Cookies, so Girl Scouts of the USA and the baker partners, Little Brownie Bakers and ABC Bakers are members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).



RSPO is an organization that sets the rules for sustainable palm oil. When a farmer grows oil palm trees in line with these rules that protect animals, the environment, and people who live and work in oil palm producing countries—then the oil that comes from these farms is known as "sustainable palm oil."

Palm oil is an ongoing issue, not just for Girl Scouts but for most manufacturers. The unique properties in palm oil make it hard to replace but the pressure is on to find alternatives. Until we can replicate palm oil, we can limit its environmental impact by changing the way it's produced.

Learn more about sustainable palm oil with the <u>Sustainable Palm Oil</u> Toolkit created by RSPO that includes a volunteer guide by Girl Scouts.

In this activity, you and your friends will learn how palm oil is produced and the difference between palm oil and sustainable palm oil. Find out more about RSPO and what they're committed to.

Then check if your favorite brands are <u>certified members of RSPO.</u>¹² Check the <u>WWF Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard</u> to find out how your favorite brands support the use of sustainable palm oil.¹³

If they're not, create a petition or write an email or letter to a decision-maker at the company to let them know what you've learned about palm oil and how important it is for them to make a change.

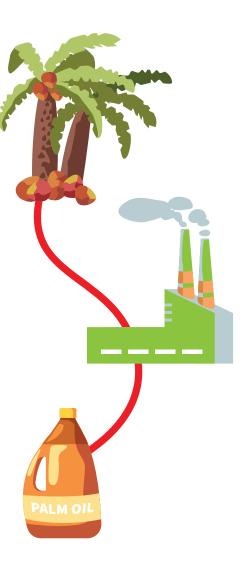
Choice 2: Explore the right to repair.

Reuse, repair, and recycle are three tenets to climate action, and in this activity, you'll focus on repair.

Have you ever owned a device, such as a phone or computer that became obsolete because it was no longer compatible with other devices, parts were not available, or repairs cost more than replacement? This happens a lot, and it is avoidable!

"Right to repair" means if you own something, you should be able to repair it yourself or take it to a technician of your choice so that it can be repaired.

The government recently passed right-to-repair legislation to promote repairability practices throughout industries, including consumer technology, agriculture equipment, and medical equipment. The executive order requires manufacturers to sell replacement parts and make it easier for people to extend the life of the products they buy. Right-to-repair laws will help reduce the amount of electronic waste.



The Right to Repair Act allows independent mechanics to access diagnostic tools in cars. This means car owners are no longer forced to take their vehicles to dealers' service department, which might be more expensive.

Repair seems like a simple right, but modern technology, especially anything with a computer chip, has made this almost impossible for a variety of reasons. As a result, we need governments and other big institutions to take action to make the right a reality.

In this activity, you'll first explore the right to repair in your area. Find <u>your state</u> in the repair.org website.¹⁴ Then talk to your friends or family about a repair story. Is there something you or someone you know had to discard because it couldn't be repaired?

Next, with your troop, find a repair shop in your community and, either virtually or in person, talk to a professional who does repair work. It doesn't matter what they repair—it can be anything, from bicycles to boots to appliances to computers. Find out what access they have to tools, parts, manuals, and diagnostics. What do they think are best practices for the care and repair of the products you own?

France passed a <u>tech repairability index</u>, which requires makers of certain devices to tell consumers how repairable they are. Would that make a difference for you as a consumer? Should we have a similar requirement in the United States? How can we make this information more accessible to consumers? Check out the electronic product environmental assessment tool <u>(EPEAT) calculator</u> created by the Global Electronics Council. Does this have enough focus on repairability in its sustainability scores?

Choice 3: Be a champion of slow fashion.

Have you ever bought something and wondered what it's made of and where it came from? Look down at the clothes you are wearing. Do you know what fabrics they are made of? Do you know where they came from?

"Slow fashion" means having an awareness and approach to fashion that considers all aspects of the process and resources required to make clothing. It's a type of sustainable and ethical fashion that values fair treatment of people, animals, and our planet. "Fast fashion," on the other hand, is an approach that focuses on creating items quickly, at little expense, and often with cheap materials, which usually results in a greater environmental impact and lower wages for the workers making the clothes.

Slow fashion zeroes in on reducing consumption and production.



¹⁴ Credit: The Repair Association, https://www.repair.org/

¹⁵ Credit: Wired Magazine, https://www.wired.com/

¹⁶ Credit: Global Electronics Council, https://globalelectronicscouncil.org/

In this activity, you'll read "See the horrifying place where your old clothes go to die." 17

Discuss with friends or family: What was your immediate response to the image in the article? How did you feel about clothes you own and your fashion desires after reading the article?

Then watch the video, <u>Fashion Avenger</u> from The Global Goals. If you're inspired, join the <u>Fashion Avenger Global Goals movement</u> by following their three steps.

Finally:

1. Investigate your personal fashion habits.

- ▶ What brands do you currently buy? Check your labels.
- ▶ Where do you shop?
- ➤ Why?
- ▶ What changes can you make to become a more sustainable shopper?
- ➤ Are there alternative brands or stores that you could choose? Share one sustainable shopping option in your community.

Consider: Sometimes we choose a retailer because it costs less or it is a big brand we know about. But if the clothes are made quickly and with cheap materials, they don't last as long so we end up creating more waste and may spend more money over time replacing them. When we focus on sustainable choices, we extend the life of our clothes and encourage clothing companies to be more sustainable, too.

2. Check the tag inside any piece of clothing you own or are wearing.

- ➤ What kind of information does it provide (aside from cleaning instructions)?
- ➤ Record the brand name, materials used, and where it was produced. Find out about materials and chemicals in "The Ugly Truth About Fashion" on the Responsibility in Fashion website.¹⁸
- ▶ Research the impact your item may have had on the people who produced it and on the environment. Write down what you find.



3. Find a slow fashion designer or brand online.

- ▶ Find out their process for making and distributing clothing.
- ▶ Share the information you found with your friends and family.
- ▶ Discuss ways you plan to be part of the slow fashion movement.

Tip: Second-hand clothes are also a part of the slow fashion movement. Instead of (or in addition to) finding slow fashion designers, you could focus on getting your clothes as hand-me-downs from friends or family or shopping at thrift stores, consignment stores, and garage sales. This eliminates new production altogether!

STEP 5. Create a Responsible Production Challenge

To create responsible production, it's important to know what you can do, such as buying products that:

- ➤ Make a low environmental impact,
- ➤ Are non-toxic,
- ▶ Give back locally, and
- ➤ Are ethically and morally driven.

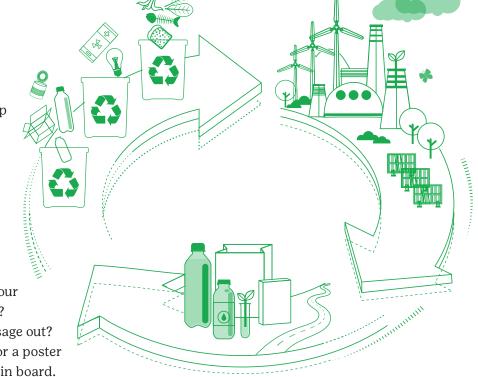
With these action items in mind, come up with a responsible production challenge for consumers and businesses in your community. Remember to be specific: What will they commit to doing? By when?

Then, spread the message on what you learned about responsible production.

- ➤ What will you tell your family about your message for responsible consumption?
- ➤ What else can you do to get your message out? For example, you might put up flyers or a poster at your town hall or community bulletin board.

If you decide to share on social media, be sure to talk with your parents or caregivers first and get their permission. Review the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for more information. Be sure to tag Girl Scouts of the USA and your local council and use the hashtag #GlobalGoals12.

When you are finished with all five steps, make sure you celebrate! By earning your Global Action Award you've helped the world get one step closer to achieving the Global Goals!







Glossary

Biodegradable: When something can be broken down naturally by living organisms, such as bacteria

Biocapacity: Capacity of an ecosystem to provide natural resources and absorb and filter waste, like carbon dioxide, and a capacity which is unsustainable if the area's ecological footprint exceeds it

Compost: To create a mixture of decaying organic matter, such as dead leaves or kitchen scraps, that can be used as fertilizer to grow plants

Earth Overshoot Day: Marks the day each year when humans collectively use up all the resources for a year's worth of living sustainably on the planet

Ecological footprint: Measures the demand a human makes on the planet when using its natural resources

Environment: The air, water, and land in or on which people, animals, and plants live

Palm oil: An edible vegetable oil that comes from the fruit of palms and is an ingredient used in food products, detergents, cosmetics, and even biofuel

Pollution: Anything that causes harm to the environment, like smoke from a factory

Responsible consumption: How we consume things and deal with waste

Responsible production: When goods and services are manufactured and delivered in ethical and sustainable ways

Slow fashion: A type of sustainable and ethical fashion that values fair treatment of people, animals, and our planet and that emphasizes an awareness and approach to fashion that considers all aspects of the processes and resources required to make clothing

Sustainable/sustainability: When something can last or continue for a long time

United Nations: Organization formed to promote international peace, security, and cooperation among countries in the world (**Fun fact:** The United Nations headquarters is in New York City, the same city as Girl Scouts of the USA headquarters!)



Global Goals Icon Grid and One-Sentence Global Goal Descriptions





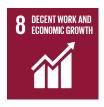






























- **Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- **Goal 2:** End hunger and ensure everyone has access to healthy and nutritious food.
- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and good education for all people.
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **Goal 6:** Make sure everyone has access to safe and clean water.
- **Goal 7:** Make sure everyone has access to safe and clean energy.
- **Goal 8:** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth so that everyone is able to have decent work prospects.
- **Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure and ensure these do not harm the environment or people, and help companies to design and create new technologies and innovations.
- **Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- **Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- **Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and help stop food waste.
- **Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- **Goal 14.** Conserve and protect the oceans and marine life.
- **Goal 15:** Protect, restore, and promote nature and the animals that live in it.
- **Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all; and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- **Goal 17:** Create new partnerships around the world for the SDGs.