The United States, the SDGs, and SDSN USA

Professor Jeffrey Sachs
July 16, 2019
6 Transformations

1. Education, Gender and Inequality  SDGs 1,5,7-10,12-15,17
2. Health, Wellbeing and Demography  SDGs 1,2,3,4,5,10
3. Energy Decarbonization and Sustainable Industry  SDGs 1-16
4. Sustainable Food, Land, Water, and Oceans  SDGs 1-3.5,6,8,10-15
5. Sustainable Cities and Communities  SDGs 1-16
6. Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development  SDGs 1-4,7-13,17
1. Denmark
2. Sweden
3. Finland
4. France

35. United States

The US ranks 35th in the world on SDGs
Sustainable Development Report

Six Transformations
Global SDG Index and Dashboards
Notable US Weaknesses:

Zero Hunger (SDG 2)  
Gender Equality (SDG 5)  
Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)  
Waste and Pollution (SDG 12)  

Climate Change (SDG 13)  
Violence (SDG 16)  
Lack of Global Partnership (SDG 17)

Source: 2019 Sustainable Development Report, SDSN
SDG 1: Poverty Rates
(OECD, 2017*)

Unit: ratio of those below the poverty line/ half the median income of total population

*Year is 2017, or most recently recorded
SDG 5: Women Ministers
(OECD, 2017*)

Unit: Percent

*Year is 2017, or most recently recorded
SDG 10: Gini Coefficient (OECD, 2017*)

Unit: 0 = complete equality; 1 = complete inequality

*Year is 2017, or most recently recorded
SDG 13: Greenhouse Gases Per Capita
(OECD, 2016*)

Unit: Tonnes/Capita

*Year is 2016, or most recently recorded
SDG 17: Official Development Assistance (OECD, 2017*)

Unit: % Gross National Income (GNI)

*Year is 2017, or most recently recorded
SDSN National & Regional Networks
Global Networks & Projects

- **Thematic Networks**
  - The World in 2050
  - Education, Quality and Learning for All (EQUAL)
  - Health for All
  - Sustainable Cities: Inclusive, Resilient, and Connected
  - TReNDS: Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development
  - + more!
- **The Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use, and Energy (FABLE) consortium**
129 Network Member Institutions:

- 96 Universities
- 25 Civil Society Organizations
- 8 Research Institutions

From: 44 US States, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
SDSN USA Activities

• Research and Solutions Initiatives
  • City and State level SDG research and analyses
  • SDG transformations: Pathways Project
• Networking Opportunities
  • Participate in dialogues, cross-sectoral networking opportunities, host events and lectures, and more
Pathways Project towards a US Energy Transformation

➔ Launched in spring 2019
➔ Expands on previous Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project
➔ Focuses on:
   ◆ Energy strategy that links jurisdictional levels
   ◆ Jobs in a low-carbon economy
   ◆ Geospatial planning for the energy transformation
➔ Southeast and Midwest regional studies currently underway
Taking stock of the SDGs in US States
US City and State SDG Indices

The 2019 US Cities Sustainable Development Report

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES 2018
State SDG Index Overall Results –
all states have work to do
City SDG Index Map of MSAs by Index Score Bracket, 2019

Source: SDSN USA analysis of results
State Index 2018

Most progress

1. NO POVERTY
2. CLIMATE ACTION
3. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Least progress

6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Legend:
- Red: Major challenges remain
- Orange: Significant challenges remain
- Yellow: Challenges remain
- Green: Making progress, within range of goal achievement by 2030

Ranks and Scores:
1. Massachusetts
2. Washington
3. Vermont
4. Minnesota
5. Oregon
6. California
7. Maine
8. Maryland
9. New Hampshire
10. Connecticut
11. New York
12. Rhode Island
13. Hawaii
14. New Jersey
15. Colorado
16. Wisconsin
17. Iowa
18. Idaho
19. Nebraska
20. Utah
21. Virginia
22. Illinois
23. South Dakota
24. Montana
25. Michigan
26. Delaware
27. Kansas
28. North Dakota
29. Arizona
30. Pennsylvania
31. Nevada
32. North Carolina
33. Florida
34. South Carolina
35. Missouri
36. Ohio
37. Tennessee
38. Georgia
39. Wyoming
40. Texas
41. Indiana
42. New Mexico
43. Alaska
44. Kentucky
45. Oklahoma
46. Arkansas
47. Alabama
48. West Virginia
49. Mississippi
50. Louisiana
City Dashboard 2019
2019 US Cities Index: Key Findings

- None of the 105 US cities analyzed have an overall ‘good performance’ on the SDGs
- Localization is key - comparing US City and State Reports highlight need to localize data
- Pernicious inequalities exist and improvements needed on sustainable transit, rent affordability, and energy transition
- Improved data required - most urgently on maternal mortality rates
- EU cities generally outperform US cities

**Figure 1: Overview of Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>0 cities scored 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>Best score on index, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>Average score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>11 cities score 40 or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>Worst score on index, Baton Rouge, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>101 cities scored 0 on at least one indicator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SDSN USA analysis of results
Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

- LNOB prioritizes the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations first
- The 2019 US City Index includes 19 specific indicators and a feature on San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Key Points:**
- In 18 cities, more than 10% of children live below the poverty line
- 64 cities have an incarceration rate higher than any other country in the world (excluding the US)
Wage Gap Best & Worst: US Cities, States, and OECD country Performance

Across top and bottom performers in US cities, states, and OECD countries, US cities consistently perform worse on gender wage gap.

**FIGURE 12: GRAPH OF WAGE GAP PERFORMANCE ACROSS INDICES**
Connect with SDSN USA at usa@unsdn.org

Website: www.sdsnusa.org