



# Position paper UN Sustainable Development Goals

Stockholm June 2017

Swedisol's vision, priorities and action plan for the sustainable development goals, agenda 2030.

Swedisol is engaged in industry-wide issues for the benefit of member companies and other stakeholders. We are an active referral body and opinion builder which represents its members in contact with state and municipal politicians, authorities, organisations and companies. We comply with the ethical rules of the urban development sector.

Swedisol supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals and has the ambition to contribute to a common position and to provide a framework for the priorities - including themes, goals and indicators that we see for the sustainable development goals linked to our industry, as a means to benefit society in general.

Swedisol is the industry organisation for Sweden's leading insulation companies. Our members manufacture and market insulation products made from non-combustible mineral wool. Through our business activities, we contribute towards the progress of all of the goals, in both the short and long term. We believe that the areas of health and urban development are where we can have the greatest positive impact, and have chosen to focus on goals number three, **Good health and well-being**, and number eleven, **Sustainable cities and communities**.

**Swedisol's vision:** Swedish buildings shall be sustainable: have low energy consumption, have a minimal environmental impact while maintaining a high level of interior comfort, and be safe to live in.

In 2015, the 193 member states of the UN adopted 17 new global sustainability goals to promote economic, social and environmental development, with the intention of reaching these goals by 2030. The goals are intended to replace the millennium goals from 2001 and have 169 intermediate targets. Their purpose is to shift focus away from a development perspective, to instead reflect the broader issues underpinning global development, with a particular focus on the economic, environmental and social dimensions. This makes the new goals relevant to all countries across the globe, as well as to business enterprises given that trade and industry are highlighted as important actors for the achievement of the goals.

Support economic growth, trade and investment. Development aid funds alone will not solve the sustainable development goals, everyone has to play their part. By supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, the sustainable creation of jobs and the

establishment of new companies, opportunities for sustainable economic growth are generated.

In Sweden, the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning estimates that 700,000 new dwellings need to be built before 2025. The construction process involved will, in itself, represent a major test. Reducing the environmental impact of buildings without increasing construction costs is also a significant challenge.

One further challenge is to renovate and update existing buildings, improving their energy performance and halving energy consumption. Energy efficiency is a factor which has a positive effect on all of the global sustainability goals. At the same time, we also need to foster a culture where energy efficiency is seen as a critical element of the overall transition towards a renewable energy system. som avgörande för hela omställningen till ett förnybart energisystem.



## Good health and well-being

Good health is one of the fundamental prerequisites for a person's ability to reach their full potential and to contribute to societal development.

We spend up to 90 per cent of our time indoors. The indoor environment is thus a crucial setting for us in ensuring our good health.

With knowledge and quality insulation technology, we can optimise the impact of the indoor climate on our health, and create comfortable surroundings where people can live a healthy life.

Natural raw materials and safe products in our buildings contribute to better health and finances for both society and the individual, in both the short and long term.

The usage of good insulation guarantees safety, health and comfort for those inside the building.



## Sustainable cities and communities

Urbanisation is a huge revolution in progress all over the globe. Over half of the world's population resides in urban areas. By the year 2050, this proportion is expected to have risen to 70 per cent. Cities provide us with the means to reduce our environmental impact.

We need to view cities as a place for solutions that enhance our quality of life, rather than creating problems. Only then will the conditions improve for creating sustainable cities. Improving the efficiency of household energy consumption is a key issue.

The rapid, large migration towards cities imposes new demands that need to be met in a sustainable way, in terms of the environment, the economy and society. Economic sustainability can create the conditions for strengthening social and ecological sustainability.

## Swedisol's programme for the sustainable development goals

### *Good health and well-being*

#### **1. Sustainable cities and communities**

In order to achieve safer buildings, we need the knowledge of how design and materials combine to affect a building's safety within areas such as fire, damp and noise. Swedisol works to minimise fire-load density and fire spread in building compartments, with the aim of ensuring a robust construction which is resistant to damp and minimises noise.

#### **2. Good indoor environment.**

A good indoor environment is important for our health and quality of life. Swedisol's members develop durable products and systems which ensure a good indoor climate and comfortable indoor environment which do not produce harmful emissions.

### *Sustainable cities and communities*

#### **3. Energy efficiency.**

Sweden's buildings have a huge potential for energy savings. In order to succeed in halving energy consumption in our buildings across Sweden, the parliament, government and relevant public authorities have to set strict requirements on low energy consumption in buildings. First and foremost, requirements must be put in place with regard to energy efficient building envelopes with low heat transfer coefficients. Swedisol works to minimise the need for electricity and heating in our buildings, thus contributing to a decreased environmental impact.

#### **4. Effective usage of resources.**

Our planet has finite resources, and to meet the needs of future generations, we have to

improve at using our resources more efficiently. Reusing and recycling are important steps on the way, but we have to impose more stringent demands so that standards are improved in manufacturing, production and demolition. Swedisol's members have developed methods to recycle mineral wool in both production and on construction sites, as well as once a building is ready for demolition.

#### **5. Sustainable construction sector.**

Swedisol aims to contribute to a sustainable construction sector through its member companies taking responsibility for their usage of resources in production, climate emissions, minimising the use of chemicals and issuing clear information which informs customers and users of the benefits of mineral wool insulation.

#### **6. Adapt construction to the conditions of the future**

Extreme weather and a growing population, with different needs, are already the reality and are continuing to grow. Swedisol aims to contribute to adapting construction to the conditions of the future with the help of its business intelligence, as well as through collaborations with companies, other organisations and authorities.

#### **7. Communication is an absolute necessity for sustainable development.**

Everybody has to play a role in bringing about change. Politicians, public authorities, the media, companies and civic society can, through good communication, share positive experiences and thus achieve results more quickly. Swedisol can contribute with facts and information about what constitutes good insulation and how it bolsters sustainable development.

## **The future means opportunity**

By recognising the potential of urbanisation instead of the problems it poses, we have the opportunity to build sustainable cities which promote a good quality of life and good health. Of critical importance are the ideals and thoughts underpinning construction in cities, and a holistic approach is needed to merge the different parts into a cohesive whole. Cities must be built with people in mind, and we have to be better at quantifying quality of life.

For the development of future cities, both people and the environment need to be given greater consideration in the planning stage. Swedisol endeavours to be a positive force for all of society.

Swedisol works to present a common position shared by its members and to provide a framework for the priorities - including themes, goals and indicators that we see for the sustainable development goals linked to our industry.

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The members of Swedisol, Saint-Gobain Sweden ISOVER, Knauf Insulation, Paroc Group and ROCKWOOL, manufacture and market insulation products made from mineral wool. The products are primarily used to protect against heat, cold, fire and noise. These are important products in the construction process and contribute significantly to sustainable construction and the efficient usage of our resources and energy sources. Buildings account for approximately 40 per cent of energy consumption in society, and our goal is to minimise or eliminate the need for purchased energy to heat our buildings. By reducing energy requirements in our buildings, we can free up energy to be used in other parts of society, thereby securing the transition to renewable energy in all sectors of society. Doing so means that we can radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the heating of buildings, leading to a decrease in our impact on climate change.