The future of the San Diego region —how we grow, how we connect people and places, how we protect the environment, and provide opportunity for all—are critical challenges we’re addressing in the 2021 Regional Plan.

The 2021 Regional Plan is a 30-year blueprint for a reimagined transportation system that ensures all San Diego County residents have access to safe transportation choices that protect the environment and support the regional economy. Sustainable Development Goals will assist SANDAG in tracking the impact and benefits of the Regional Plan as we implement and update it over time.

In partnership with UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy’s SDG Policy Initiative, our member agencies, and other key stakeholders, SANDAG will convene practitioners, decision-makers, and academia to help advance the Sustainable Development Goals and monitor their progress.

What are Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 global goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to serve as a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Economic Development and growth are influenced by natural resources, human resources, technology, and physical capital that are ultimately grouped into three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. The 17 Goals and 169 targets balance these three dimensions of sustainable development and address economic growth in a more holistic way. They help stimulate action in areas of critical importance.

While the San Diego region hosts an impressive array of sustainable development projects; currently, there are no frameworks that exist to unite these projects. The SANDAG Sustainable Development Goals dashboard seeks to fill that gap and provide a unified view of our regional efforts.
How do the Sustainable Development Goals benefit the San Diego region?

The Sustainable Development Goals focus on national targets and indicators to build an international collaboration on sustainable development projects. Local governments around the world have found the Sustainable Development Goals to be a useful framework for sustainable development efforts as well as a useful tool to provide transparency and highlight local policy gaps. Many cities and regions globally and nationally have implemented the Sustainable Development Goals including, but not limited to: Mannheim, Germany; Bristol, UK; Kopavogur, Iceland; San Jose, New York City, Los Angeles, Orlando, Houston, Pittsburg, Baltimore and the state of Hawaii.

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the San Diego region will:

- Align efforts across the region
- Track the impacts and benefits of the Regional Plan
- Provide transparency and accountability
- Tell a data-driven story and support evidence-based policy decisions
- Elevate regional efforts to a global level

How will SANDAG achieve the project goals?

SANDAG, along with its partner and member agencies, will revise priority target and indicator language to be applicable to the San Diego region and its priorities.

SANDAG will conduct an inventory and assessment of data, and will collaborate with local, state, and federal governments in the United States and Mexico, partner organizations and academic institutions to work on sustainable development issues. Data for regional Sustainable Development Goal priority targets and indicators will become publicly available on the San Diego Sustainable Goals dashboard.