



Our Living Waters and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). This global agenda aims to catalyze actions necessary for humans to live sustainably with each other and the planet by focusing on a variety of thematic areas including *people, planet, prosperity, peace* and *partnership*. To inspire action, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been developed and specific targets and indicators have been created under each goal to measure progress.

UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation:	Our Living Waters Ambitious Goal:
<i>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</i>	<i>All Canada's Waters in Good Health by 2030</i>

The activities of the OLV Network and the [OLW shared measurement system](#) aligns with multiple SDGs, but most directly with SDG 6, [Clean Water and Sanitation](#), providing a Canadian focus to the global Agenda as it relates to fresh water. The table below outlines the eight UN targets set for Goal 6, and which of these targets OLV aligns with. A (✓) indicates direct alignment, whereas a (~) indicates there is not direct alignment (as opposed to no alignment at all which isn't the case given the interconnected nature of the work done by members of the OLV Network).

The UN Targets for SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	OLW Alignment
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	✓
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	~
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	✓
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	✓
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	✓
6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	✓
6.A By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	~
6.B Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	✓

The following table shows the UN targets and indicators set for Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation in the first two columns, and the related OLW impact measures, from the OLW shared measurement system, in the last column. To note, the OLW impact measures expand upon the UN targets and indicators, providing a more detailed path to collaboratively achieve Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation in the Canadian context.

Targets for UN Goal 6	Indicators for Goal 6	Related Our Living Waters Impact Measures
<p>6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</p>	<p>6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</p>	<p>Drinking Water Advisories: Total number of communities with drinking water advisories (including Indigenous communities) Drinking Water Source Protection: number of provincial and territorial jurisdictions with source water protection programs designed to protect drinking water from source to tap Human Right to Water: Number of federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions formally recognizing the human right to water National Drinking Water Standards: Do enforceable national drinking water standards exist?</p>
<p>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations</p>	<p>6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water</p>	<p>No directly related impact measures.</p>
<p>6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</p>	<p>6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated</p>	<p>Combined Sewer Overflow: The number of combined sewer overflow locations across the country within how many municipalities, and the volume of untreated sewage coming from these sources. Green Infrastructure: Number of communities with Transformative Green Infrastructure programs</p>
	<p>6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality</p>	<p>Accessible Data: Percent of Canada's 167 sub-watersheds that have sufficient, accessible data allowing WWF-Canada's Watershed Reports to assess their overall health Decision Makers: Percent of decision makers who have access to and use the water data they need to make informed decisions Enforceable Water Quality Standards: Number of provinces and territories with enforceable surface water quality standards Harmful Algal Blooms: Number of water bodies with harmful algal blooms Open Access Hubs: Percent of watersheds with open access to a data hub which pools multiple sources of data and make the data available for use at different scales of decision-making Pipeline Threats: Percent of Canada's 167 sub-watersheds threatened by federally monitored pipeline incidents. Recreational Water Quality: Number of provinces and territories that have established recreational water quality monitoring guidelines and have a system of communicating results to the public.</p>

Targets for UN Goal 6	Indicators for Goal 6	Related Our Living Waters Impact Measures
<p>6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity</p>	<p>6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time</p>	<p>No directly related impact measures.</p>
	<p>6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources</p>	<p>Environmental Flow Standards: Number of federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions with enforceable environmental flow standards</p>
<p>6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</p>	<p>6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)</p>	<p>Freshwater Policy: Number of federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions that have a public policy on freshwater that is less than ten years old Watershed Entities & Plans: Percent of Canada's sub-watersheds with a watershed entity and a watershed plan</p>
	<p>6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation</p>	<p>Watershed Governance: Percent of Canada's major 25 watersheds with a mechanism in place to support watershed governance</p>
<p>6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes</p>	<p>6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time</p>	<p>Drinking Water Source Protection: number of provincial and territorial jurisdictions with source water protection programs designed to protect drinking water from source to tap Government Financing for Restoration: Ratio of government financial support that promotes ecosystem restoration activities compared to resource extraction Legislating Restoration: Number of provincial/territorial & federal jurisdictions with enforceable legislation that requires restoration to be a cost of undertaking a project that causes environmental harm Municipal Natural Asset Management: Number of municipalities adopting municipal natural asset management approaches</p>
<p>6.A By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies</p>	<p>6.A.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan</p>	<p>No directly related impact measures.</p>
<p>6.B Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management</p>	<p>6.B.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management</p>	<p>Citizen Legal Action: Number of federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions with at least one mechanism for citizens to drive enforcement of a water-related law Freshwater Awareness: Percent of people who have an accurate sense (awareness) of the health of and threats to freshwater Media: Percent change in traditional media stories on water impacts Supporter Actions: the supporter base of freshwater-related nonprofits who have acted to advance freshwater health in the past year</p>

Targets for UN Goal 6	Indicators for Goal 6	Related Our Living Waters Impact Measures
		Watershed Entities & Plans : Percent of Canada's sub-watersheds with a watershed entity and a watershed plan

While the OLW shared measurement system is most related to SDG 6, the activities of the OLW Network also contribute to achieving other SDGs, specifically, [Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities](#), [Goal 14: Life Below Water](#), [Goal 15: Life on Land](#), and [Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals](#).

The last table shows these different SDGs and highlights the UN targets and indicators relevant to the OLW Network in the first two columns, and then identifies the related OLW impact measures, from the OLW shared measurement system, in the last column.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities <i>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</i>		
Relevant Targets for UN Goal 11	Relevant Indicators for Goal 11	Related Our Living Waters Impact Measures
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Green Infrastructure : Number of communities with Transformative Green Infrastructure programs
11.A Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning	11.A.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city	Combined Sewer Overflow : The number of combined sewer overflow locations across the country within how many municipalities, and the volume of untreated sewage coming from these sources. Drinking Water Source Protection : number of provincial and territorial jurisdictions with source water protection programs designed to protect drinking water from source to tap Green Infrastructure : Number of communities with Transformative Green Infrastructure programs Municipal Natural Asset Management : Number of municipalities adopting municipal natural asset management approaches Watershed Governance : Percent of Canada's major 25 watersheds with a mechanism in place to support watershed governance
Goal 14: Life Below Water <i>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</i>		
Relevant Targets for UN Goal 14	Relevant Indicators for Goal 14	Related Our Living Waters Impact Measures

<p>14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</p>	<p>14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density</p>	<p>Combined Sewer Overflow: The number of combined sewer overflow locations across the country within how many municipalities, and the volume of untreated sewage coming from these sources.</p> <p>Harmful Algae Blooms: Number of water bodies with harmful algal blooms</p>
<p>Goal 15: Life on Land <i>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</i></p>		
<p>Relevant Targets for UN Goal 15</p>	<p>Relevant Indicators for Goal 15</p>	<p>Related Our Living Waters Impact Measures</p>
<p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</p>	<p>15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type</p>	<p>Drinking Water Source Protection: number of provincial and territorial jurisdictions with source water protection programs designed to protect drinking water from source to tap</p> <p>Freshwater Policy: Number of federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions that have a public policy on freshwater that is less than ten years old</p> <p>Municipal Natural Asset Management: Number of municipalities adopting municipal natural asset management approaches</p> <p>Watershed Entities & Plans: Percent of Canada's sub-watersheds with a watershed entity and a watershed plan</p> <p>Watershed Governance: Percent of Canada's major 25 watersheds with a mechanism in place to support watershed governance</p>
<p>15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</p>	<p>15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</p>	<p>Municipal Natural Asset Management: Number of municipalities adopting municipal natural asset management approaches</p> <p>Watershed Entities & Plans: Percent of Canada's sub-watersheds with a watershed entity and a watershed plan</p> <p>Watershed Governance: Percent of Canada's major 25 watersheds with a mechanism in place to support watershed governance</p>
<p>15.A Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	<p>15.A.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	<p>Government Financing for Restoration: Ratio of government financial support that promotes ecosystem restoration activities compared to resource extraction</p> <p>Municipal Natural Asset Management: Number of municipalities adopting municipal natural asset management approaches</p>
<p>Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals <i>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</i></p>		
<p>Relevant Targets for UN Goal 17</p>	<p>Relevant Indicators for Goal 17</p>	<p>Related Our Living Waters Impact Measures</p>
<p>17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</p>	<p>17.14 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance</p>	<p>Decision Makers: Percent of decision makers who have access to and use the water data they need to make informed decisions</p>

	policy coherence of sustainable development	<p>Freshwater Policy: Number of federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions that have a public policy on freshwater that is less than ten years old</p> <p>Municipal Natural Asset Management: Number of municipalities adopting municipal natural asset management approaches</p> <p>Watershed Entities & Plans: Percent of Canada's sub-watersheds with a watershed entity and a watershed plan</p> <p>Watershed Governance: Percent of Canada's major 25 watersheds with a mechanism in place to support watershed governance</p>
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