



GOAL 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Description

Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.

Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less,” increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole lifecycle, while increasing quality of life. It involves different stakeholders, including business, consumers, policy makers, researchers, scientists, retailers, media, and development cooperation agencies.

It also requires a systemic approach and cooperation among actors operating in the supply chain. It involves engaging consumers through awareness-raising and education on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, providing consumers with adequate information through standards and labels and engaging in sustainable public procurement.

Facts and Figures

- Each year, an estimated one third of all food produced

– equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around \$1 trillion – ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices

- If people worldwide switched to energy efficient lightbulbs the world would save US\$120 billion annually
- Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles
- Less than 3 per cent of the world's water is fresh (drinkable), of which 2.5 per cent is frozen in the Antarctica, Arctic and glaciers.
- Man is polluting water faster than nature can recycle and purify water in rivers and lakes
- More than 1 billion people still do not have access to fresh water
- Water is free from nature but the infrastructure needed to deliver it is expensive
- Commercial and residential energy use is the second most rapidly growing area of global energy use after transport
- Households consume 29 per cent of global energy and consequently contribute to 21 per cent of resultant CO2 emissions
- Overconsumption of food is detrimental to our health and the environment. 2 billion people globally are overweight or obese
- Land degradation, declining soil fertility,




unsustainable water use, overfishing and marine environment degradation are all lessening the ability of the natural resource base to supply food

- The food sector accounts for around 30 per cent of the world's total energy consumption and accounts for around 22 per cent of total Greenhouse Gas emissions

For more information, visit:

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/

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