Get Involved!

In SDSN you have a unique opportunity to connect with problem solvers all over the world. Join together to promote practical solutions for sustainable development. Inspire others and get inspired to implement our vision – “From Knowledge to Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

Connect with other problem solvers
Take a look at the check list on the back of this brochure to make sure that you are well connected within SDSN.

Share your innovative cases
SDSN has developed the guide Getting Started With the SDGs in Universities. In connection to this, we create opportunities to share and receive innovative cases of how member organizations are transforming to contribute to the SDGs.

Increase your visibility
Let the network know what you are up to. The SDSN Northern Europe secretariat can spread news, projects and events connected to the SDGs.

Utilize our developed concepts
In this brochure, we describe how to get started with your Solutions Initiative and how to get ready for your Solutions Initiative Forum (SIF).

Empower youth
Explore how you can work with the SDGs together with SDSN Youth in Northern Europe at www.unsdsn-ne.org.

Educate tomorrow’s leaders
Get inspired by our Solutions Initiatives focusing on educating the next generation of leaders. Don’t forget to follow our MOOCs, both at the SDG Academy and from our members. Learn more at www.unsdsn-ne.org.

Increase your visibility
Let the network know what you are up to. The SDSN Northern Europe secretariat can spread news, projects and events connected to the SDGs.
What should a Solutions Initiative do?
Solutions Initiatives should address challenges connected to Agenda 2030, have a transformative impact on sustainable development and be scalable following a successful demonstration. It must be technically feasible and implementable within a reasonable timeframe without a need for primary research.

Let us be even more specific: A Solutions Initiative is:
1. **Transformative** – with potential to move society towards sustainability – *changing the destructive to the constructive.*
2. **Holistic** – account for potential effects of the Solutions Initiative on all the SDGs to avoid lock-ins, sub optimizations and other pitfalls when it comes to sustainability – *drives new innovations and partnerships.*
3. **Scalable** – being of relevance to sustainability challenges faced at the national, regional and/or global levels – *having the potential to expand in scope, size, and/or geographically.*

What’s in it for you?
- Your Solutions Initiative will be showcased on the website of both the global SDSN and SDSN Northern Europe.
- Your Solutions Initiative could be one of the selected projects to be presented at the global SDSN Leadership Council meeting. The council comprises eminent experts on sustainable development from academia, business, civil society and the public sector. *Don’t believe it’ll matter? Well, at the last global Leadership Council meeting, Djaffar Shalchi, the CEO of Human Act offered one million dollars of support to the SDSN Youth initiative.*
- Your Solutions Initiative will be presented at a Leadership Council of SDSN Northern Europe meeting where we together will think creatively about common funding opportunities for your Solutions Initiatives, although each Solutions Initiative is responsible for its own funding.

Get your Solutions Initiative started

Any SDSN member or partner in collaboration with an SDSN member interested in proposing Solutions Initiatives is invited to fill out our Solutions Initiative Form found at [www.unsdn-ne.org](http://www.unsdn-ne.org) and send it to the SDSN Northern Europe Secretariat, info@unsdn-ne.org. Please direct any question you might have regarding this to us at the SDSN Northern Europe Secretariat.

The SDSN Northern Europe Leadership Council will review the submissions and request additional material if needed.
Let us be even more specific: A SIF is designed to:

1. **Launch** a Solutions Report where solutions and their SDG Impact Assessment are promoted. Don’t worry – we at the Secretariat will guide you.
2. **Connect** different stakeholders to highlight solutions for a challenge connected to Agenda 2030.
3. **Identify** barriers to and drivers of the implementation of solutions – summarized in action points to follow up on.

Which are the selection criteria for solutions? Solutions should be selected based on the following criteria. The solutions should:

- **Address challenges** connected to the SDGs.
- **Together highlight** a broad range of examples of innovative Nordic solutions. The aim is not to be comprehensive but rather to reflect the wide spectrum of solutions that are available.
- **Be readily available** and have overcome initial barriers to implementation.
- **Be transformative**: The solutions should have the potential to move society towards sustainability.
- **Be holistic**: The solutions should take all the SDGs into consideration in an SDG Impact Assessment.
- **Be scalable**: The solutions and the company must have the potential to perform well after expanding in scope, size, and/or geographically.

(You are of course free to add other criteria in discussion with the Advisory Panel.)

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**10 steps to arrange a SIF**

1. **Send an e-mail to the SDSN Northern Europe Secretariat, info@unsdsn-ne.org** stating that you want to organize a SIF. Please, briefly describe the sustainability challenge to which you would like to promote innovative solutions and give some examples of innovative solutions available today.
2. **The SDSN Northern Europe’s Leadership Council gives permission to proceed.**
3. **Together with us at the Secretariat, you create an Advisory Panel consisting mainly of researchers in the field who will:**
   - Help describe and quantify the sustainability challenge that will be addressed at the SIF and in the Solutions Report.
   - Review submissions and give feedback on solution owners’ self-evaluations of solution impacts in relation to the SDGs – a so-called SDG Impact Assessment.

   At least one of the members of SDSN Northern Europe Secretariat should participate in the Advisory Panel.
4. **Solutions are invited to perform an SDG Impact Assessment.** We at the Secretariat provide the template for this and the responses are reviewed by the Advisory Panel.
5. **Create a Solutions Report based on the answers from the SDG Impact Assessment and a brief description of the sustainability challenge, written by an expert in the field who is a member of the Advisory Panel.** The Secretariat can assist you with the layout of the Solutions Report based on the material that you provide us with, see [www.unsdsn-ne.org/resources](http://www.unsdsn-ne.org/resources).
6. **Together with the solution owners, identify the stakeholders to invite to the SIF,** including potential investors and customers, decision makers as well as representatives from business, academia and civil society.
7. **Book a conference facility, arrange for lunch and set the program.**
8. **Send out invitations.** The Secretariat can help you design the invitation.
9. **Carry out the meeting.** Collect major action points and insights during the discussions. Perform a short evaluation after the meeting.
10. **The Secretariat will help you disseminate the Solutions Report and results from the SIF.**

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Get inspired by our SIFs at [www.unsdsn-ne.org](http://www.unsdsn-ne.org)
SDSN’s interfaces

**Mobilize**
You are invited to our internal communication platform, Mobilize. Check out the guide at [www.unsdsn-ne.org/resources](http://www.unsdsn-ne.org/resources).

**Communication officers network**
We interact on social media and strengthen our already existing channels by joining forces. We spread each other’s news and events regarding the SDGs.

**Online network meetings**
Take part in the SDSN Northern Europe web meetings. There are at least four meetings per year.

You are part of a growing network. Get to know the SDSN Northern Europe members at [www.unsdsn-ne.org/members](http://www.unsdsn-ne.org/members).

SDSN’s communication channels

- Subscribe to the global SDSN Newsletter at [www.unsdsn.org](http://www.unsdsn.org).
- Follow our news at [www.unsdsn-ne.org](http://www.unsdsn-ne.org).
- Follow SDSN Northern Europe in social media:

  ![Twitter](http://twitter.com), ![Facebook](http://facebook.com), ![LinkedIn](http://linkedin.com), ![Instagram](http://instagram.com)

  @SDSNNE

Contact

www.unsdsn-ne.org
info@unsdsn-ne.org

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The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Northern Europe, is the Nordic chapter of the global SDSN. The network is hosted by Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development at Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.