

# The prioritisation of SDG 12 in the Voluntary National Reviews (2016-2020)

A document analysis on Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns for 99 countries



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# Research Design



**VNRs aim** *'to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.'*

**What?** - Document analysis on 108 English Voluntary National Reviews that included reporting on SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production

## Goals?

1. Revealing prioritisation patterns for SDG 12's targets and MoI
  - Prioritised when: a VNR includes a (1) policy and/ or (2) baseline (i.e. data) on a SDG 12 component
1. Gathering frequently reported implementation challenges
  - What is hampering SDG 12's implementation?
1. Differentiating findings across groups (Gross National Income)
  - Are certain groups prioritising SDG 12's components differently than others?

**Groups:** High-income (HI), Upper-Middle Income (UMI), Lower-Middle income (LMI), Low-Income (LI), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Low Population Countries (LPCs)

# SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production

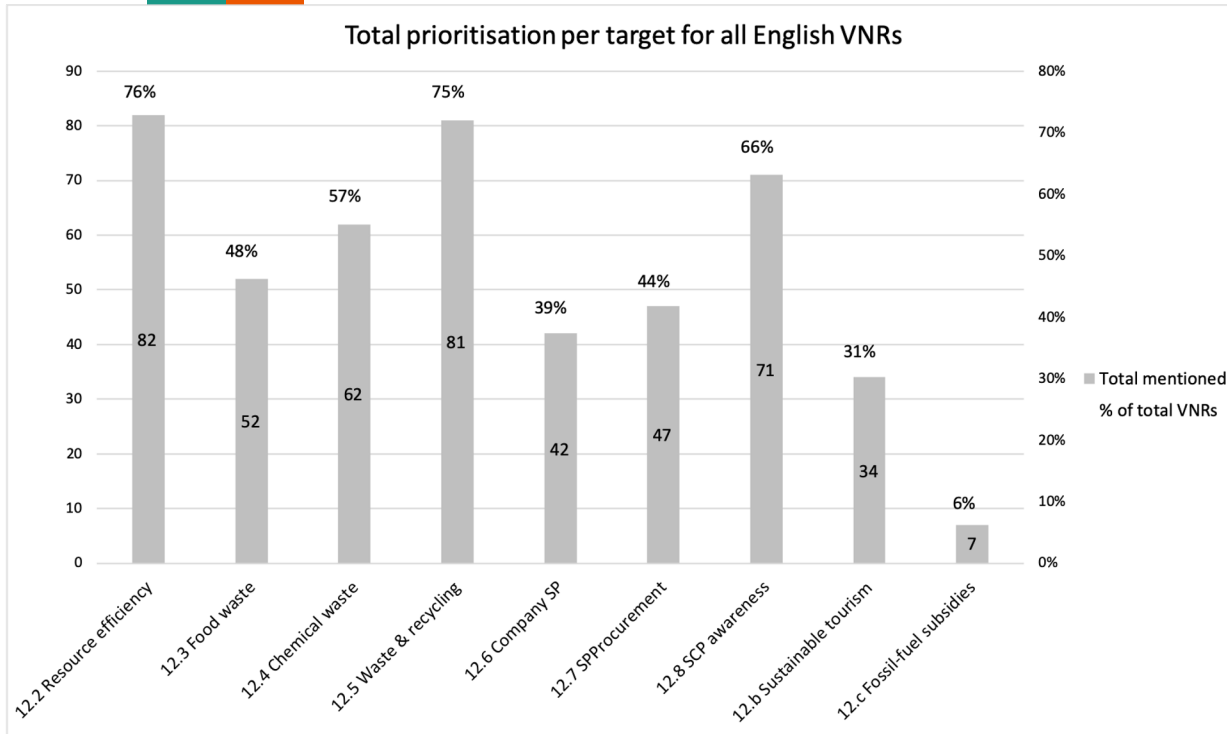
Decoupling economic growth from ecological degradation/ resource depletion

SDG 12's targets & Mol →



12.1 Implement 10-YFP on SCP	12.7 Sustainable Public Procurement
12.2 Resource efficiency & management	12.8 Raise consumer awareness
12.3 Halve per capita global food waste	12.a Support Developing countries to move towards SCP patterns
12.4 Sound management of chemical waste	12.b Sustainable Tourism
12.5 Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, reuse & recycling	12.c Rationalise fossil-fuel subsidies
12.6 Encourage company sustainability practices	

# (1) Results: Overall prioritisation 108 English VNRs



## High prioritisation

12.2: resource efficiency

12.5: waste & recycling

12.8: raising awareness

## Low prioritisation

12.6: Company Sustainability Practices

12.c: Rationalisation of fossil-fuel subsidies

## Remarkable

The waste targets (12.3-12.5)

## (2) Results: the prioritisation of SDG 12 across groups (Green > 50%, Red < 50%)

SDG 12's components	HI (41)	UMI (18)	LMI (14)	LI (13)	SIDS (15)	LPCs (7)
<b>12.2 Resource efficiency</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>100%</b>
12.3 Food waste	<b>63%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>14%</b>
12.4 Chemical waste	<b>56%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>12.5 Waste &amp; recycling</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>100%</b>
12.6 Company Sust Practice	<b>54%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>43%</b>
12.8 SCP awareness	<b>71%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>86%</b>
12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>

### In general

- High-Income has highest relative prioritisation rates
- The lower the income, the lower the prioritisation rates: less data & policy
- All groups prioritise resource efficiency except SIDS

### Content

- Waste & recycling not prioritised by low-income VNRs
- SCP awareness decreases alongside income
- 12.3 & 12.6 only prioritised by high-income countries

## (3) Results: frequently reported challenges



### 1. Waste...

- separation: at source and facility
- infrastructure (adequate facilities & logistics)
- recycling capacity: increased waste streams & changing nature of waste

### 1. Changing consumer behaviour

# Policy recommendations: achieving the climate agendas



## Policy recommendations

1. Improve waste policies and mechanisms
  - Recycling & reuse have serious challenges in all groups: can technology solve waste problems effectively?
  - Are economically attractive mechanisms needed for the recycling/ waste industry?
- Consequences for recycling as a resource-efficiency strategy? (Applying life-cycle thinking & Circular Economy)
1. Sustainable Consumption: going beyond awareness raising
  - Mainly reported on by HI-countries
  - Yet, changing consumer behaviour remains a challenge (discrepancy between awareness & behaviour?)
1. What does the neglect of the rationalisation of fossil-fuel subsidies tell us?
  - Systemic change?



**Thank you for listening!**