

Learning for Sustainability and the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill consultation

6 February 2024



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1. Welcome

Rehema White

Chair, Learning for Sustainability Scotland



Welcome!

- **Please introduce yourself in the chat box**
- **Mute your audio**
- **Put any questions in the chat box**
- **We will be recording the main webinar but not group discussions**



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Who are we?

Learning for Sustainability (LfS) Scotland is a UN University-recognised Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) in Education for Sustainable Development

We are an open network in which members and partners come together to undertake collaborative projects, research and advocacy that advance and embed Learning for Sustainability practice and policy in Scotland.



ACKNOWLEDGED BY



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**



What we do

1. We **weave connections across sectors** within Scotland and with our international partners
2. We **co-produce, pioneer and practise new knowledge** and approaches and **curate materials and resources** with and for educators, organisations and communities
3. We **advocate and provide strategic advice** for effective learning for sustainability policy
4. We **lead, monitor and evaluate projects** and programmes locally and internationally, often in partnership

 REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Aims of today's workshop

- **Engage with** the Scottish Government's consultation on the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill
- **Discuss and share your vision** for Learning for Sustainability and the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill with others
- **Find out how** you can share your own response to the consultation.

Programme

15:30 Welcome and scene-setting

**15:40 Overview: Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland)
Bill consultation**

Jack Thirlwell, National Performance Framework Unit, Scottish Government

15:50 Small-group breakout discussions -1-

16:10 Introduction to Group Discussions -2-

16:20 Small-group breakout discussions -2-

16:40 Summary and next steps

16:45 Close

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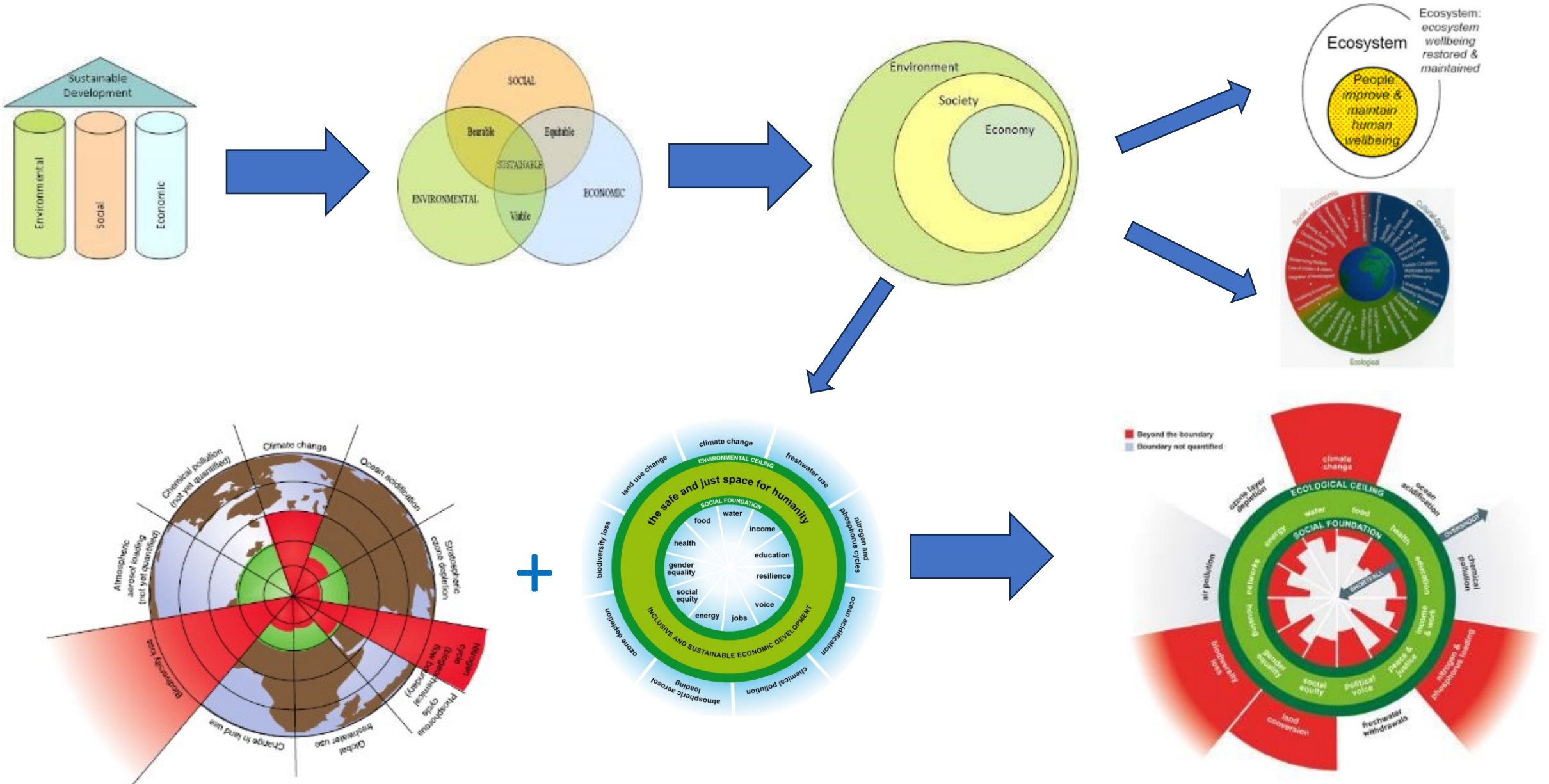
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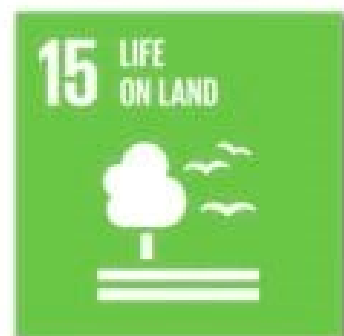
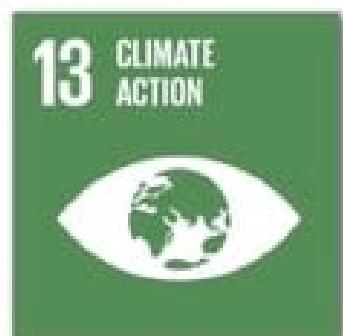
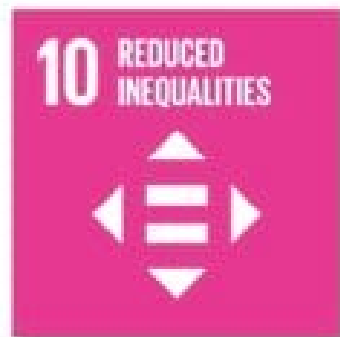
2. Scene-setting

Rehema White

Chair, Learning for Sustainability Scotland

Models of sustainable development have changed over time





Wellbeing

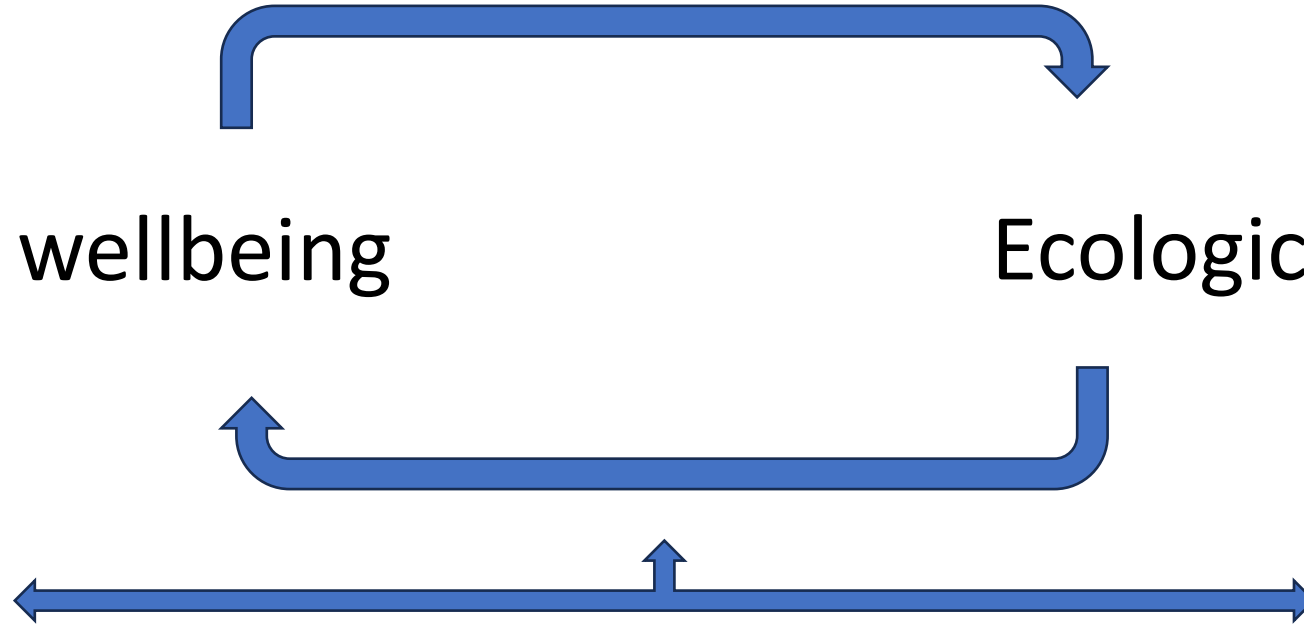
Human wellbeing

Ecological wellbeing

Good governance

Sound knowledge

Prosperity inducing economy



Learning for Sustainability

‘.....empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity.

It is about lifelong learning, and is an integral part of quality education. Education for Sustainable Development is holistic and transformational education which addresses learning content and outcomes, pedagogy and the learning environment. *It achieves its purpose by transforming society.*

UNESCO 2019



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3. Introduction to the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

Jack Thirlwell

National Performance Framework Unit, Scottish Government

Introduction to the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill

- The Scottish Government recognises the duty to protect the interests of future generations. We also recognise that our ability to have a thriving society and economy is derived from the health of the planet.
- Continually improving the National Outcomes is one of the ways we can achieve these aims and ensure that we are able to deliver long-term and sustainable policy and delivery approaches. To do this, we need responses from people and organisations across Scotland.

Why this is needed

- Recent engagement activity reviewing the National Performance Framework highlighted a perceived 'implementation gap' between the stated aims of the framework and its delivery.

Top 10 themes identified as impacting 'Implementation' in the Review of the National Outcomes

1. Policy
2. Delivery
3. Accountability
4. Funding
5. Collaboration
6. Awareness
7. Tools and guidance
8. Alignment
9. Legislation
10. Budget

Early Development of the WSD Bill:

- WSD Bill development to date has been informed by:
- FPAC inquiries into the NPF and effective decision making.
- NPF Review and discussion with other areas of SG.
- Sarah Boyack MSP WSD Member's Bill consultation.
- Engagement with the Third Sector
- Engagement with governments both in the UK and internationally who have successfully implemented similar measures.

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (WSD) Bill Consultation Process

- Consultation opened 09:30 on Wednesday 6th December 2023.
- Closes at 23:59 on 14th February 2024.
- Full Consultation is available to respond to on Citizen Space during this period.
- Email responses are also welcome at wdsbill@gov.scot

Consultation: Topics and Questions

- Defining 'wellbeing' in law or regulations.
- Defining 'sustainable development' in law or regulations.
- Strengthening the existing National Outcomes and sustainable development duties.
- Extending these duties to explicitly include Scottish Ministers (and any other public authorities for whom this is necessary) .
- Considering the case for a Future Generations Commissioner who would act as a guardian of the future.

Defining 'wellbeing' in law or regulations

- *Is a 'universal' statutory definition of 'wellbeing' required?*
- *Do you have any views on how 'wellbeing' can be clearly defined in legislation?*

Defining 'sustainable development' in law or regulations

common definition: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

- *Is a statutory definition required?*
- *Do you have other views on how 'sustainable development' can be clearly defined in legislation?*
- *What future wellbeing issues or challenges do you think legislation could help ensure we address?*
- *What impact, if any, would the proposed definition have on other areas of legislation?*

Strengthening the existing National Outcomes and sustainable development duties

- *How should a legal duty be defined to ensure that public authorities uphold sustainable development and the interests of future generations?*
- *Are there specific areas of decision making that should be included or excluded from the Bill?*
- *What issues, if any, may result from strengthening the requirement to have regard to the National Outcomes?*

Extending these duties to explicitly include Scottish Ministers (and any other public authorities for whom this is necessary)

- *Should any duty apply to the Scottish Government?*
- *Do you have any views on the range and type of organisations that any duty should apply to?*

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4. Small-group breakout discussion-1-

Over to you...

Small group conversations #1:

- **Defining Wellbeing and Sustainable Development**

Do you have any views on how 'wellbeing' and 'Sustainable development' can be clearly defined in legislation?

- **Strengthening duties for the National Outcomes and sustainable development**

Do you have any views on the range and type of organisations that any duty should apply to?

In your group please:

- Unmute yourself
- The facilitator will add your comments on your group's Jamboard

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5. Introduction to breakout discussion-2-

Defining 'ways of working'

- *Do you have any views on how we can better report the achievement of wellbeing objectives which supports clear accountability and scrutiny of public bodies in Scotland?*
- *What additional steps are needed to ensure collaboration and working across boundaries?*
- *Do you have any views on whether any duty related to ways of working could create conflicts with duties currently placed on you?*
- *Do you have any views on the additional resource implications necessary to discharge any wellbeing duty in your organisation?*

Considering the case for a Future Generations Commissioner who would act as a guardian of the future

- *Should Scotland establish an independent Commissioner for Future Generations?*
- *In what ways could an independent Commissioner for Future Generations increase the accountability, scrutiny, and support for decision making?*
- *Are there alternative ways we can increase the accountability, scrutiny, and support for decision making?*

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6. Small-group breakout discussion-2-

Over to you...

Small group conversations

Defining ways of working

- What additional steps are needed to ensure collaboration and working across boundaries?

Determining an approach for future generations

- Should Scotland establish an independent Commissioner for Future Generations? In what ways could a Commissioner increase the accountability, scrutiny, and support for decision-making?

In your group please:

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7. Summary and Next Steps



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Next steps

Join the consultation by 14 February 23:59:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/wellbeing-sustainable-development-bill-consultation/>

Enquiries/further discussion:

- wdsbill@gov.scot
- enquiries@lfsscotland.org

Join us: #TimeforLfS #ThisisLfS @LfSScotland

- www.learningforsustainabilityscotland.org



Thank you!