United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2024). Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved from <https://sdgs.un.org/> on January 4, 2024.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a comprehensive framework for global development, addressing a range of issues from health and well-being to economic growth and environmental sustainability (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024). This annotation focuses on several goals particularly pertinent to Idaho. Goal 3 emphasizes the urgent need to address health inequalities, a concern mirrored in Idaho's communities. Goal 6 underscores the necessity of sustainable water management, resonating with Idaho's focus on water and energy interdependence. Goal 7 highlights the challenges of achieving universal access to clean energy, relevant to Idaho's energy landscape. Goal 8, emphasizing decent work and economic growth, aligns with Idaho's economic aspirations. Goal 9's focus on resilient industries and infrastructure parallels Idaho's interest in technological innovation and advancement. Goal 11, advocating for sustainable urban development, is pertinent to Idaho's growing urban areas. Lastly, Goal 12's call for responsible consumption and production resonates with Idaho's agricultural sector, stressing the importance of sustainable practices. This contextualization of global objectives within Idaho's framework establishes a relevant linkage between local and global developmental aspirations.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. "Today, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues, including water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science and technology, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), partnerships and Small Island Developing States." [While all of the goals are relevant to our research, I decided to highlight several for my example.]

Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, titled "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages," aims to tackle various health-related issues. Key targets include reducing global maternal mortality, ending preventable deaths of children under five, combating epidemics like AIDS and malaria, reducing mortality from non-communicable diseases, and achieving universal health coverage. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly hindered progress, exacerbated health inequalities and highlighted the need for stronger global health systems. Meeting these ambitious targets necessitates urgently strengthening healthcare provision, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023)​​. [This goal is relevant to the needs of Idaho because health inequalities are in our communities.]

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), part of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. This goal addresses challenges such as overexploitation, pollution, and climate change impacting water resources globally. Today, billions lack access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services. The COVID-19 pandemic has further hindered access to these critical services. The UN's SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, launched in July 2020, aims to expedite progress towards these goals, emphasizing urgent action to overcome the global water and sanitation crisis (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024)​​. [Water management is an important topic to Idahoans. In Idaho, water management is also related to energy.]

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), "Affordable and Clean Energy," emphasizes universal access to electricity and clean cooking fuels. Despite progress, significant challenges remain with the global electrification rate reaching 91% in 2021. Approximately 675 million people still lack electricity access, primarily in least developed countries (LDCs) and sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, 2.3 billion people use polluting cooking fuels. The goal faces further hurdle due to energy price volatility and reliance on non-renewable sources in some regions, threatening the transition to green energy. Accelerating electrification, increasing renewable energy investments, and improving electricity grids are crucial to achieving SDG 7 by 2030 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024)​​.

Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8), "Decent Work and Economic Growth," faces significant challenges in meeting its targets. The lingering effects of COVID-19, cost-of-living crises, trade tensions, and global economic uncertainties have hindered progress. Key issues include a slowdown in global GDP per capita growth, a decline in labor productivity, high levels of informal employment, persistent gender pay gaps, and rising child labor. Additionally, the global unemployment rate, while slightly improving, remains a concern. These challenges underscore the need for comprehensive reforms to promote equitable pay and decent work, particularly for young people and women (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024)​​. [Certainly, Idahoans can get behind economic growth goals]

Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9), "Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure," highlights the uneven recovery of the manufacturing industry post-COVID-19, with high-income regions outpacing least-developed countries (LDCs). The pandemic showed that higher-technology industries are more resilient, underscoring the importance of innovation and technology transfer. Key targets include increasing global manufacturing value, reducing carbon emissions, and expanding mobile broadband access, especially LDCs. Achieving SDG 9 by 2030 requires supporting LDCs, investing in advanced technologies, lowering carbon emissions, and enhancing global connectivity (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024)​​. [Idahoans want to contribute to innovations and benefit from new technologies.]

Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), "Sustainable Cities and Communities," addresses urban areas' challenges, including migration shifts, climate change impacts, and increasing slum populations. Key targets include improving access to adequate housing, public transport, and waste management and ensuring sustainable urban expansion. The pandemic and other factors have intensified these challenges, necessitating a focus on urban development planning, disaster risk reduction strategies, and equitable distribution of public spaces. Achieving SDG 11 by 2030 requires concerted efforts to manage urban growth and enhance the quality of urban living (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024)​​. [With Idaho having a growing population, these key targets are very relevant to Idaho communities]

Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12), "Responsible Consumption and Production," focuses on reducing food waste, improving sustainability in consumption and production, and decoupling economic growth from resource use. Challenges include disruptions in global supply chains and changes in consumer behavior due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve this goal, significant efforts are needed in policy implementation, corporate sustainability reporting, and reducing fossil fuel subsidies. Current efforts include increased reporting on sustainability practices by companies and adopting policies supporting sustainable consumption and production (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024)​​. [Idaho is agricultural and will benefit from directed efforts toward sustainable practices.]