



Towards Sustainable Mining and the

UN Sustainable Development Goals?

In 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a call to action on key global challenges related to “*peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future*”.

The Sustainable Development Goals – sometimes referred to as “the SDGs” – cover issues like poverty, health, gender equality, decent work, inequality, and other shared priorities.

For more information, see sdgs.un.org/goals

What is Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM)?

- A **globally recognized sustainability program** that helps mining companies manage their environmental and social responsibilities and evaluate their performance.
- A **mandatory requirement for companies** in the mining associations around the world, offering tools to drive continuous performance improvements.



TSM Area of Focus: Communities and People

Five of the Towards Sustainable Mining protocols measure mining companies' performance in improving relationships with communities and fostering safe and inclusive work environments.

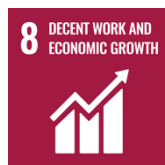
The **Indigenous and Community Relationships Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goal #11 – *Sustainable Cities and Communities* and #17 – *Partnerships for the Goals*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Prioritize opportunities for communities to benefit from mining through local procurement and employment, or contributions to local development initiatives.
- Collaborate with Indigenous communities in areas like education, employment, business opportunities, and economic development project.



The **Safe, Healthy and Respectful Workplaces Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goal # 3 – *Good Health and Well-being* and #8 – *Decent Work and Economic Growth*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Promote workplace health through training and management systems that prevent fatalities, injuries, and illness.
- Uphold labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for employees and contractors, with a goal of ‘zero harm.’

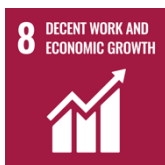


The **Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive Workplaces Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goal #5 – *Gender Equality* and #8 – *Decent Work and Economic Growth*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Commit to identify and mitigate individual and systemic prejudice and discrimination in the workplace.
- Implement strategies and processes to increase representation of those underrepresented in the mining industry, including women.
- Identify and address any patterns of inequity in worker compensation.

The **Preventing Child and Forced Labour Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goal #8 – *Decent Work and Economic Growth*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Verify that no form of forced labour is used at their operations and, in areas of greater risk, introduce measures to monitor workforce recruitment and labour used in supply chains.
- Prevent child labour by verifying that the company’s workforce meets the minimum age requirements set out by the International Labour Organization.



The **Crisis Management and Communications Planning Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goal #11 – *Sustainable Cities and Communities*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Reduce the potential for human and economic losses by putting in place plans and systems to manage a possible crisis.
- Contribute to mine site and community resiliency in the face of disaster.





TSM Area of Focus: Environment and Climate Change

Four of the *Towards Sustainable Mining* protocols measure mining companies' performance in managing impacts on the natural environment and responding to global climate change. The **Biodiversity Conservation Management** Protocol contributes to Sustainable Development Goal #15 – *Life on Land*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Assess the environmental impacts of their activities to preserve the benefits that healthy ecosystems provide to humans.
- Reduce harm to natural habitats and halt the loss of biodiversity, including through collaboration on research initiatives.
- Work with communities and organizations to integrate biodiversity into local planning and development processes.



The **Tailings Management Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goal #3 – *Good Health and Well-being*, #6 – *Clean Water and Sanitation*, #9 – *Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure*, and #12 – *Responsible Consumption and Production*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Promote safe working environments by identifying and responding to potential hazards resulting from tailings at the mine site.
- Improve water quality and protect water-related ecosystems by minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials.
- Develop reliable and resilient infrastructure for tailings management, including by strengthening adaptability to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

- Manage mine waste in an environmentally sound manner to minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment.





The **Water Stewardship Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goals #6 – *Clean Water and Sanitation* and #12 – *Responsible Consumption and Production*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Improve water quality by reducing the release of hazardous chemicals in wastewater.
- Address water scarcity through more efficient water use, including reuse and recycling.
- Partner with local communities and other water users to restore water-related ecosystems and to support local water-related programs.



The **Climate Change Protocol** contributes to Sustainable Development Goal #7 – *Affordable and Clean Energy*, #9 – *Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure*, and #13 – *Climate Action*. Companies implementing this protocol:

- Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and use energy more efficiently.
- Invest in innovative clean technologies and upgrade energy-related infrastructure.
- Improve resilience to climate-related risks by putting in place climate adaptation measures.



Learn More

For more information on *Towards Sustainable Mining* and copies of each of the protocols, visit: mining.ca