**To all who are involved in Outreach ministries and advocacy in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire.**

In the Summer of 2022, during our 80th General Convention, the Episcopal Church voted to continue its support of the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals. [Resolution A020](https://www.vbinder.net/resolutions/37), *Support Decade of Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals,* makes clear that the Sustainable Development Goals should serve as the template for development efforts in the Episcopal Church.

The Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) and the broader sustainability agenda go much further than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); seeking to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change by 2030. With goals that are practical, the intention of the SDGs is that **no one is left behind.**

Here are a few distinctions between the SDGs and MDGs that Episcopal Relief and Development has noticed:

* There are **17 SDGs** compared to 8 MDGs
* The SDGs are **universal,** addressing poverty everywhere it exists. For instance, the United States is equally accountable for poverty alleviation at home as it is abroad.
* There is a **paradigm shift** in how development is approached in the goals. The SDGs put each country in charge of its own strategy.
* The SDGs place a heavy emphasis on **data collection and measuring outcomes**. However, it is difficult to establish uniformity in measuring outcomes in countries with differing local contexts, environments and resources.
* **Gender equity** is front and center in the goals because a disproportionate number of people living in poverty or without access to power and influence are women.

The Diocesan Commission of Reconciliation supports the SDGs and has budgeted an annual grant of $10,000 which, having been recommended by Council and then approved each year at Convention through the budget vote, is awarded to one or more not-for-profit organizations deemed by our SDG Committee to alleviate poverty and foster sustainable growth. For example, in past years Diocesan SDG awards have gone to a library in S. Africa, a Parish Health Clinic in Honduras, The Women’s Trust in Ghana, Native American Outreach in Maine, and an orphanage in Mexico.

**The Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) Grant application process for this year starts now and ends on October 31st, 2023.**

Please read the guidelines attached and make your recommendation in writing, sending it to SDG Committee [susanlassen@gmail.com](mailto:susanlassen@gmail.com) by October 31st, 2023. Grant applications will be reviewed at Diocesan Council in December to assist the SDG Task Force in selecting the 2023 finalist(s).

The SDG Committee and I look forward to reviewing your suggestions for this round of SDG Grants.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Gail Avery

**SDG Committee**

The Rev. Alanna Van Antwerpen, Diocesan Staff Liaison

The Rev. Canon Gail Avery, retired, Chair

The Rev. Miriam Acevedo, retired

Dana Dakin, St. Andrew’s Church, New London

The Rev. Steve Ekerberg, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Pittsfield

Susan Lassen, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Portsmouth

Sallie Mackie, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Portsmouth

The Rev. Tobias Nyatsambo, retired

Elizabeth Rotch, Church of Our Saviour, Milford

**Sustainable Development Goals:**

* **Goal 1**: To end poverty in all its forms everywhere.
* **Goal 2**: End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
* **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
* **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
* **Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
* **Goal 6:** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
* **Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
* **Goal 8:** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
* **Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
* **Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries.
* **Goal 11:** Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
* **Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
* **Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
* **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources.
* **Goal 15:** Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.
* **Goal 16:** Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.
* **Goal 17:** Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

More information is available on the UN website at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

**Diocesan Sustainable Development Goals Recipient Recommendation Form**

Name of Recommended Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Website Address of Organization\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Short Description of what this organization does:

Do you or is someone in your congregation in a relationship or partnership with this organization? please describe.

Attached short video (3 mins) is an example of Church of our Saviour, Milford’s relationship with St Andres parish in Angola which began in 2006.

<https://www.powtoon.com/online-presentation/eUsjd0Nve2n/the-story-of-two-communities-in-angola-nh/?utm_source=broadcast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Transactional-Publish-success&mode=movie>

To what extent and for how long is your church prepared to support the organization/project you are recommending? Will your parish plan to set aside a meaningful amount of money and/or people commitment to connect with your nominee?

How much does the project enhance self-sufficiency?

How does the project reflect SDG objectives, especially #17 Global partnerships (see attached)?

The Diocesan SDG Committee is committed to support the SDG applicant and recipient in any way that might be helpful, and we would love to hear from you.

Faithfully,

The SDG Committee

The Rev Canon Gail Avery 603-674-5455, [gailavery@gmail.com](mailto:gailavery@gmail.com)