

# Funding ideas for SDG's

Funding Strategies for Implementing the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Construction Industry.

Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the construction sector requires significant investment. However, funding does not have to come solely from businesses. A combination of public funding, private investment, regulatory incentives, and alternative financial mechanisms can be used to finance sustainability initiatives.

Below is a breakdown of where the money can come from for each SDG, ensuring that projects remain financially viable while delivering social and environmental benefits.

## 1. No Poverty (End poverty in all its forms everywhere)

- Government Grants & Public Sector Contracts – Governments provide funding for social housing and infrastructure projects that prioritise local employment and fair wages.
- Impact Investment & ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Funds – Ethical investors fund community-focused construction projects with clear social impact.
- Tax Incentives for Local Hiring – Businesses receive corporate tax reductions for employing disadvantaged workers.
- Non-Profit & Charity Partnerships – NGOs and charities co-finance low-cost housing projects for vulnerable groups.
- Employer Payroll Levies – Governments introduce levies (similar to the Apprenticeship Levy) where larger firms contribute to poverty reduction initiatives in construction.

## 2. Zero Hunger (End hunger and ensure food security)

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) – Collaboration between developers and local councils to fund urban farming and food security projects.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Budgets – Large firms fund food waste reduction initiatives and support workers' access to healthy food.
- Green Infrastructure Grants – Available for projects incorporating green roofs and edible landscapes.
- Local Government Food Security Initiatives – Councils provide financial incentives for urban farms and community gardens in developments.
- Food Waste Reduction Tax Breaks – Companies receive tax incentives for minimising food waste and donating surplus meals.

### 3. Good Health & Well-Being (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being)

- Health & Safety Grants – Government funding supports mental health programmes and AI-driven safety measures on sites.
- Insurance Discounts – Construction firms investing in worker health & safety measures receive lower insurance premiums.
- Occupational Health Budgeting – Large contractors allocate a percentage of their annual health & safety budgets to well-being initiatives.
- AI & Wearable Tech Sponsorships – Tech companies fund pilot projects for AI wearables that monitor worker health.
- Pension & Workplace Benefit Contributions – Employers contribute to on-site wellness programmes through workplace benefit schemes.

### 4. Quality Education (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education)

- Apprenticeship Levies – Employers contribute a small percentage of payroll to fund training and skills development.
- Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Grants – Funding is available for on-the-job training and digital upskilling.
- Government Skills Funds – National skills budgets support training in green construction technologies.
- University & Industry Partnerships – Collaboration with academia provides subsidised training and research funding.
- Tech Company Funding – Software and hardware companies co-invest in VR, AR, and digital training initiatives.

### 5. Gender Equality (Achieve gender equality and empower women)

- Diversity & Inclusion Grants – Available for companies that implement women's leadership and training programmes.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Investment – Large firms fund mentorship schemes and gender equity initiatives.
- Government Wage Equality Subsidies – Employers who close gender pay gaps benefit from financial incentives.
- Construction Industry Diversity Sponsorships – Industry associations offer sponsorships for female-led construction businesses.

- Tax Breaks for Family-Friendly Policies – Businesses offering flexible working and on-site childcare receive corporate tax relief.

## 6. Clean Water & Sanitation (Ensure sustainable management of water)

- Water Efficiency Grants – Government funding for rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling.
- Green Building Certification Rebates – Developers integrating low-water solutions receive financial incentives (e.g. BREEAM credits).
- Water Authority Rebates – Regional water suppliers provide discounts for projects with sustainable water management.
- Private Sector ESG Investment – Investors fund water-efficient buildings as part of their sustainability portfolios.
- EU & UK Environmental Funds – Grants for construction projects that reduce water pollution and waste.

## 7. Affordable & Clean Energy (Ensure access to modern energy)

- Renewable Energy Tax Credits – Businesses receive corporate tax relief for installing solar panels, battery storage, and energy-efficient equipment.
- Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) – Energy suppliers fund improvements, repaid through long-term energy savings.
- Infrastructure Investment Funds – Public and private financing for low-carbon construction.
- On-Site Renewable Energy Incentives – Government grants for solar-powered site offices and electrified machinery.
- Discounted Green Loans – Banks offer low-interest loans for construction firms investing in clean energy.

## 8. Decent Work & Economic Growth (Promote economic growth)

- Fair Wage Incentives – Companies meeting ethical wage standards receive government tax benefits.
- Productivity-Based Investment – Financial institutions fund tech-driven efficiency improvements in construction.
- Green Construction Bonds – Raised capital for firms that prioritise worker rights and sustainable employment.

- Impact Investment in SME Growth – Investors provide low-cost finance for SMEs expanding into sustainable markets.
- Regenerative Construction Incentives – Tax breaks for companies restoring degraded land.

## 9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure (Build resilient infrastructure)

- Digital Construction Grants – Government funding for AI, blockchain, and digital twin technology adoption.
- Public Infrastructure Bonds – Investment in smart roads, rail, and housing.
- Innovation Tax Credits – R&D tax relief for low-carbon and prefabrication technologies.
- Venture Capital for Construction Startups – Funding for tech-driven sustainability solutions.
- PPP Funding for Smart Cities – Collaboration between developers and local authorities.

## 10. Reduced Inequalities (Reduce inequality)

- Government Social Enterprise Contracts – Priority funding for diverse and inclusive businesses.
- Apprenticeship & Training Schemes – Financial support for underrepresented groups.
- Fair Trade & Ethical Sourcing Loans – Funding for companies using ethical supply chains.
- Accessibility Grants – Funding for disabled-accessible infrastructure.
- Local Authority Inclusion Budgets – Supporting social impact construction projects.

## 11. Sustainable Cities & Communities

- Net Zero Building Funds – Grants for low-carbon construction.
- Circular Economy Investment – Financial incentives for waste reduction.
- Sustainable Infrastructure Bonds – Long-term funding for urban resilience projects.
- Planning Policy Incentives – Expedited approvals for eco-friendly developments.
- Crowdfunding for Local Projects – Community investment in shared public spaces.

## 12-15. Climate, Oceans & Land

- Carbon Tax Redistribution – Revenue from carbon pricing schemes funds sustainable construction.
- Green Finance & Sustainability-Linked Loans – Available for businesses cutting carbon emissions.
- EU & UK Environmental Grants – Support for nature-based solutions and biodiversity restoration.
- Private Carbon Offset Markets – Construction firms selling carbon credits.
- Biodiversity & Water Protection Grants – Funding for eco-conscious developments.

## 16-17. Peace, Justice & Partnerships

- Ethical Procurement Contracts.
- International Development Grants.
- Industry-Wide Sustainability Partnerships.
- Government Tax Relief on Ethical Sourcing.
- Corporate Responsibility Funding for Social Impact.

**Sustainability is not a cost—it is an investment in the future.** 💡