

THE Sustainable
SITES
Initiative®



Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through SITES

A guide to addressing the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals through the Sustainable SITES Initiative

Featured Project Photos

[SITES Pilot project Luci and Ian Family Garden at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#) in Austin, Texas. Photo credit: Brian Birzer

[SITES Gold Xuhui Runway Park](#) in Shanghai, China. Photo credit: Sasaki

[SITES Gold Expedia Group Seattle Campus](#) in Seattle, Washington. Photo credit: Marion Brenner

[SITES for Existing Landscapes Platinum CityLife](#) in Milan, Italy. Photo credit: Alberto Fanelli

[SITES Gold Kingsbury Park](#) in Austin, Texas. Photo credit: Pease Park Conservancy

[SITES Silver Minneapolis Convention Center Plaza](#) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Photo credit: Damon Farber Architects

Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through SITES

Introduction

The Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES) program offers a rating system that guides, evaluates, and certifies sustainability and resilience in the design, development, and management of landscapes and other outdoor spaces. Owned and administered by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), SITES supports landscape architects, planners, developers and others in implementing nature-based solutions. This means that SITES projects prioritize biodiversity and mitigate climate change while conserving resources, improving public health and providing economic benefits. SITES certification applies globally to a wide variety of project types and sizes and for sites with or without buildings—ranging from parks to corporate campuses, urban development projects to universities, and more. By protecting and restoring ecosystem services, SITES provides essential benefits to the environment, property owners, and local and regional communities and economies.

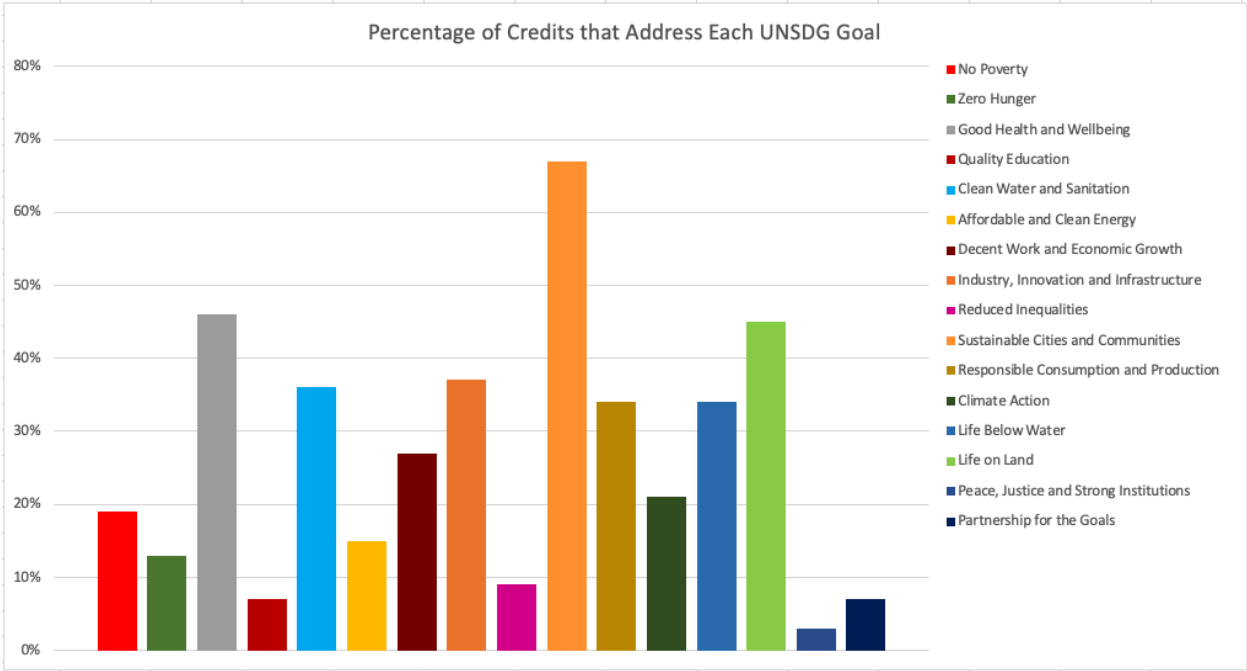
According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), nature-based solutions can influence [79%](#) of all targets across the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (U.N. SDGs), which were created as a global effort to address the social, economic and environmental issues facing society today. SITES recognizes the inextricable links between human health, the health of the environment and the economy.

There are many synergies between SITES and the U.N. SDGs, which are broken out in the graph below. This resource highlights these synergies while demonstrating the impact of SITES in a global context. It is intended to be used as a tool to identify and target both general and technical-level strategies to achieve specific U.N. SDGs on land design and development projects through SITES certification. It is also a helpful depiction of how the SITES rating system is aligned with global efforts to create a more resilient, equitable and healthy world for all.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

There are [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(U.N. SDGs\)](#) dictated by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and they form a call to action for countries and institutions to commit and work together toward a more just and flourishing world. The 17 goals are populated by 169 specific targets that cover social, economic and environmental issues, ranging from biodiversity to education access.

The U.N. SDGs and SITES



As seen in the graph above, many credits in the SITES rating system directly address the 17 U.N. SDGs. The [SITES rating system scorecard](#) is broken into 67 credits and prerequisites (indicated in the document as “C” and “P” respectively) that correspond to 10 content sections. These sections are indicated in the document under “SITES Specific Credits.”

The five U.N. SDGs that the SITES rating system addresses most consistently include Sustainable Cities and Communities, Good Health and Wellbeing, Life on Land, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and Clean Water and Sanitation:

1. **67% of SITES credits address Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**, which seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
2. **46% of SITES credits address Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing**, which seeks to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
3. **45% of SITES credits address Goal 15: Life on Land**, which seeks to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
4. **37% of SITES credits address Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**, which seeks to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
5. **36% of SITES credits address Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**, which seeks to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Learn more about the synchronicities between these two systems below to understand how your projects can pursue its U.N. SDG goals most effectively.

1 NO POVERTY



GOAL 1: END POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SITES advances Goal 1 by:

- Encouraging the [remediation of brownfield sites](#) that positively impact community welfare and safety and revitalize underserved neighborhoods.
- Reducing a community's vulnerability to climate-related threats that disproportionately impact people in poverty through enhancing natural infrastructure that protects vital floodplains, water quality and controlling stormwater runoff and flooding.
- Minimizing the urban heat island effect that [endangers cities' low-income communities](#) through the cooling effect of vegetation and reflective materials.
- Engaging with the community early in a design process to identify and develop options for sharing the economic and social benefits of the site's development through actions like local job creation, on-the-job training, living wages and purchasing from local businesses.
- Conserving farmland for future generations as agricultural development is a [crucial](#) driver of global food security and poverty alleviation, as well as encouraging onsite food production in development projects.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - *CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites*
 - *PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders*
 - *MATERIALS C5.6: Use regional materials*
 - *HHWB C6.3: Promote equitable site use*
 - *HHWB C6.7: Provide on-site food production*
 - *HHWB C6.11: Support local economy*

U.N. SDG Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *CONTEXT P1.1: Limit development on farmland*
- *CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions*
- *CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems*
- *WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site*
- *WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline*
- *SOIL+VEG C4.9: Reduce urban heat island effects*
- *SOIL+VEG C4.11: Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire*

2 ZERO HUNGER



GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

SITES advances Goal 2 by:

- Relieving the burden on food-insecure populations by limiting development on prime farmland to conserve healthy farmland soil dedicated to nourishing present and future generations.
- Providing on-site food production accessible to communities and as an educational model for local food growth and nutrition.
- Building soil health and its ability to function as a critical ecosystem that sustains life, through minimizing pesticide and fertilizer use, restoring native plant communities and developing long-term restoration and remediation strategies.
- Returning landscape waste, food waste and other organic matter back to the earth through composting and mulching to continue natural nutrient cycling processes and reduce waste going to landfills.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *CONTEXT P1.1: Limit development on farmland*
- *PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders*
- *SOIL+VEG P4.1: Create and communicate a soil management plan*
- *SOIL+VEG C4.4: Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation*
- *HHWB C6.7: Provide on-site food production*
- *HHWB C6.11: Support local economy*
- *CONSTRUCTION P7.3: Restore soils disturbed during construction*
- *CONSTRUCTION C7.4: Restore soils disturbed from previous development*

O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

SITES advances Goal 3 by:

- Protecting and restoring the pollutant purification and filtration systems that naturally exist in wetlands, soils and biomass.
- Reducing [air pollution](#), one of the leading risk factors for non-communicable diseases and deaths worldwide, through strategies that minimize the urban heat island effect, limit exposure to secondhand smoke, limit emissions from equipment and encourage multi-modal and fuel-efficient transportation.
- Preventing air, water and soil contamination from sources such as construction activity, stormwater runoff and landscape maintenance.
- Promoting mental, social and physical health through restorative outdoor spaces that provide opportunities for social connection, fitness and reflection.

U.N. SDG targets:

UN SDG Target 3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - *WATER C3.5: Design functional stormwater features as amenities*
 - *SOIL+VEG C4.9: Reduce urban heat island effects*
 - *MATERIALS C5.8 Support transparency and safer chemistry*
 - *HHWB C6.3 Promote equitable site use*
 - *HHWB C6.4: Support mental restoration*
 - *HHWB C6.5: Support physical activity*
 - *HHWB C6.6: Support social connection*
 - *HHWB C6.7 Provide on-site food production*
 - *HHWB C6.8: Reduce light pollution*
 - *HHWB C6.10: Minimize exposure to environmental tobacco smoke*
 - *CONSTRUCTION P7.2: Control and retain construction pollutants*
 - *CONSTRUCTION C7.7: Protect air quality during construction*
 - *O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use*
 - *O+M C8.7 Protect air quality during landscape maintenance*

U.N. SDG Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions*
- *CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems*
- *CONTEXT C1.7: Connect to multi-modal transit networks*
- *WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site*
- *WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline*
- *WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems*
- *SOIL+VEG P4.1: Create and communicate a soil management plan*
- *SOIL+VEG C4.4: Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation*
- *SOIL+VEG C4.8: Optimize biomass*
- *MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials*
- *MATERIALS C5.8 Support transparency and safer chemistry*
- *MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing*
- *HHWB C6.9: Encourage fuel efficient and multi-modal transportation*
- *HHWB C6.10: Minimize exposure to environmental tobacco smoke*
- *CONSTRUCTION P7.2: Control and retain construction pollutants*
- *CONSTRUCTION P7.3 Restore soils disturbed by construction*
- *CONSTRUCTION C7.4 Restore soils disturbed by previous development*
- *CONSTRUCTION C7.7 Protect air quality during construction*
- *O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*
- *O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use*
- *O+M C8.5: Reduce outdoor energy consumption*
- *O+M C8.6: Use renewable sources for landscape electricity needs*
- *O+M C8.7: Protect air quality during landscape maintenance*

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SITES advances Goal 4 by:

- Delivering the [SITES Accredited Professional \(AP\)](#) credential to students, professionals and others seeking marketable sustainability knowledge and skills in the green job sector.
- Offering free or low-cost educational courses on sustainable landscape design and development via the [USGBC Education Platform](#) and [SITES website](#).
- Equipping the green building community with a rich body of knowledge on sustainable landscape architecture through SITES project case studies and site performance metrics.
- Inspiring site users to practice environmental stewardship in their own lives and communities through on-site educational features, programming and academic partnerships.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

- **SITES Specific:**
 - **While not a SITES v2 credit, available [SITES courses](#) on the USGBC educational platform and the [SITES Accredited Professional \(SITES AP\) credential](#) support this target.*

U.N. SDG Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

- **SITES Specific:**
 - **While not a SITES v2 credit, available SITES courses on the USGBC educational platform and the SITES AP credential support this target.*

U.N. SDG Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrative design process*
- *HHWB C6.11: Support local economy*
- *EDUCATION C9.1: Promote sustainability awareness and education*
- *EDUCATION C9.2: Develop and communicate a case study*
- *EDUCATION C9.3: Plan to monitor and report site performance*
- **While not a SITES v2 credit, available SITES courses on the USGBC educational platform and the SITES AP credential support this target.*

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

SITES advances Goal 6 by:

- Reducing the use of potable water, natural surface water and groundwater withdrawals for built landscapes through efficient irrigation design, green infrastructure and planting strategies that limit or completely eliminate the long-term water input needed for a site.
- Conserving and restoring healthy aquatic ecosystems so that they can play critical roles in maintaining water quality, floodplain function and wildlife habitat.
- Minimizing pesticide and fertilizer use, the improper management and runoff of which are large contributors of nonpoint source pollution causing harmful algal blooms and depleted oxygen levels in water bodies.
- Stewarding surface and groundwater health by supporting sustainability in materials extraction, manufacturing and selection.
- Controlling pollution and waste accumulated during the construction process, minimizing the potential release of hazardous chemicals and materials in waterways.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - *CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions*
 - *CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems*
 - *WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site*
 - *WATER P3.2: Reduce water use for landscape irrigation*
 - *WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline*
 - *WATER C3.4: Reduce outdoor water use*
 - *WATER C3.5: Design functional stormwater features as amenities*
 - *WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems*
 - *O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*
 - *O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use*

U.N. SDG Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials*
- *MATERIALS C5.8: Support transparency and safer chemistry*
- *MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing*
- *MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production*
- *CONSTRUCTION P7.1: Communicate and verify sustainable construction practices*
- *CONSTRUCTION P7.2: Control and retain construction pollutants*
- *CONSTRUCTION C7.5: Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal*
- *CONSTRUCTION C7.6: Divert reusable vegetation, rocks and soil from disposal*
- *O+M P8.2: Provide for storage and collection of recyclables*
- *O+M C8.3: Recycle organic matter*
- *O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use*

U.N. SDG Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems*
- *WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site*
- *WATER P3.2: Reduce water use for landscape irrigation*
- *WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline*
- *WATER C3.4: Reduce outdoor water use*
- *WATER C3.5: Design functional stormwater features as amenities*
- *WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems*
- *O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*

U.N. SDG Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions*
- *CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems*
- *CONTEXT P1.4: Conserve habitats for threatened and endangered species*
- *WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems*

U.N. SDG Target 6.b: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrative design process*
- *PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders*

- *WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site*
- *WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline*
- *WATER C3.5: Design functional stormwater features as amenities*
- *O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*
- *EDUCATION C9.1: Promote sustainability awareness and education*

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

SITES advances Goal 7 by:

- Promoting the selection of locations served by existing pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks, thereby avoiding the development of new infrastructure and improving the site's long-term energy efficiency and the health of site users.
- Reducing the energy footprint of materials through locally-sourced products and other lower embodied carbon materials that cut transportation and overall energy use.
- Supporting manufacturers and plant producers leading the industry in energy efficiency disclosure and improvements.
- Encouraging the use of renewable sources for outdoor energy use or the purchase of green power, offsets, or renewable energy certificates (RECs) to support the clean energy market and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Providing strategies that utilize a site's vegetation to deliver natural climate regulation (as shade or as windbreaks), thereby minimizing the energy load for on-site buildings' indoor climate control.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - *HHWB C6.9: Encourage fuel efficient and multi-modal transportation*
 - *O+M C8.6: Use renewable sources for landscape electricity needs*

U.N. SDG Target 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - *CONTEXT C1.7: Connect to multi-modal transit networks*
 - *SOIL+VEG C4.9: Reduce urban heat island effects*
 - *SOIL+VEG C4.10: Use vegetation to minimize building energy use*
 - *MATERIALS C5.6 Use regional materials*
 - *MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing*
 - *MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production*

- *HHWB C6.8: Reduce light pollution*
 - *HHWB C6.9: Encourage fuel efficient and multi-modal transportation*
- O+M C8.5: Reduce outdoor energy consumption*

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

SITES advances Goal 8 by:

- Stimulating economic growth for the community during site construction by hiring a local workforce and purchasing materials and services from local businesses.
- Driving the [green job sector](#) with market uptake, creating decent work and job opportunities aimed at conserving and protecting the environment from planning, design, to construction and maintenance phases.
- Encouraging innovation in the landscape design, construction and maintenance industries, supporting the creation of high-performance spaces that provide critical ecosystem services.
- [Redeveloping degraded sites](#) and [protecting historic and cultural landscapes](#), thereby promoting opportunities for increased employment, entrepreneurship, improved adjacent property values and tourism.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - *MATERIALS C5.7 Support responsible extraction of raw materials*
 - *MATERIALS C5.8 Support transparency and safer chemistry*
 - *MATERIALS C5.9 Support sustainability in materials manufacturing*
 - *HHWB C6.11 Support local economy*
 - *O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*

U.N. SDG Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the formalization

and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrative design process*
- *PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders*
- *MATERIALS C5.6: Use regional materials*
- *HHWB C6.11: Support local economy*
- *O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*

U.N. SDG Target 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *MATERIALS P5.1: Eliminate the use of wood from threatened tree species*
- *MATERIALS C5.2: Maintain on-site structures and paving*
- *MATERIALS C5.3: Design for adaptability and disassembly*
- *MATERIALS C5.4: Use salvaged materials and plants*
- *MATERIALS C5.5: Use recycled content materials*
- *MATERIALS C5.6: Use regional materials*
- *MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials*
- *MATERIALS C5.8: Support transparency and safer chemistry*
- *MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing*
- *MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production*
- *CONSTRUCTION C7.5: Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal*
- *CONSTRUCTION C7.6: Divert reusable vegetation, rocks and soil from disposal*
- *O+M P8.2: Provide for storage and collection of recyclables*
- *O+M C8.3: Recycle organic matter*

U.N. SDG Target 8.8: Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders*
- HHWB C6.11: Support local economy*



GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

SITES advances Goal 9 by:

- Providing a framework for new development projects on how to design sustainable landscapes with built-in resource-use efficiency and resilience to disturbance.
- Supporting the growth of industries that extract raw materials responsibly, practice sustainable manufacturing and exercise safer chemistry.
- Encouraging innovation strategies in site design, construction and maintenance that improve the standard of living for all and support the evolution of green infrastructure.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites
 - CONTEXT C1.6: Locate projects within existing developed areas
 - CONTEXT C1.7: Connect to multi-modal transit networks
 - HHWB C6.3: Promote equitable site use
 - HHWB C6.9: Encourage fuel efficient and multi-modal transportation

U.N. SDG Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites
 - CONTEXT C1.7: Connect to multi-modal transit networks
 - WATER P3.2: Reduce water use for landscape irrigation
 - WATER C3.4: Reduce outdoor water use

- SOIL+VEG C4.9: Reduce urban heat island effect
- SOIL+VEG C4.10: Use vegetation to minimize building energy use
- MATERIALS C5.2: Maintain on-site structures and paving
- MATERIALS C5.3: Design for adaptability and disassembly
- MATERIALS C5.4: Reuse salvaged materials and plants
- MATERIALS C5.5: Use recycled content materials
- MATERIALS C5.6: Use regional materials
- MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials
- MATERIALS C5.8: Support transparency and safer chemistry
- MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing
- MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production
- HHWB C6.9: Encourage fuel efficient and multi-modal transportation
- CONSTRUCTION C7.5: Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal
- CONSTRUCTION C7.6: Divert reusable vegetation, rocks and soil from disposal
- O+M P8.2: Provide for storage and collection of recyclables
- O+M C8.3: Recycle organic matter
- O+M C8.5: Reduce outdoor energy consumption
- O+M C8.6: Use renewable sources for landscape electricity needs

INNOVATION C10: Innovation or Exemplary Performance

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

SITES advances Goal 10 by:

- Channeling development to brownfields and previously developed sites, spurring business investment, resource availability and remediation in historically disadvantaged communities with degraded land.
- Empowering all future site users to incorporate regional knowledge and expectations into decision-making in order to design projects that better serve the public most impacted by them.
- Sourcing from materials suppliers with responsible mining, extraction and labor practices, thereby supporting policies that benefit local economies.
- Creating comfortable outdoor spaces that provide amenities, services and recreation areas that strengthen social connection and physical and mental health within communities.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites
 - PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders
 - MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials
 - HHWB C6.3: Promote equitable site use
 - HHWB C6.6: Support social connection
 - HHWB C6.11: Support local economy



GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

SITES advances Goal 11 by:

- Routing development away from greenfields and healthy farmland in favor of previously developed sites served by existing transit networks, thereby reducing urban sprawl and incentivizing remediation.
- Promoting conservation efforts for historic and cultural spaces, structures and existing ecosystems such as those with special status.
- Building climate resilient communities by conserving and restoring floodplains and incorporating green infrastructure measures, wildfire risk reduction strategies and urban heat island prevention into their design.
- Providing a framework for sustainable land development and long-term maintenance that cities and developers can leverage to improve air quality, limit waste, strengthen community resilience and restore ecosystem services.
- Ensuring public green spaces are inclusive and accessible to all members of society for social enjoyment, physical exercise and mental rejuvenation.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - CONTEXT P1.1: Limit development on farmland
 - CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions
 - CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems
 - CONTEXT P1.4: Conserve habitats for threatened and endangered species
 - CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites
 - CONTEXT C1.6: Locate projects within existing developed areas
 - CONTEXT C1.7: Connect to multi-modal transit networks

- PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrated design process
- PRE-DESIGN P2.2: Conduct a pre-design site assessment
- PRE-DESIGN P2.4: Engage users and stakeholders
- HHWB C6.11: Support local economy
- CONSTRUCTION P7.1: Communicate and verify sustainable construction practices
- O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance

U.N. SDG Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- SOIL+VEG C4.5: Conserve special status vegetation
- HHWB C6.1: Protect and maintain cultural and historic places
- O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance
- O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use

U.N. SDG Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions
- CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems
- WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site
- WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline
- WATER C3.5: Design functional stormwater features as amenities
- WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems
- SOIL+VEG C4.9: Reduce urban heat island effects
- SOIL+VEG C4.11: Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire

U.N. SDG Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT C1.7: Connect to multi-modal transit networks
- SOIL+VEG C4.8: Optimize biomass
- SOIL+VEG C4.10: Use vegetation to minimize building energy use
- MATERIALS C5.2: Maintain on-site structures and paving
- MATERIALS C5.3: Design for adaptability and disassembly
- MATERIALS C5.4: Reuse salvaged materials and plants
- MATERIALS C5.5: Use recycled content materials
- MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing
- MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production
- HHWB C6.9: Encourage fuel efficient and multi-modal transportation
- HHWB C6.10: Minimize exposure to environmental tobacco smoke

- CONSTRUCTION P7.2: Control and retain construction pollutants
- CONSTRUCTION C7.5: Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal
- CONSTRUCTION C7.6: Divert reusable vegetation, rocks and soil from disposal
- CONSTRUCTION C7.7: Protect air quality during construction
- O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance
- O+M P8.2: Provide for storage and collection of recyclables
- O+M C8.3: Recycle organic matter
- O+M C8.6: Use renewable sources for landscape electricity needs
- O+M C8.7: Protect air quality during landscape maintenance

U.N. SDG Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites
- CONTEXT C1.6: Locate projects within existing developed areas
- CONTEXT C1.7: Connect to multi-modal transit networks
- PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders
- HHWB C6.2: Provide optimum site accessibility, safety and wayfinding
- HHWB C6.3: Promote equitable site use
- HHWB C6.4: Support mental restoration
- HHWB C6.5: Support physical activity
- HHWB C6.6: Support social connection

U.N. SDG Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters and develop and implement, in line with the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), holistic disaster risk management at all levels

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *The growing number of federal, state, city and municipal-level governments that have [incorporated SITES into local policy](#) fulfill this target. Advocacy for SITES adoption into policy may apply toward the SITES innovation credit (C10).



GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SITES advances Goal 12 by:

- Harnessing the buying power of new development projects by directing funds toward regional plant and materials vendors that achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions, non-renewable energy usage and potable water consumption.
- Salvaging reusable structures, vegetation, rocks and soil on-site thereby extending the life cycle of existing materials and diverting from landfill disposal.
- Advocating for safe chemical circularity by supporting materials manufacturers that publicly disclose and complete chemical hazard assessments, minimizing pesticide and fertilizer use and remediating degraded sites.
- Engaging current and future site users and stakeholders early in the design and development process to incorporate local needs and to supplement professional expertise with local knowledge.
- Contributing to the body of knowledge on sustainable materials management in land development projects through educational courses, conferences and workshops, case studies and long-term performance monitoring.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - MATERIALS P5.1: Eliminate the use of wood from threatened tree species
 - MATERIALS C5.2: Maintain on-site structures and paving
 - MATERIALS C5.3: Design for adaptability and disassembly
 - MATERIALS C5.4: Use salvaged materials and plants
 - MATERIALS C5.5: Use recycled content materials
 - MATERIALS C5.6: Use regional materials
 - MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials
 - MATERIALS C5.8: Support transparency and safer chemistry
 - MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing
 - MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production

- CONSTRUCTION C7.5: Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal
- CONSTRUCTION C7.6: Divert reusable vegetation, rocks and soil from disposal
- O+M P8.2: Provide for storage and collection of recyclables
- O+M C8.3: Recycle organic matter

U.N. SDG Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites
- MATERIALS C5.8: Support transparency and safer chemistry
- MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing
- CONSTRUCTION P7.2: Control and retain construction pollutants
- O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use

U.N. SDG Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- MATERIALS C5.2: Maintain on-site structures and paving
- MATERIALS C5.3: Design for adaptability and disassembly
- MATERIALS C5.4: Use salvaged materials and plants
- MATERIALS C5.5: Use recycled content materials
- MATERIALS C5.9: Support sustainability in materials manufacturing
- MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production
- CONSTRUCTION C7.5: Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal
- CONSTRUCTION C7.6: Divert reusable vegetation, rocks and soil from disposal
- O+M P8.2: Provide for storage and collection of recyclables
- O+M C8.3: Recycle organic matter

U.N. SDG Target 12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- MATERIALS C5.7 Support responsible extraction of raw materials
- MATERIALS C5.8 Support transparency and safer chemistry
- MATERIALS C5.9 Support sustainability in materials manufacturing
- MATERIALS C5.10 Support sustainability in plant production
- EDUCATION C9.3 Plan to monitor and report site performance

U.N. SDG Target 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrative design process
- PRE-DESIGN P2.2: Conduct a pre-design site assessment
- PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders
- EDUCATION C9.1: Promote sustainability awareness and education
- EDUCATION C9.2: Develop and communicate a case study
- EDUCATION C9.3: Plan to monitor and report site performance
- *While not a SITES v2 credit, available SITES courses on the USGBC educational platform and the SITES AP credential fulfills this target.



GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SITES advances Goal 13 by:

- Conserving and restoring the critical ecosystem services that increase a community's ability to withstand disturbances, including flooding, storm surge, heat waves, wildfire and drought, thus mitigating the impact of natural disasters.
- Implementing nature-based solutions and adaptive capacity to climate change at the federal, state and municipal levels through SITES policy adoption. This serves as a guidebook for new land design and development projects and for the management of existing built landscapes.
- Using an integrative design process to identify and execute synergistic opportunities across different disciplines throughout all phases of design and construction.
- Providing education and awareness about the vital connection between sustainable landscape performance and climate change via virtual course offerings and case studies as well as in-person via programming and educational site features at SITES-certified projects around the world.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions
 - CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems
 - WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site
 - WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline
 - WATER C3.5: Design functional stormwater features as amenities
 - WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems
 - SOIL+VEG C4.9: Reduce urban heat island effects
 - SOIL+VEG C4.11: Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire

U.N. SDG Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

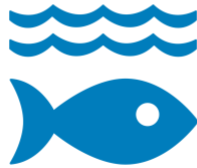
- *The growing number of federal, state, city and municipal-level governments that have [incorporated SITES into local policy](#) fulfill this target. Advocacy for SITES adoption into policy may apply toward the SITES innovation credit (C10).

U.N. SDG Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrative design process
- PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders
- EDUCATION C9.1: Promote sustainability awareness and education
- EDUCATION C9.2: Develop and communicate a case study
- EDUCATION C9.3: Plan to monitor and report site performance
- SITES PILOT CREDIT 3: Assess and improve site carbon performance
- *While not a SITES v2 credit, available SITES courses on the USGBC educational platform and the SITES AP credential fulfills this target.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SITES advances Goal 14 by:

- Incorporating green infrastructure designed to mimic, support and restore the natural water cycle.
- Managing stormwater on-site through sustainable retention and treatment methods, reducing the negative impacts to receiving water channels caused by runoff.
- Protecting aquatic ecosystems from the harmful chemical discharge of construction-generated materials and pollutants, pesticides and fertilizers, mitigating eutrophication.
- Minimizing the volume of debris that could end up in waterways by recycling organic matter such as vegetation trimmings and food waste, creating designated areas for recyclables and diverting reusable site materials from disposal.
- Strengthening coastal ecosystem services through invasive species control measures and reestablishing appropriate and native plant communities.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions
 - CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems
 - WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site
 - WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline
 - WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems
 - SOIL+VEG P4.1: Create and communicate a soil management plan
 - MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production
 - CONSTRUCTION P7.2: Control and retain construction pollutants
 - CONSTRUCTION C7.5: Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal
 - CONSTRUCTION C7.7: Protect air quality during construction
 - O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance

- O+M P8.2: Provide for storage and collection of recyclables
- O+M C8.3: Recycle organic matter
- O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use
- O+M C8.7: Protect air quality during landscape maintenance

U.N. SDG Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions
- CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems
- WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site
- WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline
- WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems
- SOIL+VEG P4.1: Create and communicate a soil management plan
- SOIL+ VEG P4.2: Control and manage invasive plants
- SOIL+ VEG P4.3: Use appropriate plants
- SOIL+ VEG C4.4: Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation
- SOIL+ VEG C4.5: Conserve special status vegetation
- SOIL+ VEG C4.6: Conserve and use native plants
- SOIL+ VEG C4.7: Conserve and restore native plant communities
- CONSTRUCTION P7.3: Restore soils disturbed during construction
- CONSTRUCTION C7.4: Restore soils disturbed by previous development
- O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance
- O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use

15 LIFE ON LAND



GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

SITES advances Goal 15 by:

- Conserving and restoring the vital terrestrial and hydrological systems that sustain all forms of life on land.
- Directing development from greenfields, intact forests, grasslands, wetlands, etc. - to previously developed areas and brownfield sites, capitalizing on the opportunity to remediate environmental contamination and restore natural processes.
- Prioritizing the conservation of healthy soil, proper soil restoration and sourcing, avoiding the use of sphagnum peat or organic amendments that contain peat to protect a key carbon sink.
- Fostering biodiversity through the prioritization of native species in site design and construction, ensuring that plants, pollinators and animals can resume their indispensable contributions to our shared environment.
- Limiting damage to ecosystem services by developing and implementing an active management plan for the control and removal of invasive vegetation.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - CONTEXT P1.2: Protect floodplain functions
 - CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems
 - CONTEXT P1.4: Conserve habitats for threatened and endangered species
 - PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrative design process
 - PRE-DESIGN P2.2: Conduct a pre-design site assessment
 - PRE-DESIGN P2.3: Designate and communicate Vegetation and Soil Protection Zones
 - WATER P3.1: Manage precipitation on site

- WATER P3.2: Reduce water use for landscape irrigation
- WATER C3.3: Manage precipitation beyond baseline
- WATER C3.4: Reduce outdoor water use
- WATER C3.6: Restore aquatic ecosystems
- SOIL+ VEG P4.1: Create and communicate a soil management plan
- SOIL+ VEG P4.2: Control and manage invasive plants
- SOIL+ VEG P4.3: Use appropriate plants
- SOIL+ VEG C4.4: Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation
- SOIL+ VEG C4.5: Conserve special status vegetation
- SOIL+ VEG C4.6: Conserve and use native plants
- SOIL+ VEG C4.7: Conserve and restore native plant communities
- SOIL+ VEG C4.8: Optimize biomass
- MATERIALS P5.1: Eliminate the use of wood from threatened tree species
- MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials
- MATERIALS C5.10: Support sustainability in plant production
- CONSTRUCTION P7.3: Restore soils disturbed during construction
- CONSTRUCTION C7.4: Restore soils disturbed by previous development
- O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance

U.N. SDG Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT P1.4: Conserve habitats for threatened and endangered species
- PRE-DESIGN P2.3: Designate and communicate Vegetation and Soil Protection Zones
- CONTEXT C1.6: Locate projects within existing developed areas
- SOIL+VEG P4.2: Control and manage invasive plants
- SOIL+VEG P4.3 Use appropriate plants
- SOIL+VEG C4.4 Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation
- SOIL+VEG C4.5 Conserve special status vegetation
- SOIL+VEG C4.6 Conserve and use native plants
- SOIL+VEG C4.7 Conserve and restore native plant communities
- SOIL+VEG C4.8 Optimize biomass
- SOIL+VEG C4.11 Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire
- MATERIALS P5.1: Eliminate the use of wood from threatened tree species

U.N. SDG Target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT C1.5: Redevelop degraded sites
- CONTEXT C1.6: Locate projects within existing developed areas
- SOIL+VEG P4.1: Create and communicate a soil management plan

- CONSTRUCTION P7.3: Restore soils disturbed during construction
- CONSTRUCTION C7.4: Restore soils disturbed by previous development

U.N. SDG Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- CONTEXT P1.3: Conserve aquatic ecosystems
- CONTEXT P1.4: Conserve habitats for threatened and endangered species
- PRE-DESIGN P2.3: Designate and communicate Vegetation and Soil Protection Zones
- SOIL+ VEG P4.2: Control and manage invasive plants
- SOIL+VEG C4.4: Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation
- SOIL+VEG C4.5: Conserve special status vegetation
- SOIL+VEG C4.6: Conserve and use native plants
- SOIL+VEG C4.7: Conserve and restore native plant communities
- MATERIALS P5.1: Eliminate the use of wood from threatened tree species
- MATERIALS C5.7: Support responsible extraction of raw materials
- HHWB C6.8: Reduce light pollution
- O+M P8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance
- O+M C8.4: Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use

U.N. SDG Target 15.8: By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- PRE-DESIGN P2.3 Designate and communicate Vegetation and Soil Protection Zones
- SOIL+VEG P4.2 Control and manage invasive plants
- SOIL+VEG P4.3 Use appropriate plants
- SOIL+VEG C4.4 Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation
- SOIL+VEG C4.6 Conserve and use native plants
- SOIL+VEG C4.7 Conserve and restore native plant communities

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

SITES advances Goal 16 by:

- Facilitating public participation with planning organizations to ensure developments engage future site users and serve their local community.
- Considering the needs of all stakeholders with a systems thinking design approach and an interdisciplinary team that blend their expertise through a collaborative communication process.
- Increasing publicly-accessible greenspace in urban areas which [research](#) suggests is a consistent predictor of reduced violent and property crime risk.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

U.N. SDG Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

- **SITES Specific Credits:**
 - *PRE-DESIGN P2.1 Use an integrative design process*
 - *PRE-DESIGN C2.4 Engage users and stakeholders*



GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

SITES advances Goal 17 by:

- Leveraging the rating system at federal, state and municipal-level policy to ensure all new and existing built landscapes provide critical ecosystem services to their communities. For more information, read [Designing the Future: Incorporating SITES Into Sustainable Landscape Regulations](#).
- Providing a comprehensive roadmap for sustainable land design and development that offers global applicability at the project level and beyond.
- Increasing the chances of qualifying for federal funding assistance through projects obtaining SITES certification.
- Investing in relationships with developers, property owners, landscape architects, engineers, planners, architects and others to build a strong collaborative network that implements and promotes sustainable land development.
- Optimizing site performance by identifying and executing synergistic opportunities across different disciplines throughout all phases of design and construction.
- Encouraging projects to conduct meaningful community outreach and engagement by identifying specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely project goals before and during the design process to supplement professional expertise with local knowledge.

U.N. SDG targets:

U.N. SDG Target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

- **SITES Specific:**
 - *The growing number of federal, state, city and municipal-level governments that have incorporated SITES into local policy fulfill this target and advocacy for SITES adoption into policy may apply toward the SITES innovation credit (C10).
 - For more information, read [Designing the Future: Incorporating SITES Into Sustainable Landscape Regulations](#).

U.N. SDG Target 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise,

technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

- **SITES Specific Credits:**

- *PRE-DESIGN P2.1: Use an integrative design process*
- *PRE-DESIGN C2.4: Engage users and stakeholders*
- *EDUCATION C9.1: Promote sustainability awareness and education*
- *EDUCATION C9.2: Develop and communicate a case study*
- *EDUCATION C9.3: Plan to monitor and report site performance*

U.N. SDG Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

- **SITES Specific:**

- *SITES was originally developed as an interdisciplinary and collaborative partnership with a diverse group of subject matter experts and stakeholders. SITES is proud to continue partnering with a network of organizations around the world that are committed to championing meaningful, high-performance landscapes and outdoor spaces as part of our [Community Partners](#) program to ensure a nature-positive future for all.