

# United Nations SDGs



**FY2019 is the first year** Avalon has integrated the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its sustainability reporting.

In 2014, Avalon undertook a detailed and inclusive process to develop its Sustainability Report content using the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)'s framework. A multidisciplinary team composed of management and non-management level employees led the initiative, compiled relevant information and conducted the materiality assessment. The output of this process identified which topics have the highest priority and materiality to the Company's objectives and to its Communities of Interest. The topics and Communities of Interest list have been reviewed annually since 2014, and have guided what Avalon chooses to include in the GRI Index in each of its annual Sustainability Reports.

This year, Avalon has mapped the SDGs onto its current GRI disclosure to assess which UN goals are most relevant to Avalon's sustainability journey. The chart on [page 26](#) summarizes this data. Note that most GRI Disclosures correspond to more than one SDG.

The top three SDGs that emerged as most material to Avalon's business are: Life on Land; Decent Work and Economic Growth; and Clean Water and Sanitation. These goals are summarized below.

## **SDG 15: PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

Business and ecosystems are linked. To retain the integrity and vitality of natural resources today and for future generations and to ensure long-term socio-economic growth and prosperity, sustainable management of land is key. Business can directly contribute to this SDG by measuring, managing, mitigating and reporting on its impact and dependence on land and ecosystems, such as through Avalon's annual Sustainability Reports.

## **SDG 8: PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL**

Businesses are engines for job creation and economic growth. Quality work opportunities are good for business and society. Companies that uphold labour standards across their own operations and value chains face lower risk of reputational damage and legal liability. Instituting non-discriminatory practices and embracing diversity and inclusion will also lead to greater access to skilled, productive talent.

Avalon hires local employees and contractors wherever possible to stimulate economic activity in areas local to the Company’s projects. Once projects are in construction and production stages, hundreds of well-paying, quality jobs will be available in the regions.

## SDG 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Access to water and sanitation are basic human rights and are critical sustainable development challenges. Business can contribute to the alleviation of these water challenges by adopting a water stewardship strategy that addresses the economic, environment and social dimensions of water.

Avalon adopts high water standards in all levels of project design. At the Nechalacho Project in the Northwest Territories, Avalon worked with academia and regulators to develop effluent guidelines for the rare earth elements using Canadian Council of Minister of Environment protocols to the extent practical to establish these guidelines which have subsequently been proposed as regulatory guidelines in Avalon’s water permit.

Avalon chose to incorporate the SDGs into its sustainability reporting due to several comments from Communities of Interest asking about the initiative. In this year’s report, look for the corresponding icon in the GRI Index ([page 27](#)) to indicate where each SDG is associated with Avalon’s GRI disclosures.

UN Sustainable Development Goal	# of Avalon’s GRI Disclosures pertaining to theme	Icon in text
Life on Land	27	
Decent work and economic growth	24	
Clean water and sanitation	19	
Peace, justice and strong institutions	18	
Gender equality	15	
Responsible consumption and production	15	
Good health and well being	14	
Life below water	13	
Affordable and clean energy	8	
Zero hunger	7	
Industry, innovation and infrastructure	7	
Climate action	6	
No poverty	5	
Quality education	5	
Reduced inequalities	4	
Sustainable cities and communities	1	