

These datasets are compilations of all sustainability objectives found in the Swedish national curriculum for upper-secondary levels (Läroplan för Gymnasieskolan), and the sustainability objectives found in the Swedish upper-secondary common-subjects – these being social studies (Samhällskunskap), Religion (Religionskunskap), Swedish (Svenska), Swedish as a second language (Svenska som andraspråk), English (Engelska), Mathematics (Matematik), History (Historia), Science (Naturkunskap), and Sports & Health (Idrott och Hälsa). For the subject syllabi, both the outgoing (2011 versions) and new (to be implemented 2025) versions of these documents have been analyzed for sustainability objectives. When it comes to the national curriculum, a new and revised version was released in late 2024, to be implemented in 2025. A careful comparison between this new version of the curriculum and the old one was performed. This comparison revealed that no sustainability goals were removed or added in this latest version. The new version only made minor revisions, such as removing certain goals about using digitalized teaching methods and changing the word “course” to “subject” since the 2025 school reform has the goal of lessening the importance of individual courses and creating a more subject-centered view of education by, for example, introducing subject grades comprised of an average of all subject courses. Hence, only one coding scheme is presented here as the coding schemes for the 2011 and 2025 versions are identical.

This dataset is authored in Swedish.

The coding schemes were constructed using the variables of the three dimensions of sustainability – environmental, social, & economic. One coding scheme was built and filled in per document, resulting in the analysis being performed on 19 schemes (national curriculum + all common subject curricula for 2011 and 2025). The main author filled the coding schemes manually, ensuring that each paragraph coded into a dimension was sorted chronologically. Paragraphs that fulfill the criteria of being coded as one or more of the dimensions would be sorted into all corresponding dimensions.

One early roadblock of the coding process was the ambiguity of the SD dimensions. The UN does not define what exactly is to be considered, for example, a social sustainability goal or achievement. As such, this article has taken a broad stance towards what qualifies.

For a goal or objective to be considered fulfilling the criteria of inclusion, the following must be true:

- There must be a clearly stated goal or objective of what schools, educators, employees, or students should do, know, learn, or work towards. Examples of such objectives or goals are stated subject purposes, course goals, and grading guidelines.
- For inclusion in the environmental policy objectives column, the paragraph needs to fulfil the above concerning the environment; this can be both clear goals related to direct knowledge about the environment, environmental problems, and viable solutions to such problems and

more abstract constructions like how environmental perspectives should permeate educational efforts.

- For inclusion in the social policy objectives column, the first criteria should be fulfilled and true in relation to social objectives. A social objective was seen as any objective or goal that spoke to the development of societal welfare, examples of which include social welfare, human rights, equality and equity, and the development of democratic norms.
- For a goal to be included in the economic policy objectives column, the first criteria must be fulfilled about economic objectives, such as the development of skills needed for a diverse workforce, personal and national economic growth in Sweden or worldwide, and innovation.

Guide to data:

The meaning of the columns in the data are as follows:

Del: The chapter, section, or part of the original policy document the policy objectives originate from (if blank: same chapter/section/part as previous policy objective).

PP.: The page(s) of the original policy document the policy objectives originate from.

Environmental policy & goals: Policy objectives that relate to environmental sustainability in accordance with the above inclusion criteria.

Social policy and goals: Policy objectives that relates to social sustainability in accordance with the above inclusion criteria.

Economic policy & goals: Policy objectives that relates to economic sustainability in accordance with the above inclusion criteria.