



7th Performance Report of Elected Dutch Municipalities of BNG Sustainability Bond of November 2018

July 2025

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Executive summary

On the 26th of November 2018, BNG launched its fifth Sustainability Bond: a new seven-year benchmark with a volume of €750 million. Additionally, an AUD 400 million, 6.5-year bond was issued based on the same selection of sustainable municipalities in 2018. The Framework report for the BNG Sustainability Bond 2018 was provided to BNG by Het PON & Telos, an official partner of Tilburg University, describing the selection process of best-in-class Dutch municipalities eligible for the bond.

An important aspect to assess the quality of the bond investments, is to monitor the impact on the sustainability and social objectives (Use of proceeds reporting - UPR). During the period 2019-2025, BNG publishes a yearly impact report based on the sustainability scores of all Dutch municipalities. This yearly update provides insight in the development of sustainability scores of the 115 elected municipalities, compared to all 342 Dutch municipalities. As part of the framework for selecting the 115 municipalities, Dutch municipalities are classified into 14 categories that reflect differences in development challenges, based on factors such as size, historical background, and geographical context. The framework selects a list of 115 municipalities that are the best in class for each of the 14 types of municipalities. BNG asked Het PON & Telos to provide the annual impact reports for this bond, by calculating sustainable development based on the 3P approach (three capitals People, Planet and Profit). This performance report is the seventh impact report of the 2018 Sustainability Bond, covering the years 2018-2025.

This performance report shows that the elected municipalities continue to outperform the total group of municipalities, by 2.7 percentage points (52.3 vs. 49.6). Both groups of municipalities show an improvement in the overall score between 2018 and 2025 of 2.6 percentage points. The scores of all three underlying capitals developed in a similar way for both groups. The largest improvement occurred for the economic capital, where both groups show an increase of over 5 percentage points. The socio-cultural capital decreased by 0.9 for the elected group vs. 1.3 percentage points for the total group.

Table 1 Sustainability performance score (0-100) of 115 elected municipalities and of al 342 Dutch municipalities in 2018 compared to 2025

Sustainability capital	Elected 2018	Total 2018	Elected 2025	Total 2025	Elected: Difference * 2018-2025	Total: Difference * 2018-2025 ¹
Total	49.6	47.0	52.3	49.6	2.6	2.6
Socio-cultural	53.6	50.6	52.7	49.3	-0.9	-1.3
Ecological	46.9	44.8	50.5	48.6	3.7	3.7
Economic	48.4	45.5	53.5	50.9	5.2	5.4

*Percentage points

Municipalities' scores fluctuate from year to year, although some major differences between municipalities are of a structural nature. When looking at the top 10 elected municipalities with the largest improvement in sustainability score, the average improvement was 4.6 percentage points – with a range from 4.2 to 5.1. Only one of the elected municipalities shows a decrease in sustainability score, of 0.9 percentage points.

A closer look at the CO₂ emissions shows that the elected municipalities achieved a CO₂ emission of 32.7% between 1990-2022 and 34.7% between 2010-2022. In contrast, the other group of municipalities realised smaller reductions over the same periods – just 2.2% and 16.9%, respectively. However, the difference between both groups narrows considerably when focusing on the most recent years (2021-2022). During this period, the elected municipalities reduced their CO₂ emissions by 8.2% compared to 8.0% reduction in the other group.

¹ The calculated differences can be 0.1 percentage point higher or lower due to rounding during the calculation. This is the case for all calculated differences in the report.

Lastly, the performance on the Sustainable Development Goals has been assessed. A comparison over the period 2018-2025 shows that the performance of the elected municipalities has improved for 11 of the 15 SDGs (SDG 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16). The largest improvement was achieved for SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy (17.3 percentage points), SDG 1: No Poverty (11.7 percentage points) and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (6.4 percentage points). The largest decreases were observed for SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (4.0 percentage points) and SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing (3.9 percentage points). These improvements and declines per SDG are more or less similar for both groups of municipalities. When comparing the 2025 scores, the elected municipalities still outperform the total group for 14 out of the 15 measured goals.

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1 Introduction

On the 26th of November 2018, BNG launched its fifth Sustainability Bond, a new seven-year benchmark with a volume of €750 million. Additionally, an AUD 400 million, 6.5-year bond was issued based on the same selection of sustainable municipalities in 2018. Both bonds have their maturity date on the 26th of November 2025. During the period 2019-2025, BNG publishes an annual use of proceeds (UPR) report to monitor the development on the sustainability scores of all Dutch municipalities. This yearly report provides insight into the changes in the sustainability scores of 115 elected municipalities compared to the total group of 342 Dutch municipalities. At the request of BNG, Het PON & Telos provided BNG with a framework document, describing the sustainability criteria and selection process for the best-in-class Dutch municipalities, to be considered for the BNG Sustainability Bond 2018. Het PON & Telos developed this framework based on the National Monitor of Sustainable Municipalities 2018, which was first produced in 2014 on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. As part of the framework for selecting the 115 municipalities, Dutch municipalities are classified into 14 categories that reflect differences in development challenges, based on factors such as size, historical background, and geographical context. The framework selects a list of 115 municipalities that are the best in class for each of the 14 types of municipalities.

BNG asked Het PON & Telos, an official partner of Tilburg University, to monitor sustainable development and to provide the annual impact reports for this bond, by calculating sustainable development of the bond investments based on the 3P approach (three capitals People, Planet and Profit).

This performance report is the seventh impact report of the 2018 Sustainability Bonds, covering the years 2018-2025. It describes the used methodology and the overall results of the comparison for the years 2018-2025, including the impact on CO₂ emissions. CO₂ emissions are of particular interest as they are often the key driver for investors in green bonds and sustainability bonds. In addition, this report provides insights into the development of elected municipalities in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Version impact report	Issue date
1	December 2019 ²
2	December 2020 ³
3	December 2021 ⁴
4	Oktober 2022 ⁵
5	July 2023 ⁶
6	June 2024 ⁷

Municipalities in Dutch Society

As of January 2024, the Netherlands consists of 342 municipalities. These municipalities vary in size, population, landscape and historical background. Municipalities face various challenges, some arising from global developments or European initiatives, such as climate change and data protection legislation, while others stem from national policy decisions. At the same time, citizens are expecting local authorities to be imaginative, decisive and effective. The municipality decides on matters such as public greenery, social housing, various forms of healthcare, the construction of public buildings and infrastructure. In addition to the implementation of their own policies, municipalities are responsible for implementing national policies. Their tasks include maintaining public order and safety, delivering social services, fostering employment opportunities and promoting economic prosperity and high-quality healthcare.

² Report can be requested from BNG

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

In 2024, municipalities faced a series of complex challenges arising from both long-term social trends and new policy developments. Municipalities were actively involved in implementing climate adaptation measures, such as adapting public spaces to cope with heavy rainfall. They also worked on rolling out new infrastructure for the increased supply of sustainable energy. Municipalities worked together regionally to prioritise housing construction. As in previous years, most of the municipal expenditure was allocated to the social domain, with a focus on employment and income, youth and social support. In addition, municipalities faced other challenges, including staff shortages, increased workload within their own organisations, and difficulties in reaching all residents. Cooperation between municipalities, care providers, social organisations and other stakeholders is essential to effectively address municipal challenges and responsibilities.

2 Description of activities

2.1 Update of database

This impact report primarily provides an update of the sustainability assessment of the selected municipalities, following the same approach used in the National Monitor of Sustainable Municipalities 2018.

This monitor is based on the concept of sustainable development proposed by the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), which use three - equally important - dimensions: socio-cultural (People), ecological (Planet) and economic (Profit). These three 'capitals' are subdivided into themes, called 'stocks', which are operationalized through the measurement of 'indicators'. It is based on the 3P approach (People, Planet and Profit) used in the 1987 UN Brundtland Commission report and by Het PON & Telos in its National Monitor.⁸

The updating activities include:

1. Motivation of new sustainability stocks, indicators and goals for indicators to reflect new scientific knowledge and practical developments
2. Generating or acquiring the most recent data from open public sources for the indicators used in the National Monitor Sustainable Municipalities
3. Harmonising with national monitoring activities by third parties on thematic issues such as climate, mobility, health, etc
4. Adapting to municipal reorganisations, which lead to larger municipalities and a lower total number of municipalities.

The National Monitor Sustainable Municipalities 2018 has identified 14 types of municipalities. These 14 types are used in the framework of the BNG Sustainability Bond of 2018 and form the basis of this performance report.

⁸ Het PON & Telos. (2021). *Nationale monitor duurzame gemeenten 2020. Duurzaamheidstrends van 355 Nederlandse gemeenten tussen 2016 en 2020.* [National Monitor](#)

Indicator values are measured for sustainability goals, which differ slightly from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or Global Goals, which were agreed upon by the UN in 2015. A detailed analysis of the comparability and differences by Het PON & Telos, as described in the 2017 National Monitor⁹, found these goals to be quite similar. The UN SDGs were mainly developed for nation states and include global commons, such as the oceans, which are not relevant at the municipal level in the Netherlands. Furthermore, the SDGs have a political rather than a scientific framework. That is why this report uses the independently developed sustainability goals. The used goals are described in more detail in the methods report.¹⁰

2.2 Assessment of performance of elected sustainable municipalities

Based on the updated database, the sustainability performance of 115 elected municipalities in 2018 is assessed and described for the period 2018–2025. The group of elected municipalities, described in the framework of the BNG Sustainability Bond of November 2018, was selected by identifying the 15 municipalities with the best scores per type of municipality, such as ‘agricultural’, ‘old industrial’, ‘shrinking’, etc. Originally, 125 municipalities were selected from a total of 380 municipalities in the Netherlands in 2018. Since 2018, the number of municipalities has declined because of municipal mergers. In 2025, there are 342 municipalities. This resulted in a decrease in the number of selected municipalities in 2018. The municipalities of Nuth, Schinnen, Haren, Winsum, Molenwaard, Ferwerderadiel, Geldermalsen, Zuidhorn, Grave and Langedijk are no longer independent entities and therefore no longer included in this performance report. This results in a group of elected 115 municipalities.

⁹ Zoeteman, B., Dagevos, J., Mulder, R., Wentink, C., Hoven, N., & Visser, C. (2017). *Nationale Monitor Duurzame Gemeenten 2017* (Document No. 17.170). Telos, Tilburg University.

<https://www.telos.nl/publicaties/publicatiesrapporten/default.aspx#folder=894859>

¹⁰ Het PON & Telos. (2025). *BNG Sustainability bonds method report 2025*. www.hetpon-telos.nl/methodreport2025

In addition, the set of indicators used in the National Monitor of Sustainable Municipalities 2018 has been revised, partly due to new opportunities and partly due to a lack of continuously available data, resulting in 119 indicators now - compared to 126 in 2018. Such changes must be considered when comparing this seventh Performance Report with previous editions. To ensure a fair comparison across the years, scores for previous years have been recalculated based on the current set of indicators. A description of all the indicators included in the 2025 framework and a description of which indicators have been added, removed or changed since last year, can be found in Annex C. Details of the amendments made to the calculation of the sustainability scores, can be found in the methodology report.¹¹

The assessment in this report includes:

1. A comparison of the sustainability scores of the elected municipalities with the total group of Dutch municipalities for 2018 and 2025.
2. A comparison of the sustainability scores of the elected municipalities between 2018 and 2025, including:
 - a. total scores
 - b. capital scores
 - c. stock scores
 - d. indicator scores - when appropriate
3. A list of elected municipalities, which show the largest improvement or reduction in overall score and in CO₂ emissions. CO₂ emissions are discussed separately in this report because Green bonds focus specifically on financing projects that reduce CO₂ emissions and sustainability bonds cover a broader range of sustainability goals, including but not limited to CO₂ emissions.
4. An overview of the development of the SDGs for the elected municipalities between 2018 and 2025.

The results from these analyses are presented in the following chapters. Finally, the overall changes observed for the 2018–2025 reporting period are discussed.

¹¹ Ibid.

3 Results and comparison of 2018 and 2025

3.1 National Monitor Sustainable Municipalities 2025

In June 2025, Het PON & Telos completed the data collection for the National Monitor Sustainable Municipalities 2025. The outcome of this monitor is used to assess the results of the Sustainability Bond 2018. The scores for previous years have been recalculated based on the set of indicators used in 2025 to ensure a fair comparison over the years. Due to this recalculation, the results sometimes differ from those presented in the 2018 framework document and previous performance reports. The main results for all Dutch municipalities are presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Sustainability performance (score 0-100) of the total group of Dutch municipalities in 2018-2025

Sustainability capital	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	47.0	47.7	48.1	48.7	49.5	49.8	49.6	49.6
Socio-cultural	50.6	50.6	51.0	51.0	49.5	49.4	49.3	49.3
Ecological	44.8	45.5	46.2	46.3	48.0	48.5	48.6	48.6
Economic	45.5	47.1	47.1	49.0	50.9	51.5	51.0	50.9

Over the period 2018-2025, the average overall sustainability score improves from 47.0 to 49.6 (on a scale of 0-100). The underlying socio-cultural capital decreased by 1.3 percentage points over the years. National trends show that, among other things, social cohesion is under pressure and the housing crisis is ongoing. The other capitals improved: the ecological capital improved by 3.7 and the economic capital by 5.4 percentage points.

3.2 General characteristics of elected municipalities for the BNG Sustainability Bond 2018

The group of elected municipalities represent the sum of the highest scoring municipalities in each of the 14 types of municipalities considered. They are therefore not a representative sample of the total group of Dutch municipalities. This is illustrated in Table 3.2. using the size of the municipality as a criterion.

Table 3.2 Size distribution of the group elected and all Dutch municipalities

Municipality size (number of inhabitants)	Total number of municipalities in the Netherlands	Total number of municipalities in elected group
Fewer than 50,000	247 (72.2%)	81 (70.4%)
50,000-100,000	63 (18.4%)	18 (15.7%)
More than 100,000	32 (9.4%)	16 (13.9%)

As Table 3.2 shows the size distribution of the elected group of municipalities differs from the average distribution in the country. The mid-sized municipalities are under-represented and the large municipalities are over-represented in the elected group. This must be considered when comparing the result for the elected group with the total group of municipalities.

3.3 General performance of elected municipalities compared to the total group of Dutch municipalities

BNG has chosen to allocate the proceeds of the Sustainability Bond to the best performing municipalities in their class for several reasons. These include:

1. Highlighting the importance of sustainable development for municipalities
2. Enabling investors who wish to see their capital used for investments in municipalities that have experience in improving sustainability
3. Raising awareness of successful strategies used in high scoring municipalities.

Against this background, it would be expected that the group of elected municipalities would outperform the total group of municipalities over the years. However, this may not always be the case. The best performing municipalities may not have as much scope for further improvement as lower performing municipalities, which can improve their performance more easily.

Table 3.3 summarises the overall differences between 2018 and 2025 for the total group of Dutch municipalities and the group of elected municipalities. The elected municipalities continue to outperform the total group of municipalities, by 2.7 percentage points (52.3 vs. 49.6). Both groups of municipalities show an improvement in the overall score between 2018 and 2025 of 2.6 percentage points. The scores of all three underlying capitals developed in a similar way for both groups. The largest improvement occurred for the economic capital, where both groups show an increase of over 5 percentage points. The socio-cultural capital decreased by 0.9 for the elected group vs. 1.3 percentage points for the total group.

In the next paragraph, the more detailed stock scores are considered.

Table 3.3 Sustainability performance score (0-100) of elected municipalities and of the total group of Dutch municipalities in 2018 compared to 2025

Sustainability capital	Elected 2018	Total 2018	Elected 2025	Total 2025	Elected: Difference * 2018-2025	Total: Difference * 2018-2025 ¹²
Total	49.6	47.0	52.3	49.6	2.6	2.6
Socio-cultural	53.6	50.6	52.7	49.3	-0.9	-1.3
Ecological	46.9	44.8	50.5	48.6	3.7	3.7
Economic	48.4	45.5	53.5	50.9	5.2	5.4

*Percentage points

3.4 Changes in stock scores of elected and the total group of municipalities

The three capitals People, Planet and Profit are conceptualised as the socio-cultural capital (People), the ecological capital (Planet) and the economic capital (Profit). The different aspects of which a capital is composed, are described by stocks (themes). For example, the socio-cultural capital is composed of stocks such as ‘Social participation’, ‘Arts & culture’ and ‘Health’. The economic capital consists of stocks such as ‘Labour’, ‘Competitiveness’ and ‘Infrastructure & Mobility’. The ecological capital consists of stocks such as ‘Soil’, ‘Water’ and ‘Air’. In total, there are 20 stocks divided over the three capitals. Every stock in the monitoring method, has one or more sustainability requirements. Examples of these requirements are ‘The air is clean’ (air stock), ‘Everybody has access to education facilities’ (education stock) or ‘All energy should come from renewable energy sources’ (energy stock).

A closer look at the level of stocks, see Table 3.4, shows that the differences between the years follow a similar pattern for both groups of municipalities.

¹² The calculated differences can be 0.1 percentage point higher or lower due to rounding during the calculation. This is the case for all calculated differences in the report.

Table 3.4 Differences in sustainability performance scores (percentage points) of stocks between 2018 and 2025 for the group of elected municipalities and all Dutch municipalities

Sustainability stock	Difference 2018-2025 of 115 elected municipalities	Difference 2018-2025 of all 342 municipalities
Socio-cultural	-0.9	-1.3
Arts & culture	-1.1	-1.3
Economic participation	11.5	10.9
Education	-0.4	-0.7
Health	-3.9	-5.0
Housing	-3.7	-3.9
Political participation	-4.7	-5.1
Residential environment	-2.0	-3.1
Safety	1.8	1.7
Social participation	-5.7	-5.4
Ecological	3.7	3.7
Air	4.5	4.4
Annoyance & external safety	-0.3	-0.2
Energy	12.0	11.9
Nature & landscape ¹³		
Soil	3.6	3.5
Resources & waste	3.5	4.2
Water	2.3	2.4
Economic	5.2	5.4
Competitiveness	9.7	10.0
Infrastructure & mobility	4.0	3.8
Labour	6.8	6.8
Spatial location conditions	0.2	1.0

¹³ Due to limited availability of data, a comparison in time is not possible for this stock

Socio-cultural stocks

As could be expected due to the decrease in capital score, most of the underlying stocks of socio-cultural capital declined between 2018 and 2025. The stock 'Social participation' declined the most: the decrease was 5.7 percentage points for the elected group of municipalities and 5.4 percentage points for the total group. Other stocks that declined relatively strongly are 'Political participation', 'Housing' and 'Health'. The latter declined more strongly for the total group of municipalities (-5.0 percentage points) than for the elected group (-3.9 percentage points). However, not all stocks declined. The stock 'Economic participation' improved very strongly: by 11.5 percentage points for the group of elected municipalities and by 10.9 percentage points for the total group. Several indicators within this stock improved, but the most striking improvement is seen for the indicator 'Disposable household income'.

Ecological stocks

In general, the group of elected municipalities exhibits a pattern of stock development that is very similar to that of the total group of municipalities. The largest improvement over the period 2018-2025 is seen for the stock 'Energy' (12.0 vs. 11.9 percentage points). All indicators in this stock show an improvement, but the biggest rise is seen in the energy labels of dwellings as well as in the gas and energy consumption of households. The stock 'Air' also shows a big improved: 4.5 for the elected group vs. 4.4 percentage points for the total group. For the stock 'Resources & waste', the total group of municipalities shows a stronger improvement (4.2 percentage points) than the elected group (3.5 percentage points).

Economic stocks

As with the other stocks, both groups of municipalities generally show a similar pattern of development between 2018 and 2025 for the economic stocks. The stock that improved the most for both groups was 'Competitiveness' (by 9.7 vs. 10.0 percentage points), mostly due to indicator 'Gross regional product'. The stock 'Labour' shows the second biggest improvement: both groups improved by 6.8 percentage points. There is a difference in the development of the score for the 'Spatial location conditions' stock between the two groups. The elected group improved by 0.2 percentage point whereas the total group improved by 1.0 percentage point.

4 Elected municipalities with the largest changes in sustainability performance scores (2018–2025), categorised by typology

This chapter discusses the changes in the overall sustainability performance score of individual elected municipalities in more detail. The assessment will be presented for each of the 14 types of municipalities identified in the framework of the BNG Sustainability Bond of 2018: agricultural-, centre-, green-, growth-, historic-, old industrial-, New Town-, shrink-, residential-, touristic-, work-, small-, mid-sized- and 100,000 plus municipalities. The list of best-in-class municipalities for each type will be presented as described in the framework document. As mentioned above, the 2018 scores have been recalculated based on the set of indicators used in 2025 to ensure a fair comparison over the years. The overall results are discussed first, highlighting the most notable municipalities, followed by a detailed analysis by municipality type. Note that a municipality may appear in multiple typologies.

4.1 Summary of score developments

Table 4.1 gives an overview of the average sustainability performance of the 14 types of elected municipalities. Among all typologies, green municipalities attained the highest average sustainability performance score in 2025, with a score of 54.7. The highest average improvement was realised by agricultural municipalities and touristic municipalities. Both types of municipalities improved their score by 2.9 percentage points between 2018 and 2025. The average improvement was lowest for 100,000 plus municipalities, by 2.1 percentage points.

Table 4.1 Changes in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of 14 types of elected municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Type of municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Agricultural municipalities	50.6	53.6	2.9
Touristic municipalities	48.6	51.6	2.9
Historic municipalities	48.3	51.2	2.8
Green municipalities	51.9	54.7	2.8
Mid-sized municipalities	48.6	51.4	2.8
Small municipalities	50.9	53.6	2.6
Residential municipalities	50.4	53.1	2.6
Shrink municipalities	49.4	52.0	2.6
New Town municipalities	48.5	51.1	2.6
Growth municipalities	51.2	53.6	2.5
Former industrial municipalities	50.1	52.5	2.4
Center municipalities	49.0	51.3	2.4
Work municipalities	49.2	51.4	2.2
100,000 plus municipalities	48.9	51.0	2.1

* Percentage points

4.2 General outcome

Among the elected municipalities, all but one municipality realised an equal or higher sustainability score between 2018 and 2025, see Annex A.

Table 4.2 shows the ten elected municipalities that achieved the greatest improvement in their sustainability performance scores between 2018 and 2025. Among these, Eemnes and Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht recorded the most substantial progress, with an increase of 5.1 percentage points. Eemnes shows a particularly strong improvement of 21.0 percentage points for the stock ‘Resources & waste’. Both Eemnes and Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht outperformed the total group of elected municipalities strongly for the stock ‘Residential environment’.

Table 4.2 The ten elected municipalities whose sustainability performance score (0-100) has improved most in the period 2018-2025

Elected municipality	Typology	Total score 2018	Total score 2025	Difference*
Eemnes	Small, Agricultural, New town	47.1	52.2	5.1
Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht	Small, Former industrial, Growth, New town, Residential	44.3	49.4	5.1
Leusden	Small, Green	54.0	58.9	4.9
Noordwijk	Small, Green, Touristic, Work	50.7	55.4	4.8
Hardenberg	Medium, Agricultural	49.3	53.8	4.5
Wassenaar	Small, Green, Touristic	48.6	53.0	4.4
Heiloo	Small, Residential	49.2	53.5	4.3
Rozendaal	Small, Green, Residential	52.2	56.5	4.3
Landsmeer	Small, Former industrial, Growth, Residential, Touristic	45.4	49.6	4.2
Bergen (NH.)	Small, Green, Shrink, Touristic	48.9	53.0	4.2

* Percentage points

Table 4.3 shows the elected municipalities whose sustainability performance score decreased or improved the least. Ouder-Amstel is the only municipality that shows a decrease in sustainability score, of 0.9 percentage points. The stocks where this municipality underperformed most compared to the average of the elected municipalities are ‘Spatial location conditions’ (-24.4 vs. 0.2 percentage points) and ‘Safety’ (-9.6 vs. 1.8 percentage points).

Table 4.3 The ten elected municipalities whose sustainability performance score (0-100) has decreased or improved least in the period 2018-2025

Elected municipality	Typology	Total score 2018	Total score 2025	Difference*
Ouder-Amstel	Small, Work	49.3	48.5	-0.9
Urk	Small, Growth, New town	49.6	49.8	0.2
's-Hertogenbosch	Large, Centre, Growth, Work	48.1	48.8	0.7
Valkenburg aan de Geul	Small, Shrink, Touristic	50.9	51.8	0.9
Terschelling	Small, Touristic	49.2	50.1	0.9
Amsterdam	Large, Centre, Growth, Historic, Touristic, Work	45.9	47.0	1.0
Midden-Delfland	Small, Agricultural, Growth, New town	48.9	49.9	1.0
Breda	Large, Centre, Growth, Work	49.9	51.1	1.1
Heusden	Small, Former industrial, Residential	49.3	50.5	1.2
Apeldoorn	Large, Centre, Green, Work	52.8	54.1	1.2

* Percentage points

4.3 Small municipalities

Small municipalities are municipalities with less than 50,000 inhabitants. In general, the social-cultural capital is higher in this type of municipality, due to a stronger sense of perceived safety and higher levels of social participation.

The group of elected small municipalities has improved its sustainability performance score on average by 2.6 percentage points between 2018-2025, see Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected small municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Small municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Wijk bij Duurstede	52.6	53.9	1.3
Voorschoten	51.8	54.4	2.6
Oegstgeest	50.9	54.4	3.5
Dalfsen	53.2	56.9	3.7
Rozendaal	52.2	56.5	4.3
Bunnik	50.9	54.1	3.2
Bloemendaal	51.8	54.5	2.6
Bladel	50.5	53.1	2.6
Heeze-Leende	51.9	54.6	2.7
Mook en Middelaar	51.0	53.1	2.1
Ameland	48.0	50.1	2.1
Houten	48.9	51.4	2.6
Heumen	52.7	54.0	1.3
Vlieland	48.8	52.7	3.8
Midden-Delfland	48.9	49.9	1.0
Average	50.9	53.6	2.6

* Percentage points

4.4 Mid-sized municipalities

Mid-sized municipalities are municipalities with 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants. In this type of municipality, the ecological capital generally shows a lower score.

Table 4.5 shows that elected mid-sized municipalities improved their sustainability performance score on average by 2.8 percentage points between 2018 and 2025.

Table 4.5 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected mid-sized municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Mid-sized municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Doetinchem	47.0	50.8	3.8
Hardenberg	49.3	53.8	4.5
Zeist	50.9	55.0	4.1
Veenendaal	47.4	50.7	3.2
Krimpenerwaard	47.4	48.7	1.3
Heerenveen	48.7	51.3	2.7
Deventer	49.5	51.5	1.9
Hilversum	47.9	50.4	2.5
Meerijstad	46.9	50.5	3.6
Woerden	49.5	51.8	2.3
Barneveld	51.0	53.1	2.1
Katwijk	48.8	51.7	2.9
Kampen	49.2	52.8	3.6
Gooise Meren	47.4	50.0	2.6
Pijnacker-Nootdorp	47.3	49.5	2.2
Amstelveen	49.3	50.9	1.6
Average	48.6	51.4	2.8

* Percentage points

4.5 100,000 plus municipalities

100,000 plus municipalities are municipalities with 100,000 inhabitants or more. Related to the effects of urbanisation, employment is clustering in cities. This results in higher scores for the ecological capital. The scores for ecological capital however are generally lower for these bigger, more urban municipalities.

The, for Dutch dimensions, relatively large elected 100,000 plus municipalities show on average an improvement in sustainability performance score of 2.1 percentage points from 2018 to 2025, as shown in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected 100,000 plus municipalities between 2018 and 2025

100,000 plus municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Apeldoorn	52.8	54.1	1.2
Amersfoort	49.7	52.2	2.5
Zwolle	48.9	51.4	2.5
Ede	51.6	54.2	2.6
Eindhoven	46.9	50.2	3.3
Nijmegen	51.3	53.4	2.1
's-Hertogenbosch	48.1	48.8	0.7
Utrecht	49.1	52.3	3.2
Arnhem	47.3	49.6	2.3
Delft	48.5	50.3	1.8
Westland	46.4	49.0	2.6
Breda	49.9	51.1	1.1
Groningen	50.3	52.3	2.0
Amsterdam	45.9	47.0	1.0
Leiden	46.9	49.8	2.8
Average	48.9	51.0	2.1

* Percentage points

4.6 Growth municipalities

‘Growth’ municipalities have increased their population by more than 5% over the last ten years. These municipalities tend to perform well in terms of economic capital but generally do not achieve notably high scores in ecological or socio-cultural capital.

The elected growth municipalities show an average improvement of 2.5 percentage points over the period 2018-2025, see Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected growth municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Growth municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Woudenberg	53.3	54.8	1.6
Scherpenzeel	50.0	52.0	2.1
Voorschoten	51.8	54.4	2.6
Oegstgeest	50.9	54.4	3.5
Dalfsen	53.2	56.9	3.7
Wageningen	53.9	56.2	2.4
Staphorst	52.4	54.3	1.9
Bunnik	50.9	54.1	3.2
Bloemendaal	51.8	54.5	2.6
Bladel	50.5	53.1	2.6
Heeze-Leende	51.9	54.6	2.7
Ameland	48.0	50.1	2.1
Houten	48.9	51.4	2.6
Midden-Delfland	48.9	49.9	1.0
Average	51.2	53.6	2.5

* Percentage points

4.7 Shrink municipalities

Municipalities with a declining population are considered as ‘shrinking’ municipalities. At least 2% of the population has decreased in the last ten years. Economically and socio-culturally, these municipalities have lower scores. Various reasons, such as higher levels of health problems or lower level of employment, lead to the steady decline of these capitals.

As far as the elected shrink municipalities are concerned, it has been found that their sustainability performance score improved on average by 2.6 percentage points between 2018 and 2025, see Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0–100) of elected shrink municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Shrink municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Voerendaal	46.8	50.3	3.4
Aalten	52.0	54.2	2.2
Valkenburg aan de Geul	50.9	51.8	0.9
Berkelland	50.5	53.7	3.2
Bronckhorst	52.6	55.2	2.7
Gulpen-Wittem	49.1	50.7	1.6
Bergen	48.9	53.0	4.2
Leudal	45.8	48.5	2.7
Mook en Middelaar	51.0	53.1	2.1
Meerssen	46.2	49.3	3.1
Average	49.4	52.0	2.6

* Percentage points

4.8 Residential municipalities

Municipalities classified as ‘residential’ have a lower availability of jobs compared to the number of working-age residents (age < 60 years). Most residents live in these municipalities but commute elsewhere for employment. As a result, these municipalities tend to score lower on economic capital.

As shown in Table 4.9, the average improvement in the sustainability performance score of elected residential municipalities is 2.6 percentage points over the period 2018-2025.

Table 4.9 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected residential municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Residential municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Heusden	49.3	50.5	1.2
Buren	45.8	48.5	2.7
Heiloo	49.2	53.5	4.3
Wijk bij Duurstede	52.6	53.9	1.3
Voorschoten	51.8	54.4	2.6
Castricum	49.9	52.9	3.0
Rozendaal	52.2	56.5	4.3
Bloemendaal	51.8	54.5	2.6
Waalre	53.1	54.7	1.6
Waterland	48.3	51.3	3.0
Mook en Middelaar	51.0	53.1	2.1
Eijsden-Margraten	47.9	52.0	4.1
Heumen	52.7	54.0	1.3
Average	50.4	53.1	2.6

* Percentage points

4.9 Work municipalities

Municipalities with more than 14,000 jobs or more jobs than inhabitants are ‘work’ municipalities. As expected, these municipalities tend to score higher on economic capital is higher. However, their socio-cultural capital is generally lower, partly due to lower performance on indicators such as perceived safety.

The average improvement in the sustainability performance score of the elected work municipalities is 2.2 percentage point in the period 2018-2025, as shown in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected work municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Work municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Noordwijk	50.7	55.4	4.8
Duiven	47.0	50.7	3.7
Oldenzaal	50.6	53.3	2.7
Apeldoorn	52.8	54.1	1.2
Zwolle	48.9	51.4	2.5
Best	48.8	50.2	1.5
Veldhoven	51.7	53.9	2.2
Barneveld	51.0	53.1	2.1
Utrecht	49.1	52.3	3.2
Westland	46.4	49.0	2.6
Groningen	50.3	52.3	2.0
Amsterdam	45.9	47.0	1.0
Leiden	46.9	49.8	2.8
Son en Breugel	49.0	50.5	1.5
Amstelveen	49.3	50.9	1.6
Ouder-Amstel	49.3	48.5	-0.9
Average	49.2	51.4	2.2

* Percentage points

4.10 Historic municipalities

Municipalities with houses built before 1905 (more than 8%) are designated as 'historic'. In addition, at least one or two areas of houses or landscapes are officially designated as historic or culturally important. On average, these municipalities have lower ecological capital scores, for example due to higher energy consumption.

Table 4.11 presents the 14 best-in-class historic municipalities. Overall, the elected historic municipalities improved on average by 2.8 percentage points since 2018.

Table 4.11 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected historic municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Historic municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Schiermonnikoog	45.9	47.8	1.9
Oudewater	44.9	48.1	3.2
Bronckhorst	52.6	55.2	2.7
Utrecht	49.1	52.3	3.2
Staphorst	52.4	54.3	1.9
Delft	48.5	50.3	1.8
Waterland	48.3	51.3	3.0
Kampen	49.2	52.8	3.6
Lopik	45.6	48.5	3.0
Leiden	46.9	49.8	2.8
Ameland	48.0	50.1	2.1
Eijsden-Margraten	47.9	52.0	4.1
Vlieland	48.8	52.7	3.8
Average	48.3	51.2	2.8

* Percentage points

4.11 New Town municipalities

‘New Town’ municipalities are the opposite of historical municipalities. More than 40% of the houses were built after 1985. These municipalities tend to have higher scores for health and energy-related indicators. These improvements are not always reflected in higher scores at the capital level. On capital level, these municipalities tend to score higher on the social-cultural and economic capital.

Elected new town municipalities improved their score on average by 2.6 percentage points over the years 2018-2025 (see Table 4.12).

Table 4.12 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected new town municipalities between 2018 and 2025

New Town municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Duiven	47.0	50.7	3.7
Culemborg	48.4	51.5	3.1
Eemnes	47.1	52.2	5.1
Zeewolde	48.2	50.1	1.9
Tubbergen	50.3	53.8	3.5
Koggenland	43.2	46.1	2.9
Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht	44.3	49.4	5.1
Best	48.8	50.2	1.5
Renswoude	50.2	52.5	2.3
Barneveld	51.0	53.1	2.1
Houten	48.9	51.4	2.6
Heumen	52.7	54.0	1.3
Urk	49.6	49.8	0.2
Midden-Delfland	48.9	49.9	1.0
Average	48.5	51.1	2.6

* Percentage points

4.12 Centre municipalities

Centre municipalities are defined as those with a substantial city centre—housing more than 15% of the population—or with an above-average score for the availability of municipal facilities. These municipalities tend to have a higher score for the economic capital and a lower score for the socio-cultural capital. They also have lower scores for health-related indicators, while knowledge-related indicators have higher scores due to the presence or proximity of a university.

As shown in Table 4.13, the average improvement between 2018 and 2025 for the centre municipalities is 2.4 percentage points.

Table 4.13 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0–100) of elected centre municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Centre municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Apeldoorn	52.8	54.1	1.2
Middelburg	48.0	50.9	2.9
Deventer	49.5	51.5	1.9
Zwolle	48.9	51.4	2.5
Ede	51.6	54.2	2.6
Hilversum	47.9	50.4	2.5
Nijmegen	51.3	53.4	2.1
Castricum	49.9	52.9	3.0
Utrecht	49.1	52.3	3.2
Katwijk	48.8	51.7	2.9
Delft	48.5	50.3	1.8
Westland	46.4	49.0	2.6
Gooise Meren	47.4	50.0	2.6
Groningen	50.3	52.3	2.0
Amsterdam	45.9	47.0	1.0
Leiden	46.9	49.8	2.8
Average	49.0	51.3	2.4

* Percentage points

4.13 Agricultural municipalities

Agricultural municipalities are mainly defined by their land use: 75% of the land is used for agricultural purposes. In general, these municipalities tend to score lower on ecological capital, due to intensive land use and the environmental risks associated with excess nutrients leaching into ground- and surface water. On the socio-cultural level, however, these municipalities typically score higher than average. This is mainly due to a stronger sense of perceived safety and higher levels of social participation, such as volunteering.

Table 4.14 presents the 14 best-in-class agricultural municipalities. Overall, the elected agricultural municipalities improved on average by 2.9 percentage points since 2018.

Table 4.14 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0–100) of elected agricultural municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Agricultural municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Voorst	51.9	55.0	3.1
Raalte	51.7	55.8	4.1
Eemnes	47.1	52.2	5.1
Olst-Wijhe	51.6	53.7	2.1
Dinkelland	52.7	55.4	2.6
Montfoort	48.6	51.4	2.7
Oost Gelre	52.6	54.9	2.2
Zwartewaterland	51.6	54.1	2.5
Dalfsen	53.2	56.9	3.7
Staphorst	52.4	54.3	1.9
Bunnik	50.9	54.1	3.2
Wierden	51.7	53.6	1.9
Zoeterwoude	46.9	50.3	3.4
Eijsden-Margraten	47.9	52.0	4.1
Midden-Delfland	48.9	49.9	1.0
Average	50.6	53.6	2.9

* Percentage points

4.14 Green municipalities

Municipalities are considered ‘green’ if more than 30% of their area consists of forests or natural terrain. Like agricultural municipalities, green municipalities tend to score higher on socio-cultural capital. Furthermore, these municipalities often score higher on ecological capital because of land use practices that promote biodiversity and safeguard water quality.

The elected green municipalities improved their sustainability score by 2.8 percentage points on average between 2018 and 2025, as can be seen in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0–100) of elected green municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Green municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Leusden	54.0	58.9	4.9
Utrechtse Heuvelrug	53.7	56.5	2.9
Ede	51.6	54.2	2.6
Nunspeet	52.5	54.8	2.4
Wassenaar	48.6	53.0	4.4
Baarn	50.7	54.3	3.6
Barneveld	51.0	53.1	2.1
Elburg	52.1	54.0	2.0
Rozendaal	52.2	56.5	4.3
Bloemendaal	51.8	54.5	2.6
Waalre	53.1	54.7	1.6
Heeze-Leende	51.9	54.6	2.7
Ermelo	52.7	55.4	2.6
Putten	51.5	53.1	1.5
Mook en Middelaar	51.0	53.1	2.1
Average	51.9	54.7	2.8

* Percentage points

4.15 Old industrial municipalities

Municipalities are considered ‘old industrial’ if more than 53% of the population was employed in industry prior to 1960. These municipalities were historically

shaped by industrial activity, and some still experience the (negative) effects of this legacy. Issues such as soil contamination and lower socio-economic status among residents contribute to reduced scores in both ecological and socio-cultural capital. However, not all old industrial municipalities share this fate—some have successfully mitigated these challenges and now achieve high scores in overall sustainability.

Elected old industrial municipalities scored on average 2.4 percentage points higher over the period 2018-2025, as shown in Table 4.16.

Table 4.16 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected old industrial municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Old industrial municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Heusden	49.3	50.5	1.2
Losser	50.0	53.3	3.3
Oisterwijk	50.8	53.7	2.8
Hellendoorn	52.1	55.2	3.0
Rijssen-Holten	52.8	56.6	3.9
Brummen	50.6	53.5	2.9
Bergeijk	50.6	52.5	1.9
Best	48.8	50.2	1.5
Hatterem	48.3	50.5	2.3
Bladel	50.5	53.1	2.6
Waalre	53.1	54.7	1.6
Landsmeer	45.4	49.6	4.2
Putten	51.5	53.1	1.5
Nuenen, Gerwen en Nederwetten	51.7	54.0	2.2
Wierden	51.7	53.6	1.9
Oostzaan	43.6	45.5	1.8
Average	50.1	52.5	2.4

* Percentage points

4.16 Touristic municipalities

To be classified as a ‘touristic’ municipality, more than 11% of businesses must be involved in tourism or 25% of the population must be employed in tourism.

Touristic municipalities often depend on the touristic sector for their economic position, resulting in lower scores for the economic capital.

The sustainability performance score of the elected touristic municipalities has improved on average by 2.9 percentage points between 2018 and 2025.

Table 4.17 Developments in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) of elected touristic municipalities between 2018 and 2025

Touristic municipality	Sustainability score 2018	Sustainability score 2025	Difference*
Noordwijk	50.7	55.4	4.8
Schiermonnikoog	45.9	47.8	1.9
Wassenaar	48.6	53.0	4.4
Terschelling	49.2	50.1	0.9
Bergeijk	50.6	52.5	1.9
Veere	50.0	54.1	4.0
Hilvarenbeek	51.4	53.9	2.6
Waterland	48.3	51.3	3.0
Landsmeer	45.4	49.6	4.2
Groningen	50.3	52.3	2.0
Mook en Middelaar	51.0	53.1	2.1
Ameland	48.0	50.1	2.1
Eijsden-Margraten	47.9	52.0	4.1
Vlieland	48.8	52.7	3.8
Oostzaan	43.6	45.5	1.8
Average	48.6	51.6	2.9

* Percentage points

5 Performance of elected municipalities in terms of their CO₂ emission scores

This chapter describes the performance of the elected municipalities in terms of CO₂ emissions. Although these emissions are included as an indicator in the ecological capital, this chapter highlights these emissions as an element of particular interest, because green bonds focus specifically on financing projects that reduce CO₂ emissions and sustainability bonds cover a broader range of sustainability goals, including but not limited to CO₂ emissions. The Green Bond Principles (GBP) seek to support issuers in financing environmentally sound and sustainable projects that foster a net-zero emissions economy and protect the environment. Sustainability bonds are bonds where the proceeds will be exclusively applied to finance or re-finance a combination of both green and social projects.

5.1 Developments of CO₂ emissions of elected municipalities

In recent years, Dutch municipalities have made concrete commitments to reduce CO₂ emissions as part of national and international climate goals. Many of these efforts are aligned with the Dutch Climate Agreement (Klimaatakkoord), which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 49% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Municipalities play a key role in this transition, particularly in areas such as sustainable mobility, energy-efficient buildings, local energy generation, and the development of heat transition plans (Transitieviesies Warmte). Through the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG), municipalities have collectively agreed to take responsibility for implementing local climate policies, including the Regional Energy Strategies (RES) and the transition to natural gas-free neighbourhoods. Many municipalities have also set their own, more ambitious climate targets and have introduced local measures such as CO₂-neutral municipal operations, subsidies for home insulation, and support for solar and wind energy projects.

Data on the CO₂ emissions of each municipality are available on the web portal of the Dutch Emissions Authority. This authority calculates the CO₂ emissions every five years, including the two most recent years. At this moment, data are available for 1990-2015 in a five-year interval, supplemented by the four most recent years in their database 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. In this impact report, the reduction over the two most recent years has been used. This section reports on CO₂ emission reductions expressed as percentages, rather than calculated sustainability scores.

As shown in Table 5.1, the elected municipalities achieved a CO₂ emission reduction of 32.7% between 1990-2022 and 34.7% between 2010-2022. In contrast, the other group of municipalities realised smaller reductions over the same periods – just 2.2% and 16.9%, respectively. However, the difference between both groups narrows considerably when focusing on the most recent years (2021-2022). During this period, the elected municipalities reduced their CO₂ emissions by 8.2% compared to 8.0% reduction in the other group. In this period, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, gas prices had skyrocketed dramatically to record levels influencing gas consumption. Such a big external factor affects all municipalities, making differences in implemented policies between municipalities less visible temporarily.

Table 5.1 Developments of CO₂ emissions in different time periods of the elected municipalities and the total group of municipalities

Considered group of municipalities	1990-2022	2010-2022	2021-2022
Elected (115)	-32.7%	-34.7%	-8.2%
Others	-2.2%	-16.9%	-8.0%
Total (342)	-9.8%	-20.9%	-8.0%

Table 5.2 shows that six of the elected municipalities reduced their CO₂ emissions by more than 15% between 2021 – 2022. The most significant decreases were observed in Westland, Pijnacker-Nootdorp and Midden-Delfland – all three of these municipalities are known for their greenhouses heated with natural gas. The sharp rise in natural gas prices in 2022 led to a substantial drop in gas consumption, resulting in a significant reduction in gas consumption and therefore CO₂ emissions. In contrast, Zeewolde and Duiven were the only municipalities to record an increase in CO₂ emissions during this period.

The changes in CO₂ emissions over the last two years for all elected municipalities are given in Annex B.

Table 5.2 Ten elected municipalities with the largest (first two columns) and smallest decrease (or largest increase; last two columns) in CO₂ emissions between 2021 and 2022

Elected municipality	Emission change between measuring years 2021 and 2022	Elected municipality	Emission change between measuring years 2021 and 2022
Westland	-24.5	Zeewolde	3.9
Pijnacker-Nootdorp	-21.8	Duiven	1.3
Midden-Delfland	-19.6	Hattem	0.0
Bloemendaal	-16.9	Bunnik	-0.9
Oudewater	-16.4	Schiermonnikoog	-1.8
Tubbergen	-16.4	Nuenen, Gerwen en Nederwetten	-2.2
Delft	-14.4	Bergen (NH.)	-2.4
Houten	-13.6	Zoeterwoude	-2.5
Katwijk	-13.3	Ermelo	-2.6
Voorschoten	-12.5	Nunspeet	-2.9

6 SDG scores

In the previous 2018 framework reports, a methodology was introduced to measure the progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015. For many organisations, especially banks and pension funds, showing the societal impact of their activities in terms of SDG contribution has become increasingly important. Since 2015, banks and pension funds have been actively involved in developing the so-called ‘taxonomy on Sustainable Development Investments (SDIs)’ which aims to translate the SDGs into investable opportunities from the perspective of asset owners¹⁴.

A detailed description of the methodology used to calculate the SDG scores can be found in the Methodology report 2025¹⁵. In essence, the elements of the sustainability performance scores are aggregated in a manner that aligns with the official definitions and structure of the SDGs.

6.1 Progress of the elected municipalities towards the SDGs

A comparison over the period 2018-2025 shows that the performance of the elected municipalities has improved for 11 of the 15 SDGs (SDG 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16). The largest improvement was achieved for SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy (17.3 percentage points), which reflects the effort and investments that have been made towards reducing energy consumption and the transformation towards more sustainable energy sources. This SDG not only shows the greatest improvement, but with a score of 61.9, it also holds the highest score among all SDGs. The second- and third-largest improvements were seen in SDG 1: No Poverty (an increase of 11.7 percentage points) and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (an increase of 6.4 percentage points), respectively.

¹⁴ European Commission. (n.d.). EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from https://finance.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-finance/tools-and-standards/eu-taxonomy-sustainable-activities_en

¹⁵ Het PON & Telos. (2025). *BNG Sustainability bonds method report 2025*. www.hetpon-telos.nl/methodreport2025

However, for four other SDGs the scores decreased between 2018 and 2025. The largest decrease (of 4.0 percentage points) was observed for SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, followed closely by SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing which decreased by 3.9 percentage points.

Both SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 14: Life below Water stand out to their relatively low scores of 39.9 and 40.6, respectively. This indicates that these topics require special attention. Fortunately, both SDGs showed improvement between 2018 and 2025. The results per SDG over the years are listed in Table 6.1.

As can be seen in Table 6.1, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals are not included, as they could not be measured due to a lack of data or because they are not relevant at the level of municipalities.

Table 6.1 SDG scores (0-100) for the group of elected and the total group of municipalities

SDG	Group	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Difference* 2018-2025
1. No Poverty	Elected	46.4	50.2	52.6	56.4	56.9	58.5	58.1	58.1	11.7
	Total	39.8	42.7	45.6	49.0	49.4	51.6	51.3	51.3	11.6
2. Zero Hunger	Elected	55.3	55.3	55.2	54.8	54.0	53.7	53.7	53.7	-1.6
	Total	54.2	54.1	53.9	53.5	52.6	52.2	52.2	52.2	-2.0
3. Good Health and Well-being	Elected	54.6	54.5	54.1	54.2	51.9	51.0	50.7	50.7	-3.9
	Total	51.3	51.2	50.5	50.5	47.8	46.7	46.4	46.4	-5.0
4. Quality Education	Elected	56.2	56.0	57.6	57.2	55.1	55.6	55.8	55.8	-0.4
	Total	52.8	52.7	54.1	53.8	51.6	52.0	52.1	52.1	-0.7
5. Gender Equality	Elected	49.6	50.0	51.2	52.3	53.5	53.3	53.4	53.6	4.0
	Total	49.2	49.6	51.6	51.8	52.6	52.7	52.8	52.9	3.7
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	Elected	44.6	46.7	52.8	51.5	59.8	61.8	61.9	61.9	17.3
	Total	42.6	44.7	50.9	49.4	58.3	60.5	60.6	60.6	18.0
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	Elected	47.7	50.2	46.8	50.3	54.0	54.6	54.1	54.1	6.4
	Total	45.8	48.1	44.8	48.5	52.4	52.9	52.5	52.5	6.7
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Elected	41.0	41.6	45.1	46.2	46.2	45.9	45.0	44.5	3.4
	Total	40.2	40.7	43.7	44.5	44.9	45.2	44.0	43.5	3.3
10. Reduced Inequalities	Elected	36.4	36.4	35.4	35.4	39.9	39.9	39.9	39.9	3.5
	Total	37.2	37.2	36.7	36.7	41.2	41.2	41.2	41.2	4.0
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Elected	52.2	51.8	49.5	48.3	49.4	48.2	48.2	48.2	-4.0
	Total	51.7	51.3	48.9	47.6	48.5	47.4	47.4	47.4	-4.2
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	Elected	50.8	51.5	50.1	51.8	54.2	54.3	54.3	54.3	3.5
	Total	48.0	49.1	48.0	49.6	52.0	52.2	52.2	52.2	4.2
13. Climate Action	Elected	47.1	47.5	49.3	49.4	49.3	50.1	50.3	50.3	3.2
	Total	46.7	47.1	48.8	48.9	48.9	49.6	49.8	49.8	3.2
14. Life below Water	Elected	38.3	38.3	39.0	39.5	40.6	40.6	40.6	40.6	2.3
	Total	35.7	35.7	36.5	36.9	38.1	38.1	38.1	38.1	2.4
15. Life on Land	Elected	46.6	46.8	47.3	47.1	48.3	48.4	48.4	48.4	1.8
	Total	43.9	44.0	44.5	44.4	45.5	45.6	45.6	45.6	1.8
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Elected	55.5	55.0	56.4	58.1	55.6	55.5	55.6	55.6	0.1
	Total	51.3	50.5	52.8	54.5	51.6	51.4	51.3	51.3	0.0

*Percentage points

6.2 Differences between the elected and the total group of municipalities on the SDGs

For most SDGs, the group of elected municipalities developed in the same way as the total group of municipalities over the 2018-2025 period. There are three SDGs for which the difference is worth mentioning. For SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being the score of the group elected municipalities declined less strongly than for the total group (-3.9 vs. -5.0 percentage points). However, for SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 10: Responsible Consumption and Production, the elected group improved 0.7 percentage points less strongly than the total group. In general, the same SDGs show relatively high and low scores for both groups.

Even though both groups show mostly similar trends, the performance of the group of elected municipalities deviates from the total group of municipalities. The group of elected municipalities outperforms the total group of municipalities for 14 out of the 15 measured SDGs in 2025. The largest difference in the 2025 scores can be found for SDG1: No Poverty, where the elected group scores 6.8 percentage points higher than the total group of municipalities. This difference is second largest for SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (4.4 percentage points), followed by SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being (4.3 percentage points). For SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities the elected municipalities score 1.3 percentage points lower in 2025 than the total group.

More information about the method of analysis on the SDGs can be found in the 2025 methodology report for municipalities¹⁶.

¹⁶ Het PON & Telos. (2025). *BNG Sustainability bonds method report 2025*. www.hetpon-telos.nl/methodreport2025

7 Discussion and overview of the results of the 2018–2025 assessment period

In conclusion, the elected municipalities continue to outperform the total group of municipalities, by 2.7 percentage points (52.3 vs. 49.6). Both groups of municipalities show an improvement in the overall score between 2018 and 2025 of 2.6 percentage points. The scores of all three underlying capitals developed in a similar way for both groups. The largest improvement occurred for the economic capital, where both groups show an increase of over 5 percentage points. The socio-cultural capital decreased by 0.9 for the elected group vs. 1.3 percentage points for the total group.

Municipalities' scores fluctuate from year to year, although some major differences between municipalities are of a structural nature. When looking at the top 10 elected municipalities with the largest improvement in sustainability score, the average improvement was 4.6 percentage points – with a range from 4.2 to 5.1. Only one of the elected municipalities shows a decrease in sustainability score, of 0.9 percentage points.

A closer look at the CO₂ emissions shows that the elected municipalities achieved a CO₂ emission of 32.7% between 1990-2022 and 34.7% between 2010-2022. In contrast, the other group of municipalities realised smaller reductions over the same periods – just 2.2% and 16.9%, respectively. However, the difference between both groups narrows considerably when focusing on the most recent years (2021-2022). During this period, the elected municipalities reduced their CO₂ emissions by 8.2% compared to 8.0% reduction in the other group. In this period, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, gas prices had skyrocketed dramatically to record levels influencing gas consumption. Such a big external factor affects all municipalities, making differences in implemented policies between municipalities less visible temporarily.

A comparison over the period 2018-2025 shows that the performance of the elected municipalities has improved for 11 of the 15 SDGs (SDG 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16). The largest improvement was achieved for SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy (17.3 percentage points), SDG 1: No Poverty (11.7 percentage points) and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (6.4 percentage points). The largest decreases were observed for SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (4.0 percentage points) and SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing (3.9 percentage points). These improvements and declines per SDG are more or less similar for both groups of municipalities. When comparing the 2025 scores, the elected municipalities still outperform the total group for 14 out of the 15 measured goals.

It is not always the municipality with the highest score in a given category that improves its sustainability performance score the most in the following year. The advantage of a high sustainability performance score can turn into a (temporary) disadvantage. However, the differences in position on a scoring list and the extent of improvement or deterioration from year to year provide relevant incentives for municipalities to better understand their position, learn from each other, reduce vulnerabilities and develop new approaches to existing and emerging challenges. Impact reporting of sustainability bonds stimulates elected and other municipalities to invest bond proceeds and other resources in the most effective operational and innovative structural activities to improve sustainability.

Annex A: Overview of the differences in total sustainability performance scores (0-100) in 2018 and 2025 for all 115 elected municipalities

Elected municipality	Total sustainability score 2018	Total sustainability score 2025	Difference 2018-2025*
Eemnes	47.1	52.2	5.1
Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht	44.3	49.4	5.1
Leusden	54.0	58.9	4.9
Noordwijk	50.7	55.4	4.8
Hardenberg	49.3	53.8	4.5
Wassenaar	48.6	53.0	4.4
Heiloo	49.2	53.5	4.3
Rozendaal	52.2	56.5	4.3
Landsmeer	45.4	49.6	4.2
Bergen (NH.)	48.9	53.0	4.2
Raalte	51.7	55.8	4.1
Zeist	50.9	55.0	4.1
Eijsden-Margraten	47.9	52.0	4.1
Veere	50.0	54.1	4.0
Rijssen-Holten	52.8	56.6	3.9
Vlieland	48.8	52.7	3.8
Doetinchem	47.0	50.8	3.8
Duiven	47.0	50.7	3.7
Dalfsen	53.2	56.9	3.7
Meerijstad	46.9	50.5	3.6
Baarn	50.7	54.3	3.6
Kampen	49.2	52.8	3.6
Oegstgeest	50.9	54.4	3.5
Tubbergen	50.3	53.8	3.5
Voerendaal	46.8	50.3	3.4
Zoeterwoude	46.9	50.3	3.4
Eindhoven	46.9	50.2	3.3
Losser	50.0	53.3	3.3

Elected municipality	Total sustainability score 2018	Total sustainability score 2025	Difference 2018-2025*
Veenendaal	47.4	50.7	3.2
Oudewater	44.9	48.1	3.2
Berkelland	50.5	53.7	3.2
Bunnik	50.9	54.1	3.2
Utrecht (gemeente)	49.1	52.3	3.2
Culemborg	48.4	51.5	3.1
Meerssen	46.2	49.3	3.1
Voorst	51.9	55.0	3.1
Hellendoorn	52.1	55.2	3.0
Castricum	49.9	52.9	3.0
Lopik	45.6	48.5	3.0
Waterland	48.3	51.3	3.0
Katwijk	48.8	51.7	2.9
Middelburg (Z.)	48.0	50.9	2.9
Utrechtse Heuvelrug	53.7	56.5	2.9
Koggenland	43.2	46.1	2.9
Brummen	50.6	53.5	2.9
Oisterwijk	50.8	53.7	2.8
Leiden	46.9	49.8	2.8
Montfoort	48.6	51.4	2.7
Oldenzaal	50.6	53.3	2.7
Buren	45.8	48.5	2.7
Heeze-Leende	51.9	54.6	2.7
Heerenveen	48.7	51.3	2.7
Leudal	45.8	48.5	2.7
Bronckhorst	52.6	55.2	2.7
Ermelo	52.7	55.4	2.6
Bloemendaal	51.8	54.5	2.6
Dinkelland	52.7	55.4	2.6
Westland	46.4	49.0	2.6
Bladel	50.5	53.1	2.6
Voorschoten	51.8	54.4	2.6
Ede	51.6	54.2	2.6
Hilvarenbeek	51.4	53.9	2.6
Houten	48.9	51.4	2.6
Gooise Meren	47.4	50.0	2.6
Zwolle	48.9	51.4	2.5
Zwartewaterland	51.6	54.1	2.5

Elected municipality	Total sustainability score 2018	Total sustainability score 2025	Difference 2018-2025*
Hilversum	47.9	50.4	2.5
Amersfoort	49.7	52.2	2.5
Nunspeet	52.5	54.8	2.4
Wageningen	53.9	56.2	2.4
Arnhem	47.3	49.6	2.3
Renswoude	50.2	52.5	2.3
Woerden	49.5	51.8	2.3
Hatterum	48.3	50.5	2.3
Pijnacker-Nootdorp	47.3	49.5	2.2
Oost Gelre	52.6	54.9	2.2
Nuenen, Gerwen en Nederwetten	51.7	54.0	2.2
Veldhoven	51.7	53.9	2.2
Aalten	52.0	54.2	2.2
Olst-Wijhe	51.6	53.7	2.1
Barneveld	51.0	53.1	2.1
Nijmegen	51.3	53.4	2.1
Mook en Middelaar	51.0	53.1	2.1
Ameland	48.0	50.1	2.1
Scherpenzeel	50.0	52.0	2.1
Groningen (gemeente)	50.3	52.3	2.0
Elburg	52.1	54.0	2.0
Schiermonnikoog	45.9	47.8	1.9
Zeewolde	48.2	50.1	1.9
Deventer	49.5	51.5	1.9
Staphorst	52.4	54.3	1.9
Bergeijk	50.6	52.5	1.9
Wierden	51.7	53.6	1.9
Oostzaan	43.6	45.5	1.8
Delft	48.5	50.3	1.8
Gulpen-Wittem	49.1	50.7	1.6
Waalre	53.1	54.7	1.6
Woudenberg	53.3	54.8	1.6
Amstelveen	49.3	50.9	1.6
Putten	51.5	53.1	1.5
Son en Breugel	49.0	50.5	1.5
Best	48.8	50.2	1.5
Wijk bij Duurstede	52.6	53.9	1.3

Elected municipality	Total sustainability score 2018	Total sustainability score 2025	Difference 2018-2025*
Krimpenerwaard	47.4	48.7	1.3
Heumen	52.7	54.0	1.3
Apeldoorn	52.8	54.1	1.2
Heusden	49.3	50.5	1.2
Breda	49.9	51.1	1.1
Midden-Delfland	48.9	49.9	1.0
Amsterdam	45.9	47.0	1.0
Terschelling	49.2	50.1	0.9
Valkenburg aan de Geul	50.9	51.8	0.9
's-Hertogenbosch	48.1	48.8	0.7
Urk	49.6	49.8	0.2
Ouder-Amstel	49.3	48.5	-0.9

*Percentage points

Annex B: Overview of the changes in CO₂ emissions in 2021-2022 for all elected municipalities

Elected municipality	Typology	% Difference 2021-2022
Westland	Large, Centre, Growth, Work	-24.5
Pijnacker-Nootdorp	Medium, Growth, New town, Residential	-21.8
Midden-Delfland	Small, Agricultural, Growth, New town	-19.6
Bloemendaal	Small, Green, Growth, Residential	-16.9
Oudewater	Small, Agricultural, Historic	-16.4
Tubbergen	Small, Agricultural, New town	-16.4
Delft	Large, Centre, Growth, Historic	-14.4
Houten	Small, Growth, New town	-13.6
Katwijk	Medium, Centre, Growth	-13.3
Voorschoten	Small, Growth, Residential	-12.5
Middelburg (Z.)	Small, Centre, Historic	-12.5
Meerssen	Small, Former industrial, Residential, Shrink, Touristic	-12.4
Bladel	Small, Former industrial, Growth	-12.3
Landsmeer	Small, Former industrial, Growth, Residential, Touristic	-12.3
Heusden	Small, Former industrial, Residential	-12.3
Scherpenzeel	Small, Growth	-12.1
Utrecht (gemeente)	Large, Centre, Growth, Historic, Work	-12.0
Wijk bij Duurstede	Small, Residential	-12.0
Aalten	Small, Agricultural, Shrink	-11.9
Veere	Small, Touristic	-11.8
Leudal	Small, Centre, Shrink	-11.7
Dinkelland	Small, Agricultural	-11.6
Oost Gelre	Small, Agricultural	-11.3
Hilvarenbeek	Small, Touristic	-11.3
Wassenaar	Small, Green, Touristic	-11.2
Kampen	Medium, Growth, Historic	-11.0
Oldenzaal	Small, Former industrial, Work	-10.9
Bergeijk	Small, Former industrial, Touristic	-10.7
Leiden	Large, Centre, Growth, Historic, Touristic, Work	-10.2

Elected municipality	Typology	% Difference 2021-2022
Nijmegen	Large, Centre, Growth	-10.1
Raalte	Small, Agricultural	-10.0
Ameland	Small, Growth, Historic, Touristic	-10.0
Hardenberg	Medium, Agricultural	-9.9
Terschelling	Small, Touristic	-9.8
Losser	Small, Former industrial	-9.6
Amstelveen	Medium, Growth, Work	-9.6
Brummen	Small, Former industrial	-9.4
Urk	Small, Growth, New town	-9.4
Groningen (gemeente)	Large, Centre, Growth, Touristic, Work	-9.3
Vlieland	Small, Historic, Touristic	-9.2
Lopik	Small, Agricultural, Historic	-9.0
Leusden	Small, Green	-9.0
Wierden	Small, Agricultural, Former industrial	-8.8
Wageningen	Small, Growth	-8.8
Voorst	Small, Agricultural	-8.6
Woerden	Medium, Agricultural, Growth	-8.6
Veenendaal	Medium, Former industrial, Growth	-8.6
Heumen	Small, New town, Residential	-8.6
Heerenveen	Medium, Centre, Work	-8.6
Hilversum	Medium, Centre, Green, Growth	-8.5
Putten	Small, Former industrial, Green	-8.5
Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht	Small, Former industrial, Growth, New town, Residential	-8.3
's-Hertogenbosch	Large, Centre, Growth, Work	-8.3
Heiloo	Small, Residential	-8.3
Voerendaal	Small, Agricultural, Former industrial, Residential, Shrink, Touristic	-8.2
Barneveld	Medium, Green, Growth, New town, Work	-8.2
Oisterwijk	Small, Former industrial	-8.2
Buren	Small, Agricultural, Residential	-8.1
Mook en Middelaar	Small, Green, Residential, Shrink, Touristic	-8.1
Deventer	Medium, Centre	-8.0
Zeist	Medium, Green, Work	-7.8
Krimpenerwaard	Medium, Agricultural	-7.8
Doetinchem	Medium, Work	-7.7
Waalre	Small, Former industrial, Green, Residential	-7.6
Noordwijk	Small, Green, Touristic, Work	-7.6

Elected municipality	Typology	% Difference 2021-2022
Amersfoort	Large, Growth, New town	-7.6
Oostzaan	Small, Former industrial, Growth, Touristic	-7.5
Best	Small, Former industrial, New town, Work	-7.5
Castricum	Small, Centre, Residential	-7.4
Montfoort	Small, Agricultural	-7.4
Dalfsen	Small, Agricultural, Growth	-7.4
Oegstgeest	Small, Growth	-7.3
Olst-Wijhe	Small, Agricultural	-7.2
Koggenland	Small, Agricultural, Growth, New town	-7.1
Bronckhorst	Small, Agricultural, Historic, Shrink	-6.8
Zwartewaterland	Small, Agricultural	-6.7
Zwolle	Large, Centre, Growth, Work	-6.5
Culemborg	Small, Former industrial, New town	-6.5
Gulpen-Wittem	Small, Agricultural, Historic, Residential, Shrink, Touristic	-6.5
Valkenburg aan de Geul	Small, Shrink, Touristic	-6.4
Heeze-Leende	Small, Green, Growth	-6.4
Ede	Large, Centre, Green, Growth	-6.2
Eijsden-Margraten	Small, Agricultural, Historic, Residential, Touristic	-6.1
Gooise Meren	Medium, Centre	-5.9
Rozendaal	Small, Green, Residential	-5.8
Staphorst	Small, Agricultural, Growth, Historic	-5.5
Woudenberg	Small, Growth	-5.4
Breda	Large, Centre, Growth, Work	-5.3
Rijssen-Holten	Small, Former industrial	-5.3
Veldhoven	Small, Former industrial, Work	-5.3
Son en Breugel	Small, Growth, Work	-5.0
Eemnes	Small, Agricultural, New town	-4.5
Hellendoorn	Small, Former industrial, Green	-4.4
Baarn	Small, Green	-4.4
Meerijstad	Medium, Work	-4.4
Amsterdam	Large, Centre, Growth, Historic, Touristic, Work	-4.4
Berkelland	Small, Agricultural, Shrink	-4.3
Ouder-Amstel	Small, Work	-3.9
Renswoude	Small, Agricultural, Growth, New town	-3.8
Apeldoorn	Large, Centre, Green, Work	-3.5
Eindhoven	Large, Centre, Former industrial, Growth, Work	-3.5

Elected municipality	Typology	% Difference 2021-2022
Elburg	Small, Green	-3.3
Utrechtse Heuvelrug	Small, Green	-3.1
Arnhem	Large, Centre, Green, Growth, Touristic, Work	-3.1
Waterland	Small, Historic, Residential, Touristic	-3.0
Nunspeet	Small, Green	-2.9
Ermelo	Small, Green	-2.6
Zoeterwoude	Small, Agricultural	-2.5
Bergen (NH.)	Small, Green, Shrink, Touristic	-2.4
Nuenen, Gerwen en Nederwetten	Small, Former industrial	-2.2
Schiermonnikoog	Small, Historic, Touristic	-1.8
Bunnik	Small, Agricultural, Growth	-0.9
Hatterem	Small, Former industrial	0.0
Duiven	Small, New town, Work	1.3
Zeewolde	Small, Growth, New town	3.9

Annex C:

Description of indicators used for this framework

Adjustments in indicator set

Adjustments to the dataset and framework can occur on an annual basis. Changes in data availability, new scientific evidence and policy changes are examples of reasons for reviewing or adjusting the framework. As the data sets should be comparable across reporting years, adjustments are reconstructed for the previous years.

In terms of stocks, one change compared to last year is that the stock 'Knowledge' has been removed. The indicators 'Capacity of higher education' and 'Share of highly educated residents' have been moved to the stock 'Competitiveness'.

Within the dataset used for this report, three different types of changes were implemented. Some indicators have been added, some have been removed from the analysis and some have been changed in definition. An overview of the adjustments is described below.

Added indicators

- The indicator 3 – 30 – 300 has been added to the stock 'Nature and landscape'.
- The indicator 'Public transport accessibility' has been added to the stock 'Infrastructure & mobility'.
- For the stock 'Housing', the indicators 'Housing expenditure ratio' and 'Rental burden' have been added.
- The indicator 'Drug offences' has been added to the stock 'Safety'.

Changed indicators

- The indicators '10-6 risk contour', 'Risk of flooding' and 'Light pollution' from the stock 'Annoyance & external safety' have a new definition as the data sources and calculation methods have been reviewed and improved.
- For the indicator 'Soil sealing' from the stock 'Soil', the data source has been altered.
- The definition of the indicator 'Gross labour participation' from the stock 'Labour' has been revised. Previously the indicator focused on the net employment rate. The definition of the indicator 'Work incapacity' has been revised as well.
- Within the stock 'Economic participation', the definitions of the indicators 'Low-income population', 'Problematic debts' and 'Financial buffer' have been adjusted in line with definition updates from official institutions.
- Within the stock 'Education', the indicator 'Final exam results core subjects' has been adjusted to include exam results of all education levels instead of only pre-vocational secondary education.
- The indicator 'Sufficient physical activity' from the stock 'Health' has been adjusted as last year the indicator focused on insufficient physical activity rather than sufficient. Within this stock, the indicator 'Healthcare costs' has been revised as well due to new insights.
- The definition of the indicator 'Protected natural area' has been revised to exclude aquatic natural areas.
- The calculation method for the indicator 'Accessibility of business parks' from the stock 'Infrastructure and mobility' has been revised.

- Removed indicators
- The indicator ‘Distance to public transport (bus, tram, metro)’ has been removed from the stock ‘Infrastructure & mobility’. This indicator has been replaced by ‘Public transport accessibility’ due to new insights.
- The indicator ‘Municipal monuments’ has been removed from the stock ‘Arts & culture’ as the data was not available.
- The indicator ‘Debt restructuring’ has been removed from the stock ‘Economic participation’ due to poor data quality.
- The indicators ‘Hospital quality’ and ‘Medicine use’ have been removed from the stock ‘Health’ due to new insights and poor data availability.
- The indicators ‘Business closures’ and ‘Starting companies’ have been removed from the stock ‘Competitiveness’ as the data was not available.
- The indicators ‘High-medium Tech’ has been removed from the framework and was previously placed within the stock ‘Knowledge’ due to new insights.
- The indicator ‘Business park stock’ has been removed from the stock ‘Spatial location conditions’ due to poor data quality.
- The indicators ‘Solar energy’ and ‘Wind energy’ have been removed from the stock ‘Nature and landscape’ due to new insights.
- The indicator ‘Salinisation’ has been removed from the stock ‘Soil’ due to new insights.

An overview of all the capitals, stocks and indicators can be found in Table C.1.

Table C.1 All capitals. the underlying stocks and underlying indicators used in the 2025 framework.

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Ecology	Air	Ammonia emissions	The average ammonia emission per hectare into the air.	kg/ha	Municipality
Ecology	Air	CO ₂ emissions	The average carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions per capita into the air.	kg/inhabitant	Municipality
Ecology	Air	Methane emissions	The average methane emission per hectare into the air.	kg/ha	Municipality
Ecology	Air	Nitrogen oxides (Nox) emissions	The average emission of nitrogen oxides (expressed as NO ₂) per capita into the air.	kg/inhabitant	Municipality
Ecology	Air	Nitrogen oxides concentration	The average concentration of nitrogen in the air.	µg/m ³	Surface area
Ecology	Air	NMVOC emissions	The average emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) per inhabitant into the air.	kg/inhabitant	Municipality
Ecology	Air	Ozone concentration	The average concentration of ozone in the air.	µg/m ³	Surface area
Ecology	Air	Particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration	The average concentration of particulate matter (PM2.5) in the air.	µg/m ³	Surface area
Ecology	Air	Particulate matter PM2.5 emissions	The average particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions per capita from the sectors 'Consumers', 'Transport', and 'Trade, Services and Government' released into the air.	kg/inhabitant	Municipality
Ecology	Annoyance & external safety	10-6 risk contour	The percentage of land area that falls	Percentage	Surface area

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
			within a 10-6 risk contour.		
Ecology	Annoyance & external safety	Heat stress	The annual average temperature difference caused by the heat island effect.	Degrees Celcius	Surface area
Ecology	Annoyance & external safety	Light pollution	The average amount of light emission at night.	nW/cm ² /sr	Surface area
Ecology	Annoyance & external safety	Noise pollution	Percentage of land area exposed to a noise level of 55 dB or higher.	Percentage	Surface area
Ecology	Annoyance & external safety	Pluvial flood nuisance	The average maximum water depth that can occur at a given location due to intense rainfall (140 mm of rainfall in 2 hours. These showers occur on average once every 1,000 years at a given location under the current climate).	Centimetre	Surface area
Ecology	Annoyance & external safety	Risk of flooding	The risk of flooding, caused by the sea, rivers, or precipitation, weighted by the number of inhabitants in each administrative area.	Score	Surface area
Ecology	Energy	CO ₂ emissions mobility	The average CO ₂ emissions from the transport sector, excluding electricity consumption for transport (fossil fuels), per car.	Tonnes CO ₂ /car	Municipality
Ecology	Energy	Electricity consumption businesses	The average electricity consumption of businesses, calculated per employee.	kWh/employee	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Ecology	Energy	Electricity Consumption households	The average electricity consumption of households.	kWh	Municipality
Ecology	Energy	Energy label dwellings	The percentage of labelled dwellings that have an energy label of B or higher.	Percentage	Municipality
Ecology	Energy	Energy label non-residential buildings	The percentage of non-residential buildings that have an energy label of B or higher. Non-residential buildings are all structures that do not have a residential purpose, such as offices, schools, factories, shops, and healthcare institutions.	Percentage	Municipality
Ecology	Energy	Gas consumption businesses	The average gas consumption of businesses, calculated per employee.	m ³ /employee	Municipality
Ecology	Energy	Gas consumption households	The average gas consumption per household.	m ³	Municipality
Ecology	Energy	Renewable energy	Percentage of known renewable energy consumption, including renewable heat, solar power, and energy consumption on motorways.	Percentage	Municipality
Ecology	Nature and landscape	3 - 30 - 300	The 3-30-300 guideline by Professor Cecil Konijnendijk promotes a greener living environment. According to this guideline, there should be at least 3 trees visible from each	Score (1-5)	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
			dwelling, 30% canopy cover in each neighbourhood, and a maximum distance of 300 meters to the nearest green space. This score represents the rating for this indicator.		
Ecology	Nature and landscape	Protected natural area	The percentage of the area designated as protected nature, including NNN, Natura 2000, and national parks.	Percentage	Surface area
Ecology	Nature and landscape	Public low greenery	Percentage of public space covered by low greenery, excluding agricultural areas.	Percentage	Municipality
Ecology	Nature and landscape	Public trees	Percentage of public space that is covered with trees, excluding agricultural areas.	Percentage	Municipality
Ecology	Resources & waste	Bulky residual household waste	The average weight of non-separated collected residual waste per inhabitant, expressed in kilograms. Non-separated residual waste includes waste that is too large or too heavy to be collected in the same manner as household residual waste.	kg/inhabitant	Municipality
Ecology	Resources & waste	Fine residual household waste	The average weight of fine residual household waste per inhabitant in kilograms.	kg/inhabitant	Municipality
Ecology	Resources & waste	Separation of bulky	The percentage of bulky household	Percentage	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
		household waste	waste that is separated.		
Ecology	Resources & waste	Separation of fine household waste	Percentage of fine household waste that has been successfully separated.	Percentage	Municipality
Ecology	Resources & waste	Total household waste	The average amount of household waste per capita in kilograms.	kg/inhabitant	Municipality
Ecology	Soil	Nitrogen deposition	The 95th percentile of nitrogen deposition.	mol/ha/year	Surface area
Ecology	Soil	Soil sealing	The percentage of the surface that is sealed.	Percentage	Surface area
Ecology	Soil	Soil subsidence	The percentage of the surface experiencing subsidence greater than 2 mm per year.	Percentage	Surface area
Ecology	Water	Fish stock	The percentage of water bodies that are rated at least good in quality.	Percentage	Water bodies
Ecology	Water	Macrofauna	The percentage of water bodies that are rated as at least good quality.	Percentage	Water bodies
Ecology	Water	Nitrogen emissions to water	The average nitrogen emission to surface water, expressed per hectare of the administrative area.	kg/ha	Water bodies
Ecology	Water	Other substances	The percentage of water bodies that are rated at least as good in quality.	Percentage	Water bodies
Ecology	Water	Phosphorus emissions to water	The average phosphorus emission to surface water per hectare of the administrative area.	kg/ha	Water bodies

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Ecology	Water	Physio-chemical quality	The percentage of water bodies with a physio-chemical quality rated as at least good.	Percentage	Water bodies
Ecology	Water	Priority substances	Percentage of water bodies that are rated at least good in quality.	Percentage	Water bodies
Ecology	Water	Water flora	The percentage of water bodies that are rated as at least good quality.	Percentage	Water bodies
Economy	Competitiveness	Capacity of higher education	The percentage of the population that is pursuing a study at university or higher professional education level.	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Competitiveness	Gross regional product	Gross Domestic Product per capita. Municipalities have received the figures from the COROP region due to the lack of data at the municipal level.	Euro	COROP
Economy	Competitiveness	Share of Highly Educated Residents	Share of highly educated population (15-75 years).	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Accessibility of business parks	Multimodal accessibility of business parks, focusing on parking facilities, access via rail, and access via water.	Score	Business parks
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Bicycle environment	A score that reflects the perceived bicycle environment, based on both survey data and objective factors.	Score	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Charging stations	The number of (semi-)public charging stations per 1,000 vehicles.	Number per 1,000 cars	Municipality
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Distance to main road	Average distance to the nearest main road.	Kilometre	Municipality
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Distance to train station	Average distance to a train station.	Kilometre	Municipality
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Electric business vehicles	Percentage of electric business cars.	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Privately owned electric vehicles	Percentage of electric privately owned vehicles (electric, plug in hybrid or full hybrid).	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Public transport accessibility	The percentage of the population that has access to a bus, metro, tram, ferry, or train within 700 meters, with these modes of transport operating at least twice per hour on weekdays.	Percentage	Surface area
Economy	Infrastructure & mobility	Traffic congestion	Traffic congestion measured in minutes per year per kilometre on national and provincial roads. Municipalities receive a score for the COROP.	min/year/km road	COROP
Economy	Labour	Demographic pressure	The ratio of the number of individuals aged 0 to 20 years and those aged 65 years or older, compared to the number of individuals in the so-called 'productive' age group of 20 to 65 years.	Percentage	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Economy	Labour	Employment opportunities	The number of available jobs in relation to the workforce.	Ratio	Municipality
Economy	Labour	Gross labour participation	The percentage of the labour force, including both employed and unemployed individuals, relative to the total population, which includes both the labour and non-labour force.	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Labour	Unemployment	The percentage of the unemployed workforce relative to the total workforce (employed and unemployed) in the age group of 15 to 75 years.	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Labour	Work incapacity	Percentage of the labour force that receives benefits under the Disability Insurance Act (WAO) or benefits under the Return to Work (Partially Disabled Persons) Regulations (WGA) under the Work and Income according to Labour Capacity Act (WIA).	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Labour	Youth unemployment	The unemployment rate of young people aged between 15 and 25 years.	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Spatial location conditions	Deprecated business parks	Percentage of deprecated business parks compared to the total (gross) area of business parks.	Percentage	Business parks

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Economy	Spatial location conditions	Net-to-gross ratio of business parks	The ratio of business floor area to the allocated land area of the business park.	Percentage	Business parks
Economy	Spatial location conditions	Vacancy rate of offices	The percentage of offices that are currently vacant.	Percentage	Municipality
Economy	Spatial location conditions	Vacancy rate of shops	The percentage of retail spaces that are currently vacant.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Arts & culture	Distance to library	Average distance to a library.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Arts & culture	Distance to museums	Average distance to a museum.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Arts & culture	Distance to performing arts venue	Average distance to a facility for performing arts.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Arts & culture	National monuments	Number of national monuments per 1,000 inhabitants.	Number per 1,000 inhabitants	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Arts & culture	Protected historic townscapes	Designated protected historic town and village sites.	Count	Surface area
Socio-cultural	Economic participation	Disposable household income	Average disposable income per household, excluding students.	1,000 Euro	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Economic participation	Financial buffer	Percentage of households with a sufficient financial buffer, taking into account the size of the households.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Economic participation	Financial struggle	The percentage of individuals aged 18 and older who are experiencing financial difficulties.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Economic participation	Low-income population	The percentage of households that do not have sufficient income and wealth to	Percentage	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
			fully participate in society according to the NIBUD standard.		
Socio-cultural	Economic participation	Problematic debts	At least one person in the household meets at least one of the criteria set by CBS at the reference date of the reporting year regarding debts (see: https://dashboards.cbs.nl/v5/SchuldenproblematiekInBeeld/).	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Economic participation	Social-assistance benefits in labour force	The percentage of the labour force receiving social-assistance benefits under the Participation Act.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Education	Distance to primary school	Average distance to the closest elementary school.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Education	Distance to secondary education	Average distance to a school for secondary education.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Education	Distance to secondary vocational college	Average distance to vocational college.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Education	Final exam results core subjects	The average final examination mark for the subjects Dutch, English and Mathematics	Grade	School
Socio-cultural	Education	No basic qualification	The percentage of the population (aged 15-75) without a basic qualification.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Education	School dropout rate	The percentage of early school leavers (vsv) in relation to the number of students enrolled at the	Percentage	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
			beginning of the school year. VSV individuals are young people aged 12 to 23 who leave education without a basic qualification, such as a havo or vwo diploma, or at least an mbo-2 diploma.		
Socio-cultural	Health	Activity-friendly environment	The exercise-friendly environment assesses public spaces with a score ranging from 0 to 100 based on the opportunities for people to engage in sports and physical activities.	Score	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Distance to General Practitioner's practice	Average distance to a general practitioner.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Distance to hospital	Average distance to a hospital.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Healthcare costs	Percentage of residents with healthcare costs higher than the average.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Life expectancy	The expected life expectancy in years for a person aged 0, based on the assumption that mortality rates will remain constant in the future for the entire population of men and women. A four-year average is applied.	Year	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Socio-cultural	Health	Long-term ill and limited	The percentage of individuals aged 18 and older who report having a long-term illness and indicate being limited due to health problems.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Psychological complaints	The percentage of individuals with psychological complaints scoring 60 or lower on the Mental Health Inventory (MHI). These figures are based on the 'Mental Health Inventory 5', also known as 'MHI-5'.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Risky behaviour	Average percentage of excessive alcohol consumption, smokers, and severe obesity (including cigarettes and, from 2020, e-cigarettes).	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Self-rated health	The percentage of individuals aged 18 and over who respond 'very good' or 'good' to the question regarding their general health status.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Stress	The percentage of individuals aged 18 and over who have experienced (very) high levels of stress in the past four weeks.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Health	Sufficient physical activity	The percentage of individuals aged 18 and older who meet the physical activity guidelines.	Percentage	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Socio-cultural	Health	Vaccination rate	The percentage of two-year-old children who are vaccinated.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Housing	Affordable housing (owner-occupied)	The percentage of dwellings considered affordable. The affordability threshold is set at 4.5 times the gross median income of the relevant year.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Housing	Housing expenditure ratio	The average percentage of disposable household income spent on housing costs.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Housing	Rental burden	The average net housing expenditures of tenants, calculated as the rent minus the rent allowance.	Euro	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Housing	Satisfaction with dwelling	The percentage of private households that are very satisfied or satisfied with their current dwelling.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Housing	Vacancy rate of dwellings	The percentage of dwellings that are vacant. Dwellings are considered vacant if they consume no more gas and/or electricity than 10 percent of the consumption of comparable occupied dwellings during a calendar year. This applies only to dwellings that were vacant at both the reference point and one year prior. For these dwellings, such	Percentage	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
			high energy consumption is unlikely, unlike for dwellings that are temporarily vacant.		
Socio-cultural	Political participation	Trust in institutions	The percentage of the population aged 15 and older that has trust in three key institutions: the House of Representatives, the police, and the judges.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Political participation	Turnout House of Representatives elections	The percentage of registered voters who participated in the House of Representatives elections in the municipalities.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Political participation	Turnout municipal council elections	The percentage of eligible voters who participated in the municipal council elections.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Residential environment	Distance to daily groceries and provisions	Average distance to a supermarket or store for daily groceries and provisions.	Kilometre	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Residential environment	Noise nuisance neighbours	The percentage of the population experiencing noise nuisance from neighbours.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Residential environment	Noise nuisance traffic	The percentage of people experiencing noise nuisance from road traffic, aircraft, and/or train services.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Residential environment	Satisfaction with living environment	The percentage of private households that report being very satisfied or satisfied	Percentage	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
			with their current living environment.		
Socio-cultural	Safety	Domestic violence	The number of reported cases of domestic violence per 100,000 inhabitants. This includes child abuse, violence against parents, (ex-)partner violence, elder abuse (for individuals over 65 years old), and other forms of domestic violence.	Number per 100,000 inhabitants	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Safety	Drug offences	The number of registered drug offences per 1,000 inhabitants.	Number per 1,000 inhabitants	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Safety	Perceived unsafety	Percentage of residents who feel unsafe sometimes or often.	Percentage	Municipality and police teams
Socio-cultural	Safety	Property crimes	The number of property crimes per 1,000 inhabitants.	Number per 1,000 inhabitants	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Safety	Referrals to Halt	The number of referrals to Halt per 1,000 inhabitants aged 12 to 17 years.	Number per 10,000 inhabitants	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Safety	Traffic safety	The number of traffic accidents per kilometer of road.	Accidents/km road	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Safety	Vandalism	The number of crimes of vandalism registered by the police per 1,000 inhabitants.	Number per 1,000 inhabitants	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Safety	Violent and sexual crimes	The number of registered violent and sexual crimes per 1,000 inhabitants.	Number per 1,000 inhabitants	Municipality

Capital	Stock	Indicator	Description	Unit	Aggregation
Socio-cultural	Social participation	Loneliness	The percentage of individuals aged 18 and older who feel (very) lonely.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Social participation	Social cohesion	A score that indicates the level of social cohesion within a region.	Score	Municipality and police teams
Socio-cultural	Social participation	Social relations	The percentage of individuals aged 15 and older who, on average, have contact with family, friends, or neighbours at least once a week.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Social participation	Trust in others	The percentage of individuals aged 15 and older who agree with the statement that most people are generally trustworthy, also known as generalized trust.	Percentage	Municipality
Socio-cultural	Social participation	Volunteering	The percentage of individuals aged 18 and over who engage in volunteering.	Percentage	Municipality