

The background is a vibrant, hand-drawn illustration. It features two colorful birds, possibly Kingfishers, with speckled chests and patterned wings, facing each other. They are set against a backdrop of a stylized town with various houses, some with smoke rising from chimneys. A winding river flows through the scene, and there are scattered colorful diamonds and clouds. The overall style is whimsical and artistic.

Let's Explore

Wellbeing Budgets

By SaskWellbeing

Internationally, many jurisdictions have taken steps to incorporate quality-of-life and wellbeing measurements into their political, socio-environmental, and economic decision-making.

By incorporating and implementing cross-sectoral approaches to improve wellbeing for their citizens, these countries are equally assessing the economic, social, cultural, and environmental contexts in which they make their political decisions.

Jurisdictions doing so at the national level:

- [New Zealand](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Iceland](#)
- [Scotland](#)

New Zealand: Wellbeing Budget

Sustainable economic growth is an important contributor, but many factors determine people's wellbeing. The Wellbeing Budget endeavors to give more New Zealanders the ability to share in the benefits of a strong and growing economy.

“We now know that we cannot meaningfully address complex problems like child poverty, inequality and climate change through traditional ways of working. Making the best choices for current and future generations requires looking beyond economic growth on its own and considering social, environmental and economic implications together.”



The Wellbeing Budget does this in three ways:

1

Breaking down agency silos and working across government to assess, develop and implement policies that improve wellbeing.

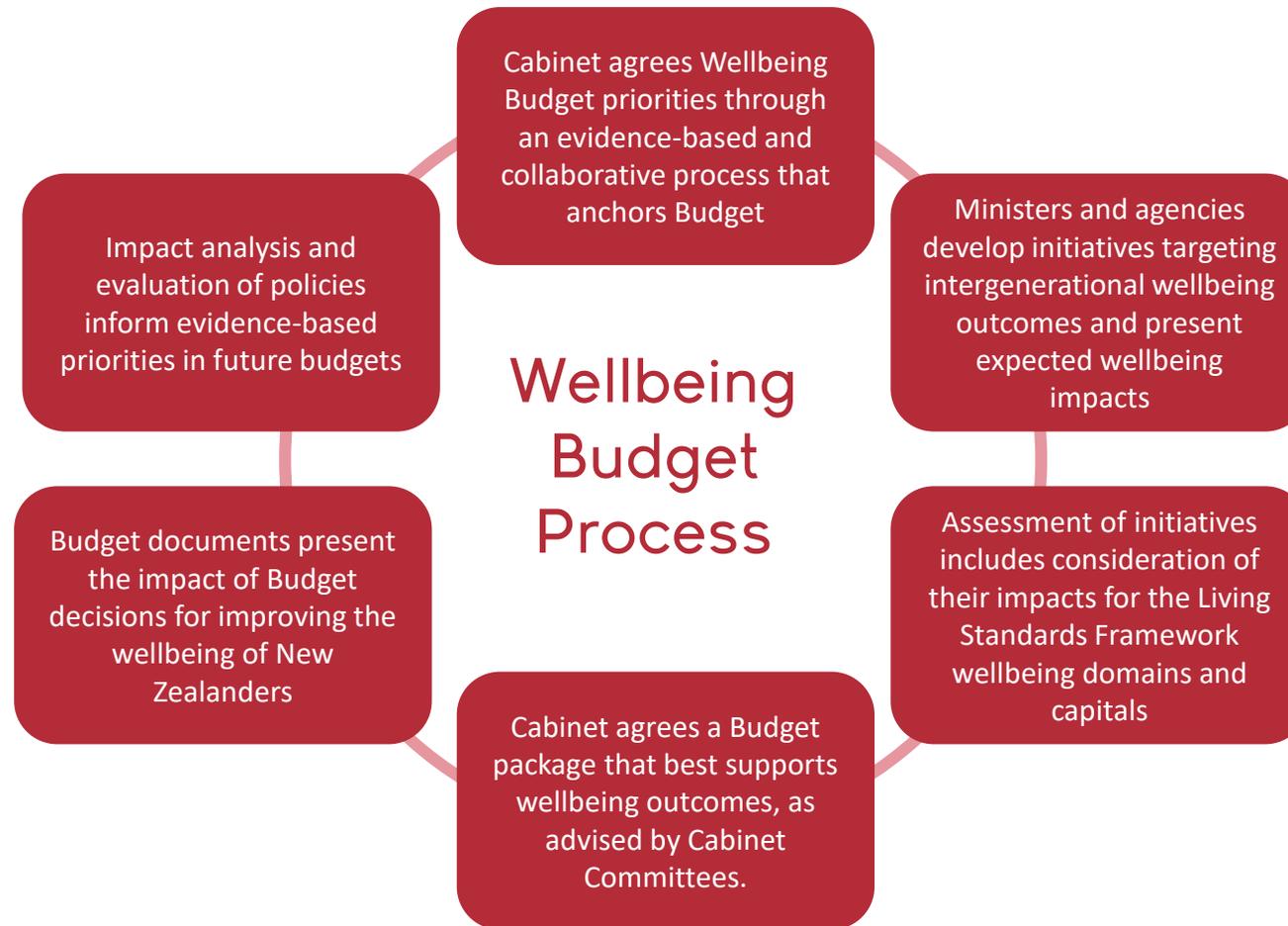
2

Focusing on outcomes that meet the needs of present generations at the same time as thinking about the long-term impacts for future generations.

3

Tracking our progress with broader measures of success, including the health of our finances, natural resources, people and communities.

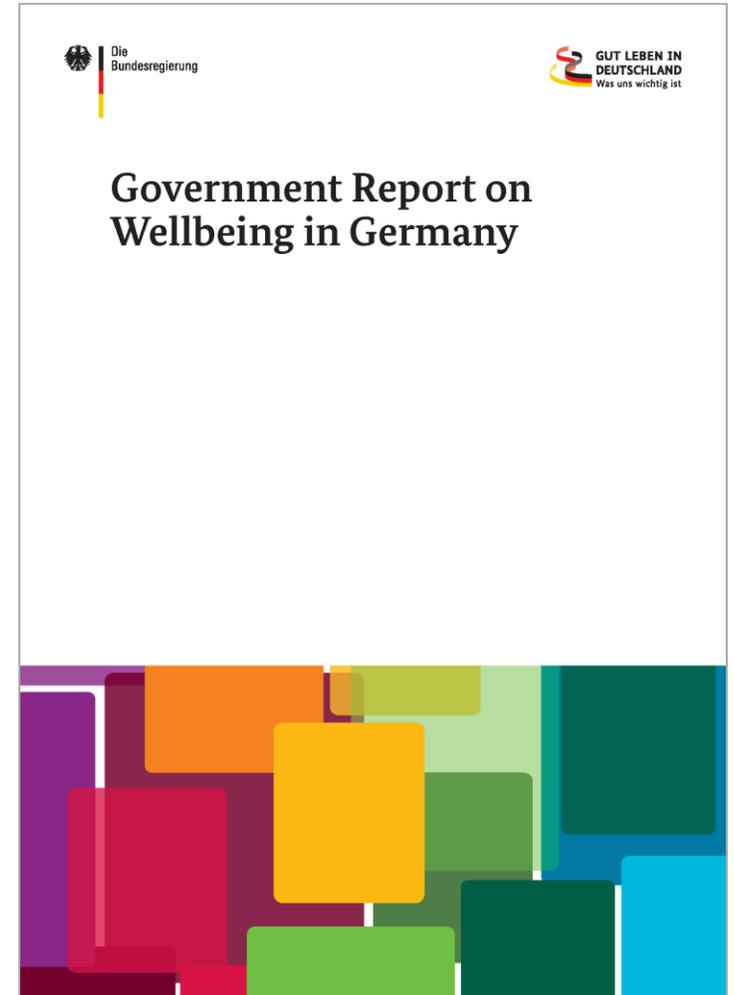
Traditional Budget Process



Germany: Wellbeing as a Guiding Principle

The German Federal Government views wellbeing as a guiding principle for policymaking that pursues economic, social and ecological objectives simultaneously.

“It is no longer enough to simply work to ensure economic growth and greater prosperity. The point is not to manufacture more material goods, but to make the quality of their production and distribution better and also improve both the opportunities available to live a good life and the conditions in which it is to be lived. If government policy is to be effective, it is important to understand the various aspects of wellbeing and the interrelations between them that both reinforce, but also at times compete with one another.”



Iceland: Wellbeing Government Economy Project

The wellbeing government economy project – where Iceland is participating with among others New Zealand and Scotland – is an attempt to develop a new economic model, which is centred on wellbeing rather than on production and consumption.

Iceland has developed 39 wellbeing indicators that include economic, environmental and social factors. GDP and other economic indicators are among them, but in a new context with social and environmental indicators, to aim for the delicate balance of sustainable development.

Reinforced by the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\)](#), developing wellbeing indicators has the potential to transform fiscal policies, putting people and the planet first.



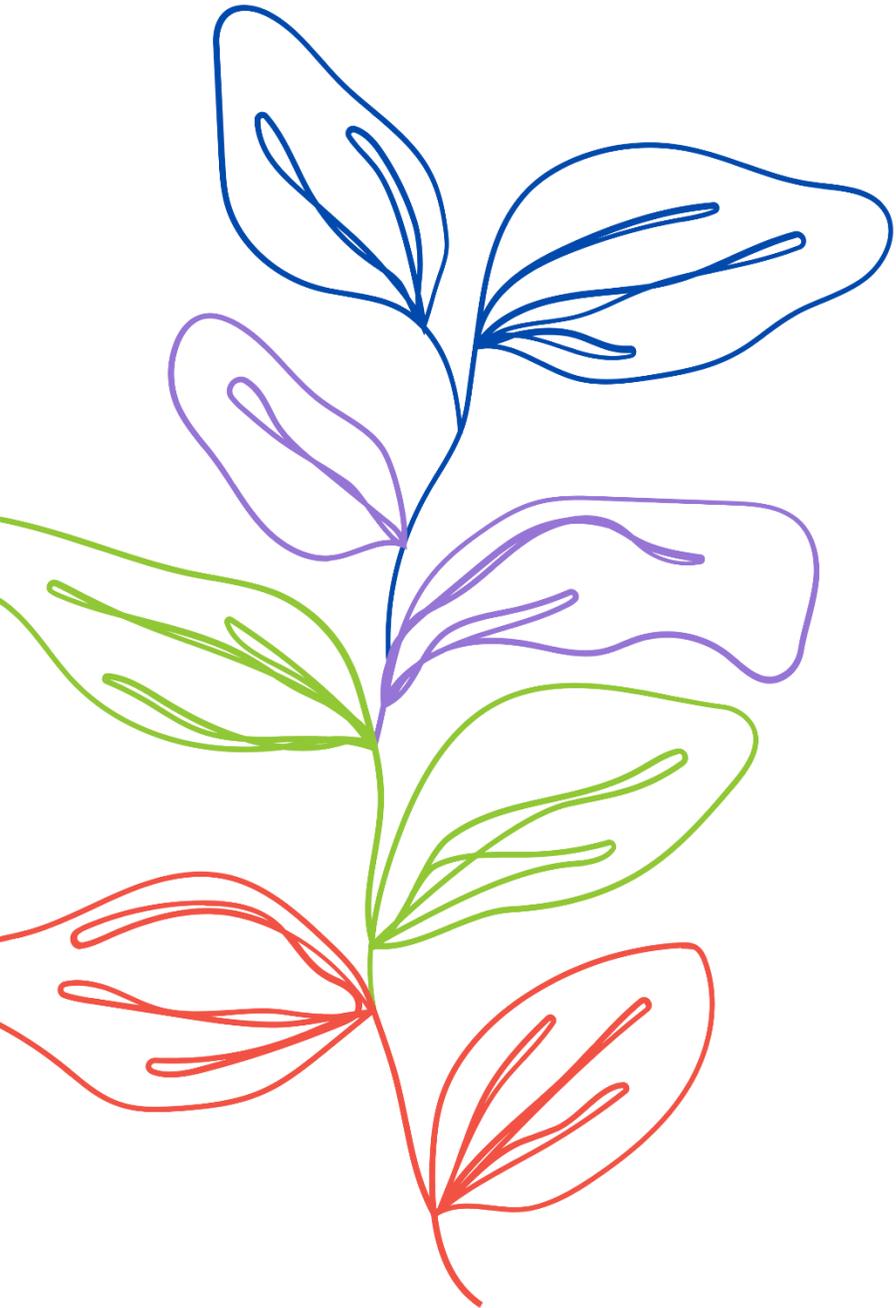
Scotland: National Performance Framework

Scotland welcomes a ‘four pillars’ approach which prioritizes business, people, community, and the environment in a balanced manner.

“Business and economic activity must be designed to serve people and planet, not thrive alongside them. After all, what is the benefit of an economy if it does not directly serve the people who sustain it?”

“Indeed, the answers are the crux of what separates a traditional, growth-driven system from a true wellbeing economy. A wellbeing economy is one that is purposed and designed explicitly for human and ecological wellbeing – economic activity in service of these higher order goals.”





While each country has incorporated wellbeing indicators into their decision-making differently, there are commonalities:

- ✓ aligning policies with the overall aspirations of citizens;
- ✓ increasing social equitability;
- ✓ focusing on mental health;
- ✓ improving wellbeing for children;
- ✓ supporting minority and Indigenous aspirations (and related community-specific concerns);
- ✓ building productive nations; and
- ✓ transforming economies away from a dependence on fossil fuels.

Countries that have made significant progress in implementing wellbeing measurements in government decision-making, have done so according to collaborative and evidence-based approaches using frameworks based on data from various government departments and advice from experts in each relevant sector.



Sharing information and working together with trust and transparency across all sectors, namely government, non-profit, academic, and private, will ultimately lead to improved wellbeing of all citizens.



Would you support the development of a wellbeing framework, moving towards a wellbeing budget in Saskatchewan or in your municipality that prioritizes quality of life and collective wellbeing?

What priorities would you recommend for inclusion in a wellbeing budget?



SaskWellbeing is an initiative that encourages communities and decision-makers to consider all dimensions of wellbeing, and to engage in collaborative multi-sectoral approaches to improve quality of life for all citizens.

www.saskwellbeing.ca

Resources:

- [New Zealand: The Wellbeing Budget \(2019\)](#)
- [Government Report on Wellbeing in Germany](#)
- [Iceland Wellbeing Government Economy Project](#)
- [Scotland National Performance Framework](#)
- [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development](#)