

A 60 Second Guide To: Sustainable Development

Goal 11

Sustainable Cities and Communities

Introduction

Cities are hotspots for commerce, culture, productivity and enable economic and social advancement. However, the challenge lies in maintaining cities in a way that creates jobs and to prosperity whilst not putting a strain on land and resources. This goal seeks to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The 10 aims of this goal are to:

- 1 Ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.
- 2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.
- 3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation.
- 4 Enhance efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.
- 5 Decrease the number of deaths, numbers of people affected by and economic losses caused by disasters, focussing on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.
- 6 Reduce the per capita adverse environmental impact of cities by 2030 (focussing on air quality and waste management).
- 7 Provide access to safe, inclusive and accessible green spaces.
- 8 Strengthen national and regional development planning to create positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, pre-urban and rural areas.
- 9 Increase the numbers of cities and other settlements adopting and using integrated policies towards inclusion, resource efficiency, resilience to disasters and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- 10 Help least developed countries to build sustainable and resilient buildings using local materials.

Background information

Half of the world's population lives in cities, by the year 2030 this will rise to 60%. Although the world's cities occupy only 3% of the world's land they account for approximately 60-80% of energy consumption. This trend towards urban living is placing pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage systems, public health and the environment in which we live.

Urban challenges include congestion, provision of basic services, old infrastructure and a shortage of good quality housing. These challenges can be met in ways that allow our cities to continue to develop and grow, through improved resource usage, reducing pollution and poverty.

Further Reading/Linked Resources

- UN Environment Programme - Cities - Investing in energy and resource efficiency
- UN Population Fund – Urbanisation



For more information and to take part in the Global Learning Programme please see: www.glp-e.org.uk and @glp_e
For more information on the support provided by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) please see www.rgs.org and @RGS_IBGSchools
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