

# Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable



## **What is Goal 11?**

Cities, home to half the world's population, are places where commerce, culture, politics, business, and social development all come together. Cities are also places of extreme poverty and inequality where scarce resources are not available for all and are costly, making it difficult to create an equal, stable environment for all. Common difficulties seen most often in cities include congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, poor infrastructure, and a shortage of satisfactory housing. Since 2008, the urban population of the world has surpassed the rural population, making it more important than ever to create an environment that is safe, sustainable, and accessible for all.

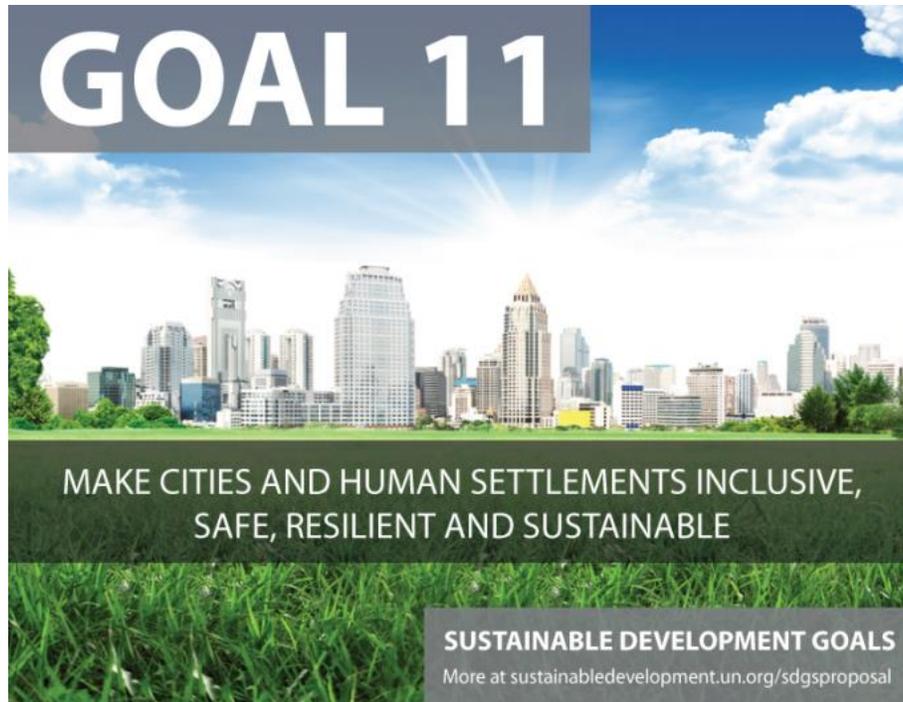
Goal 11 strives to allow cities to continue to grow economically, but at the same time make all services and opportunities available in cities open to all, not to just a select few. This goal is quite ambitious in its nature as it requires both local and national government intervention alongside cooperation between all sectors that function within a city. This includes transportation, housing, health, employment, and public finance, a rather difficult task to coordinate. Goal 11 also attempts to reduce the pollution that industries create in cities that negatively affects the health of inhabitants and will affect future generations to come. This is another ambitious task, as green technology and research is often costly. Goal 11's attempt to build sustainable cities is an important factor within sustainable development as a whole as more and more people migrate to urban settlements to find work or a different life. When they arrive in cities, people are in dire need of safe housing and transportation as well as equal opportunity. As the number of inhabitants in cities continues to grow each year, it is imperative that cities transition into more efficient and sustainable areas before the costs of health, education, and other services begin to overwhelm the ability of governments to provide basic services to growing human populations in megacities and smaller urban areas worldwide.

## **What are the Targets?**

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- By 2030, provide access to sweet, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

## **Means of Implementation**

- Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials



### **Is this Possible?**

Goal 11 is an ambitious goal that requires multiple partnerships to ensure that cities are built and maintained sustainably as well as creating municipal government practices that are inclusive and environmentally sound. In order for Goal 11 to succeed, local governments will need to be motivated in working within their local communities. In turn, national governments will need to assist local governments to increase funding and develop greater political will to create more resilient communities that are safe and inclusive. Implementing sustainable practices is a rather expensive and timely task, and citizens will need to hold their governments accountable in following through with promises. Also, when attending review and monitoring sessions, states will have to brainstorm with one another, especially at the regional level, on best practices for improving urban life. It is possible that Goal 11 will take longer than 15 years to be accomplished worldwide, but states can begin implementing steps and technology over the years to help their citizens live in safe, resilient areas. If we do not begin to take pollution and the decline in natural resources seriously, it is possible that cities will eventually face mass shortages and health epidemics that will harm future generations to come.

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