



## Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

### Goal 11 Targets:

11.1) By 2030, **ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums**

11.2) By 2030, provide **access to safe, 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

11.3) By 2030, enhance **inclusive and sustainable urbanization** and capacity for **participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning** and management in all countries

11.4) Strengthen efforts to **protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage**

11.5) 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**

11.6) 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**.

11.7) 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

11.a) Support **positive economic, social, and environmental links between urban, per-urban, and rural areas** by strengthening national and regional development planning

11.b) 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, and 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

11.c) **Support least developed countries**, including through financial and technical assistance, **in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials**

*See further resources on goal 11 and sustainable cities on page 4.*

# Take action toward achieving goal 11

## Take action locally:

- **Congregational actions:** *Engage members of your congregation in action through volunteering, advocacy, exercises, or wider congregational changes.*
  - **Ask if your congregation can switch to renewable energy**, or if not, discuss ways you might be able to use less electricity both in the congregation or at home in order to lower how much electricity your city has to produce.
  - **Book a table at coffee hour** to inform your congregation about public transportation in your area. If possible, hold a program to take public transportation to your congregation instead of driving.
  - **Bring your congregation or youth group to [volunteer with Habitat for Humanity](#)** (present in most of the US and Canada) and help build houses for low-income families.
- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for sustainable cities in the U.S. and Canada. Collect signatures at your congregation by booking a table during coffee hour.*
  - **[Urge the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to change lead regulations](#)** to protect children's safety from lead poisoning.
  - **[Tell the US Department of Transportation to change rules](#)** that, in examining the National Highway System, would hold fast driving speeds to be more reliable than safety or sustainability.
  - **[Tell political figures in the Lehigh Valley to promote a passenger rail service](#)** to this location, the fastest-growing metropolitan area in Pennsylvania. This would be a large step toward preventing the kind of automobile-centered sprawl that has been detrimental to so many other communities.
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on sustainable cities in the U.S. and Canada at your congregation.*
  - **[Sprawling from Grace: The Consequences of Suburbanization](#)**: A documentary exploring what makes suburbanization and urban sprawl unsustainable, and the results of continuing to develop in this way.
  - **[The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream](#)**: Another film about the origins of suburbanization, why it has become so ingrained in the American mentality, and why climate change makes automobile-based suburban life unfeasible.
  - **[Radiant City](#)**: A fictional film about a family living in a suburb of Calgary that contains commentary by real urban experts on the problems of sprawl in North America.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on sustainable cities in the U.S. and Canada.*
  - **[Cities of North America: Contemporary Challenges in U.S. and Canadian Cities](#)**: Lisa Benton-Short and others provide a history of urban development in the United States and Canada, exploring how different factors have made cities what they are today.

- [\*\*\*Solving Sprawl: Models of Smart Growth in Communities Across America\*\*\*](#): F. Kaid Benfield, Jutka Terris, and Nancy Vorsanger describe thirty-five examples of sustainable urban development across the United States and what makes them “smart”.
- [\*\*\*Green Metropolis: Why Living Smaller, Living Closer, and Driving Less are the Keys to Sustainability\*\*\*](#): David Owen explains why tight, densely populated communities like New York City are in fact the most sustainable way of living.
- [\*\*\*Urban and Regional Planning in Canada\*\*\*](#): J. Barry Cullingworth discusses the expansion of Canadian cities and communities and its relation to population growth, environmental concerns, and other topics.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working toward sustainable cities in the U.S. and Canada.*
  - [\*\*Smart Growth America\*\*](#) researches, discusses, and advocates for sustainable development of cities nationwide.

### Take action internationally:

- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for sustainable cities across the globe. Collect signatures at your congregation by booking a table during coffee hour.*
  - [\*\*Tell the national governments of Europe to reverse the EU decision\*\*](#) allowing car manufacturers to exceed emissions limits, polluting cities.
  - [\*\*Urge the Auckland City Council to develop rail links\*\*](#) to the [\*\*southeastern\*\*](#) and [\*\*North Shore\*\*](#) suburbs of the city, easing traffic congestion and helping to reduce carbon emissions.
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on sustainable cities across the world at your congregation.*
  - [\*\*Urbanized\*\*](#): A film discussing urban design worldwide and the various aspects of cities, including transport and housing. The film examines cities in developed and developing countries.
  - [\*\*A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil\*\*](#): This documentary tells the story of Curitiba, a city that is a world leader in sustainable development.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on sustainable cities across the world.*
  - [\*\*Sprawl: A Compact History\*\*](#): Robert Bruegmann gives a history of urban sprawl worldwide and discusses both its problems and its benefits.
  - [\*\*Planet of Slums\*\*](#): Mike Davis discusses the rise in the number of people living in squalid slums over the last fifty years and what it might mean for an increasingly urbanized future.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working toward sustainable cities across the world.*
  - [\*\*Habitat for Humanity\*\*](#) is a Christian organization that works toward building affordable housing for impoverished people worldwide.
  - [\*\*Shelter the World\*\*](#) is a nonprofit organization that helps people in developing countries to build adequate homes.
  - [\*\*Practical Action\*\*](#) provides innovative solutions for problems of sanitation and climate change in communities in developing countries.
  - [\*\*Cities Alliance\*\*](#) provides resources and support to city governments to encourage sustainable growth.

## **Further resources on goal 11 and sustainable cities:**

- [\*\*Goal 11 targets and related publications on sustainable cities\*\*](#)
- [\*\*UN facts and figures on Goal 11\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Global Goals images relating to Goal 11\*\*](#)
- [\*\*The UN Development Program \(UNDP\)'s work in achieving Goal 11\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Global Citizen Report\*\*](#) on international progress made to reach goal 11 and the future steps necessary to continue toward its achievement.