



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

An Overview

Half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – lives in cities today. Cities are hubs for commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. With the number of people living within cities projected to rise to 5 billion people by 2030, it's important that efficient urban planning and management practices are in place to deal with the challenges brought by urbanisation and to enable sustainable urban expansion – 95% of which will take place in the developing world in the next decades.

Rapid urbanisation can have huge environmental impact. It exerts pressure on fresh water supplies and sewage (SDG 6), the living environment (SDG 14 & 15), and public health (SDG 3). The world's cities occupy just 3% of the Earth's land, but account for 60-80% of energy consumption (SDG 7) and 75% of carbon emissions (SDG 13). As of 2016, 90% of urban dwellers have been breathing unsafe air, resulting in 4.2 million deaths due to ambient air pollution (SDG 3).

The future we want includes cities of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, reliable and clean transportation and adequate housing – 883 million people live in slums today. Rapid urbanisation challenges, such as the safe removal and management of solid waste within cities, must be addressed in a way that improves resource use (SDG 12) and reduces pollution and poverty (SDG 1).

SDG 11 Keywords

This list is comprised of the Scopus queries generated by Elsevier in order to identify research that supports SDG 11, as part of the assessment undertaken by the global THE Impact League.

cities, urban, metropolis, towns or municipals	human settlement	gentrification	congestion
Transportation / public transport	nature inclusive	housing	slums
Sendai framework	Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) / disaster	smart city	resilient building
sustainable buildings	building design	urban / urbanisation	zero energy building
basic service	governance	citizen participation	collaborative / participatory planning
inclusiveness	cultural heritage	natural heritage	UNESCO
ecological / environmental footprint	waste	pollution	waste water
recycling	circular economy	air quality	green space

SDG 11 Targets & Indicators

Consider if your research could support a specific target in order to maximise impact.

TARGETS		INDICATORS	
11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
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	11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	11.3.1	Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
		11.3.2	Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1	Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)
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	11.5.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people
		11.5.2	Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services
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	11.6.1	Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities
		11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
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	11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
		11.7.2	Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
11.A	Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning	11.A.1	Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city
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, 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.B.1	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
		11.B.2	Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
11.C	Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials	11.C.1	Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials

Useful Links

- [UN-HABITAT](#)
- [UN Environment Programme : Cities – investing in energy and resource efficiency](#)
- [UN Environment Programme Climate Neutral Network](#)
- [UN Environment Programme: Cities and Climate Change](#)
- [UN Population Fund: Urbanization](#)
- [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#)