SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

A FU+UREPLUS GUIDE

"MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE." (By 2030)

Target 11.1 – Safe and affordable housing

Target 11.2 – Affordable and sustainable transport systems

Target 11.3 – Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation

Target 11.4 – Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage

Target 11.5 – Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters

Target 11.6 – Reduce the environmental impact of cities

Target 11.7 – Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces

Target 11.8 – Strong national and regional development planning

Target 11.9 – Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction

Target 11.A – Support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building

PROGRESS & INFO

Urban areas are at the forefront of many contemporary challenges, including climate change, pollution, and social inequality. Cities consume over two-thirds of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of global carbon emissions. They are also hubs of innovation and opportunity, making them key players in the fight against climate change and in driving sustainable development.

Progress towards SDG 11 has been mixed. On one hand, some cities have made remarkable strides in developing sustainable urban planning and management practices. Investments in public transport, green spaces, and sustainable buildings have improved the quality of life in these areas. Initiatives like smart city technologies, waste reduction programs, and inclusive urban policies have shown promising results.

PROGRESS + INFO (continued)

However, challenges remain significant. The number of people living in slums continues to rise, signifying a persistent gap in access to adequate housing, basic services, and opportunities. Air pollution remains a critical health and environmental issue, with many urban areas exceeding safe levels of air quality. Public transport systems are often inadequate or unaffordable for a significant portion of the population, exacerbating social and economic disparities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the vulnerabilities and inequalities in cities. Lockdowns and social distancing measures have impacted public transport, businesses, and the livelihoods of many, particularly the urban poor. The pandemic has also underscored the importance of resilient and adaptable urban systems, as well as the need for green spaces and accessible healthcare services.

THE ROLE OF BUSINESSES

Businesses can help cities navigate the challenges relating to SDG 11 and turn a high-level vision into practical and implementable action plans.

Business can play a vital role not only in providing specific **infrastructure**, **technology**, **services** and **financing solutions**, but also in contributing to the strategy that will support the overall optimization of urban systems to create inclusive, safe, sustainable and resilient cities.

Key business tools include Impact Reporting & Investment Standards (IRIS) and Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (CHRB).

Key business themes addressed by Goal 11:

- Access to affordable housing
- Infrastructure investments
- Sustainable transportation
- Access to public spaces
- Sustainable buildings

+ BUSINESS ACTIONS

- Encourage customers and/or staff to travel by public transport. Also, implement a Cycle to Work scheme for employees.

- If applicable, provide affordable staff accommodation.

- When creating products or services consider how they can positively contribute to the aims of SDG 11.

- Reform private sector finance **investment strategies** to support sustainable and integrated urban development, like low-carbon buildings and sustainable urban transport.

+ ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

The below examples are non-exhaustive and some may be more relevant to certain industries.

- Incorporate green space into developments, providing multiple benefits to the city. Additionally, allow open access to these spaces.

- Support or implement programs that support local cultural and natural heritage, and engage with local communities.

- Invest in **safe and sustainable infrastructure** in the community and or city of operation, including alarm systems and lighting.

- Jointly develop and/or participate in a **sustainable community** that brings together relevant stakeholders through a common platform to jointly analyse and act on urban resilience, functionality and sustainable development.

- Support **charities** focused on SDG 11, like All Hands and Heart and the Landscape Institute.

NEED MORE HELP?

We also offer consultancy services if you would like more comprehensive support with achieving your sustainability goals.

Please let us know if you would like more information – we would be happy to provide you with a quote: team@future-plus.co.uk