Sustainable cities and communities

By 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 11 seeks to make cities inclusive, safe, and resilient

What are the challenges facing cities today?

How can cities be improved by 2030?

- Ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and services
- Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all
- Enhance inclusive, sustainable and participatory urbanisation
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
- Significantly reduce the number of deaths, number of people affected by, and economic losses caused by disasters
- Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, particularly air quality and waste management
- Provide access to safe, inclusive, green and public spaces, especially for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- Strengthen national and regional development to create positive links with urban, pre-urban and rural areas
- Develop resource efficiency, and adaptation to climate change
- Help least developed countries to build sustainable buildings with local materials

In 2016 More than 50% of the world’s population lives in cities
According to the UN, nearly 70% will live in cities by 2050
Of the 3 billion urban dwellers today, 1 billion live below the poverty line
By 2035 it is estimated 5 billion people will live in cities, with 2 billion of them below the poverty line

The United Nations has designated October 31 as World Cities Day to promote international interest in global urbanisation and co-operation

Formal employment has not increased as rapidly as the rapid urbanisation of cities, thus deepening social and economic inequality
75% of the world’s cities have higher levels of income inequalities than two decades ago

Which are the world’s most polluted mega cities?

Although cities occupy only 3% of the world’s land they account for around 60-80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions

Urban planning is less supported in the developing world
In the UK, there are 38 planners per 100,000 population, while in Nigeria the figure is 1.44. It is 0.23 in India

Increased population and migration to cities have created informal economies and communities in urban spaces
Globally, more than 900 million people live in slums
In sub-Saharan Africa, 50% of the total population live in slum-like conditions

More than 10,000 schools have joined the Global Learning Programme, which is supported by the UK Government. You can register your school to gain access to teaching resources and other support. You can do so at [link]

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) promotes global understanding, knowledge, conservation and sustainability. Go to [link] to explore the latest events, publications, news and more.