

Goal 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

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

Maria Shumate, Joanna Wolańska



United States

Clean Energy Initiatives: The U.S. has invested in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, and has implemented policies to promote energy efficiency in buildings and industries.

Infrastructure Investment: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocates significant funding for improving public transportation, electric vehicle charging stations, and sustainable water infrastructure.

Climate Action Plans: Many cities and states have developed comprehensive climate action plans outlining strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Green Building: Cities like New York, Chicago, and Portland have adopted green building codes and standards, encouraging the construction of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly buildings.

Sustainable Transportation: Cities are investing in public transportation systems, bike-sharing programs, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure to reduce reliance on cars and improve air quality.

Waste Reduction and Recycling: Many cities have implemented robust recycling programs, composting initiatives, and waste reduction strategies to minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal.

Green Spaces: Cities are creating and preserving green spaces, parks, and urban forests to improve air quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and enhance biodiversity.

The goal is to create healthier, more resilient, and environmentally responsible urban environments for future generations.

Poland

Climate-friendly Cities: The Ministry of Climate and Environment has launched a program to support cities in developing green and blue infrastructure, sustainable transport, and clean energy solutions.

Green Infrastructure: Many cities are investing in green spaces, parks, and urban forests to improve air quality, reduce heat islands, and enhance biodiversity.

Sustainable Transport: Efforts are being made to promote public transportation, cycling, and walking, as well as to introduce electric vehicles and improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency: Buildings are being retrofitted to improve energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources like solar and wind power are being integrated into the energy mix.

Waste Management: Recycling programs are being expanded, and waste reduction strategies are being implemented to minimize the environmental impact of urban activities.

These initiatives are contributing to a more sustainable and eco-friendly urban environment in Poland, improving the quality of life for residents and reducing the country's environmental footprint.

Summary:

Both Poland and the United States are taking a number of steps to create more sustainable and environmentally friendly cities. While the scale and scope of these initiatives differ, both countries are focusing on developing green infrastructure, promoting public transportation, improving energy efficiency and managing waste.

Resources:

<https://railyards.com/blog/explore-the-top-15-greenest-cities-in-the-us#:~:text=Cities%20are%20pushing%20to%20lower,cars%2C%20create%20farmer's%20markets%20to>
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/oec/green-building/green-building-requirements.page>
<https://www.gov.pl/web/climate/climate-friendly-cities>
[https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/sustainability-transitions/sustainable-development-goals-and-the/country-profiles/poland-country-profile-sdgs-and#:~:text=Within%20the%20Urban%20Agenda%20\(SDG11,greener%20cities%2C%20bringing%20together%20stakeholders](https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/sustainability-transitions/sustainable-development-goals-and-the/country-profiles/poland-country-profile-sdgs-and#:~:text=Within%20the%20Urban%20Agenda%20(SDG11,greener%20cities%2C%20bringing%20together%20stakeholders)