

Sustainable cities:

SAFE, MOBILE, HEALTHY

By 2050, two-thirds of all humanity will live in an urban area, according to United Nations projections. The U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address the growing problems of this rapid urbanization by setting guideposts in the path toward a positive future. Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, aims to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable."

But what does "sustainable" really mean? It's much more than a buzzword. Sustainability is about being responsible. It's about having foresight, vision, and long-term thinking. Sustainable urban planning thinks toward the future – it's building and managing infrastructure not just to temporarily solve a problem, but to address it in the long run.

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Sustainability in the context of smart cities means implementing new, efficient ways of working and collaborating to help a city thrive – even as it grows. A sustainable, smart city is a city in which its residents can expect a healthy, productive, and safe future. The smart, sustainable path forward? A partnership between technology and urban planning. Read on to find out how to build such a partnership.



See how Axis helps cities use smart technologies to meet sustainability goals



Technology **meets** urban planning

No one has the wherewithal to completely rethink dense urban areas. Most were built well before common urban problems like traffic congestion, pollution, and safety were factored into the equation. But what city planners can do is use the power of technology to help address these problems. Surveillance can help cities achieve their sustainability goals.

Safe and scalable

The U.N. SDGs aim to "work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity" and promote the rule of law. In other words: A sustainable city is a safe city. But public safety personnel can feel stretched as a city expands.

Axis cameras help law enforcement stay on top of public safety needs, without compromising coverage. Network cameras can detect incidents and provide situational awareness, and when combined with network audio they can be used to trigger events in response to real-time incidents. So, for example in emergency situations, it's possible to trigger announcements to warn, instruct, and guide citizens.

Sustainability in action:

Auburn, New Hampshire, USA

Smart cities solutions don't always have to be large-scale to be effective. The police department in Auburn, New Hampshire, which employs just 10 full-time officers, uses Axis body worn cameras to support everyday police work, like interviewing witnesses or suspected drunk drivers. Officers reported that reviewing camera footage helped them to write more accurate, reliable incident reports, and learn to be better at their jobs overall.



Data-driven decisions

One of the U.N. sustainable cities targets calls for improved road safety and expanded access to sustainable mobility by 2030. A sustainable city is a mobile city. But with an estimated 2 billion vehicles on the road by 2030, there's a huge strain on cities' transportation infrastructure.

Axis cameras with deep learning can be used as a sensor to collect and process reliable data at the edge. This provides actionable statistics for urban planners, civil and traffic engineers to optimize traffic flow and safety. It can give an understanding of how people and cargo move through a city, detect and classify vehicles and people, detect and understand unsafe areas with frequent near-misses, or discover areas with a high environmental impact.

Sustainability in action: Ogden, Utah

In Ogden, Utah, the police department integrated Axis cameras with their Area Tactical Analysis Center (ATAC) where real-time video is captured and managed. Using the metadata collected from the cameras, analysts at the ATAC can detect certain trends and advise the police for activities in specific locations. Ogden also uses license plate recognition technology to accurately capture license plates for a more proactive system to reduce response times and overall safety.

Environmental health checks

The U.N. SDGs call for reducing the environmental impact of cities by closely monitoring air quality and waste management.

A sustainable city is a healthy city. But how can cities mitigate their high environmental impact?

Smart technology combining video-footage and data is a great, effective tool to measure and monitor water, air, and noise pollution in a city. For example, an air quality sensor, combined with a camera, provides visual insight along with air quality data. This helps city officials to analyze and see where and when pollution is a problem.

Sustainability in action:

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Authorities in New Orleans, USA, have deployed Axis cameras and radar detectors in chronic illegal dumping sites across the city to investigate and detect illegal waste dumping. The system alerts the camera when there is movement detected at the site, and the camera shifts its focus to collect video evidence of a dump in action. Afterward, the camera returns to its primary use in the city's canopy of public safety cameras.

