



03 | OUR VISION AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE



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Cities will be the main centres of population growth over the next 40 years. The United Nations projects that almost 70% of the world's population will live in cities by year 2050¹. Therefore, to provide for future generations, cities around the world have to develop in a clean and environmentally responsible way.

¹ United Nations Population Division/DESA, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision.

Singapore can lead by example and show how a small, economically vibrant, densely populated city in the tropics can grow in an environmentally friendly manner. By doing so, we also make it more likely that our children can live in a good environment and have good jobs. Sustainable development protects our children's future.

Sustainable development can only be achieved through long-term attention and effort. This chapter explains why it has become more important for us to grow in an environmentally friendly way and sets out our goals for 2030.

OUR FUTURE CHALLENGES

1. Our City will Continue to Grow, but Our Resources are Limited

Singapore's population grew from 4 to 4.84 million in less than a decade, and will grow further in the future. A larger population will support our economic growth and make our city more vibrant.

However, our water and energy resources will not grow proportionately with population and economic growth. And as our land is limited, our city will have to be more densely built if we want to fit in more economic activities and more people. When we locate residential, leisure and industrial land uses closer together, it will be even more difficult to maintain a high quality clean and green environment.

2. We will have to Compete for Scarcer Resources Worldwide

Our city will continue to grow, but so will other cities. Over time, there will be greater demand

for energy and other natural resources globally, and the prices of these resources will go up. Singapore's resource needs are very small in the global context. But we will be affected when these resources become scarcer and more expensive because we import almost all our resource needs, including basic items such as energy, food and water.

Singapore has to be able to do more with less if we want to continue to grow in the future.

3. Our Environment is at Risk

Development around the world has strained our common environment. Climate change is happening as a result of human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels in power stations, and deforestation. In the future, we can expect to see global temperatures and mean sea levels rise significantly. All cities, including Singapore, may experience more extreme temperatures, heat waves and heavy rainfall more frequently. Therefore, every country, including Singapore, must act to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and fight climate change.

OUR VISION

Sustainable development for Singapore means developing in a way that allows us to give our current and future generations both good jobs and a good living environment.

Our vision for Singapore in 2030 is for it to be a lively and liveable global city that is loved by its residents. In 2030, our city will offer a unique combination of economic opportunity, vibrancy and a quality environment.

- **A More Competitive Economy:** Singapore will be more resource efficient, and hence



Singapore's biomedical hub, Biopolis, incorporates environmentally sustainable features like district cooling and building-integrated photovoltaics

more competitive and resilient, in a future world where resources will become scarcer. By then, Singapore will also be a global city well known for its knowledge, expertise and services in helping cities achieve both economic growth and a high quality environment.

- **The Best Home for Singaporeans:** Singapore will be one of the top cities in Asia in terms of the quality of its living environment. Our people can enjoy clean air, clean water

and a lush green environment, and be able to travel around the city easily. We will have an environmentally responsible community living in Singapore that actively keeps Singapore clean and green.

- **A Global Magnet for Talent:** Singapore will be one of the best places to work in because it offers many economic opportunities as well as a first class living environment. Singapore will become a vibrant and cosmopolitan global city.

GOALS BY 2030

Sustainable development is a long term process. Therefore, the blueprint has a 20-year timeframe, and we have identified key goals for 2030 to guide us towards a more lively and liveable city. To ensure that we remain on track, we have also set intermediate goals for 2020.

Energy – Greater efficiency and diversification

Goal: Reduce our energy intensity (per dollar GDP) by **20%** from 2005 levels by 2020, and by **35%** from 2005 levels by 2030.

Waste – Towards zero landfill

Goal: Improve our recycling rate from 56% in 2008 to **65%** in 2020 and **70%** in 2030

Water – Towards self-sufficiency and greater efficiency

Goal: Reduce total domestic water consumption from 156 litres per capita per day in 2008 to **147 litres** per capita per day by 2020, and **140 litres** per capita per day by 2030.

Air Quality – Cleaner air

Goals:

- Reduce the annual mean for ambient fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) from $16\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2008 to **$12\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** by 2020 and maintain it at this level till 2030.
- Cap ambient Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) levels at **$15\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** by 2020 and maintain it at this level till 2030.

Clean, Blue and Green Physical Environment

- Increase the green park space by 900ha to **4,200ha** by 2020, and reach a park provision of **0.8ha per 1,000 population** by 2030.
- Increase the length of our park connectors (linear parks) from 100km in 2007 to **360km** by 2020.
- Introduce **30ha** of skyrise greenery by 2020 and **50ha** of skyrise greenery by 2030.
- Open **820ha** of reservoirs and **90km** of waterways for recreational activities by 2020 and have **900ha** of reservoirs and **100km** of waterways open for recreational activities by 2030.

Capability and Expertise

Build Singapore into an outstanding knowledge hub in the latest technology and services that will help cities grow in a more environmentally friendly way.

Environmentally Responsible Community

Build a community in Singapore where everyone adopts a more environmentally responsible lifestyle. Environmental responsibility will be part of our people and business culture.



Each of us can help to build Singapore into a lively yet livable city, an ideal home for us

KEY PRIORITIES

We will focus on four key priorities to achieve our vision:

- **Improve Resource Efficiency** so that we can grow with fewer resources. If we can achieve more with less, we can reduce costs and free up precious resources to continue to grow our economy. We will emerge more competitive in the long run.
- **Improve the Quality of Our Environment** by controlling pollution and improving our physical landscape, so that we can continue to enjoy clean air and water, and live in a well-connected city with high public health standards.
- **Build Up Our Knowledge** in how to grow in a more environmentally friendly way, using technology to overcome our resource constraints, now and in the future. As we experiment and build up our knowledge, Singapore can also work with others to promote and build sustainable cities around the world.
- **Encourage Community Ownership and Participation** in building a clean, green and resource-efficient Singapore. Business leaders, non-government organisations and community leaders can work together to encourage people to make more environmentally responsible choices in the way they live, work, play and commute.

CONCLUSION

The Government will monitor and inform the public of the progress we have made as a nation in achieving these goals. These goals will also be reviewed within five years and adjusted if necessary to take into account improvements in technology, cost-effectiveness of measures, public response and international developments.

The following chapters will outline the initiatives that will change the way we live (built environment and households), commute (transport), play (natural environment) and work (industries), to achieve these goals.