Seoul Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

17 Ways to Change Seoul
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Seoul Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

1 Poverty
   Reduce poverty in all its forms

2 Food/Agriculture
   Improve the distribution structure between urban and rural areas and support urban agriculture for food security and nutritional balance of the citizens

3 Good Health / Well-being
   Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all citizens

4 Education
   Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provide a lifelong learning opportunity for all

5 Gender Equality
   Create a gender-equal social environment and improve capacity of women

6 Water
   Create a healthy and safe water cycle city

7 Energy
   Ensure basic energy rights, increase share of renewable energy and raise energy efficiency

8 Jobs/Economic Growth
   Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and increase decent jobs

9 Industrialization/Innovation
   Build eco-friendly and useful infrastructure, and encourage inclusive and sustainable industrialization

10 Inequality
    Devote efforts to reduce all forms of inequality

11 Cities/Spaces
    Make cities inclusive, safe and sustainable for all citizens

12 Sustainable Consumption and Production
    Promote biodiversity through conserving and recovering the natural ecosystem within the city

13 Climate Change
    Create an exemplary city in coping with climate change

14 Marine Ecology/Resources
    Conserve the marine ecosystem through recovering the natural properties of the Han River

15 Terrestrial Ecology/Resources
    Promote biodiversity through conserving and recovering the natural ecosystem within the city

16 Justice/Institutions
    Build transparent and inclusive institutions for a just Seoul

17 Global Partnership
    Strengthen exchange and cooperation with foreign cities as a global leader of sustainable development
Sustainable development is development that ensures the present and future generations to lead a happy life enjoying a high quality of life. Sustainable development is development that pursues within the carrying capacity of the nature, conserves and efficiently uses resources based on the awareness of the limitations of available resources. Sustainable development sets up the relationship between people and people, people and nature as a symbiotic and cooperative one. It aims for qualitative development rather than quantitative growth, and people-oriented fair development rather than material-oriented development. It also aims for inclusive development where all generations enjoy equal access to resources, local communities participate in the policymaking process, and all the people share the benefits arising from the utilization of resources and thrive together.

Since the 1992 Rio Summit, Seoul has made leading efforts to build a sustainable city as follows: establishing the Green Citizens’ Committee of Seoul in 1995; enacting the Framework Ordinance on Sustainable Development in 2009 and the Ordinance on the Establishment and Operation of the Sustainable Development Commission in 2013; and launching the Sustainable Development Commission in 2013. As a result of such efforts, the first Sustainable Development Commission (2013-2015) established the Master Plan for Sustainable Development in 2015 and evaluated the sustainability of Seoul based on the Sustainable Development Indicators System. The second Sustainable Development Commission (2015-2017) focused on implementing the Master Plan for Sustainable Development. The main tasks of the Commission were to create ways to embody sustainability in all policies, plans, and administration of the Seoul Metropolitan Government(SMG), and to design systems to that end. Thus, the Sustainable Development Commission reenacted the Framework Ordinance on Sustainable Development, established the implementation plans to ensure the execution of the Master Plan for Sustainable Development, and devised an assessment system linked to performance evaluation, putting the plan into action.

The Seoul Sustainable Development Goals were established to actively incorporate the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals into the city administration thereby keeping Seoul’s sustainable development strategies up to the global trend and further improving it. UN’s SDGs had been suggested based on the consensus of the UN member states as objectives for the global community to pursue from 2016 to 2030, following the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 which was agreed upon at the UN in 2000. This was the first in the history of mankind to have all of the UN member countries to agree to the goals and targets for sustainable development and sustainable happy life.

Based on the guiding principles of the UN SDGs, the Seoul SDGs were established in a bottom-up approach in which the opinions of the citizens were reflected as much as possible. The first draft of the Seoul SDGs was drawn up in 2014, followed by revisions at the “2016 Seoul Sustainable Development Debate,” in which various stakeholders of Seoul participated. It went through revisions again in 2017 at dozens of meetings by a task force team comprised of the members of the Sustainable Development Commission. The revised draft was amended again at the general meeting of the Sustainable Development Commission following several discussions to reach a consensus with the civil society organizations and experts, and was finalized after reflecting the opinions of various parties.

In the Seoul SDG, goals and targets for Seoul city’s sustainable development until 2030 were presented. Based on such goals and targets, the SMG will continuously review and assess the performance of the goals and targets to improve the city’s sustainable development activities. To this end, measurable indicators for the targets will be developed. The reviews and detailed evaluation results based on such indicators will be reflected on the administration, further establishing a virtuous cycle that improves the administration and policies for Seoul’s sustainable development.

In the future, the Seoul SDGs will be incorporated into the SMG’s Master Plan for Sustainable Development. The Master Plan for Sustainable Development will be reborn as a plan inclusive of the UN SDGs, and serve as a compass to all the economic, social, environmental, and other policies of Seoul. Sustainable development strategies of Seoul will be based on the framework of Master Plan for Sustainable Development, go through the cycle of implementation, evaluation and revision, merge into all of Seoul’s policies, plans, and administration, and realize Seoul as a sustainable city together with the Gu local authorities step by step.
Seoul is a naturally gifted city with Bukhansan National Park and the Han River, and a dynamic global metropolis with a population of ten million. The efforts of the beautiful and dynamic city of Seoul for sustainability have an important meaning for the sustainable development of Korea as well as the citizens. The Seoul Metropolitan Government has taken constant effort to achieve sustainable development of Seoul since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The Seoul SDGs consisting of 17 goals and 96 targets with the target year of 2030 reflect the core values of sustainable development and the principles and structure of the UN SDGs. From now on, the Seoul Metropolitan Government’s entire policies, plans, and administration will have to be formulated and implemented reflecting Seoul SDGs’ principles, goals, and targets. The progress of sustainable development will be regularly assessed, and the results of which will be fed back to the policies, plans, and administration to be utilized in advancing sustainability of Seoul on all fronts.

Seoul Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

Preamble of Seoul Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

1. Poverty

Devote efforts to end poverty in all its forms

1.1 Make efforts so that no Seoul citizen lives below the national minimum through the national and Seoul social security system.

1.2 Prepare and Implement a social security system customized to Seoul to ensure the basic living of the vulnerable.

1.3 Ensure rights to utilize economic resources and opportunities to receive basic public services and financial services for Seoul citizens, in particular, the vulnerable.

1.4 Reduce exposure and vulnerability to economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters for the vulnerable in Seoul.
2. Food/Agriculture

Improve the distribution structure between urban and rural areas and support urban agriculture for food security and nutritional balance of the citizens

2.1 Ensure safe, nutritious and balanced food for all citizens.
2.2 End all forms of malnutrition, and do utmost to manage the nutritional status of the biologically vulnerable class such as children under five, adolescent girls, expectant mothers, nursing mothers and the elderly.
2.3 Establish a desirable distribution structure with the local agri-fishery producers, and support urban agriculture not only to encourage small-scale food production but also to cope with poverty and mental health.

SMG’s major projects
- Food master plan, public meal support project for urban-rural coexistence, Nutrition Plus project

3. Good Health/Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all citizens

3.1 Halve maternal mortality ratio from the 2016 level.
3.2 End preventable deaths, aiming to reduce under-five mortality to less than 2.5 out of 1000 live births.
3.3 Contain outbreaks of legal infectious diseases, and establish a comprehensive treatment system for infectious diseases for a swift management and treatment in case of outbreaks.
3.4 Reduce non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and significantly cut down number of suicides through mental health and well-being enhancement policies.
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of all types of addictions including drugs, alcohol, smoking and gambling.
3.6 Halve the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents from the 2015 level.
3.7 Provide professional nursing services and comprehensive health and medical consultation and information services for infants, expectant mothers, and seniors to prevent diseases and improve health.
3.8 Raise the proportion of public health and medical services to provide Seoul Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
3.9 Strengthen health care measures for the people and regions susceptible to hazardous substances.

SMG’s major projects
- Outreach Community Service Center, establishing safety net for public health and medical services, expanding the Citizen Health Management Centers, suicide prevention project
4. Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provide a lifelong learning opportunity for all.

4.1 Ensure quality care and education for preschool children.
4.2 Ensure opportunity for all Seoul citizens to receive affordable and quality technical, vocational and college education.
4.3 Increase more opportunities for youths and adults in Seoul to obtain skills and knowledge required for employment and entrepreneurship.
4.4 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to education and vocational training for the vulnerable including the disabled and the poor.
4.5 No Seoul citizen should have difficulties in life due to insufficient literacy, numeracy, and basic information and communication technology skills.
4.6 Expand education on sustainable development to Seoul citizens.

SMG’s major projects
Expanding national and public child care centers, running the Seoul Free Citizen College, establishing the School for All.

5. Gender Equality

Create gender-equal social environment and improve capacity of women.

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
5.3 Recognize and value domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household.
5.4 Ensure equal opportunities for women to participate in the decision-making process and exercise leadership.

SMG’s major projects
Creating Safe and Happy Town for Women, operating the Community Solidarity for Protecting Children and Women, planning the Seoul Comprehensive Measures for Preventing Child Abuse.
6. Water

Create a healthy and safe water cycle city

6.1 Replace obsolete water supply pipes and strengthen water quality analysis, enabling all Seoul citizens to safely drink Arisu.

6.2 Improve the water quality of the Han River system by conserving the river ecosystem, managing the total water pollution load, improving the quality of discharged water and replacing outdated sewer pipes.

6.3 Expand rainwater management facility, and manage groundwater in a sustainable way.

6.4 Manage the quality, quantity, and aquatic ecosystem of the Han River system in an integrated manner.

6.5 Create Han River forests, riverside wetlands and naturally protected shore to recover the natural properties of the Han River system.

6.6 Support the participation of the local community to improve water management.

SMG’s major projects

Arisu quality management, creating a water-cycle city (managing groundwater, reusing rainwater, etc.), creating an eco-friendly water purification plant, ensuring the safety of water quality for Han River and its tributaries

7. Energy

Ensure basic energy rights, increase share of renewable energy and raise energy efficiency

7.1 Ensure basic energy rights to the energy vulnerable.

7.2 Reach 20% share of renewable energy.

7.3 Increase energy efficiency in building and transportation sectors.

7.4 Expand support for green technology R&D including renewable energy technology sector, and promote the 7 major green industries (renewable energy, LED, green cars, green buildings, green services, green IT, urban resource circulation).

SMG’s major projects

Distributing one solar panel per household, promoting the Building Retrofit Program (BRP), advancing to the Phase 2 of One Less Nuclear Power Plant

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8. Jobs/Economic Growth

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and increase decent jobs

8.1 Pursue a sustainable gross domestic product and gross regional domestic product growth based on win-win relationship with other regions.
8.2 Support restructuring into a high value-added industry and bolster industry diversification through creativity and innovation to continuously improve productivity.
8.3 Induce small and medium-sized enterprises to create decent jobs and actively support social enterprises.
8.4 Reduce unemployment rate, create decent jobs and achieve equal pay for work of equal value.
8.5 Substantially reduce the proportion of unemployed youth who do not participate in education and training.
8.6 Protect labor rights for all workers including migrant workers, and promote safe and secure working environments.
8.7 Devise sustainable tourism policies that actively promote Seoul city’s unique culture and products, and foster a high-quality tourism industry to contribute to more jobs.

SMG’s major projects
Adoption of the worker-director system, creating the Changdong and Sangye New Economic Center, expanding the Seoul Living Wage system, Labor-valuing Seoul, creating the Seoul Start-up Hub, building the G-Valley Workers Culture and Welfare Center

9. Industrialization/Innovation

Build eco-friendly and useful infrastructure, and encourage inclusive and sustainable industrialization

9.1 Expand quality and environmentally friendly infrastructure available for all citizens for economic activities and a happy life.
9.2 Bolster support for future technology-based manufacturing and high value-added businesses.
9.3 Increase workforce and investment on research and development, and raise the competitiveness of science and technology-based industries.

SMG’s major projects
Formulating a public transportation plan focusing on railways, creating innovation clusters (Yangjae R&CD Innovation District, Hongleung Cluster, etc.)
10. Inequality

Devote Efforts to reduce all forms of inequality

10.1 No Seoul citizen should live below the 40th percentile of the median income through national and Seoul’s social security system.

10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all.

10.3 Improve discriminatory laws, policies and practices to ensure equal opportunity.

10.4 Achieve high level of equality through fiscal, wage, and social protection policies.

11. Cities/Spaces

Make cities inclusive, safe and sustainable for all citizens

11.1 Come up with a minimum living standard for Seoul citizens to improve the environment in low-income neighborhoods and obsolete residential areas, and ensure housing rights to all citizens by providing more affordable housing.

11.2 Establish safe, convenient and sustainable transportation systems for all citizens by linking with the capital region transportation system.

11.3 Formulate and implement socially integrative urban planning that expands citizen participation, includes the socially disadvantaged, and ensures diversity.

11.4 Protect the history and culture, and natural heritage of Seoul, create a city in which nature, history, culture, and the future coexist, and promote cultural diversity.

11.5 Strengthen disaster relief system for citizens who are vulnerable to disasters, such as the poor, children, women, seniors, and the disabled to create a safe city Seoul responding to large-scale disasters.

11.6 Reduce fine dust concentrations by 70% from the 2016 level.

11.7 Minimize areas that do not have access to parks and green areas, and ensure universal access to public green spaces for women, children, seniors and the disabled.

11.8 Strengthen economic, social and environmental links between Seoul and metropolitan areas for a balanced development in the capital region.

SMG’s major projects

Fostering Special Social Economic Zones, establishing an integrated support system for social economy at autonomous Gu districts

Expanding public rental housing, bike-sharing system Ttareungyi, carrying out traditional culture discovery support project, establishing an integrated preservation and management system for designated cultural properties of Seoul, planning fine dust reduction measures by emission sources.
12. Sustainable Consumption and Production

Support sustainable consumption and production patterns to become a way of life

12.1 Achieve a virtuous cycle of economic growth through environmental improvement, and devise a comprehensive measure for sustainable consumption and production.
12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
12.3 Halve per capita food waste from the 2016 level.
12.4 Reduce the use of hazardous chemical substances and manage hazardous waste in a scientific and environmentally friendly manner to minimize the negative impact on the health of the citizens and the environment.
12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.
12.6 Urge and support companies within Seoul to publish sustainable management reports.
12.7 Promote citizens’ purchase of eco-friendly products, and promote sustainable public procurement practices such as purchasing eco-friendly products by government agencies.
12.8 Ensure that all citizens have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.
12.9 Review taxation and subsidy schemes that encourage environmentally unfriendly consumption and production, and improve them continuously and gradually.

SMG’s major projects

- Strengthening cooperation and networking in and outside Korea on shared economy, establishing the Seoul Upcycling Plaza, pursuing zero direct landfiling of domestic waste

13. Climate Change

Create an exemplary city in coping with climate change

13.1 Identify risks related to climate change early on and come up with measures, and strengthen ability to swiftly recover in case of natural disasters.
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into SMG’s policies, strategies and planning.
13.3 Raise awareness on climate change response by expanding the scope of people subject to climate change education, and strengthen local capacity by expanding autonomous Districts cooperation and community support programs.
13.4 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from the 2005 level and integrate greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation policies.
13.5 Increase the ‘Seoul Climate Change Fund’ to cope with climate change, and devote efforts to support climate change response programs of the cities in developing countries.
13.6 Participate in international organizations’ climate change mechanism, form partnerships to run climate change-related programs, and strengthen international cooperation.
14. Marine Ecology/Resources

Conserve the marine ecosystem through recovering natural properties of the Han River

14.1 Prevent and drastically reduce pollution from waste and green algae in the Han River system.
14.2 Strengthen Han River’s ecological health to improve the resilience of the marine ecosystem including that of the West Sea.
14.3 Cooperate with Gyeonggi-do and Incheon to raise the research capacity and scientific knowledge on the impacts of Han River on the marine ecosystem.

15. Terrestrial Ecology/Resources

Promote biodiversity through conserving and recovering the natural ecosystem within the city

15.1 Manage forests, mountains, wetlands and streams in Seoul in a healthy manner and ensure sustainable use of the ecosystem service.
15.2 Sustainably manage mountains and forests in Seoul by planting native tree species in damaged parts of the forest, and strengthening forest fire prevention to protect trees.
15.3 Increase the nature and ecological protection areas such as the Ecological Landscape Conservation Area, Wildlife Protection Area, and Migratory Bird Protection Area by 17% from the 2014 level.
15.4 Improve biodiversity by creating small-scale biotops, restoring species and expanding habitats.
15.5 Strengthen the management of the influx of exotic species and illegal releases, and control the cause of the spread of invasive alien species.
15.6 Integrate the values of biotops and biodiversity into SMG’s planning and development process.
16. Justice/Institutions

Build transparent and inclusive institutions for a just Seoul

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and violent crimes stemming from it.
16.2 Significantly reduce all forms of crimes against children including abuse and exploitation.
16.3 Set up social, cultural, and physical environments that ensure the human rights of the citizens, and pursue all municipal administration from a human rights perspective.
16.4 Significantly strengthen the recovery of stolen assets and the taxation on habitual tax delinquents and tax evaders.
16.5 Eradicate all forms of corruption and bribery.
16.6 Expand transparent and accountable administration and institutions.
16.7 Realize resident participatory administration to strengthen citizen participation in the whole policy process.
16.8 Enhance all citizens’ information accessibility and ensure access to information for the information vulnerable.
16.9 Actively support each autonomous District of Seoul to realize sustainable development.

SMG’s major projects
Expanding resident participatory budgeting, pursuing the ‘Human Rights City, Seoul’, planning Seoul’s Comprehensive Measures on Preventing Child Abuse, establishing citizen-focused platform for utilizing big data, promoting town communities.

17. Global Partnership

Strengthen exchange and cooperation with foreign cities as a global leader of sustainable development

17.1 Bolster exchange and cooperation on science, technology, and innovation with foreign cities and strengthen knowledge and policy sharing based on mutual agreement.
17.2 Spread the achievements of the Seoul SDGs to developing countries and support them to implement the SDGs.
17.3 Share the achievements of the Seoul SDG with Korean and foreign cities and strengthen global leadership for a sustainable development.
17.4 Promote partnerships among Seoul Metropolitan Government, civil societies, and companies to implement sustainable development.
17.5 Devise and support ODA programs for the sustainable development of cities in developing countries.

SMG’s major projects
Introducing outstanding policies to foreign cities, pursuing a sustainable and shared city, inviting international organizations and carrying out exchange and cooperation.
Progress of Seoul Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

March 11, 2016
Formulated plans to establish the Seoul SDGs (Sustainable Development Commission general meeting)

November 4, 2016
Discussion on the (Draft) Seoul SDGs by sectors at the ‘2016 Seoul Sustainable Development Debate’

April - May, 2017
Subcommittee meetings on establishing the Seoul SDGs (3 meetings)

June - October 2017
Task force for in-depth reviews of establishing the Seoul SDGs (7 meetings)

October 25, 2017
Review at the Sustainable Development Committee general meeting

November 22, 2017
Presented the Seoul SDGs 2030 at the ‘2017 Seoul Sustainable Development Briefing Conference’

June - December 2016
Devised the (Draft) Seoul SDGs (research outsourcing)

March 8, 2017
Organized the Subcommittee on the Seoul SDGs establishment (Sustainable Development Commission general meeting)

June 2017
Workshops on establishing the Seoul SDGs (2 workshops)

September 2017
Consultation meetings on the (Final Draft) Seoul SDGs (2 meetings)

October - November 2017
Conducted (online and offline) public opinion survey

Founding Principles of Seoul Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

Covers 17 goals and targets under each goal
Plan to set indicators when establishing Seoul’s second Master Plan and Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in the future

Apply the direction of the UN SDGs with unique goals pertaining to Seoul
Focus on macroscopic goals (e.g. establishing a system) rather than minor goals (e.g. implementation of targets)

Targets should encompass quantitative and qualitative objectives
Quantitative objectives should be based on facts after identifying the situation in Seoul

Goals that are a part of the national project should be redefined, taking Seoul’s implementation means into consideration
Similar targets under different goals should be combined and fine-tuned