



## SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAM

Launched in 2012 the Sustainable Cities Program (SCP) is non-partisan and aims to raise awareness, mobilize and offer tools to cities develop economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, seeking to improve the quality of life and the well-being of the whole society.

The program has the support of several Brazilian civil society organizations, companies, foundations and international organizations, such as UN-Habitat, United Nations Development Program - UNDP, United Nations Environment Program - UNEP, Ford Foundation, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the Inter-American Development Bank - IDB.

The program is structured in 12 thematic axes and offers public managers a complete urban sustainability agenda - the Sustainable Cities Platform, which incorporates social, environmental, economic, political and cultural dimensions in an integrated manner. The platform brings together a set of indicators associated with this agenda and a structured database of best practices, with national and international exemplary cases as references to be pursued by municipalities, highlighting public policies that already present good results in all areas of administration. The proposal is to emphasize that it is possible to do different, encouraging the necessary transformations in political leaderships for a better present without making the future of the next generations unfeasible.

The Sustainable Cities Platform is a tool for:

- Translate the common perspective for a sustainable future into concrete sustainability goals and integrated actions at local, regional and national levels;
- Select priorities appropriate to local and regional realities and needs for the elaboration of public policies for sustainability;
- Promote participatory local and regional processes, in order to identify specific goals and time horizons to monitor the results achieved.

In 2012, the Sustainable Cities Program launched a letter of commitment for executive candidates to bind them to this sustainability agenda, if elected. By signing the document, public managers are committed to producing a diagnosis of their city with at least the 100 basic indicators of the Sustainable Cities Program and that serves as reference for the establishment of a Plan of Goals for the four years of management.

The Plan of Goals is an instrument of planning and management that helps the municipal public administration to define government priorities, goals (qualitative and quantitative), deadlines and commitments, promotes citizen participation, transparency and broad social co-responsibility in relation to implementation of public policies, promotes sustainable development, social inclusion and respect for human rights, among other things, and consolidates the government program and electoral proposals in the same document.

They are also responsible for updating and disclosing such information at the end of each year of management. They also agree to adopt the principles of the Access to Information Act and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) commitments for transparency and accountability to society regarding budget and public administration decisions during the mandate.

During the 2013-2016 mandate, 287 Brazilian municipalities joined the Sustainable Cities Program. This total included 22 Brazilian capitals and the Federal District. The 287 signatory cities of the SCP had a population of 67,665,692 inhabitants and represented 33% of Brazilian national population.

In this mandate period (2017-2020) we have already had adhesion of more than 190 cities in Brazil (15 capitals among them), demonstrating the potential of impact and scalability of the initiative.

### **The Sustainable Cities Program and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

From the announcement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and already in the ambit of the municipal elections of 2016, the Sustainable Cities Program entered a new stage: the implementation and the municipalization of the SDGs.

At national level, the 2016 electoral process has become a fundamental moment to discuss, deepen and advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the Sustainable Cities Program has incorporated the objectives and goals of the Sustainable Development Objectives into its platform, especially those that can be implemented at the municipal and regional level - precisely where prefectures have the central role of this governance.

In the first stage, the relationship of SDGs with each of the twelve thematic axes was identified. In the second stage, a new set of indicators was created to meet the SCP / SDGs agenda. Thus, 260 indicators were identified associated with the axes of the platform and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The minimum number of basic indicators for public management to diagnose the municipality varies according to three population categories: 50 for small towns (from 50 to 100 thousand inhabitants), 75 for medium-sized cities (from 101 thousand to 500 thousand inhabitants) And 100 for large cities and metropolis (over 500 thousand inhabitants). The selection of the indicators is the responsibility of the City Hall. However, the SCP advises the municipalities to do this process of choosing the indicators to carry out the diagnosis and the construction of the Plan of Goals in a participative way, along with civil society.

The new online platform is available to prefectures that join or renew membership with the Program. Thus, public managers have an important tool, with indicators, references of goals and best national and international practices that will contribute to the fulfillment of SDGs at the local level.

The signatories of the Sustainable Cities Program have at their disposal a virtual space (software) in the portal [www.cidadessustentaveis.org.br](http://www.cidadessustentaveis.org.br) to present the diagnosis of the municipality through the indicators, the Plan of Goals and to divulge best practices. We call this virtual space an observatory. An observatory fulfills a double function: it is a source of

information for public administration planning, management and decision-making, as well as transparency, monitoring and inspection for the whole society.

SCP launched the Sustainable Public Management Guide (GPS) in 2016<sup>1</sup>, aligned with the SDGs. It is a publication with a set of successful national and international concepts, tools, goals, indicators and practices so that municipal public management can improve and advance in innovative plans and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. In February of this year, SCP launched the complement to the GPS Guide<sup>2</sup>. The material presents the 260 basic indicators of the Sustainable Cities Program and their correlation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the goals proposed by the UN. The table presents the description of each indicator, as well as the variables that compose them, method of calculation, Sustainable Cities Program axis to which they are associated, SDG number and related SDG goal number.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that correspond to the municipal scope were organized in the SCP 12 axes, as well as the respective indicators that compose the diagnosis and planning of the municipal managements, so each indicator of the Sustainable Cities Program began to be correlated with the respective SDG:

Local action for health	Common natural resources	Responsible consumption and life style options	Culture for sustainability	From local to global	Dynamic, creative and sustainable local economy	Education for sustainability and quality of life	Equity, social justice and culture of peace	Local management for sustainability	Governance	Better mobility, less traffic	Urban planning and design

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cidadessustentaveis.org.br/arquivos/gest%C3%A3o-p%C3%BAblica-sustent%C3%A1vel.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cidadessustentaveis.org.br/arquivos/gpsingles.pdf>

Example:

Goal (SDG)	Goal Name (SDG)	SCP Axis	Target Number (SDG)	Target Description (SDG)	Indicator	Description
SDG 16	Peace, justice and strong institutions	Governance	16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all	Access to justice	Number of processes judged, number of processes opened and average time elapsed between the entry of the demand and the solution.

It is also important to note the salutary effect of the Sustainable Cities Program in the municipalities, when cities such as Ribeirão Preto<sup>3</sup> and Santos<sup>4</sup>, respectively, have already presented their Plan of Goals aligned with the SCP and SDGs indicators.

In this way, we plan to reach 300 municipalities between 2017 and 2020 to implement and monitor the implementation of SDGs at the local level, to allow the monitoring and visualization of indicators with the purpose of promoting public policies, targeting the budget and reducing inequality.

### Sustainable Cities Program in Latin America

Seven cities in Latin America have already adopted the SCP methodology: Pilar, Encarnación, Ciudad Del Este, San Lorenzo, Concepción, Paraguay and Asunción.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ribeiraopreto.sp.gov.br/splan/plano\\_metas.pdf](http://www.ribeiraopreto.sp.gov.br/splan/plano_metas.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cidadessustentaveis.org.br/arquivos/plano-de-metas-santos.pdf>