



# WATCH & LEARN: NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GREEN CITIES

### SINGAPORE'S 2030 GREEN PLAN (5:43 min)

#### VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v20929)

### INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

*As average temperatures in Singapore are increasing at more than double the rate of other cities around the world, the city-nation is speeding up efforts to become much greener by 2030.*

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

### Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Are you familiar with some of the geographic constraints that make Singapore rather unique among the World's cities?
- ◊ What are some of the measures that can be put in place to conserve resources and reduce energy consumption when developing major global urban centers?
- ◊ What steps is your city taking to reduce carbon emissions, maximize land-use efficiency and combat climate change?

### Video Script:

**TV Journalist:** Singapore is **speeding up** efforts to become a greener nation by 2030 by building infrastructure and capabilities to combat climate change. The country has **unveiled** what it calls ambitious and concrete goals for sustainable development that **cut across** areas including transport and waste management. Let's start with the drive towards greener transport. A target to install 28,000 electric vehicle charging points by 2030 will be more than doubled to encourage drivers to switch to EVs. Now that's a huge jump from less than 2,000 charging points currently and with the country looking to **phase out** petrol and diesel cars, all new cars registered from 2030 will have to be cleaner energy models.



With Singapore's only landfill projected to run out of space by 2035 the country also plans to **cut down** the amount of waste that it sends there by 20%. That's within five years and a total of 30% by the year 2030. Schools will also be cutting down two-thirds of their net carbon emissions. By 2030 at least 20% of schools will even be **carbon neutral**. And to **nudge** students towards greener habits, a new sustainability program will be **rolled out** from primary to pre-university levels. Businesses will also get help to develop capabilities and **seize** new opportunities in areas like decarbonization and green finance.

Now the aim is to turn Singapore into a **regional hub** for cleaner solutions by 2030. Jurong island will become a sustainable energy and chemicals park and the country a green tourism destination. To guard against rising sea levels design and implementation plans to protect critical areas such as Jurong island and the stretch between the city and east coast will be **drawn up** by 2030. The new plan **spearheaded** by five ministries could help Singapore achieve net zero emissions faster and strengthen its climate commitments under the Paris agreement. A series of dialogues with ministers will **kick off** this year to **seek** the public's views and explore new ideas. Sustainability and the environment minister Grace Fu says that the government is already **testing out** solutions as the country heats up.

*Video Script continued on next page...*

### Vocabulary:

- **speed up** - go faster
- **unveil** - make public; launch
- **cut across** - include a range of sectors
- **phase out** - gradually eliminate
- **cut down** - reduce
- **carbon neutral** - achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon dioxide emissions with removal or simply eliminating carbon dioxide emissions altogether
- **nudge** - gently try to move toward a desired direction or outcome
- **roll out** - make publicly available
- **seize** - take advantage or control of
- **regional hub** - important centre for a particular activity in an area of the World
- **draw up** - create
- **spearhead** - lead
- **kick off** - begin
- **seek** - attempt to identify or locate
- **test out** - try for first time in order to evaluate efficacy for future use

### SG GREEN PLAN

Climate change is a global challenge, and Singapore is taking firm actions to do our part to build a sustainable future.

The Singapore Green Plan 2030 is a national sustainability movement with ambitious and concrete targets, which builds on our existing climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

It is a living plan which will evolve as we work with Singaporeans and partners from all sectors to co-create solutions for sustainability.

Our collective action will make a difference. Let's build a greener and more liveable home together.



#### 1. City in Nature

A Green, Liveable and Sustainable Home for Singaporeans

- Add 1000ha of green spaces and 160km of park connectors
- Every household will live within a 10-min walk from a park
- Plant 1 million more trees across Singapore by 2030

#### 2. Sustainable Living

Strengthen Green Efforts in Schools

- Work towards two-thirds reduction of net carbon emissions from schools sector by 2030
- At least 20% of schools to be carbon neutral by 2030

Green Commutes

- 75% of all trips to be on mass public transport by 2030, up from 64% today
- Triple cycling path network to 1,320km by 2030 from 460km in 2020

Green Citizenry: Less waste and consumption

- Reduce amount of waste to landfill per capita per day by 20% by 2026, with the goal of reaching 30% by 2030
- Encourage water conservation and water efficient practices for households and industries





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### Video Script continued...

**Grace Fu, Sustainability and Environment Minister:** Singapore will always be hot and humid, but we don't want temperatures to be **unbearably** high. Urban heat is all around us. For example the kind that you feel while standing behind an air conditioner. We will moderate the rise in urban heat by increasing greenery and piloting the use of cool-paint on building facades.

**TV Journalist:** Those we spoke with say the goals in The Green Plan are achievable, but the wider community needs to get involved. Lewis Ng who filed a parliamentary motion **aimed** at accelerating Singapore's green efforts just last week says the roadmap makes it clear how Singapore can **tackle** climate change.

**Lewis Ng, Chairperson, GPC for Sustainability and the Environment:** The plan is very extensive and I think very importantly as well, we're targeting within this decade by 2030. So not very **broad**, ambitious targets but a very **narrow**, targeted approach now on how we can mitigate and also adapt to climate change. I think what more can be done outside this Green Plan is really how we can now engage and partner the private sector, the civil society and fellow Singaporeans.

**TV Journalist:** But to more than double the number of planned electric vehicle charging stations one analyst says private charging providers may need transitional subsidies to build the infrastructure before EV take-up **catches up**. He also says the government could help them navigate common issues that **crop up** during negotiations to build charging points on private property. This could be done for instance by **coming up with** standard terms of agreement.

**Walter Theseira, Assoc Prof, Economics, Singapore University of Social Sciences:** Installation, you know, things like **liability** issues. What happens if there's a fire you know, uh, who pays for what, uh you know, um, how do you **handle** maintenance. I mean there's going to have to be some familiarity in the market about, uh, about what the standard terms of such contracts or arrangements are so that it becomes easier to install them because if, you know, if every single, uh, property owner insists on an individualized contract for installation, I can see that we're not going to get anywhere with this.

**TV Journalist:** Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong says the plan **builds on** efforts from past decades. He adds that even though Singapore is small and lacks natural resources it can still **press on** with technology and policy solutions for green development. He **urged** all to work together to make the country a bright green spark for the world. At the same time Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat says this is the next step in the country's journey to sustainability which has been a **core tenet** since independence he says more details will be given in his budget speech next week and hopes The Green Plan will inspire a broader national movement where everyone **plays a part**. CNA also asked people how they would do their part to make Singapore a greener city.

**Person on the street:** I could take more of a public transport **instead of** driving.

**Person on the street:** As for users of electricity, the television, definitely keep it off if not in use. I **used to** use it as a form of background sound whenever I'm doing other chores around the house and I think keeping lights off when you're not in the room.

**Child on the street:** I will use less electricity, turn off light when not in use and use less plastic.

**Person on the street:** Maybe go electric vehicle by using electric vehicle rather than petrol.

### Vocabulary continued...

- **unbearable** - not able to be endured or tolerated
- **aim** - having the objective of
- **tackle** - deal with a problem
- **broad** - covering a large number and wide scope of subjects
- **narrow** - limited in extent, amount, or scope
- **catch up** - become equal with a market or sector leader
- **crop up** - appear, occur, or come to someone's notice unexpectedly
- **come up with** - create
- **liability** - the state of being legally responsible for something
- **handle** - manage a situation or problem
- **builds on** - add to something that existed before
- **press on** - move forward with; continue
- **urge** - encourage
- **core tenet** - central feature or goal
- **play a part** - contribute to the success or failure of an objective
- **instead of** - in place of; in exchange for; rather than
- **used to** - denoting an activity one did in the past, but no longer does

### Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.