



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



**Build Inclusive & Resilient
Communities through
NIDA Sikhio Model**

OVERVIEW

NIDA is firmly dedicated to advancing the development of urban and rural communities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The institute conducts research on SDG 11 through a structured institutional framework and targeted initiatives. According to its SDG Framework (2022–2024), NIDA embeds SDG 11 into its “Research – Outreach – Teaching” harmony, ensuring that urban-sustainability issues are addressed not only in academic output but also community engagement and capacity building. Aligned with the vision of Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and more than different research on SDG 11, NIDA has prioritized the transformation of its Sikhio Campus into a dynamic model of sustainability in action.

This initiative exhibits the Institute’s confidence that higher education can serve as a driving force in shaping communities that are not only livable and equitable, but also environmentally responsible and economically sustainable. NIDA takes a holistic approach to sustainable development by integrating environmental care, social inclusion, and economic resilience. The initiative focuses on enhancing safety and quality of life within the Sikhio Campus and nearby communities through a supportive, nature-friendly environment for learning and living. It also preserves local culture and wisdom while positioning the campus as a center for knowledge sharing, research, and innovation that drives sustainable development across Nakhon Ratchasima Province.

POLICY

Integrated framework to sustainable cities

Together, these initiatives form an integrated sustainability framework that connects NIDA’s academic mission with Thailand’s broader efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through education, research, and community engagement, NIDA’s Sikhio Campus embodies the spirit of SDG 11, demonstrating how institutions of higher learning can lead by example in building cities and communities that are safe, inclusive, and resilient. The campus now functions as a collaborative platform where students, scholars, local leaders, and entrepreneurs work side by side to co-create solutions for sustainable growth.

By linking policy with practice and bridging national priorities with local realities, NIDA has transformed its educational environment into a catalyst for community empowerment and sustainable transformation. The Sikhio Model stands as a testament to what can be achieved when academic excellence aligns with social purpose, a reminder that sustainable development is not an isolated project but a continuous process of learning, adaptation, and collaboration. Through its sustained commitment, NIDA continues to demonstrate leadership in driving SDG 11 and strengthening Thailand’s resilience in the face of environmental, social, and economic challenges. Its integrated approach, which are grounded in research, community engagement, and the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, ensures that the pursuit of knowledge goes hand in hand with creating a more inclusive, safe, and sustainable future for all.



RESEARCH

Advancing sustainable cities through integrated research approach

NIDA operationalizes SDG 11 research by:

- (1) embedding it in institutional strategic frameworks.
- (2) conducting applied living-lab research on infrastructure (smart campuses) for sustainable urbanization.
- (3) facilitating knowledge exchange via conferences to convert research into policy-oriented outputs.

NIDA has emphasized research under SDG 11 through collaboration among all its faculties to promote inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable human settlements. Examples of this research include the development of local leadership capacity for self-reliance and self-management toward sustainable development (Target 11.3); identifying best practices and approaches for building economic resilience to strengthen sustainable agricultural communities (Targets 11.a and 11.b); promoting cooperative networks to improve community environments such as the “Better Bangkok Mobility” initiative (Target 11.2); and analyzing state measures and policies for sustainable urban and community planning (Target 11.3).

These activities reflect NIDA's integrated approach, combining academic research, community engagement, and policy support, to ensure that Thailand's cities and local communities move toward the SDG 11 vision of inclusivity, safety, adaptability, and sustainability. NIDA has also expanded its community development research to the Sikhio Campus, where initiatives focus on carbon footprint management and the sustainable development of surrounding communities.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Teaching SDG 11 through experiential and community-based learning

NIDA integrates teaching for SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) through experiential, community-based learning. The Sikhio Campus serves as a living classroom where students learn to apply sustainable development principles in real contexts. Courses and field activities emphasize topics such as local leadership, environmental management, and inclusive urban planning. For instance, students collaborate with residents of Lat Bua Khao Subdistrict to strengthen community resilience, develop teamwork, and prepare for an aging society—illustrating how teaching extends beyond academic theory into social practice. This participatory learning aligns with SDG Indicator 11.4.7, which promotes collaboration between local authorities and academic institutions in community development.

Furthermore, NIDA's teaching initiatives include digital literacy and information-safety programs, such as training on combating fake news and cyber threats for the elderly and local leaders. These programs promote responsible digital engagement and inclusive access to knowledge, supporting SDG Indicator 11.2.1 on public accessibility and safety in learning environments. Through these integrated teaching practices, NIDA transforms education into a tool for community empowerment, ensuring that its graduates not only understand sustainability but also embody it in their professional and civic lives.





Activities of Enhancing the Capacity of
Lat Bua Khao Subdistrict
Community for Sustainability at SiKkhio Campus



Workshop on Developing Distinctive Value Creation
for Sustainable Community Enterprises, organized by
the Center for Sustainable Development and
Sufficiency Economy Studies



Activities of NIDA Nakhon Ratchasima Alumni
Homecoming: Uniting for Creative and Sustainable
Development



Activities of digital agriculture learning center and
demonstration plot for organic vetiver grass in Sikhio

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Fostering sustainable communities through participatory engagement

NIDA's community engagement under SDG 11 focuses on inspiring local communities through participatory development, social inclusion, and sustainable livelihoods. At the Sikhio Campus, NIDA collaborates closely with community leaders, local authorities, and residents to co-create projects that reinforce local resilience and enhance quality of life. Projects such as the Lat Bua Khao Subdistrict partnership demonstrate how NIDA fosters community-driven planning and intergenerational cooperation, aligning with SDG 11.3 on inclusive and participatory urban and community development.

Beyond urban engagement, NIDA also advances sustainable local economies via workshops like "Developing Distinctive Value Creation for Sustainable Community Enterprises." Shown under the royal initiative on sufficiency economy, this program helps local entrepreneurs adapt to the digital economy, improve marketing skills, and manage resources efficiently, reflecting SDG targets 11.a and 11.b on linking rural–urban development and strengthening local disaster resilience.

Additionally, alumni engagement activities, such as the "NIDA Nakhon Ratchasima Alumni Homecoming", bring together academia, government, and civil society to discuss and act on sustainability challenges. Collectively, these community partnerships demonstrate NIDA's model of applied learning and civic collaboration in advancing the vision of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable communities.

<https://nida.ac.th/sikhio-nida-homecoming>,
<https://nida.ac.th/nida-sikhio-sustainable-entrepreneurship-training>,
<https://nida.ac.th/sikhio-as-fake-news670425>

