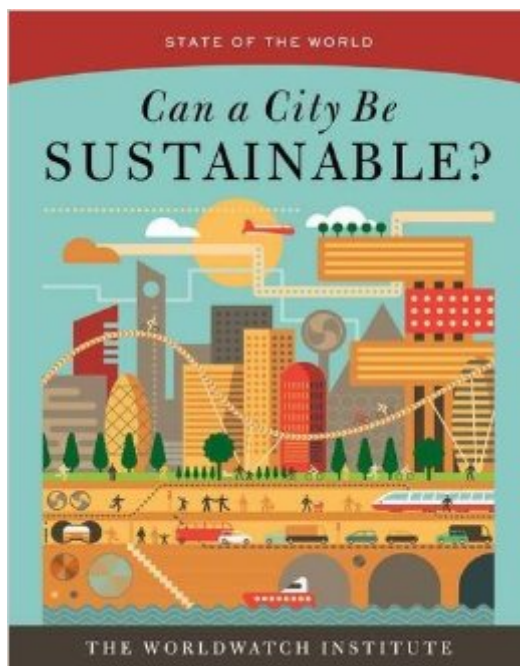


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Can A City Be Sustainable? (State Of The World)



Synopsis

Cities are the world's future. Today, more than half of the global population—3.7 billion people—are urban dwellers, and that number is expected to double by 2050. There is no question that cities are growing; the only debate is over how they will grow. Will we invest in the physical and social infrastructure necessary for livable, equitable, and sustainable cities? In the latest edition of *State of the World*, the flagship publication of the Worldwatch Institute, experts from around the globe examine the core principles of sustainable urbanism and profile cities that are putting them into practice. *State of the World* first puts our current moment in context, tracing cities in the arc of human history. It also examines the basic structural elements of every city: materials and fuels; people and economics; and biodiversity. In part two, professionals working on some of the world's most inventive urban sustainability projects share their first-hand experience. Success stories come from places as diverse as Ahmedabad, India; Freiburg, Germany; and Shanghai, China. In many cases, local people are acting to improve their cities, even when national efforts are stalled. Parts three and four examine cross-cutting issues that affect the success of all cities. Topics range from the nitty-gritty of handling waste and developing public transportation to civic participation and navigating dysfunctional government. Throughout, readers discover the most pressing challenges facing communities and the most promising solutions currently being developed. The result is a snapshot of cities today and a vision for global urban sustainability tomorrow.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

CAN A CITY BE SUSTAINABLE?, a compendium of the current trends in urban sustainability, is a broad-reaching and useful guide for anyone involved in the work of urban planning and development. It is not an introductory work, and does expect a degree of familiarity with the language and ideology of urban planning/development. Beginning with the concession that our imagination for sustainable cities is still maturing, the opening chapter narrates a possible scenario of what a sustainable city might look like in fifty years or more. The book is divided into three parts: 1) "The City as Human Construct" (which explores the ways we imagine and articulate urban places and urban sustainability); 2) "The Urban Climate Challenge" and 3) "Politics, Equity and Livability". These sections cover a broad swath of the socioeconomic, governmental and ecological issues that will lead our cities in the direction of sustainability. The book's final two chapters, which explore inclusion, cohesion and social justice were perhaps the ones that most captured my imagination, as these issues are often omitted in explorations of what urban sustainability might look like. Our world is undoubtedly on the road to urbanization, and the health and well-being of all of us, we need cities that are moving thoughtfully toward sustainability. This book is a wonderful work that will stir our imaginations, and highlight the challenges that lurk just beyond the horizon on this journey.

As a Portland resident, I don't know whether to laugh or cry. This book reads like the ad copy put out by the mayor and his development friends, who are at the time of this writing busy knocking the city down to build luxury condos for speculative investors, and eager for any opportunity to put a "green" bow on the destruction. In fact, the book reads disturbingly like the greenwashing PR that Oregon's former first lady used to write at public expense as a consultant, before she found herself under public corruption investigation by the FBI. If you want to know how Portland is really run, buy yourself a DVD of "Chinatown." It's more realistic, and better written.

Great book with a lot of information Helped me gain a new vision about the world and life.

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