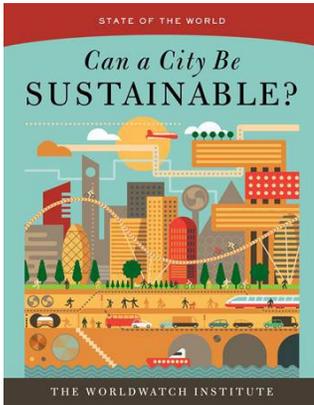


Worldwatch Institute | State of the World

Can a City Be Sustainable?



Can a City Be Sustainable? (State of the World)
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Cities are the world's future. Today, 3.9 billion people—more than half of the global population—lives in urban areas, 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 these principles into practice.

From Portland, Oregon, to Ahmedabad, India, local people are acting to improve their cities, even when national efforts are stalled. Issues

examined 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. ■

The Worldwatch Institute is universally recognized for its foresight and accessible, fact-based analysis. Worldwatch develops innovative solutions to intractable problems, emphasizing a blend of government leadership, private-sector enterprise, and citizen action that can make a sustainable future a reality.

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Chapter 18 Preview | Franziska Schreiber
& Alexander Carius

The Inclusive City: Urban Planning for Diversity and Social Cohesion



Franziska Schreiber is Project Manager at adelphi, an independent think tank and public policy consultancy based in Berlin, Germany. **Alexander Carius** is co-founder and Managing Director of adelphi.

“FINDING SOLUTIONS TO COUNTERACT DISPARITIES AND INEQUALITIES WHILE STRENGTHENING RELATIONS AND INTERACTIONS AMONG SOCIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE GROUPS HAS BECOME AN URGENT MATTER.”

Cities are not only growing in population, but also becoming increasingly diverse and ethnically heterogeneous. Socioeconomic polarization and spatial segregation have become prevailing trends in cities worldwide, with adverse impacts on quality of life and social cohesion. Although urban planners and designers cannot solve the roots of exclusion and inequality *per se*, they can aid in increasing the accessibility and integra-

tion of deprived areas and provide spaces that increase the chances of interaction and the forming of social relations among people from differing ethnic backgrounds. The creation of mixed-use and socially mixed areas—coupled with good access to public transport, housing diversity, and sufficient provision of vibrant public spaces that facilitate inter-ethnic encounters—are promising ways to enhance social cohesion.

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Many socioeconomically deprived areas are characterized by a high concentration of migrants, making their multi-faceted integration into city life more challenging.