

THE WORLD'S MOST SUSTAINABLE CITIES



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Introduction

- We constantly hear about how the world is becoming more polluted every day. The oceans, rivers, and even the air we breathe are getting contaminated at a staggering rate. The more we continue to pollute these natural resources, the more it becomes hazardous for our well-being in this world.
- Unfortunately, this state of decay isn't just restricted to any one particular country or a state. We are on the top of a global crisis that will soon render our lands inhabitable if we don't take effective measures quickly.

Source: *Nils Ally/Wikimedia Commons*

“The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion.

As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.”

*Abraham Lincoln
President of the United States
Message to Congress
December 1, 1862*

What are sustainable cities?

Sustainable cities, also referred to as an eco-cities, work towards creating environmentally, economically, and socially resilient surroundings for their citizens without compromising the needs of the future generation to thrive in the same environment

Three Factors used in Evaluation

- **People (social):** The people pillar looks at quality of life, assessing areas such as health, education and work-life balance.
- **Planet (environmental):** This pillar examines areas including energy consumption, renewable energy share, and green spaces.
- **Profit (economic):** The economic pillar looks at environment and economic health of the city. Sub-pillars include ease of doing business, GDP per capita and connectivity.

1. Copenhagen, Denmark: Europe's Most Sustainable City

- The total number of bikes outnumbers the total number of cars. The benefits of this are twofold, as the city can cut down on carbon emissions and the average health rate will be higher.
- Aims to become the world's first carbon-neutral capital by the year 2025.
- Biking has become part of their culture
- From 2010, Copenhagen has been integrating green roofs into their infrastructure
- By the end of 2019, all buses (public transport) in Copenhagen will make the shift to electric engines
- Planting 100000 new trees by the end of 2025
- Upholds one of the world's best quality assurance test for clean tap water
- An array of advanced wind farms

* Source: [pudelek/wikimedia commons](#)

2. Amsterdam, Netherlands: The City of Bikes

- Amsterdam is a perfect combination of the new and the old.
- More bikes than people, a major percentage of the population using bicycles to get to work or schools
- Electric vehicles with over 300 charging stations spread across the city.
- Homegrown organic food.
- Clothes made from eco-friendly materials.
- Manufacturing processes do not use any poisonous dyes or agents that could contaminate water.

Source: [Yair Haklai/Wikimedia Commons](#)

3. Stockholm, Sweden: The Cleanest City in Europe

- Aims to be completely fossil fuel free by 2050. Stockholm already has a well-laid system that keeps it running without using massive fossil fuel reserves.
- Bio-fuel conversion plants that take sewage to produce biofuel from them.
- Waste heat produced by datacenters, shops, and stadiums to be used for providing heating to the residents of Stockholm.
- One of the cleanest cities in EU.

Source: *Benoît Derrier/Wikimedia Commons*

4. Vancouver, Canada: A City with Lowest Carbon Emissions

- The least amount of carbon emissions among the major cities of North America. In 2010, the city began supporting cyclists and went on to build separate lanes for them.
- Encouraging people to use electric vehicles instead of gas-guzzling alternatives.
- Vancouver also makes a case for farmers as the Farmer's Markets all around Vancouver makes sure that residents eat healthy food.
- There are several waste management projects that have started in Vancouver to make the city free from wastes and all sorts of contamination.
- The government hopes to make Vancouver the greenest city by 2020.

Source: [Xicotencatl/Wikimedia Commons](#)

5. Curitiba, Brazil: A City Utilizing the Power of Recycling

6. Reykjavik, Iceland: A City Aiming to Move Away from Fossil Fuels

7. Portland, Oregon: A City that Teaches the Citizens to Embrace Nature

8. San Francisco, California: The First American City to Ban Plastic Water Bottles

9. Singapore: The Greenest City in Asia

10. Cape Town, South Africa: A City Practicing Effective Waste Management Strategies

11. Helsinki, Finland: The Nature Capital of the Entire World

CONCLUSION

- The eco-city or a green city pours effort into eliminating the overall carbon footprint of the city whilst embracing nature and investing in an eco-friendly project that helps the humans and the nature to coexist aiming towards sustenance and sustainability.
- There are certain practices that need to be followed strictly to achieve such a goal. The primary being able to *find alternative sources of energy* rather than depending on fossil fuels.
- In the development of such a green city, the efforts are shared between *the government and the citizens* alike. The result is a city that is modern and also environmentally-friendly.