

URBAN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT



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Local Sustainable Urban Development in a Globalized World

Edited by Lauren C. Heberle and Susan M. Opp

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SERIES EDITORS: DONALD MILLER AND GERT DE ROO

Maintaining and enhancing living conditions in cities through a combination of physical planning and environmental management is a newly emerging focus of governments around the world. For example, local governments seek to insulate sensitive land uses such as residential areas from environmentally intrusive activities such as major transport facilities and manufacturing. Regional governments protect water quality and natural habitat by enforcing pollution controls and regulating the location of growth. Some national governments fund acquisition of strategically important sites, facilitate the renewal of brown fields, and even develop integrated environmental quality plans.

The aim of this series is to share information on experiments and best practices of governments at several levels. These empirically-based studies present and critically assess a variety of initiatives to improve environmental quality. Although institutional and cultural contexts vary, lessons from one commonly can provide useful ideas to other communities. Each of the contributions are independently peer reviewed, and are intended to be helpful to professional planners and environmental managers, elected officials, representatives of NGOs, and researchers seeking improved ways to resolve environmental problems in urban areas and to foster sustainable urban development.

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in a Globalized
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and Susan M. Opp

'Sustainable development' is a key issue of concern to urban planners across the globe. Yet, how it is defined, implemented and measured at the local level remains highly contested and subject to a wide range of external cultural, political and economic pressures. Bringing together leading experts from North America, Europe, the Middle East and SE Asia, this book provides a timely overview of various methods for understanding and implementing sustainable practices at local levels. In doing so, they present the wide range of alternatives for planners to pursue in spite of the constraints generated by globalization processes.

The book argues that, while local planners and authorities are willing to act, many are unaware of the range of options available to them. These case studies provide examples of innovations and best practices that are diverse in geographic terms and reflect a variety of different levels of income, education, cultural norms, legal systems and government structures.

This volume, addressing the key local public sector issue of our time, offers educational and inspirational, albeit uneven, examples from across the world of successful local pursuit of sustainability despite global pressures. The editors' opening and closing essays and the overview by Pinderhughes constitute major contributions to the debate on the promise of locally-led sustainability practices.

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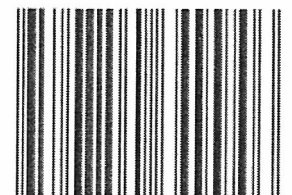
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