



Plan a Green City



You learned about Masdar City. It is one of the only fully-sustainable urban communities. Now, plan a city in your area that will do the same.

First, think about what you would like your city to contain. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What kinds of structures will people live in?
- Where will people go to school and work?
- How will people buy the things they need every day? Like food and clothing.
- How will people get around in the city?
- Where will people go to have fun?

Then, think about the needs of a city in the type of environment where you live. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the weather like? Will people need heat? Will they need cooling? Will they need protection from storms?
- What alternative energy resources are available? Does your region get enough sunlight to use solar power? How about wind energy? Is there a source for hydroelectric power?
- How can your city lower its need for power so that alternative sources of energy will be enough? People will need less fuel and electricity. What are some urban planning choices you could make?

Now, build a model of your city. Start by creating a map. Mark the locations of buildings, walkways, public transportation, parks, and any other features you are including in your city. Then, create a three dimensional model based on your map. You may wish to visit your local planning department. See how urban planners build models. Use any kinds of materials, like cardboard, clay, wire, balsa wood, sand, aluminum foil, and miniature figurines. Paint the model where appropriate.

Finally, display your model in the classroom. Talk about the features of your city that will lower or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and waste. Talk about the daily life of people living and working in your city. Invite your classmates to ask questions.