



Current Efforts to Solve Global Challenges

Sustainability

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◆ **What is it?**

- ◆ A series of four events, bringing together people from across the globe to produce holistic, actionable approaches to building sustainable cities.

◆ **What is the goal?**

- ◆ To reflect on the valuable findings of otherwise disparate research and synthesize it into specific solutions.

◆ **Why is it important?**

- ◆ Research into the driving forces behind urban inequalities and injustices have met with success, generating new, valuable knowledge, but are often separate from one another.
- ◆ Proper city planning is key to the sustainability of cities, helping to anticipate needs, manage risks, provide a framework for the layout of infrastructure and future growth, and more.
- ◆ The complexity of urban environments and the issues that face them demand solutions that are dynamic, transdisciplinary, and co-creative.

◆ **The project so far:**

- ◆ Urban planning: pitfalls, conflicting interests, unintended consequences.
- ◆ The challenges of upscaling transformative innovations.
- ◆ Identifying and describing the drivers of injustice and their manifestations.

DRIVERS of INJUSTICE in the CONTEXT of URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

1 EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO BENEFITS
OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE



2 MATERIAL & LIVELIHOOD INEQUALITIES



3 RACIALIZED or ETHNICALLY EXCLUSIONARY URBANIZATION



4 UNEVEN & EXCLUDING URBAN INTENSIFICATION & REGENERATION



5 UNEVEN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & POLLUTION PATTERNS



6 UNFIT INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES



7 LIMITED CITIZEN PARTICIPATIONTM IN URBAN PLANNING



8 LACK OF EFFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE BROKERAGE AND STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



9 UNQUESTIONED NED LIBERAL GROWTH AND AUSTERITY URBANISM



10 WEAK(ENED) CIVIL SOCIETY



◆ **What is the potential impact?**

- ◆ Changes in political structure and policy: who is involved in the conversation of urban planning, alterations in priorities to address sustainability needs.
- ◆ Changes in the social landscape: reduction of exclusionary development and displacement of people.
- ◆ Changes in the ecological footprint of cities: a trend towards greener development.

Smog Free Project

◆ **What is it?**

- ◆ A team developing various technologies to provide cleaner air in urban environments.

◆ **What is the goal?**

- ◆ To reduce air pollution in public spaces – for free, if possible.
- ◆ Inspire the continuing development of a sustainable future.

◆ **Why is it important?**

- ◆ Air pollution causes and exacerbates a variety of medical conditions that can be lethal such as respiratory infections and stroke.
- ◆ Data from the WHO suggests that 9 out of every 10 people globally are breathing air with high levels of pollutants.

◆ The project so far:

- ◆ Began as a kick-starter in 2015, reached over twice its set donation goal.
- ◆ Construction of the first tower was completed in late 2015, several more have been built since.



◆ **What is the potential impact?**

- ◆ Environmental positives: since the drivers of air pollution are often closely related to sources of greenhouse gas emissions, efforts to reduce air pollution will be beneficial towards climate change mitigation.
- ◆ Cultural Reinvigoration: outdoor public spaces that have been rendered unusable can once again be utilized for their intended purposes of social gathering and connection with nature.
- ◆ Health improvements: reduced exposure to air pollutants will protect people from contracting a variety of illnesses and the worsening of others.

References

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