Green Urbanism: Learning From European Cities

Timothy Beatley

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As the need to confront unplanned growth increases, planners, policymakers, and citizens are scrambling for practical tools and examples of successful and workable approaches. Growth management initiatives are underway in the U.S. at all levels, but many American "success stories" provide only one piece of the puzzle. To find examples of a holistic approach to dealing with sprawl, one must turn to models outside of the United States.

In *Green Urbanism*, Timothy Beatley explains what planners and local officials in the United States can learn from the sustainable city movement in Europe. The book draws from the extensive European experience, examining the progress and policies of twenty-five of the most innovative cities in eleven European countries, which Beatley researched and observed in depth during a year-long stay in the Netherlands. Chapters examine:

- the sustainable cities movement in Europe
- examples and ideas of different housing and living options
- transit systems and policies for promoting transit use, increasing bicycle use, and minimizing the role of the automobile
- creative ways of incorporating greenness into cities
- ways of readjusting "urban metabolism" so that waste flows become circular
- programs to promote more sustainable forms of economic development
- sustainable building and sustainable design measures and features
- renewable energy initiatives and local efforts to promote solar energy
- ways of greening the many decisions of local government including ecological budgeting, green accounting, and other city management tools.

Throughout, Beatley focuses on the key lessons from these cities -- including Vienna, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Zurich, Amsterdam, London, and Berlin -- and what their experience can teach us about effectively and creatively promoting sustainable development in the United States. *Green Urbanism* is the first full-length book to describe urban sustainability in European cities, and provides concrete examples and detailed discussions of innovative and practical sustainable planning ideas. It will be a useful reference and source of ideas for urban and regional planners, state and local officials, policymakers, students of planning and geography, and anyone concerned with how cities can become more livable.

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