

**PROFESSOR PIERRE LACONTE** is President of the Foundation for the Urban Environment, which seeks to link urban planning, transportation and the environment. A past President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners, and former Secretary General of the International Association of Public Transport, he was evaluator for the European Green Capital Award 2012 and 2013 and a member of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Award Council. He is one of the three planners responsible for Louvain new university town in Belgium, which received the Abercrombie Award of the International Union of Architects. His publications include *Brussels: Perspectives on a European Capital* (co-editor, C. Hein), which shared the Society for Human Ecology 2008 Award for best publication; *Water Resources and Land-Use Planning: A Systems Approach* (co-editor, Y.Y. Haimes, 1982); and *Human and Energy Factors in Urban Planning: A Systems Approach* (co-editors J. Gibson and A. Rapoport, 1982).

**CHRISTOPHER GOSSOP** is a planner and environmentalist. Until 2011 he served as a UK government planning inspector with responsibility for the scrutiny and determination of planning and environmental appeals up to national level. He has been Deputy Director of the Town and Country Planning Association, where he worked on national and EU-wide policy issues, including energy and the environment, and is a trustee/director of both the National Energy Foundation and the Milton Keynes Parks Trust. He was guest editor for the Special Issue of *Cities: The International Journal of Urban Policy and Planning* on low-carbon cities, and led the congress team for the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) 2009 World Congress on low-carbon cities. His publications include editing five editions of the ISOCARP Review on planning theory and practice.

Jacket: Suzhou's Jinji Lake with the city's central business district in the background; © Department of Publicity of Suzhou Industrial Park.



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Pierre Laconte  
and Chris Gossop

# sustainable cities

Assessing the Performance  
and Practice of  
Urban Environments

Edited by  
Pierre Laconte and  
Chris Gossop

With more than half the global population now living in urban areas, one of the key issues confronting us today is how we make our growing cities sustainable. *Sustainable Cities* offers valuable new insights for addressing this vital challenge.

Examining the built environment at three levels of observation – individual buildings, urban neighbourhoods, and entire cities and towns – the first part of the book reveals the scale of the task that will need to be pursued at all of these levels and on multiple fronts. In particular resource use, especially energy, is identified as a key consideration.

The second part of the book offer a critical assessment of the techniques used to assess urban development and systems as a whole, including the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions, ecological footprint analysis, and the measurement of urban biodiversity, where different approaches can yield significantly different results. It concludes with an alternative approach to greenhouse gases, making the case for them to be seen as a resource rather than as a liability.

In the final part, case studies of best practice are presented. These include the role of canals and waterfront developments as catalysts for the sustainable post-industrial city; sustainable urban transport; Amsterdam's ring canals as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the King's Cross Central development as new urban quarter for London (and Europe); and Hamburg's Wilhelmsburg island district, where energy efficiency is part of a wider strategy to improve liveability and overall sustainability.

With contributions from a range of leading international specialists, *Sustainable Cities* provides a wealth of new ideas and information for all those with an interest in the future of our cities.

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