

Cities and Sustainability: A New Agenda for Urban Living

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

Scope

Key findings

WHY SUSTAINABILITY IS IMPORTANT FOR CITIES

Cities are a starting point for sustainable solutions

Large-scale urbanisation leads to environmental degradation and a decrease in quality of life

The increasing density of urban areas leads to inefficient and gridlocked mobility

Urban migration increases the risk of economic and social inequality

High air pollution due to unsustainable practices reduces the economic potential of cities

AREAS OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability goals need to be directed at seven main areas

Water: Climate change increases risks of floods, droughts and poor sanitation

Water case study: Lisbon ensures water supply with a recycled water programme

Waste: Zero-waste strategies help to reduce air and underwater pollution

Waste case study: Milan's Urban Food Policy Pact aims to decrease food waste

Energy: Sustainable energy requires renewable sources, smart distribution and consumption

Energy case study: Cape Town shifts towards decentralised and renewable energy

Built environment: Green architecture and public spaces contribute to quality of life

Built environment case study: Bahnstadt district helps to cut gas emissions

Built environment case study: Singapore builds its first sustainable "forest town", Tengah

Mobility: Sustainable mobility solutions are being promoted for consumers and businesses

Mobility case study: Making commercial transport sustainable in Berlin

Urban governance: Keeping the balance between interests of different social groups

Urban governance case study: Helsinki engages citizens in municipal decision-making

Circular economy: Circularity as a key part of sustainable urban development

Circular economy case study: Amsterdam's City Doughnut concept aims at circularity

COMMERCIALISING SUSTAINABILITY

The cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of action

The main beneficiaries of sustainability

Governments gain better population health, increasing retailing taxes and investments

Brands can benefit by aligning products with climate-conscious consumption

Businesses invest in green technologies to improve brand reputation

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Challenges on the way to sustainable urban development

Sustainable urban development against climate change and inequalities

Urban residents improve their life quality due to the sustainable development of their cities

City of the future: Underpinned by sustainability

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