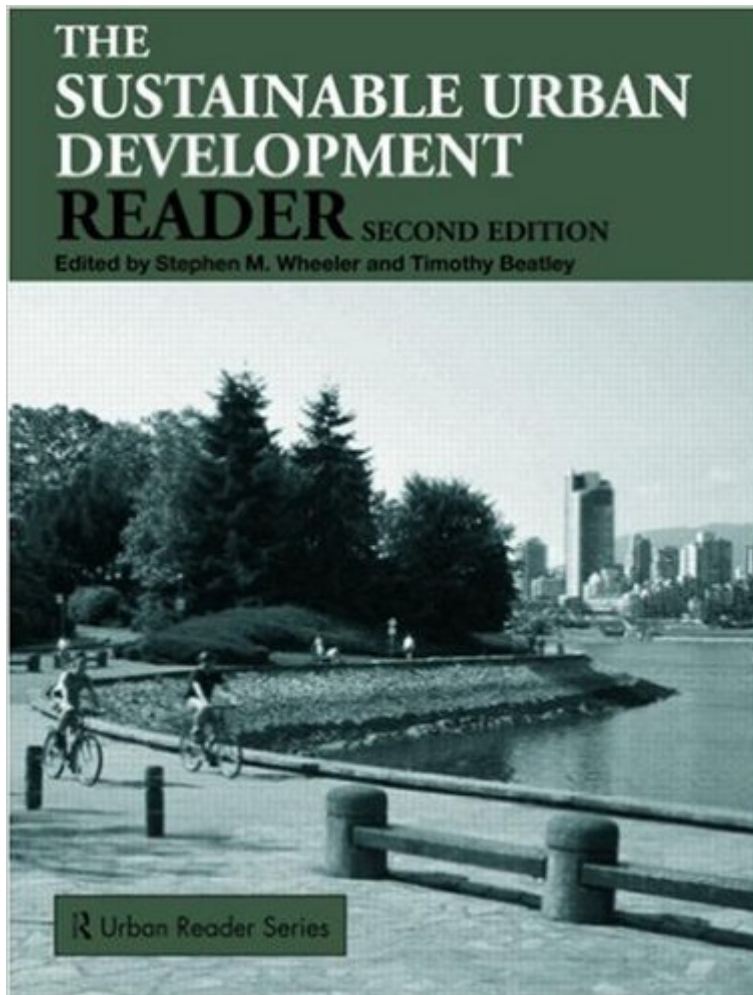


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Sustainable Urban Development Reader (Routledge Urban Reader Series)



Synopsis

Building on the success of its first edition, the second edition of the Sustainable Urban Development Reader expands its selection of classic material on sustainable community development. As in the previous edition, it begins by tracing the roots of the sustainable development concept in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, before presenting classic readings on a number of dimensions of the sustainability concept. Topics covered include land use and urban design, transportation, ecological planning and restoration, energy and materials use, economic development, social and environmental justice, and green architecture and building. All sections have a concise editorial introduction that places the selection in context and suggests further reading. Additional sections cover tools for sustainable development, sustainable development internationally, visions of sustainable community and case studies from around the world. The book also includes educational exercises for individuals, university classes, or community groups, and an extensive list of recommended readings. The anthology remains unique in presenting a broad array of classic readings in this field, each with a concise introduction placing it within the context of this evolving discourse. It includes updated material on: global warming issues in less developed countries ecotourism prospects for sustainable development in China megacities case studies of sustainable development. The Sustainable Urban Development Reader presents an authoritative overview of the field using original sources in a highly readable format for university classes in urban studies, environmental studies, the social sciences, and related fields. It also makes a wide range of sustainable urban planning-related material available to the public in a clear and accessible way, forming an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the future of urban environments.

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Customer Reviews

During one of my rough days as a substitute teacher, I got the idea of having the class look up their favorite city on Google-Earth, hoping to kill time until the bell rang. One of them picked Los Angeles, and inquired about the "gray thing" running through the city. "That's the Los Angeles river," I told him. More questions followed about why it was that color, and I explained that he was looking at concrete. The river runs through a man-made concrete bank, designed to conserve the water and prevent flooding. The next question was "how come there's no water in it?" and I replied "LA is arid, so the river's usually dry." More questions, this time on how they can fill all those swimming pools. The fact of the matter is, throughout the USA, we have cities that are not naturally sustainable. LA was nothing until the dams and aqueducts came in, and even today you'd think they'd have a water shortage. Same thing with Las Vegas, Phoenix, El Paso, and just about every other city in the Southwest. So many of our cities grew up from unnatural beginnings, with no plan for how they'd get food, water, or building materials, nor any plan for bringing them in. One of the first essays is Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic, written in the 1940's. The conservationist discusses communities setting rules for land use, agreeing on the best way to save water, dispose of waste, and take care of all the environmental issues that will affect the people. Unfortunately, his essay stresses "community" which doesn't always suffice. If an industrialist wants to put a factory in a community, he can bypass their laws by applying to the state for eminent domain. The same holds true for water use; it is usually up to the state, not the community.

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