

International Eco-Cities Initiative

July 2015

Welcome to the latest issue of the International Eco-Cities Initiative newsletter. The bulletin (published three times per year) provides information about our research, events and publications, and contributes to analysis and discourse on 'eco-cities' and sustainable urbanism of various kinds across the world.

In this issue:

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Research report: Tomorrow's City Today - Prospects for Standardising Sustainable Urban Development

We are pleased to announce the publication of a new report exploring the recent proliferation of replicable urban sustainability frameworks around the world. It draws on a three-year programme of research conducted by our Leverhulme Trust-funded 'Tomorrow's City Today' international network, and was launched at our international conference on Friday 12 June. As well as summarising the findings from a systematic cross-comparative analysis of 43 certification and assessment schemes, the report draws on case study research and a series of international workshops looking at processes of implementation, and offers a series of policy and practice reflections and learnings.

- [Download the programme](#)

New book: Sustainable Cities – Governing for Urban Innovation

Simon Joss' new book, published by Palgrave Macmillan, takes a fresh look at the global spread of urban sustainability policies and practices from the twin perspectives of governance and innovation. It aims to stimulate new critical debates among policy-makers, practitioners and researchers, which go beyond the identification of examples of 'good' and 'bad' practice. Using evidence from a wide variety of sources and case studies, the book surveys contemporary processes of sustainable urban development, locates these in their historical and current policy context, analyses the roles of different types of knowledge, and outlines some of the key governance challenges that lie ahead. In particular, it calls for a more pluralistic mode of public governance as a way of rebalancing the increasingly technocratic focus of the eco-city.

- [Further information](#) on the website of Palgrave Macmillan.

Essay: Eco-Cities vs. Ökostädte – Differences and Similarities

This research essay on the German 'ökostadt' concept, published on our website, fills a gap in the English-language literature. The lack of information currently available is perhaps surprising, since ökostadt initiatives were among the most significant early attempts to introduce 'eco-friendly' principles into urban design and policy-making. Some of the long-term achievements which grew out of this concept, furthermore, in cities such as Freiburg, continue to be widely cited internationally as 'best practice' in urban sustainability. In the essay, Teresa Damm (Dresden University of Technology) draws on her own research to locate the ökostadt movement within the broader history of the 'eco-city', and identifies some of its distinctive characteristics.

- [Download Eco-Cities vs. Ökostädte](#) in PDF format.

Partner profiles: Robert Kargon and Arthur Molella

From its inception, the International Eco-Cities Initiative has been developed as an inter-institutional endeavour, to which both Professor Robert Kargon and Dr Arthur Molella have made a pivotal contribution. As historians of science and technology, their research interests have centred upon cities as drivers for, and places of, innovation processes and practices. Their ground-breaking book *Invented Edens: Technocities of the 20th Century* (MIT Press, 2008) analysed the attempted (re-)invention of cities through emergent technologies; more recently their research has focused on university-industry collaboration in the planning, design and on-going activity of new towns. *Places of Invention* (Smithsonian Institution, 2015), co-edited by Arthur Molella and Anna Karvellas, addresses the question of how 'place' - whether physical, social, or cultural - supports, constrains and shapes innovation. Robert Kargon is the Willis K. Shepard Professor of the History of Science at the Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA); Arthur Molella is the founding Director (and since July 2015, Director Emeritus) of the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at the Smithsonian Institution (Washington DC, USA).

- [Robert Kargon's web profile](#)
- [Arthur Molella's web profile](#)

LinkedIn Discussion Forum

The International Eco-Cities Forum, our online discussion board, now has over 380 members, including researchers, policy-makers and practitioners. It invites contributions from around the world, aimed at discussing and sharing information, reflections and practical learning on sustainable urbanism in its various forms.

- [Join the International Eco-Cities Forum](#)

Further Information

Please see the [International Eco-Cities Initiative website](#) for further information and to sign up for news and events.

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