Local Sustainable Urban Development in a Globalized World

Edited by Lauren C. Heberle and Susan M. Opp
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Sustainable development is a key issue of concern to urban planners across the globe. Yet, how it is defined, implemented and measured at the local level remains highly contested and subject to a wide range of external cultural, political and economic pressures. Bringing together leading experts from North America, Europe, the Middle East and SE Asia, this book provides a timely overview of various methods for understanding and implementing sustainable practices at local levels. In doing so, they present the wide range of alternatives for planners to pursue in spite of the constraints generated by globalization processes.

The book argues that, while local planners and authorities are willing to act, many are unaware of the range of options available to them. These case studies provide examples of innovations and best practices that are diverse in geographic terms and reflect a variety of different levels of income, education, cultural norms, legal systems and government structures.

This volume, addressing the key local public sector issue of our time, offers educational and inspirational, albeit uneven, examples from across the world of successful local pursuit of sustainability despite global pressures. The editors’ opening and closing essays and the overview by Pinderhughes constitute major contributions to the debate on the promise of locally-led sustainability practices.

Peter B. Meyer, University of Louisville, USA

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