EcoDistricts

Revitalizing cities from THE NEIGHBORHOOD UP.

About Us

1

OUR VISION

Just, sustainable and resilient cities and neighborhoods for all.

2

OUR MISSION

Provide support and leadership for urban change makers and innovators to accelerate sustainable district and neighborhood scale regeneration.

EcoDistricts

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—Dynamic courses that equip the next generation of leaders with knowledge for change.

SUMMIT—An annual gathering of the world's most innovative change makers revitalizing cities from the neighborhood up.

INCUBATOR—A three-day intensive, project-based workshop designed to accelerate district-scale projects.

PROTOCOL—Our process and performance areas for supporting neighborhood sustainability across diverse projects.

TARGET CITIES—A two-year immersion program guiding North America's catalytic, district-scale projects— and shaping the way cities view urban regeneration.

ECODISTRICTS INSTITUTE
10 CITIES
10 PROJECTS
3 DAYS
51 LEADERS + INNOVATORS
27 INDUSTRY EXPERTS

351
428 ATTENDEES
14 COUNTRIES
77 CITIES
ECODISTRICTS SUMMIT
OCTOBER 23-26, 2012

SOMA ECODISTRICT ROADMAP
Portland Streetcar
portland sustainability institute
SEPTEMBER 2012

EcoDistricts

more than

half

of the world's population lives in cities, a proportion that is expected to reach

two-thirds

by 2050.

Cities (currently)...

...account for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions and 75% of energy consumption

...contribute to a vast equity gap: the zip code a child is born into has a bigger role in determining that child's future than any other single factor

...face a $1 trillion+ infrastructure backlog from ruptured water mains to decaying public buildings, bridges, roads and transit

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Districts are the building blocks of sustainable cities

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Sustainability depends on every citizen living in a healthy, safe, connected and vibrant neighborhood.
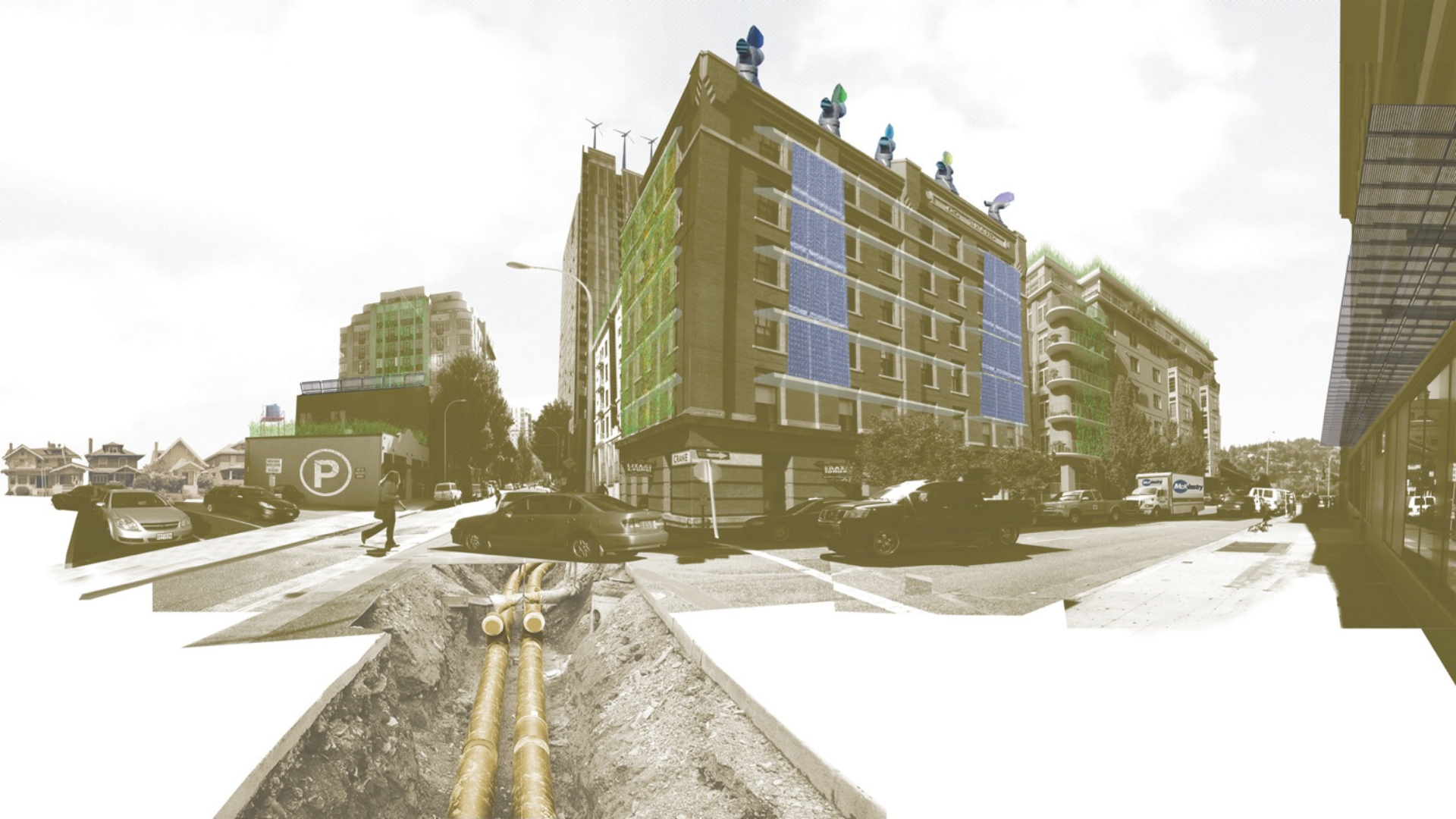
Economic opportunity, community well-being, and ecological health are fundamental metrics.

EcoDistricts

Success will require a new model for action rooted in collaboration and inclusion.

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Ecodistricts are the integration of
green buildings,
smart infrastructure &
community engagement and action.

Neighborhood Typologies

URBAN REGENERATION

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

Cities + Utility Providers

CAMPUSES & INSTITUTIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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EcoDistricts Framework

The **Framework** offers a process management approach and performance areas to build support, guide investments and measure outcomes.

ECODISTRICTS
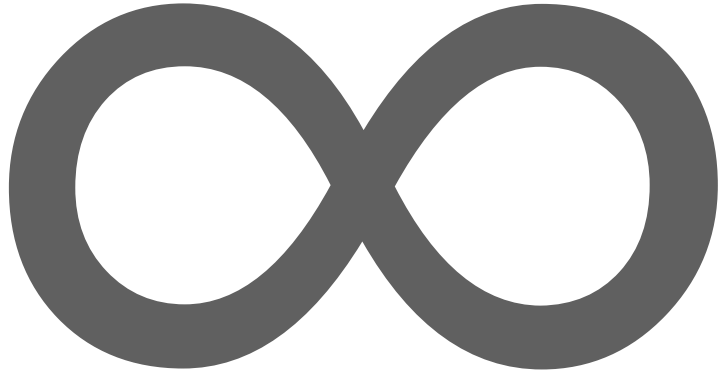
The EcoDistricts™ Framework
Building Blocks of Sustainable Cities

May 2013

EcoDistricts

Process

DISTRICT
ORGANIZATION

DISTRICT
PROJECTS

DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT

DISTRICT
ASSESSMENT

EcoDistricts

Eight Performance Areas

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Promote equity and opportunity and ensure fair distribution of benefits and burdens of investment and development

OBJECTIVES
| Ensure neighborhood investments provide direct community benefit through job creation and investment opportunities
| Provide quality and consistent local job opportunities through EcoDistrict projects
| Mitigate the forced displacement of existing residents and businesses
| Ensure diverse stakeholder involvement in all EcoDistrict activities and decision making

HEALTH + WELL BEING

Promote human health and community well being

OBJECTIVES
| Provide access to safe and functional local recreation and natural areas
| Provide access to healthy, local and affordable food
| Ensure safe and connected streets
| Expand economic opportunities to support a socially and economically diverse population
| Improve indoor and outdoor air quality

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Create cohesive neighborhood identity through the built environment and a culture of community

OBJECTIVES
| Create beautiful, accessible and safe places that promote interaction and access
| Foster social networks that are inclusive, flexible and cohesive
| Develop local governance with the leadership and capacity to act on behalf of the neighborhood

ACCESS + MOBILITY

Provide access to clean and affordable transportation options.

OBJECTIVES
| Provide accessible services through mixed-uses and improved street access
| Prioritize active transportation
| Reduce vehicle miles traveled
| Use low and zero emission vehicles

ENERGY

Achieve net zero energy usage annually

OBJECTIVES
| Conserve energy use by minimizing demand and maximizing conservation
| Optimize infrastructure performance at all scales
| Use renewable energy

WATER

Meet both human and natural needs through reliable and affordable water management

OBJECTIVES
| Reduce water consumption through conservation
| Reuse and recycle water resources wherever possible, using potable water only for potable needs
| Manage stormwater and building water discharge within the district

HABITAT + ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Achieve healthy urban ecosystems that protect and regenerate habitat and ecosystem function..

OBJECTIVES
| Protect and enhance local watersheds
| Prioritize native and structurally diverse vegetation
| Create habitat connectivity within and beyond the district
| Avoid human-made hazards to wildlife and promote nature-friendly urban design

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Zero waste and optimized materials management.

OBJECTIVES
| Eliminate practices that produce waste wherever possible
| Minimize use of virgin materials and minimize toxic chemicals in new products
| Optimize material reuse and salvage and encourage use of regionally manufactured products or parts
| Where opportunities for waste prevention are limited, maximize use of products made with recycled content

EcoDistricts

a breath of fresh air
re-envisioning main street

Imagine going from an environment full of asphalt and fast moving traffic to a place for bees, bikes, babies, and birds. What would that place be like? It would be an ecologically supportive environment teeming with the most vulnerable residents of our planet. It is filled with pedestrians, bicyclists and public transport replacing autos. Copenhagen reminds us that bicyclists are not part of transport, they are part of public life. We have accommodations for commuter bicyclists and eight year olds out with their grandparents. One could imagine that every drop of water that falls on main street stays on main street or leaves cleaner than when it fell. In that sense, it defines an incremental watershed in anticipation of its role in developing a fully functioning EcoDistrict over a period of time. It is, simply, a place you would rather be that is good for you.
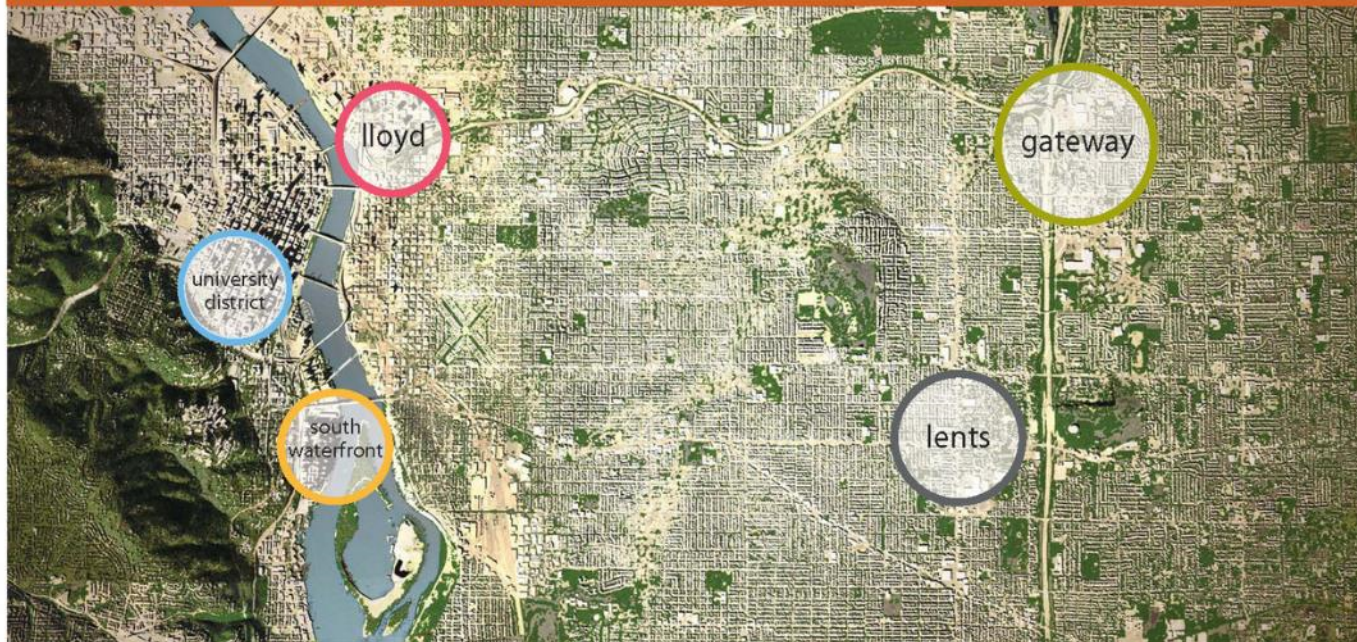
EcoDistricts

softer touch
living infrastructure

Bold infrastructure interventions build towards a city living in balance. The redevelopment of a main street at the site of a regional transit station provides a rich street life based on pedestrians, bicycles, and public transport. Urban greenways created from abandoned freeways and green streets provide a new green city infrastructure for habitat, food, water and waste. In a net-zero energy and water community, local fuels power nodes of district energy that couple efficient mixed-use structures, and neighborhood water utilities capture, clean and reuse water arriving from the sky. The urban greenways, roof gardens, living walls, and use of the in between green spaces allow agriculture to be embedded into the community.

Residential buildings use excess heat captured from supermarket refrigeration systems

Geothermal conditioning loops extend across the neighborhood below ground connecting to heat pumps in buildings

People, bikes, trains and buses dance in a multi-modal system on streets where cars are prohibited

Renewable energy production (solar and wind) integrates into the urban fabric

Organic wastes are anaerobically digested to produce energy

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 1st EcoDistricts director in the US

- 60% energy savings by 2035

- Comprehensive building retrofit program

- LED street lighting retrofit

- District thermal energy system

- Aggregated renewable energy – 5% of demand by 2035

Lloyd EcoDistrict

The Lloyd EcoDistrict, governed by a new NGO aspires to be the most sustainable business district in North America. The Portland Trail Blazers are helping lead the way with new investments in their sports campus.

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PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 300 acre brownfield site

- Net-positive operational GHG emissions goals

- LEED Gold and Platinum buildings

- $600 million in new transportation infrastructure – rail, streetcar, tram, pedestrian improvements

- District stormwater management

- Proposed district energy system

South Waterfront EcoDistrict

Part of the C40 Climate Positive and LEED ND programs, the South Waterfront EcoDistrict is integrating high performance buildings, multi-modal transportation, green infrastructure and district utilities into the high density neighborhood.

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PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 81 acre brownfield site

- Integrated infrastructure: foreshore/habitat water, energy, transportation, waste

- District energy: 6.2K tons/yr. GHG reductions = 65% helping to achieve GHG neutrality

- District energy: 7.2% return compares favorably with the City's cost of debt of approximately 4% (real rates of return)

Southeast False Creek

Vancouver's SE False Creek Neighborhood, home to the 2010 Winter Olympics Athletes' Village, pioneered new strategies in urban design, neighborhood planning, infrastructure and green building performance. It also earned a LEED Platinum designation.

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Vancouver, BC
Bellingham, WA
Seattle, WA
Portland, OR
Bend, OR
Boulder, CO
Denver, CO
San Francisco, CA
Oakland, CA
Mountain View, CA
Los Angeles, CA
San Diego, CA
Austin, TX
Guadalajara, Mexico

Burlington, VT
Cambridge, MA
Boston, MA
Detroit, OH
Cleveland, OH
Pittsburgh, PA
Philadelphia, PA
Washington, DC
Prince George's County, MD
Charlotte, NC
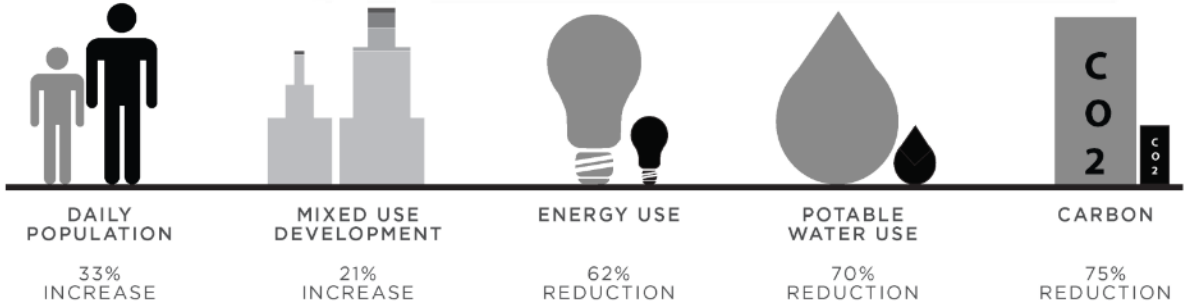Charleston, SC
Atlanta, GA
Orlando, FL

2010-2014
EcoDistricts Impact

SW EcoDistrict
Washington DC

A Comparison
Today and in 2030

National Capital Planning Commission

ZGF Architects

SW
EcoDistrict
Washington DC

The
Business Case

National Capital
Planning Commission

ZGF Architects

investments

• Sustainability (Buildings / Utilities)
• Open Space and Streetscapes
• Real Estate and New Development

benefits

• Revenue from sale of excess land for private development
• Cost savings from energy, water and waste efficiencies.
• Creation of sustainable, mixed-use neighborhood.
• Enhanced opportunities for federal facilities and cultural destinations.

Public and Private Investment Yields Sustainable Benefits

Join Us in DC

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
CIVIC PLAZA

EcoDistricts
SUMMIT

The DISTRICT of
COLLABORATION
WASHINGTON D.C. | SEPT. 24-26, 2014

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARTHA BIXBY

Questions?

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