



# Urban Policy and & Communities Empowerment Workshop Key Points

## Session 1: Comprehensive tools for ecological and social development

1. Link urban transformation and social component while performing an urban revitalization project in a neighborhood of a city. It's not only about urban transformation, it is also about the human transformation.
2. Diversification of the neighborhood is one of the main goals for an urban renewal project. Diversification and mix of different income levels creates economic activity, commerce and provides opportunities for the neighborhood. Balanced neighborhoods are vital and thriving neighborhoods.
3. It is important to involve planners, architects and all affected parties to create an outcome that is a beneficial change.
4. Quality public spaces are important for bringing about positive community change.
5. Eco Village in Cleveland is defined as an area within a ¼ mile radius around a major/ rapid transportation hub. The Eco Village concept can be an important "pilot project" for cities that are experimenting with sustainability. The Eco Village can serve as a laboratory for environmental initiatives, in which they may be successful on a smaller scale and bolster support before application city-wide.
6. In order for the eco-city/ village or neighborhood to be successful, it is important to involve and educate the residents on the functions, ideas and goals behind the new urban form.
7. It is important to take inventory of the existing conditions. Understand what is existing, what are the existing things to work with, what are the area's pluses and minuses or benefits and drawbacks. This assessment is critical in order to understand how to move forward and can be a helpful tool in informing decision makers.
8. A better information/ data on existing conditions and working plans provides a better tool to ask for investments and talk knowledgeable to potential investors.
9. Neighborhoods are units in a city, a part of a whole. It is important to design with the holistic perspective in mind to link various neighborhoods of the city and to break down barriers between 'poor' or 'wealthy' neighborhoods. This can be done with providing accessible and continuous green spaces throughout the city as well as creating accessible, mixed use neighborhoods. It is desirable to reduce territorial gaps between neighborhoods.



## **Session 2: Solutions for social and economic revival**

1. It is more economically advantageous to locate urban renewal/ development projects around public transit developments.
2. Community characteristics are all related: urban planning decisions are connected to housing options, education outcomes and employment opportunities.
3. There exists a general discussion and attention to race, gender, and equity subject matter in cities undergoing urban renewal projects in United States of America. However, there is a difference in the understanding of race and equity among Americans and French. In France, the focus is more on oneness of the society and the distinction is created between – outsiders or people not living in France and French people residing in France, in communities. There exists a gap in the French society about necessary discussion on race, gender and immigration due to political correctness.
4. In Urban Renewal projects, the focus is on the cohesiveness of the community/ neighborhood that is created. It is also important to introduce nature back as part of the overall landscape of the street, community, neighborhood and city.

## **Session 3: Making citizens active partners for urban policy**

1. Cities are being given back more ‘power’ more responsibility, but are also not being given as much money to work with. So the cities have to be more innovative with less, the margin of error is very low.
2. It is important to understand that cut and paste solutions do not work across the board. What works for one city will not work for another city.
3. In addition to educating residents about their neighborhood, provide workshops where residents can imagine the future of the neighborhood. If you allow people to make the space they want to live in, they will take better care of it and will have vested interested in caring for it.
4. Some approaches to eco-neighborhoods/ eco cities encourage people to live locally, work locally and eat locally, thus supporting the local economy and being fully vested in the neighborhood in which one lives.

### **Overall message:**

Cities are powerful and can do a lot to revitalize economy, create places people want to live in and create better urban spaces for the future.

Cities have a lot of purchasing power and can send positive messages via positive actions and policies. Cities can help start-ups and keep jobs local to create/ keep population.

Note takers:

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