

VIDEO SERIES  
***SUSTAINABILITY  
PRODUCTIONS***



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## SUSTAINABILITY PRODUCTIONS

Sustainable development is a holistic approach to planning and development that integrates four dimensions: social, economic, ecological and cultural. Its goal is to improve quality of life for all—meeting basic needs such as access to health, food and shelter—within the carrying capacity of the Earth.

Sustainability Productions (*Réalisations du développement durable* in French) is a series of short video reports that showcase a number of cities and neighbourhoods working towards sustainable development through a number of initiatives such as reducing energy and water consumption, promoting social diversity and intergenerational mixing, decreasing the emission of greenhouse gases, improving the quality of life of residents and providing job opportunities. Architects, city councilors, planners and project coordinators are interviewed to get their personal and hands-on perspective on the efforts and policies that have been carried out, with details given on how the projects came about, the purpose they serve, their various phases, the obstacles that had to be overcome as well as the solutions that have been imagined. Technicians, educators, policy makers as well as citizens will find invaluable information and ideas in these video reports to help them implement their own sustainable-development projects and programs.

### The DVDs that are currently available:

#### **DVD on BedZED, UK (8 min.; English and French):**

BedZED—which stands for Beddington Zero (fossil) Energy Development—is a unique ecological neighbourhood that was created in 2000 in a suburb near London. Its objective is to offer quality housing and amenities while respecting sustainable-development principles and reduced Ecological Footprints: high energy efficiency; low water and energy use; the contribution to urban densification by reclaiming brown fields and not building on rare and precious greenbelts, and the promotion of a variety of rental units and apartments for sale at prices that reflect the wide range of incomes.

#### **DVD on Freiburg-in-Brisgau, Germany (8 min.; English and French):**

Over the past 30 years, the German city of Freiburg-in-Brisgau has been working towards improving its environment, with particular emphasis on three sectors: transportation, waste and energy. In the 1990s, two new

neighbourhoods were built, Vauban and Reiselfeld, with a strong focus on energy conservation and all-round environmental excellence, as well as social diversity and the cohabitation of different generations. Citizens were actively involved in the creation of their neighbourhoods.

### **DVD on Malmö, Sweden (8 min.; French only):**

Malmö, a southern Swedish town facing Copenhagen, has been actively working on sustainable-development issues since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. In 1997, it started implementing a Local Agenda 21 programme for sustainability, and the city has tried to promote both social and ecological initiatives. Some of these include an ecological neighbourhood, Bo01, in the Western Harbour, the promotion of green transportation throughout the city such as public transit and bicycles, the promotion of peoples' health, and the upgrading of Augustenborg, a poor neighbourhood that now boasts a public works building with the largest green roof in Scandinavia, and a healthy and pleasant environment for its citizens.

### **DVD on Vancouver, Canada (8 min.; English and French):**

Vancouver is located on Canada's West Coast, and is often regarded as the city with the highest quality of life in the world. A great number of its citizens enjoy sports and outdoor leisure activities, which have a positive impact on health. The City has planned much of the downtown core with sustainability principles in mind, such as high-density, mixed-use neighbourhoods, and by encouraging non-motorized forms of transportation and public transit. Immigrants coming to live in Vancouver can benefit from a special welcoming program that helps them integrate better and find work. In the Downtown Eastside, various local organizations bring support to those who are disenfranchised.

### **SPECIAL FEATURE**

### **DVD on the Ecological Footprint—an interview with William Rees, inventor of the Ecological Footprint analysis (13 min.; English and French):**

In this interview, Dr. William Rees explains the benefits of using the Ecological Footprint, a tool which measures the total area of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems necessary to support humans. He presents the various components that make up this indicator, and highlights the importance of calculating the Footprint at all levels—from the individual to humanity as a whole. Dr. Rees invites us to think of about the strategies that need to be implemented for us to reduce our individual and collective Footprints. Each of us has a role to play in building “a program for sustainability”, a necessary venture to protect our planet and the vital systems that support life, and to enable future generations to flourish.