

No Regrets

No Regrets Charter:
Principles for Climate Change Adaptation in Cities



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No Regrets Charter

Climate adaptation needs to start here and now

- built on long-term goals;
- requires time; and
- needs to be continually to be enhanced.

Climate adaptation needs a ‘no regrets’ or precautionary approach

- overcomes the discrepancy between the necessity of pursuing long-term objectives and meeting short-term political purposes; and
- counters uncertainty about how serious climate change will be, and heightens acceptance for the measures that need to be taken.

Climate adaptation needs an integrated and participatory approach

- impacts on virtually all fields of urban life and environment;
- requires close co-operation between differing disciplines and planning fields; and
- requires an inclusive approach. Business and civil society need to be included.

Climate adaptation needs a holistic sustainability approach

- considers action across all domains of social life

1. *Ecology:*
2. *Politics:*
3. *Economics:*
4. *Culture:*

What makes for a good city?

- What considerations should be included in claims about what makes a city good?

How do we know when a 'good thing' is not just a fashion statement?

- How do we know what makes us good?

What capabilities should we focus upon?

- What should be done to make our cities better?

What should we do in practice?

- How can we judge what is good?

What is the basis of the judgment, and who judges?

- How can we know when we are achieving the good?

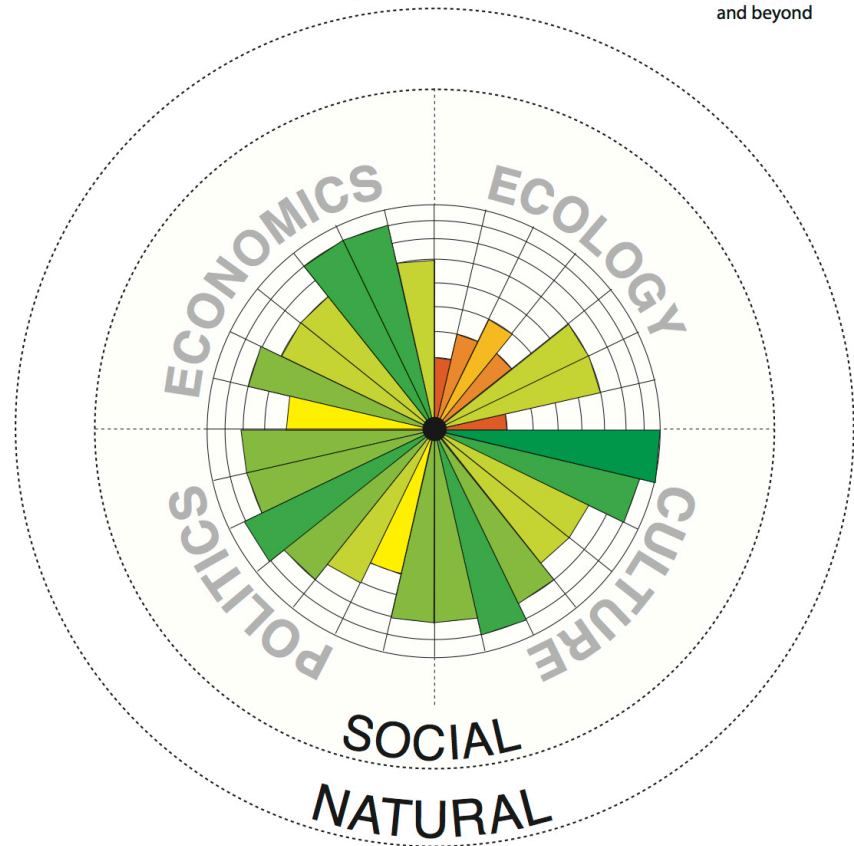
How can we measure what we are judging?

CIRCLES of SOCIAL LIFE

and beyond

What considerations should be included in claims about what makes a city good?

How do we know when a 'good thing' is not just a fashion statement?



A FRAMEWORK

DOMAINS OF THE SOCIAL

ECONOMICS

Production & Resourcing
Exchange & Transfer
Accounting & Regulation
Consumption & Use
Labour & Welfare
Technology & Infrastructure
Wealth & Distribution

POLITICS

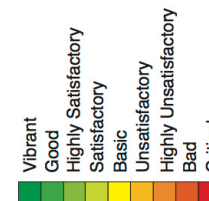
Organization & Governance
Law & Justice
Communication & Critique
Representation & Negotiation
Security & Accord
Dialogue & Reconciliation
Ethics & Accountability

ECOLOGY

Materials & Energy
Water & Air
Flora & Fauna
Habitat & Settlements
Built-form & Transport
Embodiment & Sustenance
Emission & Waste

CULTURE

Identity & Engagement
Creativity & Recreation
Memory & Projection
Belief & Meaning
Gender & Generations
Enquiry & Learning
Wellbeing & Health



How do we know what makes us good?

Social Capabilities for Making a Good City

1. Adaptability

An adaptable city

The ability to adapt to change, including adapting to changes brought about by external forces that threaten the sustainability of conditions of liveability and security.

2. Learning

A smart city

The capacity to seek knowledge, learn and use that understanding for enhancing social life.

3. Liveability

A learning city
A knowledge city

The life-skills and milieu that allow for living in ways that enhance wellbeing. Liveability includes having the resources to secure social life for all across the various aspects of human security, both in an embodied sense and an existential sense.

A liveable city

4. Reconciliation

A peaceful city

The capability to reconcile destructive or negative differences across the boundaries of continuing and flourishing positive social differences.

A secure city

5. Relationality

A caring city

The capacity to relate to others and to nature in a meaningful way. This includes the capacity to love, to feel compassion, to care.

6. Resilience

A sharing city
An inclusive city

The flexibility to recover and flourish in the face of social forces that threaten basic conditions of social life.

A resilient city

7. Sustainability

A sustainable city

The capacity to endure over time, through enhancing the conditions of social and natural flourishing.

What should we do in practice?

In adapting actively to climate change, cities should consider action across all domains of social life based on a precautionary or 'no regrets' principle based on an ethics of care:

Ecology

- As well as choosing technical responses that enhance climate change adaptation, cities should seek to generate deeper and more integrated relationships with nature, both inside the city and beyond urban boundaries. This is to move to an understanding of our embeddedness within nature and away from dominion over it.

Economics

- Urban development should be based on an economy organised around negotiated social needs over and above conventional production-driven economics.

Politics

- In adapting to climate change, cities should begin now to develop a clear vision and an integrated adaptation plan through a dialogue between expert deliberation and committed municipal and civic involvement. The agreed adaptation strategy should be embedded in all policy-making.

Culture

- In developing climate adaptation responses, cities should treat the process as one of deep cultural engagement involving broad cultural issues of social learning, symbolism, visualisation, aesthetics, and well-being. This includes recognizing that urban citizens live in natural-cultural regions, not in 'built islands'.

Ecology

The ecological domain is defined as the practices, discourses, and material expressions that occur across the intersection between the social and the natural realms, focussing on the important dimension of human engagement with and within nature, ranging from the built-environment to the 'wilderness'.

1. Materials and Energy
2. Water and Air
3. Flora and Fauna
4. Habitat and Settlements
5. Built-Form and Transport
6. Embodiment and Sustenance
7. Emission and Waste



1. Availability and Abundance
2. Soil and Fertility
3. Minerals and Metals
4. Electricity and Gas
5. Petroleum and Biofuels
6. Renewables and Recyclables
7. Monitoring and Reflection

From pragmatics to
principles and passions ...

And back again,
with *No Regrets*

NO REGRETS

www.CirclesofClimate.org

Paul James

Danke

Gracias

धन्यवाद

Grazie

Thank you

Merci

Gràcies

Obrigado

謝謝