

# SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING

to foster: *sostenere*  
 intermodal hubs: *scambi intermodali*  
 liveability: *vivibilità*  
 overall: *globale*  
 path: *sentiero, percorso*  
 to pursue: *perseguire*  
 reclamation: *recupero, riutilizzo*  
 suburbs: *sobborghi periferici*  
 unused: *non utilizzati*



## Ecology & Economy

The city needs ecology to exist and economy to prosper. Without nature, the city becomes a dead object, continuously demanding inputs, expenses and with decreasing health and living quality. Using ecology as a main driver, economy as an opportunity, and beauty and safety as necessary conditions, strong and flourishing communities can be created answering local and national governments' questions on how to proceed towards sustainable urban development.



Azerbaijan Tower

**Sustainable urban projects** should take into consideration the growing expansion of **suburbs** towards rural areas, the high number of **unused** buildings, the degradation of some abandoned areas, the location of infrastructures and the preservation and improvement of urban green spaces. Sustainable urban planning offers urban project solutions that **pursue** the following objectives:

- **Improving historic centre areas.** Historic centres should become the “heart” of a city’s life, renovating existing buildings and creating important meeting points for the inhabitants.
- **Making the best use of public transport.** Improving public transport reduces private vehicle traffic that causes considerable pollution. Public transportation improve the **liveability** of the city’s open spaces, leaving them constantly populated.



Sustainable urban transport



- **Creating green spaces.** New urban spaces, as well as renovated existing ones, should create green spaces to improve **overall** climate conditions through a new microclimate.
- **Saving and reusing water.** Collecting rainwater to irrigate green areas and installing devices in buildings to limit the waste of drinking water considerably reduce its consumption and are examples of a rational use of this necessary resource.
- **Using belts of plant life.** The separation between different urban functions and protection from industrial areas or various kinds of traffic routes can be achieved through thick bushes or green **paths**.
- **Creating safe paths for pedestrians and cyclists.** The increase in safe pedestrian and cycling paths helps reduce city vehicle traffic for short distances that can be travelled without using polluting vehicles.
- **Rehabilitating abandoned areas for new buildings.** Urban planning should consider reusing abandoned areas before building in new areas. **Reclamation** can give abandoned spaces back to communities, saving land and creating less unhealthy areas in the city.

- **Planning the city mobility.** Mobility should be the result of a careful analysis of the interaction between traffic and infrastructural routes, improving **intermodal hubs** between private and public transport.
- **Reducing air pollution.** To improve environmental quality, the use of public transport should be **fostered** as much as requiring cleaner heating systems to meet minimum standards.



Urban cycling path

**1** Refer back to the text and complete the following table about Sustainable Urban Projects.

WHAT	AIM	HOW
1. Historic centres		
2.	To create a new microclimate	
3.		Collecting rainwater and saving drinking water
4.	To improve intermodal hubs between private and public transportation	
5.		Reusing abandoned areas before building in new areas
6.	To reduce air pollution	
7.		
8. Paths for pedestrians and cyclists		

**2** Match the words to the right definition.

1. transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. To supply plants with water.
2. irrigate	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. A strip of ground that people walk along.
3. route	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. The moving of goods or people from one place to another
4. path	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. A person who is walking, especially in a town.
5. pedestrian	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. The ability to move freely or be easily moved.
6. mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. A narrow way from one place to another.