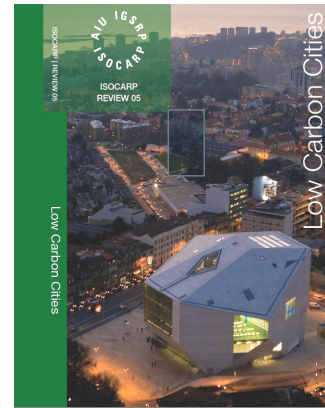


## ISOCARP Review 05 Low Carbon Cities

edited by Chris Gossop and Fernando Brandão Alves



The World's Cities face huge challenges arising from the effects of climate change. Tackling this issue is going to require an unprecedented level of international co-operation to bridge the gap between our rapid development, on the one hand, and, on the other, the need to prevent the Earth's average temperature rising by no more than 2° C above the preindustrial level. The developed world, in particular, will need to find ways of moving rapidly towards low carbon economies in which greenhouse gas emissions are a fraction of what they are now. What is clear is that action at the level of the city and the city region will form a major part of any solution.

ISOCARP's latest publication *Low Carbon Cities* looks at the role of spatial planning and effective city management in the drive to bring this about. How can we most effectively use planning, how can we best adapt our present planning techniques and how can we secure and deliver the low carbon cities of tomorrow? The book presents a series of case studies, including some which focus on individual cities and city regions, and others which seek to link action on the cities with the broader national and international picture.

Thus, *Low Carbon Cities* starts with two articles by international agencies, the European Environment Agency and UN HABITAT, which provide the broader perspective. Among the other papers, The Netherlands 2020 reviews the efforts of that country to plan at various levels for a lower carbon future, while essays on Cambridge, Portland Metropolitan Region and Greater Perth explore what can be achieved at the level of the city-region. Other papers cover energy planning at the community level, ways in which cities can counter the growing incidence of the urban heat islands and specific low carbon development schemes. The book concludes with the main findings of a comparative study of the policy responses to climate change within a range of individual countries.

This beautifully illustrated 260 page book (with an accompanying CD on the comparative study) will be important reading for anyone seeking to learn more about the role of spatial planning in the pursuit of the low carbon cities of tomorrow.

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