

Special Issue

Sustainable Smart Cities: Planning and Operation

Message from the Guest Editors

Increasing environmental awareness and concern, urbanization and technological development has resulted in an urgent need and opportunity to rethink how we construct and manage our cities. In recent decades, these interlinked issues' developments have started to converge under the new heading of smart sustainable cities. Smart cities can be defined as "places where information technology is combined with infrastructure, architecture, everyday objects, and even our own bodies to address social, economic and environmental problems". The origin of the concept of smart cities can be traced back to at least the smart growth movement of the late 1990s. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

- The concept of "needs", in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

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