

VISIONS OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

In 2004, International Sustainable Solutions Inc. organized two urban sustainability study tours of Sweden and Denmark for real estate developers, architects, planners, engineers and others. The intent of the tours was to influence the further implementation of sustainability measures in the Cascadia region, which encompasses Vancouver, BC, Seattle, WA and Portland, OR. Already several initiatives are underway as a direct result of these tours. For more information on future tours and events, go to www.i-sustain.com.

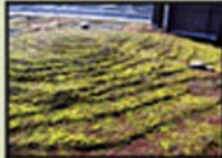
What if city centers were people friendly?



People in Sweden and Denmark love to shop, but they particularly love to shop along the many walking streets. In the 1960s the idea of pedestrian-only streets seemed un-Scandinavian - something for the French or Italians. Now Scandinavians can't imagine what city life would be without them.



What if the roof you looked over from your office was covered with flowering mosses?



As anyone knows who has to look down on an ordinary rooftop, they blight our cityscape. Green roofs (which depending on the plants are not always green, but red, brown and other colors) provide stormwater relief, increased building insulation, prolonged roof life, and beauty.



What if we could become energy independent in large part through renewable sources?



In 1970, Denmark imported all for 98% of its energy needs. In reaction, to the oil embargo, Denmark embarked on a quest for energy independence and developed super efficient combined heat and power plants, wind energy, and energy extraction from municipal waste. Today, Denmark is a net exporter of energy, and renewable technology is its leading export.



What if stormwater was taken out of pipes and brought to surface in ways that were enjoyable to look at and experience?



Natural drainage systems reduce the amount of stormwater entering combined waste and sewage plants. (is this what they are called?) An existing neighborhood in Västerås, Sweden was renovated so that stormwater, which had caused annual flooding in basement apartments, instead became a source of pleasure for people and a habitat for animals.



What if over 65% of commuters got to work by walking, bicycling or public transportation?

In Copenhagen, 1/3 of workers use bicycles, 1/3 use public transportation and 1/3 use cars. Although, the mix is dependent on local conditions, Northwest cities can achieve the same total reduction in car usage.



Atelier Jones, Inc.

Northrup & Associates

Fort Blakely

CANDELA

carlson

ENVIROLINE/ORTEN/UNIVERSITY

US

SE NC

grnNRG Consulting Inc.

Milliken

SE

MITHUN

SPARLING

SE

VULCAN

WildLands, Inc.

For more information about these photos, and the concepts they present, go to the International Sustainable Solutions Learning Center at www.i-sustain.com