

★ **Life after Carbon: The Next Global Transformation of Cities**

Peter Plastrik

John Cleveland

Island Press (Dec 4, 2018)

Hardcover \$35.00 (304pp)

978-1-61091-849-7

Peter Plastrik and John Cleveland's *Life after Carbon* is a highly engaging, forward-looking study of how modern cities are innovating to survive.

This superb book looks at the evolution of the world's cities and their challenging future. It is organized into three cohesive parts: a survey of "urban climate innovation laboratories," the examination of four specific ideas that represent modern city innovation, and a bold perspective on how these ideas will help set the course for cities of the future.

Outstanding examples depict the many innovative ways that some of the world's cities are already positioning themselves to meet challenges like climate change and urban congestion. Throughout the text and in sidebars, the book refers to initiatives by cities in North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and the Far East. These illustrations effectively demonstrate the optimistic view that major global cities are already innovating, primarily in the area of climate change, but also in urban infrastructure, transportation, resource consumption, and waste disposal. The stories are powerful themselves, but the book takes them further by incorporating them into specific areas that show how cities can use innovative thinking to create jobs, generate "urban abundance," protect urban life, and meet future requirements.

While "future think" permeates the book, its third part is the most ambitious and prophetic. It offers a hopeful view of the future, wherein urban "greening," autonomous vehicles, and renewable energy may contribute to cities' ultimate survival.

A book that exudes passion, enthusiasm, and optimism for the future, *Life after Carbon* is essential reading for anyone with a stake in the development of tomorrow's cities.

BARRY SILVERSTEIN (November/December 2018)

Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The publisher of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the publisher for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.