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ECO-VILLAGES TO JUST CITIES: AN ASSESSMENT OF FREIBURG AND ISLE OF EIGG

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As well as aspiring to a healthy environment, environmental justice aims for an equitable distribution of environmental goods and protection from environmental harms for all socioeconomic groups; and fair, participatory and inclusive structures and processes of environmental decision making.
Eco-’places’

- Strong local economy
- Carbon efficient
- Good transportation
- Resource conservation
- Mixed communities
- Governance and participation, etc.

http://emcentre.com/FocusAreaimages/e6e3abc2-17c9-408e-aacd-24d7f47b8ad4_big.jpg
Freiburg

http://www.voyagesphotosmanu.com/Complet/images/Map_of_Germany.gif
'For me, it was an adventure. We already had a neighbourhood when we moved in because the families in our apartments knew each other before; we'd planned all of this for two years, and that is a very fine quality of life. Our vision was kindergartens, schools, a tram to the city, to live on the border of the city, but in the beginning many things did not exist. People needed advice on how life should be, but they brought their own ideas, too.’

Andreas, who moved to Freiburg with his wife and three children from a village north of Freiburg to be part of the social experiment.
Isle of Eigg

http://www.scotland-info.co.uk/small-is.gif
The design chosen uses a 100 kW micro-hydro system to provide the bulk of the power, with 10 kWp of solar photovoltaics and four 6 kW wind turbines to help in periods of low rainfall. To smooth supply and demand, a bank of lead-acid batteries is used with sufficient capacity to operate the island’s grid for 24 hours. Two 64 kW diesel generators, operating alternately to provide redundancy, provide backup power supply, but are typically used to provide less than 10% of the electricity used over a year.
“We only have 5 kW, so you can’t use the washing machine, TV, computer and heater at the same time.”

Megan, primary school pupil

“A community-led approach to saving energy works better than legislating from the top down, as people are involved.”

Simon Helliwell, local builder
It was Lefebvre (1996) who proposed the inclusion of all city users within the space of the city, regardless of their cultural differences, he called that concept the “Right to the city” and it created a snowball effect that merged with the concept of sustainability, generating a set of tools, strategies and concepts to transform urban spaces into places of justice, equity, sustainability, enjoyment, places where higher quality of life is possible for at least the majority of their inhabitants.
Martha Nussbaum’s capabilities approach

The capabilities approach offers a way to devise rules that can govern the evaluation of urban policy and prove content to the demands of urban movements.

Capabilities don’t describe how people actually function but rather what they have the opportunity to do.
Thank you!

Obrigado!

Gracias!

Merci!

Danke!