

**15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference  
July 5-8, 2009**

***"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analysing the implementation of  
innovations and governance for Sustainable Development"***

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Track nr 3A:** *Sustainable and Healthy Cities: urban development, health risks and spatial planning: Compact city debates – Sustainable development and urban housing - construction*

**Track chairs:** Prof. Peter Driessen (Utrecht University, the Netherlands), Dr. Leendert van Bree (PBL, the Netherlands)

Humans have build (complex) cities through a culmination of thousands of years of economical, technical and social development with all achievements associated with it. As cities also happen to be the place where (increasingly) most people live, questions can be raised as to whether urban quality of life also shows this positive development and whether urban planning and governance offer conditions favourable for sustainable and healthy cities.

Substantial improvements in environmental quality have taken place over the last decades and centuries. Through economic growth, mobility increases, energy consumption, and population changes, the quality of the environment in urban and regional areas continues, however, to be of concern for human health. In addition, besides improving environmental quality, people also consider liveability and quality of life as important elements of their community and housing conditions. Moreover, also integral development of economic and social-cultural vitality together with ecological sustainability has become a multidisciplinary issue of modern governance for the (renewal of the) built environment in an urbanizing and globalizing world.

Governance of urban and regional environmental quality has therefore shown a gradual change from generic, sectoral- and norm-based planning to more decentralized and integrated forms of planning and governance. Planners have been given more freedom in formulating area-specific environmental ambitions that are (more) based on existing functions and characteristics of urban areas. Vice versa, planners are (increasingly) stimulated to take environmental health, quality of life and sustainability conditions and ambitions as guiding principles for further spatial developments in urban areas.

The aim of developing sustainable and healthy cities is to overcome conflicting goals in environmental, urban governance and spatial planning policies and to better integrate these policies towards sustainable urban planning. Further insight is required for better understanding what governance strategies are favourable for promoting environmental policy integration in urban and spatial planning and under what conditions the goal of developing sustainable and healthy cities is achieved.

Participants of the conference are invited to present their studies and views on integrated development of (compact) cities and the built environment improving environmental health, quality of life, and sustainability. Special attention will be paid to targeted integration of (different) urban development and spatial planning policies.

Please look at the detailed instructions and deadlines for submitting your abstract and paper, using the [Submission & guidelines](#) button at the left side.