

## *Foreword*

Green growth has been a strategic pillar of the OECD's work since 2009, when OECD member countries mandated the organisation to develop a *Green Growth Strategy*. Green growth has entered almost all areas of work across the OECD, including the Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development. The directorate's mission is to help governments at all levels design and implement strategic, evidence-based and innovative policies to strengthen public governance; respond effectively to diverse and disruptive economic, social and environmental challenges; and deliver on governments' commitments to their citizens.

This publication is the final report of the OECD Green Cities Programme, initiated by the 2010 OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers in Paris, and presents the project's main findings and policy recommendations. The aim of the programme is to better understand the concept of green growth in cities; the potential of urban policies for urban and national green growth; and to inform national, sub-national and municipal governments as they seek to address economic and environmental challenges by pursuing green growth. This report also contributes to the *OECD Green Growth Studies* series and joins a thematic work stream that includes the recent publications *Linking Renewable Energy to Rural Development* (2012), *Compact City Policies: A Comparative Assessment* (2012) and *Cities and Climate Change* (2010). The focus of this study is on OECD member countries and recommendations are primarily addressed to policy makers in OECD countries. Numerous findings and recommendations are nonetheless valuable for non-member countries, notably for those with high levels and rates of urbanisation.

*Green Growth in Cities* synthesises findings and evidence from six in-depth case studies of urban green growth policies carried out in 2011 and 2012: four at the city level (Paris, Chicago, Stockholm and Kitakyushu) and two national studies (China and Korea). It also draws on data from the *OECD Metropolitan Database*. The analytical approach for the case studies was developed in the *OECD Regional Development Working Paper*, "Cities and Green Growth: A Conceptual Framework". The work of the OECD Green Cities Programme benefited from guidance by the OECD Territorial Development Policy Committee and its Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas, and profited from the active co-operation of the local and national government teams for the Green Cities Programme's case studies.



**From:**  
**Green Growth in Cities**

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264195325-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2013), "Foreword", in *Green Growth in Cities*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264195325-1-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org). Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).