

ONE GREAT PLANET

ONE GREAT FIGHT

to win the UK Title in

SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE URBAN FORM



CASSIUS COMPACT CITY VS SUGAR SPRAWL SUBURB

FIGHTS WON: 8
COMPACT's Claims:

HIGH DENSITY POPULATION
MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT
EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE
PROMOTES WALKING & CYCLING
HIGH SOCIAL INTERACTION
BETTER ACCESS TO FACILITIES
BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT
ENERGY EFFICIENT

FIGHTS WON: 7
SPRAWL's Claims:

LOW DENSITY POPULATION
SINGLE FUNCTION DEVELOPMENT
SUBURBAN AND SEMI-RURAL LIVING
LESS CONGESTION AND SEGREGATION
LOWER SOCIAL INTERACTION
GREATER ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE
CAR DOMINATES

What is SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY? Social sustainability is concerned with whether society's resources are fairly distributed within and between individuals and communities. It is also concerned with the continued viability, health and function of communities.

What do we mean by URBAN FORM? Urban form is the physical or built environment you see around you. Urban form refers to urban size, shape, density, land use, housing types, urban (street) layout and design, and the amount of open and green space. The dominant urban forms that have developed over time include the COMPACT CITY and the SUBURB. Currently, scientists disagree and are unsure which types of urban form are the most sustainable.

Very little is known about the potential of social sustainability to be affected by the physical urban form. I am interested in different urban forms at the smaller scale of the neighbourhood for example, an inner city location, an outer suburban area and an area situated at an intermediate position. As land use is a key element of urban form, my research investigates the accessibility and provision of local neighbourhood services and how the configuration of both public and private services impacts on the social cohesion of these communities.

Globalisation combined with environmental concerns is radically altering the role and structure of our cities.

Is the maintenance of our social values, traditions and institutions assured?

Does it matter?

Government policy and development should not just be about restricting land coverage but how our land is being used and distributed. Does your physical environment impact on your quality of life?

Because of concerns over the environment and problems of land demand and supply, UK policy now promotes the compact city. But the research community is unable to say with any confidence which policies will have what effects. Is policy disregarding our preferred urban form: the suburbs?