

# THRIVABILITY MATTERS

Newsletter and updates



Hello!

September highlights UN SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, focusing on inclusive, safe, and resilient urban spaces. Key issues include slums, clean transport, and air pollution, with an emphasis on fostering shared spaces that promote sustainability.

THRIVE TALKS: EPISODE 02

## BUILDING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES



*"How do we slow down what matters the most and speed up what benefits change and progress? We don't want to impede progress, but we are seeking reconnection to ourselves, to each other, and with the world" — John Maeda, American technologist, designer, and Vice President of Design and Artificial Intelligence at Microsoft.*

In this month's story, *Building a Greener Tomorrow: Max and Emma's Eco Home*, we imagine and explore the transformative impact of **infrastructure on communities**. Through the eyes of young Emma and her father Max, we see how a family conversation can open endless possibilities to improve our lifestyle, construct our shelters, and enhance our living spaces. *Building a Greener Tomorrow* emphasises the vital role of sustainability, innovation, and infrastructure in creating a thrivable future for all, starting within our households.

Free to our members, in this issue:

- Building a Greener Tomorrow: Max and Emma's Eco Home
- Thriver's Voice: AFRICA 2063
- This Month: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Globalisation
- What's next: No Poverty & Zero Hunger // Innovative Policies
- Thrivability Spotlight: Building With Purpose – Case Study Insights: Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Your Home
- Your feedback matters: Tell us what you like to see here



## **Building a Greener Tomorrow: Max and Emma's Eco Home**

Max and Emma were excited to build their eco-friendly house.

"First, we pick the right place," Max said, pointing to a sunny spot. "Sunlight lets us install solar panels for electricity, and big windows provide natural light."

"What materials do we use?", Emma asked.

Max smiled. "Bamboo, recycled wood, and clay. Bamboo grows fast and doesn't harm the environment, and recycled wood gives new life to old materials."

"We don't have to cut more trees. So, how do we keep the house warm or cool?", Emma asked.

Max added. "Natural insulation like sheep's wool and recycled paper, plus a reflective roof, will help. Thick curtains can trap heat or block it out, saving energy."

Emma then pondered and asked, "How do we save water?"

So Max drew a diagram. "We'll collect rainwater for the garden and toilets, use greywater recycling for sinks and showers, and install low-flow toilets."

Emma grinned and enquired. "How can we handle trash?"

Max explained. "We'll have recycling bins to sort our trash. The goal is to reuse and recycle as much as possible."

By the end of the day, Max and Emma stood back, excited about their eco-friendly house plan—one that would benefit them and the planet for years to come.







## AFRICA 2063

As we all know, meaningful change doesn't just happen overnight. Lofty goals must be set, meticulous plans put into action, and incremental improvements must be realised. But what if your ability to reach those goals was limited by your environment — by a lack of public transport, libraries, schools, and hospitals? This is a common limiting factor in Africa, and it's exactly what Agenda 2063 aims to solve.

Agreed to by the African Union in January 2015, *Agenda 2063* is a set of initiatives and flagship projects to transform Africa into a global powerhouse by 2063. It aims to achieve major goals such as inclusive and *sustainable socio-economic development*, *eradicating poverty*, and *strengthening cultural identity*.

Agenda 2063 intends to lay the foundation for future success, replicating the positive impact the European Union (EU) had on post-World War II Europe. Projects like building high-speed rail connecting African capitals, establishing an African free-trade area, and allowing for the free movement of labour aiming to lift all boats with the rising tide.

Large-scale *urban transformation* has been achieved before in Lagos, Nigeria. Lagos has evolved from a city struggling with overpopulation and poor planning to one of the most impressive megacities in Africa. Contributing significantly to Nigeria's GDP, Lagos is a prime example of how *sustainable infrastructure projects* can be achieved.

The vision of Agenda 2063 is not just a dream; it is a **roadmap to a brighter future**. Deeply interconnected with the **SDGs**, these initiatives aim to address immediate challenges and create long-term solutions benefiting future generations.

***“Agenda 2063 will lead to a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development - progress which is people driven.”***

- Melanie Wangui Kamau, Kenya (Team Assistant at THRIVE)

## THIS MONTH

### September's Focus - Sustainable Cities and Communities // Globalisation

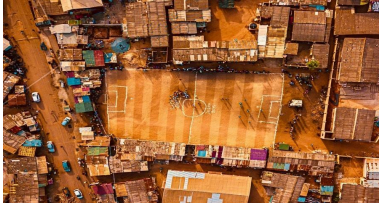
In September, the focus is on Sustainable Cities and Communities in the context of globalisation, emphasising the economic and environmental gains of sustainable urban development. **Green cities** offer substantial economic benefits, from job creation to energy savings, as outlined in **The Economic Benefits of Creating Green Cities**. The Global Environment Facility plays a pivotal role in supporting cities' sustainability by funding projects related to renewable energy, transport, and waste management. Learn more in **5 Ways the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Makes Cities Sustainable**.

Smart cities are leveraging **12 innovative solutions** to combat climate change, including the use of **smart construction materials** and **community solar projects**. The **Living Buildings Challenge** is driving eco-friendly architecture, while **green spaces improve community health**, offering residents places to reconnect with nature.

Finally, sustainable urban development also hinges on the right policies. Explore best practices in **community sustainability initiatives** and projects like **sustainable high-rise buildings**.

For more ways to engage in sustainable city projects, visit the THRIVE Project **Smart Communities Outreach Cluster**, where you can join efforts in water, energy, waste, sanitation, housing, and mobility solutions.

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## **Urban Slums: How to Sustainably Fix the Problem**

Urban slums are called different things in different places. Favelas in Brazil, townships in South Africa, villa miser in Argentina. There is a sensitivity around the use of the word and its place in politically correct and socially reformative language.

[Read More →](#)



## **Vertical Farming: The Urban Plant Factories**

Vertical farming involves growing crops in vertically stacked layers under controlled conditions. These farms usually grow crops without soil or light. Vertical farms are also known as plant factories.

[Read More →](#)



## **Problems With Rapid Urbanization: Disaster Risk and Vulnerability**

Rapid urbanization creates many problems. It is both the cause of many disasters and a hindrance to recovery for many communities, especially in developing countries. The UN population fund predicts that, by 2050, 86% of the population in developed nations will live in urban areas.

[Read More →](#)



## How climate change affects communities

As the world becomes more urbanised, design and management of cities will play an increasingly important role in mitigating how climate change affects communities. Sustainable urban development practices can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while also making cities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

[Read More →](#)



## Desperation: The World's Most Overpopulated Cities

Currently, 4.3 billion people, or 55% of the global population, reside in cities. By 2050, this is expected to increase to 80%. Although people who live in cities typically have a higher quality of life, many developing countries have sizable slums where people are essentially cut off from resources, employment opportunities, and government services.

[Read More →](#)







## From Sustainable Homes to Cities

On September 17, 2024, the Thrivability Matters Webinar explored the essential connections between **SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities & Communities** // Globalisation. The discussion highlighted Circular Cities, the critical role of developing sustainable urban environments and the impactful steps individuals can take. Additionally, the webinar explored the importance of a transdisciplinary approach, illustrated through case studies on marine resilience and sustainable communities.

Our speakers - Dr. Nicole Garofano, Head of Circular Economy Development at **Planet Ark**; Dwarkadas Suresh, known as **Solar Suresh**, a green enthusiast from Chennai, India; and Sathish Moses, a transdisciplinary architect at **SMLA.Life** - shared their expertise with a global audience through our online event. The live-streamed session was graciously hosted by Dr. Morris Fedeli, **THRIVE Project** Lead and expertly moderated by Dr. Karan Kapoor from the THRIVE Project's research team, who guided a compelling panel discussion. This activity is supported by our **Smart Communities** outreach cluster who welcomes members of the public to join in collaborations.

At the close of the webinar, we were thrilled to announce the winner of our THRIVIA segment! Gweal Monykuany from Finland received 10 indigenous seedlings for asking the best question during the live event. Gweal asked, *Europe is now ramping up its investment in defense spending, which is both heavily fossil fuel-dependent and destructive if used. What can we, as citizens, do to promote sustainability in this societal climate?*





To find out the answer to this and explore other key topics discussed during the event, we invite you to read the article and watch the webinar recording. Click [here](#) to discover the key takeaways and expert insights from the Q&A session!

**Register Today and Save the Date!**





### **Building With Purpose – Case Study Insights: Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Your Home**

In alignment with UN SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, this month we turn our attention to sustainable construction and its vital role in reducing the environmental impact of our homes. As cities grow, the demand for *eco-friendly housing solutions* becomes more urgent. The *Building with Purpose* initiative offers practical, evidence-based strategies to lower the carbon footprint of residential homes through the adoption of *sustainable building materials and energy-efficient designs*.

One key approach is the reduction of *embodied carbon*, which refers to the carbon emissions from the production and transport of materials used in construction. By choosing *renewable* and low-impact resources like timber and lightweight cladding, builders can significantly lower the carbon emissions associated with new developments. Additionally, focusing on operational carbon, which involves the energy consumed during a building's lifetime, allows homeowners to reduce their long-term environmental footprint. Incorporating *solar panels*, natural insulation, and rainwater harvesting systems are just a few ways we can optimise energy efficiency while maintaining comfort.

As *cities continue to expand*, it's crucial that we rethink how we build and live. Through *Building With Purpose*, we envision communities that are resilient, inclusive, and sustainable, starting with the places we call home. Let's continue to create homes that are not only eco-friendly but also help secure a thriving planet for generations to come.

Read the in depth analysis in the whitepaper [HERE](#) to gain more insights.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**WEBINAR**  LIVE WEBINAR

SDG1  No Poverty

SDG2  Zero Hunger

IP  Innovative Policies

 TUESDAY  
15 OCTOBER 2024

 6:00–7:30 PM  
(UTC+10)

<https://ThrivabilityMatters.Online>

**REGISTER NOW**



### No Poverty & Zero Hunger // Innovative Policies

*"Hunger is more than a lack of food—it is a terrible injustice"*

– Ban Ki-moon, Former UN- Secretary-General

**Register today** for the next webinar (you will receive a link):

**When:** Tuesday, 15th October 2024, at 6:00 PM (UTC + 10)

**Theme:** No Poverty and Zero Hunger // Innovative Policies

Don't miss this opportunity to engage in a discussion about **SDG 1- No Poverty**, **SDG 2 - Zero Hunger**, and Innovative Policies. By streamlining **resource allocation**, enhancing social protection systems, and fostering **thrivability**, we can build a world where **everyone has the opportunity** to lead a better, happier life. These efforts are essential for improving **food security**, creating **economic opportunities**, and ensuring access to vital services for all. By focusing on these areas, we can drive meaningful change and make a step towards **reducing poverty and hunger** worldwide.

Join us as we dive into the topics of No Poverty and Zero Hunger, and explore how we can be part of the movement to eliminate hunger and poverty with:

1. Expert insights and practical solutions delivered to you for FREE
2. Interactive and engaging sessions to clear all your doubts
3. Opportunity to become an agent of change in the world we wish to see

**Register Today and Save the Date!**



## YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

As we endeavour to elevate your experience, your feedback holds immense value for us. Feel free to spare a moment to convey your thoughts. Whether it's a suggestion, comment, or critique, we eagerly anticipate your input. Email us at [tmn@ThrivabilityMatters.Org](mailto:tmn@ThrivabilityMatters.Org). Until then, do keep on thriving.

THRIVE Project is an independent research, education and advocacy group providing the latest information from the natural and social sciences on the means to achieve a sustainable society and thrivable future.

THRIVE aims to exhibit the most effective pathways to a sustainable planet. We want to instil the concept of "thrivability" (beyond sustainability) in human communities. We arm individuals and organisations with the knowledge they need to make sustainable changes in the pursuit of prosperity for all.



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