



People Habitat: 25 Ways to Think About Greener, Healthier Cities

By F. Kaid Benfield

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With over 80 percent of Americans now living in cities and suburbs, getting our communities right has never been more important, more complicated, or more fascinating. Longtime sustainability leader Kaid Benfield shares 25 enlightening and entertaining essays about the wondrous ecology of human settlement, and how to make it better for both people and the planet.

People Habitat explores topics as diverse as “green” housing developments that are no such thing, the tricky matter of gentrifying inner cities, why people don’t walk much anymore, and the relationship between cities and religion. Written with intellect, insight, and from-the-heart candor, each real-world story in *People Habitat* will make you see our communities in a new light.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Kaid Benfield's writings about the shape and strength of our communities constantly challenge readers to think about issues and problems in new ways. He correctly reminds us that 'green' is not always green, 'sustainable' is often not, and 'smart growth' is more than a tag to be hung on a new project like a sales ticket."

(Hon. Parris N. Glendening *Governor of Maryland, 1995-2003*)

"Kaid Benfield, like Jane Jacobs, is a talented writer who isn't burdened by preconceptions or jargon, who can explain the ideas of others or express his own in a style that is accessible and comprehensible. These 25 essays are not just about cities; they are about making sense of the way we live."

(Lloyd Alter *Managing Editor, Treehugger.com*)

"Kaid Benfield, an environmentalist who loves cities, exposes the phoniness of claiming 'green' status for buildings that can only be reached by car. If you love cities, you'll love Kaid's book."

(Hon. John O. Norquist *former Mayor of Milwaukee; author of The Wealth of Cities*)

"I strongly encourage anyone with even a passing interest in the quality of the place where they live to read Kaid Benfield's writing. His framing of the ecology of 'people habitat' is immensely useful in celebrating how an enormous number of small actions to create healthier local places can contribute to a healthier planet."

(Keith Laughlin *President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy*)

"Reading this book was like sitting around a fire talking about city life with an old friend. If you have not read Kaid before, he will quickly feel like an old friend, talking directly from and to the heart, getting to the essence of what makes places that we love and what we can do to make more places like them."

(*TreeHugger*)

"...Benfield shows he is no dogmatic New Urbanist; he sees the value of design and nature."

(*ASLA's The Dirt blog*)

"It's truly a delightful and leisurely read, and... points to how we need to get over our addiction to fossil fuels, invest our time and thought in how we build our primary communities, and the importance we place on preserving not just the natural world, but our cities, for future generations."

(*Daily KOS*)

"On the whole, people who care about the shaping of the built environment—from neighborhoods to regions—will find Benfield's book stimulating and immensely readable. And more than that: wise."

(*Better! Cities & Towns*)

"...this is the discourse we desperately need in planning and designing our cities..."

(*Sustainable Cities Collective*)

"*People Habitat* promises to give us 25 ways to look at greener, healthier cities, but as anyone who has read

one of Kaid Benfield's books, articles, or blog posts knows, he delivers at least that many insights on every page. He doesn't just love cities—he gets them, in all their social, demographic, economic, and almost always paradoxical and volatile complexity."

(Richard Florida *co-founder and Editor-at-Large, The Atlantic Cities*)

About the Author

F. Kaid Benfield is Senior Counsel for Environmental Strategies at PlaceMakers LLC. He is also a senior adviser to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and an adjunct professor at the George Washington University School of Law. Kaid is a co-founder, LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system; co-founder, Smart Growth America coalition; author of several books on smart growth and sprawl; and a regular contributor to several publications including *The Huffington Post*, the *Sustainable Cities Collective*, and *Better! Cities & Towns*. Based in Washington, DC, Kaid was selected as one of the world's "top urban thinkers" on the city planning website *Planetizen* and one of "the most influential people in sustainable planning and development" by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Crow:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They can be reading whatever they take because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Consider the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, man feel need book if they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you should have this People Habitat: 25 Ways to Think About Greener, Healthier Cities.

Ashley Taylor:

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or information even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This People Habitat: 25 Ways to Think About Greener, Healthier Cities is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Willard Griffin:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a book we can know everything you want. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This publication People Habitat: 25 Ways to Think About Greener, Healthier Cities was filled about science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has several feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book which you wanted.

Thomas Towne:

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