From seeding to accelerating low-carbon transitions in cities

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Why acceleration?

2 main reasons: progress 'on the ground'/urgency of the challenge; and acceleration so far under-theorised

'Unsustainable' world Transition More 'sustainable' world

Acceleration?
Local initiatives as key change agents

Transition Initiatives
Promoting environmental sustainability
From seeding to accelerating low-carbon transitions in cities

What are the key mechanisms?

What are the messages to take home for policy and practice?
Key Messages

#1: INSTITUTIONAL SPACES
Provide institutional spaces for connecting and creating partnerships between different urban change agents.

#2: COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE CULTURE
Establish and foster a new governance culture towards collaboration and adaptive learning for urban sustainability transitions.
The Budapest bike movement is back and bigger than ever.

Key Messages

#3: ACCESS TO PUBLIC URBAN AREAS
The access to and use of public urban areas and vacant spaces – land and buildings – as experimental sites are a critical resource for urban sustainability transition initiatives.

#4: URBAN KNOWLEDGE AS A CAPITAL
Acceleration requires engaging with and capitalising on existing and diverse knowledge in the city-region.
Key Messages

#5: CONTEXT OF OPPORTUNITIES
Governance contexts provide opportunities for transition initiatives to instrumentalise.

#6: SOCIAL DIVERSITY AS POWER
Cultivate urban governance that embraces social diversity and plurality to effectively tap into the diverse capacities of local people.

Potential roles for civil society in sustainability transitions

1. Pioneering new solutions and transforming systems
2. Providing essential social services, filling the void left by a retreating welfare state
3. Creating sustainable solutions through not engaging with the wider society
Key Messages

#7: NEW VALUE CREATION/ENUMERATION
Explore and support new ways of multiple, reciprocal and collective value creation since shifting to a low carbon society will also require changing the logic of what we value and how.
Key messages

1. Provide institutional spaces for connecting and creating partnerships between different urban change agents.
2. Establish and foster a new governance culture towards collaboration and adaptive learning for urban sustainability transitions.
3. The access to and use of public urban areas and vacant spaces – land and buildings – as experimental sites are a critical resource for urban sustainability transition initiatives.
4. Acceleration requires engaging with and capitalising on existing and diverse knowledge in the city-region.
5. Governance contexts provide opportunities for transition initiatives to instrumentalise.
6. Cultivate urban governance that embraces social diversity and plurality to effectively tap into the diverse capacities and passions of local people.
7. Explore and support new ways of multiple, reciprocal and collective value creation since shifting to a low carbon society will also require changing the logic of what we value and how.

"Transdisciplinary research must be supported through new sources of urban science funding and organizations. Existing knowledge should be synthesized and fed into policymaking at all levels."

"It is imperative to scale up urban research and foster a scientific leadership to direct and critique global urban policymaking."

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Thank you
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