

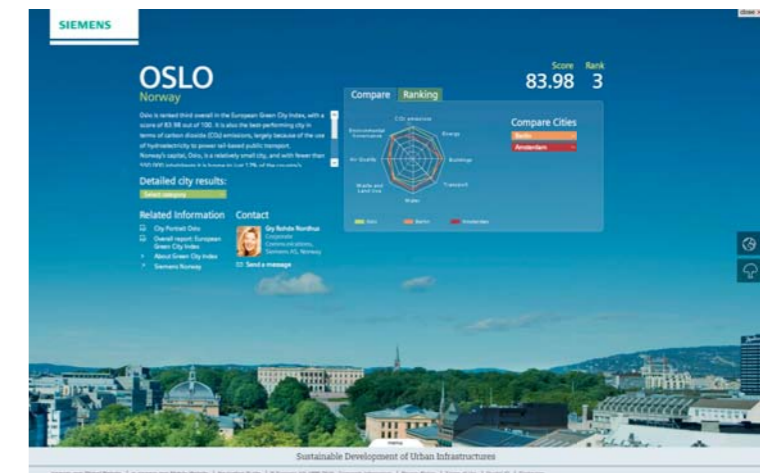
The “Greenest” Cities in Europe

The European Green City Index, a study of the Economist Intelligence Unit in cooperation with Siemens, compares the environmental performance of 30 leading cities from 30 European countries. The winner: Denmark’s capital, Copenhagen.

By Karen Stelzner

In Europe, 72 percent of the population lives in cities – with considerable consequences for the environment and equally serious challenges for the municipal authorities and residents. So how do the cities handle this huge responsibility? Siemens set out to find out, teaming up with the independent research firm Economist Intelligence Unit to score 30 cities in 30 European countries. They were assessed according to their performance and ambitions in the area of environmental and climate protection. In that context, 30 indicators in eight categories were established: CO₂ emissions, energy supply, buildings, transport, water, air quality, waste/land use, as well as environmental governance. “The European Green City index is, in this scope, so far an unparalleled ranking of the major European metropolises and offers insights into the strengths and weaknesses of each city,” says Stefan Denig, project manager of Siemens Corporate Communications. Copenhagen is the “greenest” major city in Europe. Denmark’s capital city scores top marks in all eight categories. In second place in the overall ranking is Stockholm, while Oslo takes third place. Next in line are Vienna and Amsterdam. Altogether, the Scandinavian cities occupy the top spots in the index. Here, protecting the environment has been a high priority for years. Energy-saving buildings, a well-established urban transportation system, and energy from renewable sources are already widespread in the region.

Photos: Siemens



More information on model projects, analyses of all 30 cities, and performance comparisons can be found on the Siemens website.

Hydro, Wind, and Methane

Oslo is a good example: The frontrunner in the CO₂ emissions category and energy supply already meets around 65 percent of its energy needs with renewable energy sources, a large part of this with hydroelectric power. This has a positive effect on the level of its CO₂ emissions: Oslo emits only 2.2 tons of CO₂ per capita annually – far below the overall European average of 8.5 tons.

As for Copenhagen, the city has set itself the ambitious goal of becoming CO₂ free by the year 2025 and is working toward that goal by expanding its offshore wind farms. In Stockholm, 80 percent of the inhabitants are supplied with environmentally friendly district heating, which is predominantly fed from renewable energy sources.

Istanbul, on the other hand, leads Europe in the amount of energy consumed per person. In the most populated city in the index, methane – originating in landfills – is used for generating energy. Around 100,000 households are supplied with energy this way – one of the largest projects of its kind in the world. Similarly, Vienna operates Europe’s largest biomass power plant, elevating the city to third place in the energy category.

Karen Stelzner is responsible for the Green City Index at Siemens.

Further Information

www.siemens.com/greencity-index

“Cities must be part of the solution if an urbanizing world is to grapple successfully with ecological challenges.”

European Green City Index