

REGULATING LAND USE FOR MORE COMPACT CITIES, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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The objectives of energy efficiency, economic growth & social inclusion are reinforcing and simultaneously achieved by compact urban forms

Economic geography, infrastructures and urban form are key drivers for urban Energy/GHG emissions

Economic Geography (trade, economic structure)

Income (consumption)

Technology: efficiency of energy end-use

(buildings, processes, vehicles, appliances)

Infrastructure and Urban Form

(energy supply infrastructure, transportation network, density, land use mix, accessibility)

Transportation modes and buildings

(choice of transport modes, building and site design)

Fuel substitution (imports)

Energy systems integration (co-generation, heat-cascading)

Urban renewables, urban afforestation

Adapted from IPCC, 2014 and GEA, 2013



of impact



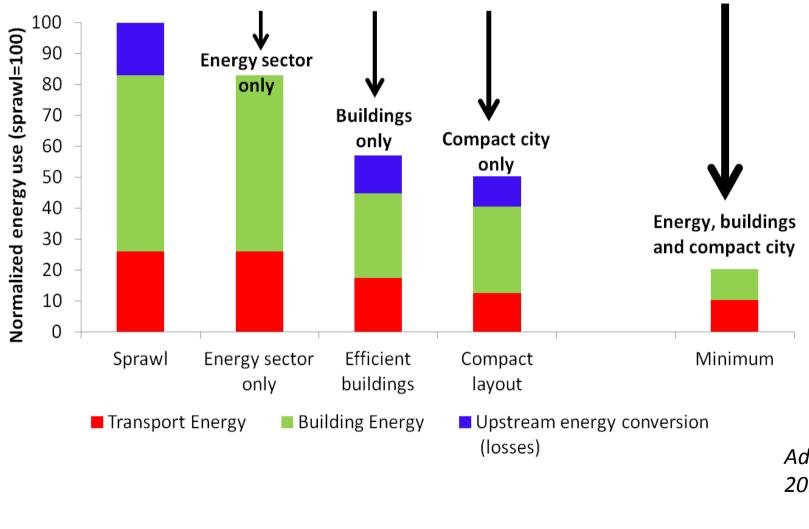








Compact urban form is the most powerful leverage for climate change mitigation





Adapted from GEA, 2013





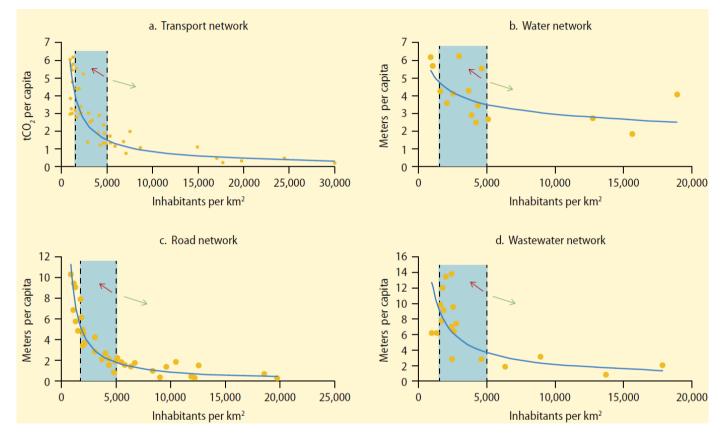








Low density and fragmentation increases infrastructure costs, energy consumptions and carbon emissions





From Paris or Manhattan (≈20,000 inhab/km²) to the average Chinese city (5,000 inhab/km²)

- Road network investment cost per capita + 300%
- Water network investment cost per capita + 40%
- Carbon emissions for transportation per capita + 150%

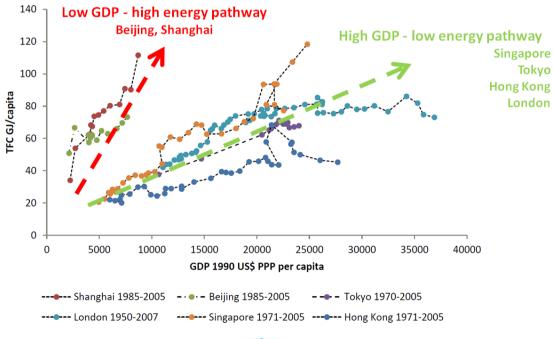




Undifferentiated road network investments induce urban sprawl

Massive investments in road networks infrastructures induce:

- Undifferentiated isotropic urban development
- Flat distribution of urban densities
- Flat distribution of land and real estate prices
- Waste of land
- Car dependency and congestion



They lock cities into a pathway of high energy intensity and low energy resilience, while jeopardizing the benefits of agglomeration economies





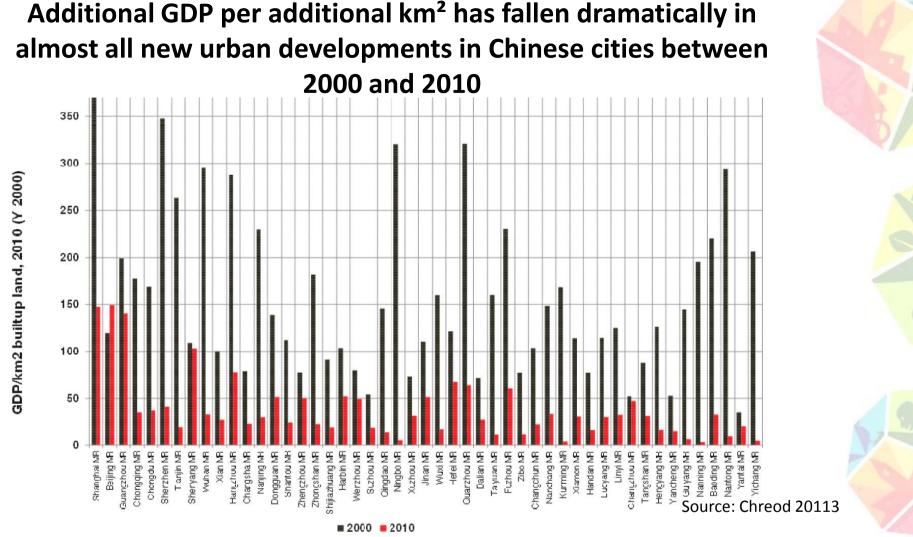












-60% productivity of land in Shanghai **Drop in marginal**

(2000-2010)



-90% productivity of land in Shenzhen



Drop in marginal

(2000-2010)



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Agenda for action

Articulating densities and transit through land use policies and regulations in order to increase urban sustainability, energy efficiency and long term value creation

Compact urban forms are articulated, accessible, diverse and adaptive

Articulated density

- Residential density matches with job density
- Human density matches with transit infrastructure capacity
- High gross built density
- High density of amenities

Accessibility and proximity

- Each part of the city is easily accessible
- Easy access to public transit infrastructures
- Seamlessly interconnected transit infrastructures
- Daily amenities accessible by foot (shops, health, education, culture, sport)
- Intense and connected street network (high number of intersections per km²)

Mixed use and adaptive

- Jobs, housing and retail are mixed on the city, district, community and building scale
- Land use is highly flexible





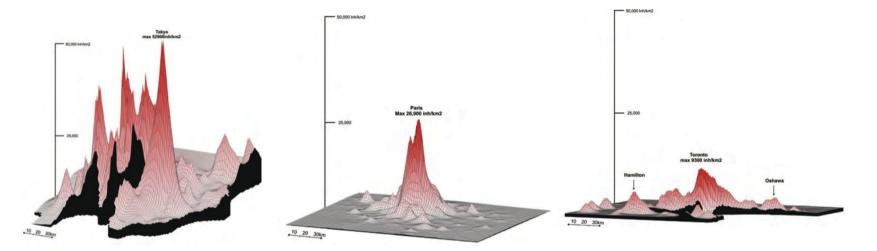








Efficient and resilient cities are not flat. They are sharp multi fractal landscapes.



Tokyo 4.9 tCO2e/cap 146 ktCO2e/US\$bn



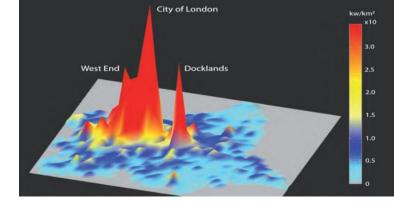
Toronto 11.6 tCO2e/cap 286 ktCO2e/US\$bn













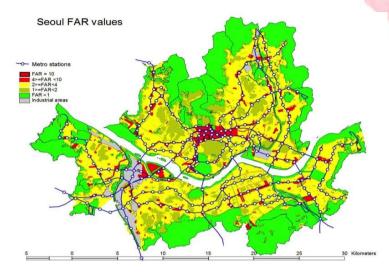






Smart investment in transit infrastructures induces long term value creation with climate and social cobenefits

The urban development model resting upon the articulation of transit and urban development has proven to be successful in terms of sustainability and economic productivity in many cities (Japan, South Korea, NYC, London or Hong Kong) This urban development model concentrates investments and land value creation around transit hubs instead of wasting land.



Articulated density in Seoul



Transit hub in Japan



Transit hub in China













Land reforms are key to support the articulation of density with transit

The legal, financial and regulatory framework relative to land use must support and encourage this momentum to make cities more compact, sustainable and successful.

Building on international experience, China has recently engaged into ambitious reforms of land use frameworks:

- Enforcing land price transparency and addressing distortions in land markets
- Avoid over-sizing of urban street grids, and foster the transition from superblocks to small block, with a finer subdivision of land. At the present time, land is subdivided into too large plots, which prevents a multiplicity of investors to enter the land market
- Allow the subdivision of superblocks into smaller plots to support infill development and reintensification
- Introduce fine grain mixed use regulation instead of large scale zoning
- Reevaluate rigid setback rules that contribute to urban sprawl and produce inefficient urban forms. Solar envelope strategies are a good alternative to rigid setback rules
- Replace green space requirements in the block (30%) by a proximity and accessibility requirements to essential daily urban amenities





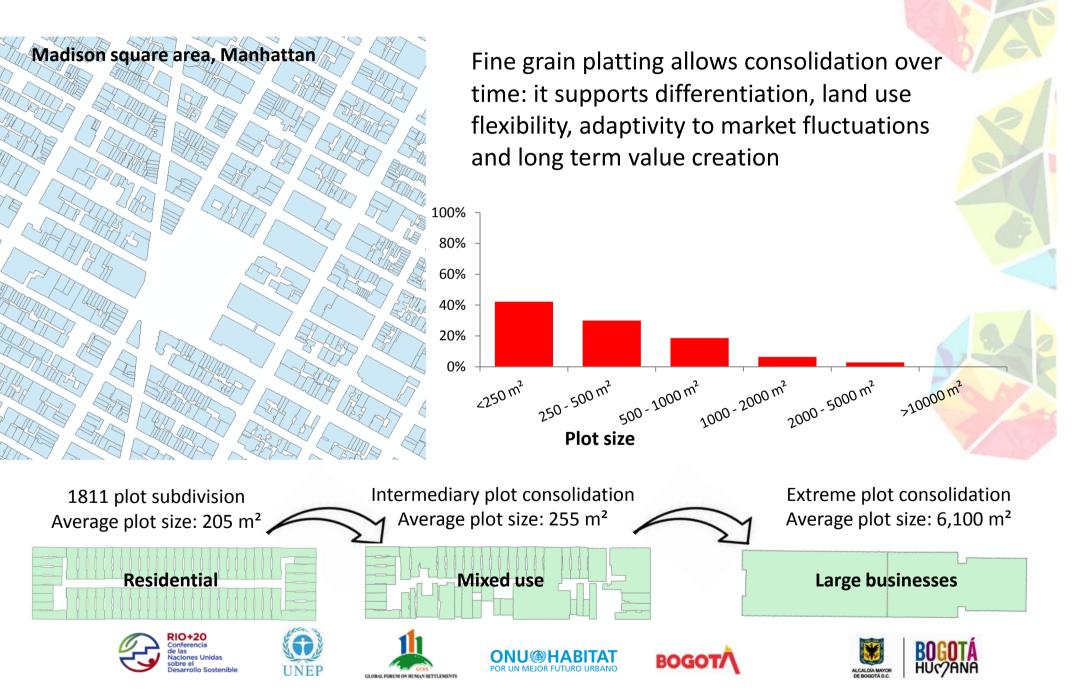








An exemple of land reform to increase urban flexibility and leverage investment opportunities: the role of platting



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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