

[PDF] Green Metropolis: Why Living Smaller, Living Closer, And Driving Less Are The Keys To Sustainability

David Owen - pdf download free book

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Author: David Owen

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Starred Review. While the conventional wisdom condemns it as an environmental nightmare, Manhattan is by far the greenest place in America, argues this stimulating eco-urbanist manifesto. According to Owen (*Sheetrock and Shellac*), staff writer at the *New Yorker*, New York City is a model of sustainability: its extreme density and compactness—and horrifically congested traffic—encourage a carfree lifestyle centered on walking and public transit; its massive apartment buildings use the heat escaping from one dwelling to warm the ones adjoining it; as a

result, he notes, New Yorkers' per capita greenhouse gas emissions are less than a third of the average American's. The author attacks the powerful anti-urban bias of American environmentalists like Michael Pollan and Amory Lovins, whose rurally situated, auto-dependent Rocky Mountain Institute he paints as an ecological disaster area. The environmental movement's disdain for cities and fetishization of open space, backyard compost heaps, locavorism and high-tech gadgetry like solar panels and triple-paned windows is, he warns, a formula for wasteful sprawl and green-washed consumerism. Owen's lucid, biting prose crackles with striking facts that yield paradigm-shifting insights. The result is a compelling analysis of the world's environmental predicament that upends orthodox opinion and points the way to practical solutions. (*Sept.*)

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Review A convincing case...Pugnacious and contrarian The New York Times Turns conventional wisdom on its head and takes a clear-eyed look at what 'green' might truly mean San Francisco Chronicle

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