

Living Sustainably in the Eco-villages of Sweden: A closer look at the Eco-city of Hammarby Sjöstad  
By Lindsey Gradeen '

In June of 2013, I travelled to Sweden to learn more about the development of rural, suburban, and urban eco-villages across the country. I chose to visit Sweden because the eco-village movement is said to have begun in Sweden in the 1980's through the development of cooperative housing formed around environmental principles. Eco-villages are defined as intentional residential areas that are most often

expertise of 29 different development and architectural firms, as well as financial contributions from public (€0.5 billion) and private (€3 billion) donors. In 2010 there was a recorded 17,000 people residing in Hammarby Sjöstad. It is project that by 2017 the development will be completed and there will be an estimated 24,000-30,000 people living within the eco-city. A 2009 survey revealed that 52% of residents used public transportation, 21% used a private vehicle as their main source of transportation while 27% were pedestrians or cyclists. While visiting the area I was able to easily use the public transportation system to get to and from as well as within the development. The area was also a very pedestrian and bike-friendly development which contained separate lanes for biking and walking as well as many pedestrian-only areas.

Upon visiting Hammarby Sjöstad, I arranged a meeting with two board members of the organization HS2020, a citizen lead initiative which pushes forward innovation and sustainability within the eco-city. The HS2020 members introduced me further to the Hammarby Model (Fig. 3), which is the model that regulates development and re-development within the area. The Hammarby Model addresses aspects of living using environmental principles which includes how the eco city will address waste, sewage, water, recycling and transportation. The model was built with the goal of achieving a 50% reduction in environmental impact compared to a normal district built in the same decade.

Figure 3. Everybody who lives in Hammarby Sjöstad is a part of an eco-cycle known as the Hammarby Model.

During my visit to the area, I was able to see some aspects of the Hammarby Model first-hand. This included: the use of green roofs to absorb rainwater; the use of a vacuum system for waste collection; rainwater and storm-water runoff system which filters water before it is brought into Hammarby Lak filt fo wu -0.0787 To

living and provided me with a comprehensive understanding of how a brownfield re-development can incorporate many environmentally sound features.



Figure 4. Environmental features of Hammarby Sjöstad.

I would like to thank the School of Urban and Regional Planning for providing students with the opportunity to travel to new and innovative environments to expand our understanding of planning principles and designs.

For more information on the three Ecovillages I visited please visit:

<http://www.hammarbysjostad.se/>

[http://www.habiter-autrement.org/04\\_co-housing/05\\_coh.htm](http://www.habiter-autrement.org/04_co-housing/05_coh.htm)

<http://www.hastekasen.se/>