



## Copernicus

1st  
edition

1st ed. 2016, XII, 348 p. 88  
illus., 72 illus. in color.

### Printed book

Softcover

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Softcover

ISBN 978-1-4939-3242-9

£ 24,99 | CHF 35,50 | 29,99 € |  
32,99 € (A) | 32,09 € (D)

Available

### Discount group

Springer Trade (T)

### Product category

Popular science

## Environment : Sustainable Development

Day, John W., Hall, Charles

# America's Most Sustainable Cities and Regions

## Surviving the 21st Century Megatrends

- Explains the emerging factors that will make cities and regions more or less livable in the new century
- Shows where your city or region ranks on a "sustainability" map of the United States
- Lists the pros and cons of living in large urban areas as the megatrends of the 21st century play out
- Describes how high energy costs and future resource scarcity will affect society at what ecologists call the "landscape level"
- Describes how climate change will impact different areas of North America

This book takes you on a unique journey through American history, taking time to consider the forces that shaped the development of various cities and regions, and arrives at an unexpected conclusion regarding sustainability. From the American Dream to globalization to the digital and information revolutions, we assume that humans have taken control of our collective destinies in spite of potholes in the road such as the Great Recession of 2007-2009. However, these attitudes were formed during a unique 100-year period of human history in which a large but finite supply of fossil fuels was tapped to feed our economic and innovation engine. Today, at the peak of the Oil Age, the horizon looks different. Cities such as Los Angeles, Phoenix and Las Vegas are situated where water and other vital ecological services are scarce, and the enormous flows of resources and energy that were needed to create the megalopolises of the 20th century will prove unsustainable. Climate change is a reality, and regional impacts will become increasingly severe. Economies such as Las Vegas, which are dependent on discretionary income and buffeted by climate change, are already suffering the fate of the proverbial canary in the coal mine. Finite resources will mean profound changes for society in general and the energy-intensive lifestyles of the US and Canada in particular.

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ISBN 978-1-4939-3242-9 / BIC: RNU / SPRINGER NATURE: SCU34000

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