

Green City of the Future

"The happiness and greatness . . . the pleasure and peace, of an individual have never consisted in his personal wealth, but rather in . . . his ability to solve difficult problems." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

magine a big city in the future. Do you think of towering skyscrapers? Traffic jams with air-polluting cars? Buildings and transportation are huge sources of greenhouse gases, which trap heat in Earth's atmosphere and increase global warming. But many cities are working to reduce their ecological footprints—the amount of natural resources they use.

Some cities are already making buildings greener

and using energy-efficient streetlights. Some are planting "green roofs"—gardens on top of buildings. More bike and walking paths let people use their *own* feet to reduce their ecological footprints. Public transportation could zoom toward electric trains and buses that are powered by solar energy. Buildings might have built-in wind turbines to generate their own electricity. Technology *and* creativity will be the keys to tomorrow's cities.

If you could build your own green city of the future, what would it look like? How would you save energy, reduce pollution, and create a happy environment? Draw your vision here.