



Sustainable Cities

**SLIC Smart Cities Session,
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Pillars of sustainability: **Economic...**

Four Pillars: **Economic**

Sticky Places in Slippery Space

This phrase was coined by Ann Markusen in 1996, in a project which looked at regional and industrial economics at Rutgers University.

In essence it raises the question why, in an increasingly global and mobile (or 'slippery') economy, some places do better at retaining and attracting businesses and people than others (= 'stickiness'). The stickiness is seen as a kind of conceptual glue or flypaper. The paper also recognises that the glue can become brittle over time and that there are a number of different paradigms for sticky places. A subsequent paper by Cantwell, Iammatino and Noonan develops this concept of 'sticky places' in the context of how multi-nationals develop centres of innovation and new activity in Europe, and observes: "If regions are therefore to entrench themselves in this globalisation process, it is paramount to foster local innovative specialisation in areas of traditional strength."

This suggests that sustainable cities need to build on their strengths – so the transformation to a sustainable city of the future looks as though it might be evolutionary rather than revolutionary.

...the requirement for the city to sustain its competitive position and thrive in business terms

Pillars of sustainability: **Environmental**

...about the 'physical envelope', and the 'footprint' of the city



Pillars of sustainability: **Social**

...quality of life, good public health, tackling deprivation and inequality, an attractive place to live

Four Pillars: **Social**

Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)

Is a confederation of country-level organisations of the urban poor from 28 countries of the Global South (as of September 2008). It was launched in 1996 and became a formally registered entity in 1999. Several well-developed national federations of community-based organisations of slum and shack dwellers – particularly in India, South Africa and Thailand – joined to found SDI.

Their mission is to link poor urban communities from cities across the South to transfer and adapt the successful mobilisation, advocacy, and problem solving strategies they develop in one location to other cities, countries and regions.

Since SDI is focused on the local needs of slum-dwellers, it has developed the traction to advance the common agenda of creating 'pro-poor' cities that integrate rather than marginalise the interests of slum-dwellers and counter the dominant urban development approaches that are in turn backed and financed by global agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF and the UN.

Why does this matter to cities of the developed world? Because people are increasingly realising that slum and shack dwelling communities in the developing world are finding innovative community-based solutions for sustainable living in highly resource-constrained circumstances.

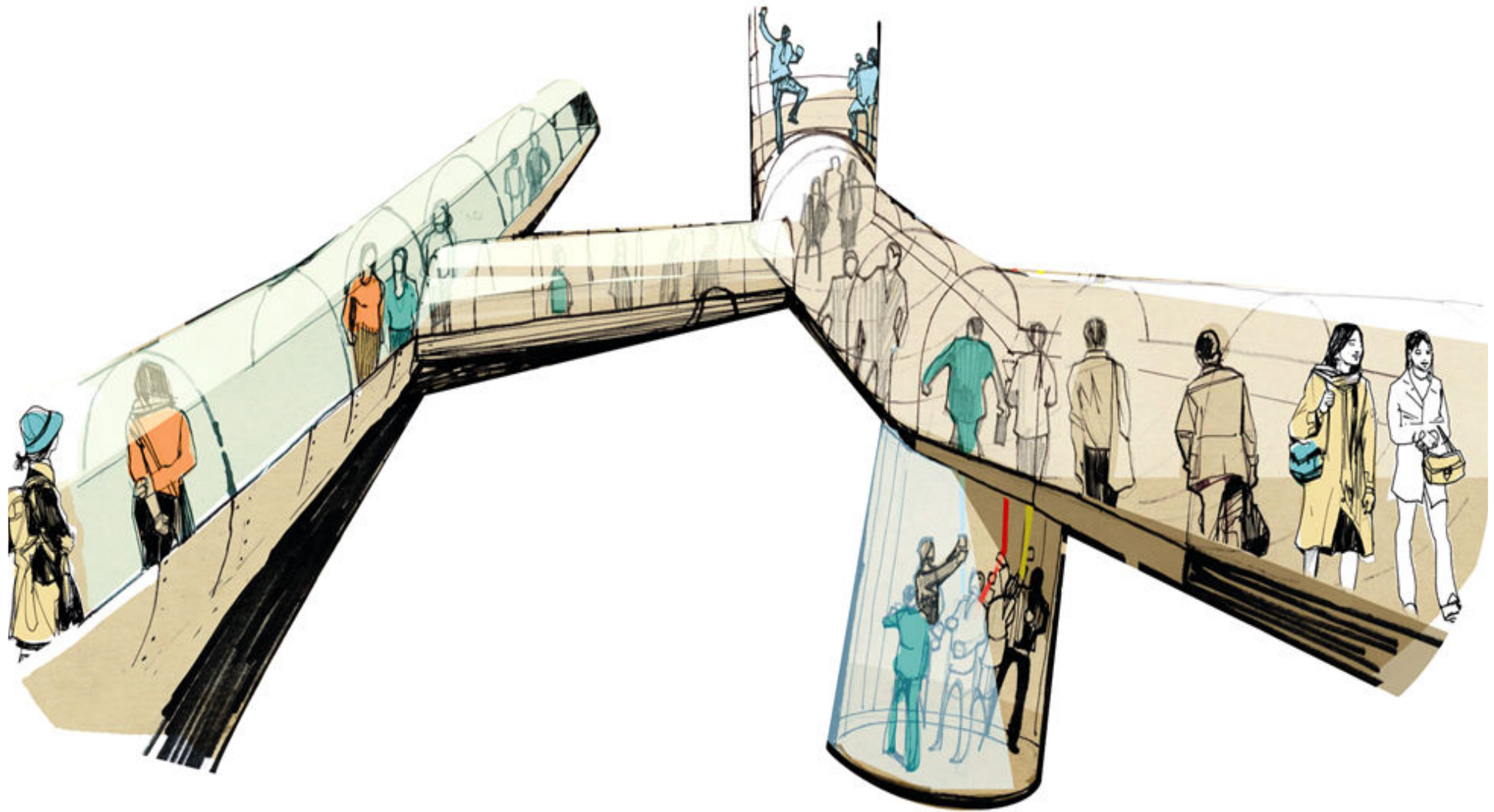


Pillars of sustainability: **Institutional...**

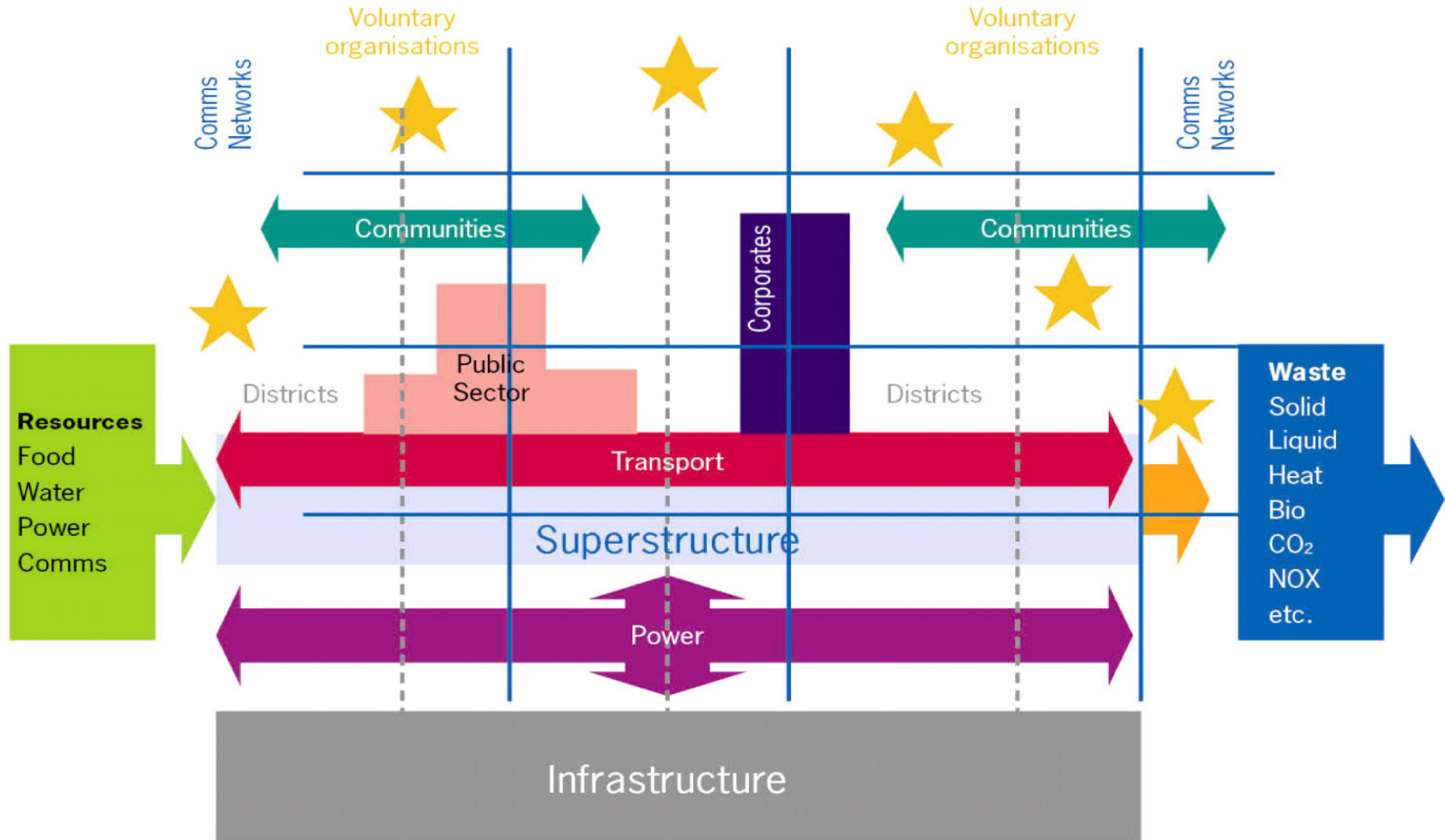


... supporting role to the other 'pillars' – creating sustainable institutions and governance mechanisms

The Human Factor



Cityscape



Investing in Sustainable Cities

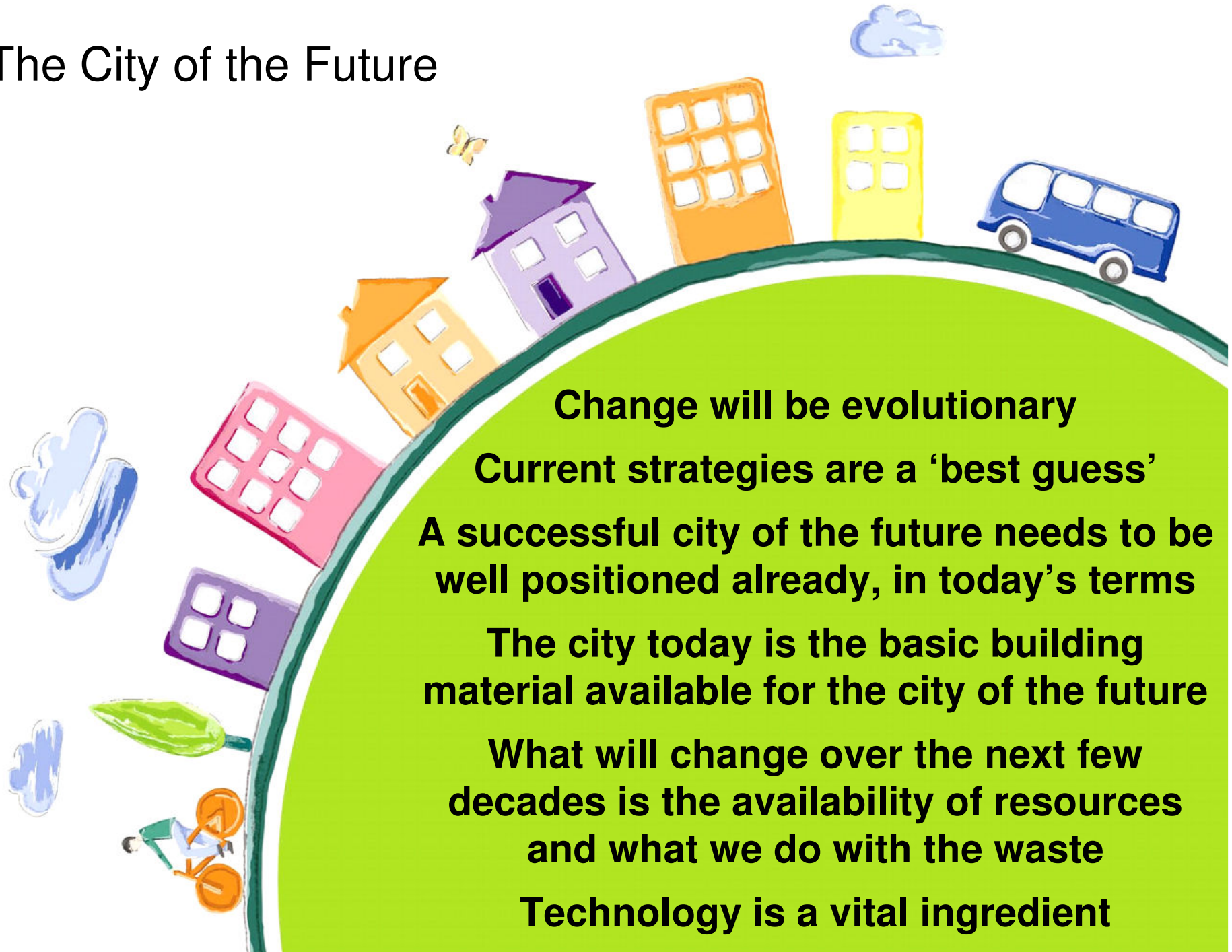


Governance – creation of city-based Infrastructure Investment Boards (IIB), with a life outside national and local political cycles.

Finance – city-based City Investment Funds to draw finance into a city-focused investment vehicle.

Investment appraisal – public and private sectors need to think about the tools they use to assess return on investment.

The City of the Future



Change will be evolutionary

Current strategies are a 'best guess'

A successful city of the future needs to be well positioned already, in today's terms

The city today is the basic building material available for the city of the future

What will change over the next few decades is the availability of resources and what we do with the waste

Technology is a vital ingredient

