Green Cities Advancing

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Abstract
Objectives. The study aims to elucidate how cities are following a green view in order to achieve urban sustainability and contribute to urban renewal. **Prior work**. Cities are investing in urban sustainability transitions, replanning the role of urban spaces, and making wealthy urban communities, and involving the citizenry to develop participatory frameworks. Urban sustainability transitions help develop acceptable conditions for making the cities to shape sustainable urban communities. **Approach.** The study follows a qualitative approach, and elucidates the frameworks that drive the cities to adopt a green vision in order to develop green and eco-friendly policies, and issues to improve the quality of life, encouraging responsible behaviors and actions that enable urban transformation. **Findings.** Cities are rethinking about the green urban planning. Green cities contribute to sustainable urban development, enabling responsible citizens to work cooperatively to benefit the landscape of urban communities. **Implications.** As agents of social change, cities intentionally design and implement green policies that support urban transformation, and make healthy urban spaces. **Value.** The sustainable future of urban communities relies on green cities that are advancing in order to make healthy and environment-friendly urban spaces. Cities are going green in order to address pathways that help the city to transit to urban sustainability planning.

Keywords: urban growth, green city, urban sustainability.

1. Introduction
Green cities increasingly play a proactive role in driving environment-friendly and responsible citizen behaviors that make wealthy urban communities.

Today, making sustainable, greener and wealthy cities supports the city to redesign the future of urban communities' development. Green cities have emerged as a central paradigm in addressing the environmental, social, and economic challenges associated with rapid urbanization. In particular, the green city is advancing as a means to make sustainable and equitable cities, driving prosperous urban transformation [1].

As sustainable, healthy and wealthy urban communities, cities are transitioning to the green city model coherently with circular economy issues [2].

Green cities provide both environmental and social benefits to urban communities. Cities aim at embracing an effective green approach in order to define and implement policies

that contribute to social justice, economic equity, urban inclusion and resilience [1], making green urban spaces as socially cooperative meeting places [3].

The pathway leading to sustainable urban development relies on cities that support wealthy and green urban ecosystems, by designing and implementing urban planning frameworks that enable business and citizens to actively contribute to shaping eco-friendly urban spaces and improving the quality of urban life.

Cities promote green policies in order to encourage responsible behaviours and contribute to urban value creation in order to mitigate environmental degradation and pollution, building eco-friendly urban communities. Cities should rediscover a green and eco-friendly vision to urban growth, meeting and bridging human and environmental needs, shaping urban environment-friendly ecosystems, and minimizing the environmental impact of a consumeristic society [4].

In contemporary times, as engines of sustainable transitions, cities contribute to benefit urban ecosystems and communities, stimulating natural environment-friendly policies for community development [5]. Green cities re-orient the models of living within urban ecosystems coherently with the protection of wealthy ecosystems [6].

The study aims to elucidate how cities aim at developing the city as a green community, promoting green urban culture, behaviours and lifestyles. The study relies on the analysis of literature that refers to cities that are embracing a green, socially and environment-friendly community-led view to urban sustainability.

The paper is organized as follows. After the introduction, the theoretical background is related to cities that are going in transition to shape green urban ecosystems, the methodological section is presented and elucidated. The fourth section elucidates how green cities are advancing between sustainability transitions and collaborative ways. Finally, discussion and conclusions are outlined.

2. Driving urban growth between green city and sustainable urban development

The urban future relies on cities that aim at rediscovering a green vocation to drive future urban growth and achieve the issues of sustainable urban development. A green city refers to an urban system that prioritizes environmental sustainability, preserving natural ecosystems, creating green spaces, and encouraging lifestyles. Green cities contribute to sustainable urban development, emphaisizing the environmental dimension, and providing benefits for healthy, socially cohesive urban communities.

Following the *UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development*, cities of the future should develop and evolve as safe, healthy and sustainable urban communities that contribute to healthy and wealthy urban ecosystems [7].

Most part of people will live in urban areas by 2050, where cities contribute to shape safe, healthy, green and sustainable urban communities. As the main consumers of energy and

responsible of global pollution, cities exert influence on the future of healthy urban ecosystems, and facilitate the sustainability-led transitions to urban renewal. Cities adopt a green vision in order to preserve ecosystems, enhancing green spaces, and implementing sustainable natural resource management practices, and improving citizens' quality of life, creating healthy and inclusive urban environments. As a driver of sustainable development, the green city relates to an evolving step from the ecological city concept, focusing on the natural environment promotion within urban areas, by creating green spaces and preserving natural ecosystems, encouraging responsible consumption and production, and reducing the urban impact of the city on the environment, promoting sustainable lifestyles and eco-friendly behaviours within urban ecosystems [1].

As a component of sustainable development, the green growth provides social equity benefits, reducing negative environmental externalities [6].

In the *New Urban Agenda* cities contribute making urban communities healthy places for life and work, promoting green transitioning, and supporting biological and social survival. Green and environment-friendly cities are advancing by making livable cities and maintaining wealthy urban ecosystems [8].

Cities should plan, design and implement an intentional knowledge-based development, using cultural and knowledge resources within the urban ecosystem [9]. As engines of social urban development, cities contribute to sustainable urban development, supporting the urban community well-being, driving wealthy and livable urban communities [10], promoting renewable energy use, improving the quality of life, and managing efficiently energy use and employing renewable energies, and contrasting pollution and negative environmental impacts [11].

3. Methodological section

The study is theoretical and exploratory, and analyses the literature and institutional frameworks that refer to green city design and issues in order to understand how cities are advancing in order to adopt a green way to urban growth. The analysis helps to identify the trajectories of future urban development and elucidate which is the framework the cities are following to build green urban design. As responsible actors for urban growth, cities of the future aim at planning and implementing the green city in order to track sustainable urban pathways to improve the quality of life. The selected contributions are interpreted in a narrative synthesis in order to elucidate new perspectives and advance theoretical frameworks on emerging issues [12, 13].

4. Green cities advancing for urban sustainability transitions through collaborative ways

Cities contribute to shaping wealthy urban ecosystems, investing in green urban planning to drive urban transformation and improve the well-being of citizens and communities in long-term, leading to collaborative and socially inclusive urban spaces. Rethinking green cities helps drive sustainable transitions that rely on cooperative pathways that involve business, policymakers, citizens, no profit organizations and public agencies [3, 14].

Green cities contribute to both environmental and social benefits. The green city is driving collaborative management models of organizing urban life balancing environmental, social and economic aspects, supporting the stakeholders to engage in cooperative frameworks [3]. Green city design and implementation rely on strengthening mechanisms of collaborative governance and participation, involving a variety of stakeholders, and bridging top-down and bottom-up approaches [14].

Cities have to design re-engineer the urban spaces, following a green way to revitalize sustainable and resilient urban communities. As urban socially sustainable ecosystems, cities may develop and evolve green as well healthy cities that contribute to wellbeing and health of people living urban areas.

According to the *Green City Accord* [2]. cities have to achieve the following goals by 2030: significant improvement in air quality within urban spaces; improving the quality of water bodies, and the efficiency of water use; conserving and enhancing urban biodiversity; advancing towards the circular economy; reducing significantly noise pollution. Following the indications of the *European Green Deal* cities play a significant role in achieving the following green goals: improving air quality of urban areas; enhancing urban biodiversity and quality of green areas in the city; advancing towards circular economy; reducing noise pollution [15].

Green cities facilitate sustainability transitions implementing nature-based solutions and green infrastructure, shaping the city as a sustainability-led community [16]. Urban green spaces, such as parks, green roofs, and urban forests, provide multiple ecosystem services, including air purification, temperature regulation, and flood mitigation. Green urban initiatives contribute to providing healthy environments and empowering urban communities to support social innovation and citizen engagement in green policies [17].

Cities have to define and implement green policies and encourage responsible behaviors and choices, meeting the needs of people, by improving energy and land use efficiency, and minimizing waste, engaging communities and business to contrast pollution to achieve sustainable development [18].

Green cities contribute to sustainability transitions encouraging responsible consumption meeting human needs and integrating environmental as well as social aspects of urban development. Sustainable urban transformation relies on cities that aim at enabling new lifestyles and behaviors, leading to practices that foster urban safe environments, and contribute to improving the quality of urban life [19]. Green cities rely on bottom-up initiatives and support participatory mechanisms to govern the democratic life of the city, engaging the citizens in green-led policies and choices, so making the city a smart social organism as agent of social change [20].

5. Discussion and conclusions

Green cities contribute to urban change and innovation, by following a green way to urban growth in order to support wealthy sustainability transitions that make wealthy social and economic urban ecosystems.

Green cities make the city an attractive place to live, promoting the health and the well-being of citizens. Urban sustainability relies on the ability of urban communities that are likely to rediscover the potential of urban energies, competences and intelligence within urban ecosystems that enhance the benefits of several public and private actors which are working together and collaboratively.

Cities are dealing with quality of life improvement as the the challenge of contemporary times, making cities as engines of urban social innovation, and promoting the conditions for green, eco-friendly and sustainable urban ecosystems. Investing in green urban planning and design supports cultural urban orientation of cities that adopt and encourage responsible urban choices in order to achieve urban sustainability of communities, and to drive responsible as well as green and eco-friendly solutions that enable safe and healthy cities.

Cities contribute to future sustainable urban prosperous growth, fostering initiatives that support green and healthy growth, leading to responsible behaviours that contribute to healthy urban spaces, tracking the pathways that enable sustainable urban transformation, so supporting green urban growth, and managing efficiently energy use, reducing environmental pollution.

Green cities contribute to better quality of life, driving urban social transformation through green and eco-friendly practices that contribute to the preservation of social and natural urban environments.

Planning the green design for the city development helps the city to rediscover the ecological and social function of land, and contribute to building sustainable urban communities, making responsible as well as green choices and decision making processes that augment the wealth of urban social landscapes.

Citizens aim to behave as responsible actors who proactively contribute to green, wealthy and safe urban spaces. Advancing green cities aims at encouraging people to adopt responsible behaviours and contribute to wealthy, safe and sustainable urban communities, leading to the renewal of sustainable urban lifestyles.

Future urban responsible development, community wellbeing and high quality of life depend on the responsible use of urban natural environment's energies, and make the city the agent of social change and engine of green radical change in charge of adopting virtuous pathways towards green, and incentivizing responsible behaviors for driving responsible and eco-compatible transitions.

Further research implies to investigate how Italian cities are developing urban plans to advance as green cities, and how green-led views help to advance green and social intelligence, leading to long-term sustainable vision to social urban ecosystems, improving the wealth of urban communties.

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