



# Citi-sense WP5:

Participation and Empowerment

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## Articles and Publications.

### **Royal Society of Edinburgh interim report on Digital Participation.**

Members of the public across Scotland were invited by the Royal Society of Edinburgh to take part in a national inquiry into the changing role of digital technology and how everyone can share in the benefits of the digital society.

<http://talkaboutlocal.org.uk/royal-society-of-edinburgh-interim-report-on-digital-participation/>

### **Smart cities: are you willing to trade privacy for efficiency?**

Data science may be helping cities get 'smarter', but questions remain over how long urban populations will tolerate an increasingly invasive level of data collection.

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/2014/apr/04/if-smart-cities-dont-think-about-privacy-citizens-will-refuse-to-accept-change-says-cisco-chief?INTCMP=ILCNETTXT3487>

### **The new smart city – from hi-tech sensors to social innovation.**

The business model for smart cities has been around management, energy efficiency and mobility, but is it the right approach?

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/smart-cities-sensors-social-innovation>

### **Citizen participation and technology.**

The recent, rapid rise in the use of digital technology is changing relationships between citizens, organizations and public institutions, and expanding political participation. But while technology has the potential to amplify citizens' voices, it must be accompanied by clear political goals and other factors to increase their clout.

Those are among the conclusions of a new NDI study, "Citizen Participation and Technology," that examines the role digital technologies – such as social media, interactive websites and SMS systems – play in increasing citizen participation and fostering accountability in government. The study was driven by the recognition that better insights are needed into the relationship between new technologies, citizen participation programs and the outcomes they aim to achieve.

<https://www.ndi.org/files/Citizen-Participation-and-Technology-an-NDI-Study.pdf>



## Experiences.

### **Citizen Sense Project.**

The Citizen Sense project is led by Dr Jennifer Gabrys and is funded through a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant. The project, which runs from 2013-2017, investigates the relationship between technologies and practices of environmental sensing and citizen engagement. Wireless sensors, which are an increasing part of digital communication infrastructures, are commonly deployed for environmental monitoring within scientific study. Practices of monitoring and sensing environments have migrated to a number of everyday participatory applications, where users of smart phones and networked devices are able to engage with similar modes of environmental observation and data collection. Such “citizen sensing” projects intend to democratize the collection and use of environmental sensor data in order to facilitate expanded citizen engagement in environmental issues. But how effective are these practices of citizen sensing in not just providing “crowd-sourced” data sets, but also in giving rise to new modes of environmental awareness and practice?

<http://www.citizensense.net/about/>

### **What is the Best Way to Measure the Sustainability of Cities?**

The Green City Index series uses approximately 30 indicators across eight to nine categories depending on the region. These include: CO2 emissions, energy, buildings, land use, transport, water and sanitation, waste management, air quality and environmental governance.

About half of the indicators in each Index are quantitative – usually data from official public sources, for example, CO2 emissions per capita, water consumption per capita, recycling rates and air pollutant concentrations.

The remainder are qualitative assessments of the city’s environmental policies – for example, the city’s commitment to sourcing more renewable energy, traffic-congestion-reduction policies and air quality codes.

Measuring quantitative and qualitative indicators together means the Indexes are based on current environmental performance as well as the city’s intentions to become greener. The specific indicators differ slightly from Index to Index, taking into account data availability and the unique challenges in each region.

<http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/david-thorpe/243106/what-best-way-measure-sustainability-cities>