



10 Minutes For The Planet The Greenest City On Earth ©

by Pierre Vercueil

Vocabulary & pronunciation study by Catherine Balter Kendall©

Words are explained alongside the text

Stressed syllables are underlined and in bold*

Hi there and welcome back to our weekly environmental series here on EnglishWaves, Ten Minutes for the Planet. Today we take a look at the greenest city on the planet. It's easy to say we'd like our cities to be cleaner and greener. But what does green even mean? If anything, 'greenness' is a concept that's difficult **to pin point** since there's no universally agreed-upon set of **criteria** for **working out** how green a city is. **To date** analysts have **relied on** measures such as the **percentage** of **renewable** energy **purchased** by a city (not including nuclear – sorry France!) or the **share** of all 'trips' made by public transport.

Since 2009 the Economist **Intelligence** Unit, and cosponsored by German engineering giant Siemens, has published the Green City Index, an internationally **respected ranking** of the world's greenest cities on all five continents. In total, 120 cities have been **assessed** and ranked **according** to the following criteria: energy & CO2, transport, water, air quality, land use & buildings, waste, sanitation and environmental governance. Which city took the top spot? Copenhagen.

Danes have often been said to be the happiest people on the planet, and their capital one of the most livable cities. Some of the reasons are the large number of green oases and open spaces with fresh air, some of the cleanest water in the world – for drinking and swimming - as well as a city **overflowing** with bicycles, and a high **availability** and **consumption** of **organic** produce. **Accordingly**, Copenhagen has consecutively been ranked the greenest city on Earth, was the European Green Capital in 2014, and **boasts** a perfect score of 100 in the Green City Index in terms of **perception** and **performance**.

to pin point (vb.) to identify, to define

to work out (phrasal vb.) to calculate

to date (exp.) up to now, so far

to rely on (phrasal vb.) to depend on

to purchase (vb.) to buy

share (n.) part, percentage

ranking (n.) listing in terms of order of importance

to assess (vb.) to evaluate

to overflow (vb.) to be full of, to exceed the capacity of

availability (n.) presence and accessibility

consumption (n.) eating

to boast (vb.) to be proud to have

The **metropolis** of nearly two million people (which makes it rather small for a European capital – compare it to greater Paris’ **whopping** 12 million!) is known for advanced environmental policies and planning, with its **goal** of being completely carbon-neutral by 2025. The city is truly green as it is **surrounded** by water and parks, with **climate-friendly** citizens to match. One can even swim in the clean waters of the city’s famed **harbor** baths.

When you are in Copenhagen, there are plenty of ways to be an eco-tourist. Finding a **sustainable** place to stay in Copenhagen is actually easier than finding a non-sustainable one, as 71% of all the city’s hotel rooms hold an official eco-certification. More than half of the hotels in Copenhagen have an environmental plan regarding water, **laundry**, house cleaning, waste, energy **consumption**, food, smoking, indoor climate, and administration. The **flagship** of climate-friendly hotels in Copenhagen is **considered** to be the Crowne Plaza Copenhagen Towers, Denmark’s greenest hotel, where a luxury visit comes **guilt-free** thanks to its 25 floors of suites designed with one thing in mind: environmental sustainability.

Whether it is new bike routes, urban parks or new residential areas, Copenhagen is constantly moving towards a more **sustainable** future. Water, light, open spaces, sustainability and quality of life seem to be the key elements in the capital’s architectural **development**. With the title of the world’s greenest, this city will continue to inspire its **peers** as the **global trend** towards green continues to **develop**.

whopping (adj.) huge enormous

goal (n.) objective

climate-friendly (adj.) who care about the environment

harbor (n.) port, waterfront

sustainable (adj.) environmentally-friendly, that respects the environment in the way it is managed

laundry (n.) service (or place) for washing clothes

flagship (n.) the best, most important or most representative example of sth.

guilt (n.) feeling uncomfortable because of a sense of wrongdoing, **guilt-free** (adj.) without this feeling

peers (n.) those (cities) that are similar to it

global trend (exp.) international tendency

***Tip!**

The following 4 syllable words all have their stress on the 2nd syllable:

criteria, **renewable**, **intelligence**, **accordingly**, **metropolis**, **sustainable**, **development**

The following 3 syllable words all have their stress on the middle syllable:

percentage, **respected**, **according**, **organic**, **perception**, **performance**, **surrounding**, **consumption**, **considered**, **develop**, **continue**