Introduction

Sustainable living aims to include a number of features, such as the use of renewable resources, energy efficiency, use of public transport and accessible resources and services. Many people and organizations are attempting to make cities more sustainable.

A sustainable city should offer a good quality of life to current residents and not reduce the opportunities for future residents to enjoy. A sustainable city will also grow at a sustainable rate and use resources in a sustainable way.

**Student tasks**

1. Working with a partner, cut out the cards below. Each card contains information related to urban living.
2. Sort the cards into two piles, one linked to **sustainable features** and the other demonstrating **unsustainable features**.

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| Not all new homes are energy efficient. | Public transport is safe and reliable. |
| Public transport is viewed as a viable alternative to cars. | Public transport is not always safe and reliable. |
| Recycling is minimal, hence why there are large amounts of waste to deal with. | Not all housing is affordable. |
| Areas of open space are safe, accessible and enjoyable. | Wherever possible, renewable resources are used instead of non-renewable resources |
| Resources and services in the city are accessible to all. | Communities do not tackle pressing issues, such as those related to crime and security. |
| Resources and services in the city are inaccessible to some people. | Communities work together to deal with issues, such as crime and security. |
| Access to cultural and social amenities is limited to a few people. | Walking and cycling is safe. |
| Cars are considered to be the best means of getting around. | Walking and cycling can sometimes be dangerous |

1. What ‘real-life’ examples can you find of items in the sustainable features pile?

Teaching notes

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| **Item** | **Sustainable or unsustainable?** |
| Not all new homes are energy efficient. | Unsustainable |
| Public transport is viewed as a viable alternative to cars. | Sustainable |
| Recycling is minimal, hence why there are large amounts of waste to deal with. | Unsustainable |
| Areas of open space are safe, accessible and enjoyable. | Sustainable |
| Resources and services in the city are accessible to all. | Sustainable |
| Resources and services in the city are inaccessible to some people. | Unsustainable |
| Access to cultural and social amenities is limited to a few people. | Unsustainable |
| Cars are considered to be the best means of getting around. | Unsustainable |
| Public transport is safe and reliable. | Sustainable |
| Public transport is not always safe and reliable. | Unsustainable |
| Not all housing is affordable. | Unsustainable |
| Wherever possible, renewable resources are used instead of non-renewable resources | Sustainable |
| Communities do not tackle pressing issues, such as those related to crime and security. | Unsustainable |
| Communities work together to deal with issues, such as crime and security. | Sustainable |
| Walking and cycling is safe. | Sustainable |
| Walking and cycling can sometimes be dangerous | Unsustainable |