Lessons from Hammarby Sjostad

Nine ways the new community reduced its environmental impact

1. **Green roofs**
   - Small gardens on top of buildings absorb rainwater that would otherwise drain off into sewers.

2. **Solar energy**
   - Solar panels on the roofs absorb heat from the sun and convert it into electrical power, which can then be used to power the buildings.

3. **Better construction**
   - Houses have been designed to use half the energy and water of a typical 1990s property.

4. **Diversified storm water**
   - Rainwater is recycled and reused for various purposes, reducing the amount of water that needs to be treated and discharged.

5. **Waste**
   - The community has reduced the amount of waste generated by promoting recycling and composting.

6. **Biogas**
   - Biogas from sewage is used to generate energy, reducing the need for fossil fuels.

7. **Heating**
   - Heating is provided by a district heating system, which uses waste heat from industrial processes.

8. **Biodiversity**
   - The community has a high level of biodiversity, with a variety of plants and wildlife living in the area.

9. **Sustainability**
   - The community is designed to be sustainable in all aspects, from building materials to energy use and transportation.

As planners unveil their plan for the site of the future Rockcliffe area, MARIA COOK looks at what it will take to make it green.

**Rockcliffe: A new eco-town starts to take shape**

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**Imagining a new Rockcliffe**

Planners are proposing eight different neighbourhoods to be built on the former air base. Photos from other cities show the character of buildings and streetscapes they envision.

**Research City**

Connected to Centretown on the east side by a main road, this area has the potential to be a high-density residential area, as well as a centre for employment-related research.

**Montreal Road Gateway**

Currently used land owned by National Research Council Canada developed as a mixed-use district hosting on Montreal Road. It would include offices, retail stores and a public transit terminal.

**Centretown**

The Centretown area would include a “high-street” with shops, offices, public transit and a community square. There would be apartments and offices above shops as well as residential buildings.

**Hill Town**

Located along the escarpment, this is a high-density area that maintains the Ottawa River. It would include mostly residential, some new and some restored, as well as some commercial and business development.

**Forest Houses**

The northern part of the site, currently occupied by the former residences of officers, would be transformed into a network of green houses with a mixed landscape.

**Lessons from Hammarby Sjostad**

Nine ways the new community reduced its environmental impact.

1. **Green roofs**
2. **Solar energy**
3. **Better construction**
4. **Diversified storm water**
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Green goals for Rockcliffe

Some of the ideas being considered for the Rockcliffe site that would make it more environmentally sustainable:

TRANSPORTATION
- Light rail: A light rail line is being considered, with a station along Rockcliffe Avenue and another in the middle of the site. The station would be accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Car parking: The number of car parking spaces would be limited, and alternative transportation options would be encouraged.
- Bicycle paths: The site would include bicycle paths and racks to encourage biking.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS
- Solar panels: Solar panels would be installed on the roofs of buildings to harness the sun's energy and reduce energy consumption.
- Green roofs: Green roofs would be installed to improve energy efficiency and reduce the site's carbon footprint.
- Smart meters: Smart meters would be installed to monitor energy usage and encourage conservation.

WATER
- Rainwater harvesting: Rainwater harvesting systems would be installed to collect and reuse rainwater for irrigation and other purposes.
- Water-efficient fixtures: Water-efficient fixtures, such as low-flow toilets and showerheads, would be installed in all buildings.

A VACUUM SYSTEM
- Recycling: A recycling system would be installed to collect and reuse recyclable materials.
- Garbage: Garbage would be collected using a vacuum system, which would allow for more efficient waste disposal.

VEGETATION
- Native plants: Native plants would be used to improve the site's carbon footprint and provide habitat for local wildlife.
- Trees: Trees would be planted to improve air quality and provide shade.

CAR ALTERNATIVES
- Light rail: A light rail line would be installed to improve public transportation options.
- Bicycles: Bicycles would be provided for residents and visitors.
- Electric cars: Electric cars would be encouraged, with charging stations provided on-site.

FOREST, WOODS AND VEGETATION
- Trees: Trees would be planted to improve air quality and provide shade.
- Shrubbery: Shrubbery would be planted to improve the site's aesthetics.

8. RECYCLING
- Garbage: Garbage would be collected using a vacuum system, which would allow for more efficient waste disposal.
- Recycling: A recycling system would be installed to collect and reuse recyclable materials.

9. SMART METERS
- Energy usage: Smart meters would be installed to monitor energy usage and encourage conservation.
- Water consumption: Smart meters would be installed to monitor water consumption and encourage conservation.

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