

UTOPIA SMART CITY SUSTAINABLE SOURCING STRATEGY



GREENLIGHT GREENPAPER

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The GreenLight project team helped Utopia Smart City to research how and where to source sustainable building materials and shipping containers that would be used throughout the city infrastructure.



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Utopia Smart Cities wanted to incorporate innovative and creative building materials into their sustainable community. They are currently partnered with the architecture firm ThreeSquared which specializes in cargo architecture (i.e. shipping containers), but were seeking additional building materials to use in conjunction with the shipping containers as well as throughout the community. This presented the challenge of finding sustainable building materials suitable for Phoenix's harsh climate, being locally sourced and utilized in the same capacity as their traditional construction material counterparts. Through our mutual partnership with Utopia Smart Cities, we were given the opportunity to form a working relationship with ThreeSquared and share ideas on how sustainable building materials could be used in the Utopia Smart Cities community.



The Project Team decided to focus on finding materials that would work as the foundation of the infrastructure itself. After our initial research, six materials (shipping containers, cardboard, adobe, bamboo, FSC certified wood, and stucco) were included in our considerations for the Phoenix metro location. In order to compare these materials in a cohesive fashion, an infographic was created to display and compare the characteristics of the individual materials. The GreenLight team presented 6 materials to Utopia Smart City to choose from, and created a pros and cons list of the top 3 that we recommended. With these findings, our Project Team recommends Utopia Smart City to continue working closely with ThreeSquared to implement these materials into their infrastructure design.

BENEFITS TO PROJECT PARTNER

Utopia Smart City has gained some insight into the available building materials possible for the construction of the homes in their city. By presenting a number of options, they were able to pick the most attractive options to them, which is a method that is conducive to effective design and sound decision making.

BENEFITS TO SOLUTIONEERS

Our team had the opportunity to work closely with investors and architects on the project, which brought real world experience of working in a development team for a large municipal design committee. Acting as consultants gave us the experience of analyzing criteria and delivering information that was relevant and beneficial to the project partner.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Utopia Smart City has been advised in such a way that promotes the sustainability of their business concepts. Arizona, and cities of the future, will benefit from the designs that Utopia Smart City implements.