

3.2 *Building an eco-city*

Aim: Develop reading skills such as understanding vocabulary in context and making inferences

Preparation: Make one copy of Worksheet 3.2 for every S.

Comment: Use after or in place of the reading on page 25.

A

- Give each S a copy of the reading. Ask, *Do you know what an eco-city is?* Elicit answers. Then have Ss read the article.
- Ss work in groups to discuss the question. Have groups share their answers with the class.

Answer

b. a city that is sustainable and makes more efficient use of natural resources

B

- Explain the task. Tell Ss to look back at the article to find the answers.
- Ss work individually to match the items.
- Go over the answers as a class.

Answers

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. b

C Group work

- Explain the task. Read the questions aloud.
- Ss work in small groups to answer the questions.
- Have groups share their answers with the class.

A What is an eco-city? Read the article and choose the correct answer.

- ☐ a. a city with a booming and growing economy
- ☐ b. a city that is sustainable and makes more efficient use of natural resources
- ☐ c. a megalopolis, or an area with several large cities that flow into one another

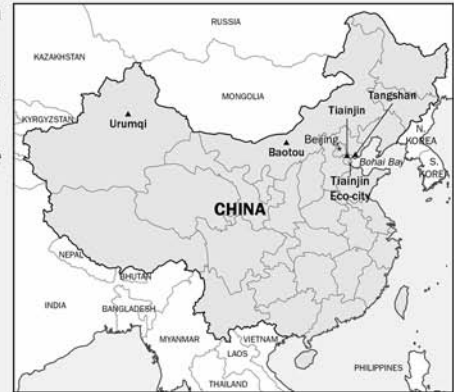
From Wasteland to Eco-city

Not long ago, the area that is now Tiainjin Eco-city in northeastern China was a polluted wasteland where no plants grew and no wildlife or people lived. The site was chosen to prove that an exciting new city based on ecological principles could be built anywhere. When completed in 2028, Tiainjin Eco-city will be a city where nature and technology are balanced.

The city's plan is for 350,000 people to live in affordable housing powered by sustainable energy sources. Residential buildings in Tiainjin Eco-city will feature insulated walls and water-saving technology, and they will use natural light and wind for heating and cooling. The city's infrastructure will be powered by a combination of wind turbines, solar panels, and geothermal energy.

In addition, some of the city's water supply will be produced from a proposed desalination plant to harvest drinkable water from the ocean. The housing will be surrounded by green spaces where residents can gather and by waterways where wildlife will thrive. Residents will be able to walk or cycle anywhere in the city, and although cars won't be banned, they will be discouraged. A light-rail system will also be introduced for easier commutes.

Building eco-cities is one way China is dealing with the ongoing shift from a rural to an urban population. Since the late 1970s, millions of people have moved to China's more than 90 major cities and megalopolises. This population shift has strained resources and worsened an already critical environmental crisis. If successful, Tiainjin Eco-city will become a positive model for cities throughout China and around the world.



B Match the items with the benefits they provide.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. light-rail system ____ | a. natural heating and cooling |
| 2. wind and natural light ____ | b. drinkable water |
| 3. waterways ____ | c. a natural environment for wildlife |
| 4. desalination plants ____ | d. convenient transportation |

C Group work Discuss these questions. Then share your answers with the class.

1. What problems do big cities and megalopolises face in your country?
2. Do you think eco-cities are a real solution to environmental problems?
3. Imagine you are planning to move to Tiainjin Eco-city. What questions would you want answered?