

GREEN METROPOLIS

DAVID OWEN

READ BY PATRICK LAWLOR

Most Americans think of crowded cities as ecological nightmares. Yet, as David Owen shows, residents of compact urban centers individually consume less oil, electricity, and water than other Americans. They live in smaller spaces, discard less trash, and, most important, spend far less time in automobiles. Residents of Manhattan—the most densely populated place in North America—rank first in public-transit use and last in per capita greenhouse-gas production, and they consume gasoline at a rate that the country as a whole hasn't matched since the mid-1920s.

These achievements are not accidents. Spreading people thinly across the countryside may make them feel green, but it increases the damage they do to the environment while making the problems they cause harder to see. Owen contends that the environmental problem we face is not how to make teeming cities more like the pristine countryside but how to make other settled places more like Manhattan, whose residents presently come closer than any other Americans to meeting environmental goals that all of us will eventually have to come to terms with.

David Owen has been a staff writer for the *New Yorker* since 1991. A regular contributor to numerous other magazines, including *Harper's* and *Esquire*, he is also a contributing editor at *Golf Digest*. David is the author of a dozen books, including *The Man Who Invented Saturday Morning* and *Sheetrock and Shellac*. He lives in Connecticut.

Patrick Lawlor is an *AudioFile* magazine Earphones Award winner and Audie Award finalist. His recent audio includes the *New York Times* bestseller *Generation Kill* by Evan Wright and *The Spiritual Brain* by Mario Beauregard and Denyse O'Leary, which was named a Best Audiobook of the Year by Audible.



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Unabridged

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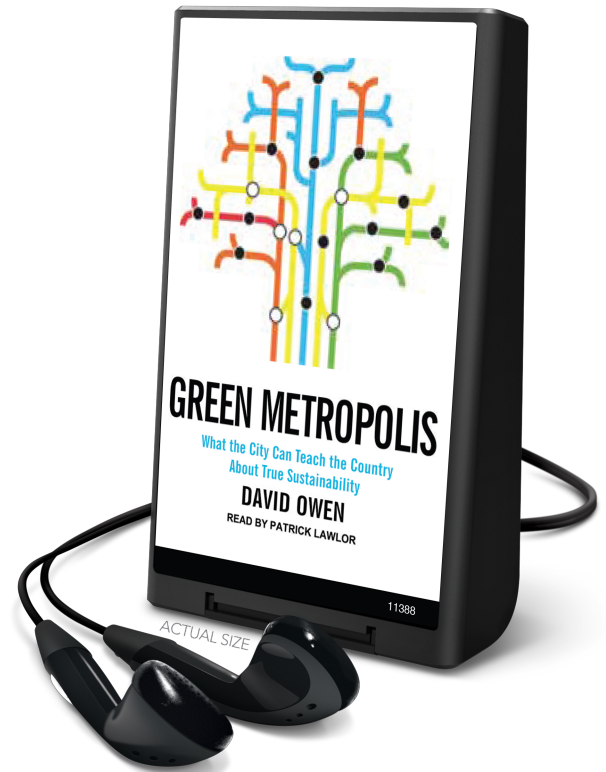


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