



Can Smart City Technologies Deliver a Better Quality of Life?





Introduction

Today, in the era of smartphones and smart homes, the concept of **building smart cities** has become increasingly popular.

A smart city is more than just the creative application of the latest **disruptive technological innovations** in urban areas. It's a concept that uses technology to make cities more sustainable.

From Singapore's enforcement of smart cameras to restrict traffic depending on the volume to Moscow's move to provide free WiFi, the **impact of smart city technologies is truly incredible.**

Realising the true smart city

Building a smart city is an incredibly complex task with many factors to consider, dozens of parties involved, and a hundred different functions to be performed.

Fundamentally, a smart city must:

1. Make sense when implemented

Example: A bike-sharing scheme will only be useful if the city has the right infrastructure to facilitate cycling.

2. Solve a problem or deliver a better quality of life

Example: The city of Medellín used smart city technologies to improve the safety of its people.



Applications of smart city technologies

1. Making cities safer
2. Reducing daily commute
3. Creating a sustainable environment

1. Making cities safer

Today, most video surveillance technology is hampered by low-quality imagery and blind spots.

However, the combination of **WiFi connectivity, IoT, and CCTV cameras** has made it possible for cities to harness advanced smart city technologies to improve their citizens' safety.

Example: Huawei has created a web of interconnected devices and cloud storage systems to help governments **improve public services** such as crime-fighting.





2. Reducing daily commute

Smart city technologies offer promising solutions to make **daily commutes faster and less stressful**. From intelligent traffic light systems to real-time monitoring, the many solutions available help deliver a better quality of life.

Example: Citizens can use a mobile application to deliver real-time information about delays, helping them adjust their routes on the fly.

In other cities, where buses or cars are the primary modes of transit, road congestion is often a point of concern. In such a scenario, implementing a smart city technology like the intelligent syncing of traffic signals can **reduce average commutes by over 5%**.



3. Creating a sustainable environment

Cities worldwide are trying to implement smart city technologies to deliver a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Example: In 2020, Panasonic announced their project — Future Living Berlin which involves the installation of an **intelligent home energy management system** with solutions such as air-to-water heat pumps, solar panels, and storage batteries. This system is said to achieve an improvement in energy usage by at least 15%.

In reality, the move towards intelligent spaces and **smart city technologies** is just getting started. But can it promise a better quality of life? Definitely.

Thank you

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