

Environmental Science Seminar Series

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, S203

TITLE

Smart cities, the SDGs, and a well-being economy: do the limits to growth apply to smart cities that have achieved the SDGs?

SPEAKER

Dr. Paul Sutton, University of Denver

ABSTRACT

The year 2022 marked the 50 year anniversary of the much maligned and controversial 'Limits to Growth' study which asserted that economic growth and population growth cannot continue indefinitely. Since then the world has seen major declarations and aspirations relevant to the limits to growth. A nascent 'Smart City' movement is purporting that information technology and webs of sensors will enable the perhaps contradictory goal of 'Smart Growth'. Here, we will contemplate the questions: Can a city become too big? Will smart cities know when they have become too big? Is the smart city movement avoiding the unpleasant limits to growth question and merely enabling the building of larger and larger cities that are even more vulnerable to exogenous shocks to their systems?