



University of the
West of England

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Sustainable Living for Affordable Housing Developments: Perspectives of Residents

- **Format:**

Written paper / Presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Many areas of the U.S. are facing a housing crisis, and the leading governments are responding by advocating to fund more affordable housing in addition to making them green and energy efficient. The USGBC advocated that everyone should attain green building by expanding access to the benefits of healthy, efficient, and affordable housing (USGBC, 2012). While UN 2030 sustainable development goals promote healthier environment for all (UN, 2016), sustainable affordable housing are still misunderstood as incompatible by many people (Cowen, 2008). Families facing severe rent burdens are left with little room for other necessities like food, clothing, healthcare, or education. Thus, the lack of quality, safe and affordable housing and concentrated poverty affect the daily health, safety, and opportunity of residents. Considering financial benefits, positive improvements, and changes that could bring to people in financial difficulty, sustainable practices are imperative in affordable communities.

While this research assumes that the residents experience various ranges of financial and physical benefits by living in sustainable housing or communities, the residents' perception of the benefits have not been systematically researched. In this respect, this research raises concerns that while the sustainability rating systems may contribute to increasing an understanding of building and community related environmental issues, they do not concern the perspectives of the residents of the community toward sustainable housing. A survey has been distributed to the residents of various LEED or Energy Star certified affordable housing and communities in Central New York to reveal how the residents perceive sustainable practices provided in their homes as well as how the sustainable living influences them. The findings of this research would be beneficial to architects, designers, and developers of the sustainable affordable housing to understand the perspectives of the users and thus enhance the sustainable practices to bring stronger impacts to the residents.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Seyeon Lee is assistant professor in the School of Design. Prior to joining Syracuse University, Lee taught foundation design studios at Texas A&M University. Prior to entering academia, she worked as an architectural and interior designer, and project manager in offices of Clifford Planning and Architecture, Hawaii and MG2, Seattle for over 14 years. Her professional portfolio includes residential, commercial, retail, hospitality, and urban planning projects from the United States, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. Dr. Lee is a NCIDQ certified interior designer and a LEED Accredited Professional.

Lee holds a Bachelor in Environmental Design degree and a Master of Architecture degree from Montana State University, and a Ph.D. in Architecture from Texas A&M University. Her Ph.D. research focused in developing instructional strategies to improve and strengthen design education with learning objectives that include cost as an integral design determinant. Her research interest is in the area of community architecture with an emphasis on sustainable and affordable architectural design and planning with a special focus on housing affordability.