

# EARTHSCAN

## BOOK REVIEW

Book	<i>The Community Planning Handbook</i>
Author/Editor	
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### Local and global participation

**The Community Planning Handbook.**  
By Nick Wates. Published by  
Earthscan, £14.95. ISBN 1853336540  
Reviewer: Bryan Johnston. 909

This handbook, produced with support from the DETR and European Commission among others, follows in the footsteps of Nick Wates's 1996 *Action Planning* – but is now meant to apply to local involvement in planning and managing the environment anywhere in the world.

The format of this publication echoes the previous handbook. The bulk of the content is devoted to short explanations of how to set up and use methods of involving local people in physical planning and design.

A separate section looks at how these tools can be applied to typical situations, ranging from inner city regeneration and creating new neighbourhoods to less familiar circumstances (for most UK planners) like shanty settlement upgrading and disaster management.

Community planning is evolving rapidly, and likely to make a bigger impact on the formal planning system with the advent of community plans under the *Modernising Local Government* agenda. This handbook should help share the experience that has been so far been gained.