

LORRAINE

What would it be like to live in the city of the future? Cities are incubators of innovation and

HUDSON:

opportunity. They generate over 80% of economic activity. And by 2050, they'll contain 2/3 of the world's population.

Rapid growth puts increasing pressure on water and energy supplies, health, transport, our natural environment, and quality of life. Today, 828 million people already live in slums. And the numbers are rising. But urbanisation can contribute to sustainable growth, if managed well, if a city is smart.

So what do we mean by a smart city? How are smart cities using technology to tackle these challenges? What's the role of citizens in smart cities? Are smart approaches applicable to smaller communities?

I'm Lorraine Hudson. And I co-create smart city projects. I'm developing the citizen education strand of MK:Smart, 16-million-pound smart-city programme led by the Open University.

Previously, I managed smart city Bristol, a collaborative partnership between the public sector, business, and community. And I was on the European Commission's Expert Working Group on smart cities.

In this six-week course, you'll get to meet leaders and entrepreneurs from around the world. You'll experience citizen innovation in living labs, sensor networks, smart infrastructure, open data, hackathons, and crowd funding. You'll explore leadership, partnerships, and standards, and debate issues of data ownership, trust, and privacy. You'll use your knowledge to put together a smart solution to a real challenge in your community. Join me and learn how you can participate in the creation of smart cities.