



Regionalism: Feds Are Actively Pushing Smart Region Initiatives

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) actively promotes “regional collaboration” and “sustainable economic development”. It smacks of UN policies from top to bottom, creating many un-Constitutional initiatives.

There is currently no pushback on Smart Region Initiatives that usurp sovereignty from local cities. Article Four of the Constitution states, “*The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government.*” Regionalism is diametrically opposite to a republic. □ TN Editor

Two Reston-based companies have secured a \$750,000 federal grant to lead the [Northern Virginia Smart City Initiative](#), which aims to bring government, private and nonprofit partners to advance the area’s smart city technology innovation cluster.

[Smart City Works](#), a Reston-based nonprofit business accelerator, and [Refraction](#), a co-working innovation hub that supports startups and high-growth companies, will advance the initiative in order to improve the livability and resilience of cities.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration [awarded grants](#) to 26 application from a pool of 183 submission. The Reston companies received the maximum amount of available funding.

Here's more from the EDA on the initiative:

With the i6 Challenge grant, the Initiative will: 1) accelerate the development and lower the risk profile of companies seeking to provide innovative solutions to infrastructure challenges; 2) grow the number of startups and highly skilled tech talent in the region; (3) accelerate the commercialization of innovative products and 4) strengthen the regional smart city cluster supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization.

Over the three-year grant period, the Northern Virginia Smart Region Initiative will create a stronger innovation cluster that will attract talent and capital to the region, stimulate economic development that benefits the entire community, and help to solve the region's infrastructure challenges.

More than 45 companies are expected to graduate from the accelerator program, which could launch more than 30 new smart city products. The initiative is expected to generate 90 new jobs.

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University Of London Bans Burgers To Help Save The Planet

A clever movie plot is coming to life when the lunatic inmates take over the insane asylum, while throwing the legitimate staff into the padded cells. 'Carbon-shaming' is the new meme, and is patently anti-human and anti-civilization.

Why? Because carbon is absolutely essential to human life on earth.

□ TN Editor

Beef burgers have been banned by a university as part of efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

Goldsmiths, University of London said it is to remove all beef products from sale from next month as the institution attempts to become carbon neutral by 2025.

Students will also face a 10p levy on bottles of water and single-use plastic cups when the academic year starts to discourage use of the

products.

The college's new Warden, Professor Frances Corner, said staff and students "care passionately about the future of our environment" and that "declaring a climate emergency cannot be empty words".

The move has been backed by Goldsmiths Students' Union, with president Joe Leam saying that the university has a "huge carbon footprint" and that the promise to eradicate this in the next few years is needed.

As well as the beef ban and 10p levy on single-use water bottles and plastic cups, there are plans to install more solar panels across the college's New Cross campus in south-east London and switch to a 100% clean energy supplier as soon as possible.

Officials said Goldsmiths will also continue to invest in its allotment area and identify other places where planting could help to absorb carbon dioxide, and will review how all students can access modules which cover climate change and the role of both individuals and organisations in reducing carbon emissions.

Prof Corner said: "The growing global call for organisations to take seriously their responsibilities for halting climate change is impossible to ignore.

"Though I have only just arrived at Goldsmiths, it is immediately obvious that our staff and students care passionately about the future of our environment and that they are determined to help deliver the step change we need to cut our carbon footprint drastically and as quickly as possible.

"Declaring a climate emergency cannot be empty words. I truly believe we face a defining moment in global history and Goldsmiths now stands shoulder to shoulder with other organisations willing to call the alarm and take urgent action to cut carbon use."

Figures show that Goldsmiths emits around 3.7 million kg of carbon emissions each year, the college said.

Referring to the statistic in a blog, Mr Leam said: “It is clear our university has a huge carbon footprint. The promise to have ended this by 2030 at the latest, with the hope of doing so by 2025, is one which is needed.

“Whilst this plan/action is only the beginning, and much work is yet to be done, it is fantastic to see Goldsmiths taking responsibility and responding to its impact on the climate.”

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Seoul: Cryptocurrency Integral To Smart City Transformation

In [Technocracy: The Hard Road to World Order](#), I wrote,

“Cryptocurrency is the futuristic tool of Sustainable Development.”
Seoul is proving that crypto is “an essential part of the Smart City toolbox.” □ TN Editor

A local digital currency, separate from the national currency, is an essential part of the smart city toolbox.

Seoul is nearing several significant milestones in its journey towards becoming a blockchain smart city, [blockinpress reports](#). By November, it aims to have the following in place:

1. Public services [accepting Korea’s national blockchain ID system](#) as valid documentation.
2. A blockchain system for managing part-time worker labour contracts, insurance and work history.
3. A native city-wide cryptocurrency, dubbed S-coin.

According to *blockinpress*, S-coins will be redeemable for rewards and given to citizens when they use public services and participate in citizenship duties, such as paying taxes and participating in public opinion polls.

Beyond that, the potential applications of a digital currency such as S-coin are almost limitless, as a way of shaping people’s behaviour and streamlining interactions in the smart cities of the future.

The value of S-coin

To understand the value of the S-coin - the real rather than speculative value - it’s important to understand that one of the guiding principles of [Seoul’s smart city program](#) is [to put engaged citizens at the centre of everything](#). After all, a city (and the entire planet for that matter) is for the benefit of its inhabitants first and foremost.

A native cryptocurrency is an excellent way of incentivising desirable behaviour in an organic way.

[As people have previously said](#), government incentives have historically been oriented almost solely around punishments. Citizens behave because they get punished if they don’t. But just about every piece of behavioural research on the planet says a combination stick and carrot

approach is by far the best way to instill desirable behaviour in humans and other animals.

Although the exact scope of S-coin, and where it will be rewarded and redeemable, is still up in the air, some of the areas it could be applied include the following:

- Encouraging citizen participation in governance
- Facilitating cooperation between citizens
- Information gathering

Cooperative public-private decision-making

As a rule, [most voters are apathetic](#). The exceptions to this rule are typically places with [a longstanding history of citizen participation](#), and where participants can get a genuine sense of empowerment.

Only time can create that tradition, but a combination of incentives and some new processes can help create that sense of genuine empowerment on which everything rests. In this case, S-coin is the incentive part of the puzzle. [South Korea's citizen's suggestion box website](#) is another. Here people can make proposals, and others can vote on them.

Popular proposals go to public discussion forums, where government, private sector and citizens can all weigh in.

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