TITLE:
Using Zoning Laws to Reduce Carbon Emissions

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Thesis:
Zoning laws have been used as a planning tool since the twentieth century. One of the ways that these laws have been used is to regulate our living environment, including the emission of carbon. How are zoning laws used to reduce carbon emissions?

Core Concepts/Keywords:
Zoning, planning, living environment, carbon emissions, carbon reduction

Primary Source:

Citation:

Annotation:
This was a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case which held that zoning was constitutional. The case is very important because if zoning was deemed unconstitutional, then the planning policies used by towns and cities nationwide today may have been radically different. The opinion sets out several criteria which must be satisfied when assessing the constitutionality of a given zoning law.

Electronic Reference Source:

Citation:

Annotation:
Contains useful facts and statistics about energy consumption within the U.S. Utilized this source for important statistics, such as the percentage of electricity consumed by the nation’s buildings.

Web Sites:

Citation:

Annotation:
ICLEI USA was launched in 1995 and is now the national leader on some of the most important environmental concerns of the twenty-first century, including climate change and green development at a local government level. ICLEI USA comprises a network of 500 cities, towns and counties working towards reducing carbon emissions through the use of sustainable means. The City of Boston’s Green Zoning Code, enacted in 2007 is an example of only one success story. The city’s new zoning code promotes green building, in an effort to curb the levels of carbon generated by its buildings.
Citation:

Annotation:
Provides a background for the first zoning code enacted in the U.S., in New York City in 1916. This code was enacted due in an attempt to regulate the quality of live of New Yorkers in the face of the fast expansion of their city, and its basic components have served as a blueprint for contemporary zoning codes.

Books:

Citation:

Annotation:
Addresses the sources of law from which local governments derive their authority to zone. Also discusses some of the early Court cases which addressed the issue and have been significant in the development of zoning within the United States.

Citation:

Annotation:
Contains a very thorough yet accessible explanation of the point system utilized for LEED certification. Considers some of the most current examples of green practices used by local governments in their quest to create greener, more sustainable buildings. Consulted bibliography, due to its extensive list of useful websites.

Citation:

Annotation:
Elliott is an attorney and city planner from Denver, Colorado, who has a wealth of experience in land use planning. Drawing from his experience, Elliott has developed ten key principles which can be used to simplify zoning and its uses, and which can simultaneously create more livable cities.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

Citation:

Annotation:
Addressed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s role in fostering sustainable development within the nation’s urban communities. Considered EPA’s strategy in achieving sustainable urban development in the face of environmental challenges, such as climate change.

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Addressed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s role in fostering sustainable development within the nation’s urban communities. Considered EPA’s strategy in achieving sustainable urban development in the face of environmental challenges, such as climate change.
Annotation:
As a leading expert on land use and planning, Salkin examines some of the ways in which local governments have used land use regulation, as a means of controlling climate change.

Newspaper Article:

Citation:

Annotation:
Addresses a public–private effort aimed at trapping and storing carbon emissions, abandoned under the Bush administration, but which may be resurrected under the watch of the new Energy Secretary, Steven Chu. If approved, then some of the proposed projects could completely revolutionize the carbon footprint, of industries such as the coal industry which have traditionally emitted high levels of carbon.

Additional Sources:

Citation:

Annotation:
Contains a host of valuable information on contemporary zoning within the United States. Considers the basics of zoning and zoning specific terminology, but also addresses some of the procedural aspects of zoning, in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Citation:

Annotation:
In order to ensure that zoning laws are successful in achieving their objectives in the longterm, it is important that they are sustainable. This text addresses the importance of the concept of sustainability for the environment and offers a series of practical approaches to implement environmentally sustainable practices.

Citation:

Annotation:
Provides a valuable overview of environmental law procedures and practices within the United States, including permitted and nonpermitted uses of zoning laws.

Citation:

Annotation:
Zoning has long been used as a planning tool to regulate our living environment; zoning is now being used by municipal governments nationwide in an effort to combat rising carbon emissions. One of the key contributors to carbon emissions is the high consumption of energy by the nation’s buildings. In this chapter, Edna Sussman, a leading expert in the fields of green building and energy efficiency explores some of the many ways that zoning is being to make buildings green by utilizing energy more efficiently.