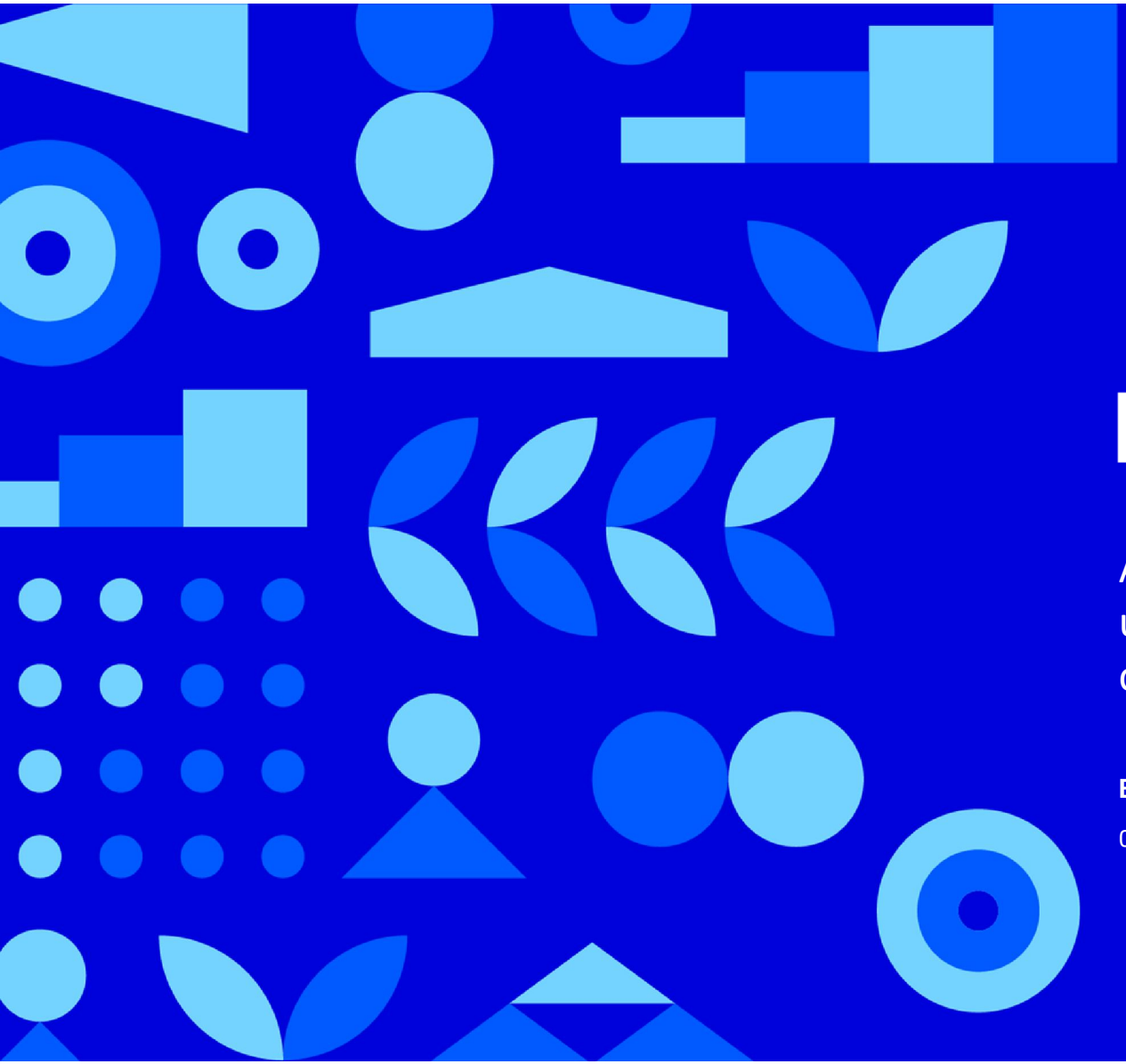


ECOTEK

Activating the community to build upon the physical foundations of a city

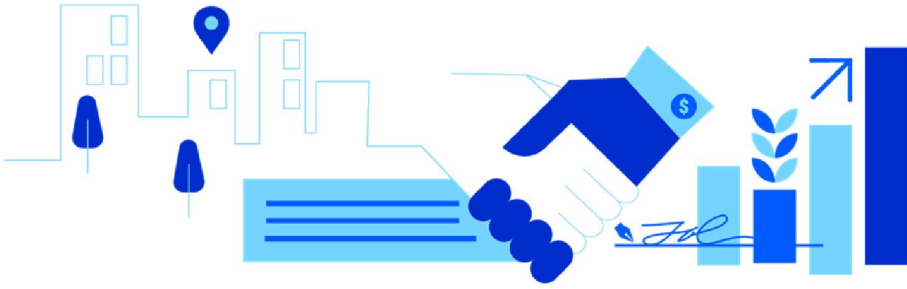
By Lam Nguyen

01/01/2020

“Smart Cities is not a static goal that can be achieved, but rather a ever-evolving process, always marching towards the future, never content with the now”

If Smart Cities is an ever-evolving process, then what is the **fuel** that's spurs the city forward and keeps the **engine of innovation** rolling?

Who ultimately makes up the collective identity of a city…?



01.

Community

A **typical** city provides the infrastructure - ***streets, buildings, power, water, management*** - necessary for people to live and work. But the **future smart city** will need to provide the foundation for citizens to ***choose a much more meaningful and frictionless lifestyle.***

Sustainability of Ideas

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

With the guidance of the “groundbreakers” who have come before and laid the groundworks, it is ultimately up to the community, to build on top of the foundation created by the governments and real estate developers, in order to create a collective identity in the mold provided to them.

The Collective Identity of a city

What factors contribute to making up the identity of a city?

A city and its foundation is ultimately established by the **demands of the market** and the **vision of its developer**

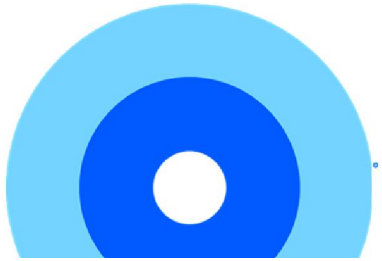
Customers resonated with the vision, move in as residents, and gradually transform the identity through **engagement**

Developers Vision
+
Residents Engagement
=
Collective Identity

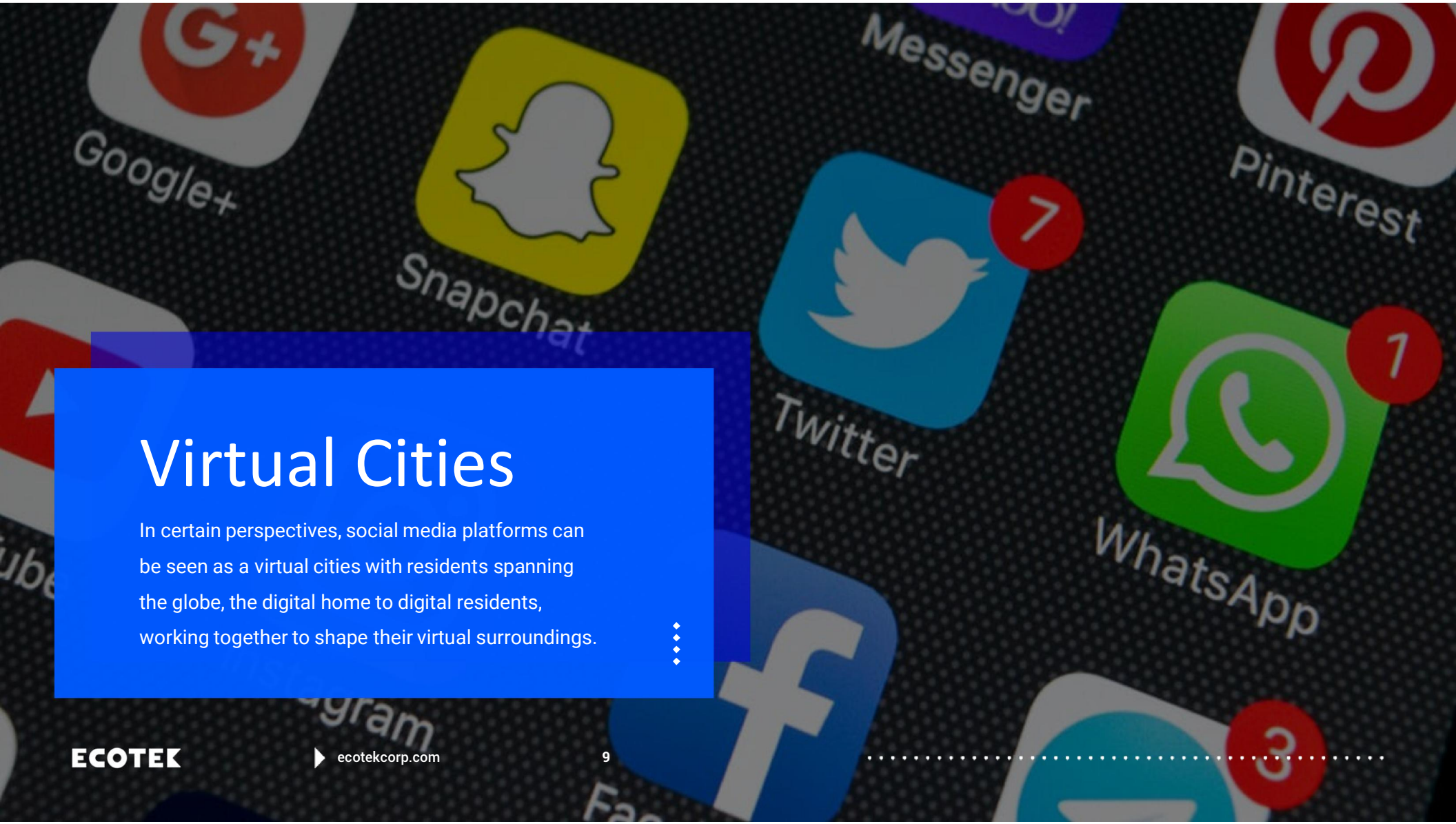
02.

Building a smart and sustainable community

It is one thing to build a smart city. However, it’s a whole other subject for us to build a thriving and vibrant community within said city, to ensure the infrastructure and foundations laid are utilized to its fullest potential.



Which place in the world right now is currently home to 2.7 billion residents, established and maintained with the vision of it's founders and built up and sustained by its residents?



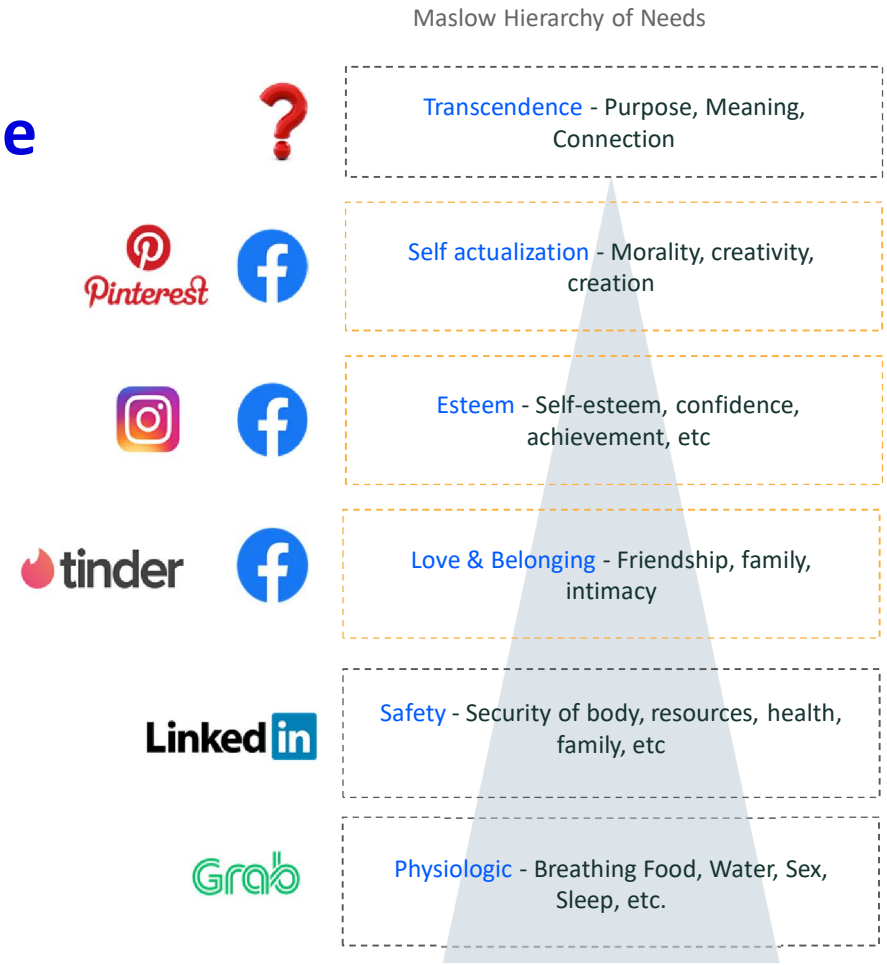
Virtual Cities

In certain perspectives, social media platforms can be seen as a virtual cities with residents spanning the globe, the digital home to digital residents, working together to shape their virtual surroundings.

How does big tech utilize their users as an engine for sustainable growth and evolution?

Building a platform to enable user created content

All social media centric tech companies build their product with a focus on the creation of content through the user. The product serves as a platform, to amplify the value created by their users. Humans are always looking for ways to make an impact and express themselves, and it is the goal of developers to service that need both in the digital and physical world.



RESIDENT PERSONALIZATION

COLLECTIVE VALUE CREATION

03.

Designing community-centric digital products

How can the design, and development of technologies be conducted in order to ensure it services both the fundamental needs of the residents, as well as empowers the community towards collective learning and contribution to the framework of the land developers

The Traditional Residential App

Most residential apps nowadays tend to focus on servicing the basic needs of a resident, such as:

Residential News

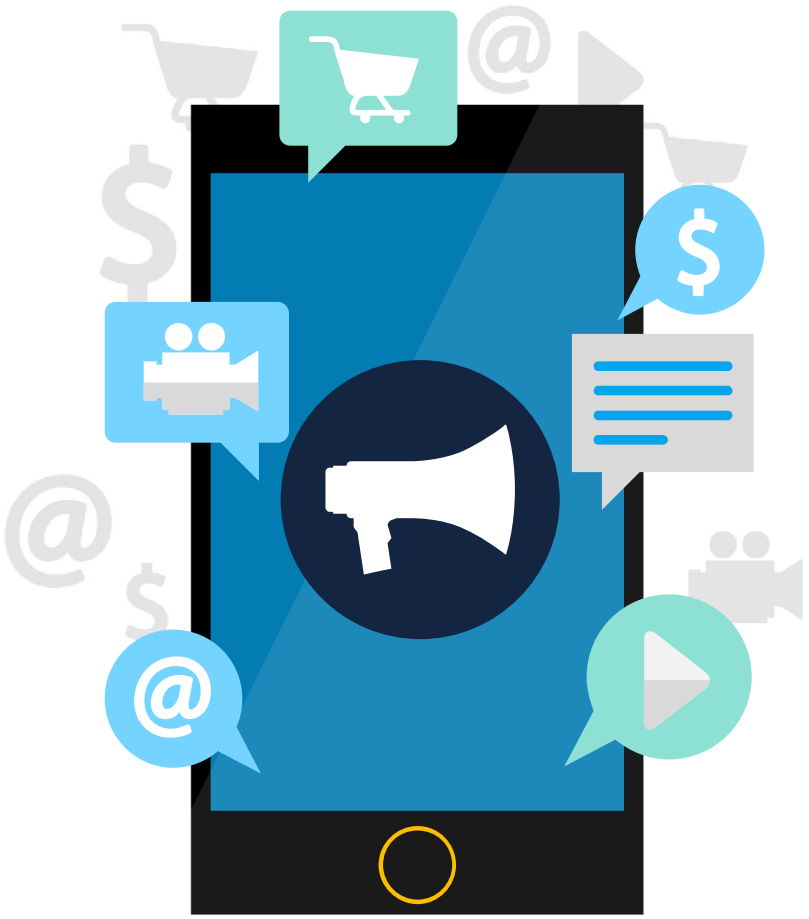
News regarding the township and community, low interactivity

Utility Management

Management of bills and payment relevant to the township services

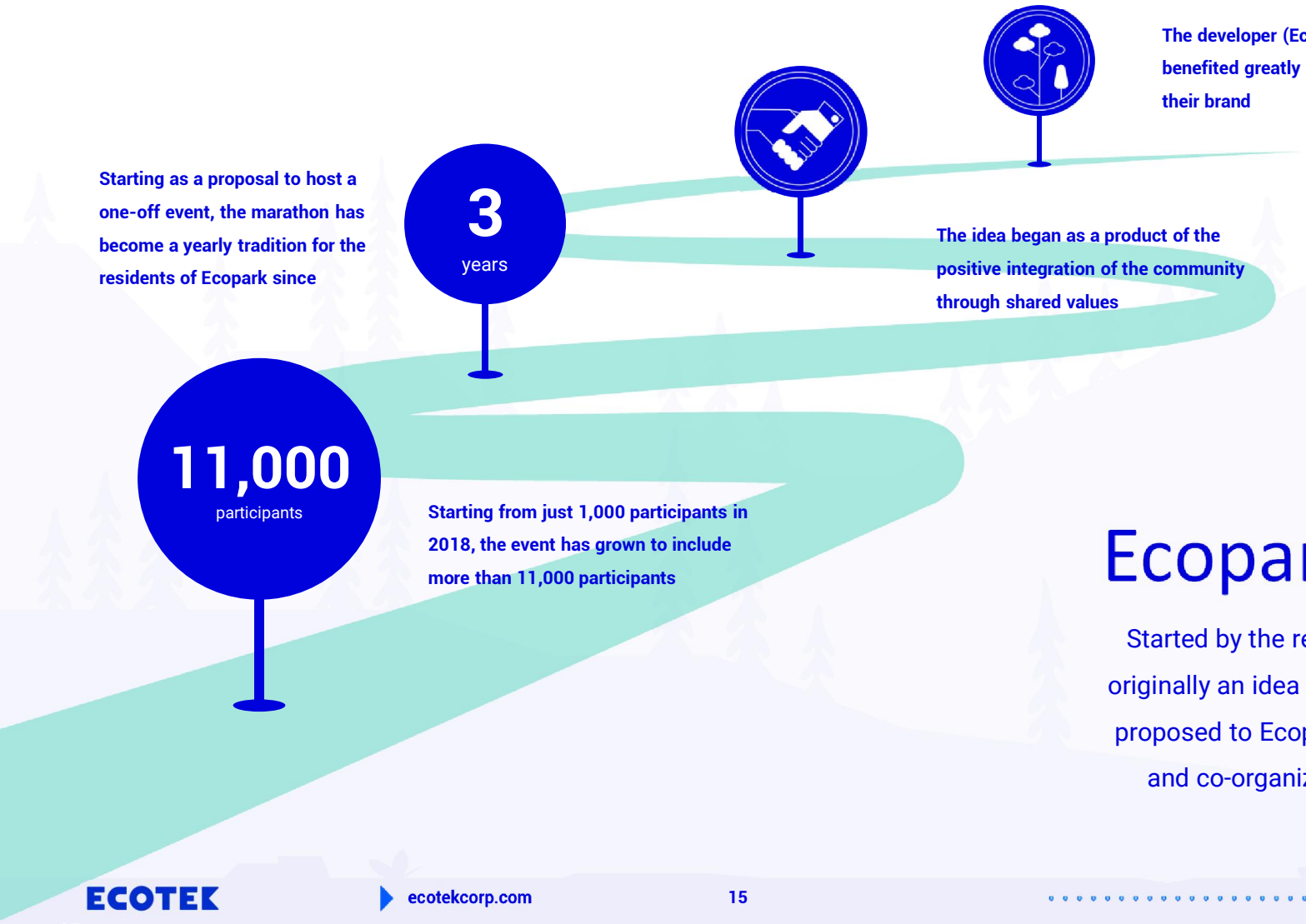
Customer service

A portal for residents to contact their management for queries



CASE STUDY

ECOPARK



Ecopark Marathon

Started by the residents of Ecopark in 2018, it was originally an idea developed by a group of residents, proposed to Ecopark for approval and sponsorship, and co-organized together to become one of the biggest marathons in the nation

Key Inefficiencies

No recognition for the residents

To this day, the only people who know about the mastermind behind the project are the ones involved

No streamlined procedure to process resident ideas

There were no clear avenues to coordinate with the developer, not many knew it was even a possibility

01

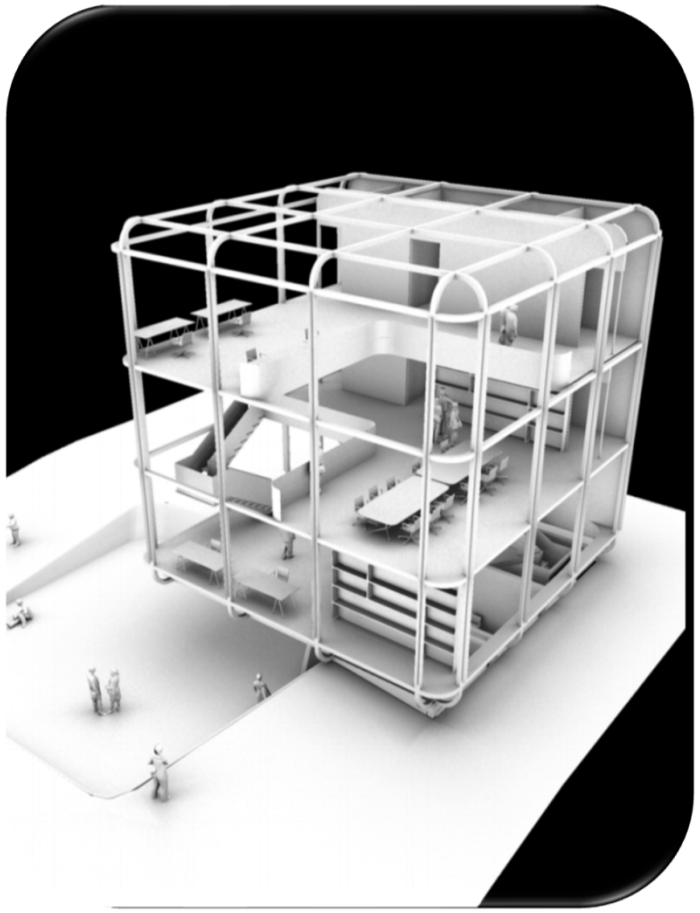
No streamlined procedure to process ideas

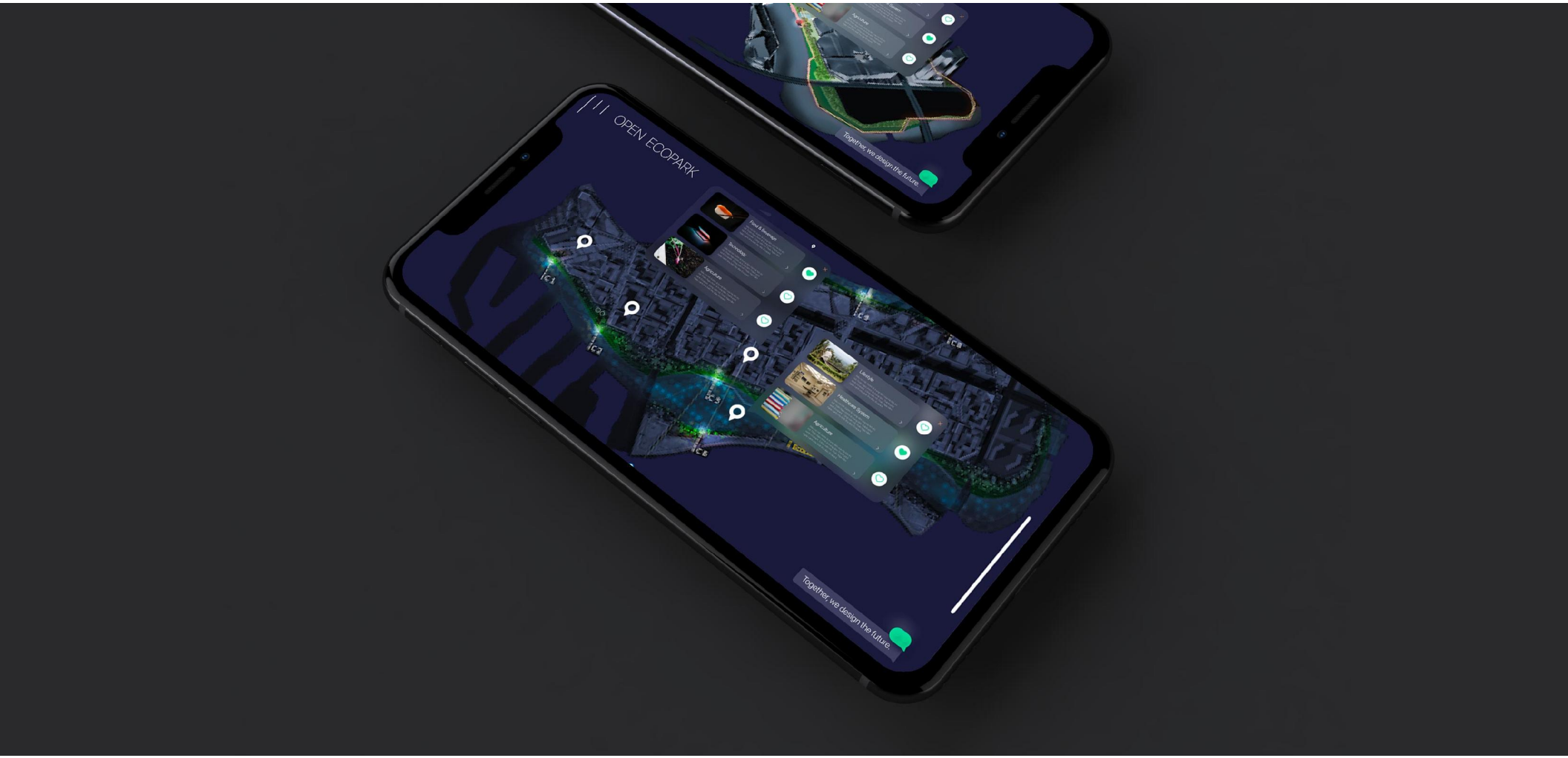
Lack of procedure to process residential ideas

The Innovation Cubes of Metropoli

Essentially serving as a co-working space component of the city, it is natural for the stakeholders of the hosting entity of these new start ups to have a say on what and who the Innovation Cubes are being sent to.

- **Community Pitch**: An official periodic event allows participants from the community to present their ideas to the management and investor community
- **Shortlisting**: After hearing the pitches, the management short-lists the contestants and prepares the suitable sponsorship package
- **Resident vote:** Residents participate, and vote for the idea that they deem is best suited for the community and the city's general quality of life
- **Sponsorship & Implementation:** The team with the winning idea is sponsored a working space and piloting zone for a limited time to implement their idea under management




OPEN ECOPARK
Together, we design the future.
Together, we design the future.

Resident Creative Participation

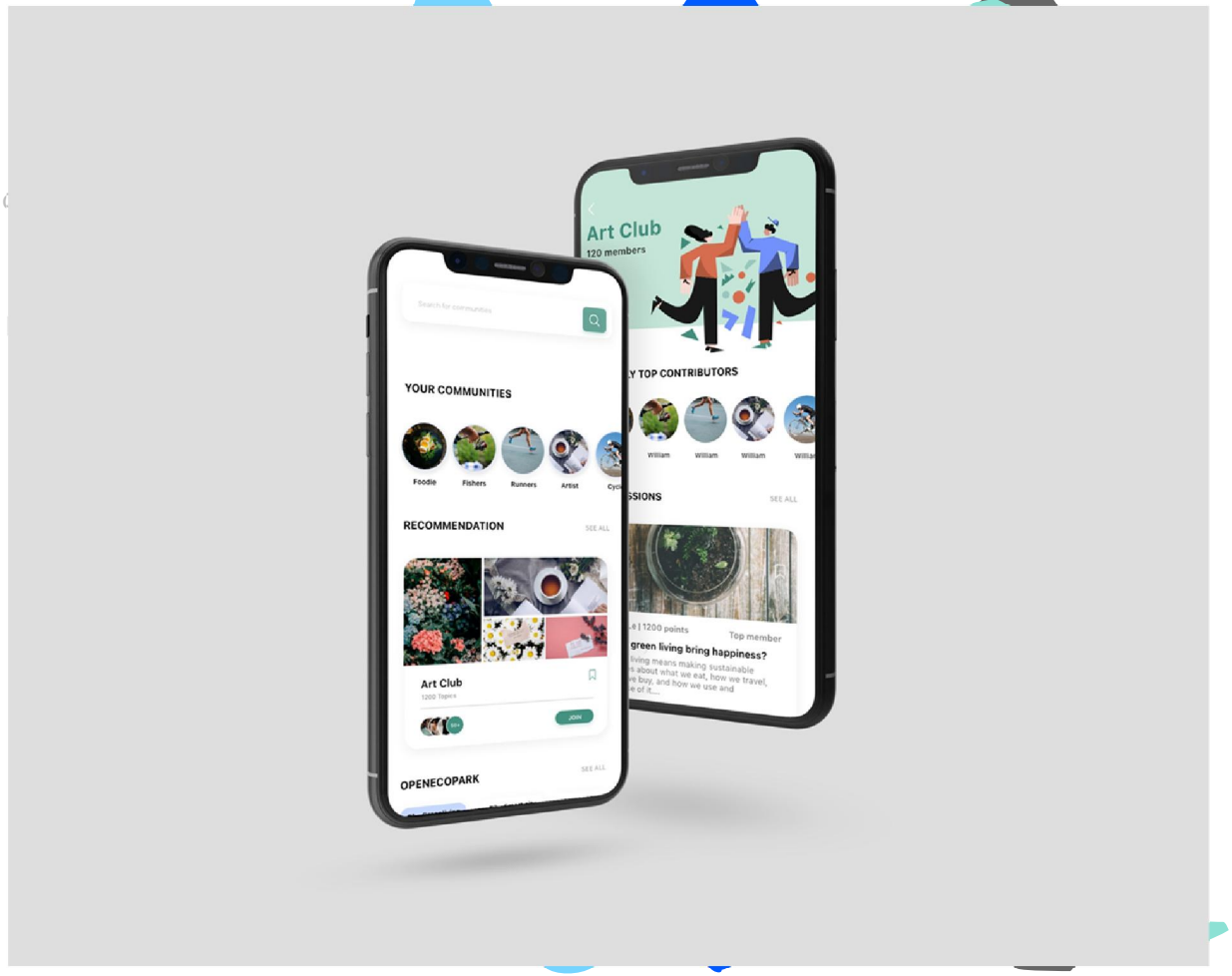
Similar to the process we've conducted alongside our partners at Metropoli, questionnaires conducted with Ecopark residents are a good method to receive useful supporting insights to make more informed decisions on the physical design of future cities.

These are more examples of engagement that can be conducted on the residential app.

02

No recognition for residential contributions

Residents are not acredited and recognize for their engagement

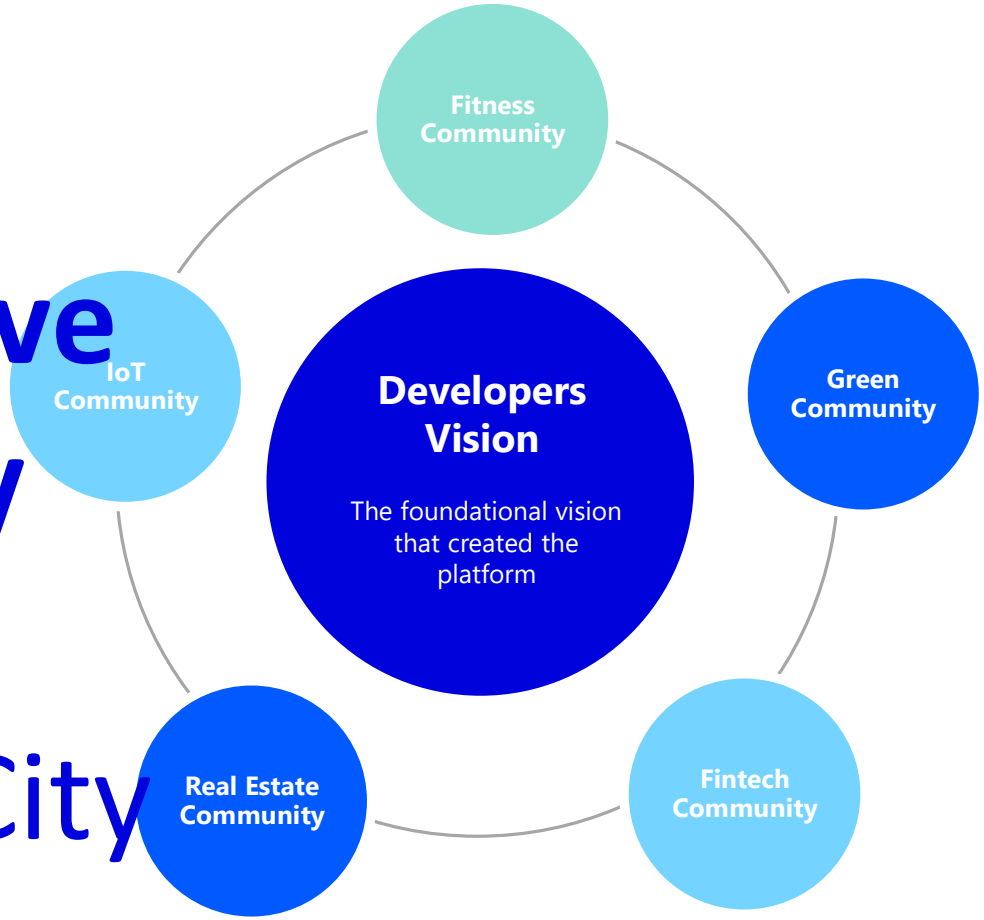


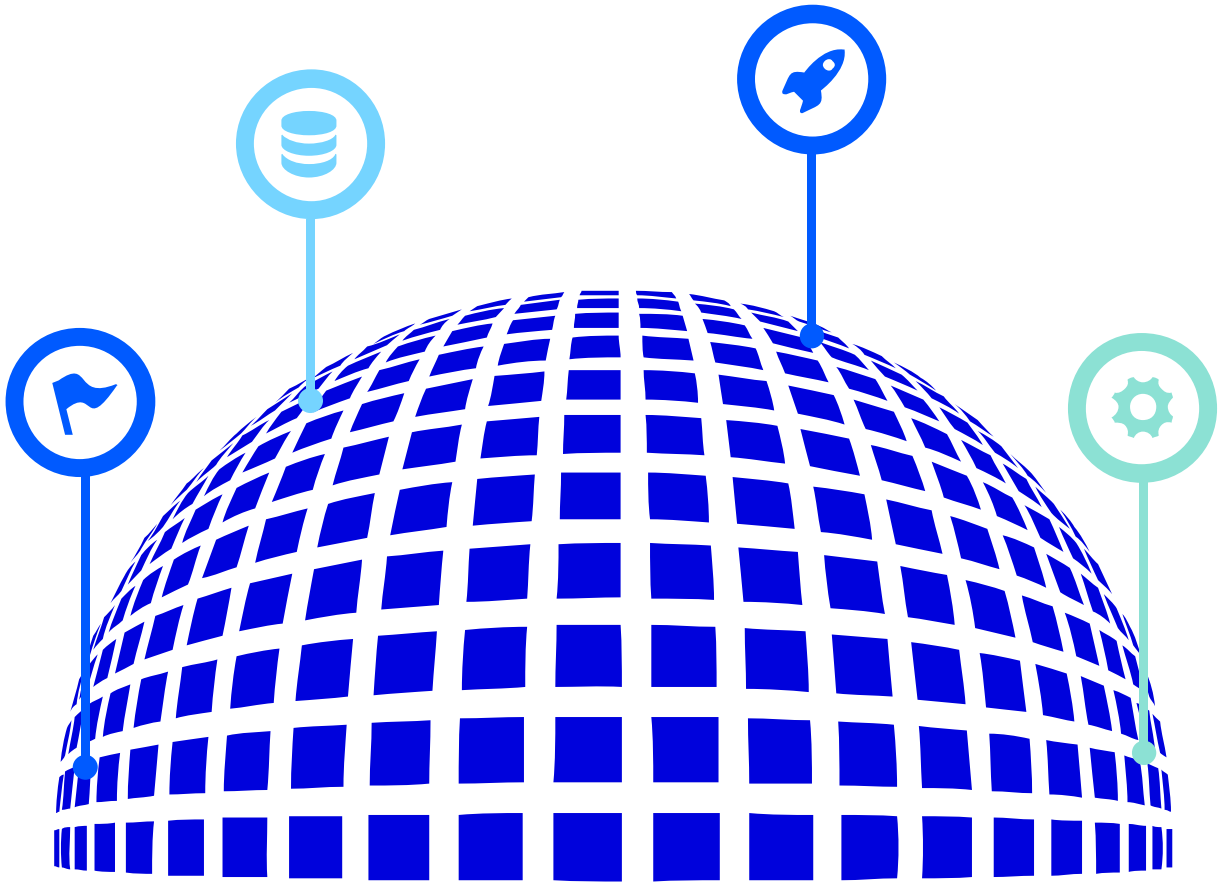
Resident Profile and Connections

Finally, to answer the question regarding the recognition for the participants, the residential app needs to register the contribution of a resident in the physical world in an official manner to make sure that the resident is acknowledged for their participation and that developers, management and other residents know it.

The profile is a passport to identify them and their contribution in the community

The **collective identity** of a Smart City





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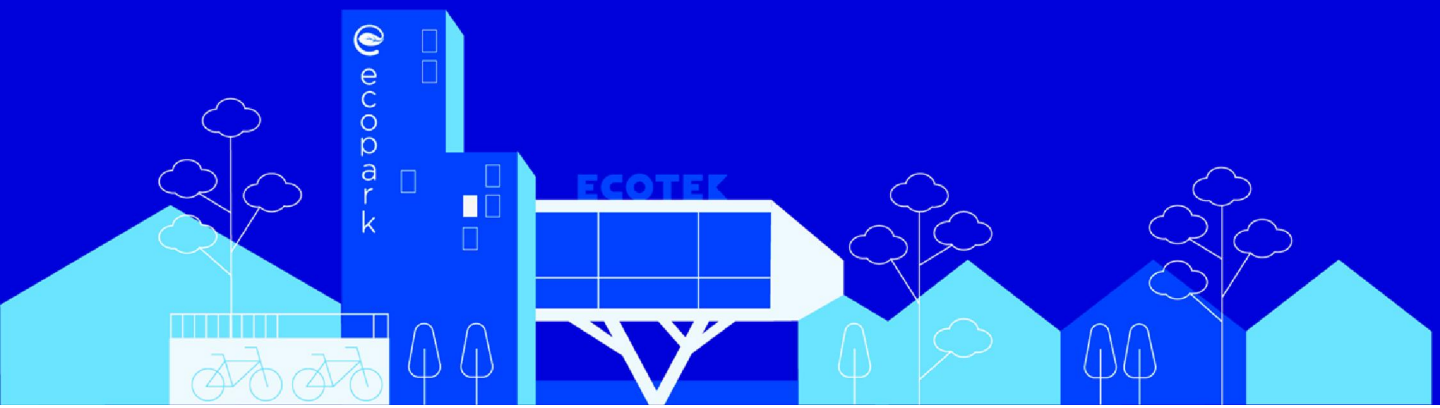

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