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It has been a great pleasure and intellectual adventure compiling this book on how universities can better contribute to regenerative sustainable development, that is, social and technological transformation for improving both environmental conditions and human quality of life. I hope that this enriching and formative experience of working in such a diverse, open and highly motivated team can be shared at least to some extent with our readers. The diversity of our team spans disparate geographic, organizational and disciplinary cultures. Our group of case authors from four continents argues from diverse academic perspectives, such as architecture, engineering, human geography, organizational sociology and Science and Technology Studies (STS). Some authors are practising architects, managers or engineers, and others focus on research and education at universities. Each perspective frames the purpose of living laboratories as a long run experiment allowing the emergence of new technologies and social orders reducing anthropogenic energy and material fluxes in practice. Each chapter however conceives of knowledge-production processes, and the places and networks they are embedded in, in a different manner.

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Ariane König, Luxembourg, 28 January 2013