

What is green for me might not be so green for you

Posted on [September 18, 2012](#) by [Livia Pagotto](#)

As an international student I see and hear interesting things almost every day. Recently I heard from a half German half Belgian friend: *'the cycleway bumps caused by the roots of the trees in Freiburg annoys me!'*

Wait... two of the reasons that brought me to Germany all the way from São Paulo – maybe one of the most grey and unsustainable cities in the world – were the presence of trees and the possibility to ride a bike safely all over the city. But apparently, here in Freiburg, the combination between them can provoke some dissatisfaction to some citizens.



Of course I know my friend recognizes many more urgent issues towards a greener Freiburg, but the fact is that the cycleway bumps caused by the trees crossed his mind, whereas this would never be in my universe of reflections when thinking about my city and all the improvements that could be done for cyclists.

As in almost dimensions of our lives, we want everything to be increasingly better. Our personal experiences and close environment are what establish our references for the world. Maybe this is something we cannot change; maybe it is part of the human nature. So which is the way to go for more sustainable and green cities? Among so many shades of green should we correct the cycleway bumps in Freiburg or start planting more trees and building more cycleways in São Paulo? Freiburg has a bike network of 400 kilometers in 155 km² [1], whereas São Paulo has 110 kilometers distributed in a area of 1.522.986 km² [2].

For now my answer is: light green is better than grey. But dark green is even better!

Written by Livia Menezes Pagotto, to my friend Jonathan

[1] <http://offthebeatenbiketrack.blogspot.fr/2012/07/normal-0-false-false-false-en-us-x-none.html>

[2] <http://www.redebrasilatual.com.br/temas/cidades/2012/03/kassab-entrega-apenas-4-5-km-de-ciclovias-por-ano>

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