

Dear Reviewer / Interviewer / Producer:

I am pleased to share with you an advance copy of *New Slow City: Living Simply in the World's Fastest City* (November 2014) by William Powers. *New Slow City* is a memoir of a year of living the Leisure Ethic in a New York minute.

Since the publication of his green-living memoir *Twelve by Twelve* in 2010, Powers has received thousands of emails, Facebook comments, and questions at his lectures and TV and radio appearances all asking—sometimes angrily—the same question: *Twelve by Twelve*'s ideas of voluntary simplicity, warrior presence, maladjustment to empire, and Leisure Ethic are easy in a shack in the woods. But how the heck do you find peace and sanity in a busy urban life?

Is it possible to live right in the core of the Big Apple and find the same connection to nature, minimalism, joy, and abundant free time he experienced after the season he spent in a twelve-foot by twelve-foot off-the-grid cabin on a permaculture farm in North Carolina?

New Slow City wrestles with—and ultimately answers—these fundamental questions so central to our happiness and our future as a functioning society. It is an adventure into smart-city trends ranging from Slow Food and Slow Travel to technology fasting, urban sanctuaries, bodysurfing the Rockaways, and rooftop farming.

Upon returning home to Queens, New York, after his stay in the “twelve by twelve,” Powers examined what Urban Slow means, and what it feels like, in real terms. “Cities aren't the enemies of a centered life. Mindfulness arises from inside, after all, so what's needed, I came to discover, are the right questions and practices. Nor are cities the enemy of the environment. Because of New York's population density, the average New Yorker has one-third the carbon footprint of the average Vermonter. Figuring out cities is vital,” he says.

After months of soul-searching, he and his wife, Melissa, took a radical step. They gave away or sold 80 percent of the stuff in their 2,000-square-foot Queens townhouse, packed what was left of their belongings into a van, and crossed the Brooklyn Bridge to a newly rented home: a 350-square-foot “micro apartment”—roughly the size of two twelve by twelves—on the fifth floor of a nineteenth-century walk-up in Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

At first, Powers blissfully downshifts to a twenty-hour workweek to savor big-city-slow. But his idealistic plans are sideswiped by the realities of a speed-driven workaholic New York, and he begins to feel isolated and depressed. (*continued*)

To make things worse, Hurricane Sandy sends their micro apartment into a nine days of darkness, destroys the Rockaways, and pounds home the threat of global warming.

Fortunately, Powers begins to connect a colorful cast of New York creatives attempting to resist the ecocidal culture of Total Work. Can they—can we—against the odds, incubate a new city culture that’s slower, saner, and fit for the future?

New Slow City offers an inspiring exploration for anyone trying to make urban life more people- and planet-friendly.

Born and raised on Long Island, William Powers has worked for over a decade in development aid and conservation in Latin America, Africa, Native North America, and Washington, DC. He is a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute and is on the adjunct faculty of New York University. A third generation New Yorker, Powers has also spent two decades exploring the American culture-of-speed and its alternatives in some fifty countries around the world. He has covered the subject in his four books and written about it in the *Washington Post* and the *Atlantic*. An expert on sustainable development, he is a freelance writer and speaker. More information at www.WilliamPowersBooks.com.

I hope you will consider running a review, excerpt, or article on this important and timely title. If you need any additional information, or would like to interview William Powers, please contact me at 415-884-2100 ext. 15 or monique@newworldlibrary.com.

Sincerely,

Monique M. Muhlenkamp
Publicity Director

BOOK INFORMATION

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By William Powers

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