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From the 1930s to the early 1960s, the volume of mail , particularly business mail, grew considerably and the need for a better system became clear. On July 1, 1963, the USPS introduced the Zone Improvement Plan . In 1967, postcodes were required on all mail. A zip code is a five-digit number that represents a specific location in the United States. The extended ZIP + 4 code adds a hyphen and four additional digits for an even more precise location. Here's how it works: Ad The first digit represents the state. The numbers increase as you move west. Different states share each digit - 2, for example, represents the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.The second and third digits represent regions within the state - the first three digits create the Sectional Center Facility (SCF) code. SCF's are the regional headquarters for mail sorting and distribution. The fourth and fifth digits represent more specific areas, such as post offices and postal delivery zones within a city or city. ZIP + 4 has four additional digits that identify a specific segment of the five-digit delivery area, such as a city block, office building, or high volume individual mail receiver. Which households contribute the most to climate change? To find out, take a look at this interactive map created by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley. It provides estimates for all 31,000 zip codes, based on everything people consume in one year, including energy, travel, goods and services. An important finding of the study: suburbs account for more greenhouse gas emissions than other areas. In total, suburbs produce about 50% of household emissions, despite housing only 143 million people in total from a U.S. population of 313 million. Inner city residents tend to have lower ecological footprints because they live in smaller homes and use more public transportation. Some urban households produce 50% of the national average, while some suburban households emit double the national average. Carbon emissions through zip code around New York City. Metropolitan areas look like carbon footprint hurricanes, with dark green, low-carbon urban cores surrounded by red, carbon-rich suburbs, says Chris Jones, a doctoral student at Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, and the paper's lead author. The analysis, which was written in this recent document, is based on multiple sources of data, including census information and household travel surveys. Transport-that is for 26% to 42% of total U.S. household emissions-is the main factor for the difference between suburbs and cities, with households 15 to 45 miles of city centers producing the highest emissions. Emissions from suburban transportation are as much as 2.5 times higher than urban, the researchers say. Apart From between urban and suburban areas, the maps also show which regions produce the most emissions associated with other factors. For example, the Midwest, non-coastal East, and most of the South have relatively high emissions from electricity generation. The West and Northwest have relatively low emissions, due to more low-carbon energy sources. In total, energy accounts for 15% to 33% of total household emissions. Zip codes by energy carbon footprint. The researchers hope the maps will help cities make climate action plans by understanding what drives emissions in different places. The main factors, they find, are family income, vehicle ownership and home size—all of which are larger in suburbia. Does this mean that we need to limit development in the suburbs and increase population density in cities if we want to reduce emissions? Not necessarily. The researchers suggest that this has a limited benefit, and that the emphasis on carbon reduction in the current districts would be better. [Suburbs] are ideal candidates for a combination of energy-efficient technologies, including whole-house energy upgrades, and photovoltaic solar systems combined with electric vehicles, the study says. Everyone has mesna reduced exactly two postcodes: 90210 and whatever their own postcode. We can thank a certain TV show in Beverly Hills for that. Apart from that, general knowledge of these five-digit figures is quite limited. We put them at the end of the addresses, and then our mail is magically delivered to the right location. But through some cunning methods of detection (online research), we discovered one of the most kept secrets all postal carriers know: what zip codes really are and how they work. (OK, so it's not really a secret, but now you have something to talk to your postman about.) Find out how to help the USPS now. Why do we use zip codes? The whole practice of using postcodes is a relatively new system that was introduced on July 1, 1963. Before that, starting in 1943, the U.S. Postal Service used a series of postal zones for major cities; if you wrote an address, that number would go after the city and before the state, and the mail carriers used it to sort mail more efficiently. See what mail delivery looked like 100 years ago. What does each number in a zip code mean? In 1944, a postman named Robert Moon submitted an idea for a new post zone system that would cover the entire country. The first number would represent a group of states, starting at zero on the East Coast and ending at nine on the West Coast, and the second and third numbers would indicate which sectional center facility (the place post is processed and distributed) the item must go into that area. The U.S. Postal Service eventually adopted this plan with the addition of two numbers at the end to indicate the correct post office or post zone, and zone improvement plan code or zip code was born. Check out these other surprising facts about the U.S. Post Office. What do the four numbers mean at the end of a zip code? About 20 years after the first zip codes were introduced, the Postal Service made another adjustment to the system: the four digits that come after your zip code. These represent a specific area that covers a particular post office. The sixth and seventh numbers refer to a delivery sector, which could be a group of streets, a large building or another small geographical area. The latter two represent a delivery segment, such as the floor of an office building or one side of a street. Although the U.S. Postal Service says proper credit for establishing the zip code goes to a commission of people, our addresses would look very different if it weren't for Moon's numerical inspiration. If you didn't know that, you certainly won't know these 23 secrets your postman won't tell you. Juanmonino/Getty ImagesGetty Images, rd.com peterspiro/Getty Images Several websites, including Yellowpages.com, Manta.com and MerchantCircle.com, offer online search tools for locating businesses by zip code. To find businesses by zip code using these search tools, enter the zip code and additional information about the business in the search boxes. From the Yellowpages.com home page, enter information about the company you're looking for in the What to Search search box. You enter a company name, category, description, or other information about the company. Then enter the zip code of the area you're searching in the Location search box. Click the Search icon to show businesses that match your search criteria in that zip code. Manta.com offers a similar search function. On the home page, click the text Find a Business To open the business search program. In the Find Products, Services, and Business, search box, enter the applicable information. Enter the zip code where you search in the Location search box, and then click the Go button. The website then shows companies that meet your search criteria in that zip code. MerchantCircle.com provides a search function for locating sellers in a local area. On the homepage, enter information about the company and the zip code in the included boxes. Click Start Search to see a list of sellers in that zip code. Non-mandatory zip codes were introduced in the United States in 1963. Robert Moon, a postal inspector with the United States Postal Service, proposed the zip code system as early as 1944. The United States Postal Service began in 1943 with two-digit area codes to define postal zones in larger cities. From 1967 onwards, the postcode gradually became mandatory. The word ZIP comes from the acronym for Zone Improvement Plan. The postcode consisted of 5 digits. In 1983, the + 4 was introduced to make delivery to densely populated areas more efficient. It's a buyer's market, or so they say, but what if you're aiming for more than a great deal on a single-family home or an apartment? What if you want more? What if you want a lot more? We've written about cities for sale recently, but we came across one that we thought needed special attention, so we've dedicated this week's edition of Extreme Real Estate to this one property. Photo credit: NAI Business Properties Properties Properties

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