Financing sustainable urban development under the aims of the United Nations’ SDG 11 (“Sustainable Cities and Communities”) is a pressing issue in countries like China, where choking air pollution and rising greenhouse gas emissions are undercutting large-scale urbanization. Chinese municipalities, pressured by stronger international efforts to combat climate change and central government policies, have responded by building 285 experimental “eco-cities” since 2000. While there is an ongoing debate about what constitutes an “eco-city,” those in China are typically new, satellite urban developments integrating green technologies, buildings, and designs to offer residents high social, economic, and environmental quality of life. Eco-cities are also expensive – high construction costs have complicated eco-city projects near cities such as Shanghai or Tianjin, meant to boost local competitiveness and attract investment for real estate and industries. The Shenzhen International Low Carbon City (ILCC), launched just six years ago, provides an interesting case because of its diversified funding sources. Using expert interviews and site visits conducted in Shenzhen during April 2018 – with follow-up visits arranged for September – I investigate the financial tools utilized in ILCC, their impacts on urban sustainability indicators, and implications for eco-/low carbon cities across Asia. My approach mainly aligns with SDG 11 but also touches on SDGs 9 and 13. Preliminary findings show the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and urban investment and finance platforms (UIFPs) for eco-cities’ fiscal sustainability. Whereas most Chinese municipal governments rely on huge, untenable land leases to fund eco-city infrastructure, Shenzhen smartly raised money for ILCC through banks, capital markets, and foreign partnerships. Analyzing ILCC’s fiscal innovations gives officials a model for reducing cost burdens on local governments, achieving sustainability targets, and improving eco-cities’ generally poor economic track record. For real estate developers and private investors, my findings should prompt reconsideration of conventional funding arrangements. This study also deepens the scholarly literature, since the financing of eco-cities remains under-explored compared to dimensions like planning and renewable energy usage. Continuation of this research will supplement recent studies (2015-2018) by the China-Europe SMART-ECO project and the Peking University-Lincoln Institute for Urban Development and Land Policy, among others.