

Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | May 2022

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AIPH Global Green City Guidelines inspire cities to harness the power of plants



The 2020 Global Green City Guidelines provides practitioners and decision-makers with the essential information they need to understand and communicate the benefits of urban green space, nature-based solutions, and green infrastructure with the objective of providing a wide range of professionals with the stimulus to ask ‘how green is my city?’ It provides tools in the form of practical pointers that show how the contribution of green infrastructure can be enhanced for the benefit of all. Founded on the [principles of the Green City philosophy](#), they position ‘living green’ as a fundamental solution to many of the challenges of contemporary life and showcase that investment in green infrastructure is repaid many times over in terms of the benefits it brings. The Green City Guidelines are presented according to four landscape scales, which you can access as follows:

[Green Cities](#)[Green Neighbourhoods](#)[Green Streets](#)[Green Buildings](#)

As you will discover, the AIPH 2020 Green City Guidelines present an extensive case study collection from around the world to illustrate how the green city principles have successfully been implemented as well as a series of Sector Briefs which explain how the global horticultural industry contributes to other urban disciplines and the United Nations SDGs through the work of AIPH.

[Submit a Case Study](#)

Policy



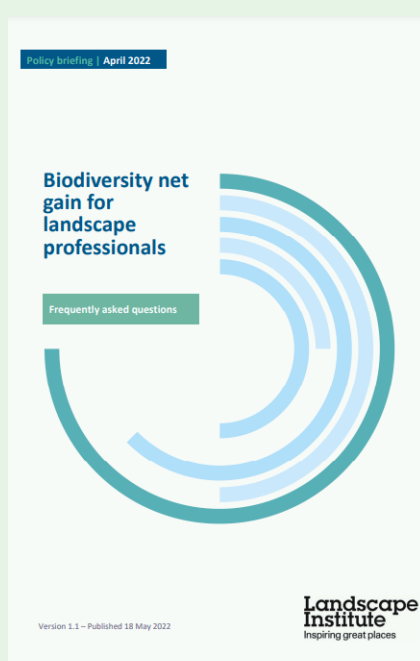
22 Actions Cities can take to Build a shared future for all life

The 22nd May 2022 marked the annual celebration of the [International Day for Biological Diversity](#). This year is particularly significant given the fact that the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is due to be adopted at the UN CBD COP15. Acknowledging that the majority of the action targets in the GBF will be achieved at the local level, there is increasing recognition of the role of cities in implementing the global biodiversity agenda. Cities are where decisions are taken daily and where collective action can achieve transformative impact. Green cities are critical to secure our urban future. ICLEI and our proud partner, CitiesWithNature developed a set of 22 actions your city can take #ForNature.

[View the 22 actions](#)

Implementing Biodiversity Net-Gain in your city: Guidance from the Landscape Institute

Under the provisions of the [Environment Act](#) 2021, a statutory 10% minimum biodiversity net gain will become mandatory for almost all land development in England. Biodiversity net gain provides an opportunity to ensure that built developments provide lasting benefits rather than negative effects on biodiversity. Alongside their [response to the UK government](#) on how biodiversity net gain regulations should work in practice, the Landscape Institute has published a new briefing document on why net gain is important and how landscape designers, managers, and planners can best implement it. Find out more about how the built environment can deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity in your city.

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Best Practice

Pledge to plant billions of trees demands attention to “right plant, right place”



On 11 May 2022, the MapMyTree counter opened to all EU citizens to register their trees as part of the 3 Billion Trees Pledge. Under the European Green Deal, the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 commits to planting at least 3 billion additional trees to increase the area of forest and tree coverage in the EU, to increase the resilience of forests and their role in reversing biodiversity loss, and to mitigate and help the region adapt to climate change. A roadmap in the EU Forest Strategy outlines how the Commission will facilitate the achievement of this pledge to ensure “right plant, right place”

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Green Barriers to Improve School Playground Air Quality



Poor air quality is a global issue which is especially prevalent in cities. There are growing concerns around children breathing-in pollutants. Minimising children's exposure to poor quality air is vital for both short- and long-term health. The opportunities to use plants as green barriers to improve air quality around school playgrounds is explored and discussed by María del Carmen Redondo-Bermúdez.

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The AIPH Case study of the redevelopment of Garibaldi Street, Lyon, describes best practice of selection and placement of trees and shrubs to deliver maximum benefits while addressing concerns of traffic visibility, pedestrian and cyclist safety and comfort.

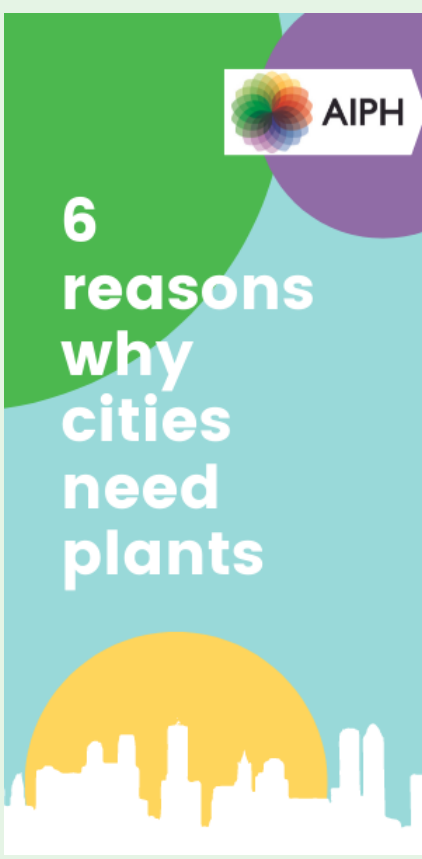
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Green City Principles

May Roundup: Why do Cities Need Plants?



With the first ever [International Day of Plant Health](#) on 12th May reminding us that “Protecting Plants is Protecting Life,” [World Migratory Bird Day](#) on the 14th inviting us to “Dim the Lights for Birds at Night,” and [World Bee Day](#) encouraging us to “Bee Engaged” under the theme “Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems,” the month of May has been a memorable one for the global green city community. These annual global campaigns culminated in the [International Day for Biological Diversity](#) which was celebrated on 22nd May with the slogan “Building a shared future for all life” being chosen to continue building momentum and support for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference #COP15. To commemorate the occasion, AIPH shared 6 reasons why cities need plants.

[Join the Conversation and Follow AIPH](#)

Cities4Biodiversity hosts first Deep-Dive Learning event

Spearheaded by the [Global Platform for Sustainable Cities](#) (GPSC) and the [Global Program on Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience](#) in collaboration with the partner organizations, [Cities4Biodiversity](#) is supporting a network of cities to incorporate green and climate solutions into planning and specific project design and implementation and working to forge political ambitions and commitments. One of the modalities of support is delivered in the form of deep-dive learning sessions which provide knowledge sharing opportunities. The first deep-dive session, held as an online workshop from 5th-13th April 2022 saw cities and experts actively sharing their ongoing projects and initiatives and first-hand knowledge around the theme: Greening Cities – Integrating urban greening and ecology into city and neighbourhood planning and connecting “green and blue infrastructure”. The presentations, tools, and reports are now available.



[Check out the resources](#)

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AIPH Events & Activities



Hatay named first category Sponsor for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022

The Garden of Civilisation [Expo 2021 Hatay](#) opened on 1st April 2022 and will run for three months until 30th June 2022. The Expo is hosted across two sites in Antakya and Iskenderun and aims to stimulate city greening and sustainable development for the Hatay region and the local economy. AIPH is proud to welcome the City of Hatay as the very first Category Sponsor for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022. Are you interested to find out how your organisation or city can become a sponsor?

[See Sponsorship Brochure](#)

Coming Soon: AIPH to announce the shortlist for the inaugural AIPH World Green City Awards 2022

With the first level of judging now complete, the [Technical Panel](#) of judges have scored the impressive number of entries received for the 2022 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards, and will soon deliver a shortlist of 18 entries to the world-renowned Jury. The shortlist consists of 3 cities in each of the [six Award categories](#). The Jury will now vote for the winner of each category, as well as the overall Green City winner who will win the title of the “World’s greenest city” at a dedicated Awards gala event that will be held later in the year. Watch this space for the announcement of the shortlisted cities!

[Stay in the Loop](#)



Floriade to Host Conference on Growing Green Cities

Climate change, urbanisation, declining biodiversity, pandemics, extreme weather and increasing food production: these are just a few of the factors that challenge the future of our cities. Many investments in our cities of today are expected to last for generations, so how do we think long term in a short term world, for growing green cities? There is growing evidence that nature based solutions can be sound investments for future urban challenges. In this conference, which will take place on the 4th and 5th of July 2022 at the location of the [Floriade Expo 2022](#), close to the cities of Almere and Amsterdam, policymakers, professionals, practitioners and students will gather to develop good practices on how to include long term thinking in short term decision making. You are invited!



Xander de Bruine, Programme Manager for Expo Floriade 2022 extends an invitation to this multi-disciplinary, international audience:

“The future of growing green cities is appealing to people for both living and working. The challenge in growing green cities is to include long term thinking in our current decision making and investment plan. With this conference we will look ahead to prepare for short term decisions, we will exchange knowledge, build on good practices and growing evidence that nature based solutions can be sound investments for future urban challenges. Please join this conference in July 2022!”

[Find out more and register here](#)

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Case Studies

Here's why we need to cover our cities with plants



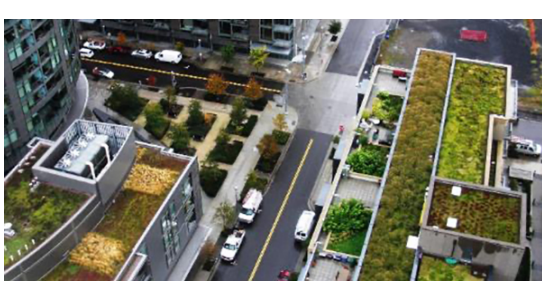
A report by [ARUP](#) titled “Cities Alive: Green Building Envelope” urges us not to underestimate the power of plants and green building facades in the built environment. The report examines how retrofitting our cityscapes with vegetation can play a significant role in improving our cities. Five case study cities are profiled in the report in order to quantify the benefits for different urban morphologies, geographical and climate contexts: Los Angeles, Berlin, London, Melbourne, and Hong Kong. The findings invite us to reimagine how cities can improve green infrastructure and, at the same time, help to reduce energy consumption, improve air quality and people's wellbeing.

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Research Findings

Willingness to pay for green roofs



Potentially the first of its kind, Netusil et al. (2022) research produced an estimated household willingness to pay value for a new green roof program through a 1-year increase in sewer and stormwater fees. It also found that Portland (USA) residents valued three key benefits of reduced combined sewer overflows, reduced summer temperatures and increased biodiversity.

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Urban Agriculture and Social Benefits



A review of research from 57 different countries has revealed the extensive social and cultural benefits of urban agriculture. These include community cohesion, increased food security and economic opportunities. Urban food-growing spaces serve as fertile, meaningful, and safe grounds for integrating different communities to grow together.

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International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)

Since 1948, AIPH has united horticultural producers in an international community that thrives to this day. Much has changed in that time. Technologies advanced, cities rose from the ground, and we have become more connected than ever. As a result, our essential bond with nature has been weakened. AIPH strives to reignite and uphold an appreciation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct. We support the work of grower associations globally and together we champion a prosperous industry, growing plants that enhance lives, advance societies, and sustain our planet, for this generation and the next.

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