

Global Green City Update

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

[Policy](#)[Best Practice](#)[Principles](#)[News & Events](#)[Case Studies](#)[Research Findings](#)

The Year in Review: AIPH Advancing the Global Green City Agenda in 2022



YEAR IN REVIEW 2022



In 2022 there has been significant growth for the global green movement. AIPH is proud to be at the forefront of leading, shaping, and inspiring this movement through our various Green City activities. We invite you to join us as we reflect on the last year and look to the future with renewed ambition to showcase and demonstrate that we need greener, healthier, and more sustainable cities now, more than ever before.

Click on the icons to learn more.



**Showcasing
Action for Nature**



**Growing a Global
Green City Network**



**Knowledge Sharing
and Learning**



WORLD GREEN CITY AWARDS 2024

[Register Your City's Interest Today](#)

Join the AIPH Global Green City Forum and share your contributions

AIPH Green City Forum

Find quality support for the creation of future proof policy, tools to develop climate resilient spaces and innovation to integrate nature back into our environment. Case studies, guidelines and discussion to bring the power of plants to your city.

[Join the Forum](#)

News & Events



Hot Off the Press: Cities at COP 15

The 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities, hosted by ICLEI and partners took place as an official parallel event to the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the CBD from 11th-12th December 2022. This was a historic moment on the advocacy roadmap for local and subnational governments ahead of the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by Parties to the CBD at COP 15.

[Day 1 Part 1](#)[Day 2 Part 1](#)[Day 1 Part 2](#)[Day 2 Part 2](#)

Montréal Pledge for Cities at COP15

As host city to COP15, Montréal has invited cities across the world to support the Montréal Pledge and make a commitment to protect biodiversity. The challenge is to take 15 tangible actions towards pursuing and accelerating their efforts to preserve ecosystems. In less than a month, 47 cities from all across the globe, from the 5 continents, have already committed to the Montreal Pledge. AIPH invites your city to demonstrate its commitment to nature by signing the pledge and uniting with leading cities who are showcasing that they are ready to act now for biodiversity.

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Network of Partners Grows as AIPH and GYBN Partner to Launch Youth Award for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024

PROUDLY
PRESENTING A NEW
YOUTH AWARD



**WORLD
GREEN CITY
AWARDS
2024**

IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH



**Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network**

A new Youth Award for the 2024 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards was proudly announced by AIPH and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) on 6th December 2022 at the [Youth Summit](#) in Montréal ahead of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This new Youth Award will be decided by a new Youth Jury, whose compilation will be led by GYBN, and who will select from the 18 finalists the top entry most likely to inspire the youth and fulfil their needs for a secure, healthy future. The Youth Award will be presented at the 2024 Awards ceremony alongside the Category Winners and is envisaged to be an integral part of each future edition going forward.

“The loss of nature is one of the greatest challenges of our time. How we act now to halt this loss will determine what future today’s youth will enjoy tomorrow. We are proud to be initiating the Youth Award with AIPH in demonstration of how the youth are critical to shaping the global movement for greener cities. It is, after all, these cities which the youth will inherit and continue to transform in the future,” said Swetha Stotra Bhashyam, Global South Focal Point, GYBN.

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[Read the Case Study](#)

[Watch the Briefing](#)

[Previous Briefings](#)

In Case You Missed It - Watch the December Webinar *Feature City: Mexico City*

As climate change increases challenges for cities worldwide, this session focused on climate adaptation strategies that promote the power of plants in creating resilient urban environments. Katharina Metz from the [Urban Sustainability Exchange](#) (use), a knowledge exchange platform dedicated to sustainable city making, was the MC of this exciting webinar. The first speaker, Dr Mario Balzan, shared insights from his research focused on nature-based solutions to achieve innovation, sustainable economic growth, and human well-being in Malta.

The second presentation by Valder Pliego del Ángel, on behalf of the Secretary of Environment, demonstrated how nature-based solutions are being put into practice in Mexico City through the city’s Environmental and Climate Change programme. Mexico City, winner of the ‘Living Green for Climate Change’ category in the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022, has, among many other inspiring actions, planted over 27,000,000 trees and plants through an increase in their own plant nursery production.

More Briefings to Come...

The AIPH Green City Briefings will return in 2023 with monthly webinars, starting on 14th February, that will continue to feature Cities who were category winners of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022. Stay tuned for the dates of these exciting webinars, which will continue to link knowledge to practice on themes such as biodiversity, health and wellbeing, social cohesion, economic recovery and inclusive growth, and more.

To stay in the loop and ensure you don't miss out, we invite you to register for the upcoming webinars in the series.

[Register Now](#)



AIPH Members Green City Reports

AIPH requests its members from around the world to provide an annual Green City Report that presents an update on developments in the green city sector in their region. The reports describe industry-led initiatives, major green city projects, policy developments, community activities, and research publications. In this section, AIPH will feature projects and initiatives from our members.

[AIPH Members](#)

VALHOR
TOUTES LES FORCES DU VÉGÉTAL

VALHOR, an AIPH Affiliate member in France, announced on 8th December 2022, the 63 candidates that were selected to receive the Victoires du Paysage. Organised since 2008 by VALHOR, the French interprofession of horticulture, floristry and landscaping, the Victoires du Paysage is a national competition which rewards public and private project owners for their remarkable landscaping. Watch the awards ceremony live to find out who the winners are.

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AIPH Region VIII

The Green City report for AIPH Region VIII, covering Thailand, Indonesia and Australia was submitted by Karen Tambayong of Indonesia. The report included the Green Bangkok 2030 project, which was launched at the end of 2019 as part of Thailand’s goal to reduce greenhouse gases by 20-30 per cent by 2030. The main aim of the project is to increase the number of sustainable, quality green spaces across Bangkok. The project has three main targets: increase the ratio of green space in the city to 10sqm per person; have trees covering 30% of a city’s total area, and ensure footpaths meet international standards. This was a collaboration between public, private and civil sectors equipped with the capability and public mindset to expand green spaces in Bangkok.

[The Green Bangkok 2030 Project](#)

[The Greening of Bangkok](#)

Digital Citymaker’s Summit



Titled “Urban Solutions for Global Problems,” and hosted by the Urban Sustainability Exchange (USE), the newest partner of the AIPH World Green City Awards, the [Digital Citymaker’s Summit](#) is an online networking event at which we invite you to discuss and explore the following questions with fellow citymakers:

- What programmes and policies do cities need to implement to meet their growing responsibilities?
- How can local governments engage in dialogue with national levels of government, and how can city networks and international organisations facilitate this process?

Learn about inspiring projects, policies and knowledge resources and meet key actors in the field of sustainable urban development from around the globe! Registration is open until January 18th, 2023.

[Register Today](#)

Best Practice



**WORLD
GREEN CITY
AWARDS
2022**



Following the announcement of the [Finalists for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022](#), AIPH is proud to demonstrate best practice by profiling the shortlisted entries in each category. This month we proudly present case studies from the three finalists in the “Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth” category. These cities demonstrate how they are creating systems and solutions that allow all city residents to overcome economic distress and thrive.

[View the case study library](#)

Green Garland to the State of Telangana *Hyderabad, India*



The City of Hyderabad's entry stands as a world-class showcase of the power of plants and nature in the urban context. Hyderabad is Mega city (10 million inhabitants) and one of the fastest growing metropolises in India, which is expected to be home to about 19 million residents by 2041. Telangana Ku Haritha Haram (TKHH), meaning 'Green Garland to the State of Telangana' is a flagship program which has inspired large-scale tree-planting by the Government of Telangana since 2015-16. The program was established with the aim of increasing the tree cover of the State from the current 24% to 33% of its total geographical area, and this goal was well surpassed. This initiative was awarded the Grand Winner of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022.

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Transformation of “Beltway to Green Belt” *Mashhad, Iran*



The 27 km long southern Beltway project of Mashhad was implemented in 1990 in order to facilitate citizens' access to suburban highways and reduce the traffic load of the inner-city streets. Although environmental reports portrayed a dark future for the region, the construction of the highway continued despite the devastating effects on the environment. Finally, in 2018, in order to protect the environment and the interests of citizens, it was decided to stop the development of the southern part of the beltway. Based on a comprehensive environmental protection plan, various projects such as the development of multi-purpose parks and natural-mountainous parks were designed with the aim of preserving the environment and also developing native vegetation to transform the “Southern Transport Belt” into a “Green Belt”.

[Read More](#)

The 2020-2030 Master Plan for the Conservation, Improvement and Development of Parc Jean-Drapeau *Montréal, Canada*



The Master Plan represents a marked change in the mission and vision of Montréal's oldest and largest urban park. Following a lengthy public consultation process that received over 6,000 submissions followed by a thorough diagnosis and a methodical planning and design process,

the Société du parc Jean-Drapeau Corporation or SPJD decided to make a significant shift in the role of the park as a public place for the people of Montréal. By placing ecological transition, diversity, and inclusion among its guiding principles, and sustainable development and conservation among its primary strategic objectives, the park is broadening its social reach and its contribution to the issues facing society today. Practical, theoretical, and empirical research in several cities concerning contemporary park issues at the local, national, and international levels was conducted. Many of the 8,700 parking spaces will be converted to green space, which is known to provide many ecosystem services, including improving air quality by capturing pollutants, regulating temperatures, reducing stormwater runoff, and reducing noise pollution.

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Policy

Focussing on Adaptation: Too Little, Too Slow?



UNEP's [Adaptation Gap Report 2022](#) looks at progress in planning, financing and implementing adaptation actions and finds that the world must urgently increase efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Cities have a significant role to play, particularly when it comes to planning and implementing nature-based solutions which accelerate ecosystem-based adaptation efforts. 122 cities recently made the [CDP Climate Action “A-List.”](#) The fifth annual [A List](#) recognises cities that have received the highest score for their transparency and action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It comes following [recent CDP data](#) which showed that 80 percent of cities face 'significant climate hazards.'

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Important Plant Areas (IPAs): How are they relevant to cities?

Explore the world of IPAs by journeying through the chapters of [Plantlife International's](#) story map and learn how these key sites for wild plant diversity are helping to tackle ecological, climate and societal challenges. Click on any chapter to begin your journey. Specifically, there is a chapter on IPAs and Planning, which is especially relevant to cities. The geographic data on plant species, habitats and sites generated through an IPA programme can provide an accessible data set for use in a wide variety of conservation, land management and scientific decisions at the local level. Even though IPAs are not a legal site designation, their identification and associated data sets can ensure that the importance of key sites is taken into account in local, regional and national planning and land management decisions.

[Read More](#)

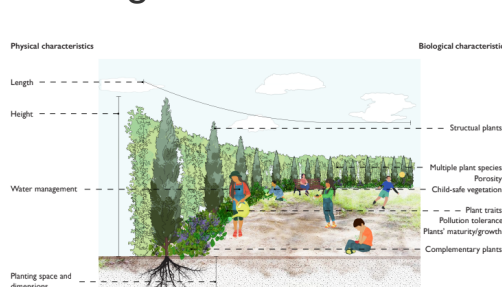


Research Findings

Citizen Science Toolkit



Clean air in schools using green barriers



Citizen Science is a powerful way to generate data, promote awareness of local issues and encourage social engagement. This 'how to' guide helps you to connect communities with research and nature. Community participation in research can aid decision makers to engage a diverse mix of people with their local green spaces and its future.

[Read More](#)

Introduction of plants to the edge of a school premises can have an important impact on the health of the school children. This guidance provides detailed information on how to achieve better quality air around schools. Specifically, section three contains information for landscape architects and horticulturalists on design and plant selection.

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Green City Principles

Better Forests, Better Cities

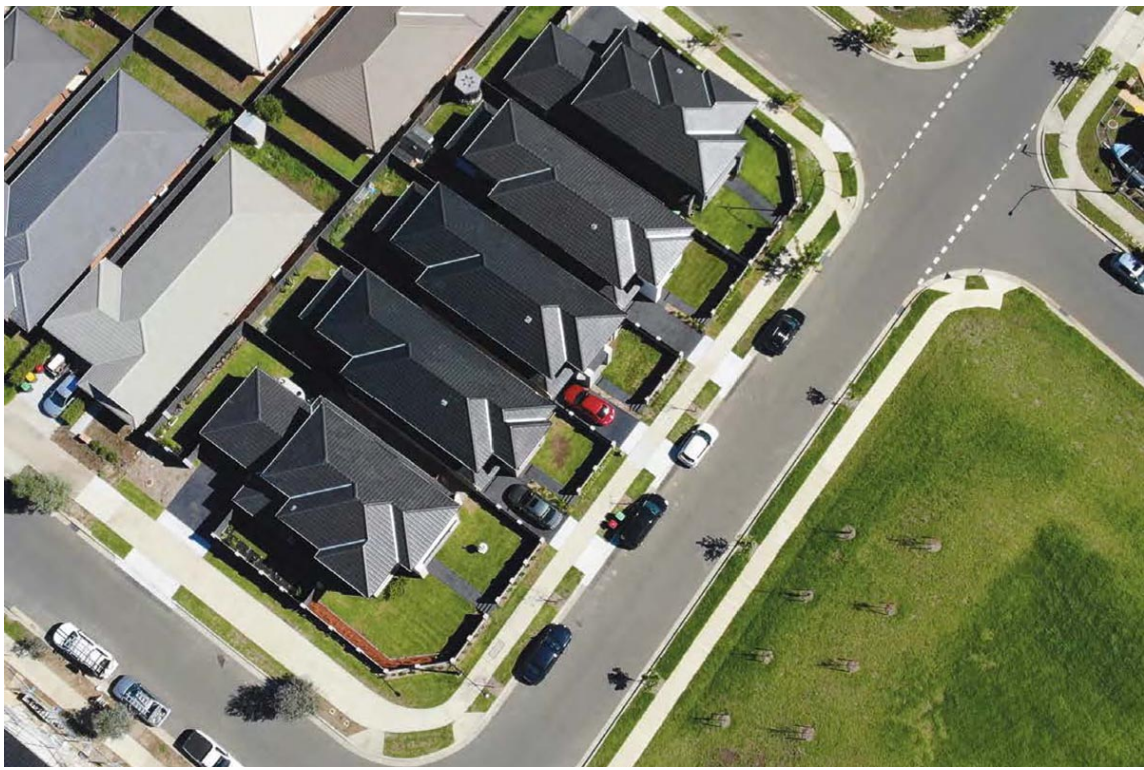


Recently launched online in a webinar and in-person at COP 15 in Montreal, the WRI publication “Better Forests, Better Cities” evaluates how forests both inside and outside city boundaries benefit cities and their residents, and describes what actions cities can take to conserve, restore and sustainably manage those forests. This report, part of [Cities4Forests](#), is a first of its kind comprehensive resource on the connection between cities and forests, synthesising hundreds of research papers and reports to show how all forest types can deliver a diverse suite of benefits to cities. This report dives into how forests benefit cities and their residents in areas like climate change, water security, biodiversity, and human health and well-being. The report also offers a selection of recommendations for policy and action that cities can take to protect and conserve the world's forests in order to unlock these benefits.

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Case Studies

Cooling the City
Penrith, Australia



The Cooling the City program delivered by Penrith City Council is a progressive and strategic approach to climate adaptation. As a region which experiences extreme heat during the summer months and has identified a high proportion of community members that are more vulnerable to heat, it is important for Council to address climate risks and build a cooler, more liveable and resilient city and community. Guided by the Cooling the City Strategy (2015) and the Resilient Penrith Action Plan (2021), Council's comprehensive approach ensures that Council is working to progressively deliver a city that is cooler and more liveable, reducing the health risks to the local community from extreme heat.

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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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