

Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | February 2023

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AIPH World Green City Awards 2024 Opening Soon for Entries



AIPH

The world's champion
for the power of plants

WORLD GREEN CITY AWARDS 2024

ENTRIES OPENING SOON

AIPH is proud to announce that the call for entries for the 2024 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards will open on 13th March 2023, with a dedicated announcement made at the Expo Conference at the AIPH Spring Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. Building on the success of the 2022 inaugural edition, it is AIPH's ambition to celebrate more cities, more stories of success, more greening, and more of the benefits of nature as we invite all cities, large and small, to participate. To ensure that your city is among the first to know when entries are open, and to receive a step-by-step guide on how to enter when they do, make sure you have registered your city's interest today!

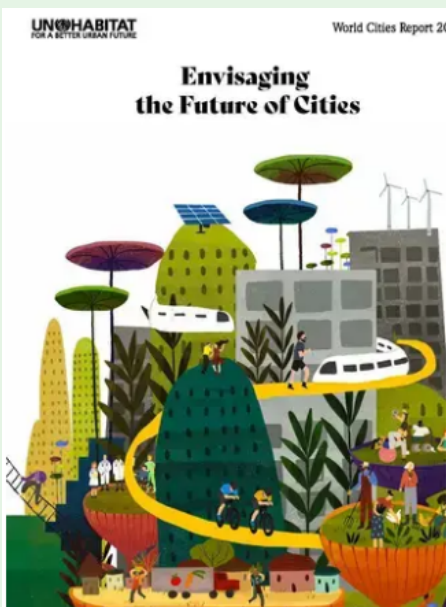
[Register Your City's Interest](#)

AIPH Green City Forum

Be inspired by stories and case studies from around the world showcasing the importance of biodiversity and creating climate resilient cities. Find great conferences and webinars to add to your diary. A wealth of other resources, tools, events, and much more are all available. Did you know you can also share your own resources, events, tools, and more and engage with other practitioners directly? Join the AIPH Global Green City Forum to share, inspire, learn, and be inspired

[Join the Forum](#)

Policy



World Cities Report 2022: Envisaging the Future of Cities

The 2022 World Cities Report seeks to provide greater clarity and insights into the future of cities based on existing trends, challenges and opportunities, as well as disruptive conditions, including the valuable lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, and suggests ways that cities can be better prepared to address a wide range of shocks and transition to sustainable urban futures. The Report proposes a state of informed preparedness that provides us with the opportunity to anticipate, correct the course of action and become more knowledgeable of the different scenarios that the future offers.

[Download the Report](#)

Green Infrastructure Framework Supports the Greening of Towns and Cities in the UK

Launched in January 2023, Natural England invites you to explore the new [Green Infrastructure Framework](#), which comprises, among other useful tools and resources, a set of 15 Green Infrastructure Principles: the what, why and how of good green infrastructure. The 15 Principles, which provide a baseline for developing stronger urban green infrastructure policy and delivery, were recently presented by Gary Grant in the [February session](#) of the monthly AIPH Green City Briefings webinar series. The Framework also includes a Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide, which provides practical, evidence-based advice on how to design good quality green infrastructure.

[15 Principles](#)[Planning & Design Guide](#)

Best Practice

New York Gives the Gift of Nature Play Back to the Community



© The Trust for Public Land

Anyone who has lived in or visited New York City knows that space is always at a premium, and that means built and natural environments have to serve as many needs and uses as possible. Schoolyards are an ideal community resource for meeting that imperative. In response, the [Trust for Public Land](#) is turning uninspiring city schoolyards into community

Fostering Community Connection in San José's Civic Commons



© Lanny Nguyen

Looking for ways to connect the community to nature and each other? Look no further than the incredible work done in San Jose to activate the Civic Commons! From farmer's markets to movie nights and guided hikes, the activation events focused on sustainability and environmental awareness and brought in thousands of visitors over the course of the year.

treasures. Since 1996, well over 200 schoolyards have been transformed into thriving parks and playgrounds, getting the absolute most of the space available and providing close-to-home, safe, and accessible places for millions of kids and community members in New York City to play, connect, and experience the benefits of time outdoors.

[Read More](#)

The working group behind this activation will continue to scale out their programming in Civic Commons over the course of 2023. To read similar stories of how other cities across the United States are “Reimagining the Civic Commons,” [click here](#).

[Read More](#)

Green City Principles

Planning for Dense and Green Cities



A recent paper published in People and Nature’s February 2023 edition, titled “Denser and greener cities: Green interventions to achieve both urban density and nature,” discusses how urban areas can be both dense and green? The paper found that while there are tensions between urban density and urban green spaces, an urban world that is both green and dense is possible, if we choose to take advantage of the available green interventions and create it. It argues that there are competing trade-offs between the benefits of density for sustainability and the benefits of nature for human well-being and that planners must decide an appropriate density by choosing where to be on this trade-off curve, taking into account city-specific urban planning goals and context.

[Read More](#)

Planting Trees: What Cities Need to Consider



In the February Edition of the FloraCulture International Magazine, magazine writer Maurizio Lapponi sat down with Dr Rita Baraldi, Research Director at Bologna’s Institute for BioEconomy (IBE). In the interview, Dr Baraldi explains how trees and plants help mitigate climate change and improve air quality. But they are only one of many necessary interventions, and tree planting schemes require great care in choosing species and locations and assessing the costs and impacts on the environment and local populations, especially in the urban context.

[Read More](#)

News, Events & Activities

AIPH Partners with the urban sustainability exchange (USE)



AIPH proudly announces a partnership with the urban sustainability exchange (use) for the AIPH World Green City Awards. Use is an online platform dedicated to promoting sustainable urban development, which showcases successful programmes, projects and policies and connects citymakers who work in this field. The platform provides a global resource for urban practitioners, experts and researchers who wish to learn from examples around the world in order to improve their own city. The AIPH-use partnership is valuable in profiling and showcasing the work of award-winning cities and providing a platform for other cities and practitioners to learn and be inspired. As a demonstration of the partnership in action, the case study of the City of Hyderabad, Grand Winner of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 is now available on the use platform. Case studies of all other winning initiatives for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 will soon be available, too.

[View the Hyderabad Case Study](#)

[View the AIPH Partner Profile](#)

Eco-City World Summit 2023: Shaping the Future of Our Cities



Every two years, the Ecocity World Summit brings together thinkers, innovators, and urban stakeholders from across the globe to focus on key actions cities and citizens can take to rebuild our human habitat in balance with living systems. This year, the Summit is set to take place at the iconic Barbican Centre in London from 6th-8th June 2023. The in-person summit will be a hotbed of discussion for global communities, professionals, and policy makers. Together, they will be sharing knowledge and facilitating new thinking for the future of cities.

[See more](#)

AIPH Green City Briefings 2022/23

In case you missed it, the February webinar in AIPH’s monthly Green City Briefing 2022/23 series featured the winner of the ‘Living Green for Water’ category of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022: Montréal, Canada. The



webinar discussed both policy and practice regarding the integration of green solutions for sustainable urban water management. The webinar is now available for on-demand viewing.

[Watch the briefing](#)

Register for the next briefing

The March Briefing features the winner of the ‘Living Green for Social Cohesion’ category of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022: Paris, France. This webinar showcases the role of schoolyards in becoming transformative spaces for climate-ready cities with cohesive communities. The Oasis Schoolyard’s project, launched in 2018, and, supported by the City of Paris, seeks to transform existing outdoor spaces by renewing and greening 770 schoolyards by 2050. Read the case study here. The project responds simultaneously to multiple urban issues such as thermal conditions, lack of green areas within the city, and the design of appropriate public spaces for children growing up in the city.

[Register now](#)



Restoring the Future Webinar Series

The Restoring the Future webinar series showcases how [Greening Australia](#) and others are thinking big and thinking differently to protect our increasingly urban future. The most recent webinar in the series, titled “From Net-Zero to Nature Positive,” unpacks the scientific and investment levers required to go beyond damage mitigation, and discusses how economic activities can enhance ecosystems in pursuit of a nature positive future. Another recent webinar discusses how Philanthropy’s independence and financial freedom is a major advantage in supporting breakthroughs on climate change and biodiversity loss. These webinars, and many more, are now available for on-demand viewing.

[See more](#)

AIPH Member's 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 proudly features projects and initiatives from [our members](#).



The AIPH member in Germany is the [Bund deutscher Baumschulen \(BdB\)](#) e.V. This is the professional association and interest group for tree nurseries.



The German National Garden show is on in Mannheim from 14th April to 8th October 2023. BUGA 23* is a lot more than just a flower show: It will improve the sustainable quality of life and lifestyle in Mannheim. A stretch of green over seven kilometres long will create new places to walk, play and relax, at the same time improving the city's air quality and climate. BUGA 23* is also part of Mannheim's North East Green Corridor Project, which connects 230 hectares of green areas, forming a corridor stretching into the city centre. BUGA 23 serves as a tree nursery: 2,023 trees will be distributed in the city after the garden show.

[Read more](#)

The AIPH Member in Belgium, [AVBS](#), supports an online platform which brings growers, plants and garden contractors together.

Openbare Groen (Public Green) provides resources and a network for information exchange and contact that supports greening of public spaces. Public greenery brightens up streets and allows entire neighbourhoods to flourish.

Publicgreen.be is the perfect place for information and advice for anyone who realises large green projects. There you can discover a selection of trees and plants ideal for public spaces and find the professionals who will make your project a sustainable success.



[Read more](#)

Case Studies

Our Resilient Neighbourhood City of San José del Cabo, Mexico



© GIZ Mexico, Josafat de la Toba

In order to improve the resilience of a neighbourhood in the coastal city of San José del Cabo in Mexico and enhance the citizens' quality of life, this project rehabilitated an urban public space. Bringing together the municipality, the local community, and other stakeholders including women and the youth, the initiative developed a multifunctional green space. The newly established green infrastructure promotes biodiversity and addresses the water and climate issues in the area by providing watersheds, infiltration, runoff areas, and native vegetation.

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Reimagining our Cities as Vertical Forests



© RAW VISION studio

Vertical forests are a building type invented by Stefano Boeri with facades covered with trees and plants designed as a way to combine high-density residential development with tree planting in city centres. Boeri's Italian Studio, [Stefano Boeri Architetti](#), has developed a reputation for buildings that host plants since conceptualising the Vertical Forest and building its first [prototype in Milan](#) in 2014. [Easyhome Huanggang Vertical Forest City Complex](#) now boasts the first vertical forest towers in China, featuring 4,620 shrubs and 2,408 square metres of perennial grass, flowers, and climbing plants and the ability to absorb 22 tons of carbon dioxide and produce 11 tons of oxygen per year. The studio has recently adapted its Vertical Forest concept for a pair of skyscrapers in Dubai which will integrate 2,640 trees and 27,600 shrubs on the facades. Plants have the power to transform our cities. Imagine how green our cities could be if every building was a vertical forest.

[Read More](#)

Research Findings

Making Provision for Foraging in Urban Green Space Planning



A study into foraging sites and preferences in Lagos, Nigeria demonstrated the need to increase the edible components of public green spaces to provide people with access to secure foraging options. The study has a particular focus on plant species which fulfil the primary motivation for foraging - this being the acquisition of fresh and natural materials for food and medicine.

[Read More](#)

Looking Inside the Brain: Urban Horticulture and Happiness



New research highlights the positive mental benefits of gardening in urban environments. This study explored the response of brain activity when participants undertook gardening activities in a small plot over two months. The results showed increased activity in regions of the brain related to mindfulness, emotional regulation, and creative thinking.

[Read More](#)



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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