

Global Green City Update

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

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Cities and Nature: the Heart of COP28?



This year, well ahead of the COP, the [Local Governments and Municipal Authorities](#) (LGMA) constituency agreed to a [shared position](#) emphasising the indispensable role of subnational governments in combating climate change. Subnational governments have sent an [Open Letter](#) to leaders of the UN, COP28, the UNFCCC, the World Bank, UN HABITAT, and high-level champions, calling for increased cooperation with and financing for local government actions. At the upcoming climate COP, ICLEI and UN-HABITAT will jointly host the [Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion](#), which will provide a global stage for highlighting the role of cities, towns, regions and other subnationals as climate action leaders.

[Find out more](#)

This year, for the first time, a [Local Climate Action Summit](#) will take place at COP28, a formal convening to bring subnational leaders into the COP program and process. You can watch the Summit live [here](#). While cities will be well-represented, what remains to be seen is the extent to which nature will be at the heart of the negotiations and decisions at COP28. Planned to be launched at COP28 is the [Nature-Positive Urban Development Program](#), which will promote integrated solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss in cities. Building on the momentum from the 15th Biodiversity COP, cities can, and must showcase how nature is central to climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts. AIPH will be at COP 28- will you?

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Case Studies

Biodiverse Urban Forest *Nalagarh, India*



Nalagarh Biodiverse Forest smartly engages visitors to bring awareness on biodiversity conservation and provide livelihood opportunities. It is India's first QR Coded "Smart Forest," within which 1500 plants of more than 350 different species have been planted by the community. Visitors can learn about the plants in the forest by scanning QR codes, and can buy various medicinal and indoor species from a nursery run by a local women's group.

[Read the Case Study](#)

A Nature-Based City, *Dubai, UAE*



From having almost no public green areas and few trees, lawns or private gardens in the 1970s, Dubai was described by National Geographic as "the world's most improbable green city." This case study documents how the city's leadership has since committed to a 60% increase in the size of natural areas and nature reserves, transforming Dubai into a greener and healthier city that is now a desirable place to connect with and experience nature.

[Read the Case Study](#)

News & Events

New Circular Cities Network Launched at the Circular Cities Summit



AIPH was a proud partner of the inaugural [Circular Cities Summit](#), themed "Game-Changing Innovations for Future Cities," which was held in Singapore from 14-15 November 2023. A highlight of the summit, following the signing of an MOU by [IFLA](#), [ISOCARP](#) and the [WFEQ](#) and witnessed by [UIA](#), was the launch of the Circular Cities Network (CCN) which aims to rally professionals and provide a shared platform for the exchange of circular ideas in alignment with the UN SDGs.

[Soon to be live - Join the Network](#)

Come to Doha in February 2024: Research Symposium



The 'Living Green, Liveable Cities' Research Symposium will take place from 4-5th February 2024 in Doha, Qatar, alongside Expo 2023 Doha. The Research Symposium accompanies the [special Cities & Health journal issue](#) with the same title, and which is currently open for submissions. Register your interest in attending or presenting at the Research Symposium [here](#). Qatar

NBS Comics: Nature to Save the World



With over a million readers, the [1st edition of NBS Comics](#) was a huge success. The Nature of Cities and NetworkNaturePlus are excited to announce a new call for the 2nd edition of comics. This is an open call to all creators for proposals for short comics that explore graphic storytelling about the challenges we face and how working with nature can

Airways is offering [special travel packages](#).

[Find out more](#)

help us create better and greener cities.

[Submit a proposal](#)

Denmark wins Fourth Edition of Prestigious European Award for Green Cities



The Green Cities Europe Award encourages successful, ambitious, inspiring and innovative green infrastructures projects. Denmark was recently announced as the winner of the 4th edition (2023) of the Green Cities Europe Award for its inspiring project “[Basecamp Lyngby](#)”. Second prize went to France for its “[Montreynaud Forum](#)” project and third prize went to the Netherlands for its “[Utrecht](#)” project.

[Read more](#)

5 New Cities to Become National Park Cities



Five more cities have been successfully nominated to become National Park Cities, aiming to join London and Adelaide. AIPH is proud to recognise the combined efforts of grassroots, civil society, and city government teams in the cities of Breda, Chattanooga, Glasgow, Rotterdam, and Southampton. Could your city be a National Park City?

[Read more](#)

In the Spotlight: the AIPH Global Green City Forum



Green infrastructure is important at all levels of urban planning and design, from creating city master plans through to choosing plant species for green walls. Which aspects of urban greening are you interested in learning more about? Let us know by participating in our exciting, investigative polls when you join the virtual community.

[Join the Forum](#)

19 #GenerationRestoration Cities Selected to Restore Nature in Urban Areas



On World Cities Day, UNEP officially announced the list of nineteen cities selected to join the Generation Restoration project. Of these, eight cities are set to embark on innovative pilot projects to restore their urban ecosystems, and will receive grants of up to US\$100,000 to fuel these projects, while eleven role model cities are set to accompany and support them as Champions of Restoration.

[Read more](#)

AIPH Members' Green City Reports

AIPH requests each of its [members](#) from around the world to provide an annual Green City Report. The reports describe industry-led initiatives, major green city projects, policy developments, community activities, and research publications, which are proudly featured in this section.



South African Nursery Association (SANA)



SANA is seen as a critical partner in delivering the National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's [Urban Greening Strategy](#). SANA provides information on location and type of nurseries and supports efforts to encourage private nurseries to provide free or subsidised trees for urban greening in disadvantaged areas. Through their “[Life is a Garden](#)” marketing branch, SANA produces various resources for you to read [all about plants](#).

[Learn more](#)

Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME), Qatar

[Expo 2023 Doha](#), developed under Qatar's National Vision 2030 and organised under the [MME](#), is set to make history as the first A1 International Horticultural Exhibition in Qatar, the Middle East, and North Africa. Under the theme “Green Desert, Better Environment” the Expo aims to promote sustainable innovations and combat desertification by showcasing urban greening solutions that have the potential to transform cities in the desert.

[Read more](#)

Did you know that AIPH has a pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha? Find out more and take a virtual tour of the AIPH Pavilion to learn more about the power of plants.

[Find out more](#)

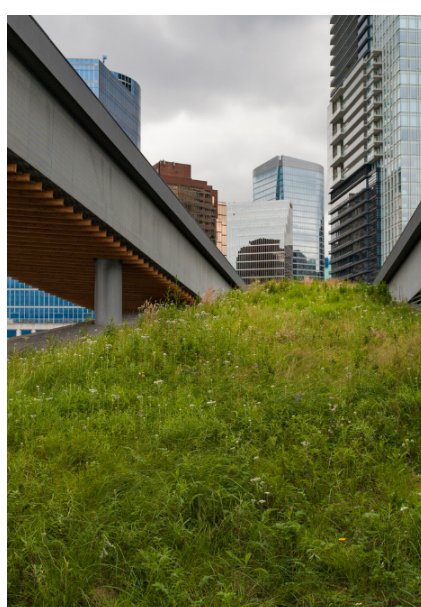


Research Findings

Green Roofs, Stormwater Mitigation and ‘Weeds’

In the absence of routine maintenance, green roofs can be colonised by ‘weedy’ spontaneous vegetation. Research from Schrieke et al. recognised how low levels of management can affect the plant species mix and investigated the role of ‘weeds’ in the effectiveness of green roofs in reducing rainfall runoff.

[Read More](#)



Green Urban Landscapes and Health Impacts

Decisions on where urban green spaces are created and how they are connected can influence the health outcomes of those living in the local neighbourhood. A study from 4 cities in the USA found that the location, shape, and connectivity of urban green spaces have a significant and independent effect on both physical and mental health.

[Read More](#)

Policy

Whitepaper: Building Green for Earthlings

Businesses for Nature in the Built Environment



This Whitepaper explores the concept of living, nature-inclusive buildings. Green buildings not only provide the right conditions and habitat for plants and other terrestrial life but can also be considered “living” themselves. What features make them desirable, what solutions do they offer, and how do we build and maintain them? Above all, what role does the living green (and blue) play in bringing these “living” buildings to life?

[Find out more](#)



Business for Nature, the World Economic Forum and The World Business Council for Sustainable Development have developed new [guidance for 12 sectors](#), including the built environment, which significantly depends on ecosystem services to function and grow. Take a look at the dedicated guide to transforming value chains to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030.

[Read more](#)

Green City Principles

Funding Urban Nature-Based Solutions



Nature is the most resource-efficient solution to help build resilient, vibrant and future-proof cities. But implementing nature-based solutions needs funding — here are five ways we can fund the green transition.

[Read More](#)

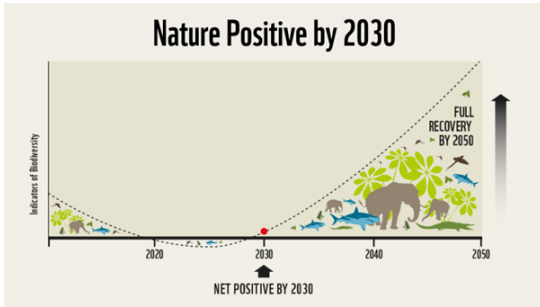
Empowering Eco-Friendly Innovators: Nature-Based Solutions Courses



In the ever-evolving landscape of sustainable city-making, staying at the forefront demands continuous learning and adaptation. As an urban champion for the power of plants and nature, discover this new series of courses that can empower you to continue making a meaningful difference in the world while advancing your own expertise in the field.

[Read More](#)

Aligning City-led Actions with the Global Goal for Nature



The [Nature Positive Initiative](#) aims to promote the integrity and implementation of a Global Goal for Nature - in parallel to the global climate “net zero” emissions goal, to ensure that by 2030, nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery. To demonstrate your city’s contribution to achieving the global goal for nature, we invite you to join [CitiesWithNature](#) and showcase your plans and actions on the [Action Platform](#).

[Read More](#)

Best Practice



Green Roof Plant Guide: A Game Changer for Australia's Homeowners and Landscape Architects

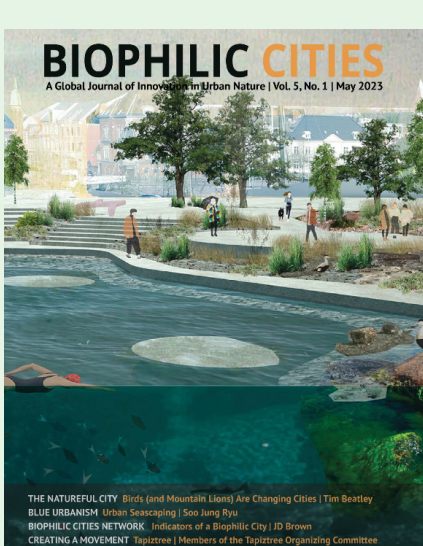
The Burnley Green Roof Plant Guide by the University of Melbourne outlines plant combinations that can be used on a range of different green roof types to maximise the benefits of urban greening in the Australian context. It provides guidelines for selecting the right plants for optimal green roof benefits, thereby simplifying rooftop garden creation while addressing climate change challenges with drought-tolerant plants.

[Download the guide](#)

A Tool to Calculate Forest Footprint for Cities

The Forest Footprint for Cities, developed by Cities4Forests, helps cities clearly understand and communicate the tropical deforestation they may be responsible for and take forest-positive actions to promote tropical forest conservation, management, and restoration. A user-friendly [dashboard](#) helps officials visualise the data, and an action plan kit helps cities make progress along ten diverse pathways.

[Read more](#)



Biophilic Cities Journals

The Biophilic Cities Journal includes a rich array of city and project spotlights, academic research, perspective pieces, and book reviews from global biophilic design and planning practitioners. We invite you to be inspired by various publications, such as the [Indicators of a Biophilic City](#).

[Read more](#)



AIPH



GREEN CITY

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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