

Global Green City Update

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

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

Cities Lead the Way at COP28



As COP28 negotiations draw to a close with the passing of the [UAE Consensus](#), there are varying opinions on the extent to which the outcomes are sufficient enough to keep the goal of limiting global warming below 1.5C within reach. What is not in doubt is the level of ambition of local and subnational governments who proudly demonstrated in Dubai that they are ready to lead on climate action. Highlights from cities at COP28 included the [intervention of the LGMA](#), which was a headline of the [Ministerial Meeting on Urbanisation and Climate Change](#) and resulted in the [Joint Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change](#), a ten-point plan for increasing the involvement of cities in the decision-making process on climate change, promoting multilevel climate action, and accelerating the deployment of urban climate finance to enable cities to respond to the climate crisis.

Cities were also recognised in the [Joint Statement on Nature, Climate, and People](#), as part of the “whole-of-society approach in the synergetic planning and implementation of national climate, biodiversity and land restoration plans and strategies.” The LGMA also showed strong support for the [Glasgow Sharm El Sheikh program](#), which defines the Global Goal on Adaptation. The AIPH Green City team was represented by Dr. Audrey Timm and Mr. Bill Hardy who championed the power of plants throughout the COP28 proceedings, alongside long-time AIPH members: [COHA](#) and [CNLA](#).

[Read more](#)

News & Events

Year in Review: AIPH Global Green City Initiative in 2023



As 2023 draws to a close, we invite you to join us in reflecting on the year that was, in anticipation for all that is to come in 2024. It has been yet another year of impressive growth for the AIPH Green City Initiative. With thanks to and gratitude for our sponsors, partners, and network of cities, we are thrilled to share a recap of our 2023 news, events, and activities which have demonstrated the power of plants and nature in the urban context.

[Read more](#)

European Green Capital & Green Leaf Winners of 2025 announced at awards ceremony in Tallinn

The winners of the European Green Cities 2025 Awards were recently [announced](#) in Tallinn, Estonia, this year’s European Green Capital. The jury crowned Vilnius as the 2025 European Green Capital Winner and the title of European Green Leaf 2025 for smaller cities went to Viladecans (Spain) and Treviso (Italy). The 2026 call for applications opened on 14th December 2023, and is open until 30th April 2024.

[Find out more](#)

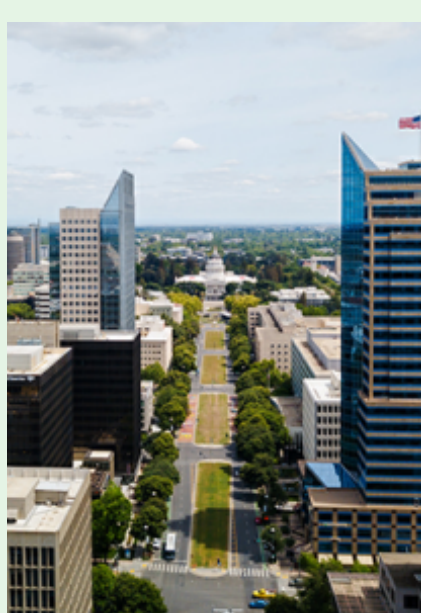
Deadline for abstract submissions for ISHS Greener Cities Symposium on 15th January 2024

The Third International ISHS Symposium on Greener Cities: Improving Ecosystem Services in a Climate-Changing World is to be held on 25-28 September 2024 at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey, UK. If you are interested in presenting at the symposium within one of the symposium themes, you can submit an abstract for review.

[Make a submission](#)

Call for Submissions: The Green Fabric

The need for a new paradigm in urban open space design is driven by the changing urban landscape, environmental challenges, health and well-being considerations, social equity goals and the desire to create vibrant, sustainable and inclusive urban spaces. The Africa Journal of Landscape Architecture is inviting submissions for its 7th issue.

[Make a submission](#)

Policy

Climate Adaptation: Why Local Governments Cannot Do It Alone

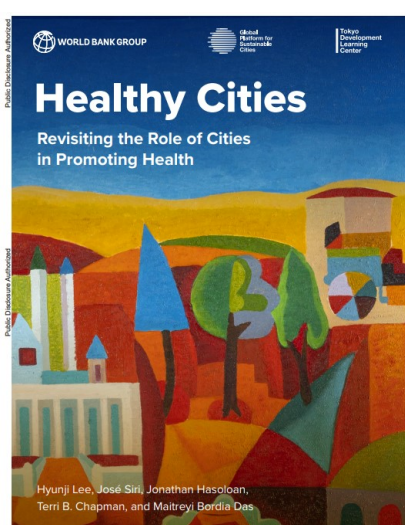
Local authorities can have a major influence on climate change adaptation. Yet their actions are strongly determined by the national fiscal, regulatory and policy contexts

in which they are embedded. This policy paper provides an overview and a discussion of the roles and responsibilities for climate adaptation across levels of government.

[Read More](#)


Interact-Bio Biodiversity Financing Toolkit

ICLEI's new toolkit helps cities and regions access the finance they need to jumpstart urban nature-based solutions projects. A [Guide to Biodiversity Financing](#) is included, which covers innovative and traditional financing instruments to support biodiversity conservation, maintenance, restoration and preservation. Download the toolkit today and learn how to navigate the finance landscape and best position biodiversity projects to succeed.


[Download the toolkit](#)


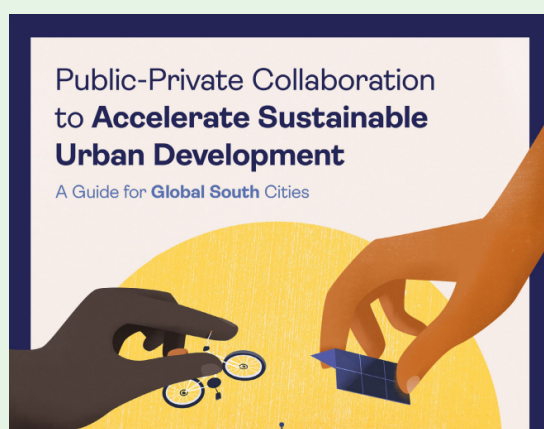
Healthy Cities: Revisiting the Role of Cities in Promoting Health

The Healthy Cities Report aims to provide policymakers and development practitioners with an action-oriented framework for achieving healthy cities. The report seeks to reposition the role that cities play in improving human and ecosystem health. It functions as a high-level guide for practitioners in urban development, offering overarching recommendations for working towards healthier cities.

[Read More](#)

Best Practice

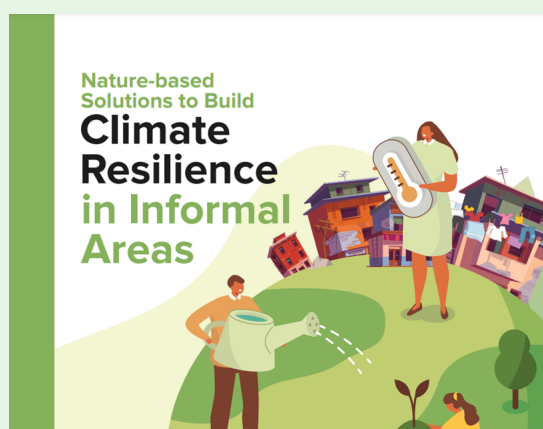
Public-Private Collaboration to Accelerate Sustainable Urban Development: A Guide for Global South Cities



This informative, engaging and easy-to-read guide is designed for Global South cities to better understand how to collaborate with the private sector on urban sustainability issues. The guide draws on a set of case studies from 30 cities where innovative collaboration is taking place between cities and businesses to drive sustainable urban development.

[Read more](#)

Nature-based Solutions to Build Climate Resilience in Informal Areas



This strategy paper by UN HABITAT draws from existing research and practical project experience applying nature-based solutions (NBS) for adaptation and building climate resilience in informal areas to better understand the potential for upscaling implementation as well as the challenges.

[Read more](#)

Green City Principles

A Playbook for Nature-positive Infrastructure Development



There is increasing recognition that the two greatest challenges of our time – climate change and biodiversity loss – cannot be meaningfully addressed without a fundamental shift in how we conceptualise, design and construct our infrastructure. Can we develop urban infrastructure in a way that supports and restores ecosystem health and biological diversity, helps our societies adapt to climate change and enables our journey to net zero?

[Find out more](#)

Guidelines for Citizen Engagement and the Co-Creation of Nature-Based Solutions



Participation and citizen engagement are fundamental elements in urban regeneration and in the deployment of nature-based solutions. This paper investigates participation and urban regeneration and focuses on the development of guidelines for citizen engagement and the co-creation of NBS in the [H2020 URBiNAT project](#).

[Read more](#)

Case Studies

Cooling the Schools - Sydney, Australia

Greening Australia's 'Cooling the Schools' initiative works with schools to connect children with nature by working with students and teachers to add thousands of native trees and plants to schoolyards, creating cooler, greener, more inviting spaces for learning and play. As they plant, students learn firsthand about the environmental and cultural benefits of planting native trees for First Nations cultures, urban cooling and biodiversity.

[Read More](#)


Mexico City's Rehabilitation of Sierra de Guadalupe Natural Protected Area

The Socio-environmental Rehabilitation of Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) aims to address the environmental degradation of areas that remain relatively unaltered or have minimal damage, as well as those with ecological conditions requiring restoration and preservation. Initiatives within these areas include revegetation using native species and the development of green infrastructure,



implemented with a socio-environmental perspective in mind.

[Read More](#)

Research Findings

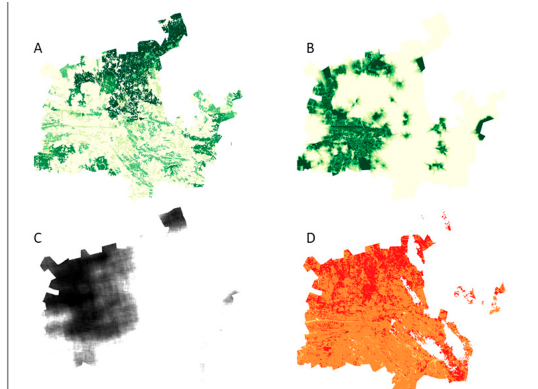
Green Wall Plant Selection Can Increase Insect Diversity



The creation of green walls and facades has been found to provide a better habit for insects when there is more vegetation and plant variation. Research used replicated miniature building plots to examine the invertebrate preference for common ivy, Virginia creeper and climbing hydrangea. The results showed the importance of using a variety of plants when creating green urban infrastructure.

[Find out more](#)

Planning Urban Green Spaces During Rapid Urbanisation



Areas such as Tshwane in South Africa are experiencing rapid urbanisation and can face challenges to integrate green spaces, particularly in a way that optimises the many benefits. This research created a GIS-based decision support tool that integrates urban planning objectives for climate resilience and biodiversity into a single multifunctional tool for planning green infrastructure with a user-friendly design for city representatives.

[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.

[Subscribe to the Global Green City Update](#)