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 Changing Climate should be held on 24-29 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.

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 policies contexts.

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 1.5°C within reach, which is in doubt. The level of ambition of local and subnational governments who proudly demonstrated in Dubai that they are ready to lead on climate action.

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 at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanisation and Climate Change and resulted in the Joint Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change, a landmark call for sealing 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 synergistic planning and implementation of national climate and biodiversity goals and local innovative 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

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 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

COP28
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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 biodiversity, helps our societies adapt to climate change and enables us to get there?

**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 (NBS). This paper investigates participatory and urban regeneration processes and focuses on the development of guidelines for citizen engagement and the co-creation of NBS in the H2020 URBiNAT project.

**Cooling the Schools - Sydney, Australia**

Growing Australia’s “Cooling the Schools” initiative works with schools to connect students 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.

**Mexico City’s Rehabilitation of Sierra de Guadalupe Natural Protected Area**

The socio-environmental rehabilitation of natural protected areas is essential for the conservation of species and ecosystems. This project in Mexico aims to rehabilitate areas that remain relatively undisturbed or have minimal damage, and to restore the ecological integrity of these areas through reforestation and regrowth of vegetation using native species and the development of green infrastructure.
Implementing urban green spaces with a socio-environmental perspective in mind.

**Research Findings**

**Green Wall Plant Selection Can Increase Insect Diversity**

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

**Planning Urban Green Spaces During Rapid Urbanisation**

Areas such as Tshwane in South Africa are experiencing rapid urbanisation and can face challenges in integrating 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.

**Research Findings**

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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