

Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | March 2024

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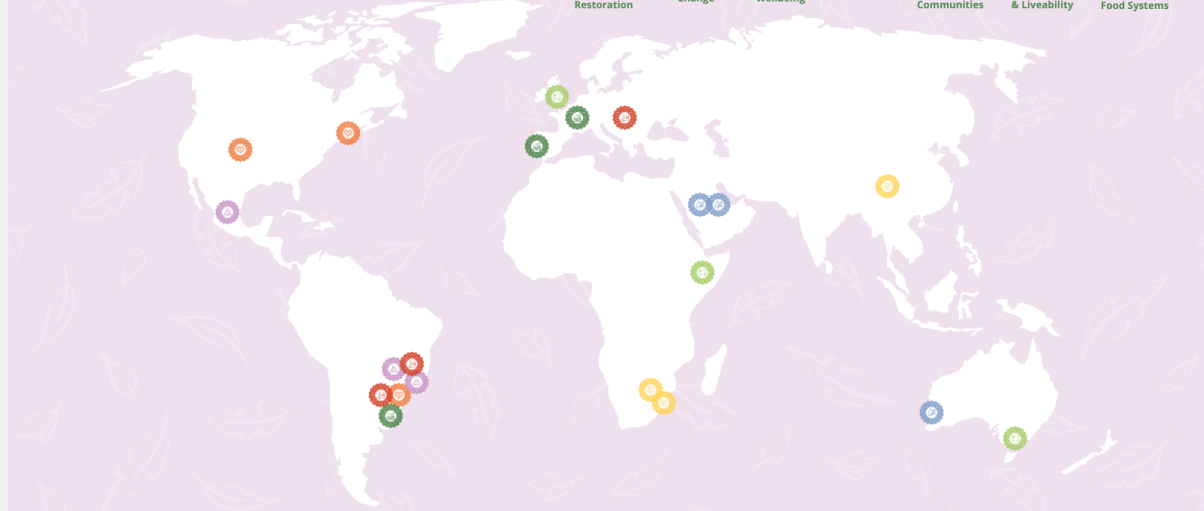
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21 Finalists Announced for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024

AIPH World Green City Awards 2024 FINALISTS



With the recent conclusion of the first stage of judging by the 28 members of the [Technical Panel](#), AIPH is proud to reveal the list of 21 Finalists for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024. The list comprises the highest scoring 3 entries in each of the [7 Award categories](#) and showcases leading cities from around the world who are demonstrating bold and ambitious urban greening actions.

[See the Finalists](#)

We invite you to explore the case studies of each initiative selected as a Finalist, which are all available in a dedicated AIPH Green City Case Study Collection.

[Read the Case Studies](#)

Hot Off the Press: Meet the Jury

AIPH World Green City Awards 2024 Jury



Following the announcement of the 21 Finalists, AIPH recently introduced the Jury for the 2024 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards. Boasting high-level esteemed members with extensive professional knowledge, experience, and influence in the global green city space, AIPH proudly presents the 18 members of the world-renowned Jury who will vote to select 7 category winners and then a Grand Winner from the list of 7 category winners.

[Read more](#)

[Meet the Jury](#)

News & Events

Greening the Desert: AIPH Green City Conference

5 March 2024 | Doha, Qatar



AIPH GREEN CITY CONFERENCE

Arid environments present many challenges for cities, but nature can provide the solutions. The recent AIPH Green City Conference, held in Doha, Qatar, from 5th-6th March 2024, explored how plants can be used to address multiple issues commonly found in hot, dry environments and how this knowledge can be expanded to other cities around the globe. All the Conference presentations are now available for on-demand viewing.

[Find out more](#)

[Watch on-demand](#)

TNOC Festival 2024

Have you registered for the TNOC Festival 2024? This year's Festival is part conference, part radical imagination, and part retreat. You can join virtually or in-person to get inspired, to learn, to present, collaborate, or to meet hundreds of new best friends and urban nature co-conspirators. Don't miss out- register today!



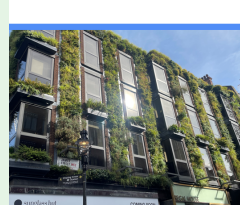
[Register here](#)

[See the programme](#)

Shaping the Greenest Cities in the World: Harnessing the Power of Plants

VIRTUAL
Seed Session

15-26 April — Virtual
4-7 June — Berlin



15 April 2024
11:00-12:30pm CEST



AIPH Seed Session

On the 15th April, as part of the Virtual Segment of the TNOC Festival, AIPH is set to host a Seed Session titled "Shaping the Greenest Cities in the World: Harnessing the Power of Plants." Join us and take part in a dynamic discussion with various roleplayers involved in the urban greening supply and value chains to discover what it really takes to deliver ambitious urban nature-based solutions.

[Find out more](#)

International Challenge: Communities in Bloom

The Communities in Bloom International Challenge is for communities who want to showcase their current successes and achievements and place themselves on the international stage in a collaborative competition aimed at celebrating environmental and cultural stewardship achievements. Registration for participation in 2024 is open until 31st March.



[Register here](#)



CNLA Launches “Plants Love You” Campaign

The Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA) is on a mission to embed plants as key pillars of a thriving, sustainable future. You are invited to join this green revolution. Share your stories and support for urban greening with #PlantsLoveYou, and let's cultivate healthier, more vibrant communities together!

[Press release](#)

[Find out more](#)

Coming Soon: AIPH Green City Briefings 2024/25

Building on the legacy of the successful [2021 series](#) and subsequent [2022/23 series](#), the AIPH Green City Briefings are soon to return for an exciting 2024/25 edition. The series promises to showcase inspiring examples at the nexus of policy and practice which demonstrate the multiple benefits of harnessing the power of plants. Watch this space for the announcement of the first webinar!



Horticulture and Green Cities

AIPH is the world's champion for the power of plants. AIPH represents the global horticulture industry: a key roleplayer in the delivery of urban greening initiatives. This section highlights the contributions of the horticulture industry in building a greener, healthier, and more resilient urban future.



Annual “Tree Planting Day” Celebration

[Stichting Nationale Boomfeestdag](#) (Dutch National Tree Foundation) celebrated the closure of the planting season on Wednesday 20 March 2024. A festive event to mark the occasion was organised in the Municipality of Zundert, the Netherlands, at which a total of 154 children planted more than 4,000 trees and plants. The event promotes awareness about the importance of urban greening among both adults and the next generation.

[Read more](#)

This Garden at This Hour: An Aid to Species Diversification on Green Roofs

This Garden at This Hour is no common green roof. It is designed as a battlefield, where approximately 100 plant species are invited to deploy their preferred strategies to move and take over space. To set this dynamic in motion, all three plant adaptation strategies described in [Grime's ecological triangle](#) are deliberately represented to deliver a model of plant selection that provides an ever-transforming visual display while delivering multiple benefits.



[Read more](#)

AIPH Global Green City Forum

Are you a member of the AIPH Global Green City Forum? Have you shared your events, resources, and news? If not, what are you waiting for? Become a member and start sharing today!

[Join the Forum](#)

Case Studies

Living Green for Biodiversity and Urban Ecosystem Restoration

Between March and September 2024, we will proudly showcase the Finalists in the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024, with a focus on one category per month. This month we highlight the 3 Finalist entries in the “Living Green for Biodiversity and Urban Ecosystem Restoration” category.

Pretoria East Urban Biosphere Reserve *City of Tshwane, South Africa*

The Pretoria East Urban Biosphere Reserve not only has the potential to halt the decline of natural assets but to also actively rejuvenate them. The project's aim towards measurable success in enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services is a testament to what cities can achieve when they prioritise the environment, communities, and sustainable development. It is an embodiment of a nature-positive future.



[Read more](#)



Urban Green Heart *City of Chengdu, China*

The City of Chengdu is creating a diverse and inclusive green space out of the concrete jungle to enhance the city's vibrancy and fulfil people's aspirations for a better life. The initiative aims to transform the Longquan Mountain, the future heart of Chengdu City, into a world-class urban green heart. An area of 1,275 square metres has been delineated to implement measures of ecological restoration and biodiversity protection.



[Read more](#)

Community Reforestation Programme *City of Durban, South Africa*

The City of Durban in South Africa is restoring indigenous forest and woodland ecosystems to offset 42,214 tons of carbon over a 20-year period. Local communities are employed and trained to propagate and grow indigenous trees. The project has created many excellent opportunities for community upliftment, including green jobs and local livelihood improvement, while also establishing natural 'carbon sinks' and restoring biodiversity.



[Read more](#)

Policy

Discussion Paper: A Nature Roadmap for the Built Environment



The Nature roadmap discussion paper evaluates environmental risks and opportunities, explores innovative concepts for nature regeneration, and underscores the collaborative roles required for success. The Australian Green Building Council is calling on industry stakeholders to provide input on the forthcoming Nature Roadmap, which will play a pivotal role in guiding environmental management and nature regeneration. Submissions are open until 30th June 2024.

[Read more](#)

Evaluating Adaptation: An Analysis of Policy Progress in Coastal Cities and Regions



Explore the findings of the CLIC project "Are cities properly preparing for climate change?" and learn more about the European Research Council (ERC) funded project 'IMAGINE adaptation' in this policy brief. It highlights the urgent need to evaluate adaptation in urban areas and understand progress across governance levels.

[Read more](#)

Best Practice

Turning Grey into Green: Sheffield City Council



The Grey to Green scheme in Sheffield is the UK's largest retro-fit SuDS project, and also the UK's largest inner city 'Green Street'. One of the main functions of the Grey to Green scheme is to reduce and slow down surface-water runoff in an area of the city prone to flooding. Designed with climate change, wellbeing and economic investment in mind, Grey to Green is helping to lay the foundations for a healthy and sustainable urban future for Sheffield.

[Read more](#)

4 Ways Cities Pioneered Nature-Positive Action in 2023



Throughout 2023, disruptive climate impacts, devastating wars, and fraught geopolitics have been on the rise. However, 2023 also brought moments of hope. Around the world, profound positive changes happened at a local level and cities are increasingly realising that the fundamental needs of all people can be more easily attained when nature thrives. Here are four nature-positive highlights from Cities4Forests in 2023.

[Read more](#)

Green City Principles



When Street Art Meets Nature

Nature-inspired street art can be a powerful means of drawing attention to and emphasising the importance of preserving natural habitats. A recent example in North London by the infamous Banksy, has ignited conversations about our shared responsibility to protect the planet and protect nature. Be inspired by these 35 urban street art creations, all of which provoke a sense of contemplation on the human-nature connection in cities.

[Read more](#)

The Ultimate Guide to Planting Urban Trees

This guide, compiled by CityGreen, provides a succinct compilation of inspiring resources for identifying suitable planting locations, selecting the right tree species, planning the planting process, engaging the community, and maintaining planted trees. By following these actionable steps for planting urban trees, your city can increase green space and reap the numerous benefits trees provide.

[Read more](#)



Research Findings

Cities provide Refuge for Rare Plant Species



Green roofs create novel and unique environments in the city. These new habitats have the potential to become places of biodiversity significance. This research examined the impact of the components and location of green roofs on the prevalence of rare and threatened species. It concludes with the opportunity for biodiversity plans to include the novel opportunity presented by biodiverse green roofs.

[Read more](#)

Biodiversity in Urban Green Lawns



Grass lawns are a large component of many urban green spaces. Lawn species choice, management and function are greatly influenced by human design and decisions. This research explored the impact of these aspects across three different styles of lawn, to understand biodiversity contribution and response and resilience to climate change.

[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 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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