

Global Green City Update

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

Policy

Best Practice

Principles

News & Events

Case Studies

Research Findings

Certificate of Merit Recipients Announced for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024



AIPH proudly presents the seven cities selected to receive Certificates of Merit in the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024. These entries were nominated by the Technical Panel and subsequently approved by the Jury for their bold and innovative urban greening initiatives. Although these entries did not score highly enough to be Finalists, they demonstrate a particularly bold and innovative feature or characteristic that members of the Technical Panel considered to be inspiring, replicable, and worthy of recognition.

[Read more](#)

[Case Studies](#)

Green City Principles



Guidelines for Urban Ecosystem Restoration

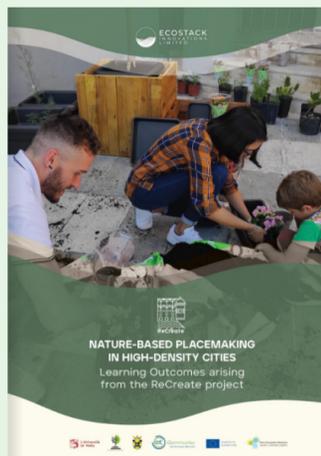
In support of achieving the objectives of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, [CitiesWithNature](#) and partners recently launched a new Guide which equips cities with knowledge about the importance of ecosystem restoration in urban areas and provides tools to build the necessary capacity to take restoration action. The Guide offers various case studies and resources, all presented in an accessible format, which aim to inspire cities to apply the principles of urban ecosystem restoration.

[Find out more](#)

Nature-based Placemaking in High-Density Cities

Discover this report by Ecostack Innovations, which shares practical advice based on the learnings of the ReCreate project. The report defines nature-based placemaking, provides an overview of the benefits of effective stakeholder engagement, and evaluates the role of citizen science activities in reconnecting urban communities with plants and nature.

[Read more](#)



Transforming Cities Together - The WWF Public Engagement Guide for Cities

Created as part of WWF's work with the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC), this Guide highlights the experiences and ideas of cities that have used public engagement to achieve their climate and sustainability goals. The Guide offers city planners a springboard from which to begin their own public engagement efforts with inspiring examples of the benefits of an informed and engaged urban citizenry.

[Read more](#)

Case Studies



Living Green for Climate Change



Between March and September 2024, AIPH 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 Climate Change" category.

The Urban GreenUP of Liverpool City of Liverpool, UK

Liverpool's URBAN GreenUP initiative retrofitted over 40 NbS projects across Liverpool to directly tackle the predicted impacts of climate change and make the city more resilient and liveable. The NbS projects, including green walls, rain gardens, floating ecosystem islands, a mobile pop-up forest, and more were installed in the city in places where mapping showed that they could be most effective, providing a blueprint for intelligence-led city greening.



[Read more](#)



Mandera Municipality's Greening Program Mandera County, Kenya

Mandera Municipality's Afforestation Program represents a remarkable transformation in a semi-arid landscape, where scorching temperatures, minimal rainfall and recurring droughts once defined daily life. It is a testament of a city's vision and resilience in the face of multiple challenges. This inspiring initiative embodies a nature-positive outcome, with measurable achievements, which have turned the city from a dusty town to a lush, green hub.



[Read more](#)

Green Factor Tool City of Melbourne, Australia

Melbourne's Green Factor Tool provides an innovative, web-based process that provides

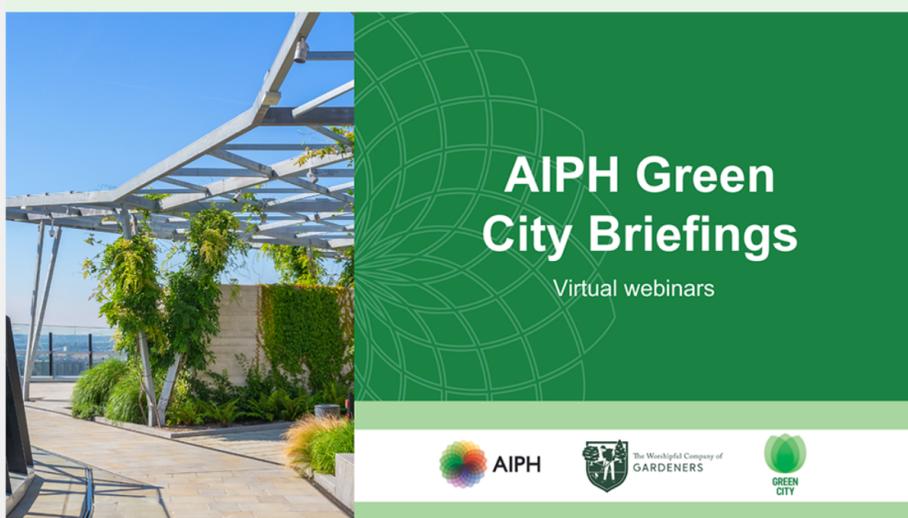
meaningful guidance to designers and developers. Prompting users to consider green roofs, green walls, vertical greening, vegetation retention, rain gardens, tree canopy and biodiversity, it helps to optimise greening concepts and outcomes for buildings and developments by offering technology-based policy directives.

[Read more](#)



News & Events

The AIPH Green City Briefings Return for a 2024/25 series



Discover the transformative power of urban greening initiatives with the AIPH Green City Briefing 2024/25 series: a collaboration between the AIPH Green City Initiative and our network of partners, experts, and sponsors. Each one-hour webinar will demonstrate how successful urban greening has provided benefits for a city, its residents, and nature. Building on the past three years of AIPH Green City Briefings, each webinar provides compelling evidence and examples of the power of the 'living green' to deliver multiple solutions to city challenges.

[Find out more](#)



Earthna Prize: Call for Applications and Nominations Now Open!

Is your organisation utilising traditional knowledge to offer solutions that address environmental challenges? The Earthna Prize aims to celebrate and support projects, actors and systems that are working towards the preservation, integration, adaptation, and adoption of ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage in addressing contemporary environmental challenges. The deadline for applications and nominations is 30th June 2024.

[Find out more](#)

Programme Launch: Future Green City World Congress

The programme for the [Future Green City World Congress](#) is officially live! Explore the full range of workshops, sessions, field trips, debate arenas, science labs, and so much more that are on offer. Plus, as an official partner of the event, AIPH is proud to be hosting the AIPH World Green City Awards Ceremony 2024 as a gala dinner on 25th September. You don't want to miss out- get your tickets [here](#).

[See the programme](#)



Registration Deadline Extended for Greener Cities Symposium

The Royal Horticultural Society recently announced an extended deadline for early bird registration for the Greener Cities Symposium until 29th April 2024. The exciting [programme](#) is set to take place from 25-28 September 2024 at the RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey, UK under the theme of "Improving Ecosystem Services in a Climate-Changing World." Secure your spot at a discounted rate now.

[Find out more](#)

Call for Proposals: International Conference on Urban Health

Hosted by the [International Society for Urban Health](#), the 2024 edition is coming to Marrakech, Morocco, from 18-21 November 2024. With the theme of "A Healthier Horizon: Activating Urban Health Strategies for a Climate Resilient Tomorrow," the call for abstracts and proposals is now open until 1st June 2024. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of the movement that is driving change and making a lasting impact in cities across the globe.

[Read more](#)



Innovate4Cities Conference 2024

The Innovate4Cities Conference is convening online and in Montréal in September 2024. One of the conference's priorities is advancing understanding of nature-based infrastructure projects and strengthening synergies between local climate initiatives and global biodiversity agreements. The [call for session abstracts](#) is currently open until 10th May 2024. You're invited to get involved today!

[Find out more](#)

Save the Date: Circular Cities Summit 2.0

The second edition of the Circular Cities Summit is set to take place in Dubai, UAE from 11-12 September 2024. AIPH has joined the network of partners who will bring the event to life. The Summit's first edition saw the announcement of the [Circular Cities Network](#) in November 2023. You are invited to Join the Network on LinkedIn to be the first to know when more details are available for the 2nd edition.

[Join here](#)



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.



The Urban Greening Legacy of Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar

After hosting more than 6,000 events over a six month period, Expo 2023 Doha has officially closed. In line with the [Qatar Vision 2030](#), which articulates an urban future where man and nature live in harmony, the Expo site, Al Bidda Park, will return to the people of Qatar. Thousands of trees, plants, and flowers will remain as a demonstration of the legacy that an AIPH-approved Horticultural Expo of this scale leaves behind for the host city.

[Read more](#)

St Andrews Botanic Garden Demonstrates how Plants Provide a Bold Climate Response

Located within the University of St Andrews' campus in Fife, Scotland, St Andrews Botanic Garden has undertaken a fundamental re-design of its site and purpose. Its new focus is to provide greater insight into the plant communities that are local to Fife –including its urban habitats – or originate from other global locations with a comparable climate. It aims to facilitate predictive research into the ways that temperate flora might respond to new conditions.



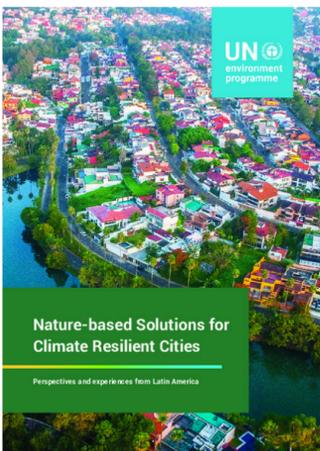
[Read more](#)

AIPH Global Green City Forum

A wealth of toolkits are available in the forum resource sections, including guidelines to create bird friendly cities and a blueprint for innovation in urban forestry. Find and share tools and resources when you become a member of the virtual community that is the AIPH Global Green City Forum.

[Join the Forum](#)

Best Practice



Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilient Cities: Perspectives and Experiences from Latin America

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) are an effective way to strengthen the resilience of urban communities by enhancing the natural functions of ecosystems and providing social, ecological, and economic benefits. This publication aims to contribute to resilient urban development in Latin America and the Caribbean by providing tools to more effectively integrate climate risks in these ecosystem contexts.

[Read more](#)

AI-Powered "Nature Data" Platform

The Melbourne-based Office of Planetary Observations proudly offers access to a new in-house 'nature data' platform powered by AI. The platform is designed to assist at every level of governance, city planning, and land management and enables the user to collect and analyse data, set targets, generate actionable insights and actions, and ultimately report on the outcomes of urban greening initiatives. Check it out to see how you and your city could benefit!



[Find out more](#)



"Airport Terminal in a Garden"

Imagine what is possible if we built our cities how the Bengaluru new Airport has been constructed. Designed by [Grant Associates](#), 600-800-year-old trees meet with over 180 rare, endangered and threatened species, all combining to cultivate a thriving ecosystem. The central feature is a breathtaking 10-metre-tall green wall that runs the length and breadth of the terminal and which is adorned with over 450 extraordinary plant species."

[Read more](#)

Research Findings

Urban Road Verge Habitat Opportunity for Bees and Butterflies



With limited availability for new green spaces in dense city environments, researchers in Melbourne worked with the local municipality to test if a change to the plant species mix alongside road verges would have a positive impact on biodiversity. The study found that an increase in predominantly native understorey plants (forbs, grasses and shrub) over lawn species mix resulted in an increased abundance of butterflies and variety of bees alongside roads. It also demonstrated the success of partnerships to restore nature in the city.

[Read more](#)

Planting for Pollinators Across the Seasons



Private gardens and public green spaces in cities supply pollinators with a wide variety of plants, both native and exotic. This study examined which plants were preferred by urban pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies in Paris, France. It found that when planting for pollinator-friendly green space, plant origin should be considered. Native blooms may attract more species than exotic plants. However, considering seasonal succession, exotic plants can have better resistance to heat and therefore flower after native blooms have declined in late summer.

[Read more](#)

Policy

Nature as Infrastructure Report

Cities are Centre Stage in IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities



Traditionally, large infrastructure projects are seen as negative for ecosystems. This Asian Infrastructure Finance Report by the [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank \(AIIB\)](#) recognizes nature as an essential part of infrastructure and seeks to inspire policymakers to integrate biodiversity conservation into infrastructure development alongside nature-based solutions (NBS) and natural infrastructure.

[Read more](#)

The [IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities](#) is more than just a document. According to ICLEI's recent blog post, it marks the dawn of a new chapter in our global narrative. The report signifies how cities are centre stage, crafting a world that not only survives but thrives by meeting human needs in harmony with nature. Its insights will inform global policies and actions in cities, ultimately impacting all scales of action.

[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](#)