



AIPH

The world's champion
for the power of plants

WORLD GREEN CITY AWARDS 2026

This is a copy of the questions that you will find in the online entry form. Entries will only be accepted online. This pdf is only for reference purposes to assist with your entry.

[Online entries are submitted using this link](#)

The International Association of Horticultural Producers

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. <https://aiph.org/>

The AIPH World Green City Awards

The AIPH World Green City Awards are designed to champion ambitious nature-orientated approaches to city design and operation. Specifically, they seek to recognise public initiatives relying on a greater use of plants and nature to create better city environments – helping to fulfil local aspirations for improved economic, social and environmental resilience.

The awards celebrate innovation, achievement, and commitment to the globally recognised imperative to embrace nature-orientated solutions that harvest the power of plants and associated ecosystems services to help address the major challenges facing cities.

Account Set Up

You must provide detail regarding contacts for your award entry.

Primary Contact for Award Entry

This will be the main account holder for the submission.

First Name

Last Name

Position

Email Address

Contact Phone Number

Postal Address

Country

How did you hear about the AIPH World Green City Awards?

Alternative Contact for Award Entry

This will be a secondary contact for the submission should AIPH be unable to contact the primary contact. This section is not compulsory.

First Name

Last Name

Position

Email Address

Contact Phone Number

Communications & Media Contact for Award Entry

This will be the main contact in relation to marketing, communications and PR for the submission. This section is compulsory, if you do not have official social media handles please mark as N/A.

First Name

Last Name

Position

Email Address

Contact Phone Number

Official Website

Official Twitter

Official LinkedIn

Official Facebook

Official Instagram

Official TikTok

City Details

City/Area

City/Area Population

Country

Consent

In creating your account for this AIPH event, you submit your information to the event organiser, AIPH, who will use it to communicate with you regarding this event and other AIPH programmes and events. You may unsubscribe at any time. Read the AIPH privacy policy [CLICK HERE](#)

Consent

Tick this box to confirm your account creation and to be contacted by the event organiser, AIPH

Award Submission

Award entries will be assessed on the basis of six evaluation criteria: Vision, Significance, Implementation, Learning and Transferability, Measuring and Reporting Impact, and Resilience.

Each evaluation criterion asks a specific set of questions to help you in preparing your entry in a focussed and concise way. The technical panel will evaluate your entry on how well you provide answers to these questions.

Entries for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2026 must fit these objectives:

- Be an initiative that demonstrates an ambitious approach and showcases a city-wide vision and commitment to making the city greener, healthier, and more sustainable.
- Be an initiative which comprises a city-wide greening programme or set of projects, rather than an individual project.
- Draw attention to a specific programme/initiative within the city's overall greening strategy, while demonstrating how that initiative/programme is linked to the city's overall green ambition and vision.
- Demonstrate feasibility and proven success in implementation with measurable, and quantifiable impact.
- Demonstrate that a significant portion of the initiative has been implemented over the last 5 years, even if there is still some implementation remaining beyond 2026.

Important Information

Before beginning your submission, please note the important information below:

- All sections of the entry form must be completed before final submission, in order for the entry to be valid.
- Incomplete submissions will not be considered for shortlisting and the entrant will be contacted to provide further details.
- All award entries must be completed in English.
- Your entry must be accompanied by a signed declaration from the City Mayor or suitable authority to confirm support for the entry and ratify that the information submitted is correct. We encourage you to start getting this approval early as some cities find this to be quite a lengthy process. You will not be able to submit your entry without first uploading this declaration. [[Mayoral Declaration](#)]. For further details on who is considered to be the relevant authority, please refer to the AIPH World Green City Awards 2026 - FAQs - [[CLICK HERE](#)]
- Full rules and procedures for entry are available to download: [[CLICK HERE](#)]
- A copy of the FAQs to assist you with the submission process are available to download: [[CLICK HERE](#)]
- Deadline for submissions: **23:59 BST on 19 October 2025**

Award Submission Name, Project & City:

Please provide the name for your submission, this will be how the submission is known to the reviewers and during the awards process. We recommend that the Submission Name includes the title of the project and the city where the project is based.

Entry Category

You must nominate a first category for your entry to be considered in. You may also nominate a second category in which your entry will be considered if it is not selected as a finalist in your first category. We highly recommend that you select both a first and second category, as this will increase the chances of your entry being selected as a finalist.

For the 2026 edition of the World Green City Awards, the seven award categories are:

- **Living Green for Health and wellbeing:** Addressing the medical, behavioural, and social determinants of health for residents.
- **Living Green for Climate change:** Tackling the root causes and impacts of climate change in order to build more liveable and resilient cities.
- **Living Green for Urban infrastructure and Liveability:** Promoting and supporting nature-positive lifestyles for all city residents, visitors and businesses, through a well planned, designed, and maintained built environment.
- **Living Green for Biodiversity and Urban ecosystem restoration:** Addressing the loss of species, habitats, ecosystem health, and genetic diversity.
- **Living Green for Water:** Ensuring that water resources are safeguarded and wisely used, with clean water available to all while also protecting residents from flooding risks.
- **Living Green for Social cohesion and inclusive communities:** Bringing urban populations together and fostering belonging, equity, trust and inter-generational as well as cross-cultural relationships to prevent exclusion, marginalisation and violence.
- **Living Green for Urban Agriculture and food systems:** Creating strategies and practices that build the resilience of city food supplies to increase employment and nutritional outcomes, reduce poverty and address urban environmental degradation.

Award category – first choice:

This category choice will guide your responses to all the questions in the online entry form. Throughout the submission, your entry must clearly demonstrate how the primary category choice is considered, and how the outcomes of your initiative achieve the objectives of the chosen category.

Remember that plants and nature must be at the core of your entry motivation.

Please select the main category you would like your entry to be considered for.

- Health and wellbeing
- Climate change
- Urban infrastructure and liveability
- Biodiversity and urban ecosystem restoration
- Water
- Social cohesion and inclusive communities
- Urban agriculture and food systems

Award category – second choice:

You should make this selection in line with the outcomes of the initiative you are putting forward. Although the outcomes should be most aligned with your primary category choice, the secondary category should be chosen on the basis of the any secondary outcomes which the initiative achieves. If your entry does not score high enough to be selected as a finalist in

its primary category, it will be considered in its secondary category, so be sure to consider this when completing the online entry form. You should give some cognisance to the secondary category choice and how your responses indicate alignment to this category.

Remember that plants and nature must be at the core of your entry motivation.

Please select the second category that your entry aligns with.

- Health and wellbeing
- Climate change
- Urban infrastructure and liveability
- Biodiversity
- Water
- Social cohesion and inclusive communities
- Urban agriculture and food systems

AIPH Youth Award:

First introduced in 2024, the [AIPH Youth Award](#) will once again be featured in the 2026 edition. The AIPH Youth Award is not a category - instead, all entries that are selected as finalists in each of the seven categories will be eligible for this Award. The new AIPH Youth Award will be presented to the finalist entry considered most likely to inspire the youth and fulfil their needs for a secure, healthy future. The AIPH Youth Award will be selected from the finalists by a Youth Jury, whose compilation will be lead by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN).

The AIPH World Green City Awards aim to promote the creation of green cities that inspire hope for the future for society by providing a clean, safe environment for the youth to survive and thrive. Green cities address biodiversity loss and nature conservation in supporting engagement with nature for all. There is clear evidence that children who grow up in nature-rich environments have better mental and physical health, better social and cognitive skills, greater creativity, and achieve higher academic performance. A connection to nature from an early age encourages young people to respect and protect biodiversity and engage in actions to mitigate climate change. Through the APIH Youth Award, AIPH invites GYBN to lead on the recognition of cities that deliver greening programmes that contribute to a better future for all, specifically addressing the needs of the global youth¹.

¹The definition of youth that GYBN follows is based on the African Union's definition where the age limit is 35

As well as being judged in the categories that you have nominated above, please also nominate if you would like to be considered for the AIPH Youth Award in the AIPH World Green City Awards 2026.

Yes/ No

If you ticked yes, please motivate in 100 words how your entry supports a healthy, fulfilling, and resilient future for the youth.

Your entry will only be considered for the AIPH Youth Award if it is a finalist in one of your chosen categories, after which it will also be judged by the Youth Jury on how well it addresses the needs of the global youth.

Summary:

This summary of up to 500 words introduces your city's entry. It presents an outline of your entry by summarising what you did, why it was necessary, and how it made a difference to the city.

The 500-word summary should describe the initiative, providing a snapshot overview of your city's entry. It should summarise what your city did/is doing, why it was/is necessary, and how it has made a difference and achieved a nature-positive outcome for your city. The summary is an opportunity to catch the attention of the judges, so you should clearly and concisely demonstrate the transformational change that has been effected by the implementation of your city's initiative. Why should your initiative be named the winner in its chosen category/ies? The summary should clearly state what the aims and objectives of the initiative are, and how these have been measurably achieved to date. Include mention of the impact that your initiative has achieved, especially in terms of achieving the outcomes and providing benefits in relation to the two categories you have selected above.

Include 2 – 5 images with the summary and provide short captions.

Consent:

The 500 word summary and all content within your entry including videos and images may be used for promotion of the AIPH World Green City Awards and may be profiled on the AIPH website and other online, printed and digital media. In this online form you will need to state whether you agree for entry to be profiled publicly by AIPH, or if you prefer to keep your entry confidential.

Please indicate that you agree with this, or whether you prefer to keep your entry confidential if you are not a finalist or a winner. Note – all finalists and winning entries will be profiled by AIPH through all media channels.

- YES, I AGREE
- NO, KEEP CONFIDENTIAL

Evaluation criteria:

You are now asked to provide responses to a series of questions under each of the 6 evaluation criteria. For each of the specific questions your answer is limited to a **maximum of 250 words**.

The Technical Panel will score your entry on how well you answer the question and demonstrate how this fits the categories that you have selected. You may find some overlap in the content of your answers to different questions, and we encourage you to consider your answer from the perspective of each individual criterion and we advise that you do not copy and paste the answer from one question to another.

The AIPH World Green City Awards were launched to showcase and celebrate the power of plants in creating liveable, resilient cities.

Vision:

In this section you describe how your city initiative is bold and includes a fresh new model for using and/or delivering nature-oriented solution(s).

1.1 Describe how the initiative is shaped by scientific evidence of the potential for plants and natural ecosystems to deliver benefits. How is this linked to a bold and innovative future for your city?

1.2 Explain how you have exploited the potential of plants and associated ecosystems to deliver more than one benefit. How is your initiative and its implementation embedded in local policy and planning mechanisms? Demonstrate evidence of support for the delivery initiative from a governance and political point of view.

1.3 Describe the vision for your initiative and the ways in which the initiative is bold, unique, and innovative. This might be in the techniques it uses, in how it is funded, in the delivery process it relies on, etc..... How does it deliver a new way of doing things?

1.4 Discuss how the initiative is supported by collaborative working across disciplines and sectors. Collaborations with stakeholders working outside the green space industry (eg highway engineers, water engineers, health professionals, planners, architects, artists, sociologists, etc.) is highly desirable.

Significance:

Your entry must address a specific issue/challenge/problem which your city is facing. In this section we ask you to present how the initiative is created and designed to address a serious local problem or set of problems.

2.1 Describe why the issue is a problem for the city. Write how broadly this issue/problem/challenge is affecting the city, its nature, and its urban population. If the initiative was not implemented, and the problem was not addressed, how might the problem persist and worsen in the future (in line with the primary and secondary category choices)?

2.2 Explain the severity of the issue. Write how seriously the problems that are being tackled by your initiative are impacting the life of the citizens/businesses/nature concerned. How is your initiative using plants and nature to create a better future for your city?

Implementation:

For this section you will need to relate how the initiative has already achieved its stated objectives or desired outcomes, or how well it is doing on its way to achieve these. Describe what your initiative sets out to achieve within the city vision and what approach is being

deployed to do so. Please ensure that you consider the primary and secondary category choices you have made for this entry. How does the initiative link/align with the primary category selected, and how does it deliver positive impacts in alignment with both the primary and secondary category choices?

3.1 Describe how your initiative has been implemented, and how it will achieve a nature-positive outcome for the city. Demonstrate progress over the last 5 years, giving evidence of a track record of success against pursued objectives. Show how the initiative described is solving the city's challenge.

3.2 Show evidence of feasibility. This includes on-going financial and logistical support to ensure that long-term as well as short terms goals can be met. Has the success of your initiative lead to changes in planning and policy?

3.3 Show evidence of stakeholder support. Who is involved in implementing the initiative? How does it show evidence of support and participation (this includes local residential communities as well as business and professional communities) and is cross-disciplinary/multi-level/multi-sectoral collaboration in its approach?

3.4 Explain how the initiative has been designed and implemented to ensure that long term needs for management and maintenance are efficient, effective, and can be provided by the city. Describe how you overcame any unexpected barriers or challenges.

Measuring and Reporting Impact:

Questions in this section refer to how you are measuring the success of your initiative in qualitative and quantitative terms and reporting at a project outcome level and a city/national commitment level. What is its impact on a social, economic and environmental scale? How is it contributing to city and government commitments on the local, regional and national perspective? How is the impact of your initiative being reported to the city, the country and to the world.

4.1 Describe the protocols that are in place to facilitate monitoring of results. Describe how your initiative will achieve a nature-positive outcome for the city, with a focus on evidence of progress.

4.2 How does this monitoring impact enhance your ability to demonstrate progress? How does measurable progress enable your city to expand your greening ambitions and attract interest and funding for new projects and strategies?

4.3 What has your initiative achieved? Describe how you are measuring the impact of your initiative. Is this measurement quantitative (numbers) or qualitative (narrative and storytelling), or a combination of the two. What are the measurable outcomes and how are you reporting on these?

City Survey:

Does your city use any metrics to track progress and report against green ambitions and climate change commitments? Trends are useful to demonstrate real progress.

We would like to understand more about the systems used to gather information/ metrics and what metrics/ indices being monitored by your city. Please complete this form to provide further details: [CLICK HERE](#)

Examples of systems: Science Based Target Network, Canopy cover - iTree, Urban Nature Index etc. If you are not using any of these metrics, please explain your reasons on the form.

You will not be scored on your answers to the survey.

Learning and Transferability:

This section requires you to demonstrate that the initiative has generated some learning content or mechanism for enhanced/wider adoption of local nature-oriented practice and/or offer potential for customised replication in other cities.

5.1 Report how the initiative has been amended and enhanced during design and implementation. What changes have been made in response to monitoring of progress? How have external stakeholders contributed to improvements of the initiative and ensured its success?

5.2 Explain ways in which the initiative has had a ripple effect beyond the scope of the initiative itself, changing the city's and/or its partners' way of working with plants. Has the initiative had transfer of knowledge as part of its design? Have there been unexpected changes due to progress of the initiative?

5.3 Tell us how other cities have expressed interest in the initiative, or explain how the initiative has the potential to interest other cities, be customised to their own circumstances., and inspire them to raise their own urban greening ambitions.

Resilience:

In this section you will outline how the initiative has been mindful of its impact on the planet, its contribution to reversing biodiversity loss, and of its ability to be sustained over time.

6.1 Outline what efforts have been made to reduce the carbon footprint of the initiative. What systems have you put in place to reduce unintended negative impacts and to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience of positive outcomes?

6.2 Describe how the anticipated impacts of your initiative on the environment have been considered. This should be reflected in decisions such as plant selection (diversification, suitability to present and anticipated local microclimate, procurement) and access to water (preferably rainwater or recycled water), as well as energy efficiency and recycling.

6.3 How has use of natural resources been considered to ensure the initiative is sustainable and resilient? Report the processes that the initiative includes for it to be considerate in its use of soils, water, and other natural resources. This should be reflected in the reliance on alternative strategies to undesirable practices such as the importation of topsoils from the countryside or use of potable grade or other energy-intensive sources of water.

Supporting documentation

In this section we invite you to submit plans, images and photographs that illustrate aspects of your entry and relate to some of your answers in the entry form.

Images:

Each uploaded image or photograph must have a short caption that explains what it shows, and have a credit that recognises the origin/designer/photographer i.e. file image 1 - caption view of tree canopy taken by M. Smith

You may submit up to 10 images (max 500MB per image)

Videos:

You may submit up to 5 minutes of video content with a maximum of 5 separate videos (max 500MB per file). Videos must be uploaded as MP4 files.

Documents:

You are invited to upload supporting documents that validate or further illustrate your answers. Examples are press cuttings, urban plans and strategy documents, promotional materials, procedural documents, supporting bylaws or city regulations and policies, certificates for environmental or working standards etc. These must be in English, or must be accompanied by a translation into English.

You may submit up to 5 supporting documents or files (max 500MB per file).

Mayoral Declaration

Entries must be accompanied by a Mayoral Declaration, signed and stamped by the signatory authorised by national law to legally represent the city. Typically, this person is the Mayor or Deputy-Mayor of the city, or can be another senior political representative who is in charge of international cooperation or sustainable development.

Please download the declaration form by clicking the link below. Once signed by the signatory, please upload it using the upload field below.

Mayoral Declaration Form: [\[Mayoral Declaration\]](#)

Disclaimer

By submitting an online entry you agree that you have read and will abide by the rules and procedures for the AIPH World Green City Awards as stated in the Submission Process document on the AIPH website.

Tick this box to confirm that you have read and will abide by the rules and procedures for the AIPH World Green City Awards

Submit

At the end of the submission form you will need to submit your award submission. This will accept the submission in its current form. If you have completed all the compulsory questions, then the submission will be marked as completed. Any submissions with outstanding compulsory questions, will be marked as incomplete.

An email will be sent to your registered email address which contains a link to your dashboard, from here you will be able to access your submission to make further edits.

Please note that you will be able to access your submission, whether marked as complete or incomplete, to complete and make edits up until the deadline for submission.

Once the deadline for submissions has passed, no further updates or edits can be made. Please ensure that your submission is complete, with all compulsory responses finalised before **23:00 BST on 19 October 2025**.

Version July 2025