



**GREEN CITY
STANDARD**



AIPH Green City Standard: Framework for Cities

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AIPH Green City Standard: Framework for Cities

Executive Summary

The AIPH Green City Standard offers cities a robust, plant-centric framework for effectively planning, implementing, measuring, and refining their urban greening initiatives. This AIPH Standard is built around eight city-led processes—Analyse, Plan, Engage, Act, Impact, Monitor, Adapt, and Share—each further broken down into specific urban greening outcomes with ideal states and measurable indicators. Cities demonstrate their alignment by providing evidence against these indicators, supported by an online, subscription-based platform that offers practical tools, best-practice guidance, and real-world case studies.

The AIPH Standard is flexible and non-prescriptive, allowing cities to adapt it to their unique contexts while aligning with broader sustainability goals. Cities can use a simple three-point scoring system for self-assessment, with detailed criteria available on the online AIPH platform, to identify areas for improvement. For formal certification, cities undergo a full independent external assessment, potentially achieving Silver, Gold, or Platinum certification based on their performance across the eight processes, and receiving AIPH branding assets to showcase their achievement.

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1. Introduction

The AIPH Green City Standard was developed by the International Association of Horticultural Producers, AIPH, as part of the AIPH Green City initiative. The AIPH Green City initiative uses knowledge exchange, advocacy and networking to promote the essential role of plants in creating vibrant urban areas in which people and businesses can thrive. Our environment, human wellbeing, social cohesion and economies are all improved by intelligently designed green space.

By offering a clear and actionable roadmap, the AIPH Green City Standard empowers cities to achieve measurable environmental, social, and economic benefits, including strengthened climate resilience, enriched biodiversity, and improved quality of life. In turn, these outcomes can enhance city competitiveness, elevate brand equity, and foster civic pride.

Rooted in decades of horticultural expertise and informed by a global network of partners, the AIPH Standard integrates best practices to help cities design and direct interventions, monitor progress, demonstrate return on investment, and ultimately, achieve meaningful impact. The Framework for the AIPH Standard leads a city to consider where and how urban greening is embedded in city processes. The Framework describes urban greening outcomes and sets out what evidence a city might present to demonstrate that it meets the ideal state of successful urban greening. The Framework offers a city a means of undertaking a self-assessment through a graded scoring system. This assesses the current status of a city and identifies specific processes and outcomes that are opportunities for improvement.

2. The Framework of the AIPH Green City Standard

The AIPH Green City Standard is structured around a set of eight city-led processes that collectively guide cities toward achieving excellence in urban greening. These processes are designed to address the entire lifecycle of urban greening initiatives, from understanding baseline conditions to sharing achievements and lessons learned. The eight processes are as follows:

- **Analyse:** Establishing baseline conditions through data collection, risk assessment and analysis of existing green spaces.
- **Plan:** Setting clear targets, developing strategic priorities and integrating urban greening into broader urban plans.
- **Engage:** Ensuring inclusive stakeholder participation, fostering multi-level governance and building strong partnerships.
- **Act:** Implementing policies and projects, allocating resources, and ensuring maintenance and sustainability.
- **Impact:** Demonstrating tangible social, economic and environmental outcomes.
- **Monitor:** Tracking progress through robust indicators and frameworks, conducting regular reviews and adapting to new challenges.
- **Adapt:** Embracing continuous improvement by learning from successes and failures, and integrating new knowledge into practices.
- **Share:** Promoting urban greening outcomes, sharing lessons learned and inspiring other cities to adopt similar approaches.

Each of these eight processes, labelled A to H is further divided into subcategories of outcomes that are influenced by urban greening, as depicted below.

Outcomes from Integrating Urban Greening into Existing City-Led Processes							
Existing City-Led Process and their Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes							
A - Analyse	B - Plan	C - Engage	D - Act	E - Impact	F - Monitor	G - Adapt	H - Share
1 - Habitat Data (Baseline) Collected	1 - A Strong Vision Developed	1 - Internal Coordination Between Local Government Departments in Place	1 - Budget Allocated	1 - Access and Equity Improved	1 - Monitoring in Place (Measure Progress)	1 - Mechanisms and Processes for Continuous Review Developed	1 - Raised Awareness
2 - Environmental Risks and Vulnerabilities Assessed and Mapped	2 - Local Goals, Objectives, Targets and Indicators Set	2 - Extensive Stakeholder Mapping Completed	2 - Resources Allocated with Roles and Responsibilities	2 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration Enhanced	2 - Internal Reviews in Place	2 - Continuous Improvement through Adaptation Ensured	2 - Education and Outreach Activities Undertaken
3 - Key Issues Documented	3 - Commitments Made	3 - All Relevant Stakeholders Engaged	3 - Actions Implemented	3 - Effective Climate Change Adaptation (Heat Island/Flooding) and Mitigation (Carbon sequestration/neutrality) in Place	3 - Regular Reporting on Progress (Locally)		3 - Actions and the Impact Promoted
4 - Governance Structure Assessed	4 - Urban Greening Embedded in Land Use Development Planning	4 - Strong Multi-Level Governance Approach in Place	4 - Policy Developed and Implemented	4 - Network of Urban Green Spaces (Parks, gardens, forests etc) Increased and Improved	4 - Regular Reporting on Progress (National and Global)		4 - Lessons Communicated
5 - National and Global Priorities Localised	5 - Urban Greening Mainstreamed in Integrated Planning Processes at Appropriate Scales	5 - Connected with Other Cities and Towns	5 - Appropriate Legislation in Place	5 - Improved Human Health and Wellbeing and Reduced Healthcare costs (physical and mental)			5 - Knowledge Shared
	6 - Priority Actions Developed		6 - Green Public Procurement Strategies Deployed	6 - Increased Green Infrastructure, particularly Nature-based Solutions			
	7 - Appropriate Plant Selection and Preparation Considered		7 - Ongoing Maintenance Ensured	7 - Liveability Improved (Active Lifestyles and Time Outdoors)			
				8 - Social Cohesion and Community Engagement Advancements			
				9 - Demonstrable Economic Growth and Development (property values, tourism, green jobs)			
				10 - Urban Agriculture and Food Production Established			
				11 - Soil and Air Quality (oxygen release/NRM) Improved			
				12 - Improved Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction			

For each of the urban greening outcomes, the framework provides detailed guidance that clarifies:

- **Outcome features:** Specific features of urban greening that deliver outcomes within the city-led process.
- **Ideal states:** Descriptions of the aspirational goals cities should strive to achieve.
- **Indicators:** Clear and measurable metrics for assessing current status and for tracking future progress.

The number of urban greening outcomes for each city-led process varies, with a total of 48 outcome features within the Framework for the AIPH Green City Standard, each with corresponding ideals and indicators incorporated. Below is a list of the 48 outcome features, numbered within each city-led process, A to H.

A – Analyse: The city has put in place foundational elements which allow it to understand its urban greening status as a reference point/baseline against which future improvements will be assessed

Outcome features:

- A1 - Habitat Data (Baseline) Collected
- A2 - Environmental Risks and Vulnerabilities Assessed and Mapped
- A3 - Key Issues Documented
- A4 - Governance Structure Assessed
- A5 - National and Global Priorities Localised

B – Plan: The city adopts ambitious, evidence-based and integrated planning to deliver effective urban greening

Outcome Features:

- B1 - A Strong Vision Developed
- B2 - Local Goals, Objectives, Targets and Indicators Set
- B3 - Commitments Made
- B4 - Urban Greening Embedded in Land Use Development Planning
- B5 - Urban Greening Mainstreamed in Integrated Planning Processes at Appropriate Scales
- B6 - Priority Actions Developed
- B7 - Appropriate Plant Selection and Preparation Considered

C - Engage: The city ensures broad and inclusive stakeholder engagement in the design and delivery of urban greening initiatives.

Outcome Features:

- C1 - Internal Coordination Between Local Government Departments in Place
- C2 - Extensive Stakeholder Mapping Completed
- C3 - All Relevant Stakeholders Engaged
- C4 - Strong Multi-Level Governance Approach in Place
- C5 - Connected with Other Cities and Towns

D – Act: The city takes bold action for urban greening, supported with adequate resources and strong policy

Outcome Features:

- D1 - Budget Allocated
- D2 - Resources Allocated with Roles and Responsibilities
- D3 - Actions Implemented
- D4 - Policy and Strategy Developed and Implemented
- D5 - Appropriate Legislation in Place
- D6 - Green Public Procurement Strategies Deployed
- D7 - Ongoing Maintenance Ensured

E- Impact: Urban greening efforts ensure equitable access to high-quality green spaces, prioritising underserved communities and fostering inclusivity.

Outcome Features:

- E1 - Access and Equity Improved
- E2 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration Enhanced
- E3 - Effective Climate Change Adaptation (heat island/flooding) and Mitigation (carbon sequestration/neutrality) in Place
- E4 - Network of Urban Green Spaces (parks, gardens, forests etc) Increased and Improved
- E5 - Improved Human Health and Wellbeing and Reduced Healthcare Costs (physical and mental)
- E6 - Increased Green Infrastructure, particularly Nature-based Solutions
- E7 - Liveability Improved (Active Lifestyles and Time Outdoors)
- E8 - Social Cohesion and Community Engagement Advancements
- E9 - Demonstrable Economic Growth and Development (property values, tourism, green jobs)
- E10 - Urban Agriculture and Food Production Established
- E11 - Soil and Air Quality (oxygen release/NRM) Improved
- E12 - Improved Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction

F – Monitor: The city tracks progress in urban greening through a robust monitoring framework, conducting regular reviews and reporting outcomes.

Outcome Features:

F1 - Monitoring in Place (Measure Progress)

F2 - Internal Reviews in Place

F3 - Regular Reporting on Progress (Locally)

F4 - Regular Reporting on Progress (National and Global)

G – Adapt: The city commits to continuous improvement by developing adaptive processes for evolving urban greening needs.

Outcome Features:

G1 - Mechanisms and Processes for Continuous Review Developed

G2 - Continuous Improvement through Adaptation Ensured

H – Share: The city raises awareness, promotes impacts, and shares knowledge to inspire other cities and stakeholders to embrace urban greening.

Outcome Features:

H1 - Raised Awareness

H2 - Education and Outreach Activities Undertaken

H3 - Actions and the Impact Promoted

H4 - Lessons Communicated

H5 - Knowledge Shared

The full Framework describing ideals and indicators can be viewed in Annexe A (V5.1 Framework)

3. Meeting the AIPH Green City Standard

3.1. Providing evidence

To meet the requirements of the AIPH Green City Standard, cities need to provide evidence that clearly demonstrates how they meet each of the indicators within the Framework. AIPH is developing an online platform to support cities in providing this evidence. The subscription-based platform is designed to provide cities with:

- **Relevant tools and methodology:** References to practical tools and best-practice guidance and methods to help cities implement effective solutions. This list is dynamic and will be updated as new tools become available.
- **Exemplars (best-practice case studies):** Real-world examples of cities excelling in specific areas, selected for inspiration and practical insights.

The AIPH Green City Standard is not prescriptive, enabling and supporting cities to choose the most relevant methodology for implementing and reporting on their green city achievements. The AIPH Green City Standard provides cities with a clear roadmap, actionable guidance, real-world examples, and links to relevant resources. Its flexible, non-prescriptive framework empowers cities to adapt it to their unique circumstances and priorities, whether they are embarking on new greening initiatives or enhancing established efforts. By supporting locally appropriate strategies, the AIPH Standard helps cities to achieve their urban greening goals while aligning with other national and global sustainability objectives.

3.2. Scoring criteria

Cities that undertake assessment against the AIPH Green City Standard are scored by the quality of the evidence that they provide to demonstrate that they meet the indicators in the Framework. A simple 3 point scoring system for each indicator evaluates a city's performance and identifies areas for improvement. An example of the scoring for the indicator F1: Monitor is given below.

The full list of scoring criteria will be available on the online AIPH Green City Standard platform. Cities that are registered on the platform can use the scoring criteria to undertake a self-assessment. This will enable the city to see their current status against the AIPH Standard. Cities that decide to go further to adopt that AIPH Standard, report publicly about their profile and claim formal Certification for meeting the AIPH Green City Standard must undertake a full independent

assessment by an external accreditation body. This stage of the AIPH Green City Standard is under development under the guidance of the Governance structure.

City-led process F: Monitor - Ideal urban greening intervention: The city tracks progress in urban greening through a robust monitoring framework, conducting regular reviews and reporting outcomes.

Description	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
F1 - Monitoring in Place (Measure Progress)	The city has a sound and robust mechanism in place which it regularly uses to monitor and evaluate the success of its urban greening actions against its targets and indicators (e.g. a monitoring and evaluation framework)	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is in place, measures progress against urban greening targets and indicators, and is being actively used for periodic (and regular) review

Outcome Scoring Criteria:

1 point: No formal monitoring framework; progress is tracked irregularly or through informal mechanisms.	2 points: A monitoring framework exists, but it is inconsistently applied or lacks regular updates.	3 points: A comprehensive and regularly updated monitoring framework supports data-driven decision-making for urban greening initiatives.
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4. Assessment against the AIPH Green City Standard

By adopting the AIPH Green City Standard, cities can unlock significant environmental, social, and economic benefits while positioning themselves as global leaders in city resilience and liveability.

The simple 3-point scoring system of the AIPH Green City Standard enables a holistic assessment of a city's success in urban greening, identifying areas of high achievement and highlighting areas for further progress. The scoring is reported to cities in 2 ways:

4.1. Self-Assessment

Cities that undertake a self-assessment using the online platform receive a report from AIPH that sums the scores for each of the 8 city-led processes and provides a graphical representation of how the city is performing within each process.

4.2. Certification

Cities that seek certification and undergo a full external accreditation will receive certification of meeting one of three grades of the AIPH Green City Standard:

- Platinum Certification - Cities that score highly across all of the 8 city-led processes.
- Gold Certification - Cities that score highly across more than half of the city-led processes.
- Silver Certification - Cities that score highly across fewer than half of the city-led processes.

AIPH will provide cities with a set of branding assets to enable them to showcase and celebrate their achievement in adopting the AIPH Green City Standard.

5. Conclusion: Embrace the Future with the AIPH Green City Standard

For city leaders committed to building a brighter future, adopting the AIPH Green City Standard is a strategic imperative. This comprehensive framework provides the clarity, tools, and global recognition needed to transform urban landscapes into thriving, resilient ecosystems. Systematically embedding urban greening into a city's processes, enhances climate resilience, boosts biodiversity, and improves public health and well-being, and at the same time significantly elevate the city's global profile, attracting investment, and fostering a deeper sense of civic pride.

The AIPH Standard empowers a city to measure their progress, learn from global best practices, and adapt to evolving challenges, ensuring that their greening efforts deliver lasting impact. Embracing the AIPH Green City Standard to unlock unparalleled environmental, social, and economic benefits, positions a city as a true leader in the global movement towards a greener, healthier, and more prosperous urban future.



A. Annexe: AIPH Green City Standard - Framework Describing Ideals and Indicators

A - Analyse

This is one of the eight framework sections for the AIPH Green City Standard

- A – Analyse
- D – Act
- G – Adapt
- B – Plan
- E – Impact
- H - Share
- C – Engage
- F – Monitor

Existing City-Led Process:	A - Analyse		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city has put in place foundational elements which allow it to understand its urban greening status as a reference point/baseline against which future improvements will be assessed		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - Habitat Data (Baseline) Collected	The city has in place systems and processes to collect data on the quality and extent of its urban habitats (urban nature/urban natural assets) and has clearly articulated the status quo as a baseline against which future improvements will be measured.	The city can show that its monitoring systems are appropriate and effective to capture the quality and extent of its urban habitats
	2 - Environmental Risks and Vulnerabilities Assessed and Mapped	The city understands that its climate, culture, and geographic location present specific environmental risks to its population and infrastructure.	Key risk factors that relate to the local context of the city. The city has identified and mapped the key risk factors to its population and infrastructure that are specific to its climate, culture, economy and geographic location.
	3 - Key Issues Documented	The city has formally documented the critical challenges it faces --such as climate resilience, public health, or social equity-- which will likely intensify if urban greening action is not undertaken.	Documentation of key issues described as challenges that urban greening has the potential to address. These challenges should be framed to demonstrate the potential for urban greening to provide solutions and create positive impacts for the community and environment.

Existing City-Led Process:	A - Analyse		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city has put in place foundational elements which allow it to understand its urban greening status as a reference point/baseline against which future improvements will be assessed		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
	4 - Governance Structure Assessed	The city has mapped and reviewed urban nature governance, identifying relevant departments and other stakeholders, and with critical analysis of the effectiveness of this structure in delivering its urban greening plans, policies, and interventions.	The city has identified which departments and stakeholders are required to be involved and which officials have a mandate and/or remit to participate in urban greening activities.
	5 - National and Global Priorities Localised	The city has locally contextualised national greening objectives and components of global agendas which are of relevance to city-led action for plants and nature.	The city clearly articulates which national and global goals, targets, and indicators it can contribute to achieving and has linked these with its local priorities.



B - Plan

This is one of the eight framework sections for the AIPH Green City Standard

- A – Analyse
- D – Act
- G – Adapt
- B – Plan
- E – Impact
- H – Share
- C – Engage
- F – Monitor

Existing City-Led Process:	B - Plan		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city adopts ambitious, evidence-based and integrated planning to deliver effective urban greening		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - A Strong Vision Developed	The city has developed, articulated, and adopted an ambitious long-term vision for urban greening, informed and embraced by relevant stakeholders.	The city can show evidence that its urban greening vision was developed with inputs from all relevant stakeholders, is stipulated in relevant plans and policies, receives broad cross-departmental support, and constitutes a significant improvement on the status quo.
	2 - Local Goals, Objectives, Targets and Indicators Set	The city has developed, and adopted a set of science-based, context-specific, strategically aligned goals, objectives, and targets capable of delivering its long-term vision for urban greening and has adopted an associated set of progress indicators.	The city shows evidence of its goals, objectives, targets, and indicators for realising its vision and how these have been developed in consultation with relevant departments and stakeholders, have been adopted by city leadership, and are being used to inform planning and policy across relevant departmental functions.

Existing City-Led Process:	B - Plan		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city adopts ambitious, evidence-based and integrated planning to deliver effective urban greening		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
	3 - Commitments Made	The city has made a strong, public commitment to urban greening, demonstrating a clear vision for integrating nature into the urban environment. This commitment is backed by concrete action, with explicit mandates established for various departments and officials.	The city's commitment to urban greening is formally documented, publicly endorsed by leadership, and supported by departmental mandates and participation in national and global sustainability programmes.
	4 - Urban Greening Embedded in Land Use Development Planning	The city has an established land use system with dedicated categories for green spaces (e.g., parks, ecological zones, biodiversity areas), each with clear guidelines on allowable and restricted development actions, ensuring urban greening is integral to development planning.	The city can demonstrate how it is implementing its land use development function and mandate to protect, conserve, restore, enhance, and grow its urban nature assets and how this control system is integrated in its spatial development planning frameworks.
	5 - Urban Greening Mainstreamed in Integrated Planning Processes at Appropriate Scales	The city's urban greening plans, policies, and actions are mainstreamed and integrated across other relevant city-wide planning processes, policies, budgets, and actions.	Current status of the extent to which urban greening plans, policies, and actions are mainstreamed and integrated across the city.
	6 - Priority Actions Developed	A pipeline of prioritised interventions, complete with detailed costs and timelines, are appropriately ambitious and commensurate with the city's urban greening commitments, integrating nature into the urban fabric, enhancing biodiversity, delivering ecosystem services, and inspiring communities.	Publicly available statements and descriptions of a range of projects that are strategically prioritised, appropriately ambitious, fully costed, and spanning from the near to long term.

Existing City-Led Process:	B - Plan		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city adopts ambitious, evidence-based and integrated planning to deliver effective urban greening		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
	7 - Appropriate Plant Selection and Preparation Considered	Design, planning, and implementation processes for urban greening are guided by informed plant selection, balancing socio-cultural needs and preferences, economic efficiency, and local environmental conditions. Particular emphasis is placed on resilience to diverse climate scenarios, the consideration of native species, and the creation of ecologically and culturally meaningful green spaces.	City processes for plant selection account for species-specific traits, and engage horticultural and landscape specialists as necessary to ensure suitability and alignment with urban greening goals and cultural and climatic context.



C - Engage

This is one of the eight framework sections for the AIPH Green City Standard

- A – Analyse
- D – Act
- G – Adapt
- B – Plan
- E – Impact
- H – Share
- C – Engage
- F – Monitor

Existing City-Led Process:	C - Engage		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city ensures broad and inclusive stakeholder engagement in the design and delivery of urban greening initiatives.		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - Internal Coordination Between Local Government Departments in Place	Local government departments work collaboratively, sharing resources, expertise, and responsibilities to ensure cohesive and effective urban greening strategies.	Frequency and effectiveness of interdepartmental coordination meetings or mechanisms for urban greening projects, with defined roles and shared objectives.
	2 - Extensive Stakeholder Mapping Completed	The city identifies and maps all relevant stakeholders, including marginalised and underrepresented groups, to ensure inclusive engagement in urban greening.	Presence of a comprehensive and regularly updated stakeholder map, identifying key actors, roles, and influence on urban greening. The city manages this information in a secure, legally compliant manner.
	3 - All Relevant Stakeholders Engaged	The city actively engages, consults with, and consider the needs of the city's stakeholders--including but not limited to, the private sector, academia, civil society, and marginalised groups--to co-design and co-deliver urban greening initiatives.	Level of stakeholder engagement in urban greening initiatives, measured through participation rates and diversity of representation.

Existing City-Led Process:	C - Engage		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city ensures broad and inclusive stakeholder engagement in the design and delivery of urban greening initiatives.		
Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:	
4 - Strong Multi-Level Governance Approach in Place	The city adopts a robust multi-level governance approach, coordinating urban greening efforts across local, regional, and national levels to align policies and resources effectively.	Presence of formal multi-level governance structures or agreements that support urban greening initiatives.	
5 - Connected with Other Cities and Towns	The city actively engages with local and regional stakeholders, understanding impacts, sharing knowledge, building partnerships and collaborating to advance urban greening.	Active participation in local and regional urban greening networks and collaborative initiatives.	



D - Act

This is one of the eight framework sections for the AIPH Green City Standard

- A – Analyse
- B – Plan
- C – Engage
- D – Act
- E – Impact
- F – Monitor
- G – Adapt
- H – Share

Existing City-Led Process:	D - Act		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city takes bold action for urban greening, supported with adequate resources and strong policy		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - Budget Allocated	The city ensures sustainable, reliable funding for urban greening by identifying diverse sources and strategically allocating budgets across departments. These budgets support the implementation, maintenance, and enhancement of greening strategies.	Presence of diverse and reliable funding sources, including regular income streams (e.g., taxes, rates, fees), participatory budgeting, and ad hoc project funding.
	2 - Resources Allocated with Roles and Responsibilities	Specific roles are nominated and resourced within and across departments to ensure collaborative, coordinated attention to nature in all aspects of city design and operation.	The city can list roles with their responsibilities. This can include volunteer roles if these are with the support of recognised community or industry organisations.
	3 - Actions Implemented	Urban greening actions are implemented efficiently, aligned with city plans, and tracked for measurable impact.	Planned urban greening actions implemented on schedule with measurable progress toward biodiversity, climate resilience, and community goals.
	4 - Policy and Strategy Developed and Implemented	Urban greening policies and strategies are evidence-based, inclusive, and enforceable, integrating nature into urban planning and operations while promoting interdepartmental coordination.	Urban greening policies and strategies adopted and operational, with clear implementation plans and stakeholder engagement.

Existing City-Led Process:	D - Act		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city takes bold action for urban greening, supported with adequate resources and strong policy		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
	5 - Appropriate Legislation in Place	Legislation, within the city's powers, supports urban greening policies, establishing enforceable rules, incentives, and penalties to ensure compliance and support implementation.	Presence of legislation that enforces urban greening commitments, including zoning laws, biodiversity mandates, and incentives for compliance.
	6 - Green Public Procurement Strategies Deployed	The city adopts procurement policies for urban greening activities that prioritise sustainability, biodiversity-friendly materials, and eco-efficient practices.	Goods and services for urban greening procured using relevant sustainability-focused criteria.
	7 - Ongoing Maintenance Ensured	Urban greening interventions include adequately funded, long-term maintenance plans to ensure sustainability.	Urban greening projects have adequate maintenance budgets and active maintenance plans.



E - Impact

This is one of the eight framework sections for the AIPH Green City Standard

- A – Analyse
- D – Act
- G – Adapt
- B – Plan
- E – Impact
- H – Share
- C – Engage
- F – Monitor

Existing City-Led Process:	E - Impact		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city can demonstrate how its urban greening efforts are engendering tangible social, economic and environmental outcomes.		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - Access and Equity Improved	Urban greening efforts ensure equitable access to high-quality green spaces, prioritising underserved communities and fostering inclusivity.	City-wide access to high quality green spaces within a 5-minute walk or 300m, irrespective of income, ethnicity, and other relevant equity indicators.
	2 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration Enhanced	Urban greening initiatives prioritise restoring urban and peri-urban ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and protecting habitats.	Inclusion of biodiversity indices (e.g., species richness, habitat connectivity) in urban green spaces.
	3 - Effective Climate Change Adaptation (heat island/flooding) and Mitigation (carbon sequestration/neutrality) in Place	Urban greening efforts reduce carbon emissions, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and enhance flood resilience. The city uses urban greening to enhance water quality, manage stormwater effectively, and promote sustainable water use through innovative techniques such as phytoremediation, rainwater harvesting, and permeable surfaces.	Reduction in urban temperatures and flood risk, and increased carbon sequestration that can be attributed to urban greening initiatives.
	4 - Network of Urban Green Spaces (Parks, gardens, forests etc) Increased and Improved	The city has an extensive network of green spaces and can demonstrate an increase in size and/or quality of its urban green spaces over time.	Improvement in the area, connectivity, and quality of urban green spaces.

Existing City-Led Process:	E - Impact		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city can demonstrate how its urban greening efforts are engendering tangible social, economic and environmental outcomes.		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
	5 - Improved Human Health and Wellbeing and Reduced Healthcare costs (physical and mental)	Urban greening improves physical and mental well-being and reduces healthcare costs.	Reduction in stress-related illnesses and increased use of green spaces for recreation and exercise.
	6 - Increased Green Infrastructure, particularly Nature-based Solutions	The city prioritises nature-based solutions, including green infrastructure, over grey infrastructure, using greening of roofs, walls, and streets to enhance ecosystem services and urban resilience.	Urban infrastructure projects use NbS as well as engineered solutions to deliver desired outcomes.
	7 - Liveability Improved (Active Lifestyles and Time Outdoors)	Urban greening promotes active lifestyles, increases time spent outdoors, and enhances overall city liveability.	Green spaces attract outdoor activity and lead to community satisfaction.
	8 - Social Cohesion and Community Engagement Advancements	Urban greening fosters social cohesion and strong community involvement through widespread use, collaborative projects and inclusive designs.	Participation rates of community use of greening projects and measures of social cohesion (e.g., trust, inclusivity).
	9 - Demonstrable Economic Growth and Development (property values, tourism, green jobs)	Urban greening enhances economic growth by increasing property values, creating green jobs, and boosting tourism.	Growth in property values, green job creation, and tourism revenue attributed to urban greening initiatives.
	10 - Urban Agriculture and Food Production Established	The city integrates urban agriculture into its greening efforts, enhancing food security and promoting local, sustainable food systems.	Increase in access to urban agriculture projects and local food production outputs.

Existing City-Led Process:	E - Impact		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city can demonstrate how its urban greening efforts are engendering tangible social, economic and environmental outcomes.		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
	11 - Soil and Air Quality (oxygen release/NRM) Improved	Urban greening improves soil health and air quality, enhancing natural resource management and public health.	Reduction in air pollutants (e.g., particulate matter, CO2) and improvements in soil health metrics.
	12 - Improved Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction	Urban greening enhances resilience to disasters by reducing risks such as flooding, heatwaves, landslides, and storm damage.	Reduction in disaster impacts is attributed to urban greening (e.g., flood damage, heat-related illnesses).



F - Monitor

This is one of the eight framework sections for the AIPH Green City Standard

- A – Analyse
- B – Plan
- C – Engage
- D – Act
- E – Impact
- F – Monitor
- G – Adapt
- H – Share

Existing City-Led Process:	F - Monitor		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city tracks progress in urban greening through a robust monitoring framework, conducting regular reviews and reporting outcomes.		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - Monitoring in Place (Measure Progress)	The city has a sound and robust mechanism in place which it regularly uses to monitor and evaluate the success of its urban greening actions against its targets and indicators (eg. a monitoring and evaluation framework)	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is in place, measures progress against urban greening targets and indicators, and is being actively used for periodic (and regular) review
	2 - Internal Reviews in Place	The city conducts regular internal reviews of urban greening progress, engaging relevant departments and stakeholders to assess performance and identify areas for improvement.	Frequency and comprehensiveness of internal reviews conducted for urban greening projects, including multi-departmental involvement and actionable recommendations.
	3 - Regular Reporting on Progress (Locally)	The city transparently reports progress on urban greening to local stakeholders, fostering trust, accountability, and community engagement.	Frequency and quality of public reports on urban greening progress, including accessibility and engagement with local stakeholders.
	4 - Regular Reporting on Progress (National and Global)	The city reports its urban greening progress at national and global levels, contributing to broader sustainability goals, fostering knowledge exchange, and aligning with international frameworks.	Frequency and quality of urban greening reports submitted to national and global platforms, highlighting alignment with sustainability commitments.

G – Adapt

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- A – Analyse
- D – Act
- G – Adapt
- B – Plan
- E – Impact
- H – Share
- C – Engage
- F – Monitor

Existing City-Led Process:	G - Adapt		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city commits to continuous improvement by developing adaptive processes for evolving urban greening needs.		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - Mechanisms and Processes for Continuous Review Developed	The city has established mechanisms and processes for regular review of urban greening initiatives, incorporating feedback, monitoring data, and emerging trends to inform adaptive management.	Existence and functionality of formal mechanisms for periodic review, including stakeholder input and integration of monitoring data into urban greening strategies.
	2 - Continuous Improvement through Adaptation Ensured	The city fosters a culture of continuous improvement by embedding adaptive management practices into urban greening, ensuring flexibility to address changing conditions, new challenges, and opportunities.	Frequency and effectiveness of adaptations made to urban greening strategies based on reviews, stakeholder feedback, and emerging challenges.

H – Share

This is one of the eight framework sections for the AIPH Green City Standard

- A – Analyse
- D – Act
- G – Adapt
- B – Plan
- E – Impact
- H – Share
- C – Engage
- F – Monitor

Existing City-Led Process:	H - Share		
Ideal Urban Greening Integration:	The city raises awareness, promotes impacts, and shares knowledge to inspire other cities and stakeholders to embrace urban greening.		
	Outcome Features:	Outcome Ideals:	Outcome Indicator:
Urban Greening Influenced Outcomes	1 - Raised Awareness	The city implements comprehensive campaigns to raise awareness about urban greening benefits, engaging diverse audiences and fostering widespread support for its initiatives.	Frequency, reach, and effectiveness of awareness campaigns about urban greening, including the diversity of audiences engaged.
	2 - Education and Outreach Activities Undertaken	The city engages in regular education and outreach programmes, fostering understanding and capacity-building among residents, schools, businesses, and policymakers.	Number and diversity of education and outreach activities conducted annually, and the demographics of participants reached.
	3 - Actions and the Impact Promoted	The city actively promotes its urban greening actions and highlights their social, environmental, and economic impacts, inspiring stakeholders and demonstrating success.	Presence of communication initiatives that showcase the city's urban greening actions and impacts
	4 - Lessons Communicated	The city effectively communicates lessons learned from urban greening, sharing successes and challenges to improve practices locally and globally.	Frequency and quality of documented lessons shared through reports, case studies, and public presentations.
	5 - Knowledge Shared	The city participates in knowledge-sharing platforms and networks, contributing insights, research, and best practices to advance global urban greening efforts.	Level of active participation in global knowledge-sharing platforms and contributions to research or best practices.

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