



Pesticides free! Belgian cities and towns on the move
***European good practice on urban
biodiversity implementation***

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Eat Local, Buy Local, Grow Local!





ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



- International association of sustainable local governments
- Focus: integrated sustainable urban development
- Operating worldwide (17 offices) – focal point for cities
- *Founded **BY** local authorities **FOR** local authorities* in 1990 at UN in New York
- Introduced Local Agenda 21 at Rio '92 and continues to promote it worldwide
- Motto: *“Local Action moves the world”*



Scope: urban biodiversity



Urban biodiversity: why cities?



- Strong action potential → closest to the people and the ground
- High leverage effect → 2% land surface, >50% population, 75% resources
- ‘Sustainable city’ target → cities need ecosystem services more than anyone
- Communication → most people & power BUT least connection to nature
- Climate change (cc) → cc impacts biodiversity & biodiversity helps combating cc
- “Greatest’ cities” are usually greenest cities
- TEEB study (on economic loss of biodiversity) includes Local Authorities



Benefits: urban biodiversity

- Biodiversity
- Health
- Quality spaces
- Green jobs,
- Social engagement and inclusion
- Leisure and recreation
- Resilient cities
- Climate change adaptation
- Food

ICLEI activities on urban sustainability

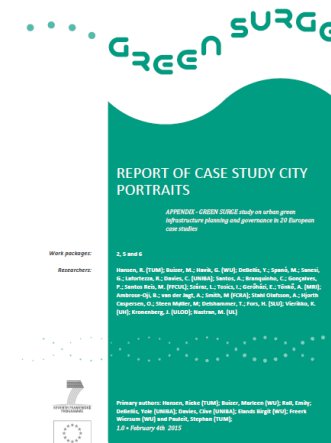


- **ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center** (CBD, IUCN, UNEP, NatureParif, the German network for biodiversity or the Medivercities network)
- **Local Action on Biodiversity** programm (LAB)
- **Green Surge** - Green Infrastructure and Urban Biodiversity for Sustainable Urban Development and the Green Economy (European Commission) - greensurge.eu
- **URBES** - Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, for Stockholm University through the Stockholm Resilience Centre – urbesproject.org
- **European Capitals of Biodiversity**, LIFE-project (2009-2011)
- **TEEB** - The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity: TEEB for Local and Regional Policy Makers and the TEEB Manual for Cities
- **CityFood Network** – iclei.org/cityfood
- **Innocat** – Sustainable public procurement of food



European good practice: Aarhus, Denmark

- **Achievements:** Afforestation around city; restoration of Aarhus river;
- **Governance:** in 2004 Aarhus City council approved the 'Aarhus model for Public Participation' mandatory for all public plans, strategies, policies and projects,
- Examples where local projects victims of budget cuts were taken over by civil society and local business;
- Role of media crucial.



Area	
▪ Core city	47 034 ha
▪ Larger urban zone	452 271 ha

Population (2012)	
▪ Core city	319 094
▪ Larger urban zone	485 672

European good practice: Hannover, Germany



- 530.000 inhabitants; city area: 20.400ha
- Nobody lives more than 10min away from green spaces
- Approx. 50% green space, woodland, farmland and water; 1,000 km of footpaths and 165 km of cycle paths
- Hannover's Biodiversity Programme '**More Nature in the City**': > biodiversity in the city and > enthusiastic people for nature
- Examples:
 - Flora Enhancement Programme
 - Fauna Enhancement Programme
 - Surveying and repulsing invasive neophytes
 - More natural green space maintenance, tolerating more 'wilderness'
 - Enhancing Fauna-Flora-Habitat areas
 - Care and use of fruit trees and orchard meadows
 - Children Forest; Waldstation; School Biology station;



European good practice: Montpellier, France

- The **CHALLENGE**: From car park to green park from



 Before



During...



At the end !



A challenge :
Start on friday at 2 p.m.
Finish on Saturday at 4 p.m.

With the local population who maintains the garden

European good practice: Genk, Belgium

- **Achievements:** “The Bee Plan”
- **Aim:** turn city’s green management into a ‘bee-friendly’ one and highlighting this during annual ‘Day of the Park’ and ‘de Bebloemings-actie’ (grow flowers action), combined with citywide communication campaigns
- **Actions:** B-team, allocating spaces for bee keepers



European good practice: Switzerland

- **GreenCity Switzerland initiative:** www.gruenstadt-schweiz.ch
- Cities can make continuous progress with their sustainability management, and get a certification label (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
- Gold” is quite close to – if desired by the city - claim for certified organic management.
- Includes: organic fertilization of park turf; organic nurseries and organic production of ornamental plants, weed control on urban area, tree management etc.
- Good practice Basel:
 - The nursery of Basel City converted to Organic in January 2013, and is therefore fully certified organic since January 2015.
 - The ornamental production in greenhouse started the 2-year conversion phase in January 2015.
 - Trials with organic fertilization of park turf (7 treatments in 4 parks with 2 replicates in each; combined with a specifically soil adopted mechanical turf management) gave excellent results



Thank you!

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