



CLIMATE

PLAN

OF THE CITY OF BRUSSELS

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

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#BXLOVE

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This document is a summary of the City of Brussels' Climate Plan 2022. The entire plan, containing 120 strategic objectives, as well as a list of 400 specific measures taken by the city council, can be found on the following website:

https://www.brussels.be/climate-plan?_ga=2.10529590.344259493.1712411683-350332326.1712411683

#INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 2021, Brussels City Council employees voluntarily helped climate refugees in the Liège region, who were hit hard by the dramatic floods. They were the terrible consequence of climate change, which will happen again if we do nothing. But it's not too late. Brussels City Council wishes to rise to the climate challenge: that's the *raison d'être* of this new Climate Plan.

The issue of global warming and its many harmful consequences in every corner of the globe are the key concerns of citizens rallied by this cause in huge demonstrations, including in the streets of Brussels. It has to be said that, COP after COP, the world's governments are unable to agree on a universal plan to drastically reduce the production of greenhouse gases. Let's not let that stop us from taking action, here and now, at local level.

The City of Brussels' Climate Plan and its 400 specific measures are a response to this challenge. It is immediate, shared with those who are the residents of our neighbourhoods, those who have firm roots in our urban region. It is also an act of solidarity with those who have fewer opportunities and fewer resources, the first victims of climate change.

As the capital of Europe, Belgium and a host of other institutions, the city of Brussels must set an example in the massive insulation of public and social buildings and housing, the production of green electricity, making energy savings and in the sustainable management of resources. All the measures in this plan, which are regularly evaluated, are sources of inspiration for the people of Brussels.

This Climate Plan is a scope for the many policies that are linked to it. Our objectives are clear and firm: to reduce our emissions by 55% in the short term and to become carbon neutral in the medium term. Calls for climate projects will continue to fund the many initiatives undertaken by local citizens, associations and businesses. Everyone's efforts will be central to the success of this Climate Plan. Whether we're talking about floods or heatwaves, everyone needs to make a commitment to adapt, to limit the impact of extreme weather events on our daily lives.

Cities produce CO₂, but they are also the source of many solutions. These solutions will be implemented quickly, because the objectives set for 2030 and 2050 are for a future time which is within sight. Forward together!

Philippe Close Mayor of Brussels City Council

Benoit Hellings First Alderman Alderman for Climate and Sports

#CLIMATE HISTORY

OF THE CITY OF BRUSSELS

- 2008 – 2020** Agenda 21 - Brussels City Council's action plan for sustainable development
- 2018** 'We are the change' - First Climate Plan for the city of Brussels
- 2019** Declaration of a state of 'Climate Emergency' by the Brussels City Council
- 2021 – 2022** 46 meetings and workshops as part of the participative Climate Plan process
- 12.12.2022** Adoption of the Climate Plan 2.0
- 2023** Establishment of the Local Climate Assembly First evaluation of the Plan within the Brussels City Council
- 2024 – 2030** Biennial evaluation and adaptation of the Plan with the Local Climate Assembly
- 2030** 55% less greenhouse gas emissions in the region compared to 2008
- 2040** Carbon-neutral energy for public buildings
- 2050** Carbon neutrality for the city of Brussels region

#OVERVIEW

The city council did not wait for its Climate Plan to take action. Since declaring a state of climate emergency in 2019, it has been stepping up its measures, already having an impact on climate change and the well-being of its residents.

ENERGY	+103% increase in installed photovoltaic power
TRANSPORT	Bicycle boxes x 2, and 129% more parking spaces reserved for car-sharing
RESOURCES	Set-up of the first 'Troc & Brol' second-hand shop (second-hand items and furniture)
WATER	50,000 m3 of water saved by detecting leaks in public buildings = 20 Olympic swimming pools
FOOD	160 urban agriculture training courses in 50 urban kitchen gardens
BIODIVERSITY	Diversified management: gradual switch from annual plants to native, pollinating perennials
EVENTS	100,187 spectators used active transport at the King Baudouin Stadium concerts in 2022 (metro, tram, bike, bus, night trains)
ECONOMY	600 'Wolleke' blankets distributed to 52 catering establishments
YOUTH	Switch to washable nappies in eco-friendly crèches = 90,000 nappies saved in one year
ADMINISTRATION	151,000 litres of fuel saved by the city council's vehicle fleet between 2018 and 2021
GOVERNANCE	112 projects supported under the call for Climate projects for a total of €850,000

#ENERGY

A city producing local and renewable energy, with exemplary public buildings

Achieving the objectives of this Climate Plan will involve reducing energy consumption and transforming the city's energy system. As far as public buildings are concerned, the aim is to ensure that they are energy efficient and able to adapt to the effects of climate change.

In addition, the aim is to maximise the production and consumption of green, local energy wherever possible. Lastly, it will be vital to improve the sustainability of construction and renovation projects in the region, starting with the city's own properties.

Main measures:

- Insulate the most energy-intensive public buildings
- Reduce temperature upper limits for heating in winter and increase temperature upper limits for air conditioning in summer
- Invest €75 million in the capitalisation of Logement Bruxellois and Foyer Laekenois to boost the updating of the energy efficiency of social housing
- Develop energy communities to maximise individual home consumption
- Put in place support schemes to encourage access to Révolution premiums for Brussels residents

2030 objectives:



1

urban heating network in the city, developed in collaboration with Bruxelles-Energie.



40%

reduction in the energy consumption of the city's buildings



100 GWH/YEAR

I.e. double photovoltaic production in the region, with the city contributing 6 GWh



#Transport and public spaces

A city where transport is carbon-free, peaceful and active

In terms of transport, the key to this Climate Plan is to promote and facilitate environmentally-friendly transport. It therefore redesigns travel and public space as a place to live, encouraging the city of Brussels residents to opt for low-carbon, active and shared transport. It also works to make freight transport more sustainable. And finally, the city council has a duty to be an exemplary contributor and employer on this issue.

Main measures:

- Develop 2 new high-speed tram lines, connecting the city centre to Neder-Over-Heembeek and Belgica to the Central Station
- Increase space and comfort for pedestrians in public spaces, by widening and renovating pavements, creating meeting areas and new pedestrian areas, and making these spaces 100% accessible for people with reduced mobility
- Increase secure cycle parking capacity in public spaces, public car parks and residential areas (cycle racks, cycle boxes, proportion of cycle spaces in public car parks)

2030 objectives



15%

of journeys within the city of Brussels region are made by bicycle



30%

of journeys within the city of Brussels region are made on foot



30%

of journeys within the city region are made by public transport, which provides an efficient service throughout the region and keeps traffic flowing smoothly



#Resources and Waste

A zero-waste city, with circular resource management

The objectives of this Climate Plan cannot be achieved without exemplary waste management. That's why we're taking action in two areas: reducing our waste and recycling it. Firstly, it is vital to reduce the volume of waste produced, by consuming differently and reusing the resources around us.

Secondly, the measures in this plan provide for the development of the waste recovery sector, by recycling through better organisation of waste sorting and by composting our bio-waste in the best possible way.

Main measures:

- Develop a dense network of community/neighbourhood composts
- Install sorting bins in public spaces, parks and sports centres
- Install a meso-compost to manage all the city's food waste
- Recover and compost fallen leaves in public spaces
- Installation of 2 dry toilets per year in the city's green spaces
- Zero waste incentives (reusable food and drink containers, washable nappies, compost)

2030 objectives



100%

of bio-waste produced by the city is recycled



10 mins

to access a compost near you



90%

of the waste collected during bulky goods collections is sorted



#Water

A city that takes care of its liquid gold (water)

Water is a rare commodity, and this Climate Plan takes full note of that fact. This is why, on the one hand, it provides for mechanisms to consume this precious resource sustainably, while preserving its quality, and, on the other, it also plans to protect the city of Brussels against flooding, which is likely to become more frequent as a result of climate disruption. Finally, it also seeks to extract all its benefits from water, using it as a source of refreshment to counteract global warming.

Main measures:

- Integrated Rainwater Management (IWM) for all buildings and public spaces in priority flood control zones
- Installation of water leakage sensors in all public buildings
- Provision of irrigation systems for urban agriculture projects
- Installation of fountains in public spaces, sports fields and playgrounds
- Step up the installation of rainwater tanks
- Create an open-air bathing area

2030 objectives



Less than
10 mins

Walk to a cool island



40%

Reduction of water consumption in municipal buildings and in the upkeep of outdoor public spaces



250,000 m²

Of waterproofed surface or surface disconnected from sewers in the Molenbeek catchment priority intervention zone



#Food

A city where we produce and eat sustainably

Whether we're talking about Haren endive, Brussels waffles or the restaurants that serve Brussels residents, Belgians and tourists from all over the world every day, we're not sufficiently aware of the impact of our food consumption on the climate. 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions in Belgium come from our food.

On average, we eat three times a day. Behind every meal is a complex process: production, transport, processing, packaging, storage and waste. Every day, Les Cuisines Bruxelloises prepare thousands of meals for our toddlers in crèches and for our elderly in care homes. To limit the climate impact of our food, the city is going to eat 'Good Food' [name of certification].

Locally produced food, more vegetarian menus and less food waste.

Main measures:

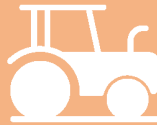
- Set up vegetable gardens and orchards in the city's green spaces
- Produce fruit and vegetables from Les Cuisines Bruxelloises on public land
- Create a vegetable factory, to wash and cut ready-to-use fruit and vegetables
- Develop *Cuisines de quartier* [neighbourhood kitchens] and cooperative supermarkets
- Offer training and logistical support for urban agriculture projects

2030 objectives



3

vegetarian meals
per week in
schools



10

new hectares for
urban agriculture



150

shops and catering
establishments
with 'Good Food'
certification



#Biodiversity

A green city and home to biodiversity

Preserving biodiversity is a major challenge in the fight against climate change, on an urban and local scale as much as on a global scale. Nature is a key partner in adapting to the effects of climate change that we are facing and will continue to face.

Brussels City Council is fully aware of this and is acting accordingly, ensuring the development of biodiversity as an ally against heat islands, which are reinforced in the city by urban heat islands, and against flooding through greening.

Main measures:

- Adopt the 'Tree Charter'
- "Babyboom": plant 8 trees for each newborn baby
- Greening and permeabilising 7 inner blocks in Les Marolles
- Creation of new green spaces and Pocket Parks
- Replace lawns with flower meadows
- Eco-pasturing to combat invasive plants
- Training local authority employees in botany

2030 objectives



100%

of the city's green spaces have the "Réseau Nature" [Nature Network] certification



1

local green space or park situated less than 10 minutes from each resident



8

trees planted per new birth



#EVENTS, SPORT, CULTURE, TOURISM

A city with a sustainable offering

Nearly 3,000 events take place in the city of Brussels region every year. Worldwide, tourism is responsible for 8% of greenhouse gas emissions. Tourism in Brussels is intrinsically linked to culture, events and heritage.

The challenge for the city of Brussels is manifold: to support the tourist offering so as to maintain its attractiveness, while at the same time offering cultural and sports activities and environmentally-responsible events.

Main measures:

- Apply the sustainable development charter to all public events
- Environmentally-friendly transport plans agreed with local communities for all major events
- Installation of drinking fountains in all sports facilities
- Systematically offer a vegetarian or vegan option to the public and teams working on an event
- Develop a reusable tableware supply chain for local events

2030 objectives



2

double the number of tourist accommodations with the Green Key' certification



100%

of events organised by the city council comply with the BME's sustainability action plan



100%

of cultural venues under the direct control of the city council have introduced a climate action plan



#Economy

A city at the cutting edge of the economic transition

Brussels has a rich and ambitious economic fabric: it must rise to the challenges we face by supporting, for example, the usage economy, the circular economy and mutualisation. Short distribution channels are set to become an important part of the local economy, enabling local businesses to contribute to climate objectives.

This transition will also encourage the creation of jobs and professions that do not yet exist. By anticipating their emergence, the Brussels City Council is helping businesses to make the most of this change.

To achieve this, we are planning... :

- Supporting the creation of sustainable logistics hubs in the city region
- The provision of alternatives to heaters, such as *Wollekes* (plaids for the catering trade)
- Setting up a waste recycling and reconditioning method for the Jeu de Balle market
- Developing training to meet the needs of the professions of the future (market gardening, insulation, etc.)
- Support for the catering trade's 'Good Food' certification

2030 objectives



5

shops a year are awarded the 'Seconde Main' [Second Hand] certification



10 mins

to access energy-saving services in as many neighbourhoods as possible



0

Every new city contract must aim for a Zero Waste policy



#YOUTH

A city where children and young have a role to play in the climate transition

Young people are the driving force behind change and innovation. Brussels City Council therefore has a duty to protect the population as far as possible from health risks, and to equip people as effectively as possible to combat climate change. This means setting an example for the city's eco-crèches, schools and reception areas in terms of their practices, making each of these places a place for learning about the climate and environmental challenges we face.

In addition, the city council will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience in terms of good practice at all the reception and teaching facilities in its area, so that this practice is strengthened everywhere.

Main measures:

- 100% of the city's schools have bicycle parking facilities
- Use furniture from the circular economy in schools
- Organise exchanges of school equipment and recycling libraries
- Increase the number of eco-crèches with one or more *bébébus* [vans loaded with childcare equipment]
- Recycle organic waste in 100% of eco-crèches
- Allocate 85% of the games and toys budget to the purchase of sustainable toys

2030 objectives



100%

of the city's
crèches use
washable nappies



100%

organic, local and
seasonal food for
children



0

Plastic bottles,
metallic packages
and drinks cartons in
regular school and
crèche activities



#THE CITY'S SERVICES

A city with an exemplary administration

Brussels city council will be taking up the gauntlet of managing its human resources to meet future challenges. From a financial viewpoint, tax policy is seen as a driving force to encourage environmentally-responsible practices.

On the other hand, the city council's investments, via public procurement, will meet the same sustainability requirements. Supported by technology, climate planning combined with the city council's internal monitoring methodology will also serve as key tools for achieving this objective.

Main measures:

- Apply a sustainable purchasing charter to the city council's public procurement contracts
- Priority investment of the city council's resources in ethical, socially responsible and sustainable funds
- Climate plan monitoring platform now online
- Journeys of less than 8 hours are made by train rather than by plane
- Provide access to a carbon calculator for the city and its residents

2030 objectives



< 8 hours

officials will give preference to train travel for journeys of less than 8 hours rather than air travel



20%

reduction

in the city council's digital carbon footprint compared to 2019



65 fewer

vehicles in the city council's fleet



#GOVERNANCE

A city council united in implementing its Climate Plan

To achieve the objectives set out in this Climate Plan, implementation of it will be a combined effort. The measures, evaluation and updating of the plan will be the fruit of the work of all the contributors in the region whether they are citizens, associations, businesses or public or scientific bodies.

As the situation changes, the city council will adapt to the needs of the contributors involved, to work towards our common objectives. To this end, the city council will play a supporting and facilitating role in bringing the various contributors together.

Main measures:

- Set up the Local Climate Assembly
- Create a Future Generations Council
- Take part in the exchange of best practice between Belgian and international cities
- Adapt green premiums to meet climate challenges
- Extend the call for projects under the Climate Plan all year round

2030 objectives



1

a driving assembly for the follow-up and monitoring of the plan's actions



increase in budgets and projects supported under the Call for Climate Projects



ask young people about the actions they can take to protect the climate

