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Introduction

Cities are on the front line when it comes to climate change. Today, the effects of global warming, which are more intense in urban environments, are already being felt through heatwaves, floods, droughts and even a decline in biodiversity.

The IPCC's recommendations show that local authorities, with their localised, social and economic skills, are key players in combatting climate change.

By adopting an Agenda 21 in 2008 and a first Climate Plan in 2018, the City of Brussels Council has positioned itself among the pioneering municipalities in setting sustainable climate objectives.

Today, inview of the climate change challenges that lie ahead, the City of Brussels is taking action by adopting a **new Climate Plan** with an even more ambitious long-term objective: a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and carbon neutrality for the region by 2050. This objective of energy carbon neutrality has even been brought forward to 2040 for public buildings. The City Council is also developing actions to make the region more resilient.

This new Climate Plan meets **regional objectives** and is at the crossroads of other plans and strategies adopted in various areas at municipal and regional level. Within this framework, it proposes a summary of climate measures and defines an action strategy for the whole of the City.

The Plan reflects the commitment of the entire College of Mayors and Aldermen and all the City of Brussels Council departments.

The City Council is also setting an example by adopting ambitious measures. It is therefore proposing that all **interested parties in the region** contribute in a participatory way, by inviting them to get involved and propose measures.

The **Action Plan** that completes this strategic plan confirms and intensifies the actions that the City Council is already taking, notably as a result of Agenda 21 and the first Climate Plan.



It also extends the areas in which the City Council can intervene and the types of measures it can use. The Action Plan, which is published on the website https://www.brussels.be/climate-plan will be assessed and added to on an ongoing basis. It will also be fuelled by actions taken by local interested parties.

The climate change transition can take place through the rallying of all our forces.

Combatting climate change can also be an opportunity. Making Brussels a **resilient city** means making it self-sufficient in terms of energy resources, food, materials and so on. The Climate Plan thus makes it possible to anticipate at local level the **social and economic impacts** of a more global crisis.

Philippe Close Mayor Benoit Hellings Alderman for Climate



A plan that binds municipal and regional plans

Торіс	City of Brussels	Brussels-Capital Region
	Cross-disciplinary Strategic Plan (CSP)	Regional Air, Climate and Energy Plan (ACEP) - version 2.0 of the Energy and Climate Plan (ECP)
Cross-disciplinary	Municipal Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) - in progress Cold Weather Plan	Brussels Code on Air, Climate and Energy Management (CoBRACE) Regional Sustainable Development Plan (RSDP)
Food & agriculture	Urban agriculture strategy	Good Food 2.0 strategy
	Toilet Plan	BRUDALEX 2.0
Waste		Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme (RPRP)
		Regional Circular Economy Programme (RCEP) - Be Circular
Water	Municipal Water Plan (MWP) - in the process of being validated	Water Management Plan (WMP)
F		Regional Economic Transition Strategy (RETS)
Economy		Shifting economy
	Social Housing Insulation Plan	Local Energy Management Plan (LEMP)
Energy & buildings	Housing Plan	Renolution Strategy
	CPAS Housing Plan	
	School Plan	
Events, culture & tourism	Sustainability strategy for BME events	Eco-event charter
	Good Move Pentagon	Good Move Plan
Mobility	Cycling action plan	Freight transport plan
	Company travel plan (CTP)	
Manakakian anal kiadi savaik s	Canopy Plan	Nature Plan
vegetation and blodiversity		Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme (RPRP)

Plan Objectives

The Climate Plan defines ambitious quantified targets for the City of Brussels that will enable it to at least meet the commitments set out in the Majority Agreement, the Climate Emergency Declaration and the regional and European targets for the various topics. It therefore aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030, achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and strengthen the region's resilience to climate change. In addition, the objective of energy carbon neutrality for public buildings has been brought back to 2040.



A climate strategy based on several key topics



*compared with the reference year 2008

In addition, the new Climate Plan merges the action plans initiated with Agenda 21 and the first Climate Plan into a single document, and is open to local interested parties.

To achieve these objectives, the City Council:

- sets out a course and strategic priorities to guide its climate policy and action between now and 2050;
- adopts a concrete action plan within its public authority and across its region:
 - The City Council adopts an action plan for which it sets objectives within the scope of its powers, authority and buildings;
 - It also proposes non-binding objectives for the region. To help achieve this, the City Council is stimulating, encouraging and supporting actions carried out by local interested parties, in accordance with the methodology to be defined in the chapter entitled "Towards shared governance of the Climate Plan".

The various plan chapters will define how to achieve these objectives, taking into account **budgetary constraints** and ensuring that the measures benefit the **most disadvantaged sections of the population** as a priority, without eroding their procurement power, in the implementation of its action plan.



Climate Plan Reading Guide

The plan is broken down into **10 themed chapters**: energy; public spaces and transport; waste and resources; water; sustainable food; green spaces and biodiversity; events, culture, sport and tourism; the economy; youth; transforming the authority.

For each topic, the Plan defines a vision for 2050 and strategic objectives for 2030.

Wherever possible, the City of Brussels has set **quantified** and measurable **objectives**. The vast majority of the objectives take the City Council's 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration as their base year. If the indicators are not available for this period, the reference year is shifted to 2022 at the latest. The Climate Plan includes over 100 strategic objectives, which are now broken down into almost 400 actions in the action plan.

The Climate Plan must be **read in conjunction with other** documents. Some issues are common to several topics. For example, the circular economy concerns both the economy and waste policy. Energy policy is first and foremost about building management, but also about the economy.

The topic chapters are supplemented by a **methodology** chapter that defines the process for involving local interested parties.



City of Brussels Climate Action Trajectory

2008	Agenda 21		
->	From 2008 to 2020, Agenda 21 was the action plan		
2020	Agende 21 Local de la Ville de Bruxelles agenda AGENDA 21 2020 that set out the City of Brussels' cross-cutting		
	sustainable development priorities and translated		
	them into concrete actions. Its aim was to develop an		
	overall vision and strategy, and to rally municipal		
	staff, local interested parties, users and citizens		
	round unifying projects.		
	Agenda 21 was based on the sustainable development challenges facing the city and its Public Social Assistance Centre (CPAS), namely environmental protection, social equity and economic development, the foundations of good governance.		
2010	Creation of the City of Brussels energy unit		
2016	Signing of the Mayors' Covenant for Climate and Energy		
	Convention des Maires pour le Climat et l'Énergie EUROPE In 2016, the City of Brussels Council signed the Mayors' Covenant for Climate and Energy. Since 2008, this initiative has brought together a		
	large network of cities with the ambition of pursuing the climate and energy objectives set by the		
	European Union. By signing the Mayors' Covenant, cities commit to setting medium- and long-term		
	objectives that are in line with EU objectives and at least as ambitious as national objectives. In		
	2018, the objective for 2030 was set at a 40% reduction in emissions.		
2018	Climate Plan 1.0. – "We Are The Change"		
	In 2018, the City of Brussels Council adopted its first climate plan: "We are		
	the change". This action plan was launched as part of the Mayors'		
	Covenant, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by		
	2030. The 35 actions it contains both meet this mitigation objective and		
	contribute to the city's resilience in the face of climate change		
	(adaptation). 23 actions have been initiated and have resulted in a positive assessment as		
	part of the Mayors' Covenant commitments.		



2019	Climate emergency motion			
	In September 2019, the City of Brussels Council declared a state of			
	"Climate Emergency" and pledged to increase its ambitions in			
	combatting climate change. The aim is to achieve carbon neutrality by			
	2050, with a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.			
2020	0 Assessment of emissions trends and the Climate Plan			
	Emissions de GES (%) par secteur en 2018 sur du territoire de la Ville de Bruxelles In 2018, local emissions amounted to around 1,500			
	ktCO2e, a 21% reduction on 2008 levels. The main			
	Contentions 2,0% Transport formation 2,0% Autro 0,7% Autro 0,7%			
	transport, the incinerator and the residential sector.			
	Between 2008 and 2018, emissions from local			
authority infrastructure have fallen by 23% taking into account the carbon in				
	Belgian electricity mix (location based), and by 37% taking into account the purchase of			
	green electricity by the local authority (market based). They fell from 44 ktCO2e to			
	33.5 ktCO2e. These emissions relate to three separate entities: public authority buildings Housing Management (Régie foncière) buildings and Public Social Assistance Centre (CPAS)			
	buildings.			
2021	Creation of the Climate Department			
	Merger of eco-counselling and sustainable development units			
	Participatory process – opening up to the region			
	In 2021, the City Council will be introducing a participatory approach by consulting citizens			
	and experts as it draws up its climate plan. The participatory approach involved a number			
	of actions: street interviews with local residents, meetings in the neighbourhoods around			
	the Babbeleir bike, themed workshops with local residents and experts, and interviews with			
	young people aged between 16 and 25 in public areas.			



2022	Launch of a network of parties involved in the	CRÉATION du RÉSEAU PLAN CLIMAT de la VILLE de BXL
	Climate Plan	AVE AMBITION: J'APPORTE ave AMBITION: J'APPORTE ave RESEAU
	In 2022, the Climate Plan participatory process brought together around 50 local interested parties to co-construct a roadmap and the beginnings of a shared governance model between the City Council and the local	VISION & AMPLEUR WMPACT WINDUSCH WMPACT WM
	Adoption of the Climate Plan	
2023	Setting up the Local Climate Assembly	
	City Council Internal evaluation of the Plan	
2024	Assessment, public evaluation and adaptation	of the Plan
2025	City Council Internal evaluation of the Plan	
2026	Assessment, public evaluation and adaptation of the Plan	
2027	City Council Internal evaluation of the Plan	
2028	Assessment, public evaluation and adaptation	of the Plan
2029	City Council Internal evaluation of the Plan	
2030	Assessment, public evaluation and adaptation	of the Plan



An exemplary energy policy and building management

"For many years now, housing renovation has been a priority for the City of Brussels, which has embarked on a major renovation plan for social housing managed by the Brussels SISPs. The Housing Management (Régie foncière) and the City's Public Property department are also pursuing ambitious and proactive policies to achieve their Climate Plan objectives. In these areas, our fundamental objectives, which are mutually reinforcing in combatting global warming at all levels, are:

- 1. access for everyone to decent, accessible, high quality housing;
- continuing to look at ways of reducing energy costs, from the design of public buildings, through regular maintenance, to the re-use of materials when they are replaced;
- Regular optimisation of the day-to-day use of public buildings by public authorities and citizens. "

Lydia Mutyebele, Alderwoman of Public Heritage and Housing Management

2050 Vision

In 2050, Brussels is a city that has succeeded in reducing its energy consumption and transforming its energy system. The region's building stock has achieved an energy performance level of 100 kWh/m²/year in primary energy. In addition to energy efficiency, the various solutions have now been mastered in terms of their implementation and use: photovoltaic solar panels, solar thermal panels, riothermal energy, geothermal energy, aquathermal energy, heat pumps, urban wind power, hydrogen, biomethanisation, and so on. They have enabled Brussels to become self-sufficient in carbon-free energy. Most neighbourhoods are now connected to district heating networks, local renewable energy production is integrated into every building project, collective self-consumption has become routine, collective renovation projects have contributed to the development of several



"positive energy" neighbourhoods in the area, and most of the materials used in renovation projects are sourced from or reintegrated into recycling channels. In 2050, Brussels will have found the right balance between the region's energy needs, local production and the supply of renewable energy for specific uses, while maintaining an affordable price and the wellbeing of its population.

Context and issues

Energy is at the heart of all human activity, and therefore occupies a central place in our society. Energy is needed for heating, lighting and transport, but also in industry to produce the goods and services sold on the market (textiles, objects, furniture, etc.), in the tertiary sector (to provide services for the public, businesses, etc.), in agriculture to produce our food, in leisure facilities (cultural, sports, restaurants, etc.), in schools, for healthcare and for digital uses. Reducing our energy consumption therefore requires a cross-functional approach that incorporates all the issues described in this climate plan. This first chapter focuses on energy consumption in the building sector, which is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the region. The tertiary and residential sectors alone accounted for 56% of direct emissions in the City of Brussels region in 2018 (CO2 Logic).

In order to achieve the city's climate objectives, Brussels Environment proposes adopting the "Trias Energetica" approach:



- Our priority is to reduce our consumption, for example by improving the energy performance of our buildings.
- Secondly, making the best possible use of available sources of renewable energy, for example by developing local energy production to boost energy independence.
- Finally, use efficient energy systems for incompressible needs and needs that cannot be met

locally.



1. Energy efficiency in buildings and adapting to the effects of climate change

Various expert scenarios show that it is possible to move away from fossil fuels and cover our essential needs with renewable energies. However, all these scenarios insist on the need to significantly reduce our needs and our consumption. This means tackling the massive task of renovating buildings and low-carbon housing as a priority, paying particular attention to:

- Limit the need for heat in winter (high levels of thermal insulation, good air tightness, but also optimisation of solar gain, compactness, etc.).
- Limit cooling requirements in summer (design of glazed areas, effective solar protection, options for natural ventilation, etc.).
- Limit lighting requirements by optimising natural light penetration and artificial lighting.

The Brussels-Capital Region has launched a regional building renovation strategy called **RENOLUTION**. For residential buildings in Brussels, the objective is to achieve an average primary energy consumption of 100 kWh/m²/year, i.e. an average consumption divided by 3 compared with the current situation. For public buildings, such as offices, sports centres, schools and crèches, RENOLUTION is more ambitious. The tertiary sector will therefore have to set an example by moving towards carbon neutrality by 2040.

To meet these objectives, renovation in Brussels will have to (1) move towards passive standards that drastically reduce heating consumption and (2) triple the renovation rate. New buildings must no longer consume fossil fuels in operation (through the use of bioclimatic design, insulation, solar protection, geothermal energy, photovoltaic solar panels, etc.) and must incorporate solutions to improve summer comfort in the event of very hot weather. Renovating substandard housing is as much an energy-related issue as it is a social one, since a large proportion of poorly insulated homes are occupied by disadvantaged groups. In 2019, 20% of households in the Brussels Region were living in energy poverty. As a result of the crisis, 26.5% of Brussels residents now have major problems paying their energy bills.

2. Producing and consuming green, local energy



Against a backdrop of highly volatile energy prices and geopolitical uncertainty, the question of energy autonomy is a major resilience issue.

The primary objective is to try to make the most of locally available renewable sources such as the sun, air or water to satisfy the majority of heating and/or cooling needs. The City of Brussels plans to significantly increase its production of renewable energy, which is currently mainly generated by photovoltaic solar panels and co-generation facilities.



Source: Brussels Environment

Well-known and innovative solutions need to be developed in the City of Brussels, both for large corporate buildings and public infrastructures and for private homes. All solutions need to be considered: whether it's increasing the number of heat pumps, solar thermal panels, co-generation facilities, geothermal systems, heat networks, exploiting the potential of small wind turbines that can be installed on buildings, or testing heat or cold recovery systems using sewers, the underground train network or basements.

In 2008, private individuals were the first to start producing photovoltaic solar panel energy in the city. Since 2010, private companies have become the main producers of photovoltaic solar panel energy, accounting for 40,000 MWh in 2019, i.e. 86% of the total solar panel electricity produced. Initiated at the same time, public photovoltaic solar panel electricity production has increased significantly since 2017.





Data source: BRUGEL and the City of Brussels Council

3. Improving the sustainability of construction and renovation

In addition to the direct energy impact, indirect emissions are gradually being taken into account. The environmental impact of buildings is not limited solely to their energy consumption during the "use" phase, and we also need to improve the sustainability of the construction and renovation phases. Construction and demolition waste accounts for 30% of all waste generated in the Brussels-Capital Region (Brussels Environment).

The City of Brussels therefore wishes to work on taking better account of the environmental impact of construction and renovation sites, on integrating routine consideration of the circular dimension into project design (reversibility, flexibility, pooling, reuse, etc.), and on integrating other measures to make buildings more resilient, such as integrated rainwater management (IWM) on the plots of its buildings or the installation of green roofs.



2030 Strategic objectives

- 1. Energy efficiency in buildings and adapting to the effects of climate change
 - → Reduce the energy consumption of City of Brussels buildings by 40% (compared with 2008).
 - ➔ To achieve the regional targets of energy neutrality for public buildings by 2040 and energy performance for private buildings by 2050, three intermediate targets have been set for the city's entire building stock:
 - Public heritage buildings owned by the city and the Public Social Assistance Centre (CPAS) will achieve an average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of C+ for all public authority buildings, crèches, schools, swimming pools, sports centres and cultural venues.
 - For Social housing (SISP), there will be a renovation plan for its stock and homes will have been renovated according to the priorities set out in this plan by 2030 in order to meet the regional objective of achieving an average EPC level of C+ by 2040.
 - The most energy-intensive homes (EPC F and G) owned by the CPAS and the Régie Foncière will have been downgraded by 2033.
 - → Compared to 2008, reduce by at least 55% all emissions linked to the energy consumption of the public buildings of the City Council, the Régie, the CPAS and the SISPs by 2030.
 - ➔ Those involved in housing in the City of Brussels Council also set objectives in line with regional ambitions.
 - ➔ Enhance the city's flat roofs where this is possible with a climatic function (photovoltaic solar panels, solar thermal panels, vegetation, bleaching, etc.):
 - Right from the design stage of each renovation or roofing project, the City Council uses the "Living Roofs" tool, which identifies the climatic function(s) that can be allocated to the roofs of buildings.
 - The City Council will implement the recommendations of the "Living Roofs" study for the priority sites identified which allow this and which do not require renovation work in the short term.



➔ The City Council is proposing to the region to reduce its energy consumption by 10% in 2030 compared with 2008.

2. Producing and consuming green, local energy

- ➡ Increase photovoltaic solar panel production in the region: The City Council is committed to making its own contribution to the regional objectives for renewable production and is proposing to the region that photovoltaic solar panel production be doubled, reaching 100 GWh per year, with the City Council contributing 6 GWh.
- ➔ Increase the proportion of energy consumed by the city's public buildings, the Régie, the CPAS and the SISP that comes from renewable energy produced in Belgium: 100% of the electricity consumed by the city's public buildings comes from renewable energy produced in Belgium.
- ➔ Develop one or more "Positive Energy Neighbourhoods": The city has at least one Positive Energy Neighbourhood.
- Develop an urban heating network in the city in collaboration with Brussels Energy.
- Develop energy communities: At least one energy community and one collective selfconsumption project have been set up in each of the city's neighbourhoods.
- → The City of Brussels is facilitating the implementation of collective self-consumption projects in the private housing it rents out, in order to combat energy poverty.

3. Improving the sustainability of construction and renovation

- By 2030, with regard to the environmental impact of construction/renovation projects, an impact analysis tool such as TOTEM will be systematically used by the City, the Régie, the CPAS and the SISPs to integrate the principles of sustainability and reversibility.
- ➡ The City Council is proposing an ambitious target for the environmental impact of construction/renovation projects throughout the region: The City Council will be adopting measures to reduce the environmental impact of the worksites and will be routinely analysing the environmental impact of the two variants.
- Incorporate the circular economy dimension (reversibility, flexibility, pooling, reuse, etc.) into construction and renovation projects right from the design stage. : The City Council



is committed to developing a cross-cutting checklist of sustainability criteria, including the circular economy dimension, which will be integrated into the upstream thinking of each renovation/construction project.

➔ From the design stage of construction and renovation projects, incorporate systems for managing water and protecting biodiversity where conditions allow (e.g. green roofs, cisterns, valleys, permeability, nesting boxes, urban agriculture, etc.).



Public space, a living space served by low-carbon, peaceful and active forms of transport

"The City of Brussels' transport policy aims to ensure that everyone can move around comfortably, actively and healthily. For example, we apply the STOP principle. This means more space for walkers, cyclists and public transport, but cars are still welcome. Especially for those who have no other alternative. This change means that transport is not an end in itself, but a means of creating more space. Meeting places, with more greenery or water in the city. In this way, we are not only building an attractive city with cleaner air and safer streets, but also a resilient city. A city that helps combat climate change and gets us through periods of heatwave and heavy rain. "

Bart Dhondt, Alderman for Transport and Public Works

"The debate on public space cannot be reduced to questions of transport. Our squares are real living spaces for our residents, offering places to meet and play. At the same time, public spaces also play a central role in making our cities resilient: by demineralising our streets and squares and planting trees on a massive scale, we are protecting Brussels against global warming and flooding. "

Ans Persoons, Alderman for Town Planning and Public Spaces

2050 Vision

Brussels in 2050 will be a peaceful city that has successfully turned the corner on carbon-free transport. Use of public transport has soared thanks to development of the network, and active forms of transport such as cycling and walking are favoured by residents and users, who now have suitable infrastructure available, thanks in particular to the introduction of the



'10-Minute City' project. Safe cycle paths and large cycle parking facilities are now found across the region. In collaboration with the other levels of government, car traffic is now being made cleaner. Shared transport, with vehicles available off-street for residents and businesses, is used in the majority of cases. A large proportion of logistics is now handled by river, rail, cargo bikes and small electric vans, thanks to the hubs dotted around the region. Some spaces previously dedicated to cars are being given over to other uses, freeing up space for the greening of the city, a pedestrian and cycle network, and living spaces reclaimed by residents. These spaces can be used for bus and taxi lanes to facilitate public transport access. Noise levels have been reduced and air quality has long since reached WHO recommended standards. Brussels is an attractive, accessible city that offers a healthy and pleasant living environment.

Context and issues

Representing 18% of greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Brussels, road transport is a major area of work for combatting climate change and improving quality of life for the people of Brussels. According to IBSA, 65% of these transport-related emissions come from private cars and around 25% from freight transport.

Reducing transport-related emissions means tackling a number of issues: clearly identifying transport needs in the area and reducing them, for example by bringing services closer to the population with the 10-Minute City concept; promoting low-carbon, active and shared modes of transport and facilitating modal transport; planning the region and infrastructure.

1. Rethinking public space as a place to live

A high quality public space is first and foremost a space that is accessible and can be made their own by everyone. It can be a place for people to pass through, meet, express themselves, relax, etc. as long as everyone finds their own place there, in complete safety. To give life to this public space, a balanced distribution must be found between its different functions (modes of transport, greening, permeabilisation, street furniture, etc.).

Urban space dedicated to cars (roads, parking spaces, etc.) currently dominates, accounting for around 60% of the space reserved for roads in Brussels. Most of these spaces are sealed,



which increases the risk of flooding, run-off and water pollution. They can also exert pressure on biodiversity because they represent impassable boundaries.



Source: Good Move, Diagnosis "Pourquoi mieux partager l'espace public, aujourd'hui encore largement occupé par la voiture ? " (Why should public space, which is still largely occupied by cars, be better shared?) Espace réservé en voirie par type d'usagers de l'espace public (en ha), en 2014 pour la RBC. (Road space reserved by type of public space user (in ha), in 2014 for the CBR).

It is therefore necessary to rethink the way in which public space is shared so that road and traffic facilities can meet future transport needs, the accessibility of transport solutions in the region in line with the 10-Minute City concept, road safety and the use of public space as a place to live.

The **Good Move regional plan** aims to reconcile environmental, safety, health and quality of life challenges with economic, social and budgetary issues. The Good Move Plan has worked on the concept of "relaxed meshes", areas where residents will be able to reclaim space and where public spaces will be of higher quality, less subject to various nuisances (air pollution, noise, etc.). To achieve this, the plan aims to limit through-traffic and car pressure by redirecting this traffic towards the main roads and public car parks, through the introduction of traffic management schemes. This will free up space for other uses and encourage a modal shift from car use to more environmentally-friendly modes of transport such as public transport, cycling or walking. The ultimate aim is to offer users of every means of transport fluidity and safety by simultaneously acting on infrastructure, services and behaviour.



2. Encourage a modal shift towards low-carbon, active and shared transport: walking, cycling, public transport, etc.

Walking is the main mode of transport for intra-regional journeys. The City of Brussels Council advocates the STOP principle, which organises modes of transport and public space with priority given to pedestrians, then cyclists, then public transport and finally cars.

To enable a modal shift away from cars towards low-carbon modes of transport, it is crucial that alternatives to combustion-powered cars exist. To achieve this, we need to take action on infrastructure, public space planning and the provision of alternative solutions. Walking is the primary mode of transport in the 10-Minute City. Accessibility of public spaces

for all users, including disabled persons, is therefore essential.

In order to encourage active transport and cycling, we also need to develop the region and its infrastructure: develop cycling infrastructure and secure cycle parking facilities; take into account the safety of routes, particularly at intersections, practicality and the absence of detours; complete the network of communal paths and tracks; create landscaping to improve coexistence of different modes of transport; etc.

At municipal level, the City of Brussels can work with the STIB Transport Company to improve the surface public transport network and ensure that every area of the city is adequately and regularly served.

Finally, shared transport is also one of the solutions to be developed, particularly for longer distances that cannot be covered by bicycle or public transport. One shared car could replace between 5 and 8 private cars, which would have to be made available in off-street car parks to free up public space (ADEME, Car-sharing survey 2022), which has a direct impact on the reallocation of public space for the benefit of Brussels residents and on the production of resource-intensive vehicles.



3. Becoming a pioneer city in sustainable freight transport

The supply of goods and urban distribution logistics are major challenges for cities such as Brussels, and are activity sectors with a high impact in terms of greenhouse gases, but also in terms of urban nuisance: noise, pollution and frequent stops by vans, which are on the increase as a result of the development of home delivery.

What's more, these sectors have great potential as job providers. Efficient and sustainable urban distribution is essential if we are to reconcile the challenges of the 10-Minute City and the ecological transition. The city will therefore support all initiatives aimed at businesses that encourage the sustainable transport of goods, in particular by increasing the number of local urban logistics areas and encouraging redistribution using cargo bikes or electric vans.

4. An exemplary employer

The City of Brussels Council must set an example and intends to work on its own transport. A number of measures are planned to help reduce local authority emissions, including staff commuting to and from work, and the reduction in carbon intensity and streamlining of the fleet of cars and service vehicles needed for the various day-to-day activities.



2030 Strategic objectives

1. Rethinking public space as a place to live

- ➔ Urban planning and development incorporate the 10-Minute City ambition to improve the quality of life of the people of Brussels.
- → The City of Brussels routinely applies the STOP principle (prioritising the different modes of transport and favouring them in the following order: walking, bicycles and active micro transport scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, single-wheel transport, etc.), public transport, collective private transport taxis, car-sharing, car-pooling and finally individual private transport, public transport, private collective transport, taxis, car-sharing, car-pooling and private individual transport).
- → The public space of 2030 is improved by increasing by 50% the public space dedicated to public transport, active transport, living/meeting spaces and green spaces.
- 2. Encouraging a modal shift towards low-carbon, active and shared transport: walking, cycling, public transport, etc.
 - → Walking, cycling and public transport are encouraged, easy and safe, and account for a large proportion of journeys in the City of Brussels: Cycling accounts for around 15% of journeys made in the City of Brussels. Walking accounts for 30% of all journeys.
 - ➔ Public transport serves the whole area efficiently and will ensure that traffic flows smoothly, accounting for 30% of journeys in the City of Brussels.
 - → Car traffic is reduced: Trips made by private motor vehicle now account for only a quarter of all journeys, in line with the ambition of the regional Good Move plan.
 - ➔ Traffic from conventional thermal combustion vehicles has fallen by 50% in favour of electric and hybrid vehicles.

3. Becoming a pioneer city in sustainable freight transport

➔ Fewer heavy goods vehicles in residential areas and around schools, crèches, sports halls, etc.



- ➔ Gradual increase in environmentally-friendly modes of transport and pooling of lastmile logistics.
- ➔ Logistics hub: Support sustainable freight transport and distribution logistics through pilot schemes:
 - The City Council has set itself the objective of increasing the number of sustainable logistics hubs, and of welcoming them to its territory in order to complete the regional network.
 - The City Council encourages commercial and transport operators to offer sustainable logistics solutions.

4. An exemplary employer

- → A local authority that uses low-carbon modes of transport: By 2030, more than 90% of the public authority's home-to-work journeys will be made using low-carbon modes of transport, compared with 80% in 2019.
- ➔ Based on similar needs and uses, streamline and pool vehicles within the various City of Brussels Council entities (Régie Foncière, CPAS, SISP, etc.): By 2030, the City Council, CPAS and the para-communal non-profit organisations will have a shared and co-managed fleet of vehicles.
- ➔ The City Council is committed to reducing its fleet of vehicles by 20% compared with 2018, and to sharing 70% of non-utility vehicles internally.
- → 100% of the car fleet uses a low-carbon engine, provided that the alternative exists.
- ➔ The City Council has a business travel policy and will give preference to rail over air for all train journeys of less than 8 hours. In addition, for every journey of less than 5 km, where logistics allow, the City Council will give preference to environmentally-friendly modes of transport.



Zero waste and circular resource management

"Cleanliness in public areas is a key factor in the development of a harmonious, sustainable living environment, and is often identified by residents as a crucial issue because of the sense of well-being and safety it can provide. Raising awareness, informing and supporting citizens is one of the actions implemented by the Public Cleaning Department throughout the year, and will continue to be an integral part of future guidelines up to 2030 and beyond.

However, it should not be forgotten that cleanliness in public areas is also closely linked to the Zero Waste concept. We have a clear commitment to zero waste management: we are aiming to eliminate the waste we produce. On an individual level, we need to ask ourselves questions and rethink the way we choose and consume in order to reduce our waste. On a regional scale and in the context of a public policy, it is essential to improve management of the various resources in order to include them in a virtuous economic cycle and combat waste. "

Zoubida Jellab, Alderwoman for Public Cleaning



2050 Vision

In 2050, the city of Brussels is a region that recognises and values its resources. A region where the circular approach is deeply rooted in day-to-day operations, enabling a maximum reduction in the waste produced by the local authority, citizens and businesses, as well as the routine recovery of 100% of the waste resources that can be recovered given the knowledge and technologies available. A region moving towards zero waste, where the interested parties are driving innovation. Four strategic objectives have guided the change: reduce consumption, reuse the resources around us, recycle and compost. Numerous inspiring and pilot practices are now an integral part of everyday habits: sustainable procurement policy, pooling of needs (renting, sharing and borrowing), consumption of bulk products, more sustainable management of resources and equipment (repair, reuse, recycling and sorting), routine sorting and reuse of construction materials, design and construction of buildings so that they can be disassembled by separating materials, general improvement in the quality of life in neighbourhoods, combating food waste, etc.

Context and issues

We need to change our approach and move towards a new vision: circular rather than linear, resources rather than waste. The challenges arising from this vision are to reduce the amount of waste produced, to reuse the resources around us, to recycle and finally to compost biowaste.



Source: (1) City of Brussels, based on Zero Waste France (2) Circular economy, G.Mannaerts



1. Reducing waste

1.1. Consuming differently by reducing the quantity of waste

Reducing the quantity of waste is a prerequisite for moving towards a zero-waste region. We cannot simply continue to consume in the same way by improving sorting or recovering the waste generated.

This involves actions such as reducing food waste (offering smaller quantities, optimising stocks, etc.), doing away with disposable packaging and buying in bulk, buying only when necessary, extending the lifespan of the appliances around us, pooling or renting equipment used only occasionally, and so on.

These actions do not only concern citizens. Producers and operators also have a responsibility to produce goods with fewer resources and to set up appropriate collection and treatment systems for end-of-life goods.

1.2. Reusing the resources around us

Reusing the resources around us means giving them a second life. When an object is damaged, there are a number of ways in which it can be restored to its original function or put to another use. This can be achieved through **repair** (e.g. a bicycle that needs a new wheel or chain), **re-use** (e.g. furniture, building materials), upcycling (e.g. re-purposing materials or products no longer in use for new, more useful purposes), **upcycling** (reallocating materials or products no longer in use to new functions with a higher utility, such as using old wooden pallets to create a terrace table), **cascading** or **downcycling** to maximise resource efficiency (a wooden beam that is no longer strong enough to fulfil its function as a load-bearing structure could then be used to make wooden furniture, which could later be turned into OSB boards when the wood is too damaged, and ultimately recovered for energy when no other use is possible).



2. Making the most of resources

2.1. Recycling through better organisation of waste sorting

Once it is no longer possible to reduce or reuse and the waste stage has been reached, it is essential to sort the waste so that it can be recycled. This requires a better understanding of the waste produced by the City Council and the local area, organising sorting during waste collections, raising awareness among residents, shops and businesses, and so on.

2.2. Composting bio-waste from the city and third parties

Waste incineration in Brussels alone is responsible for 16% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. Some of this waste is biowaste, i.e. biodegradable waste made up of natural organic matter (food waste, green waste). This bio-waste can be broken down and reintegrated into natural ecosystems through composting.

The chapter entitled "Towards an inclusive economic transition for the region" deals with other aspects of the circular economy, in particular economy of use, pooling of services and local sourcing.

2030 Strategic objectives

- 1. Consuming differently by reducing the quantity of waste
 - ➔ Overall 20% reduction in the quantities of waste produced annually per inhabitant and by professionals, in line with regional targets.
 - → 30% reduction in waste sent to the incinerator (white bags).
 - → 30% reduction in waste produced by the City Council departments.
 - → Zero waste strategy for all City Council activities:

In line with the Brussels-Capital Region's BRUDALEX 2.0, from July 2023 the City Council will no longer serve food and drink prepared in single-use catering equipment, and will only serve mains water as part of its own activities and at events it organises.

➔ Shops offer 'zero waste' solutions:

Labelling of 500 welcome container businesses in the city.

→ Most of the water served in restaurants is in carafes or other reusable containers.



- ➔ Restaurants routinely offer alternatives to individual drinks packaging, disposable crockery and reusable food packaging.
- → The City of Brussels is committed to promoting sustainable businesses via 5 zerowaste routes around the city (see <u>existing routes</u>).
- ➔ The City Council is committed to ensuring that each new City Council contract is geared towards a Zero Waste policy.

2. Reusing the resources around us

- → The city's neighbourhoods benefit from re-use services such as "loan shops", "repair cafés", repair shops, second-hand shops, flea markets, free markets, etc. in the spirit of the 10-Minute City.
- ➔ The City Council undertakes to set up a waste recovery and reconditioning method at one of the city's markets.

3. Recycling through better organisation of waste sorting

- → Increase the recycling and reuse of waste collected during bulky goods collections, in particular by parties interested in the social economy: 70% of the waste collected during bulky goods collections is recycled, upgraded or recovered directly by parties interested in the social economy.
- ➔ Increase the sorting of waste collected during bulky goods collections: 90% of the waste collected during bulky goods collections is sorted.
- ➔ Improved sorting of household waste: 60% of the weight of household waste is ready for re-use and recycling ¹.
- ➔ Increase in the proportion of non-household waste (excluding construction waste) ready for re-use and recycling: 70% of the weight of non-household waste (excluding construction waste) is suitable for re-use and recycling.



¹ Household waste prepared for reuse and recycling is equivalent to waste sorted and collected selectively by operators.

➔ Increase in the proportion of construction waste ready for re-use and recycling: 95% of construction waste is ready for re-use and recycling.

4. Composting bio-waste from the city and third parties

- ➔ Increase the recovery of bio-waste produced by the city: Recover 100% of the biowaste produced by the city.
- → Increase composting and recycling of bio-waste not produced by the city.
- Set up individual and collective composting facilities wherever possible: As part of the 10-Minute City initiative, the City Council aims to set up community composting facilities accessible to all Brussels residents, and to encourage the development of individual composting facilities.


Towards satisfactory water management

"Water is precious and vital. It is therefore crucial to continue to combat water wastage while guaranteeing access to affordable water for all. The power of water can be devastating. The risk of flooding is increasing, and we need to do everything we can to protect our residents from it: by massively demineralising public spaces and preventing rainwater from going down the drain."

Ans Persoons, Alderman for Town Planning and Public Spaces

2050 Vision

Brussels is once again a city of water. Surface waters that had been silted up have reappeared thanks to open-cutting, the reclamation of springs and the creation of new urban rivers; clean water is no longer mixed with sewage, which no longer overflows; watercourses are of good quality. This reappearance of water on the surface has created harmony between biodiversity and city life. These numerous watering holes help the city to cool down when faced with increasingly hot summers. This cool water is used routinely to cool public spaces and buildings. There will be more frequent and more violent storms, but Brussels is controlling the flow of water and all homes are protected against flooding. As many buildings as possible will be equipped with an integrated rainwater management system. Rainwater will be returned to the permeable plot, evapo-transpired, made available to City Council services or third parties for the upkeep of public spaces and neighbouring plantations, or used within the building itself. Less drinking water is now used than reclaimed water. By 2050, single-use containers will be a distant memory, and free drinking water will be available everywhere.



Context and issues

1. Water, a precious resource to be consumed sustainably

Climate disruption is forecasting ever longer periods of drought and ever more intense heatwaves. The average number of dry days could reach 240 by 2100, compared with the current average of 173 dry days per year. Climate forecasts for the Belgian territory predict a strengthening of the seasonal nature of precipitation, with a decrease of up to -25% in 2100 in summer and an increase of up to +22% in winter (Climat.be). Today, Brussels is 98% dependent on water supplies from Wallonia (97%) and Flanders (1%) (Vivaqua). For tasks such as watering, cleaning, fountains and sanitary facilities, mains water consumption is still much higher than that of "reclaimed" water. Furthermore, rainwater, which could be used free of charge, is still mainly discharged into the sewer and treated by water treatment plants, which limits its effectiveness. The major challenge is therefore to consume water better, rationally and circularly, but also less, by avoiding water leaks, which can account for up to 30% of losses.

2. Combatting the growing risk of flooding

In total, 27% of the total surface area of the City of Brussels is at risk of flooding. The impact of flooding is greatest in parts of Laeken, the Pentagon and Neder-Over-Heembeek. Compared with the early 1950s, the average annual number of days with heavy rainfall has almost doubled in Belgium: over 6 decades, it has risen from 3 to 6 (Climat.be). Global warming will make the region even more vulnerable, with more intense rainfall in winter and more frequent and intense violent storms in summer. The stakes are twofold. Firstly, we need to take urgent action upstream of the areas where the risk is highest, i.e. in the Molenbeek valley in Laeken, which is regularly under water. Secondly, the integrated stormwater management policy needs to be routinely rolled out across the whole country. Flooding is mainly due to the saturation of the drainage system, which ends up overflowing at the bottom of the valley. The priority is therefore to reduce the pressure on this network. Other positive consequences will be a reduction in the need for treatment at wastewater treatment plants and a reduction in the amount of dirty water discharged into natural watercourses.



3. Blue mesh: Using water as a source of freshness in the face of global warming

In addition to the risks of drought and flooding, there is the challenge of increasingly frequent and intense heatwaves. With its thermal properties, water is a major ally in tackling these problems. As rivers have narrowed and areas have become more concrete, the city has gradually lost its capacity to evapotranspire and cool neighbourhoods naturally. There is therefore an urgent need to increase the amount of permeable, infiltrative and waterabsorbing surfaces throughout the country, particularly in areas where heat islands are most prevalent. What's more, offering the people of Brussels outdoor swimming areas is a need that has become apparent in recent years, and one that is only set to increase with global warming. Finally, the thermal qualities of water can also be used to cool buildings, via aquathermal, geothermal and riothermal solutions.

4. Preserving water quality

The infiltration of rainwater into the ground is essential to restore a natural water cycle that functions optimally. However, the high impermeability of the soil in Brussels results in a significant loss of infiltration potential. This means that rainwater can no longer be evacuated by natural infiltration, but will run off into the sewer system, which will become saturated as a result. This increases the risk of flooding, pollution and overflow, with an impact on the quality of surface water bodies. Appropriate management of surface and groundwater bodies is therefore necessary to ensure good status, in terms of both quality and quantity.

2030 Strategic objectives

1. Water, a precious resource to be consumed sustainably

→ Reduce our consumption of mains water by 40% in the use of buildings and in the maintenance of outdoor areas: The City Council has set itself the target of identifying and treating every leak in all of its buildings, as well as equipping all public buildings, where technically possible, with a water storage capacity equivalent to their needs for watering plants, sanitary facilities, road cleaning, vehicles or vegetable gardens



(rainwater tank, water from lowering the water table, swimming pools, canal, grey water).

- → Equip the municipality with a rainwater storage capacity. Together, these installations will cover the equivalent of 20 days' use (watering green spaces and cleaning).
- ➔ During renovation, equip public buildings with rainwater storage capacity equivalent to 20 days' use, if conditions allow.
- ➔ Increase access to drinking water: Public drinking fountains will be easily accessible in densely built-up areas and in the immediate vicinity of every sports ground and children's play area.

2. Combatting the growing risk of flooding

- → Generalise Integrated Stormwater Management (ISWM) during public works in priority areas and upstream of them: The City Council is committed to ensuring that 100% of roadworks in priority intervention zones and upstream of flood-prone areas incorporate integrated rainwater management.
- → The City Council is committed to permeabilising or disconnecting from the sewers at least 250,000m² of impermeable surfaces in the priority intervention zone of the Molenbeek catchment area. This objective can be achieved with a strategy that gives priority to action on the Heysel plateau, and includes action by the City Council and local interested parties.
- ➔ The City Council's projects in priority flood control zones include integrated rainwater management system projects: The City Council is committed to ensuring that 100% of its projects incorporate integrated rainwater management system measures.
- → The City Council will encourage the integration of integrated rainwater management system intervention for all projects by local interested parties located in priority intervention zones: At least 50 integrated rainwater management system projects by local interested parties in priority intervention zones are carried out on a voluntary basis (excluding permit obligations) via the City Council's flood control awareness campaign, with the help of municipal and regional grants.



- 3. Blue mesh: Using water as a source of freshness in the face of global warming
 - ➔ The blue network will be implemented, creating a network of permeable, infiltrating water surfaces throughout the area, linked to the green network.
 - ➔ Increase the number of cool areas or recreational access to water in every City of Brussels neighbourhood, accessible in less than 10 minutes from any point in the city.

→ A natural open-air bathing area will be accessible in the City of Brussels region.

4. Preserving water quality

- ➔ Good water quality (in accordance with the European Water Framework Directive) will be maintained in all the ponds and (semi-) natural water areas: constant monitoring will be carried out and an intervention procedure will be defined and applied.
- → The City Council undertakes to do its utmost, in cooperation with the Regional Council and the municipalities in the same catchment area, to reduce the discharge of sewage into the canal and the Seine river.



Towards more sustainable food systems

"The food production methods that supply most of our food consume a lot of water, energy and raw materials. Through our consumption choices, we can encourage more sustainable food chains and move collectively towards diets that have a positive impact on the planet through seasonal produce, reduced meat intake in favour of plant proteins and products from sustainable agriculture that are as local as possible.

Access to healthy, good-quality food is also essential for health and well-being. The transition to a fairer, more sustainable food system must therefore address not only climate and environmental issues, but also social ones. The provision of meals in the city's school canteens, hospitals, nursing homes and crèches by Cuisines Bruxelloises is a fantastic measure for achieving this transition. "

Benoit Hellings, Alderman for Climate

2050 Vision

The people of Brussels have embraced 'Good Food' in large numbers with healthier, tastier, local, vegetarian and seasonal foods. This has had a direct effect not only on their well-being, but also on the local economy and a climate impact. With global warming, the range of local produce has widened, and more of the fruit and vegetables consumed in Brussels are locally produced. These products come from crops that preserve the soil and biodiversity, and guarantee a decent standard of living for farmers. In the heart of the city, professional urban agriculture projects, encouraged by the City Council, offer new direct and indirect employment opportunities thanks to unspoilt agricultural land. Brussels continues to be a benchmark city in terms of its productive food economy (beer, chocolate, biscuits, wine, herbal teas, jams, fermented products, etc.). Its Horeca offering has maintained its reputation



while making a successful transition to Good Food products. The public are also driving this food transition, with their increasingly demanding requirements in terms of product quality and sustainability, and their involvement in neighbourhood kitchens, cooperative supermarkets, GASAPs, urban vegetable gardens, etc. Finally, the Cuisines Bruxelloises are an exemplary model of healthy and sustainable food, offering healthy, tasty meals. Lastly, the Cuisines Bruxelloises are an exemplary model of healthy and sustainable food for healthy and sustainable food, offering healthy, tasty meals, which have gradually increased their vegetarian and short-distance production offer, while remaining accessible.

Context and issues

1. Relocating sustainable production

The energy crisis that Europe is currently experiencing, as well as the war in Ukraine, are causing food prices to soar and highlighting the fragility of our system, which is based primarily on a globalised economy. If agricultural production has gradually moved away from towns and their outskirts, it is because of the difficulty of accessing land in dense, urbanised areas where competition for land is strong. Bringing culture back to cities by devoting space to urban agriculture helps to strengthen food self-sufficiency, creates local employment, allows different models to be tested and brings citizens closer to their food.

In Brussels, people are growing crops in fields, on roofs, in parks, gardens, cellars, balconies, in the streets, on wasteland, in playgrounds, etc. Individual, social, civic and professional projects are coming together to form an increasingly varied and innovative array. While the feeding capacity of these activities is still marginal on a city scale, their potential is far from being fully exploited, not to mention the collateral benefits they generate: employment, training, reintegration, education, social links, innovation, biodiversity, soil permeabilisation, reconnecting citizens to food, information, etc. Strengthening what already exists and deploying the potential offered by the region, while maintaining this wide range of benefits for the people of Brussels, is one of the challenges of the coming decades.

Cities can also take action at other levels of the food chain, by encouraging a shift to less meat-based diets based on local, seasonal, minimally processed products; by facilitating



access to organic and Fair Trade products at prices affordable to all; and by reducing packaging and food waste. Public authorities can also mobilise the land they own on the outskirts of the city, set up logistics hubs to promote urban access to local producers, support the players who work with them, and steer public procurement in this direction.

2. A city that meets the demand for sustainable, accessible food

Food alone is responsible for almost 30% of greenhouse gas emissions in Belgium. On average, we eat 3 times a day, and behind each meal lies a whole process: production, transport, processing, packaging, conservation, waste, etc. The consumer is little aware of this, however. Consumers are hardly aware of this, however, and their main concern is to "eat well": to combine the pleasure of taste with the benefits for the body, if possible with a reduced impact on the environment and at an affordable price. For others, the priority is simply to eat. Access to food for all is an unconditional element of a sustainable food system.

The challenge is therefore threefold: to make a success of the transition in the food supply so that shops, markets, hotels and restaurants and the entire Brussels food processing sector (breweries, biscuit makers, chocolate makers, ice cream makers, etc.) offer products that meet the climate challenges, via the Good Food strategy. Secondly, to change the eating habits of Brussels residents towards diets that have less impact on the planet. Finally, this transition must be accessible to all, whether it's a question of affordable prices for consumers, the establishment of solidarity-based food distribution channels, or fair remuneration for producers.

In the Brussels region, the **Good Food strategy** is a response to these challenges, with a dual ambition: to produce better, i.e. to grow and process healthy, environmentally-friendly food locally, and to eat well, by making healthy, sustainable food available to everyone. There are now 79 restaurants, 213 sales outlets and 53 canteens throughout the Brussels region with the Good Food label.



3. Reducing food waste²

According to Brussels Environment, food waste accounts for 24% to 37% of the global food GHG footprint, or up to 10% of global emissions. While in Europe as a whole, 12% of food waste is in the business and hospitality sector, this proportion is much higher for a tourist city like Brussels, which has a large number of restaurants, hotels, businesses and events. This is not the least of the tools for action: reducing food waste upstream by optimising quantities and reusing the surplus food that would still be generated can be generalised in the catering industry, but also in the structures supplied by the Cuisines Bruxelloises (crèches, schools, hospitals, etc.), at events taking place in the area, etc. As well as having a beneficial effect on the environment, reusing leftover food can help the disadvantaged or people in difficulty. As well as having a beneficial effect on the environment, recycling food leftovers can help people in precarious or difficult situations.

2030 Strategic objectives

1. Relocating sustainable production

- → The City Council promotes the use of surfaces such as roofs, green spaces, existing agricultural land, gardens, etc. to encourage agro-ecology on city properties and in the surrounding region:
 - 10 new hectares have been set aside for agro-ecological, open-ground professional farming on city land and/or property.
 - 4 pilot projects will be set up in the city's green spaces.
- → Increase the number of professionals working in the field of urban agriculture:
 - The City Council is proposing to double the number of professionals working in the field of urban agriculture.
 - The city will look into the possibility of developing the provision of training leading to qualifications in horticulture and market gardening.



² Food waste refers to "any food intended for human consumption which, at any stage in the food chain, is lost, thrown away or degraded so that it can no longer be consumed by humans".

- → Synthetic pesticides are no longer used in the city.
- ➔ At least 50% of the fruit and vegetables at Cuisines Bruxelloises are produced in Belgium, and 10% in Brussels or the surrounding area.
- ➔ Develop local sources for the city's markets: Double the number of local producers and artisans at the city's markets. The town gives priority to providing permits to local producers and artisans.

2. A city that meets the demand for sustainable, accessible food

- ➔ Increase the number of Good Food and bulk products on offer in the city: The city is proposing that the region should have 50 Good Food shops.
- ➔ Increase the number of Good Food restaurants: The city is proposing that the region reach 100 restaurants with the Good Food label.
- ➔ Encourage "neighbourhood kitchens" throughout the city: The City Council is proposing to the region to launch at least 5 "neighbourhood kitchens" in the city.
- → Setting up logistics hubs in the city:
 - At least one logistics hub within the city, with the aim of pooling deliveries and/or waste management.
 - The City Council undertakes to support logistical resources or tools dedicated to the pooling of sustainable food operators in shopping districts.
- Increase the number of citizen initiatives for sustainable food procurement groups: The City Council is inviting the region to increase by a factor of 2 the number of citizen initiatives for sustainable procurement groups.
- ➔ Promoting the flexitarian diet to the people of Brussels: 50% of Brussels residents eat meat 4 days a week or less (36% in 2020).
- → Thanks to the Cuisines Bruxelloises, which comply with the Good Food "Cuisine Collective" label (increasing the proportion of organic meals, reducing the amount of meat, cutting down on red meat, increasing the number of vegetarian menus), while remaining accessible to all and complying with the nutritional recommendations for each beneficiary (children/adults/sick people, allergy sufferers, etc.), the canteens of the City Council's dependent infrastructures (schools, hospitals, crèches, etc.) also meet the Good Food certification objectives.



- → The food served in the city's facilities fully complies with Good Food criteria: In line with ONE's nutritional recommendations and the Federal Plan for Nutrition and Health, the meals served by the Cuisines Bruxelloises to the City (schools, crèches, etc.) are 100% organic, have reduced the amount of meat to 60% (previously 50%), without increasing the proportion of red meat, and the menus are vegetarian 3 days out of 5.
- ➔ Encourage the development of "bulk" and "organic" products in the city's markets: The city is committed to hosting three zero-waste markets in its region by 2030, and to conducting awareness-raising campaigns.

3. Reducing food waste

- → Reduce food waste within the city's infrastructure: Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030, starting with the City of Brussels' infrastructure, and encourage the clients of the Cuisines Bruxelloises located in the city's region to do the same.
- ➔ Operate a business within the City of Brussels. The city is calling on the region to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.
- ➔ Increased food recovery from food surpluses/unsold food: At least 100 tons of surplus food are recovered every year.



A green city that welcomes biodiversity

"In urban environments, the diversity of living organisms provides many services that are beneficial to us all: improving health and the quality of life, contributing to food security, and resilience in the event of shocks and intense weather events such as flooding or extreme heat. The parks, which are free and accessible to all, provide a place for leisure, sport, social interaction and rejuvenation.

But nature in the city isn't restricted to parks, it's everywhere: Along and at the foot of avenue trees, in window boxes and private gardens, in the ground or in tubs. As diverse as the diversity of living things may be, so too is the challenge of preserving biodiversity, and there is an urgent need to make it a criterion that guides land-use planning and public policy choices. "

Zoubida Jellab, Alderwoman for Green Spaces

"On the international solidarity front, the 'Baby-Boom' project has continued to reforest every time a Brussels child is born, with some 150,000 trees planted in the Saloum Delta in Senegal over 3 years since 2019. A similar project is now being developed in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Mangrove Marine Park, where a programme is being implemented to restore and manage terrestrial ecosystems and mangroves in an integrated manner. "

Ahmed El Ktibi, Alderman for International Solidarity



2050 Vision

In 2050, Brussels is a city that has reconnected with nature. There are many green spaces and they are interconnected thanks to the increased greening of public spaces, roofs, facades and block interiors. Air quality has been improved to at least WHO levels, and there are many cool islands within walking distance for all residents. The city has found a balance between nature and urban development plans, creating green corridors and providing shelter, food and breeding sites for biodiversity. The expansion of nature is seen as an important factor in the quality of life and well-being of city dwellers. The City of Brussels and its local interested parties have en masse abandoned all products that erode biodiversity on a global scale, and continue to forge international partnerships to ensure the preservation of tropical forests, the lungs of our planet.

Context and issues

1. Preserving and developing local and urban biodiversity

With its many parks and private gardens, Brussels is renowned for its green character. However, this plant heritage and the biodiversity that surrounds it are under intense pressure with natural habitats fragmented by urban boundaries, water shortages linked to concrete development, the presence of invasive species, light pollution, noise pollution, the use of pesticides, single-crop systems, and so on.

In addition, ongoing global warming is likely to exacerbate both droughts and the proliferation of new species which are sometimes undesirable for both biodiversity and humans, such as the Asian hornet and the tiger mosquito. To meet these challenges, we need to make a transition to make our green spaces more resilient to future shocks.



2. Helping to preserve biodiversity on a global scale

Preserving biodiversity is one of the major challenges facing our era, and scientists are even talking about the 6th mass extinction in progress. Global warming is affecting the natural environment, with knock-on effects for many animal and plant species that are highly interdependent. Unbalanced ecosystems see their capacity to absorb carbon reduced, which is then released into the atmosphere, contributing to the intensification of the greenhouse effect.

Plants are the main ally in mitigating global warming, since each tree can store around 160 kg of CO2 per year, making a modest contribution to local mitigation targets.

3. Nature as a solution for adapting to climate change

People have always lived in harmony with nature, which provides many ecosystem services: producing food, providing freshness, structuring the soil, retaining and filtering water, insulating, producing oxygen, capturing CO2, fixing pollutants, buffering noise, cutting wind, providing a soothing living environment, etc. Faced with the phenomena of urban heat islands and flooding, which are set to increase with global warming, two of these properties should be given priority consideration: nature as a solution to flooding and nature as a solution to heat islands.

4. Combating urban heat islands (UHI)

While each summer brings new temperature records, temperatures in cities are higher than in the countryside. This phenomenon is present in Brussels, particularly in the centre, which is heavily built-up and mineralised. Dark surfaces such as bitumen absorb more heat than light-coloured or vegetated surfaces. The many vertical buildings increase the surface area collecting solar radiation and can create a "gorge" effect by preventing air circulation.

Vegetation helps to reduce the stress caused by heat on urban spaces: by evaporating water, plants do not accumulate solar energy and cool the air around them. Trees provide shade and, combined with water features, can create real islands of coolness.



5. Combatting flooding

The second major benefit of vegetation is that it reduces the risk of flooding. Favouring planted surfaces is a way of making soils permeable, as opposed to impermeable buildings and pavements, and helps to make the city less sensitive to increasingly intense rainfall (see Chapter 5 - Water).

2030 Strategic objectives

1. Protecting and developing local and urban biodiversity

- → Develop a differentiated management system for green spaces, meeting the criteria of the "Réseau Nature" label, i.e. absence of synthetic pesticides, preservation of natural environments, diversity of wildlife, priority given to indigenous plants and combatting invasive exotic species.
 - o 100% of the city's green spaces to be labelled Réseau Nature by 2030.
 - The city is proposing that local operators join in the objectives by respecting the same criteria in the management of private green spaces.
- → Develop the City of Brussels' green network connected to the regional green network, integrating flora and fauna. Creation of a green network will be carried out in conjunction with local operators, while respecting third party rights:
 - By 2030, the city's green network will be mapped and developed to complement the regional network, for example by creating new green spaces and greening wherever possible with trees and shrubs in public spaces, climbing plants and green roofs. Priority migration corridors will have been identified, giving rise to new measures to promote biodiversity and species migration.
- → Complete the green network so that every resident has access to a local green space or park within 10 minutes.
- ➔ Preserving biodiversity: developing 2 pilot projects aimed at protecting nocturnal biodiversity while guaranteeing a sense of security.
- ➔ Continuing the Neder-Over-Hembeek Urban Forest project to create an extensive biodiversity conservatory.



- → Adopt and ensure compliance with a tree charter aimed at all local operators, so that the right species can be planted in the right places and in the right way, and these trees can be managed with respect. Integrate these principles as early as possible in the project and throughout the life of the trees to maximise all the possible benefits of the plantations.
 - Suggest to local operators that they join in the city's objectives by respecting the same criteria in the management of private trees.

2. Preserving biodiversity on a global scale

- ➔ To increase carbon sinks, the City of Brussels is committed to planting 8 trees for each new-born child registered in its population registers in deforestation-sensitive areas in countries recognised by the UN as "Developing Countries".
- → The city is helping to combat the erosion of ecosystems on a global scale by incorporating biodiversity criteria into its sustainable procurement strategy for goods and services, and into the Cuisines Bruxelloises food contracts.

3. Using nature as a solution to combat heat islands

- → The city is combatting heat islands in public spaces and buildings.
 - The city is committed to carrying out 3 pilot projects to reduce the urban heat island phenomenon.
 - The city is committed to using vegetation as the first solution to combat heat.
- → The city is encouraging combatting heat islands in all the inner parts of its region.



Brussels, a benchmark for sustainable events, culture, sport and tourism

"My ambition is to revitalise the cultural and events sector, while strengthening our attractiveness to tourists. This action must be carried out responsibly, with the aim of limiting the impact of our activities on the planet and therefore on the well-being of the population.

Delphine Houba, Alderwoman for Culture and Major Events

2050 Vision

By 2050, Brussels will have become a global benchmark for sustainable culture, events and tourism. For over 20 years, all operators in the sector have put sustainability at the heart of their business. After identifying the climatic and environmental impacts of their activity, they set about reducing them by working on the transport of works or equipment, the sustainability of the food on offer and zero waste. Taking these impacts into account from the outset of project definition has led interested parties to work with partners closer to home, thereby strengthening the local economic and cultural networks. This work has made it possible to maintain Brussels' cultural, events and sporting dynamism and to increase its attractiveness in terms of tourism.

Context and issues

Rethinking the events, culture and tourism sectors is a long-term process. The City of Brussels has an area that is ideally suited to developing a sustainable tourism and cultural offering: a dense and well-connected public transport network, cultural venues that are close to each



other and surrounded by a wide and diversified range of accommodation, and interested parties who are already driving the sustainability of the transition process.

They themselves have a crucial role to play: culture can, via the imagination, influence reality and shape our visions; events can inspire and rally; tourism can be at the forefront and influence our associated values, practices and tourism choices.

1. An eco-responsible events, sports and cultural policy

Brussels is the capital of Europe and a constantly changing city. In addition to the million inhabitants of the Brussels-Capital Region, there are 2.7 million visitors every year. They can take advantage of a particularly wide range of cultural activities, as Brussels is home to many communities. Nearly 3,000 events take place every year in the City of Brussels, including events organised directly by the City Council, City Council subsidised events and events authorised to take place in the public space.

Whether it's a festival, cinema, concert, theatre, football match, etc., the main impacts of the cultural, sports and events sector are linked to transport and food on site (The Shift Project). The production of very large quantities of waste is also a key environmental issue. These three sectors must therefore work on these 3 key topics as a priority to contribute to the city's climate objectives.

2. An environmentally-responsible tourism policy

Worldwide, tourism is responsible for 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions (Nature, The carbon footprint of global tourism, 2018). Transport and accommodation are the two biggest sources of tourism-related emissions, accounting for 49% and 14% of the sector's impact respectively (Acteurs du Tourisme Durable, 2020).

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 minimise its environmental impact, while at the same time offering attractive cultural activities and events. On a broader scale, while maintaining its appeal to tourists from all over the world, the capital of Europe



can capitalise more on its rail and cycle network to attract Belgian and European tourists and offer sustainable venues (hotels, restaurants, museums, cultural centres, etc.).

2030 Strategic objectives

1. An environmentally-responsible cultural policy

→ The city undertakes to ensure that all cultural venues (museums, theatres and cultural centres) that are funded and directly dependent on the City Council have put in place an action plan designed to meet the area's climate objectives, and to make all other cultural venues in the area aware of the need to have an action plan. This action plan includes the following objectives:

- Routinely proposing transport solutions so that travel linked to cultural activities is carried out using low-carbon transport.
- An increase in the catering offering that meets the "Good Food" criteria.
- Promoting local sourcing among cultural operators directly dependent on the City of Brussels Council, in particular through the use of a local Brussels currency.
- O Reduced energy consumption.

2. An environmentally-responsible events policy

- → The City Council undertakes to ensure that 100% of the events organised by the City Council comply with the BME's sustainability action plan, and that the events organised on the City's territory comply with the mandatory criteria of the sustainable event charter and 50% propose to go further via non-mandatory recommendations. These action plans focus in particular on:
 - Transport: using promotion and facilitation measures to increase the proportion of visitors travelling with a low-carbon solution.
 - \circ $\;$ Food: a routine vegetarian formula for Horeca offerings.
 - Waste: increased routine sorting of organic, plastic/PMC, cardboard and residual waste; widespread availability of reusable crockery.
 - Reduced energy consumption.



3. An environmentally-responsible tourism policy

- ➔ Transport: while maintaining its attractiveness to tourists from all over the world, increase, through promotion and facilitation measures, the proportion of tourist travel using a low-carbon solution to reach twice as many tourists who come to Brussels by train and twice as many cycle tourists.
- → Double the number of tourist accommodations with "Green Key" certification.



Towards an inclusive economic transition for the region

"The current energy and climate crises are having a direct impact on our city's economy and businesses. It is vital for the City of Brussels to provide the best possible support for businesses as they move towards a sustainable economic transition, while taking account of the economic situation of the various sectors. The economy is at the heart of Brussels and at the heart of the climate plan; it touches on many other topics and many aspects relating to the circular economy can also be found in the chapters on Transport, Waste and Food. "

Fabian Maingain, Alderman for Economic Affairs

2050 Vision

In 2050, Brussels will be a city with a dynamic and exemplary economy. It's a region where there are many discussion networks, where players cooperate and put their expertise at the service of the community. In the wake of a number of crises (health, environmental, economic, etc.), economic operators have gradually begun to join forces to move the economy towards a new society model. The Brussels economy has gradually refocused on the strengths of its local economy, reintegrating local sourcing into its day-to-day operations without neglecting the network of national and European partners. Economies of use and the pooling of services have gradually become the norm. New skills and professions have emerged, leading to new practices, unforeseen innovations and both small and large-scale solutions. This transformation didn't happen overnight. This has given us the opportunity to experiment with a variety of approaches and new ways of organising our work: some have proved successful and have been continued, others less so but have enabled us to learn a great deal. This new, more sustainable and resilient economy gives pride of place to solidarity, collaboration and conviviality.



Context and issues

To reconcile climate and environmental requirements with the challenges relating to the economy, employment and social justice, the City of Brussels is committed to the regional strategy described in the **Regional Circular Economy Programme** (PREC) and the Regional Economic Transition Strategy (GO4Brussels2030, **Shifting economy**). It wishes to implement these plans on its own scale and within its own region. It shares the view that "*a healthy economy must be designed to prosper, not to grow*", as Kate Raworth, author of *The Donut Theory*, points out, which consists of thinking of the economy within the limits defined by the social floor and the environmental ceiling.

Within the scope of its powers and resources, the City of Brussels wishes to put in place targeted support to encourage the development of the circular economy, the local sourced economy, the return to local production and economy of use. It will work with all the region's current and future economic players who are keen to move in this direction and integrate these issues into their business models.

1. Supporting economy of use, the circular economy and shared services

By extending the lifespan of objects and turning our waste into resources, the circular economy provides a response to the need to produce more sensibly, using fewer raw materials, and uncoupling growth and greenhouse gas emissions.

Economy of use, also known as the economy of functionality, establishes a new relationship between supply and demand that is no longer based solely on the simple sale of goods and their possession. We are moving towards a system that focuses on offering or selling a service value (the use of a good or service) rather than the good itself. Economy of use is one of the key themes of the circular economy, as it encourages manufacturers to maximise the lifespan of their products, avoid wasting resources and develop intangible resources.

2. Promoting and supporting the local economy through local sourcing



Supporting the emergence of the local economy is a major challenge. It is an economic and social opportunity (creating local jobs, strengthening social links, etc.), as well as a tool for regional development and the overall development of the economic system.

To ensure that this is also an environmental opportunity, production practices will have to change drastically, as will distribution methods, which have a major climate impact.

3. Local businesses contribute to climate objectives

Every company, whatever the good or service it offers, adopts an internal operating mode that can have a more or less positive climate impact. Management of the company's buildings, its energy supplier, the transport and benefits in kind of its employees, its canteen, teambuildings, waste management, the type of office/IT equipment it buys, the type of currency it accepts, landscaping and planting, but also the choice of companies it chooses to work with, etc. are all components that enable it to adopt an approach in line with global climate objectives. To help companies in this process, a number of certifications have been set up, such as "Entreprise Eco-dynamique", "Green Key", "Réseau Nature", the "Zinne", "Good Food", etc. These labels guide and support companies in making the most appropriate environmental choices.

4. Preparing for the emergence of new jobs

As a result of changes in the economic system, professional needs and skills are bound to change. This change needs to be anticipated, both to support the emergence of future professions and to prepare for the conversion of a number of current professions. In fact, 85% of the jobs that will exist in 2030 are still unknown to us, according to a study published by Dell and the Institute for the Future.



2030 Strategic objectives

- 1. Supporting economy of use, the circular economy and shared services
 - → The City Council is developing and supporting the development of user-saving services throughout its region, in particular for as many neighbourhoods as possible, as part of the "10-Minute City" approach:
 - At least one carsharing/pooling station;
 - Libraries and digital public spaces, and easy access for all to cultural and digital content;
 - Neighbourhood centres for digital access;
 - Equipment loans: loan centres, fablabs, etc. (see waste chapter);
 - Coworking and sharing spaces:
 - Between now and 2030, the City Council is committed to developing the pooling of municipal public buildings for other complementary functions during the periods when they are not in use, following a feasibility study on all of its assets. In addition, new (construction/renovation) projects will routinely take into account the options for pooling.
 - The City Council is proposing to the region that it develop its offering of shared spaces.
 - → Promoting and supporting access to second-hand products:
 - The City Council is committed to promoting second-hand initiatives (certification, sales route).
 - Certify 5 second-hand stores each year.
 - Continue to support re-use in the redevelopment of shopfronts, and to provide information and recommendations on sustainability.

2. Promoting and supporting the local economy through local sourcing

→ Logistics hub: Supporting sustainable freight transport and distribution logistics through pilot trials (see Transport chapter)



- The City Council has set itself the objective of increasing the number of sustainable logistics hubs, and of welcoming them to its region to complete the regional network.
- The City Council is encouraging operators to propose sustainable logistics solutions.
- ➔ Promoting local currency: increasing the number of service providers accepting the local currency Zinne in the City of Brussels.
 - The City Council is committed to ensuring that 10 new public facilities (swimming pools, museums, sports halls, etc.) and events in the city accept the Zinne.
 - The City Council is proposing to the region to develop the use of the Zinne among 400 businesses.
- → The City Council is committed to promoting local crafts by organising events and communication campaigns, supporting business centres such as Dansaert, Mad, Be-Here and Tanneurs, and developing pilot projects to encourage local production.

3. Local businesses contribute to climate objectives

- ➔ Increase in the number of companies with environmental certification in the region (eco-dynamic company, Green Key, Zinne, Good Food, welcome containers, etc.)
 - The City Council is proposing that the region should achieve a target of three times as many businesses with environmental certification in the region by 2019.
 - The City Council undertakes to promote these certifications and the companies awarded them.
- ➔ Encourage the pooling of resources for businesses in the region for major purchases, waste, etc., with a view to sustainability.
- 4. Preparing for the emergence of new jobs linked to the transition



 \rightarrow In collaboration with the Regional Council, the COCOF and the VGC, organise job placement in the new professions required for the climate transition. For example: artisans, local producers, bicycle delivery companies, recycling companies, vegetable growers, composters, installers of photovoltaic solar panels, green roofs or cisterns, energy certifiers, delivery companies, craftsmen and repairers, gardeners, etc.

→ The City Council undertakes to promote local crafts through various communication campaigns and the creation of events, and to develop the facilities needed to bring local production back to the region.



Children and young people are key parties in the climate change transition

"The City Council wants to ensure that all children aged 0-3 living in its area can grow up in the best possible conditions. By transforming the childcare facilities it organises into ecocrèches, it is pursuing a threefold objective: to improve children's health, to reduce the environmental impact of childcare and to offer quality childcare to children without any additional financial impact for their parents. By reinforcing its eco-crèche model and extending it to other childcare facilities on its territory, the city is doing its utmost to offer children a present and a future in which they can flourish. "

Arnaud Pinxteren, Alderman for Early Childhood and Urban Renewal

"Making the world of the future a better place undeniably involves raising awareness among the youngest members of society. This is therefore a key issue for the Department of Public Education and the Youth structures which, in addition to our action on the living environment we offer our young people, which must be exemplary and healthy, will relentlessly pursue their work on citizenship education and the development of a critical and supportive spirit, which are essential to safeguarding and promoting a planet in which it is good to live everywhere and for everyone. Education means prevention. And with climate change being a global issue, solidarity and responsibility will continue to be at the heart of our actions. "

Faouzia Hariche, Alderman for Youth and Public Education



2050 Vision

In 2050, Brussels will be a city where children and young people are the drivers and innovators of society. The environments in which children and young people live, their schools and leisure facilities enable them to develop in an environment that minimises the negative impact on their health and the planet. Waste production is minimal. Recovery, reuse and recycling are mainstream. The products used for maintenance and care, teaching materials, paints, building materials, etc. are as environmentally friendly and sustainable as possible. Children and young people travel around the city safely because active transport is the norm. The training of children, young people and professionals fully integrates environmental issues from a theoretical and practical viewpoint. The various actions and initiatives undertaken in this area are encouraged, supported and promoted.

Context and issues

Younger generations are not only aware of climate change and keen to take action, they are also among the most vulnerable to climate disruption. The City Council has a number of responsibilities towards young people:

- ensuring the health and well-being of children and young people;
- raising awareness, rallying and training professionals who work with children and young people;
- creating the conditions for children and young people to play an active role in the climate change transition.

1. A resilient living environment from day one

From a very early age, the impact of young children on the climate can take on significant proportions, especially when it comes to waste. According to Brussels Environment, a baby produces an average of 280 kg of nappy waste a year, which represents almost 550 kg of CO2 over the first 2.5 years of life.



Moreover, the first 1000 days are crucial in a child's life. Aware of the environmental impact of childcare environments and the consequences of various forms of environmental pollution on children, the City Council launched the eco-crèche concept in 2019. By the end of 2022, all childcare facilities managed by the City Council will be eco-crèches. This concept has since been included in the ONE management contract and will be extended to the whole of the FWB.

An eco-crèche means 100% organic and balanced food and zero waste, particularly zero plastic. It's also an environmentally-responsible environment and sustainable equipment. Each eco-crèche can also develop its own specific projects, with the involvement of parents. In the years to come, it will be important to maintain and strengthen the actions initiated in the City Council's eco-crèches, and to initiate this movement in all childcare environments in the City of Brussels. Today, the City of Brussels Council has around 100 crèches and childcare centres, 40% of which are managed directly by the City of Brussels Council.

2. An exemplary school environment

As the home of a vulnerable population, schools must be resilient and exemplary. This involves improving the energy performance of buildings, and greening and permeabilising school grounds.

In addition to energy savings and environmental impact, fostering the link between children and nature, through interior design and materials or the integration of natural elements in outdoor spaces, has beneficial effects on children's physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. This stimulates creativity, releases tension and develops social skills. It is therefore essential to promote this "culture of nature" among young children.

Furthermore, *because they* are growing and have a higher respiratory rate than adults, children are more vulnerable to air pollution, which can have major repercussions: slower lung development, risk of developing allergies and asthma, impact on the development of the nervous system and on school performance, impact on growth, concentration problems. Any



cognitive deficiencies that appear at an early age also have a negative impact on the health of future adults. Taking action to improve air quality is therefore also a key issue.

Noise pollution also generates stress and fatigue, leading to concentration and learning problems. It is therefore important to reduce them too.

3. Raising awareness and equipping young people to tackle climate issues

Integrating environmental issues into the education of our pupils, and into the topics addressed by our various extra-curricular structures, is crucial if the citizens of the future are to be aware of the issues, show solidarity and become positively involved.

Healthy, sustainable food, reducing and sorting waste, using energy sparingly, environmentally-friendly transport, combatting waste, protecting nature and the environment in its three dimensions (social, environmental and economic) are all topics that are addressed on a daily basis, through different courses and extra-curricular activities. This awareness-raising must continue and be adapted to take account of the constantly changing situation.

It is therefore essential to train school and extracurricular professionals so that they can take action on a daily basis and, in turn, equip children and young people to deal with these issues and put in place the conditions necessary for them to take part in combatting climate change.

2030 Strategic objectives

1. Extending and strengthening the City of Brussels eco-crèches model

The eco-crèches model initiated by the City of Brussels Council rallies all parties involved in the childcare environment around the following ambitions.



Infrastructure

- → Water: Develop sustainable water management initiatives in childcare environments, and study the conditions for using tap water for infants' feeding bottles, in conjunction with ONE and K&G.
- ➔ Air: monitoring air quality, ensuring good acoustic quality, reducing noise pollution and minimising exposure to electromagnetic waves and fields.

Mobility

→ Support low-carbon transport for parents by continuing to make it easier to get to the crèche on foot (pavement conditions) or by bicycle (bicycle parking), for staff by continuing to encourage the use of public transport and bicycles (routine inclusion of bicycle rooms in new building projects), for home-to-work journeys and for children by increasing the number of childcare centres with one or more kiddybuses.

Waste and food

- → Strengthen food sustainability by offering 100% organic, local (including from Brussels agriculture) and seasonal food, increasing the frequency of non-meat meals and drastically reducing waste. On this basis, extend Good Food certification to all host environments.
- → Aiming for zero waste wherever possible, in particular through the zero PMC objective (tap water, replacement of single-use plastic shawls and booties with shawls and booties made by seamstresses, limiting the purchase of new plastic toys and games, etc.), recycling food waste, generalising the use of washable nappies in 100% of eco-crèches.
- → Extend the use of washable nappies to 100% of eco-crèches. Maintain the use of eco-responsible disposable nappies in 100% of eco-crèches that do not use washable nappies, as well as for the last nappy for children in washable nappies.
- → Continuing the gradual replacement of plastic crockery with glass, porcelain and stainless steel crockery in 100% of eco-crèches; giving priority to the most energy-efficient class for the replacement of household appliances; using 100% Ecotex-labelled textiles for fabrics in contact with children and replacing non-durable toys, in line with advances in



technology and market supply, with sustainable/eco-responsible/ethical toys (achieving 85% of the budget allocated to this replacement).

→ Care and cleaning products: Carry out a feasibility study to increase the use of basic products to replace chemical products for cleaning and disinfection, in compliance with ONE and K&G standards, and use eco-responsible products/diaper-changing techniques in 100% of the city's eco-crèches.

Raising awareness:

- → Organisation of at least one eco-training session per year for all service staff, organisation of at least one eco-training session per year for all childcare staff, regular meetings of the City's internal eco-crèche working group and organisation of at least one activity linked to the eco-crèche project per year with parents in 100% of eco-crèches (eco-educational activity, toy or clothes fair, etc.).
- → Extend the eco-crèches initiative to other childcare facilities in the city:
 - Open up at least 50% of the city's public procurement contracts for eco-care centres (games, toys, nappies, cleaning and care products, furniture, bedding, crockery, etc.) to care centres located in the city region.
 - Examine the option of creating a second-hand and re-use channel common to all the reception centres located in the city of Brussels.
 - To create a network bringing together all the eco-crèches and childcare centres in the City of Brussels that wish to become eco-crèches, in order to facilitate the exchange of practices and the development of joint projects by organising at least one annual meeting.
 - The City Council undertakes to ensure that the municipal eco-care centres make progress in the actions they take and to monitor this progress on the basis of indicators developed internally.
 - The City Council is offering local crèches the opportunity to join the ecocrèches initiative and is organising a forum for the sharing of eco-responsible practices between local crèches and the city's eco-crèches.

2. An exemplary school environment



Infrastructure / Furniture / Equipment

→ As part of the plan to renovate playgrounds, plant vegetation wherever possible.

• When renovating schools, the City Council undertakes to plant as much vegetation as possible and to routinely consider the option of installing integrated rainwater management systems, particularly if the school is located in a flood zone.

➔ As part of the school renovation plan, continue to install photovoltaic solar panels and green roofs.

➔ Develop sustainable water management initiatives in schools (drinking fountains, water bottles, rainwater tanks, infiltration and flooding zones in courtyards, etc.).

- The City Council is committed to installing rainwater recovery systems in schools with vegetable gardens.
- The City Council is committed to equipping all its school buildings with water fountains.

→ Continue the school investment plan to reduce energy consumption (roof insulation, double/triple glazing, thermostatic valves, etc.).

→ Continuing the renewal of our schools' equipment with sustainable and recyclable school furniture and the project to recover old furniture.

• The City Council undertakes to continue to routinely include repair, reuse and recycling clauses in its contracts for the renewal of its school furniture.

→ Organise exchanges of school equipment or recycling libraries in schools.

Mobility

- ➔ Develop and make safe the areas around schools and youth facilities in order to improve user-friendliness and air quality in and around schools:
 - Encourage environmentally-friendly transport (signposting, wider pavements, bike storage, etc.).
 - Encourage parents to use active modes of transport.



- The city's schools undertake to provide information on the public transport services available to them. In all renovation and construction projects, the city undertakes to provide indoor and/or outdoor cycle parking.
- → Continue to develop School Travel Plans within our schools, with the support of the regional council, to encourage and organise environmentally-friendly transport for staff and pupils (pedestrian routes, safe use of bicycles, bicycle shelters, etc.).
 - 100% of schools will have a School Travel Plan by 2030, with the support of the regional council.
 - The city is committed to supporting all its primary schools by organising cycle passes for pupils.
 - The City Council is committed to increasing the number of school rows in its schools.

Waste and food

- → Continue and further improve waste sorting, involving both staff and children/young people, with the aim of achieving zero waste.
 - The City Council is committed to extending the use of orange bins in all its schools, and composting in key areas where possible.
- → combat all forms of waste.
- → Combat single-use packaging and offering healthy, sustainable snacks

Raising awareness and equipping young people to tackle climate change issues

- ➔ Educate people about sustainable development and environmental protection in its three dimensions: social, environmental and economic.
- → Raise children's and young people's awareness of environmental issues by stepping up actions on the topic of sustainable development: respect for the environment, rational energy use projects, waste sorting activities, use of recycled objects for workshops, etc.
 - The City Council is committed to offering training in education for sustainable development and environmental protection.
- → Promote sport and healthy eating among children and teenagers.



Transforming the public authority to ensure a successful transition

"The Human Resources department will be working with each department to offer training specific to each profession, so that all our staff, whatever their department or function, can incorporate climate-friendly practices into their day-to-day work. As public service employees, Brussels City Council employees have a duty to set an example. We will continue to provide them with information and raise their awareness so that, in addition to their role, they take account of these issues as citizens".

Faouzia Hariche, Alderwoman for Human Resources

2050 Vision

In 2050, the City of Brussels will have made a successful transition. It has made far-reaching changes that have enabled it to achieve carbon neutrality: making transport carbon-free, renovation of its public and private property assets, energy production, resilience of the territory and urban development, through continuous and transparent monitoring of urban and climate policies. The Brussels City Council has become an exemplary model in terms of climate change, providing its citizens with transparent information on the progress of projects and their impact, and giving them the power to act by supporting them, financing projects and involving them in a process of external and scientific governance of the climate objectives. These far-reaching changes have also been made possible by local authority staff who have been trained in climate issues, public finance management and a procurement policy that supports the transition. Reducing emissions, adapting to climate change and protecting the health of residents have become the driving forces behind public action and the concern of all our employees.



Context and issues

The City of Brussels public authority employs almost 4,000 staff (plus teachers) in 12 departments, providing services to 187,000 residents. More than 700 buildings account for 2.3% of the region's direct greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to achieve the goals of mitigating and adapting to climate change, local authorities themselves need to transform, with a twofold aim in mind. Firstly, exemplarity: the public authority must provide a high-quality public service that meets the needs of citizens and does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs: improved accessibility of public services, development of online services and information to reduce the need to travel, reduction in property management costs and energy consumption, clean logistics, greater transparency on public policies and on the progress and impact of plans, etc. This exemplarity will also have a demonstration and driving effect on local interested parties. This exemplary approach will also act as a demonstration and driving force for local interested parties.

Secondly, in a changing world, the local authority needs to strengthen its resilience and its ability to anticipate risks, manage crises, rapidly devise effective solutions to unprecedented challenges, work cross-functionally on complex, multi-disciplinary issues, monitor the progress of its projects and introduce scientific monitoring of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. Human resources, the organisation of departments and the internal workings of the city, finance, procurement and digital tools are all essential tools for change that need to be harnessed for the transition.

1. Human resources management to meet future challenges

Facing new challenges means developing new skills and new ways of working. Climate mechanisms are complex and linked to many issues: environment and biodiversity, water cycle, economic activity, inequalities and social rights, etc. This complexity, this cross-functionality and the new skills required for the transition must be taken into account in training plans and recruitment strategies.


Far from being a matter for a few specialists, the climate transition must be taken into account in all areas of the public authority's activities, which means offering appropriate training to all staff. A better understanding of the issues at stake, combined with the development of a culture of collaboration and initiative, will strengthen each individual's ability to react in the event of a shock and to propose solutions, thereby improving collective resilience.

In addition to the training and recruitment policy, the working environment and the very organisation of the public authority must reflect the need to take account of the climate emergency. Internal cross-functionality can be strengthened, and the ability to coordinate different skills and expertise to ensure that all the City Council's projects are in line with climate objectives.

2. The City Council's investments and tax policy, tools for transition

The European Court of Auditors estimates that €11,200 billion of investment is needed across Europe between 2021 and 2030 to implement more sustainable responses to climate change.

The City Council's finances - its treasury, its budget, its tax system, the subsidies it receives and those it grants - represent a major tool for transforming the economy and the region. They are at the heart of the transition challenge and reflect the public authority's priorities.

In particular, taxation and subsidies can be adapted and used to support practices that encourage socially, economically and environmentally responsible behaviour or, conversely, to discourage practices that penalise certain behaviour deemed harmful.

3. Making public procurement more sustainable

The Brussels City Council has an annual operating budget of around €900 million for 2022 and €150 million for investment. It spends these amounts on public works, supply and service contracts, which represents a major tool for transition.

As recalled in European Directive 2014/24/EU "Public procurement plays a key role in the Europe 2020 strategy, [...] as it is one of the market-based instruments to be used to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, while ensuring the best use of public funds".



As a result, public procurement is becoming a direct lever for action to meet economic, social and environmental challenges. The City Council no longer uses its budgets just to satisfy immediate needs through a purchase, but spends them conscientiously to have a positive impact on a large scale, on the well-being of citizens, local businesses and for the benefit of current and future generations.

The City Council is positioning itself as a "responsible consumer" and is therefore voluntarily opting for high-quality products and services that are environmentally and socially sustainable. This is achieved through an ongoing process designed to structurally reduce our environmental impact.

4. Climate planning and the City Council's internal monitoring methodology

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 is an imperative, an ambitious goal and a distant prospect in terms of the roadmaps of a local authority whose primary role is to operate and provide services to citizens on a day-to-day basis. To be effective, this objective must be translated into intermediate objectives. This climate plan is broken down into concrete actions, carried out by the various services and departments, which are in charge of their own strategy and operations. The Climate Unit will provide macro-level monitoring of the whole project to support the public authority and highlight the effective measures taken and/or to be taken.

The impact of the actions is quantified and measured in a consistent manner and linked to the City Council's other plans, in line with the principle of "meten is weten" (to measure is to know). In addition to the climate plan, the City of Brussels Council aims to extend its monitoring capabilities and improve its knowledge of the region.

On the basis of this ongoing monitoring, a regular optimisation methodology will be put in place to ensure that the climate objectives are met. In concrete terms:

- The departments evaluate their action plans and present their progress to the College on an annual basis.
- Every two years:



- The City Council presents the results of its action plan to a panel of citizens and scientists (Local Climate Assembly);
- If necessary, the College will adapt its action plan on the basis of the recommendations of the citizen and scientific panel;
- \circ $\;$ The action plan and its adjustments are presented to the Local Council.

5. Technology at the service of climate planning

Generally speaking, good practice in digital sobriety will be generalised with the support of the City of Brussels' service provider, i-CITY, in order to reduce the environmental impact of the City Council's digital activities. I-CITY's Green IT strategy, with its six areas of action, aims to reduce the consumption of raw materials, the energy consumption of environmentallyfriendly-designed IT equipment and services and the quantity of electronic waste at the end of its life.

Finally, the work of the city's Smart City department is helping to improve planning and create innovative projects to support the transition.

2030 Strategic objectives

1. Human resources management to meet future challenges

- ➔ The departments are developing skills to implement actions that meet the objectives of the climate plan:
 - Training, empowering and raising awareness of climate issues among City
 Council staff in relation to their respective functions/departments.
 - All new employees are informed of the climate issues relevant to their role as soon as they start work.

2. The City Council's finances and tax policy, tools for transition

- ➔ For its investments linked to climate objectives, the City Council is applying for a maximum of European, regional and FWB subsidies, etc.
- → Strengthen and diversify ethical, socially responsible and sustainable investments.



→ The City Council is committed to using taxation as a tool to encourage virtuous behaviour that contributes to the transition and to discourage behaviour that is harmful to the climate.

3. Making public procurement more sustainable

- ➔ Public procurement contracts meet sustainable procurement criteria, incorporating ecological, social and ethical clauses.
 - The City Council undertakes to take part in any IWGs organised by Brussels Environment and to implement the actions proposed.
 - The City Council, via the Procurement & Facilities department, will develop a sustainable procurement strategy. Among other things, this will help guide agents towards the objectives and overriding criteria to be included in the special specifications.
 - The city is committed to monitoring its public procurement contracts to measure their effectiveness and the relevance of their sustainable criteria.
 - Public purchasers and/or users will be trained or made aware on an ongoing basis of new opportunities and developments in environmental products, services or technologies.

4. Climate planning and the City Council's internal monitoring methodology

- → The City Council has carried out an annual carbon assessment and has developed a regional resilience diagnosis that enables it to identify its vulnerabilities and take action to reduce them.
- ➔ The strategic objectives of the Climate Plan have been continuously monitored using a wide range of indicators. The progress of the actions monitored and the authority's carbon footprint are presented annually by the Management Committee to the College, and every two years publicly in conjunction with the Climate Plan's citizen governance process.
- ➔ 100% of the climate objectives are monitored via a single platform for the entire authority, linked to the City Council's various plans.



5. Technology at the service of climate planning

- → Developing a Green IT strategy to enable the development of a digital business.
 - The City Council's Green IT strategy has reduced the carbon footprint of digital activity by 20% compared to 2019.



Towards shared governance of the Climate Plan

"With this new climate plan, the city aims not only to set an example, but above all to achieve its objectives with the help of citizens, businesses, shops and associations. In a local climate assembly, various thematic players join forces to ensure the network's follow-up and dynamism. Through a Future Generations Council, young people will indicate how they can contribute to the production of the plan. By supporting active citizens, we are convinced that we can accelerate the achievement of our climate objectives. "

Arnaud Pinxteren, Alderman for Participation

2050 Vision

Building a resilient, carbon-neutral city together

In 2050, thanks to its regional climate governance, the Brussels City Council has succeeded in involving a large number of interested parties in its region in pursuing the objectives of carbon neutrality in a sustainable and inclusive way. Everyone has been able to contribute to the area's action and management: citizens, associations, businesses, public bodies, scientists, etc. This collaboration was initiated 30 years ago with 50 ambassadors who defined the foundations of this network, and has gradually taken shape. This network provides a forum for ongoing dialogue between the city and its region, setting ambitious shared objectives on climate issues and a common framework for action. Its governance has evolved over the years, but its main objective has remained: "Building a resilient, carbon-neutral city together". This network has also developed in conjunction with the regional authorities and the other Brussels municipalities, as well as with Belgian and international players, with a view to ensuring borderless cooperation and building together the city that Brussels will become in 2050.



Context and issues

While the Brussels City Council has a duty to set an example in terms of climate change, the major challenge in achieving carbon neutrality lies in the effective transition of all interested parties in the region. This applies not only to individual initiatives, but also to collective action.

To sustain this momentum, the findings and strategic objectives must be shared, and a roadmap must identify the priority projects. We also need to co-define a framework and methodology in which everyone has their place.

Today, a number of tools for change are already at the heart of people's practices. Many associations and committees are rallying. Businesses and citizens are making a commitment to the climate. In 2019, a large proportion of young people expressed their concerns and demands about climate change through strikes and street demonstrations. Since then, Climate Marches have been held regularly in Brussels, bringing together thousands of citizens to highlight the urgent need to tackle climate change.

The Brussels City Council is attuned to these movements and wishes to play a role in the changes underway: bringing together the players of tomorrow, sharing knowledge and tools, making initiatives visible and catalysing a multiplier effect.

With this in mind, once the health crisis is over, in 2021, the city will launch an initial participatory process, consulting citizens and experts with a view to drawing up the new Climate Plan. This has led to:

- Street interviews with over 200 citizens;
- Meetings in the neighbourhoods around Babbeleir with over 120 people;
- Themed workshops with around 100 citizens and experts;
- Interviews with 220 young people aged 16 to 25 in public places.



The result of these exchanges has been translated into the following fresco:



At the same time, the call for Climate projects (formerly the call for Sustainable Initiatives projects) has been adapted and deployed to better support the climate transition of local interested parties.

In spring 2022, the City Council launched a network of local interested parties, based on participatory workshops with around 50 ambassadors.

The Brussels City Council also participates in international knowledge exchange networks: Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Energy Cities, Eurocities, reporting of emissions via the Carbon Disclosure Project, International Association of Francophone Mayors, etc. At a local level, the City Council maintains numerous contacts with the public authorities in its area, the municipalities of Brussels and the surrounding area, Brulocalis and the Brussels-Capital Region.

The City Council's ambition is to amplify this dynamic of co-construction and ensure that the Climate Plan is the founding basis of a roadmap that belongs to everyone, evolving over time to correspond to the reality of the actions carried out in the area and adjusting to ensure that the climate objectives are achieved collectively. This roadmap will be a tool capable of evolving in line with the accompanying context.



The main challenge will be to involve and empower all citizens and organisations so that we can collectively address the issues identified through concrete action. The City Council wishes to act both with those that have a strong potential impact because of their nature, and with those that are the most vulnerable to future climate change.

2030 Strategic objectives

- 1. Setting up the Local Climate Assembly
 - → In 2030, the strategic objectives of the Climate Plan will be achieved thanks to the steering of a Local Climate Assembly made up of representatives from the City Council, the academic sector and local interested parties (businesses, local committees, schools, associations, citizens, etc.). Linked to the regional Citizens' Climate Assembly, the Local Climate Assembly ensures transparent monitoring and sharing of the actions carried out in the area, by identifying the CO2 emissions produced by all the players in the area, as well as the actions aimed at better adapting the area to climate change.
 - ➔ To meet these objectives, the Brussels City Council will entrust the Assembly with 3 main tasks:
 - On the basis of the results of the participatory process organised by the City Council (2021 - 2022), complete the Climate Plan's roadmap concerning the region's objectives;
 - Monitoring and evaluating the Climate Plan (monitoring, governance, analysis and recommendation reports);
 - Unite as many players as possible around climate objectives and lead this network.

2. Support for local initiatives

- → The City Council is extending the Call for Climate Projects throughout the year, and adapting the types of green grants to meet the climate challenges and speed up the implementation of climate projects in the region.
- → The City Council supports the development of projects in line with the Climate Plan.



➔ In order to facilitate the multiplication of projects and initiatives, the City Council is raising the profile of the actions carried out by local interested parties.

3. Future Generations Council

→ The city is home to a "Future Generations Council" made up of young people from the area, whose role is to ensure that the city's Climate Plan is permanently anchored in the vision of future generations. In an open and concerted dialogue with the Brussels Climate Assembly, this Council brings out concrete proposals and actions from and/or managed by the future generation.

4. Boosting external trade

- ➔ The City Council has strengthened its collaboration with the Federal Government, the Brussels-Capital Regional Council and the 18 Brussels municipalities, in particular by pooling services, tools and administrative procedures.
- ➔ The City Council has strengthened its international links to share best practice, mainly with Energy Cities, Euro Cities, the Mayors' Covenant, etc.
- ➔ The City Council is working with universities and higher education establishments over the long term to bridge the gap between research and innovation, as well as the region's climate change transition.

