



The Budapest Statement

A Call for a Greener Vision for Cities in Europe

A call to action

All urban citizens should be able to benefit from nature – wherever they live and work. Nature and green infrastructure are increasingly being recognised as important in ensuring our cities are resilient, healthy and sustainable from economic, environmental and social perspectives.

Whilst we acknowledge and celebrate the current [European ecosystem services and green infrastructure strategy](#) that was instigated in 2014, we wish to intensify the development and delivery of this strategy across the whole of Europe. In doing so we see a Europe whose cities:

- *Provide increased health and well-being for citizens*
- *Ensure that the increased urban temperatures due to more intense summer climates are reduced and urban flooding is ameliorated*
- *Embrace nature-based infrastructure as being as important as other more conventional infrastructure*

We require a nature-based approach to designing cities that:

- *Maintains, improves and augments ground level green spaces such as parks, pocket parks and other open spaces*
- *Embraces the viability of [a nature-based solutions approach](#) to re-designing the existing urban realm and creating new city spaces of the future*
- *Understands, through mapping and evaluation, the value of green spaces and seeks to protect, enhance and increase these areas for the benefit of all*
- *Creates a nature-based solutions economy that fuels this new vision*
- *Supports innovation in co-creation, planning, design and incentive programmes to drive this vision*
- *Promotes and delivers green infrastructure strategies that deliver resilient cities*
- *Communicates to all citizens the benefits of a green infrastructure approach to urban design*

We accept that our 'greener vision' for cities in Europe will be an evolution rather than a revolution. It will require many actors across the professions to come together and evolve new ways of planning, implementing and maintaining the greener cities of the future. In doing so, we will create cities that are ecosystems that deliver the economic, social and environmental benefits that will be required in the 21st Century.

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