



Policy success factors for climate adaptation in European cities

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Introduction

Some cities have already developed an effective strategy that provides for the introduction of parks, open areas and urban agriculture to mitigate the effects of climate change. An overview of opportunities for policy-makers and stakeholders based on self-reported success factors in 10 European trailblazer cities.

• Evaluate results with indicators



A combination of green space and water storage, Augustenborg in Malmö, Sweden. (Photo: André Vaxelaire)

Method

This study is based on information from mainly grey literature. The selection criteria for the reference cities were the existence of initiatives for green space or urban agriculture, geographic spread across Europe and the availability of adequate information and data.



Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London, England (Photo: London Legacy Development Corporation)

Conclusion

1. Adaptation policies are often implemented in isolation and on an ad hoc basis.
2. Effective policies can be achieved by facilitating exchange of knowledge and experiences between local stakeholders and between cities.
3. Cooperation between local government, citizens and the private sector should be promoted and synergy should be sought between various policy domains.
4. Urban agriculture, a concept currently enjoying much interest and support, can be applied as a climate adaptation measure.

• Connecting different policy fields helps to realize urban green space

Table: Success factors for climate adaptation. Effective policy for green infrastructure in 10 European cities

City (country)	Measure	Success factors (self-reported)
Introduction of green space		
Freiburg (DE)	City Land Use Plan 2020; smaller built-up area and creation of 'cool air corridors'	- Prioritization of landscape conservation - Public participation in various phases of municipal policy process
Berlin (DE)	Land usage plans including 'Biotope Area Factor', whereby part of each land plot released for development is reserved as a green area	- Legal obligation based on national legislation - Interdepartmental cooperation - Flexibility in implementation - Availability of land usage and climate information (maps)
Faenza (IT)	Bio-neighbourhood incentive programme; project developers design sustainable districts with a large proportion of open space	Coordination with Agenda 21 (A United Nations action plan, non-binding and implemented voluntarily, addressing sustainable development.) - Innovation on the part of developers - Involvement of developers and general public in urban planning and design - Fast-track permit procedures - Synergy with mitigation, noise reduction and heritage conservation policy
Malmö (SE)	Management contract between local authority and housing corporation covering water, greenery and waste	- Cooperation and good communication between local authority, housing corporation and citizens - Funding from local, national and international budgets - Engagement of private sector parties - Synergy with mitigation and education policy
Linz (AT)	Solar City Project; a model district with low energy consumption and much greenery	- Cooperation between local authority, its architect and independent designers - Funding from local, national and international sources - Synergy with mitigation, recreation and transport policy - A means to reduce or resolve an acute housing shortage
London (UK)	Green Grid Project, incl. Olympic Park	- Exploiting the topicality and popularity of the 2012 Olympics - Synergy with many policy domains, including transport, public health and biodiversity
Kalamaria (GR)	Local climate adaptation plan with a focus on green spaces and water	- Interdepartmental cooperation - Stakeholder participation - Exchanges with other European cities as part of the EU-GRaBS project
Urban agriculture		
Manchester (UK)	Manchester Community Strategy incl. healthy, sustainably produced food for everyone	- Cooperation between local authority, National Health Service, volunteers and private sector - Synergy with health policy (obesity and health status inequality), socio-economic policy and sustainable food production
Lyon (FR)	Jardin Citoyen: a community gardens programme	- Cooperation and a clear division of responsibility between the local authority and other stakeholders - Incorporated as a 'designated usage' in regional zoning and planning procedures - Appointment of a project manager/liaison officer - Synergy with education, socioeconomic objectives, (human) environment and food production
Paris (FR)	Jardins Partagés, included in the 'Green Hand Pact	- Synergy with several other policy domains, including social cohesion, culture and education - Flexibility: exploiting current urban dynamic (disused sites)

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