

Green Charta 2025

Towards more liveable, resilient and connected territories

Milan, 6 June 2025 – European Green City Forum

We, the undersigned representatives of local and regional institutions, technical experts, administrators and promoters of green culture, recognise the urgency of the current climate crisis and the need to take concrete, coordinated and measurable action to build cities and territories capable of guaranteeing quality of life, environmental justice and a future for the next generations.

We are committed to promoting an **ecological and cultural transformation** of our cities and regions, based on the following principles:

1. Nature-Positive cities and landscapes

It is no longer enough to reduce negative impacts: it is time to **generate ecological value**.

We promote **nature-positive** cities and landscapes that strengthen biodiversity, restore ecosystems and actively contribute to environmental health.

This vision also includes peri-urban areas, agricultural landscapes, and small and medium-sized towns: **a continuous territorial system** that connects nature, culture and people.

The transition to nature-positive models requires a **new alliance between the public and private sectors**, between institutions and businesses that invest in **Natural Capital** as a strategic resource for development, resilience and social equity.

2. Urban regeneration before new construction

Prioritise the **redevelopment and enhancement of existing** buildings, avoiding new land consumption and the sealing of natural surfaces. Already urbanised areas must become the beating heart of a **new ecological and inclusive urbanity** that values the memory of places and responds to current needs with innovative and sustainable solutions.

3. Depaving as a key strategy for urban resilience

Remove unnecessary impermeable surfaces to give back **space to nature, living soil and biodiversity**, improving the climate adaptation capacity of cities, air quality and people's daily well-being. **Depaving** is an act of care and vision that opens space for possibilities.

4. Every territory can be a Green City

From metropolises to inland areas, from mountain to coastal municipalities, **every context can adopt tailor-made green strategies**. The Region itself can become a widespread Green City, capable of guiding the ecological transition with vision, consistency and governance that is open to communities.

5. Activating citizenship and building alliances

Citizens must be **involved as co-creators** of urban transformation processes. Participation is not an option, but a necessary condition for fair, lasting and shared policies. The **new generations** must be listened to and empowered.

Alliances between the public and private sectors, between local expertise and international visions, are essential for rooting change.



6. Cross-border collaboration and vision beyond borders

The landscape – like the climate crisis – **knows no administrative boundaries**. We promote continuous and structured collaboration between territories, regions and nations to tackle environmental, social and cultural challenges together. The landscape is a shared, common and cooperative space.

7. Green and blue infrastructure as the ecological backbone of cities

Integrate nature-based solutions into urban plans: ecological networks, green corridors, sustainable water management. Green and blue infrastructure should be designed as dynamic systems capable of regenerating biodiversity, mitigating climate risk and bringing beauty to urban contexts.

Every citizen should have access to a public green space within 300 metres of their home.

8. Culture, beauty and creativity as tools for transformation

Art, culture and beauty are fundamental levers for regenerating spaces, building belonging and inspiring sustainable behaviour. Urban transformation processes must speak to people's minds and hearts, stimulate the imagination and promote a new sense of **collective responsibility**. Beauty is a civil right, a universal language that builds belonging and a desire for the future.

9. Measuring, monitoring and improving

Let us commit to **defining clear, shared and transparent indicators** to assess the effectiveness of green policies. Only what can be measured can be improved.

Environmental reporting must become an integral part of administrative and planning culture.

By signing this Charter, we commit to working together for greener, more resilient, inclusive and beautiful territories, where nature is not decoration but vital infrastructure and an integral part of urban and territorial strategy.

Territories that do not merely preserve nature, but **produce it, protect it and place it at the centre** of every present and future project.

Milan, 6 June 2025

Lombardy Region

Metropolitan City of Milan and Provinces present

Mayors and representatives of the municipalities present
and all friends of Green City



