

Join the GoNaturePositive! Cities and Regions Pioneer Community

Why does a Nature-Positive Economy matter for cities and regions?

Cities and regions play a key role in shaping economic activities, infrastructure and public services that directly impact nature and climate. A **Nature-Positive Economy (NPE)** aims to restore and regenerate ecosystems while supporting economic resilience and social wellbeing. For local governments, this means integrating nature into core policy areas such as climate adaptation, spatial planning, public procurement and economic development. Strengthening nature-positive approaches can help cities and regions address growing challenges such as climate risks, biodiversity loss and resource pressures, while unlocking new opportunities for innovation, investment and sustainable growth.

What is GoNaturePositive!

GoNaturePositive! is a Horizon Europe research and innovation project funded by the European Commission. It supports the transition towards a Nature-Positive Economy by developing practical tools, indicators and policy approaches that help governments, businesses and other actors better understand and improve their impact on nature. The project brings together research institutions, local authorities, businesses and civil society to co-develop and test these approaches in real-world contexts.

As part of this, we have launched the GoNaturePositive! Pioneer Programme for Cities and Regions to bring together local and regional governments interested in advancing Nature-Positive Economy approaches. Through knowledge exchange, practical resources and peer learning, the programme provides opportunities for participants to explore how nature-positive principles can be integrated into local and regional policies and practice.

Eligibility and Profile

This Expression of Interest is open to cities and regions that:

- Have ongoing or planned initiatives related to nature-based solutions, biodiversity, climate resilient or nature-positive economic strategies or public procurement
- Are willing to engage in structured peer exchange and contribute insights from their own governance or policy practice

Why should your city or region join this initiative?



By engaging with GoNaturePositive!, cities and regions can:

- explore how to unlock private and public financing to support nature restoration and climate resilience priorities
- gain insights from businesses and financial actors on the barriers and opportunities for public-private collaboration and identify practical actions to support nature-positive businesses and local entrepreneurship
- access tools, templates and peer exchanges to support implementation in the local context and to develop concrete approaches to strengthen collaboration with the private sector and citizens
- explore how nature-positive principles can strengthen existing priorities, such as climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration, public procurement, biodiversity strategies and local economic development
- connect to a wider network of peers, practitioners, experts and initiatives advancing nature-positive innovation

What participation includes?

- Self-learning and reflection: access to practical, easy-to-use resources to help you understand and apply Nature-Positive Economy approaches based on the latest research and expert insights
- Peer-to-peer exchange: participation in online sessions with cities and regions working on similar challenges
- Targeted support and exchange: opportunities to contribute to discussions, test emerging approaches

Time commitment & costs

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Who should participate?

We welcome participation from representatives of cities and regions involved in policy development, planning and implementation related to nature, climate and economic development. We particularly encourage participation from a range of departments, including:

- environment and climate
- urban planning and infrastructure
- economic development, regeneration and innovation
- finance, budgeting and investment
- public procurement

Participation from colleagues beyond environment and planning departments is especially encouraged, to support cross-departmental collaboration.

Register here

Registered participants will receive information on upcoming webinars, knowledge exchange sessions and learning opportunities throughout the programme.
For any questions you are welcome to contact Madhushi Weerasinghe (ICLEI-Europe) at madhushi.weerasinghe@iclei.org.

