

Climate change adaptation in Leuven

Let it sink in!



leuven



Policy of Leuven on climate challenges

Aiming for a climate neutral and climate adaptive city

- Covenant of Mayors: ~~40%~~ greenhouse gas-reduction target by 2030

↳ Leuven = 1 of the 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030

= ambitious climate change mitigation policy and future-oriented climate change adaptation strategy



Policy of Leuven on climate challenges

Aiming for a climate neutral and climate adaptive city

■ Strategy concretized in different policy plans

- Climate action plan
- Rainwater plan
- Draught plan
- Green plan
- Design basis in all projects (day-to-day street design)
- Climate team for planning actions
- Specific campaign: “Hier dringt het door!” ~ “Let it sink in!”
- Scaling it up thanks to EU support



Let it sink in!

Challenges in climate change adaptation

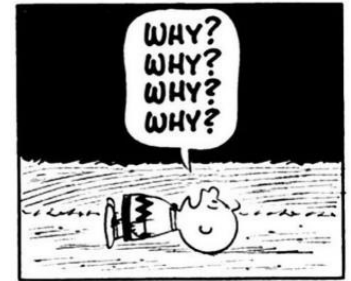
Sense of resistance when applying actions related to climate change adaptation:

“Why? Why here? Not in my backyard! ...”

Main causes:

- Lack of information
- Lack of involvement

 Convincing citizens by informing them, leading by example, including them in a process of co-creation



Let it sink in!

Broad communication strategy

- Catchy slogan: 'Let it sink in!'
- Website hierdringhetdoor.be
- Short movie
- Infographic and pictograms for project information (e.g. banners)
- Articles in city magazines: specific adaptation projects and the broader story



Aantal bomen in de straat, dat zijn er x-aantal meer dan voorheen.



Vierkante meter verharding die verdwijnt op het openbaar domein.



Vierkante meter verharding die verdwijnt in voortuintjes.



Aantal nieuwe plantvakken in de straat, dat zijn er x-aantal meer dan voorheen.

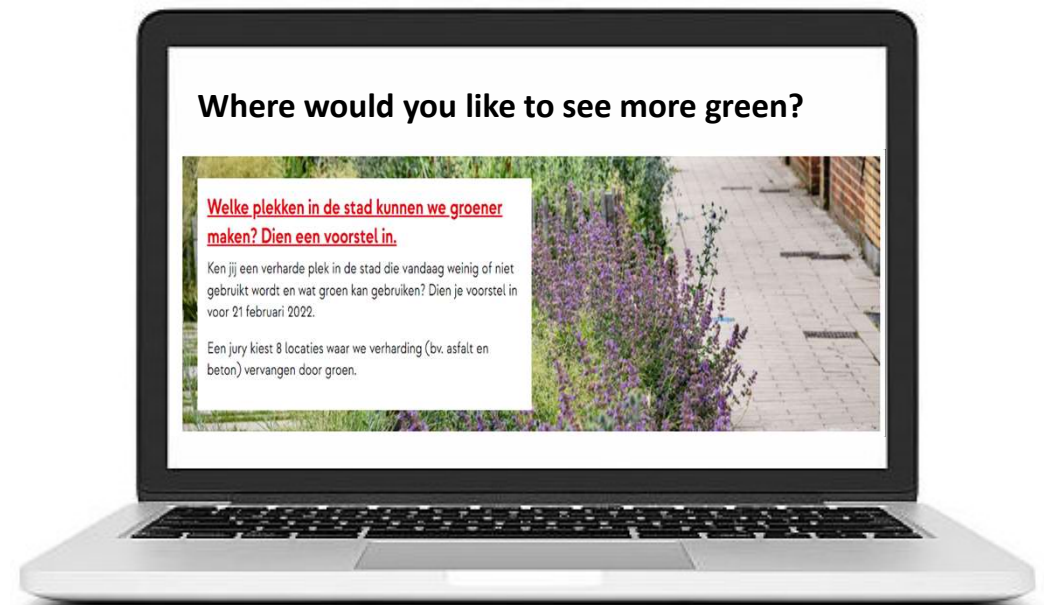


Aantal vierkante meter bloemrijke beplanting in de straat.

Let it sink in!

Citizen engagement

- **Launch of public call on 21 januari 2022**
 - Specific boundary conditions
 - Selection of 8 projects by an internal jury
 - Execution summer/fall 2022

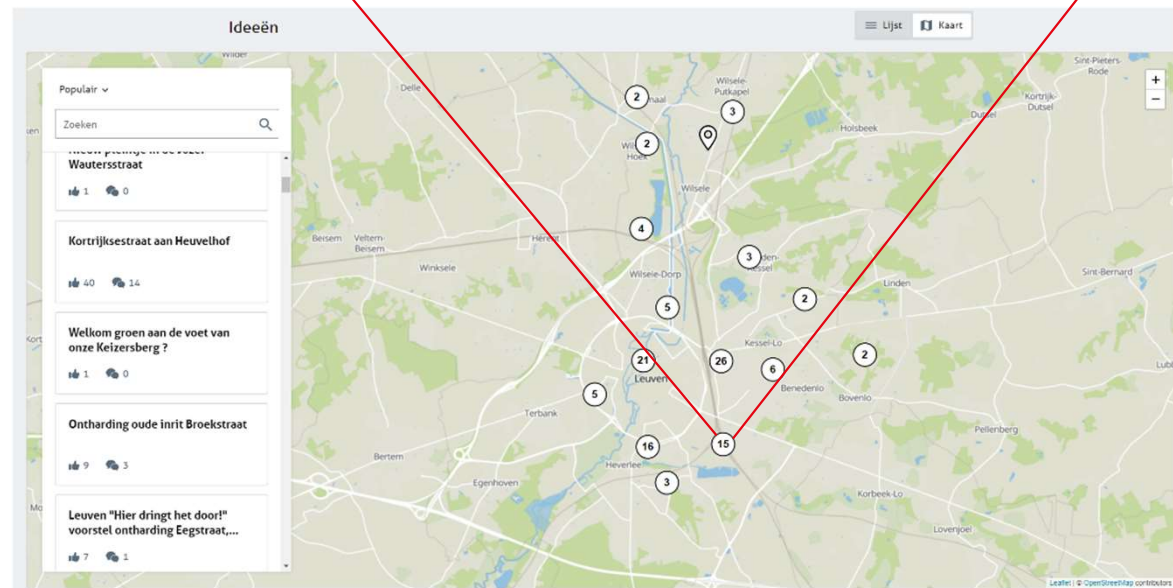
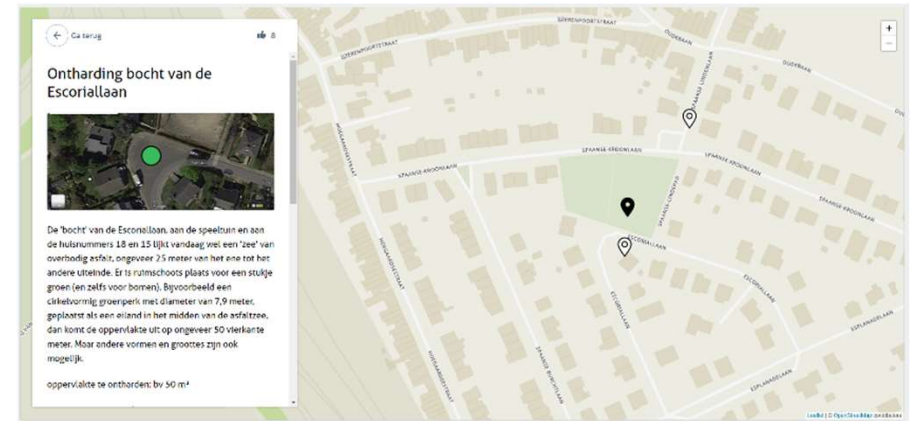


Let it sink in!

Citizen engagement

Very positive response

- +/- 145 ideas
- Distributed over all Leuven
- From small unused corners to ambitious plans
- 8 locations realised in 2023



Scaling up and speeding up climate change actions

Via European funding

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Life PACT Project

- ◆ People-Driven: Adapting Cities for Tomorrow
 - ◆ An integrated approach to urban climate change adaptation (CCA):
 - ◆ multiple stakeholders: local government, citizens, universities, and private actors
 - ◆ focus on both public and private property
- ⇒ more effective deployment of NBS
1. Across several pilot and replication sites;
 2. Develop and test a replicable method for engaging citizens;
 3. Develop and test a replicable method for engaging local stakeholders;
 4. Improve the knowledge base by developing a digital tool to facilitate, track, and analyze the uptake of NBS in citizens' private outdoor spaces.



Current situation

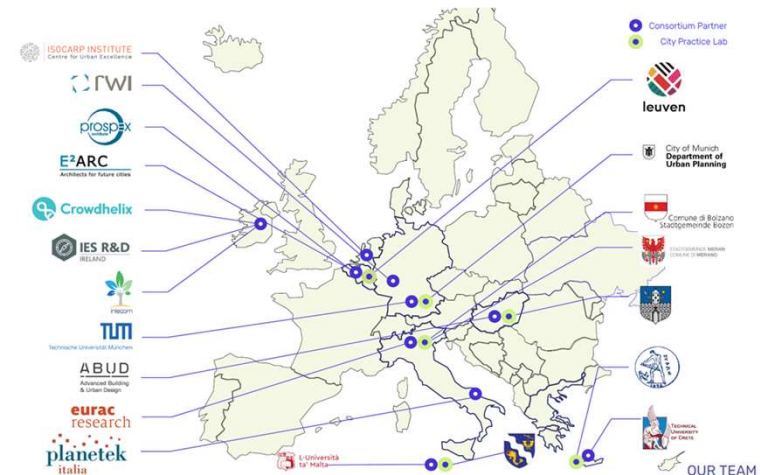


Future situation



JUSTNature project

- ◆ Horizon 2020
- ◆ **Activation of nature-based solutions (NbS) by ensuring a just transition to low-carbon cities, based on the principle of the right to ecological space.**
- ◆ 6 CIPEL's or 'City Practice Labs'
 - ◆ Leuven: 2 pilot sites
 - ◆ Test installation C. Meunierstraat: from grey to green
 - ◆ From grey to green in Leuven's detention facility
 - ◆ Focus on participation & inclusivity, implementation of NBS







Before



After

Questions?



- Life Pact Project
 - ◆ Baptist.vlaeminck@leuven.be
 - ◆ [Leuven.be/life-Pact](https://leuven.be/life-Pact)

- Just Nature project
 - ◆ Nele.Janssen@leuven.be
 - ◆ leuven.be/justnature



Thanks!

Lifepact.eu

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