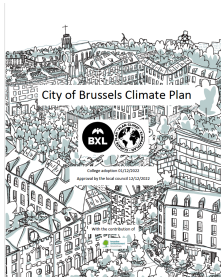


# Brussels' Climate Action Plan

Brussels is committed to boosting citizen involvement in governmental affairs to improve the visibility, comprehension, and effectiveness of its policies and their execution. Participation encompasses the group activities of sharing information, listening, and engaging in discussions about policies. Additionally, it acts as a civic mechanism that provides feedback for shaping policy priorities and formulation. This dual approach to participation aims to make policy-making more inclusive and informed (BXL, 2022).

## Climate Action Plan



To find concrete solutions that take into account the realities of its population, the City of Brussels organized a wide-ranging participatory process in 2021: almost 700 citizens worked in 46 meetings and workshops, giving rise to more than 300 ideas for action, which were then integrated by experts within the municipality into the Climate Plan. The Climate Plan is structured around 11 key areas, including energy, water, mobility, waste, and food, detailing 150 strategic goals and numerous actionable steps to collaboratively safeguard the region's climate.

## Public Engagement Recommendations

The participatory process of Brussels Climate Plan unfolded through various channels: 200 street interviews engaging citizens directly, neighborhood meetings called Babbeleur with 120 , thematic workshops with citizens and expert stakeholders, and targeted discussions with young people aged 16 to 25 in public spaces. The assembly's three main activities regarding climate governance is setting up a community monitoring mechanism, increasing budgets and projects supported through the Call for Climate Protects, and a survey for young people.

A **Local Climate Assembly** will be set up to guide and **monitor** the achievement of the Climate Plan objectives. It will also be responsible for building momentum by developing the action plan and rallying as many players as possible around the climate objectives.

**Mobilization of Resources for Local Action.** Residents, businesses, companies, and non-profit organizations in the City of Brussels have access to financial aid and support aimed at encouraging tangible climate action efforts. This initiative is designed to facilitate a variety of stakeholders in contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Individuals and local entities like VSEs, SMEs, and associations can avail themselves of comprehensive support such as free advice, training, financial grants, coaching, tax exemptions, and incentives to adopt climate-positive actions, whether for voluntary initiatives or legal compliance.

## Mosaic of City's Institutional Arrangements & Participatory Measures

**Permanent Climate Citizen Assembly** - Brussels stands at the forefront of innovative climate governance through the establishment of the world's first permanent citizen assembly focused on climate issues. 10000 people residing in Brussels drawn at random receive an invitation to participate in Assembly. After positive responses and sorting through socio-economic criteria (sex, age, place of residence, level of education, professional occupation, etc.) to select the final members. The assemblies are composed of 100 randomly

selected citizens who are rotated every year. During each cycle, the Assembly will address a theme defined by the previous Assembly. Unlike previous one-time climate assemblies, the assembly is unique in its approach where it will have the power to design the agenda, propose solutions, and monitor the political follow-up to the recommendations for one year. The local government has the mandate to examine the feasibility of the proposals, follow up on each recommendation, and communicate decisions.

### **Digital Platforms**

**"faireBXLsamen" platform**, managed by the Brussels Participation office, is designed to enhance civic engagement and participation in public matters such as neighborhood investment strategies and guidance on engaging with public projects. The platform provides a digital space where citizens can participate in collective processes of informing, listening, and discussing the implementation of public projects, alongside consultation tools for neighborhood councils and citizens' budgets. This initiative aims to improve transparency, foster collective engagement in public concerns, and strengthen the relationship between citizens and policy implementation, making the city's decision-making processes more inclusive and informed.

**Brussels Open Data Portal** provides access to over 500 datasets in three languages (French, Dutch, and English), offering various export options and visualization tools such as tables, graphs, or maps. environmental permits application submissions, permits delivered, and other datasets. This initiative is part of the city's commitment to transparency and aims to enhance public engagement by making government data available to everyone.