

# Brussels: The Regional and municipal authorities and public welfare centres take action for sustainable development

THE IRIS 21 AGENDA



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An initiative of the Brussels Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Urban Renewal



agenda  
IRIS 21



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# Local Agenda 21: what is it?

## An international context

In 1992, Agenda 21, an action plan for sustainable development in the 21st century, was proposed at the Rio Earth Summit. It was adopted by 173 heads of State. Local Agenda 21 (LA21) is the version of Agenda 21 at local authority level.

## The three pillars of sustainable development

Sustainable development is based on three pillars.

- **Preserving the environment:** minimising the impact of human activity on natural resources and ecosystems, preserving biodiversity and the equilibrium of natural habitats, and improving their quality.
- **Balanced economic development:** contributing to economic development.
- **Social progress:** improving the well-being of all, ensuring a fairer distribution of resources, increasing social justice, combating exclusion, and meeting needs for employment, education, health and housing.

The aspect of participation and good governance is added to these pillars to arrive at the 4Ps for successful project implementation: “People, Prosperity, Planet, Participation”.



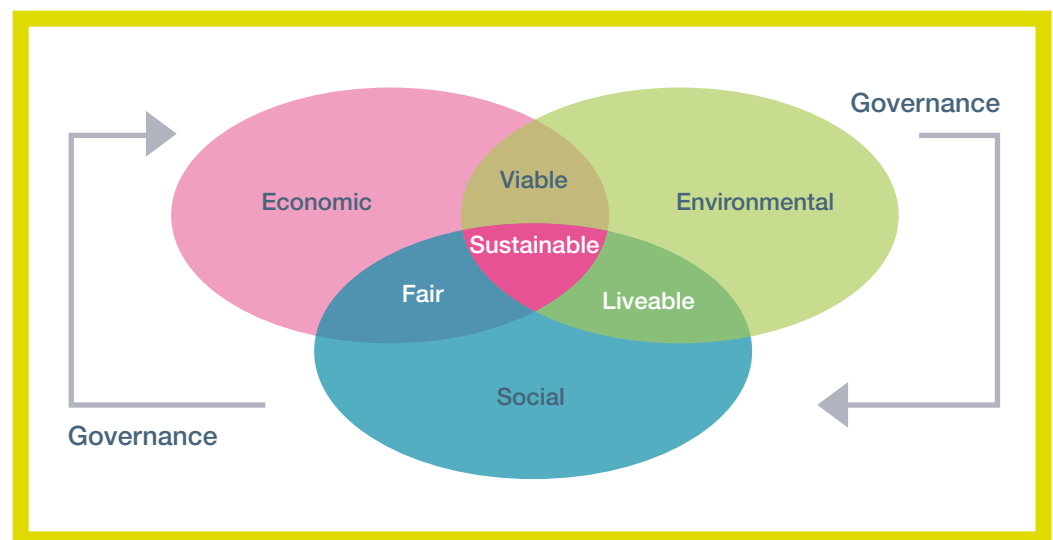
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## Brussels-Capital Region: Agenda Iris 21

Since 2007, the Region has been responsible for an initiative to promote the creation of local Agenda 21s through a project call aimed at Municipalities and CPAS-OCMWs (Centres for Public Welfare) in Brussels: “Agenda Iris 21”.

The local authorities selected through these calls can benefit from financial support for four years as well as methodological support provided jointly by Brussels Environment, the Association of the City and the Municipalities and the Foundation for Future Generations.

In the majority of cases, it has been possible to hire a coordinator thanks to this financial support, who is a linchpin for the local project, guaranteeing horizontality and the collaboration of regional partners.



## Good governance, decompartmentalisation and civic participation

Agenda Iris 21 projects involve the participation of local players. New practices concerning project elaboration and dialogue with the population and associations, as well as all the other players, have thus been introduced. Horizontality in the projects also creates new ways of working between the public services and allows the way they operate to be decompartmentalised. The creation of Agendas 21 by the CPAS-OCMWs is a specificity of the Brussels project.

## How does it work?

In concrete terms, a LA21 has several compulsory stages:

- first of all a diagnosis,
- consultation of the various players,
- drawing up a concerted action plan (or programme), which involves all involved parties in the short, mid and long term. This action plan is also the result of consultation between Municipalities, citizens and all the players concerned (shops, businesses, schools, etc.).

The whole project is coordinated by Brussels Environment. Support staff from ACMB and FFG offer the Municipalities and CPAS-OCMWs:

- training sessions on how to collaborate with public service staff;
- a network where practices and experiences are shared between all the participants of the project calls;
- individual technical and thematic follow-up;
- project follow-up by a support committee that ensures the objectives and deadlines are respected;
- methodological tools;
- a website: [www.agendairis21.be](http://www.agendairis21.be).

The regular contact between support staff and the coordinators has gradually led to the creation of a social network among the coordinators.

Agenda Iris 21 allows the Municipalities and the CPAS-OCMWs concerned to be part of the global community of local authorities who are involved in the same approach. The local authorities feel attached to this network and develop a feeling of belonging and pride. In addition, the methodology used gives a strong legitimacy to the actions carried out: the action plan is approved by the college, after an extensive elaboration process based on a diagnosis involving the inhabitants. It is presented in a structured form and proposes concrete actions.



Together, let's make Brussels a sustainable city!

# Being kind to ourselves by treating the environment with respect

**Around the world, nearly 30% of greenhouse gas emissions are linked to the production, processing, transport and conservation of food. Sustainable food means consuming products that are fresh, local, in season and preferably derived from organic farming. It also means avoiding food wastage and overpackaging and using a range of sources of animal and vegetable protein.**

All of Brussels' municipalities and CPAS-OCMWs have included sustainable food in their Agenda 21, with a wide variety of actions including the introduction of sustainable canteens, projects to raise public awareness, the creation of organic markets, the development of vegetable gardens, farm produce buying groups, social grocers, etc.

## **Sustainable canteens in Anderlecht: 1,200 more 'sustainable' meals**

Offering pupils at 25 schools and customers at 6 social restaurants healthy, sustainable food: this is the challenge that the Municipality of Anderlecht has set itself. A total of 1,200 meals per day! The result is more varied vegetables and starches, less meat, more fruit and vegetables, and greater use of produce that is in season and without adverse impacts on mankind and the environment.

In order to do this, the Municipality has completely redefined its specifications. New criteria were set for purchasing: guaranteed quality and continuity, price, menu quality and organised activity ideas.

## **The Etterbeek Sustainable Food Challenge**

The Sustainable Food Challenge is a pilot project launched by the non-profit organisation 'Commune Ferme à la Ville - Stadsboerderij Etterbeek', an initiative of the Municipality of Etterbeek.

Twelve families embarked upon a somewhat unusual challenge: they would seek to change their dietary habits on a daily basis for six months. The goal was to raise these families' awareness of all aspects of sustainable food and show them that it is possible to eat food that is healthy, local, in season and inexpensive. The 'menu' included a variety of activities through which they discovered alternative products and alternative ways of cooking: cookery classes and other group activities, a visit to a farm and to organic and conventional food shops, a screening of a film, nutritional coaching in the home, etc.

To provide the households with guidance, the municipal team coordinating the activities was joined by five coaches (including a chef, a nutritionist and a sports coach) and experts on sustainable food.

## **Boosting sustainability**

Following the success of this operation, the Municipality of Anderlecht has decided to be more ambitious for 2013-2015. It has tightened up its requirements for certified organic food and included a mandatory training provision requirement, and orders are now placed on-line and hence without generating paper.

**1,200 more  
sustainable meals  
per day.**



**12 households** change their eating habits in concrete ways.



At the end of the period, the households had changed their eating habits in concrete ways: less meat, more local and in-season products, organic food where possible, more cereals and legumes, less snacking and fatty foods, composting, home-made washing-up liquid, etc. The potential reward was recognition as a 'sustainable food ambassador', in order to raise the awareness of the people of Etterbeek in a follow-on process.

### The participatory social grocery of the Berchem-Sainte-Agathe/Sint-Agatha-Berchem CPAS-OCMW

The Berchem-Sainte-Agathe/Sint-Agatha-Berchem CPAS-OCMW wishes to set up a social grocery for its users, emphasising choices which reflect the three pillars of sustainable development. To start with, the organisers have formed a pilot group of inhabitants (attending the CPAS-OCMW) who are playing an active part in designing the grocery. Various workshops are being organised so that the group can gradually come up with a plan for the grocery. For example:

- a nutrition workshop to consider the different products that it might be worth selling;
- a cookery workshop to discover local and in-season food;
- a visit to another social grocery set up on a participatory basis;
- meeting local producers whose products will be sold;
- a visit to the CPAS-OCMW organic vegetable garden and the local composting facility.

The opening of the grocery is scheduled for October 2013. Cookery workshops will continue after it has been opened. An inspiring participatory process!

**The social grocery focuses on sustainable food.**

## Adapted green spaces for the City of Brussels CPAS-OCMW

Ecoflore, the team of CPAS-OCMW gardeners, has the task of maintaining and landscaping the green spaces belonging to the CPAS-OCMW. Since 2008, fruit trees have been planted in the garden of the old people's home 'Les Eglantines/De Wilde Rozen' in Neder-Over-Heembeek. Around a hundred fruit trees and bushes of local varieties – pears, apples, plums and berries – have been planted with the residents and their families. Within the orchard, the installation of aromatic planters at a height ensures access for people with reduced mobility.

Various activities have been organised, involving gardening and rediscovering local and old varieties. These are intended first and foremost for CPAS-OCMW users, but also for their families and the local population. It is thus an intergenerational project!

## Promotion of sustainable farming in the Neerpede zone

The Neerpede zone is one of the last historical remnants of the Brussels Region's rural past. It includes land lying fallow and farmland, these days mainly cultivated using traditional methods.

The project of the Municipality of Anderlecht consists firstly of identifying land under leases nearing expiry. Secondly, in consultation with active farms, it aims to develop sustainable farming there which is better for man and the environment. These new activities will also lead to the creation of new local jobs.

In parallel, the Municipality is publicising the existing activities of local production and local consumption: the sale of produce at the farm, vegetable boxes, pick-your-own, etc. This can only be good for all fans of healthy local food!

## A map of sales points

The Municipality of Anderlecht distributes a map showing sales points for farm produce on its territory, as well as several routes for country walks or bike rides.

Residents plant **an orchard** at Neder-Over-Heembeek.



© Etterbeek



© Etterbeek



© Evere

Organic farming in Brussels.

# A green city and better conservation of biodiversity

**The Brussels-Capital Region is a green city. Nearly half of its area is occupied by green spaces. Our capital has a biological heritage of exceptional diversity. Numerous initiatives are being run by the Municipalities and CPAS-OCMWs, such as ecological management of public green spaces, campaigns aimed at the general public and young people to raise awareness of biodiversity, incentives for the ecological management of private gardens, and so on.**

## Economic management

Every green space in Forest/Vorst has been classified by maintenance type. Thanks to this differentiated management, the workload and requirements for fertilisers, water and so on are managed more economically.

## Differentiated and ecological management of green spaces in Forest/Vorst

Differentiated management means managing each green space in light of its characteristics and functions, by choosing the most appropriate solution in terms of preserving the environment, biodiversity and the landscape, while ensuring the convenience and aesthetic enjoyment of users. This is why the Municipality has created flower meadows in certain locations. These are mown once or twice a year, and are far more valuable for biodiversity than a closely-cropped lawn.

Ecological management also involves banning the use of pesticides which are harmful to the environment. This is a good way to protect the health of municipal workers and users of the green spaces, and to leave space for wildlife in the city!

## Etterbeek's participatory gardens

Etterbeek's participatory gardens are well-named! Created in 2008, they now measure 2,700 m<sup>2</sup> and have developed in close collaboration with some ten associations. This project is both a showcase demonstrating what can be done in a city garden, and a place for learning, for encounters, exchanges and relaxation for local people, the municipality and schools. The associations that run the participatory gardens offer numerous activities there throughout the year.

The gardens contain several spaces:

- an area for relaxation, resting, reading, meeting others and socialising;
- a collective composting facility;
- vegetable gardens where local people learn to grow their own vegetables;
- a heritage orchard to familiarise the public with old local varieties and the techniques that can be used to multiply and cultivate them;
- a pond and an area of derelict land to raise visitors' awareness of the problems of water and biodiversity in wetlands;
- three beehives managed by a group of local people who have been initiated into beekeeping by a professional beekeeper.

## Wild green spaces in Forest/Vorst.



It's amazing what can be achieved in a city garden!





### A few other projects in brief

- The City of Brussels and the Municipality of Ixelles/Elsene have installed demonstration apiaries on the roofs of public buildings: the administrative building on Boulevard Anspach in the case of Brussels and the Mercelis Library in the case of Ixelles/Elsene.
- In Ixelles/Elsene, stands have been hired at markets to distribute messages raising awareness of biodiversity and hand out packets of seeds for melliferous plants (which attract bees).
- Forest/Vorst and Evere organise training courses for municipal workers in the ecological management of green spaces.
- The City of Brussels awards grants for the greening of roofs and façades of private houses.
- Jette and Uccle/Ukkel encourage projects by members of the public for the greening of public spaces.
- Molenbeek and Forest/Vorst have launched a “tree base sponsorship” project: to decorate these, the Municipality provides plants which are looked after by local people.
- Uccle/Ukkel has implemented sustainable management at the Verrewinkel and Dieweg cemeteries, both of which are key elements in the green network in the south of Brussels.

### An extra 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>

The Municipality of Etterbeek will be extending the site of the participatory gardens by an additional 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>. In collaboration with the CPAS-OCMW, the aim is to develop a genuine economic activity there involving occupational training and the production and distribution of products via the social restaurant and the future grocery.

# Less waste: it's achievable!

## Testimonial

*"Taking part in Executive business with all working documents on a digital tablet represents a significant change of behaviour which has had a considerable impact on our paper consumption."*

*Benjamin Tillière, Municipality of Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde*

## A great success

The shop RecréArt sells 500 to 600 items per year, and around a hundred more are altered.

## The Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde Municipal Executive economises on paper.



**We produce three times more waste today than in 1950! Recycling is a better solution than incineration or landfill, but the other thing we can do is produce less waste. Numerous Local Agenda 21 projects aim to promote waste prevention at source. Going paperless, composting, giving away, swapping, repairing, etc. are all ways of reducing the quantity of waste.**

### The social economy and waste reduction at the City of Brussels CPAS-OCMW

Going paperless in offices involves measures such as avoiding unnecessary printing, or where printing is indispensable, reducing the quantity of paper used.

Like the Municipalities of Etterbeek and Anderlecht, the Municipality of Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde has gone down this route. Personal printers have been discontinued, awareness-raising messages have been placed on all printers, documents are printed on both sides, and so on. Partially printed sheets are recovered and turned into note paper. More recently, all documentation circulated to members of the Municipal Executive is now provided on digital tablets. The documents are no longer printed.

### The social economy and waste reduction at the City of Brussels CPAS-OCMW

Two projects being run at the Brussels CPAS-OCMW combine the social economy with waste reduction.

The first is called "Duo". Furniture and other items are recovered from private individuals and then restored by people undergoing reintegration into the employment market. They are then offered at affordable prices to those receiving support from the CPAS-OCMW. This enables the beneficiaries to gain training and professional experience in the sector of minor furniture repairs, cabinet-making and furniture removals.

The second, "RecréArt", makes use of discarded textiles and unsold items from second-hand shops. Since 2010, several activities have been developed on the basis of these unsold items: the creation of "one-off" garments, the making of wall-hangings, curtains and so on, alterations and sale in shops. Courses on using a sewing machine are also organised at the weekend. Those trained in this area find work more easily, and the reuse of these products helps cut down on waste.

**Giving a new lease of life to waste: successfully combining social solidarity and economics.**

### The Etterbeek CPAS-OCMW social clothing point

The social clothing point, which has been operational since 2000, initially confined itself to the direct sale of donated garments. Today, the garments are altered by seamstresses in line with current tastes, so that fashionable clothes can be offered for sale to customers for a modest price of a few euros. The social clothing point is open to CPAS-OCMW users. The staff are taken on under the “Articles 60” scheme for getting back marginalised people into work.

## Second-hand fashion!



© City of Brussels

### The Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde “giveaway event”

Once a year, the Municipality organises a “giveaway event”. The idea is that people give away objects in good condition that they no longer use: books, games, clothing, etc. Members of the public are then invited, on the basis of a system of limited distribution, to each take a few objects. The Municipality works with a network of local people who are committed to sustainable development. They accompany the process, classify the books and garments, etc., and receive the recipients. This initiative raises public awareness of the need for more sustainable consumption.

### Reusable cups for events at Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis

The Municipality has acquired 3,000 reusable cups marked with the Agenda 21 logo. These are lent out to the different municipal services, local associations, etc., for use at local events.

### Compost in the spotlight in several municipalities

At unoccupied sites in Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde, a number of collective compost facilities have been created on the initiative of local people, with the help of the non-profit organisation Worms. Organic waste may be brought there, and in return users receive some of the compost for their flowerbeds and window boxes. The Municipality helps with the launching of these projects, and a number of them are managed by local people themselves. One compost facility takes waste from the market gardeners of the Sunday market, while another takes waste from a nursery school. Today, there are seven composting facilities in the Municipality, creating a very positive local movement.

### Everyone benefits!

The Etterbeek social clothing point enables garments and fabric that would otherwise go into landfill to be recycled and is a place where fashionable clothing can be found.

### Testimonial

*“Those who bring in items that they are no longer using are very happy to give them a new lease of life.”*

*Myriam Brackelaire, Municipality of Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde*

Even the nursery school has started composting!



The Municipality of Jette has opened a composting demonstration site for local people. From April to October, on the first Saturday of the month, a composting expert receives visitors and gives them information about good practices. Several composting unit models can be viewed: bins, wooden boxes, boxes made from pallets, etc. The site is next to the plantation service, which sells composters.

### **A wood chipper acquired by the Municipality of Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis**

Good compost needs a certain amount of wood chip mixed in with the other organic waste. The composters of the Municipality of Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis lacked a chipper, so the Municipality has acquired one and made it available for use by local people.

### **Working with the parents to reduce waste at the Chant d'Oiseau nursery**

In Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe, as part of the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWW), this nursery organised an awareness-raising action aimed at parents. On the basis of a dialogue with them organised by email, the nursery staff created posters about everyday actions that help reduce waste production.

Examples of these actions include composting, making fresh juice instead of consuming juice from cartons, using less paper for communications with parents, etc. Moreover, the nursery has taken part in the GreenCook project for the reduction of food wastage, and obtained the “sustainable canteen” label from Brussels Environment in March 2012.



# Saving energy

**Traditional energy is increasingly expensive, causes pollution and is becoming scarcer. We have no control over prices, but there are ways in which we can cut down on our consumption. There has been no shortage of Local Agenda 21 projects, including low-energy renovation, passive housing, energy information desks, energy-saving training, and many others.**

## Low-energy renovation of the Heymans soap factory

On Rue d'Anderlecht/Anderlechtstraat, right in the centre of the city, the site of the former Heymans soap factory had been disused for the last 15 years. The Brussels CPAS-OCMW has built a residential complex there forming a “village” of 42 sustainable dwellings. The apartments are low-energy, while the residential lofts are designed to passive standards, meaning that their energy consumption for heating is virtually zero. The priority for the allocation of the dwellings goes to residents of the Anneessens district receiving support from the CPAS-OCMW.

## Thermographic auditing of buildings by the Brussels City Land Management Agency

To improve building energy performance, it is helpful to first know their weak points. Infrared thermography is a technique used to analyse heat leaks from people's homes. The images are easy to interpret: the red zones represent the places where heat is escaping.

Thanks to this project, the Land Management Agency will be able to target renovation work on buildings where significant leaks are discovered. However, this audit can also serve as the basis for offering practical advice to tenants.

In 2008, using the same technique, the Municipality of Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde offered the inhabitants of Cités-Jardins/Tuinwijken a thermographic audit of their homes in order to work out easy ways of reducing energy wastage.

## Passive lofts for residents of the Anneessens district.

### A prize

The Heymans Soap Factory property project won the prestigious MI-PIM Award 2011 in the residential developments category. It was also selected as an Exemplary Building after the call for projects by Brussels Environment.



Thermography is used to identify heat loss.



© Ixelles / Elsene

### Energy guidance and assistance for owners for renovation and green building

Families experiencing financial difficulties are often doubly penalised: because of their low income, these families live in homes which are inefficient from the energy viewpoint, and hence have high energy bills. To address this problem, the Municipality of Ixelles/Elsene has launched a pilot initiative: 12 low-income households have benefited from an individualised guidance plan over one year, including an audit and €100 per household for minor energy-saving investments such as an aluminium plate behind radiators, a foam-creating showerhead, etc.

The Municipality of Uccle/Ukkel has also created an Energy Counter, where concrete help is given to members of the public with making their homes energy-efficient. The project also aims to provide information about green building, everyday actions to save energy and water, loans, credits, bonuses and tax breaks, and guidance to energy-saving facilitators and auditors.

### Eco & Co: energy-saving training at the Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis CPAS-OCMW

CAFA Asbl and the Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis CPAS-OCMW have developed the preventive service “Eco & Co”. It is free of charge and open to anyone living in Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis – although its priority target is CPAS-OCMW users – and its main activities take the form of participatory information workshops and individualised services to help save energy.

As well as these workshops, Eco & Co offers:

- simplified energy audits in the home,
- social guidance on energy,
- an equipment-lending service and assisted self-learning centre (wattmeters, etc.),
- a library and toy library: books and games on all themes addressed at the workshops,
- services: ecological workers visit tents in their homes to do minor jobs that will help them reduce their energy and water bills.

### Increased use of renewable energy in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

The Municipality has decided to increase its use of renewable energy. Several actions have been initiated: since 2011, municipal buildings have used green electricity; a group purchase of solar panels for local residents has been organised and a cogeneration unit has been installed at the sports centre.

# Planet-friendly transport

Nearly 400,000 cars travel on Brussels' roads every day. The consequences of this huge influx are numerous: congestion, bad-tempered driving, a high risk of accidents, and of course air pollution. LA21 projects promote soft mobility: cycling, walking and eco-driving – all smart forms of transport in Brussels.

## Service bikes for the Municipality of Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde

The Municipality has acquired four bikes for administration personnel to use for work-related journeys. There are two traditional bikes and two electric bikes, in view of the hilly terrain in the Municipality. They have all the equipment necessary to cope with rain, the transportation of documents, etc. There are plans to build a secure covered bike-shed near to the municipal site. The aim is to add to the fleet so that all personnel can make use of it.

Officials in Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde get around by **bike**.

## Training in eco-driving for municipal workers in Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis

Responsive driving is a set of behaviours which, when combined, lead to 20 to 40% fuel savings! They include moving quickly into higher gears, avoiding sudden acceleration and braking, using the engine brake rather than the brake pedal wherever possible, etc. A dozen employees at the municipal garage of Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis have attended five eco-driving sessions.

Eco-driving can lead to fuel savings of 20 to 40%.

## Getting to school using soft mobility in Jette and Evere

How can congestion on school approach roads be avoided? By encouraging parents and children to travel to school using public transport or on foot. In order to do this, the Region has initiated a policy which aims to organise 'walking buses' between central locations (e.g. a metro station) and school. Several municipalities have responded to this idea, including Jette, which has initiated two walking buses of about twenty children each. The service is free of charge.

A healthy walk for the children, and fewer cars outside the school gates.

In Evere, as part of the Pédibus project, the supervision of the walking buses is organised on a rota by parents and accredited supervisors. Pupils from the 'Clair-vivre' school have formed two walking buses between the school and the Music Academy four times a week, and pupils from the 'La Source' school have formed a walking bus twice a week. The Municipality plans to increase the number of such schemes.

## Bike boxes in Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek

Many keen cyclists are put off by the lack of a place to put their bike where it will be safe and protected from the weather. Various municipal services, local associations (Jeunes Schaerbeekois au Travail, Recyclart, le Gracq, etc.) and members of the public have suggested a solution: covered and locked individual boxes. The Municipality has installed 18 of these. As an added environmental touch, green roofs have been created on the bike boxes!

18 secure boxes for cyclists.

## Walking buses at Jette: a positive move

For parents who no longer need to negotiate the morning rush hour, and for the safety and health of their children, a short walk early in the morning can only do good!



# And plenty of other projects too

The LA21 projects also relate to sectors such as litter, water, sustainable shops, eco-management, and so on. We take a look at several of these below.

## A video about keeping Etterbeek tidy

A number of interviews were conducted during the event and will shortly be used to make an educational video about litter and waste management. The video will feature all the stakeholders, including pupils, local residents, shopkeepers, municipal workers in this area, etc.

## Etterbeek raises awareness about litter and waste

In 2012, a poster competition was organised on the theme “A tidier city: it’s up to you too!”: 45 participants, including a school, sent in their designs. The winning posters were displayed on the 70 advertising hoardings present in the Municipality and all the posters were exhibited at the Municipal Hall. A ‘Tidier city caravan’ travelled through Etterbeek, involving the personnel and vehicles of the municipal cleaning service, brass bands and street theatre troupes. Over 700 “tidier city” packs were handed out.

## In Uccle/Ukkel: better rainwater management

When there is heavy rain, Uccle/Ukkel has problems with the public drains becoming overburdened, and sometimes from flooding. The Municipality is offering local residents a rainwater seepage premium. The idea is to encourage the creation of various systems which will enable rainwater to seep away directly into the ground (soakaways, ditches, drains, etc.).

Another project being considered is the “mail Saint-Job / Sint-Jobstroom”. This involves creating a strip of grass alongside the road, crossed by pedestrian paths, which will integrate various systems enabling rainwater to seep into the ground.

## A tidier city: it’s up to you too!

## Pilot experience in Uccle/Ukkel

This form of rainwater and flood management is a first for the Municipality of Uccle/Ukkel and could serve as a pilot experience for other public spaces and private gardens.





### Social cohesion: children's streets in Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis

Closing roads to traffic during the school holidays is a project which has the big advantage of enabling children to reclaim the street, neighbours to meet one another, and in short to create a real neighbourhood feel. Following an information session and contacts with neighbourhood associations, seven streets volunteered to participate in the project. It was a great success, to the delight of locals. At the same time, sustainable activities were offered to local residents, including bike workshops and games about sustainable food.

## Reclaiming the street!

### New passive dwellings of the Brussels CPAS-OCMW at Neder-Over-Heembeek

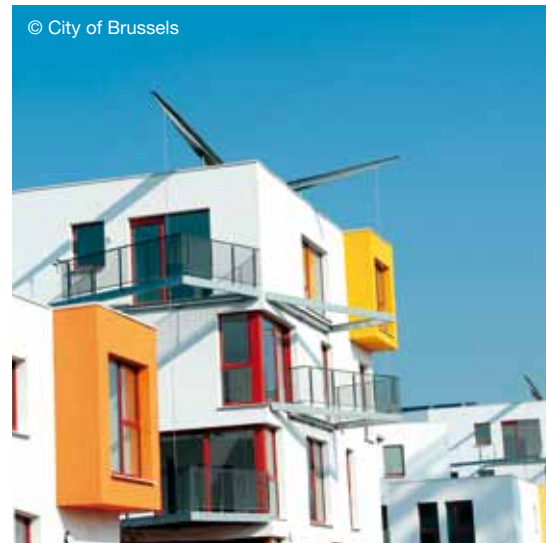
The “Bruyn Nord/Bruyn Noord” project involves the creation in Neder-Over-Heembeek of 200 passive dwellings, a multipurpose hall and a shop. Public/semi-private spaces play a prominent role in the scheme and have perfectly assimilated the concept of sustainable urban development that encourages social interchanges (a common hall), soft mobility (87 bicycle parking places) and access for people with reduced mobility, and even the creation of common vegetable gardens.

### Ecomanagement: several municipalities are ecodynamic!

The Ecodynamic label is an official recognition of the good environmental management practices introduced by companies and institutions in Brussels. It is awarded by the Region (Brussels Environment). Several municipalities have obtained the label for their administrations: Anderlecht, Evere, Etterbeek, Jette, Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde and Brussels.

The actions developed in order to obtain the label vary greatly:

- the development of green building technologies: installation of solar panels, wooden window frames, natural paint, green roofs, etc.;
- the drawing up of a company transport plan;
- the inclusion of environmental clauses in the specifications for cleaning products, office supplies and other purchases;
- the acquisition of cleaner municipal vehicles;
- etc.



### Training in sustainable development for employees of the Municipality of Etterbeek

Organised in late 2009 and early 2010, this compulsory course for all 650 municipal employees was intended to raise awareness about sustainable development issues in everyday life and within the Municipality. It was used to explain LA21 and its goals and implications. Mixed groups (consisting of both administrative and manual workers) of 20 people were formed to attend the sessions.

### Testimonial

*“The Municipality of Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis would like to develop an activity and information toolkit on sustainable development, for use by local people and for activities with young people.”*

*Sandrine Snyers, Municipality of Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis*

### Direct results in Etterbeek

Protecting the environment and LA21 no longer hold any secrets for the municipal workers, and numerous suggestions and proposals regarding actions have been made for more sustainable development at the administration and in the Municipality. The course subsequently led to the idea of creating an ‘Eco-Team’ within the Administration.



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### Training for caretakers in the Municipality of Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis

In April 2011, the Municipality of Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis brought together the caretakers of schools, public buildings, etc. A morning of awareness-raising about climate change and a presentation of the Municipality's activities relating to energy (monitoring consumption, investments, boilers, lighting, etc.) formed the first part of the course. In the afternoon, the participants were shown how to run a new heating installation. The course was supplemented with coaching for seven caretakers in schools, including a visit to technical installations, in order to consider their strengths and weaknesses and the improvements that they themselves had in mind. Savings following: €50,000 in one year!

A training course which saved €50,000!

### Forest/Vorst CPAS-OCMW and the eco iris project

Using public transport, reducing your energy bill, participating in collective composting, setting up a vegetable garden, creating a living facade or roof, etc.: all these actions are rewarded with the eco iris, a complementary currency (1 eco iris equals 0.10 €) that can then be used in local shops. The “complementary currency” can then circulate, between shops, the population, etc. This regional project aims to encourage sustainable behaviours and support local economic development.

Two pilot projects have been developed in Forest/Vorst and Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek. In Forest/Vorst, the CPAS-OCMW is participating by mainly organising workshops to make ecological cleaning products and by having an eco iris desk open to the public the first Wednesday of the month, from 15:30 to 17:30. It is taking part in this project because sustainable development and the fight against poverty are among its priorities. By encouraging its users to participate in the project, it helps to promote their environmentally-friendly behaviours while increasing their purchasing power.

Eco iris?  
Positive environmental behaviours and support for the local economy.



# More information

For full details of the Local Agendas 21: [www.agendairis21.be](http://www.agendairis21.be)

## Regional coordination:

Brussels Environment:  
[www.brusselsenvironment.be/agenda21](http://www.brusselsenvironment.be/agenda21)

Association of the City and Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region:  
[www.avcb-vsgb.be/english](http://www.avcb-vsgb.be/english)

Foundation for Future Generations: [www.fgf.be](http://www.fgf.be)

## Further information may be obtained on the websites of the municipal administrations involved in the LA21s:

- Anderlecht: [www.anderlecht.irisnet.be](http://www.anderlecht.irisnet.be)
- Berchem-Sainte-Agathe/Sint-Agatha-Berchem: [www.berchem.irisnet.be](http://www.berchem.irisnet.be)
- Brussels: [www.brussels.irisnet.be](http://www.brussels.irisnet.be)
- Etterbeek: [www.etterbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.etterbeek.irisnet.be)
- Evere: [www.evere.irisnet.be](http://www.evere.irisnet.be)
- Forest/Vorst: [www.forest.irisnet.be](http://www.forest.irisnet.be) – [www.vorst.irisnet.be](http://www.vorst.irisnet.be)
- Ixelles/Elsene: [www.ixelles.be/site/fr/agenda21](http://www.ixelles.be/site/fr/agenda21) – [www.elsene.irisnet.be/site/nl/agenda21](http://www.elsene.irisnet.be/site/nl/agenda21)
- Jette: [www.jette.irisnet.be](http://www.jette.irisnet.be)
- Molenbeek-Saint-Jean/Sint-Jans-Molenbeek: [www.molenbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.molenbeek.irisnet.be)
- Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis: [www.stgilles.irisnet.be](http://www.stgilles.irisnet.be) – [www.stgillis.irisnet.be](http://www.stgillis.irisnet.be)
- Saint-Josse-ten-Noode/Sint-Joost-ten-Node: [www.stjosse.irisnet.be](http://www.stjosse.irisnet.be) – [www.stjoost.irisnet.be](http://www.stjoost.irisnet.be)
- Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek: [www.schaerbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.schaerbeek.irisnet.be) – [www.schaarbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.schaarbeek.irisnet.be)
- Uccle/Ukkel: [www.uccle.irisnet.be](http://www.uccle.irisnet.be) – [www.ukkel.irisnet.be](http://www.ukkel.irisnet.be)
- Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde: [www.watermael-boitsfort.irisnet.be](http://www.watermael-boitsfort.irisnet.be) – [www.watermaal-bosvoorde.irisnet.be](http://www.watermaal-bosvoorde.irisnet.be)
- Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe: [agenda21wsl.wordpress.com](http://agenda21wsl.wordpress.com)
- Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe: [www.agenda21woluwe1150.be](http://www.agenda21woluwe1150.be)

## CPAS-OCMWs involved in the LA21:

- Berchem-Sainte-Agathe/Sint-Agatha-Berchem CPAS-OCMW: [www.cpasberchem.irisnet.be](http://www.cpasberchem.irisnet.be) – [www.ocmwberchem.irisnet.be](http://www.ocmwberchem.irisnet.be)
- Brussels CPAS-OCMW: [www.cpasbru.irisnet.be](http://www.cpasbru.irisnet.be) – [www.ocmwbru.irisnet.be](http://www.ocmwbru.irisnet.be)
- Etterbeek CPAS-OCMW: [www.cpas-etterbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.cpas-etterbeek.irisnet.be) – [www.ocmw-etterbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.ocmw-etterbeek.irisnet.be)
- Forest/Vorst CPAS-OCMW: [www.cpasforest.irisnet.be](http://www.cpasforest.irisnet.be) – [www.ocmwvorst.irisnet.be](http://www.ocmwvorst.irisnet.be)
- Molenbeek-Saint-Jean/Sint-Jans-Molenbeek CPAS-OCMW: [www.cpas-molenbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.cpas-molenbeek.irisnet.be) – [www.ocmw-molenbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.ocmw-molenbeek.irisnet.be)
- Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis CPAS-OCMW: [www.cpas1060.be](http://www.cpas1060.be) – [www.ocmw1060.be](http://www.ocmw1060.be)
- Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe: [www.cpas1200.be](http://www.cpas1200.be) – [www.ocmw1200.be](http://www.ocmw1200.be)

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