

# **BRUSSELS ENVIRONMENT**

The Environment and Energy Agency of the Brussels-Capital Region

Working to improve the quality of life of the people of Brussels





## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The air we breathe, the soil and the green areas on which we walk, the energy we consume, the waste and noise we produce, the biodiversity with which we coexist... managing these key areas of our daily lives is the work of Brussels Environment.

#### **OUR QUALITY OF LIFE...**

Living in a green city, where the air is cleaner, where nature is present, where noise is kept under control... these are very legitimate expectations. Working for the environment means working to ensure a better quality of life for everyone.

#### ... AND OUR HEALTH

Pollution peaks in winter, ozone peaks in summer, the spread of allergy problems, stress related to noise and traffic... The news reminds us every day that the environment has an influence on our health, and that it is therefore vital to preserve it.

#### **BRUSSELS AND THE PLANET**

The planet's resources are growing scarcer, the Earth is warming up and biodiversity is under threat. But there are things we can do! For the preservation of our planet, our habitat and that of our children, every action counts, especially given that there are more than a million of us in Brussels.





ANALYSING, PLANNING, MANAGING, ACTING

With 25 years of experience and a 950-strong workforce, Brussels Environment has the talent and tools to meet these challenges.

#### **GATHERING INFORMATION**

We conduct measurements and surveys of the quality of air, water and green spaces, of noise sources and of household waste. Because taking focused action starts with an accurate analysis of the situation.

#### **PLANNING ACTIONS**

We produce plans to combat global warming, air pollution and urban noise, to encourage energy-saving measures and preserve biodiversity, and to promote waste prevention and management as well as water management.

#### TAKING ACTION ON THE GROUND, DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

Creating and maintaining green spaces, ensuring the safety of their users, studying the potential impact of a facility on the local area, handling complaints from members of the public... local actions are our day-to-day reality.





## EDUCATING, ADVISING, GUIDING

Brussels Environment issues practical advice to members of the public through awareness-raising campaigns, events, brochures, the website www.bruxellesenvironnement.be and the Environmental Information hotline 02/775.75.75.

#### **GETTING INFORMATION**

Scientific data and analyses are available to the public at www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/etatdelenvironnement. You can also consult the Documentation Centre on our website, which contains a wealth of information.

Subscribe to the magazine Ma ville, notre planète in paper or electronic format or subscribe to our electronic newsletter for the general public. For professionals, we also publish the quarterly Brussels Environment News magazine and a monthly electronic newsletter. For the latest news, consult Facebook, Twitter and Vimeo.

Finally, our new building on the Tour & Taxis site hosts an information and documentation centre on sustainable development which is open to the public all year round.

#### SUPPORTING YOUR INITIATIVES

For citizens, businesses, municipalities and associations wishing to take action, we offer many forms of support. Examples include energy grants, Local Agenda 21 subsidies for sustainable development and the call for citizen Sustainable Neighbourhood projects.

However, the help we give is not just financial: we also offer tools such as training and coaching (on composting, vegetable-growing, sustainable food...), reusable cups for events, educational materials for teachers and so on.



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## **AT YOUR SERVICE**

- Need advice on saving energy in your home?
- Want to build or renovate sustainably?
- Need advice on sustainable consumption?
- Looking for information about green spaces?
- Developing an environmental education or training plan?
- Developing environmental management in your company?
- Want to take advantage of economic opportunities in the environmental field ?
- Need information on environmental licences?
- Want to complain about an environmental nuisance?...

02 775 75 75 WWW.BRUXELLESENVIRONNEMENT.BE WWW.LEEFMILIEUBRUSSEL.BE



## WORKING WITH BUSINESSES

Through awareness-raising actions, training, financial incentives... we help companies to develop their business while having a positive impact on the environment.

We also help them to comply with the legal obligations in environmental matters.

#### **DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS**

Environmental challenges impel businesses to modify their internal processes, develop new energy-saving technologies, reduce waste quantities and build with less polluting materials on a daily basis.

In order to help them, we provide information and advice and support voluntary actions, notably by awarding the 'eco-dynamic enterprise' label.

We also help ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the environment. We review and manage authorisation applications and environmental licences, and control and monitor business activities.

#### AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ECONOMY

The environment is a source of sustainable economic development. For example, Brussels is moving towards a circular economy, in which waste is no longer disposed of, but reused or recycled.

Brussels Environment encourages initiatives in several sectors, including construction, water management, waste and food. These green sectors represent a very significant job potential.







## TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE CITY

Brussels has set itself the goal of meeting the major environmental, social and economic challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It wants to become an increasingly sustainable city. Everyone has a role to play in meeting this goal.

#### **EVERY ACTION COUNTS**

Buildings, for example, account for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions in Brussels. Improving buildings' energy performance (e.g. using insulation) and constructing to the 'passive' standard will significantly reduce these emissions.

But it is also possible to change the way we consume: buying fruits and vegetables that are local and in season, avoiding overpackaged products, preferring tap water to bottled water, using public transport or cycling... all these things have a real impact.

#### TOGETHER

There are countless collective projects, such as neighbourhood vegetable gardens or composts, community supported agriculture through purchasing groups which supply baskets of seasonal fruits and vegetables, or sustainable neighbourhoods. School and business canteens have also committed to putting sustainable dishes on the menu. Whether you are a citizen, an employer, a non-profit organisation or a member of a school management committee, let's make Brussels a sustainable city together!



## FIELDS IN WHICH WE OPERATE

- Air
- Waste
- Energy
- Water
- · Green spaces and biodiversity
- Woodlands
- Noise
- Soil
- Sustainable food
- Animal welfare
- Support for citizens' initiatives
- Electromagnetic radiation
- The transition to a more sustainable economy
- Sustainable development
- Green building
- Eco-mobility
- Health
- Climate

