

Regreen fact sheets - showcasing inspiring NBS from across Europe

By/ Roger Roca Vallejo & Daniela Rizi, iCLEI. Map by Julius Knopp, UFZ

Showcasing inspiring examples of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) from cities around Europe to serve as a reference on NBS planning and implementation can be a common practice in some European projects. However, a description of the process to obtain the necessary data is not usually included in the final output. This differentiates REGREEN's fact sheets, as we show the process that was pursued to get to the end result!



> OBJECTIVES

The Edinburgh Living Landscape is a nature network that works to benefit both local people and wildlife and make the city of Edinburgh one of the most sustainable cities in Europe by 2050. The network's goal is to introduce nature across the city neighbourhoods and demonstrate that investment in natural capital makes economic sense while increasing biodiversity and creates healthier urban ecosystems.

> DESCRIPTION

To achieve the above mentioned goal, Edinburgh Living Landscape aims to establish attractive, bio-rich meadows, shrub beds, and woodlands across the city, thus reinforcing and expanding existing green networks and reconnecting the people of Edinburgh to their natural environment. This project comprises a group of organisations, such as the following: Scottish Wildlife Trust, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, University Of Edinburgh, NatureScot, Butterfly Conservation Trust, and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland, which work together to create a multi-scale network of green spaces.

The project made use of Geographic Information Systems to identify suitable areas in which to act. During the mapping process, potential locations for more naturalised grasslands were identified, always trying to get a spatial

balance across the city. The project involves interventions with the existing green estate through a mixture of seeding, bulb planting and relaxed grass cutting regimes. The majority of the locations are situated on aggressively managed grassland areas with strong cutting regimes every few weeks. The introduction of a properly maintained wildflower meadow allows the pollinator populations and other species of insects, birds and mammals to thrive.

Edinburgh Living Landscape (ELL) produces every two years a report on what has been achieved within that period. According to the [impact report from 2016-2017](#), in total there are 840 hectares of grass green spaces in the city, from which 12-13% have been transformed into biodiversity-rich living landscape grasslands. Other quantitative impacts include the creation of 74 new floral meadows and 0,52 ha of woodland habitats.

During those years, the University of Edinburgh carried out 221 meadow pollinator monitoring surveys at different sites and over a period of time to identify which specific species have been benefitting from the changes. The city council measured the extent of the area transformed for the report.

Since the start of the ELL, the council has had an ongoing public information strategy to ensure the citizens were aware of the changes made in local parks and green

The fact sheets showcase 13 inspiring NBS applied case studies, covering the following topics: *Biodiversity* (two fact sheets: [1,2](#)); *Governance* (two fact sheets: [1,2](#)); [Health and Wellbeing](#); [Education](#); [Water Quality Improvement](#); [Flood Mitigation](#); [Noise Mitigation](#); [Heat Mitigation](#); [Air Quality Improvement](#); [Business Activation](#); and [Urban Design Elements](#). A guide range of NBSs case typologies are covered; such as green roofs, restoration projects, urban forests or artificial wetlands.

All of the fact sheets share a similar structure including Objectives, Description, Challenges, Opportunities, Lessons learned, Inspiration for others, and a connection with the Sustainable Development Goals.

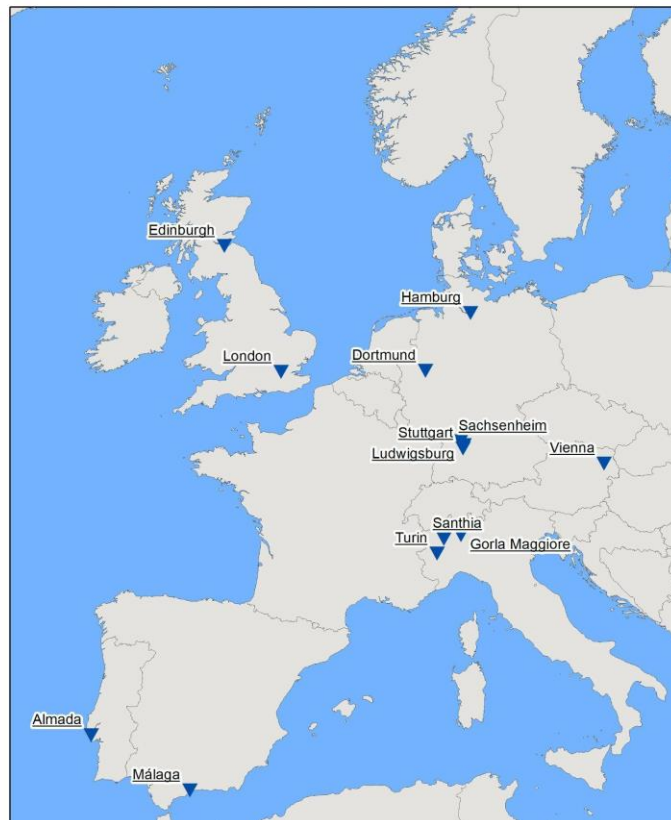
The elaboration process is also an important part of the fact sheets. It entailed several simultaneous, overlapping and iterative phases, which can be summarized as follows:

- **Contact Regreen experts:** Email exchanges and virtual meetings with experts in different fields related to NBS to agree on the set of 11 NBS-related topics and to co-design the structure of the questionnaires and interviews.
- **Oppla Platform as a source of NBS Cases:** Oppla was chosen as the sample frame to extract inspirational cases and a detailed spreadsheet with several filters was prepared to assess these.
- **Case Selection Process:** Inspiring practices were identified in terms of the 11 NBS-related topics, some of them beyond the Oppla platform. The ICLEI team had the chance to complement the already rich Oppla database of cases, adding around ten new cases to it.

- Questionnaires and Interviews: Questionnaires specific to each topic were designed and sent to each case owner for responses, followed up by interviews to clarify any open questions, agree on the provision of images, and obtain permission for the use of the collected information.
- Drafting Process of the Fact Sheets: Once the concrete fact sheet structure was set up, a draft for each topic was prepared and shared with the case owners for review. Following the integration of their feedback, a second draft was sent to REGREEN partners and ICLEI colleagues to ensure quality check in terms of content and language. Finally, the end version of each fact sheet was sent out to the designer.

We have received a lot of positive feedback on the fact sheets already, as these highlight good practices that can be inspiring for many cities around the world. Selected fact sheets will be promoted in China through the REGREEN Urban Living Labs in China (Beijing, Shanghai and Ningbo) and through the ICLEI East Asia network.

If you are interested in knowing more about each of the inspiring NBS cases, please visit [the Regreen Website](#).



The location of the cases include the following cities: Dortmund, Hamburg, Sachsenheim, Stuttgart, Ludwigsburg (Germany), London, Edinburg (United Kingdom) Turin, Santhía, Gorla Maggiore (Italy) Almada (Portugal), Vienna (Austria), Malaga (Spain).

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THE REGREEN FACT SHEETS - FROM START TO FINISH



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SDGs are incorporated in the cases depicted
in all the fact sheets.



Image: Biotope City Wien / GREENPASS