

# Environment Forum 2026

One planet cities: bringing science, policy and practice  
together

3-6 November 2026

## Background: *An era of poly-crises and emergency response*

It's not new to say that we are living in an era of multiple and connected crises. Human-induced environmental changes have without a doubt pushed our planet's socio-ecological systems into an era of chronic, complex, and rapid disruptions ([Hukkinen et al., 2022](#)). From global warming to the biosphere and deforestation, from pollutants and plastic to nitrogen cycles and freshwater: six of nine [planetary boundaries](#) are being crossed ([Stockholm resilience Centre, 2023](#)) which together mark a critical threshold for increasing risks to people and the ecosystems we are part of.

But our joint summer experiences have demonstrated a new turning point for crisis management. Cities are on the frontline facing heatwaves, wildfires, and floods, as well as pollution and resource pressures. These crises demand quick decisions and effective action. Yet the underlying *complexity*, and interconnectedness of these challenges require careful, long-term thinking across disciplines and scales.

As scientists predict another record-breaking year for 2027, the liveability of our cities in the short term is in the balance, as is the longer-term viability of cities. How can we ensure evidence-based medium and long-term planning remains at the heart of emergency response?

Hosted by the European Green Capital, Guimarães, this year's Eurocities Environment Forum will bring together city leaders, researchers and practitioners to explore how urban governance can bridge short-term responsiveness with long-term resilience and preparedness. Discussions will examine how decision-making can be better integrated across neighbourhood, city, national and European levels to ensure that local action contributes to global sustainability goals. By embedding resilience, foresight and systems thinking into everyday governance, cities can move beyond reactive crisis management towards proactive, adaptive approaches that strengthen both communities and the planet.

## Programme overview: 3 – 6 November

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Tuesday 3 November</b></p> <p><b>13.00-17.45</b></p>   | <p><b>PM</b> EEF 2026 welcome and scene setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee and parallel newcomer session</li> <li>• Official welcome</li> <li>• Keynotes</li> <li>• Political discussion</li> <li>• Eurocities policy updates</li> </ul> <p><i>Official dinner at 19.00</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Wednesday 4 November</b></p> <p><b>09.15-17.45</b></p> | <p><b>AM</b> Study visits hosted by Guimarães</p> <p><b>PM</b> Parallel workshops co-led by WG chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can cities use the latest science to visualise and explore the potential impacts of policy options with citizens?</li> <li>• How can the mission-oriented city-science approach support evidence-based policy making in other sectors?</li> <li>• What can heatwave and flooding crisis management teach us about long-term planning?</li> </ul> <p><i>(Parallel closed-door political discussions, registration needed)</i></p> <p>Meetings will be followed by an informal dinner with forum members.</p> |
| <p><b>Thursday 5 November</b></p> <p><b>09.00-17.00</b></p>  | <p>Parallel working group (WG) meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Air Quality</li> <li>• WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• WG Green Areas and Biodiversity</li> <li>• WG Noise</li> <li>• WG Waste and Circular Economy</li> </ul> <p>Meetings will be followed by an informal dinner with WG members.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Friday 6 November</b></p> <p><b>09.00-12.30</b></p>    | <p>Parallel working group meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Air Quality</li> <li>• Joint WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and Waste and Circular Economy</li> <li>• Joint WG Green Areas and Biodiversity and Task Force Adaptation</li> <li>• WG Noise</li> </ul> <p>Wrap up, reflection and closing.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## Detailed Programme

### DAY 1 - Tuesday 3 November 2026

Venue: Jordão Theatre

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13.00-14.00</b> | <p><b>Welcome coffee and registration</b></p> <p><i>(please note there will be no lunch provided)</i></p> <p>Participants will be able to collect their badges for the entire Forum at each of the venues for the Working Groups.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>13.30-14.00</b> | <p><b>Newcomer session</b></p> <p>First time attending the Environment Forum? This session is for you!</p> <p>In this session, participants can gain a deeper understanding of Eurocities' organisational structure and learn about the advantages of being a member. They will learn about the thematic areas of the ENVI Forum and the different opportunities that offers for its members. Additionally, this session will provide a space for participants to engage in discussion with Eurocities' team and voice specific needs and interests of their cities. It's also an opportunity to meet the cities that are leading our working groups!</p> |
| <b>14.00-14.15</b> | <p><b>EEF 2026 welcome and scene setter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ricardo Araújo, Mayor of Guimaraes (tbc)</li> <li>• Anna Lisa Boni, Deputy Mayor for Climate, Bologna &amp; Chair, Eurocities Environment Forum</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>14.15-14.30</b> | <p><b>Guimarães on One Planet City Declaration</b></p> <p>Awarded European Green Capital 2026, the European Commission's flagship award recognising cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants for their local environmental and climate action, Guimarães will present its <a href="#">One Planet City Declaration</a>. The declaration calls on cities worldwide to strengthen their commitment to addressing the climate emergency through five fundamental pillars: education, science, social justice, the green economy, and culture.</p> |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>14.30-14.50</b> | <p><b>Keynote intervention on climate change and cities</b></p> <p><b>Marta Olazabal</b>, Iker Basque Professor and Ramon y Cajal Fellow at the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) and co-author of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (confirmed)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>14:50-15:10</b> | <p><b>Keynote and interactive session on multi-crises and emergency response</b></p> <p><b>Janne Hukkinen</b>, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Policy at the University of Helsinki (confirmed) and part of the Bios Research Group</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>15:10-15:30</b>                | <b>Moderated panel discussion with keynotes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>15.30-16.10</b>                | <b>Group photo and coffee</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>16.10-17.10</b>                | <p><b>Political panel discussion: the right to stay and thrive in European cities in the era of poly-crises</b></p> <p>Europe's cities are already living with the realities of climate change: hotter summers, more frequent heatwaves, pressure on buildings and infrastructure, rising health risks, and growing inequalities between those who can adapt and those who cannot. In that context, the European Commission's emerging Right to Stay initiative opens an important political debate: what does it mean to ensure that people can continue to live in their city - safely, affordably, and with dignity?</p> <p>This discussion brings together mayors and deputy mayors to reflect on a key defining urban question: how do we keep cities liveable when extreme heat becomes part of everyday life? And how do we ensure that the right to stay also means the right to remain in a healthy environment, with access to decent housing, clean air, green space, and resilient services?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Lisa Boni, Deputy Mayor of Bologna, Chair of the Environment Forum</li> <li>• Other speakers to be confirmed</li> </ul> |
| <b>17:10-17:45</b>                | <p><b>Eurocities policy updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurocities policy priorities and initiatives</li> <li>• New Ways of Working</li> <li>• People at Eurocities</li> <li>• EEF 2027</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>SOCIAL EVENT</b><br>Venue: TBC |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>19.00-22.00</b>                | <p><b>Official dinner</b></p> <p><i>Join fellow participants at a dinner hosted by the city of Guimaraes. Dress code is business casual.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## DAY 2 - Wednesday 4 November 2026

Venue: Palácio Vila Flor

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09.15-09.30 | Meet ahead of departure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 09.30-10.00 | Transfer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10.00-12.00 | <b>Study visits and Guimaraes EGC residencies</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>District C</i> (walking tour)</li> <li><i>Guimarães Biocultural Corridor</i> (A bus will be provided for transfer. However, parts of the tour involve walking outdoors)</li> <li><i>Community Gardens, Veiga de Creixomil &amp; Landscape Laboratory</i> (A bus will be provided for transfer. However, parts of the tour involve walking outdoors)</li> </ol> <p>More details <a href="#">below</a></p>                                        | <b>Politicians' study visit</b> <p>Territorial solutions for Climate Resilience exploring how Guimarães uses nature-based solutions, applied science and evidence-based decision-making to prevent, model and respond to climate risks, with examples integrated into the <a href="#">Green Map</a> and a visit to the Landscape Laboratory.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12.00-12.30 | Transfer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 12.30-13.45 | Lunch break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 13.45-15.15 | <b>Workshops on evidence-based policy making</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Workshop 1:</b> How can cities use the latest science to visualise and explore the potential impacts of policy options with citizens?</li> <li><b>Workshop 2:</b> How can the mission-oriented city-science approach support evidence-based policy making in other sectors?</li> <li><b>Workshop 3:</b> What can heatwave and flooding crisis management teach us about long-term planning?</li> </ul> <p>More details <a href="#">below</a></p> | <b>Closed-door high level political meeting</b><br>(invitation only for deputy mayors and mayors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Topic 1:</b> How to keep momentum for climate policies in electoral campaigns and fight climate backlashes and disinformation?</li> <li><b>Topic 2:</b> What did this summer and autumn teach us about urban climate resilience and how can cities move from emergency response to preparedness?</li> <li><b>Topic 3:</b> Mobilising our community of EEF politicians. Reflection on policy priorities, the way forwards and political campaigns.</li> </ul> |
| 15.15-15.45 | Coffee break (and transfer to plenary)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 15.45-16.30 | Interactive feedback session                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 16.30-17.30 | City showcase                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | A moment for cities to present their projects to the plenary in an elevator pitch format, followed by open networking as participants move between the stands of the showcase cities. |
| <b>SOCIAL EVENT</b><br>Venue: Jordão Theatre |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>19.00-21.00</b>                           | <b>Informal dinner</b>                                                                                                                                                                |

DRAFT

## DAY 3 - Thursday 5 November 2026

Venue: Palácio Vila Flor

|                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>08.30-09.00</b>                                             | <b>Welcome coffee and registration</b><br><br>Participants will be able to collect their badges in the lobby area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>09.00-12.30</b><br><br><i>(coffee break at 10.00-10.30)</i> | <b>Parallel WG meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Air Quality</li> <li>• WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• WG Green Areas and Biodiversity</li> <li>• WG Noise</li> <li>• WG Waste and Circular Economy</li> </ul> More details <a href="#">below</a>                                                                   |
| <b>12.30-14.00</b>                                             | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>14.00-18.00</b><br><br><i>(coffee break at 15.30-16.00)</i> | <b>Parallel WG meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Air Quality</li> <li>• WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• WG Green Areas and Biodiversity</li> <li>• WG Noise</li> <li>• WG Waste and Circular Economy</li> </ul> More details <a href="#">below</a><br><br><i>EEF steering committee meeting at 18.10-19.00 (tbc)</i> |
| <b>SOCIAL EVENT</b><br>Venue: TBC                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>19.00-22.00</b>                                             | <b>WG informal dinners</b> (at participants' own cost)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## DAY 4 - Friday 6 November 2026

Venue: Palácio Vila Flor

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>08.30-09.00</b> | <b>Welcome coffee and registration</b><br><br><i>Meet at pick-up point - with possibility to leave luggage on site, as the morning programme will end here - and transfer to WG meeting venues.</i> |
| <b>09.00-12.00</b> | <b>Parallel WG meetings</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>(coffee break at 10.30-10.45)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WG Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>JOINT meeting between WG Green Areas and Biodiversity, and TF adaptation</b></li> <li>• <b>WG Noise</b></li> <li>• <b>JOINT meeting between WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and WG Waste and Circular Economy</b></li> </ul> <p>More details <a href="#">below</a></p> |
|                                      | <i>(transfer to plenary)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>12.00-12.30</b>                   | <p>Wrap up and take aways from EEF 2026 in plenary</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

DRAFT

## Overview of parallel study visits and Guimarães EGC residencies

1. District C
2. Guimarães Biocultural Corridor
3. Community Garden, Veiga de Creixomil & Landscape Laboratory

### 1. District C

**District C** is an area of urban innovation that integrates cultural, creative and scientific spaces, linked to the rehabilitation of Couros' industrial heritage. It functions as a living lab where solutions for mobility, energy, waste and land use are tested, bringing the city closer to the climate transition. The cluster brings together educational facilities, research spaces, areas for artistic experimentation and meeting places, enabling different audiences to actively use the territory. District C shows how urban regeneration can support sustainability, combining heritage preservation with new functions and participation models. The project is recognised at European level for its contribution to environmental, cultural and social innovation.

### 2. Guimarães Biocultural Corridor (Retention Basins & Gymnastics Academy)

The **Retention Basins** of the Costa/Couros Stream are climate adaptation infrastructures built to reduce flood risk in the lower part of the city. Located at strategic points, they temporarily store large volumes of water, regulating the streamflow and reducing pressure on the water system during periods of heavier rainfall. The intervention integrated ecological enhancement solutions, such as restoring the riparian gallery, stabilising the banks and creating a green-blue corridor that strengthens natural connectivity. These basins contribute to urban resilience, improving safety, ecosystem functioning and the relationship between the population and the riverside environment.

The **Gymnastics Academy** of Guimarães is a facility dedicated to training and competition, designed with energy-efficiency and environmental-integration criteria. The building - striking for its cork cladding - uses sustainable solutions such as rainwater capture and reuse systems, photovoltaic panels for energy production, and geothermal energy for climate control. These elements reduce consumption, improve thermal performance and lower the facility's ecological footprint. The space was planned to ensure appropriate conditions for sports practice, promoting comfort, safety and indoor air quality. The Gymnastics Academy shows how public facilities can incorporate sustainable construction principles, serving as a local reference for adopting practices aligned with the climate transition.

### 3. Community Garden, Veiga de Creixomil & Landscape Laboratory *Sustainable use of soil: from Policy food to Research and Innovation*

The **Community Garden** is a public area dedicated to urban agriculture, enabling residents to grow produce for their own consumption in individual plots. The project promotes direct contact with nature, encourages more sustainable eating habits and values the fertile soils of the Veiga de Creixomil. The space also serves as an educational resource, offering activities that strengthen environmental literacy and understanding of natural cycles. The garden contributes to community wellbeing, creating opportunities for hands-on learning, social interaction and active participation in the management of green spaces.

**Veiga de Creixomil** is a low-lying area of the city, traversed by the Selho River, historically associated with agriculture and rich in biodiversity. The site maintains a variety of habitats that support local flora and fauna, forming a green corridor within the urban fabric. It is valued for its ecological, cultural, and educational functions, providing opportunities to explore natural cycles, observe wildlife, and understand the interactions between water, soil, and vegetation. Veiga de Creixomil highlights the importance of conserving peri-urban landscapes, balancing heritage, ecosystem services, and community engagement.

The **Landscape Laboratory** is a structure dedicated to research, education and technical support in environmental sustainability. Housed in a rehabilitated former industrial unit, it develops projects in areas as diverse as biodiversity, water resources, climate, health and wellbeing, and circular economy. This Centre hosts researchers, promotes awareness-raising initiatives and coordinates educational programmes. It acts as a link between science, the community and public policies, producing applied knowledge and supporting the implementation of solutions that contribute to climate resilience, sustainable resource management and the municipality's environmental value.

#### Politicians' study visit (in parallel)

Tailored tour by bus with walking segments showcasing territorial solutions for Climate Resilience. The visit will explore how Guimarães uses nature-based solutions, applied science and evidence-based decision-making to prevent, model and respond to climate risks, with examples integrated into the [Green Map](#) and a visit to the Landscape Laboratory.

## Overview of parallel workshops

- **Workshop 1:** How can cities use the latest science to visualise and explore the potential impacts of policy options with citizens?
- **Workshop 2:** How can the mission-oriented city-science approach support evidence-based policy making in other sectors?
- **Workshop 3:** What can heatwave and flooding crisis management teach us about long-term planning?

### Workshop 1: How can cities use the latest science to visualise and explore the potential impacts of policy options with citizens?

Cities are increasingly seeking evidence-based ways to engage citizens in shaping the future of their neighbourhoods and urban environments. This interactive session will introduce the **FutureBEEing** project, which brings together cities and academic partners to develop a digital visualisation tool that translates complex scientific data into accessible scenarios for participatory planning.

The tool enables users to explore the potential impacts of policy and planning decisions across multiple scales - from individual streets and neighbourhoods to entire cities. It integrates scientific indicators covering energy (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and district heating), infrastructure (above and below ground), ecology (including biodiversity, green space and tree canopy cover), urban heat island effects, water and flooding, as well as social indicators such as access to points of interest.

Following a demonstration of the tool and its underlying scientific approach, participants will discuss how such a platform could support decision-making and citizen engagement in their own cities. The workshop will gather feedback on the opportunities, challenges and practical considerations for adopting this type of digital decision-support tool in different local contexts, helping to inform its further development and implementation.

### Workshop 2: How can the mission-oriented city-science approach support evidence-based policy making?

This workshop will explore how Mission Cities are building collaboration with academia and researchers to accelerate climate action and is open to both Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities pursuing similar goals. Drawing on lessons learnt from Mission Cities' engagement with academia for climate neutrality objectives, the workshop looks at the structures and mechanisms currently available to formalise partnerships with universities, along with the opportunities and challenges these collaborations present. Grounded in case studies from selected Mission Cities and from the Guimarães Landscape Laboratory, the session aims to surface lessons and replicable models for all cities seeking to strengthen evidence-based policymaking for and beyond the EU mission.

### **Workshop 3: What can heatwave and flooding crisis management teach us about long-term planning?**

This workshop will explore what cities can learn from emergency preparedness to strengthen long-term planning. The workshop will focus on connecting scientific evidence with adaptive decision-making and long-term urban planning. Drawing on findings from the Eurocities Pulse survey and the experience of Mechelen's crisis management exercise, participants will examine how evidence can support more effective responses to complex and evolving climate-related emergencies. The session will highlight the need for flexible decision-support tools, such as adaptive decision trees, that help cities prioritise actions in situations where traditional crisis plans may not reflect rapidly changing realities.

Through two interactive breakout discussions, participants will work through scenarios such as heatwaves and flooding to identify immediate challenges, explore the interconnections between infrastructure, social, environmental and public health impacts, and consider how existing long-term plans influence emergency response priorities. The workshop will conclude by identifying the tools, knowledge, partnerships and future collaboration needed to help cities translate evidence into adaptive, coordinated and resilient action.

## Overview of Working Groups meetings

(More details to come)

### WG Air Quality

The one-and-a-half-day meeting will bring together air quality experts from the Eurocities network to exchange knowledge and practical experiences on several aspects concerning air quality in European cities.

- **Thursday AM:**
  - WG roundtable – update and input by each member
  - How can new air quality targets, the need for action and the introduction of new measures by a city communicated? Participants will explore and share effective approaches to public engagement and discuss city practices.
- **Thursday PM:**
  - Continuation of the roundtable on the communication
  - As a continuation of the work on sensors, some time will be dedicated to the ongoing preparations of the briefing document.
  - Guimaraes – intro and site visit (tbc)
- **Friday AM:**

Focus on examining key implementation aspects of the Ambient Air Quality Directive, including the extension of deadlines for limit values and the evaluation of measures under Annex 8. In addition, members will share updates from ongoing initiatives and identify priority topics and activities for the working group's 2027 work programme.

### WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

- **Thursday AM:**
  - Introduction by Guimarães
  - Tour de table
  - Breakout on climate plans and policy updates
- **Thursday PM:**
  - Session on: *Integrated planning on energy systems*  
Dense urban areas are challenging places to make progress in the energy transition: many neighbourhoods consist of (multi-storey) buildings erected generations ago, and public spaces face challenges (both above and under the ground) to integrate the infrastructure required for the energy transition & clean energy systems. Grid congestion is becoming an increasingly large bottleneck in the electrification process. By planning the energy system in an integrated manner, combining electricity with heating and cooling, local energy storage and existing infrastructure renovation plans, progress towards fossil fuel phase-out can be maintained.
  - Session on: *Heating and cooling systems and gas decommissioning* (more details to come)
- **Friday AM:**

### JOINT MEETING between WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and WG Waste and Circular Economy

This workshop will bring cities together to exchange practical experience on circular construction, showcase initiatives and discuss the regulatory, financial, technical and market barriers to scaling them up. The discussions will identify enabling measures, city practices and policy recommendations to inform Eurocities' advocacy and future activities on circular construction. The meeting will feature examples from cities that are part of the Climate Neutral Cities Mission.

(More details to come)

### WG Green Areas and Biodiversity

- **Thursday AM/PM:**
    - Welcome and introduction to new WG co-chairs and roles, how WG co-chairs will work together, plans for end of 2026 / start of 2027
    - Tour de table
    - Session on: [FutureBEEing project](#) – Building on Wednesday's workshop, this session will delve deeper into the science behind the FutureBEEing tool. Using Hengelo (Netherlands) as a live test case, it will demonstrate how the tool has been used to visualise the effects of policy measures on biodiversity and inform biodiversity and climate adaptation decisions. Participants will see how scientific formulas, developed together with academia partners, translate planning choices into concrete ecological outcomes.
    - Discussion on satisfactory levels related to the Nature Restoration Regulation.
- (More details to come)

- **Friday AM**

### JOINT meeting between WG Green Areas and Biodiversity, and TF adaptation

(More details to come)

### WG Noise

The one-and-a-half-day meeting will cover the following:

- Sharing updates and recent developments from the WG Noise member cities;
- Exchanging experiences and good practices on key urban noise challenges;
- Exploring specific topics, including event noise, nightlife noise and their impacts on neighbouring residents;
- Discussing approaches to noise measurement, including the use of A-weighted and C-weighted decibel levels in the context of events;
- Receiving updates on relevant European and Eurocities policy developments;
- Showcasing city experiences and discussing common problems and challenges;
- Identifying priorities for future Eurocities WG Noise position papers, including tram noise, traffic noise, event noise and the health impacts of noise exposure.

### WG Waste and Circular Economy

The one-and-a-half-day meeting will cover the following:

- **Thursday AM:**
  - Introduction held by Guimarães
  - Tour de table
  - Breakout on EU policy updates (ETS1, the Circular Economy Act and other developments)
  - Session building on topics discussed in previous online and in-person meetings, focusing on city solutions, pilots and experiences. Participants are encouraged to share case studies from their cities to inform discussions in smaller groups. In line with the EEF theme of evidence-based policymaking, the session aims to identify what works, what can be replicated, and what evidence cities can take back home to support local action. Call for case studies and sharing of experience:
    - Table 1: Prevention and Circularity (E.g. Textile waste and food waste, etc.)
    - Table 2: Governance and compliance (E.g. Waste disposal and compliance, Systems for collecting bulky waste, etc.)
    - Table 3: Smart and digital solutions to waste management (E.g. AI and Machine learning, Sorting solutions, etc.)
- **Thursday PM:**
  - Site visit to showcase approaches by Guimarães to waste management dedicated to waste prevention and circularity and tries to bring a holistic insight into the different steps of the city from governance, to waste management to R&D.
  - Collective walk to dinner.
- **Friday AM:**

**JOINT MEETING between WG Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and WG Waste and Circular Economy (see above)**