

Demonstrating the impact of innovative nature-based solutions in Connecting Nature cities



Connecting Nature

Challenge

- Dense city centre
- Limited green space
- Heat island effect

Nature-based solution: Network of green spaces

- Natural playgrounds
- Floating gardens
- Pocket parks
- Allotment gardens



Poznan

Environmental:

Tree shading leads to temperature reduction between 2.2-10C

Social:

Contact with nature: Improved physical, social, emotional development. Improved cognitive skills

Economic:

NBS leads to new product innovations; new business opportunities

Processes:

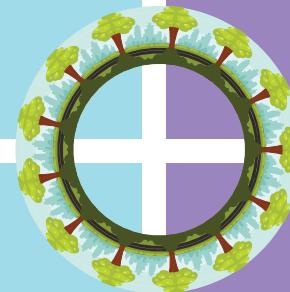
New financing collaboration with private sector

Impacts

Testimonials

The natural playgrounds are a very interesting form to be used in everyday activities with children. Both during planned activities in the garden and during free play, children have the opportunity to see and learn about the nature in direct observation and in action: through sowing, planting, care for plants"

Beata Nowica, Kindergarten Principal.



- Unequal access to green space

Nature-based solution:

- Providing good quality open space within 400m of everyone's home



Glasgow

Environmental:

183k tonnes of carbon stored in Glasgow's trees

Social:

Good quality open space leads to a reduction in prescription medication

Economic:

10 new nature-based startups
20 new entrants onto Accelerator programme #2.

Process:

NBS monitoring and impact embedded into city strategy

"As a participant on the Glasgow NBE Accelerator programme I became a member of a likeminded community of people, people actively wanting to work with nature";

Kimia Witte, Vertical Forest NBE

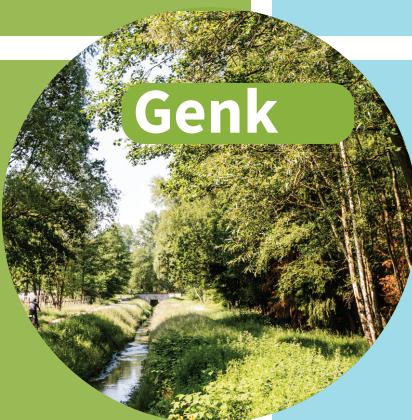


Genk

- Poor water quality in Stiemer river valley
- Biodiversity at risk
- No recreational space along river

Nature-based solution:

- Nature-based blue green infrastructure



Environmental:

Enhanced biodiversity.
48ha of Natura 2000 habitats in Stiemer valley
Rare and unique species identified

Social:

Placemaking: Citizens proud of the Stiemer Valley

Economic:

Stiemerdeals led to 44 social innovation partnerships
15 new products from sustainable food to tourism

Process:

Silo busting: cross departmental learning and reflection through co-production and reflexive monitoring

"The lasting impact of Connecting Nature has been the co-creation of a natural habitat with the city's citizens, protecting and enhancing our local biodiversity and creating new spaces for our people"

Wim Dries, Mayor of Genk

