



European
Commission

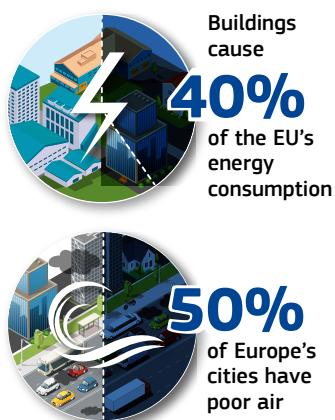
Bringing the Green Deal into our living spaces:

Life and the #NewEuropeanBauhaus

The New European Bauhaus has sustainability, beauty and inclusiveness at its heart. These three principles can put Europe on a path to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. LIFE projects have been on the same path for years.

The origins of Bauhaus

Founded in Weimar in 1919 by Walter Gropius, Bauhaus was a modern art, design and architecture school that reshaped the West in the early 20th century. The movement spawned buildings, fabrics and furniture that were functional, affordable, and beautiful. One hundred years on, the **New European Bauhaus** is also striving to combine aesthetics and affordability while adding sustainability to the mix.



A change for the better

The New European Bauhaus wants to protect our environment by scaling up nature-based materials to support circular design and beautiful architecture. This change is one that people can touch and feel - in buildings, public spaces and districts. The movement calls for new ideas from scientists, designers, architects, engineers, and students to improve our everyday life. And it wants people to change their behaviour in order to achieve a carbon-neutral future.

'The New European Bauhaus has the potential to make the Green Deal a cultural, positive and human-centred experience. It can help us to see, feel, and experience the impact of the green transformation.'

European Commissioner for the Environment Virginijus Sinkevičius

What has the EU done so far?

In 2020, more than 5 000 people took part in the first info-sessions organised by the European Commission, posting hundreds of contributions via the New European Bauhaus website. The Commission then launched the first edition of the **New European Bauhaus prize** before releasing a Call for five pilot projects. Following this, in September 2021, the **New European Bauhaus Communication** was published.

How LIFE fits in

At the November 2021 **Beautiful, sustainable, together: LIFE in the New European Bauhaus conference**, it was agreed that LIFE projects have a key role to play in transferring fundamental New European Bauhaus principles into concrete actions on the ground.

Some LIFE projects are helping to green our buildings and cities; others are looking to nature to help make our planet more resilient and several call for a collective effort to protect our environment.

This is why **financial support** is on offer for LIFE to bring the European Green Deal into our living spaces for a sustainable, inclusive and beautiful future.

How LIFE fits with New European Bauhaus principles



Going green in Belgium

Photo: © EC - 2019 - LIFE13 ENV/BE/000212 - LIFE-GREEN4GREY

In Flanders, Belgium, open space is often converted into housing, commercial buildings, and infrastructure like roads, railways and airports. This open space loss reduces biodiversity, hampers climate change adaptation, and even harms human health.

The **LIFE GREEN4GREY** team introduced green and blue infrastructure elements across this densely-populated region to enhance biodiversity and fight climate change. Work included

transforming former mining sites and farmland into multipurpose landscapes. The team restored beautiful ponds and grew extensive forests, natural grasslands, bushes and orchards. They also helped prevent flooding by restoring natural watercourses like streams. And they engaged with residents, local businesses and schools to raise awareness of climate issues. Also, other European regions are using their green and blue infrastructure guides.

Spain gets its first

multi-ecological neighbourhood



Most urban locations are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including heat island effects and flooding after storms. **LIFE Lugo + Biodinámico** is converting a formerly industrial area in the city of Lugo into a 'multi-ecological' neighbourhood, the first in Spain.

The team is restoring wetlands and planting native trees, such as cherry, ash, and oak. Other actions include collecting rainwater for reuse, building green roofs and walls and installing solar panels and greenhouses. The project's centerpiece is the 'Impulso Verde' (Green impulse) public building, which will be the first in Galicia to be made entirely from certified native wood. Impulso Verde will have an energy balance of almost zero, providing for its needs from alternative energy sources. It will house municipal services and co-working spaces for companies linked to the environment and climate change.

Net zero energy homes for a sustainable future

Current approaches to energy efficiency measures for major renovations across the EU are not enough to meet climate and energy targets. Net-zero energy homes can help ensure a sustainable future that is less reliant on fossil fuels.



Photo: Transition Zero © Frank Hanswijk

The aim of the Horizon 2020 **TRANSITION ZERO** project was to establish the right market conditions for the wide-scale introduction of net-zero energy homes across Europe. The project built on the Energiesprong approach pioneered in the Netherlands. Energiesprong, meaning 'energy leap', aims to shift thinking in the housing refurbishment sector and deliver net-zero energy housing on an industrial scale. The team adapted this sustainable methodology to retrofits in France and the UK in the social housing sector.

Other relevant projects

- ENCHANT
- LIFE UrbanStorm
- INTERLACE
- ERDEN PURE Walls
- LIFE BE REEL!
- ALDREN
- LIFE DEBAG
- TRIFOCAL London
- LIFE EconomisE
- MILE21-LIFE

Learn more

- ec.europa.eu/life
- [LIFE programme](#)
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How to apply for LIFE funding

The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals. Full details are available at ec.europa.eu/life

Contact

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