

# Voluntary Local Review

2023





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Dimitrios**  
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Voluntary Local Review 2023



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# Opening Statement

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# 1/Opening Statement- Mayor's Message



**Maria  
Androutsou**  
**Mayor of  
Agios Dimitrios**

Dear Citizens and Readers,

I am pleased to introduce to you our first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), a milestone for the city of Agios Dimitrios and a token of our dedication to transparency, accountability, and the pursuit of a sustainable and prosperous future.

Agios Dimitrios is a historic suburb in the southern part of Athens with strong community ties, rich cultural heritage and active citizens who participate in public life. Since 2016, the city has been publishing annual or biannual Sustainable Development Reports according to the GRI Standards, the UN Global Compact and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, being the first city in Greece to have taken this initiative.

Our commitment to sustainability reporting has been an integral part of our governance model. It has enabled us to monitor and communicate our progress in addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges. Our sustainability reports go beyond the purpose of publication, as they have also guided us toward a Municipality that functions as a whole, with sustainability issues being integrated in a way that ensures value for the society.

This Voluntary Local Review refers to the years 2020-2021, a period that brought unprecedented challenges to our doorstep, testing the resilience of our city and its people. For this reason, we decided to proceed with our first VLR, as it gives us an opportunity to assess our progress with regards to the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in a period of crisis. Within this review, we explore the initiatives and projects that have defined our city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From healthcare and social support to economic recovery, green transformation and education, we strived to leave no one behind. Our experiences have reinforced our commitment to inclusivity and to addressing the root causes of inequality within our city.

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and 247 indicators provides us with a clear pathway on how to achieve a just and green future. As a Mayor, I am immensely proud that the city of Agios Dimitrios is taking its share of responsibility, and is building this sustainable future at a local level.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the people that have contributed to this report and to all the citizens of Agios Dimitrios who share the vision of a better, more sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,

**Maria Androutsou - Mayor of Agios Dimitrios**

# The City of Agios Dimitrios

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# 2.1 / The city of Agios Dimitrios in numbers



The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios is a suburban area in Southeast Attica with an area of 5,364 acres and an elevation of 60 meters.

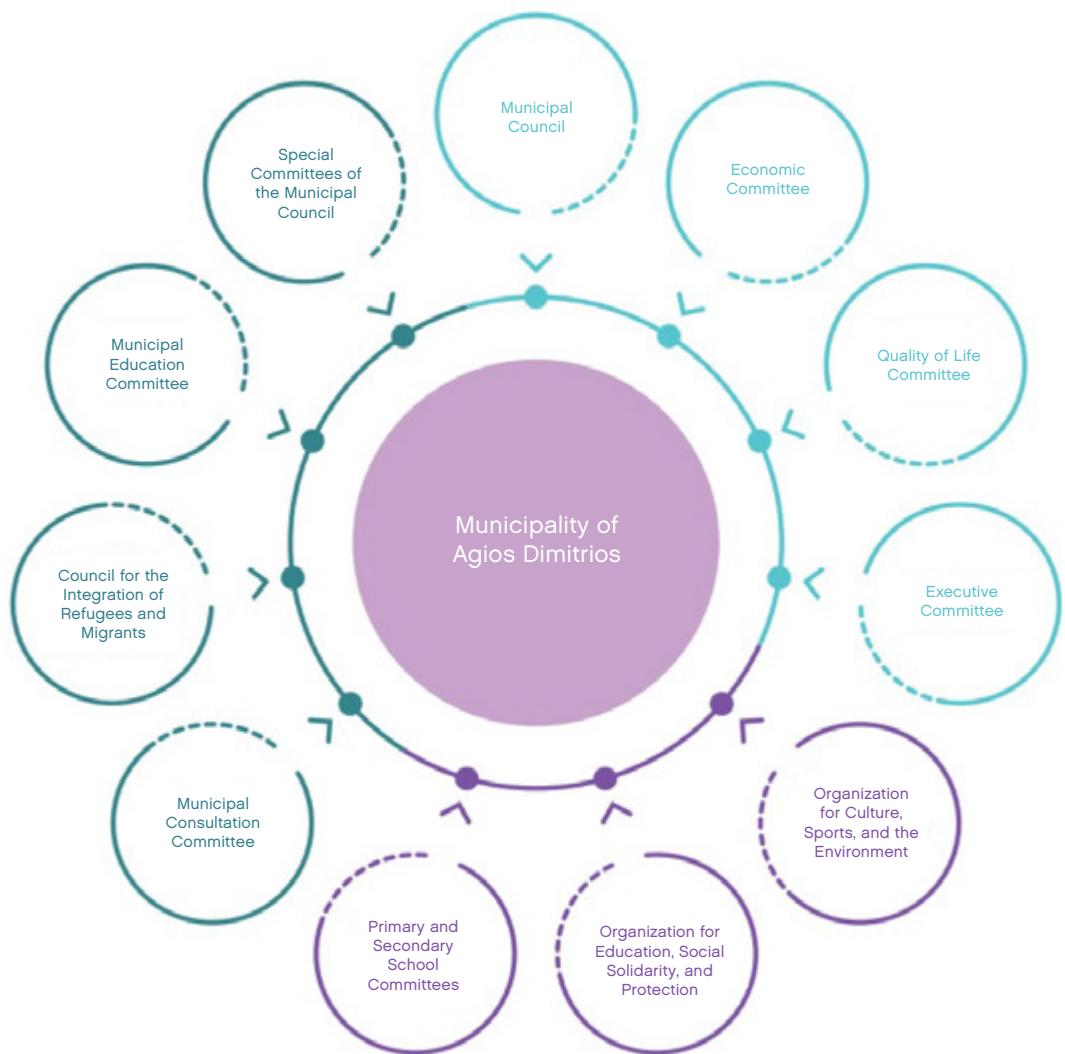
It has a population of 71,664 residents, of which 51.69% are women, based on the latest census in 2021. The most populous age groups consist of residents between 30 and 39 years old and residents between 40 and 49 years old, each accounting for 17%. Residents over the age of 80 make up the smallest population group. Therefore, the population of the area is relatively young, with the economically active groups being the most numerous.

Historically, the settlement developed around the church that bears the same name. The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios is also known by its former name, Brahami. Administratively, it falls under the Regional Unit of the Southern Sector of Athens in the Region of Attica and shares borders with both the center of Athens and the coastal front.

## 2.2 / The municipality of Agios Dimitrios



The municipality has its own Town Hall, housing certain Municipal Services and the ‘Melina Mercouri’ Municipal Theater. It also has a Municipal Stadium, three indoor basketball courts, as well as outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball, tennis, and children’s playgrounds in various neighborhoods. The municipality also owns a children’s camp located in a pine forest area of approximately 10 acres in the coastal zone of Attica.



The Municipal Equality Committee plays a leading role in promoting gender equality in the municipality's policies. It actively contributes to the development of the Local Action Plan for gender equality, formulating proposals and recommendations to the competent municipal authorities so that the necessary measures can be taken.

The aim of the committee is to promote substantive gender equality in all areas of economic, political, and social life. Moreover, it has a primary role in integrating the gender dimension (gender mainstreaming) into all policies falling under its jurisdiction.



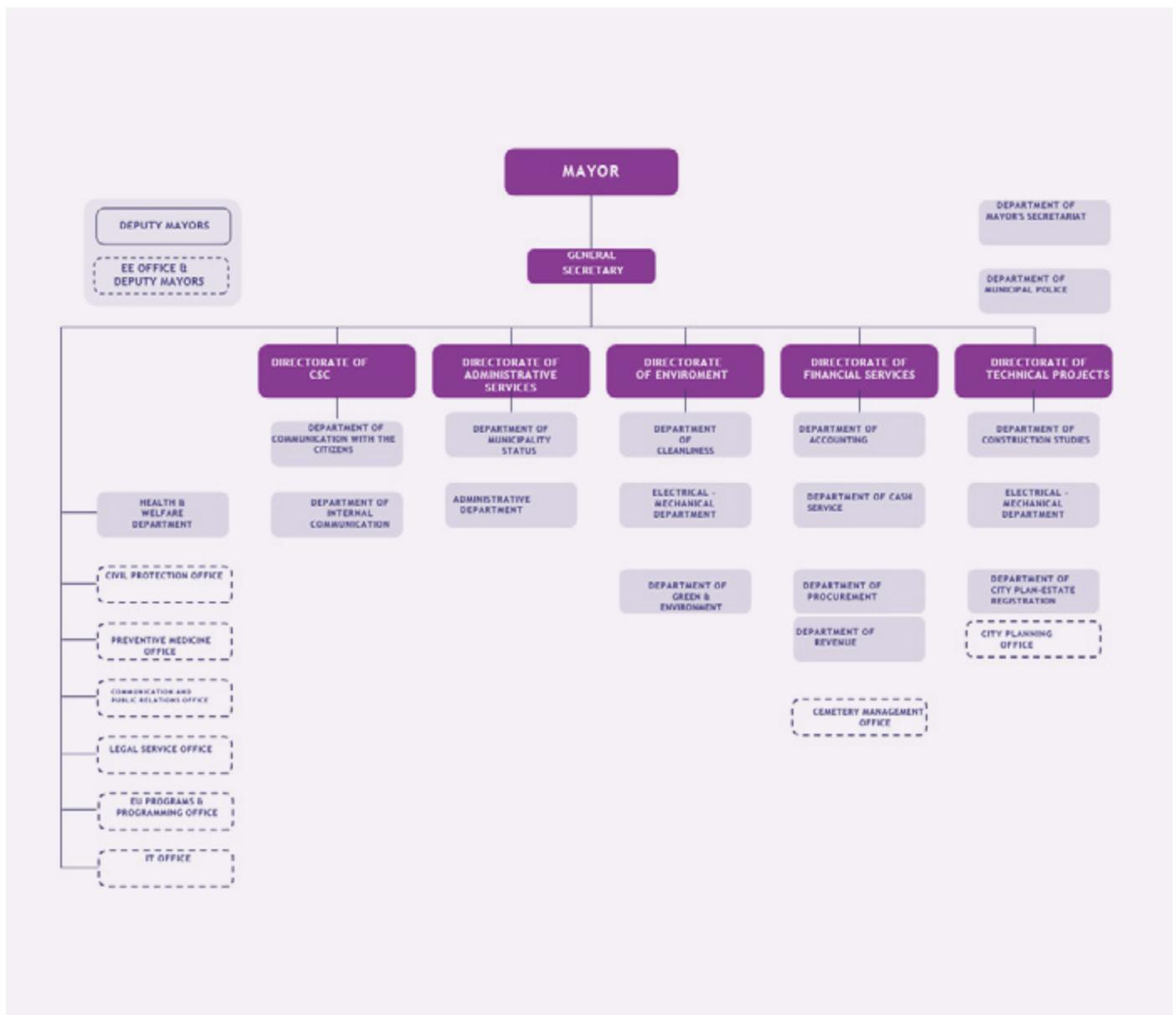
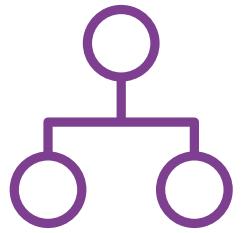
The Council for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees (CIMR) functions as an advisory body of the municipality with the aim of enhancing the integration of migrants, migrant women, refugees, and asylum seekers into the local community.

The CIMR consists of Municipal Councilors, representatives from migrant organizations, and representatives of social organizations dealing with migrant and refugee issues. The CIMR proposes measures and actions related to the development of local initiatives to promote the smooth social integration of migrants and contributes to the resolution of the problems they face. In addition, in collaboration with the Municipality, it organizes events and actions aimed at raising awareness and enhancing social cohesion between the local population and the immigrant community.

**Furthermore, the Municipality has four Legal Entities:**

- Organization for Culture, Sports, and the Environment
- Organization for Education, Social Solidarity, and Protection
- Primary School Committee
- Secondary School Committee

# 2.3 / Organization chart of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios



# 2.4 Participation and Awards in 2020-2021



## United Nations Global Compact

The United Nations Global Compact was established in July 2000 and is the largest global alliance, with over 23,000 organizations and companies in 166 countries committed to aligning their operations with ten universal principles related to human rights, labor conditions, sustainable development, and anti-corruption. The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios has been committed to implementing the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact since December 2016, integrating them into its strategy and processes.



## European Charter for Gender Equality in Local Life

The European Charter for Gender Equality in Local Life was developed by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in collaboration with local authorities from various European countries, with the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE) serving as the national contact point. This Charter is addressed to local and regional authorities in Europe, and more than 2,000 municipalities and regions in 36 countries have signed it, pledging to promote gender equality and implement the commitments outlined in the Charter within their territories. The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios signed the European Charter for Gender Equality in November 2011, thereby committing to developing and implementing an action plan for integrating the gender dimension into its overall policy and implementation.



Covenant of Mayors  
for Climate & Energy

## Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan

With over 10,000 signatories, the Covenant of Mayors represents the world's largest movement of local and regional authorities taking action on climate and energy. Through this covenant, participating authorities voluntarily commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, ensuring access to affordable and sustainable energy, and enhancing the quality of life for their citizens in their respective areas. The Municipality has been a participant in the Covenant of Mayors since 2009 and is committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions within its territory by at least 40% by 2030, primarily through improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy sources. Moreover, participating municipalities are now committed to developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) by 2030 and implementing local actions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.



LANDSCAPE  
AWARDS 2021

## Silver Award for the Botanical Garden at the Landscape Awards 2021

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios won a Silver Award in the "Urban Microspaces" category at the Landscape Awards 2021. These awards are organized annually by Boussias, a leading business communication company. The Botanical Garden of the city transformed a formerly undeveloped space located within the urban space into a green oasis, capable of altering the microclimate of the area. The Garden hosts educational workshops for students and residents, aiming to foster an understanding and study of Mediterranean plant biodiversity.



## Gold Award for the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios at the Best City Awards 2020

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios received the Gold Award in the "Specialized Projects that Contribute to the Daily Service of Citizens"

by Providing Public Administration Services" category at the Best City Awards 2020. This award was presented for the launch of the "City On" application. This application provides information and digital services to every citizen or visitor of the Municipality, allowing them to stay updated on developments and activities in the area and submit electronic issues of concern to the neighborhood. The Best City Awards, organized by Boussias under the auspices of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, the Region of Attica, and the Region of Thessaly, showcase innovation and quality of life in Greek cities. Through friendly competition, the awards highlight and acknowledge the work of local authorities in managing a sustainable and green urban environment.



### **Additional Recognition for the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios at the Same Event**

In the same awards event, the Municipality also received a Bronze Award for the preparation of the Sustainable Development Report for the year 2017. This recognition commends the consistency and commitment of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios to the principles of transparency, as it is the only local government authority in Greece that prepares and publishes Sustainable Development Reports in accordance with international standards, using the guidelines and parameters of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).



## Recognition for the Participation of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios in the European Mobility Week 2019

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios received recognition for its pioneering initiative titled “I’ll Be Back in 5 Minutes.” This initiative aimed to highlight the problems faced by citizens with disabilities due to illegal parking in the city. In a symbolic protest action, ten wheelchairs, each displaying a sign with the well-known phrase “I’ll be back in 5 minutes,” were parked on a central city street. These wheelchairs were placed to protest about illegal parking on ramps and in blue parking spaces, designated for people with disabilities.



## Recognition of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios by the European Institute of Self-Government and the Council of Europe

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios was one of the 25 municipalities in Greece that received recognition at the awards ceremony for the



“European Label of Governance Excellence “ (ELoGE) from the European Institute of Self-Government and the Council of Europe. The European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) is awarded to municipalities that achieve a high level of quality in their services to citizens. This recognition follows an evaluation process involving the mayor, municipal employees, and citizens who could complete questionnaires through a special electronic platform created by the Institute of Local Administration (ITA).

This program started in Europe in 2007 and was implemented by the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE), ITA, and the Council of Europe. It consists of 12 principles aimed at harmonizing and improving local governance in the 47 member-states of the Council of Europe, while shaping the city's sustainable future.

# Highlights and Key Messages

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# 3 / Highlights and Key Messages

The year 2020-2021 was defined by the global COVID-19 pandemic, a challenge that tested the resilience of Agios Dimitrios. Despite facing these unprecedented circumstances, the city coordinated a people-centred approach across all levels of government and stakeholders to meet the challenge and stood as an example of hope and unity through:

## **1. Public Health and Well-being**

- Our city swiftly adapted to the pandemic by implementing comprehensive health and safety measures.
- Robust testing and vaccination campaigns ensured the well-being of our residents.
- Collaborative efforts led to the establishment of emergency response protocols, especially for the public sector employees at the frontline of the city.

## **2. Inclusive and Equitable Response**

- We prioritized support for vulnerable populations, ensuring that no one was left behind.
- Initiatives such as food distribution, mental health services, and education support showcased our commitment to addressing structural inequalities.

## **3. Sustainable Urban Development**

- Agios Dimitrios continued its journey toward sustainable urban development.
- Renewable energy projects reduced our carbon footprint.
- Investments in green infrastructure enhanced the city's livability.

## 4. Digital Transformation

- The pandemic accelerated our digital transformation, enabling the continuity of certain services and economic activity virtually.
- The expansion of electronic access promoted connectivity for all residents.

As we navigate this reflective journey, we highlight key messages that capture years of dedicated efforts and progress in our community's sustainable development approach. Through transparent and accountable governance, we have strategically navigated challenges, leveraging opportunities to shape a resilient, inclusive, and environmentally conscious locality. As we delve into the review's core content, we explore the key messages, which encapsulate the core values and aspirations that guide the community of Agios Dimitrios toward a sustainable and prosperous future:

### 1. Resilience as a Core Value

The pandemic demonstrated our city's resilience and adaptability. We have learned that collective strength is our greatest asset, and we are committed to building an even more resilient community in the future.

### 2. Inclusivity is Non-Negotiable

Our response to the pandemic prioritized inclusivity, leaving no one behind. This ethos will continue to guide our policies, ensuring that every resident has an opportunity for a prosperous life.

### 3. Sustainability is our North Star

Agios Dimitrios remains dedicated to sustainable urban development. We will pursue renewable energy, green infrastructure, and sustainable practices to create a more livable and eco-friendly city.

## 4. Embracing the Digital Age

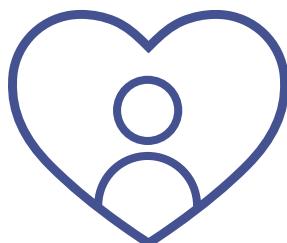
The pandemic accelerated our digital transformation, allowing us to adapt and thrive in a changing world. We will continue to leverage technology to improve services and connectivity for all.

## 5. A Stronger, More Resilient Tomorrow

This first VLR reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability. As we move forward, we invite every citizen, stakeholder, and partner to join us in shaping a stronger, more resilient city for the years to come.

These highlights and key messages illustrate our city's dedication to overcoming challenges, fostering inclusivity, and charting a sustainable and prosperous path into the future. In the following pages, we explore the key findings, challenges, and opportunities that have emerged from our assessment of the progress of Agios Dimitrios in achieving the SDGs. Our key findings reflect not only our strengths, but also our areas of growth.

They underscore the necessity of ongoing collaboration with our citizens, businesses, and partners. We also delve into the pillars that sustain our city: public health and well-being, inclusive response, sustainable urban development, and digital transformation. Through this exploration, we will unearth valuable lessons and insights that will inform our future actions and policies, which will showcase the path we must take to ensure a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

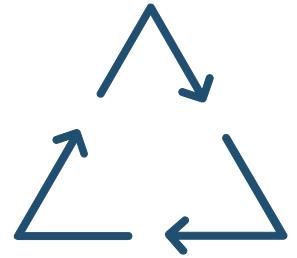


# Sustainability context of Agios Dimitrios

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# 4 / Sustainability context of Agios Dimitrios



Agios Dimitrios VLR operates within a dynamic sustainability context influenced by structural challenges, national dynamics, and the unique characteristics of the country. The city's ability to address these challenges and leverage opportunities is intrinsically tied to the policy and enabling environment in which it operates. By recognizing and navigating these complexities, Agios Dimitrios aims to achieve its sustainability goals and contribute to a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous future for its residents and the broader community.

In a broader European and global context, the sustainability aspirations of Agios Dimitrios are influenced by a multitude of international frameworks, agreements, and standards. The following Global, European, National and Sectoral dynamics shape the city's commitment to sustainable development:

## Global and European sustainability context



### 1. Agenda 2030

The United Nations' Agenda 2030, with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), serves as Agios Dimitrios' North Star in the global context. It recognizes that the city's actions are part of a global effort to address climate change, reduce inequality, and promote sustainable development for all.



## 2. GRI Standards

Agios Dimitrios has been aligned with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards for the past 6 years, ensuring transparent and standardized reporting on sustainability. This approach allows the city to communicate its progress and challenges to a global audience, promoting accountability and knowledge sharing.



## 3. The New Urban Agenda by the UN

The New Urban Agenda guides Agios Dimitrios' urban development strategy. Aligned with the United Nations' vision for sustainable urbanization, it emphasizes inclusivity, resilience, and environmental sustainability in city planning and development.



## 4. ISO 37101

Agios Dimitrios adheres to ISO 37101, emphasizing sustainable development within its communities. This international standard ensures a holistic approach, considering economic, social, and environmental dimensions in Agios Dimitrios' sustainability initiatives.



## 5. European Green Deal

The European Green Deal is a driving force behind Agios Dimitrios' sustainability efforts. By embracing this vision of a climate-neutral continent, the city commits to ambitious climate action, circular economy principles, and sustainable growth outlined by the European Union.



## 6. Net Zero Cities/Climate Neutral EU

Agios Dimitrios adopts the Net Zero Cities and the Climate Neutral EU initiatives. The city's sustainable urban planning, energy efficiency measures, and renewable energy adoption align with these ambitious goals.



## 7. New European Bauhaus

Inspired by the New European Bauhaus movement, Agios Dimitrios prioritizes aesthetics, sustainability, and inclusivity in urban design. It aims to create harmonious and sustainable living environments, aligning with the principles of this innovative European initiative.

## 8. Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Agios Dimitrios acknowledges the importance of biodiversity and integrates the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 into its sustainability efforts. The city's commitment to preserving and restoring ecosystems aligns with European biodiversity objectives.



## National sustainability context:

### 1. Greek National Strategy for the SDGs

Agios Dimitrios' commitment to sustainability is deeply rooted in the Greek National Strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This strategy sets the national agenda, guiding Agios Dimitrios in aligning its local priorities with the global objectives outlined in the SDGs. It reinforces the city's dedication to addressing environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability, while contributing to the overarching national effort.



### 2. Greek Voluntary National Review (VNR)

The Greek Voluntary National Review (VNR) of progress towards the SDGs is a crucial element of Agios Dimitrios' sustainability context. The city is willing to actively engage in the VNR process, showcasing its achievements, challenges, and commitments at national level. By participating in this national review, Agios Dimitrios aims to influence the national policy discourse.

### 3. Greek Sectoral Strategies

Agios Dimitrios integrates its sustainability efforts with Greek sectoral strategies, such as the Digital Transformation Bible. These strategies provide a framework for local action, aligning with broader national objectives, while addressing specific sectoral challenges. Agios Dimitrios' sustainability initiatives are thus embedded within a broader national context that promotes innovation, digitalization, and economic growth.

### 4. Greek National Climate Law

Complying with the Greek National Climate Law, Agios Dimitrios places climate action at the forefront of its sustainability agenda. This law defines



national targets and obligations for mitigating climate change, thereby influencing local climate policies, energy transitions, and carbon neutrality efforts.

### Sectoral sustainability context

The specific nature of Agios Dimitrios' geography, climate, demographics, and historical development exerts a profound influence on its sustainability context. Challenges like urban sprawl, water scarcity, or vulnerability to natural disasters can be unique to the city, requiring tailored solutions.

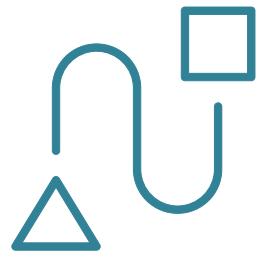
Within the national context, Agios Dimitrios develops its own sectoral strategies and business plans, tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities within the city. These strategies, covering areas such as water supply, digital transformation, and social policy, ensure that local sustainability efforts are aligned with the specific needs of Agios Dimitrios' residents and stakeholders.

By integrating its sustainability objectives with these Global, European and National frameworks and strategies, Agios Dimitrios positions itself as a beacon of sustainable development, making a meaningful contribution to sustainability goals.

# The path for Sustainable Transformation

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# 5 / The path for Sustainable Transformation

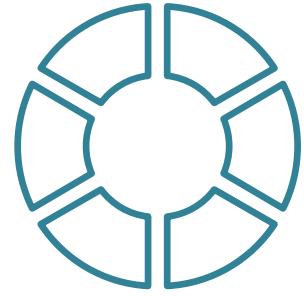


This Voluntary Local Review is a comprehensive assessment and reporting process aimed at evaluating the local government's performance of Agios Dimitrios in achieving sustainable development goals within its jurisdiction. This methodology is designed to provide a structured framework for conducting Agios Dimitrios' VLR, leveraging best practices from Global and European handbooks and previous VLR initiatives.

This methodology offers a structured and comprehensive approach to assess Agios Dimitrios' progress toward achieving the SDGs. Following this methodology, we engaged stakeholders, gathered valuable data, made informed decisions, and contributed effectively to sustainable development.



# 5.1 / VLR Methodology



This methodology is a crucial tool in our global pursuit of sustainable development, providing a mechanism for local governments to voluntarily assess and showcase their progress towards the SDGs. In today's reality, our VLR methodology offers a structured and comprehensive framework for self-assessment. It helps us to evaluate our policies, programs, and initiatives in alignment with the SDGs, fostering transparency, accountability, and the sharing of best practices. In essence, our VLR methodology not only serves as the internal accountability mechanism, but also contributes to the collective global effort to address pressing challenges and achieve a more sustainable world. The methodology is based on the following steps:

## 1. Objectives and Stakeholders

### 1.1. Define Objectives

Clearly articulate the objectives of Agios Dimitrios, emphasizing alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the specific SDGs relevant to the local government.

### 1.2. Stakeholder Engagement

- Identify and engage relevant stakeholders, including local government officials, civil society organizations, academia, and local residents.
- Establish a VLR team to oversee the process and ensure diverse representation.

### 1.3. Resource Allocation

Allocate the necessary financial, human, and technical resources to support the VLR process.

## 2. Data Collection and Analysis

### 2.1. Baseline Assessment

- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing data, reports, and indicators related to the SDGs at local level, in order to assess the SDG implementation status.
- Identify gaps and limitations in available data.
- Validate data for accuracy and reliability.

### 2.2. Indicator Selection

- Collaboratively select a set of key indicators that best measure progress toward each relevant SDG.
- Ensure indicators are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound).

### 2.3. Data Collection

- Collect primary and secondary data through surveys and interviews.
- Use both qualitative and quantitative methods to capture a holistic view of SDG implementation.

### 2.4. Data Validation

Ensure data accuracy, consistency, and reliability through validation processes.

## 2.5. Data Analysis

- Analyze collected data to assess the current status of SDG implementation, identify trends, and evaluate challenges and opportunities.
- Utilize data visualization tools to present findings in a clear and accessible manner.

## 3. Reporting

- Develop a structured VLR report following the guidelines provided in Global and European handbooks and previous VLR initiatives.
- Present findings for each SDG, highlighting achievements and areas that need improvement.
- Formulate actionable recommendations and strategies to address challenges identified.
- Ensure that the VLR report is accessible to a wide audience, including individuals with disabilities, by following accessibility guidelines.

## 4. Dissemination and Communication

- Organize a high-profile launch event to present the VLR report to the public and stakeholders.
- Use the event as an opportunity to engage in dialogue and solicit feedback.
- Share the VLR report through various communication channels, including websites, social media, press releases, and local media outlets.

## 5. Monitoring

- Develop a monitoring framework to track the progress of implementing VLR recommendations.
- Regularly update and report on progress.

## 6. Capacity Building

- Provide training and capacity-building programs for local government officials and stakeholders to enhance their understanding of the SDGs and VLR process.

## 7. Evaluation and Learning

- Conduct an evaluation of the VLR process, including stakeholder feedback, to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Share lessons learned and best practices from the VLR process within the municipality and with other municipalities and regions.



# 5.2 / Strategic Stakeholder Collaboration: The compass toward 2030

Stakeholder engagement leads to increased awareness and ownership of the SDGs and is therefore vital for the success of Agios Dimitrios' VLR. A VLR serves as a comprehensive tool, allowing cities to report on their progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Drawing from our experience, the collective wisdom of leading VLRs worldwide and the European handbooks dedicated to VLRs, we understand that it is crucial for the crafting of a VLR to adhere to robust stakeholder engagement and management processes, methods, and strategies, as follows:

## **1. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis**

The VLR process starts by rigorously identifying and analyzing stakeholders. This entails mapping the diverse groups and individuals, encompassing local government bodies, civil society organizations, private sector entities, and, notably, the city's residents. For Agios Dimitrios, understanding the socio-political landscape and the unique mix of stakeholders is fundamental. The European Commission's guidelines on VLRs offer valuable insights into identifying key players in the European context.

## **2. Inclusive and Participatory Approaches**

Inclusivity and participation are the cornerstones of Agios Dimitrios' stakeholder engagement strategy. We have successfully integrated public consultations and inclusive engagement methods into our VLR processes, to ensure that all voices are heard.

### 3. Data Collection and Sharing

Effective stakeholder engagement in VLRs necessitates the efficient collection and sharing of data. This VLR draws inspiration from the European Union's emphasis on open data and transparency. Cities employ mechanisms for sharing VLR data through online platforms and public repositories, while ensuring data protection and adherence to relevant European data privacy regulations.

### 4. Multistakeholder Platforms

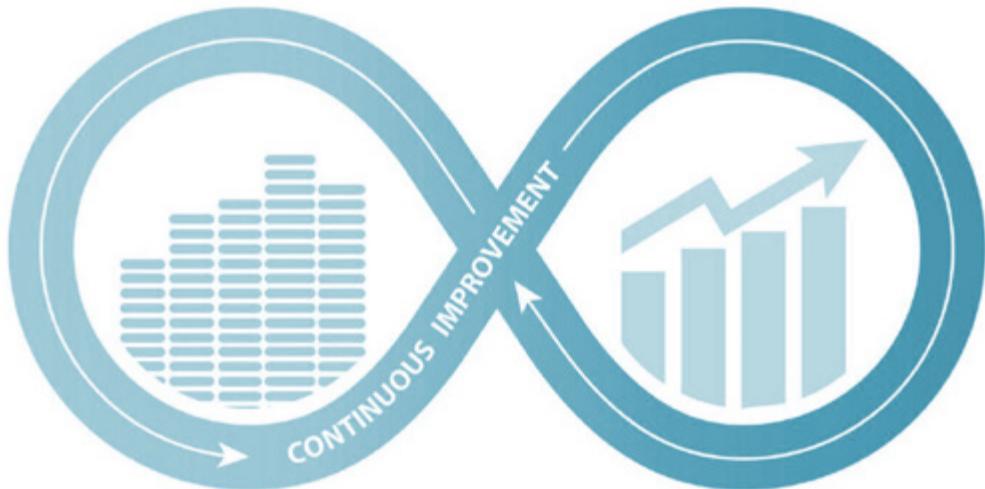
For Agios Dimitrios, establishing multistakeholder platforms, as endorsed by the United Nations, is pivotal. Our platforms foster and facilitate dialogue, cooperation, and coordination among stakeholders. Leveraging the best practices from cities like Berlin and Vienna, Agios Dimitrios establishes structured platforms that convene stakeholders regularly to exchange ideas and jointly develop actions.

### 5. Cross-Sectoral Integration

Stakeholder engagement in this VLR is not confined to specific sectors. A holistic approach integrating various sectors, including environment, urban planning, health, education, and economy, is vital. Agios Dimitrios' VLR benefits from examples such as Oslo, Norway, which have successfully integrated cross-sectoral perspectives into their reports.

### 6. Feedback Loops and Continuous Improvement

A critical aspect of Agios Dimitrios' stakeholder management is maintaining feedback loops. We were inspired by forward-looking cities like Paris and Amsterdam, introducing mechanisms for stakeholders to provide feedback on VLR reports, ensuring continuous improvement and adaptation.



In summary, stakeholder engagement and management are indispensable components of our VLR that aims to demonstrate the highest standards. By drawing from the wealth of VLR expertise across the globe and adhering to European handbooks and guidelines, Agios Dimitrios' VLR is not only robust in data and analysis, but also exemplifies the best practices in stakeholder engagement and management. This approach will contribute significantly to the achievement of SDGs and enhance our residents' quality of life.

# 5.3 / Materiality assessment: The GRI reporting tool for sustainable development

One of the fundamental pillars of GRI's guidelines is Materiality Analysis. This process enhances transparency and participation by involving internal and external stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing the most significant sustainable development issues for each organization. This happens because organizations, through dialogue with stakeholders, align themselves with the concerns and needs of interested parties, including employees, civil society, investors, accountants, governments, and sustainability experts.

In compliance with GRI's guidelines, for the fourth Sustainability Report, the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios applied the Materiality Analysis process. The Materiality Analysis process, based on the GRI standards, includes steps to identify and prioritize materiality issues that are most relevant and significant for the city. These steps help the Municipality determine which issues should be included in the Sustainability Report, ensuring that the sustainability reporting focuses on the most important sustainability issues and effectively addresses the concerns of all stakeholders.

The following are the key steps necessary for conducting an effective Materiality Analysis:

## **Stage 1: Identification**

Initially, the Municipality recorded all internal and external stakeholders that are influenced by and in turn have an impact on the Municipality's actions for sustainable development. Then, the Municipality determined the scope and boundaries of the materiality analysis to ensure an analysis of sustainability issues for the city of Agios Dimitrios.

Next, based on the Municipality's vision and strategy, and taking into account the needs and expectations of stakeholders, the Municipality's Sustainable Development Team interacted with stakeholders and conducted the materiality analysis. The result of this process is a list of significant sustainability issues that affect or may potentially affect the Municipality. The team examined standards such as the GRI Standards, the Principles of the UN Global Compact, and incorporated the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) etc. This process led to a list of 32 high-priority sustainability issues, categorized into the four pillars of sustainable development.

## Stage 2: Prioritization

In the prioritization stage, the Municipality identified a comprehensive list of material issues that it considers important for the city's sustainable development and that could potentially impact the long-term value creation of the Municipality. These issues include environmental impacts, social aspects, and economic and governance matters.

The next step involves assessing the significance and impact of each material issue, taking into account the stakeholders' opinions and concerns. Through questionnaires, the Municipality collected data and evaluated the importance of each material issue. Priority was given to issues based on the level of their impact and their significance to stakeholders. This process significantly helped in ranking the issues based on their potential influence on the Municipality's performance and the expectations of stakeholders.

An interesting aspect is the comparison between the materiality issues of the 2020-2021 period with those of the 2018-2019 period, when the Municipality prepared its third consecutive sustainability report based on the GRI Standards. Comparing the analyses, it is clear that the issues concerning the citizens remain generally the same. As in the previous period, ethics and transparency in the operation of municipal services

and governance remain on top of the list as the main issues that concern those who answered the questionnaire. Common themes appear in the top five positions in both analyses, with standout topics being the utilization of the Municipality's financial resources and the attraction of new financial programs, the creation of new green spaces, the enhancement and maintenance of existing ones, the improvement of the quality of services provided to citizens (a topic that has moved up several positions in the current materiality study), and the rational management of waste.

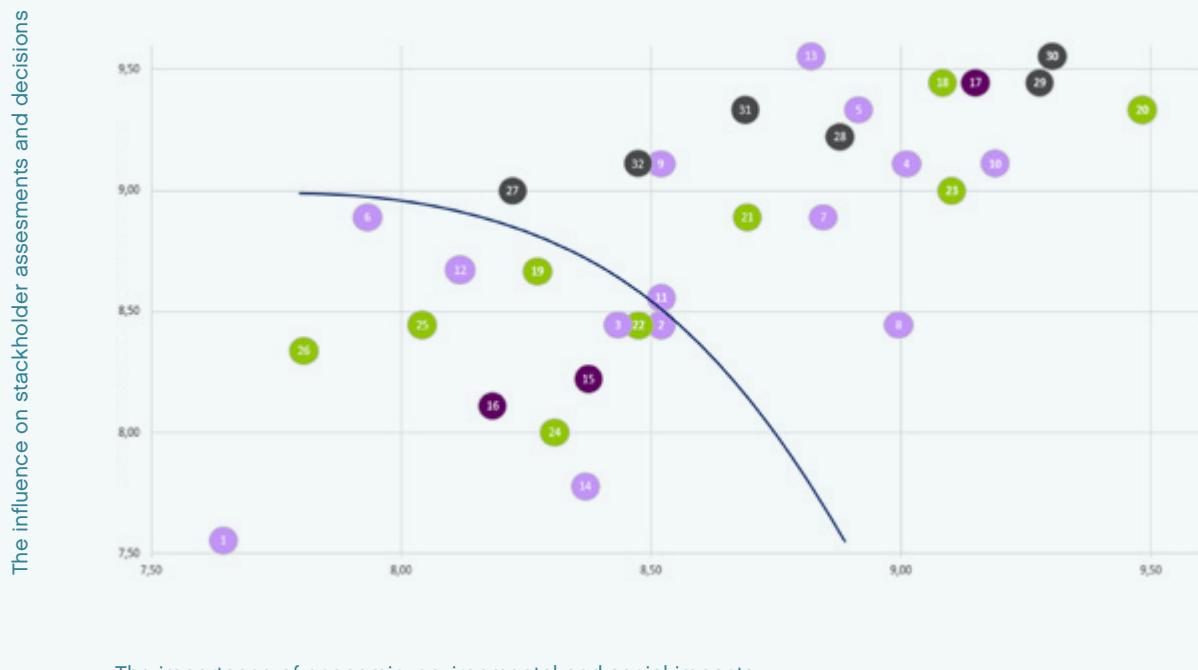


New additions to the list of themes include the strengthening of the functionality of shared facilities for a more familiar, friendly, and inclusive public space, as well as the explicit reference to actions for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment, the protection of ecosystems, and the natural landscape (e.g., Pikrodafni stream, Asyrmatos), which were not included in the previous study. Lastly, an interesting and noteworthy point is that the participants in the survey rated addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the physical and mental health of citizens as the least important issue, highlighting society's need to leave the challenging years of the pandemic behind.

## Stage 3: Validation

During the third and final stage of the Materiality Analysis, the Municipal Authority, in collaboration with the Municipality's Sustainable Development Team, validated the 19 issues identified as the most significant for Sustainable Development. They formed the Materiality Matrix to confirm the materiality of these issues.

### Materiality matrix



## The 19 issues identified as the most significant for Sustainable Development are:

### Materiality Issues

### SDGs

30. Ethics and transparency in municipal services and governance



20. Creation of new green spaces, enhancement, and maintenance of existing ones



29. Continuous improvement of service quality for citizens



17. Utilization of funding sources from European and National development programs



18. Rational waste management, increased recycling, and promotion of circular economy - reuse



10. Development of preschool education, creative engagement, and sports programs



11. Implementation of road and sidewalk maintenance and upgrading projects



5. Advocacy for human rights



6. Protection and empowerment of vulnerable social groups (elderly, homeless, unemployed, refugees, impoverished, single-parent families, persons with disabilities, etc.)



## 5 / The path for Sustainable Transformation

28. Ensuring the economic sustainability of the municipality



29. Actions for the conservation and restoration of the natural environment, protection of ecosystems, and the natural landscape (e.g., Pikrodafni stream, Asyrmatos)



31. Integration of new technologies for services and projects



7. Provision of preventive health services and design of awareness and information campaigns



9. Development of civil protection programs and creation of plans for information, prevention, and protection from natural disasters



32. Upgrading and utilization of municipal buildings, infrastructure, and facilities



21. Efficient energy management, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change impacts



8. Enhancement of common facilities to create a more familiar, friendly, and inclusive public space



27. Continuous empowerment of municipal employees' knowledge and skills through contemporary training and development programs



11. Promotion of sustainable mobility and encouragement of active modes of transportation (walking, cycling, etc.) and public transport for people and goods



# The local strategy towards 2030



6/

# 6 / The local strategy towards 2030

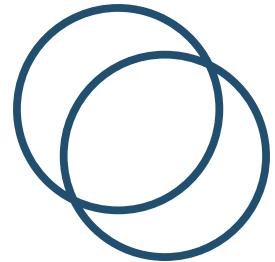


In the rapidly evolving landscape of sustainable urban development, Agios Dimitrios is aiming for transformative change. As we look ahead to the year 2030, we recognize the immense challenges, as well as the opportunities that lie before us. The global community, under the banner of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has set forth an ambitious blueprint for a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable world. Our city, driven by a commitment to these principles, is embarking on a journey to shape its future.

At the heart of our transformation lies a comprehensive and forward-looking strategy that paves our path towards 2030. This strategy is not merely a document but a pledge, a covenant between our city and its residents, stakeholders, and partners. It envisions a city that is not only economically vibrant, but also socially inclusive, environmentally responsible, and culturally enriching. Our strategy recognizes that the challenges of our time, from climate change to social inequality, require bold and innovative solutions, and we are determined to be at the forefront of this transformative journey.

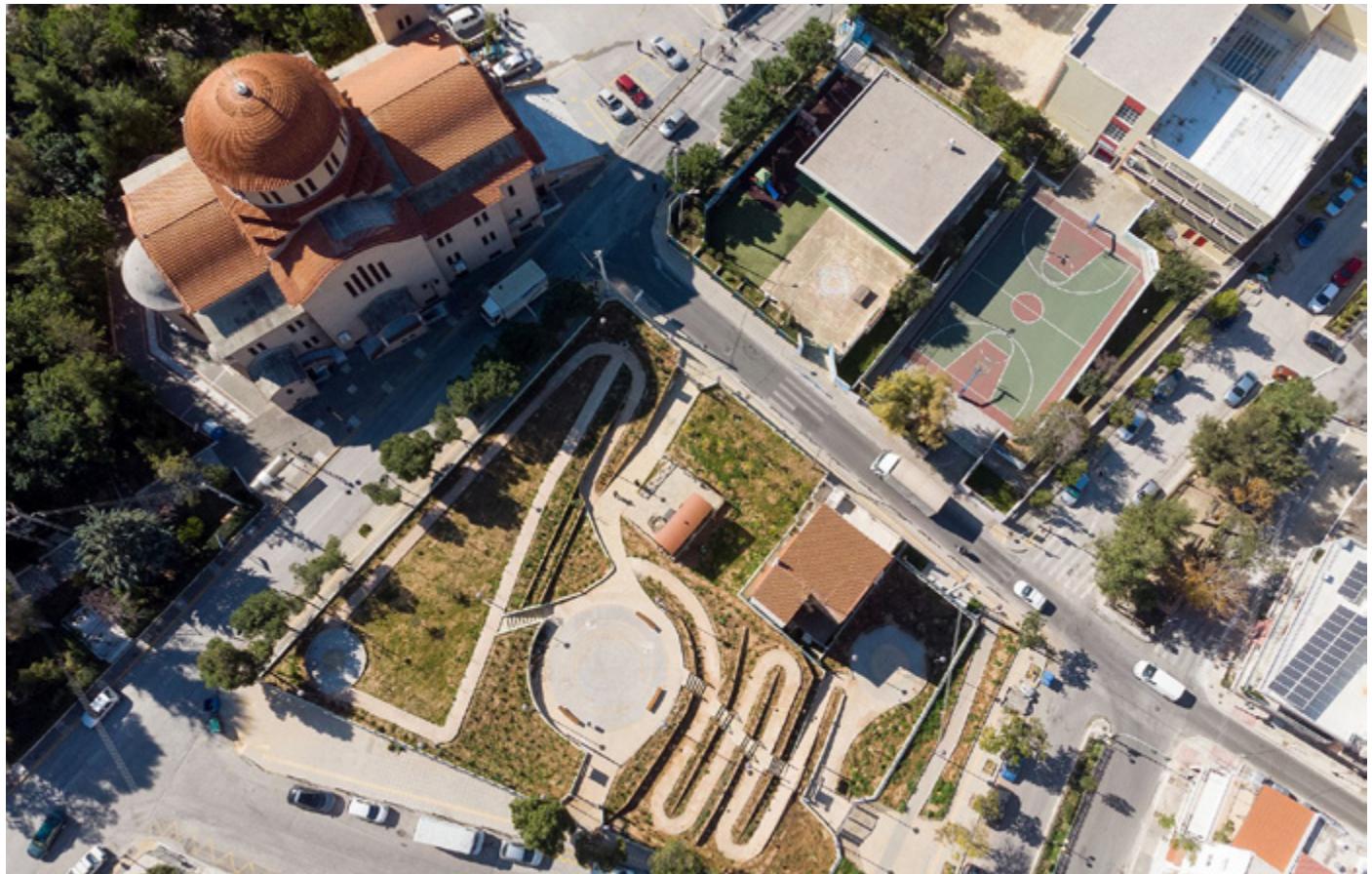
In the pages that follow, we present our “Local Strategy towards 2030,” a roadmap that reflects our city’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles of resilience, inclusion, and sustainability. This strategy is a testament to our collective vision for a future in which our city serves as an example of progressive urban development. It calls for coordinated efforts, community engagement, and partnerships at all levels as we work together to create a city that not only meets the needs of the present, but also safeguards the well-being of generations to come.

# 6.1 / The Vision and the strategy towards 2030



## Vision

The vision of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios is the sustainable development of the city within the spirit of social solidarity and active participation. It envisages an economically strong city where the well-being of its citizens and urban development are balanced with the protection of the environment, all while considering the needs of future generations. A fundamental part of this vision is the development of an organization in which the employees constitute its strength and its most vital asset.



## Strategy

In Agios Dimitrios, the priority lies in creating a humane, sustainable, and modern city that places the well-being of its residents at the forefront and promotes social cohesion.

We envision a city committed to environmental sustainability, enhancing energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy sources, with efficient waste management systems and nature-based infrastructure to minimize its ecological footprint.



Through smart infrastructure, we aim to enhance efficiency, connectivity, and ease of access for citizens by harnessing technological advancements and data-driven decision-making. Our goal is to provide sustainable and vibrant public spaces that encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. We prioritize sustainable mobility by developing comprehensive public transportation networks and pedestrian-friendly public spaces to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

Our city supports cultural diversity and showcases its rich heritage and multiculturalism by providing spaces for cultural activities, exhibitions, and events that encourage dialogue and understanding.

Transparent governance and citizen participation in decision-making are fundamental, ensuring universal access to information, opportunities for meaningful participation, and collaboration with residents in shaping all policies and programs that reflect the community's needs and aspirations. By pursuing these strategic directions, we aspire to create an inclusive, environmentally responsible city that leverages technological advancements to improve the lives of its residents and contribute to the sustainable future of our planet.

More specifically, the strategic plan of Agios Dimitrios for achieving its goals by 2030 includes the following key milestones:

### **1. Enhancing Environmental Sustainability**

Promoting green infrastructure projects such as urban green spaces, investing in renewable energy sources, developing environmentally friendly transportation means, and implementing measures to adapt to climate change.

### **2. Strengthening Social Cohesion**

Formulating policies that promote equality, encouraging dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders, communities and citizens, establishing measures for social protection, and combating poverty.

### **3. Promoting Cultural Identity**

Preserving and promoting local cultural heritage, supporting local artists and cultural events, and creating cultural centers.

### **4. Enhancing Economic Resilience**

Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, promoting investments in future growth sectors, and introducing training and education programs to improve employment opportunities.

### **5. Promoting Digital Technology for Citizen Services**

Leveraging digital innovation to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and convenience in the municipal services and promoting digital literacy programs to empower residents with the skills and knowledge needed to fully utilize these technological advancements.

The four pillars on which the Municipality relies to set its goals and implement its vision encompass all dimensions and perspectives that directly or indirectly influence its diverse and multi-level operation through the prism of Sustainable Development:

#### **1. A Human City**

A “human city” prioritizes the well-being and quality of life of its residents, enhancing the sense of community and incorporating the environment and sustainability into urban planning. It is a complex and continuous process that requires long-term commitment, collaboration among stakeholders, and ongoing adaptation to changing community needs and priorities.

#### **2. An Economically Strong City**

Building an economically strong city involves creating a favorable environment for business development, attracting investments, and generating employment opportunities. It is a long-term effort that requires continuous monitoring, assessment, and adjustment of strategies to

respond to changing economic trends, technological advancements, and market conditions.

### **3. A city that respects and is inspired from its environment and culture**

Creating a city that respects and is inspired from its environment and culture requires a holistic and integrated approach. It also necessitates adopting a long-term vision of a city that respects and draws inspiration from its environment and culture, creating a vibrant and sustainable urban environment for residents and visitors alike.

### **4. An innovative, transparent and human-centered Municipality**

Cultivating a culture of innovation, leveraging technology and digitalization, and adopting transparency and ethics in the management and governance of the Municipality can actively engage citizens and promote a culture of innovation and collaboration.

# 6.2 / The local Goals towards 2030



# 6.2 / The local Goals towards 2030

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## 6.2.1 / A Human City



A human city is one that strives to create a favorable environment for its residents, focusing on their needs and quality of life. It is accessible, inclusive, safe, and attractive. It promotes health, well-being, citizen participation in public affairs, and social justice. A human city adopts people-centric policies and freedoms that nurture a rich and dynamic culture. It respects and embraces diversity. As a result, citizens of all ages and abilities feel secure and empowered.

Like many cities, Agios Dimitrios faces numerous challenges. The cost of living and housing is rising, more people experience poverty or social isolation against their will, and others work longer hours, leaving less time for rest and recreation. Modern lifestyles are becoming increasingly sedentary, posing a risk to public health as individuals spend more time engaged in activities that involve prolonged sitting, screen time, and limited physical activity. This sedentary behavior is linked to a range of health concerns, including obesity, cardiovascular issues, and mental health challenges.

In a human city, the political, organizational, and social structure is designed and implemented in a way that places people at the center of decisions and initiatives. The city of Agios Dimitrios aims to become a human city, as evidenced by the following key actions:

- Promoting social cohesion and strengthening collaboration for individuals from all social backgrounds to feel secure and participate equally in social life.



- Supporting people to have access to state benefits, education, healthy nutrition, and recreational spaces.
- Adapting its strategies and processes to encourage innovation, aiming to meet the needs of a growing and changing population.
- Enhancing physical, psychological, and social resilience in individuals and communities.



## 1.1. The Materiality Issues toward “a Human City” are:

### 1. Development of preschool education, creative engagement, and sports programs

In Greece, preschool education and care for children aged 0 to 4 are provided in municipal infant care, infant/childcare and childcare centers, and the Municipalities or their legal entities are responsible for their establishment and operation. In the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, under the responsibility of the Organization for Education, Social Solidarity & Protection (OPKAP), there are 7 infant-toddler units operating, along with a standard Creative Child Employment Center and a Municipal Children’s Camp located in a pine-covered area in Rafina. Additionally, every summer, creative and sports programs for children, known as ‘Playtime’ and ‘Sports Break,’ are implemented.



The Preschool and Infant/childcare Units of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios are educational and care spaces for young children, guided by modern educational principles derived from educational sciences. Admission criteria are purely socio-economic, ensuring transparency and promoting social justice. It is noteworthy that the Municipality's infant-toddler and preschool units have been operating completely free of charge for all families. These units operate with a standard, rich educational program, and the educators undergo continuous training through seminars organized by the Municipality. In 2020 and 2021, amid the pandemic crisis, educators attended numerous online seminars to adapt to new requirements.

### **Key actions in 2020-2021 included:**

1. Parenting Seminars by the 'HELIOS' Prevention Center and individual counseling sessions aimed at raising parental awareness about their children's emotional well-being and supporting them in both parental and companionship roles. The "HELIOS" Center for Addiction Prevention and Promotion of Psychosocial Health was established in March 2006 as a non-profit urban company and is run by the local authorities of the Municipalities of Nea Smyrni and Agios Dimitrios, in collaboration with the national Organization Against Drugs (OKANA).



2. In November 2020, the 'HELIOS' Prevention Center, in collaboration with the 4th Regional Center for Educational Planning of Attica, organized a series of training seminars for kindergarten teachers on the theme of 'Reflections on the concept of mental resilience in the school community during times of uncertainty.'
3. In December 2020, educators of the Municipality's infant-toddler and preschool units participated in a 16-hour online seminar on 'Infants and groups: A systemic approach' to redesign educational programs and broaden their pedagogical perspective.



4. In December 2021, in the framework of World Children's Day, the Municipal Organization for Education, Social Solidarity & Protection conducted various activities involving children from the aforementioned units and provided online updates for all educators.

The Creative Child Activity Center (KDAP) is a structure of the Organization for Education, Social Solidarity & Protection and has been operating since September 2015. It is housed in a building owned by the municipality and was created to allow city children (kindergarten to 6th-grade level) to creatively use their free time. Children attending KDAP are selected based on socio-economic criteria. In 2020 and 2021, KDAP suspended its operation for a prolonged period due to the joint ministerial decision of the Ministries of Health and Education, prohibiting the operation of all educational structures in Greece during the COVID-19 surge.

The municipal 'Camp of Joy,' as named by the children, is situated in a 10-acre area, which is full of pines and is owned by the municipality, located in Rafina, a seaside suburb of Attica. It operated for the first time in the summer of 2011, funded by European and national resources and the municipality's budget. Participation in the camp is entirely free, and all six camp periods have a 100% attendance rate. During the reporting years, the camp program included activities on-site, as well as sea baths and educational trips to other areas, adhering strictly to safety protocols necessitated by the pandemic.



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



## 2. Advocacy for human rights

The respect for human rights constitutes a central pillar of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios. Through initiatives and policies it promotes, the municipality plays a significant role in creating an environment of equality, dignity, and respect for the rights of all its residents, regardless of origin, religion, gender, or social status. From providing social services and combating poverty to promoting educational and awareness programs, the protection of human rights permeates horizontally all structures and actions of the Municipality.

Regarding gender equality, an integral part of human rights, the Municipality places special emphasis on the issue through the Municipal Equality Committee. This committee aims to support the integration of gender equality into all municipal policies and is composed of knowledgeable city residents, elected officials, representatives of women's associations, and municipal councillors. The Equality Committee addresses issues of gender equality and inclusion of the gender perspective, contributing to the dialogue on eliminating phenomena such as domestic violence and supporting women in all aspects of life.



During the reporting period, the Municipal Equality Committee of Agios Dimitrios organized events for information and awareness on the #MeToo movement, gender-based violence in education, and workplace bullying-mobbing. It highlighted initiatives a municipality can take to eliminate gender-based violence during the pandemic. The Equality Committee took a stance on public dialogue issues and condemned sexist behaviors that legitimize rape culture.

The decision 129/2021 of the Municipal Council was particularly important, adopting the proposal of the Municipal Equality Committee for the acceptance and commitment to implement the action plan of the Municipality of Athens to combat sexual harassment. This “Public Commitment” document, signed by the municipal authority, commits



the Municipality to combat sexual harassment in workplaces and citizen service areas. Additionally, the Municipality took initiatives to inform and sensitize everyone, especially elected officials, and established internal procedures for examining complaints and conducting Sworn Administrative Inquiries (SAIs).

Simultaneously, the Administration has shown strong interest and determination in addressing issues of xenophobia, racism, promoting social equality, and protecting vulnerable social groups. Through the Council for the Integration of Migrants, the Administration fostered an atmosphere of dialogue and understanding, promoting open discussion on these issues and providing a platform for the exchange of views and experiences. The Community Center continued operating the “Advocating Together” service in collaboration with the National Confederation of Disabled People - E.S.A.me.A, offering information, support, and empowerment for people with disabilities by providing information about their rights and benefits.

Participation in the European Mobility Week in 2020 and 2021 had the clear goal of solidarity, giving a voice to all those advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. Through collaboration with the “Open Horizons - To Pareaki” Social Cooperative Enterprise of Integration, the Municipality granted the refreshment stand in Panagouli Square for use by children with disabilities from the facility. This concession supports the meaningful social integration and extroversion of citizens with disabilities in the local community.





### 3. Protection and empowerment of vulnerable social groups (elderly, homeless, unemployed, refugees, impoverished, single-parent families, persons with disabilities, etc.)

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios implements a comprehensive framework of policies, actions, and services, along with a set of social policy programs, aiming to ensure that citizens who face disadvantages due to age, economic status, or other factors have access to essential health, education, and social protection services. Emphasizing prevention and support, the municipality's administration designs and implements programs that promote social inclusion, providing vulnerable individuals with the necessary opportunities for empowerment and participation in the local community.

Additionally, a person-centered approach is highlighted through caregiving services, with a focus on elderly care, especially during the pandemic, medical care, and psychosocial support aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals from socially vulnerable groups. This was evident during the COVID-19 period, where actions to protect vulnerable social groups played a prominent role.



## Social Grocery Store

The Social Grocery Store distributes food and essential items on a regular basis to individuals and families who meet the necessary inclusion criteria. The products and food distributed come from the municipality's own funds and donations from businesses, organizations, and citizens.

The types of products provided to beneficiaries include long-lasting food items, household cleaning products, personal hygiene items, baby care products, school supplies, toys, etc. The goal of the Social Grocery Store program, in addition to providing essential items, is to offer psychosocial support and empowerment to beneficiaries, who are systematically monitored and supported by the scientific staff of the Social Services.

Particularly during the COVID-19 period, there was special attention due to the pandemic and restrictions on citizens' movements, with product distribution taking place at their homes. The Social Grocery Store is part of the Health and Welfare Department of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios.



## Social Kitchen

The Meal Provision Structure, also known as the Social Kitchen, offers free meals on a regular basis to individuals and families in need. The preparation of meals is carried out in full compliance with the relevant health regulations.

The menu is curated by a specialized nutritionist who collaborated with the Municipality during the 2020-2021 period to ensure that meals fully meet daily nutritional needs. The goal of the structure is to serve individuals affected by economic and social crises and alleviate those who are unable to meet their basic nutritional needs. From January to April 2021, the Meal Provision Structure provided home delivery to all beneficiaries due to the restrictive measures in public mobility to address the challenges posed by the pandemic.



## Social Pharmacy

The Social Pharmacy is a facility that provides free medications, medical supplies, and para-pharmaceutical products to beneficiaries with low income and minimal or no access to the healthcare system. Presentation of a recent prescription for medication is a prerequisite.

The Social Pharmacy has developed a framework of actions to ensure the free supply of medications and products from pharmaceutical companies, pharmaceutical associations, and local collective bodies.

Additionally, awareness campaigns and initiatives are conducted to encourage citizens to donate unused medications, even if they have been previously opened, as long as their expiration dates extend beyond one year. This is done in collaboration with the “GIVMED” non-governmental organization.





## Social Tutoring Center

The goal of the Social Tutoring Center is to support high school students in the city whose families cannot afford the expenses of a private tutorial center.

The selection of students is based on a scoring system considering factors such as residence (citizen - resident), low income, and special social categories such as families with three or more children, unemployed parents, and parents or siblings with disabilities. In 2020 and 2021, for the 8th and 9th consecutive school year, the Municipality's Social Tutoring Center provided General Education courses for all three grades of the General Unified Lyceum, as well as courses for nationally examined subjects.

The courses are taught by volunteer educators of all specialties, and the increasing participation of new teachers has made the Social Tutoring Center a breeding ground for young scholars in the city of Agios Dimitrios and neighboring municipalities.





Additionally, during this period, a voluntary and free Counseling and School Vocational Guidance group operated, staffed by professional career counselors. Through a narrative approach, seminars and webinars were organized for vocational guidance, stress management, and goal-setting.

Within this framework, students were given the opportunity to complete their personal data sheets individually for each candidate after the nationwide exams (also known as the Panhellenic exams). Also, in 2020, a digital study guide for universities and colleges was published for candidates to declare their preferences by scientific field in their personal data sheets.

## Municipal Vegetable Gardens

The Municipal Vegetable Gardens of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios are a pioneering social project that is intertwined with nature and environmental respect, as well as with environmental awareness for both children and adults.





Covering an area of approximately 2.5 acres, there are 45 plots available for cultivation, strictly following organic practices. These plots are allocated to residents based on socio-economic criteria through transparent processes.

The space is communal, allowing access to all citizens during the hours and days when the main entrance is open to cultivators. Ten percent (10%) of the fresh produce grown in the Municipal Vegetable Gardens is donated to the Municipality's Social Grocery Store, as stated in its operating regulations.

Educational activities and informative workshops on organic cultivation practices, waste management (e.g., composting, recycling bins), and integration with other municipal services (Social Grocery Store, Social Services, etc.) take place within the municipal vegetable garden.

Special structures for composting are set up within the garden, along with informational material explaining the reasons and methods behind composting. Additionally, composting bins are distributed to the residents of the Municipality.



## Psychosocial Support and Information Program

The social service of the Municipality provides comprehensive counseling and support services with specialized personnel, including social workers, psychologists, and child psychiatrists, either individually or in groups. The objectives of the program are:

- Providing information and referral for welfare issues through individual counseling.
- Conducting social surveys, judicial orders, and connecting with welfare and health agencies through referrals.
- Organizing talks, specialized events, and conferences on prevention and coping with psychosocial issues.
- Supporting families and the role of parents through personal development groups.
- Providing information on disability and diversity and encouraging citizen volunteering.
- Connecting with the educational community and supporting educators and parents.

The Social Service collaborates closely with the “HELIOS” Addiction Prevention Center, created by the local authorities of the Municipalities of Nea Smyrni and Agios Dimitrios. The “HELIOS” Prevention Center aims to plan and implement addiction prevention programs and promote psychosocial health.



## Community Center

Since 2018, the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios has been home to the Community Center, housed in a specially designed and accessible space open to all social groups. The facility exclusively serves residents of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, with a priority focus on individuals and families living in conditions of poverty and social exclusion. Additionally, it provides comprehensive support for inclusion in the Social Solidarity Income Program.

Through referrals, the center facilitates connections for its beneficiaries with various services, structures, and programs, such as Social Grocery Store, Social Kitchen, Social Pharmacy, Assistance at Home, Open Care Centers for the Elderly (KAPI), Public Services, Volunteer Organizations, and more. In the reporting years, the majority of services for beneficiaries were carried out through direct telephone and electronic communication with the Community Center or through the citizen's hotline at 15371.



## Open Care Centers for the Elderly (KAPI)

The Open Care Centers for the Elderly (KAPI) are aimed at individuals aged 60 and above. The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios operates five KAPI centers, providing care and guidance for the prevention of psychological and social issues in the elderly. These centers offer organized recreational and other activities, as well as opportunities for social work and empowerment or economic contribution.



Recognizing the need to harness the knowledge, skills, experience, and willingness of seniors, through the KAPI centers the Municipality promotes the planning and development of programs that mobilize the elderly for active participation, benefiting both themselves and the community.

KAPI members plan and implement outreach and socialization activities, such as excursions. They also participate in the summer sea baths organized by the Municipality and collaborate with other structures for joint actions and events.

**3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING**



## 4. Provision of preventive health services and the design of awareness and information campaigns

Health is one of the most vital issues that concern local government. Municipal authorities are responsible for providing and ensuring basic healthcare infrastructure and services in their local communities. This includes promoting both health prevention and promotion programs, as well as awareness and education initiatives on health. Moreover, local government can seek collaborations with local hospitals and medical entities to enhance healthcare provisions in the area. In this context, the collaboration with the Local Health Team of Agios Dimitrios was valuable, especially during the pandemic. Through effective planning, management, and implementation of health initiatives, the municipality ensures the well-being and health of its residents, significantly contributing to improving their quality of life.

Particularly during the period of 2020-2021, the Crisis Management Team created to address the impacts of the coronavirus prioritized the protection of citizens, with a focus on vulnerable groups unable or not allowed to leave their homes, such as the elderly, PWDs, and those with chronic illnesses. Through the 15.371 citizen hotline, these individuals



received support for immediate needs, including medication delivery or psychological assistance.

Furthermore, as part of social support and care, social workers and employees of Community Centers (KAPI) communicated with all members of the five KAPIs in the city (over 3,000 individuals).

**dad ΔΗΜΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ**  
**Τμήμα Υγείας & Πρόνοιας**

**ΠΑΓΚΩΣΜΙΑ ΗΜΕΡΑ ΗΛΙΚΙΩΜΕΝΩΝ**

**ΜΟΥΣΙΚΟΧΟΡΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΤΑΣΗ**  
**των ΚΑΠΗ Αγίου Δημητρίου**  
**ΑΦΙΕΡΩΜΑ ΣΤΟΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΙΝΗΜΑΤΟΓΡΑΦΟ**



ΥΠΕΥΘΥΝΗ ΧΟΡΩΔΙΑΣ: ΕΜΜΑΝΟΥΕΛΑ ΦΛΑΜΟΥΡΙΔΟΥ  
ΥΠΕΥΘΥΝΗ ΧΟΡΟΥ: ΕΛΕΝΑ ΚΗΡΥΚΟΥ  
ΥΠΕΥΘΥΝΗ ΘΕΑΤΡΟΥ: ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΑΔΟΥ

They prioritized individuals without a support system to inform them about their health, both physical and mental, and to inquire if they needed anything during the challenging days of lockdown. Simultaneously, the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, in collaboration with the 1st Health Region of Attica, actively participated in the national effort for the vaccination of citizens against COVID-19, focusing on individuals who, for various reasons, remained restricted at home and wished to get the vaccine.

Regardless of the pandemic period, the Municipal Authority strengthened the Municipal Health Clinics to serve vulnerable population groups (such as the poor, uninsured, migrants, elderly, PWDs, etc.) and individuals participating in the “Assistance at Home” program. The specialties that operated during the period of 2020-2021 included Pathologist, Orthopedic, Gynecologist, Pulmonologist, and Cardiologist.

In the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios:

- Municipal Health Clinics, a Social Pharmacy, and a Blood Bank operate.
- Information and awareness campaigns for citizens are organized.
- Health promotion programs are implemented.
- Health prevention updates are provided in schools and Community Centers.

Prevention and Health Promotion programs that operated for all citizens include:

- Prevention and Health Promotion for the pediatric population through various anthropometric measurements, in collaboration with the “Aglaia Kyriakou” Children’s Hospital.
- Gynecological examination, prevention of cervical cancer – Pap smear, breast palpation, and referral for mammography if need be.
- Exercise program for people aged 50+. Prevention of osteoporosis and mobility issues.

- Blood Bank. Two voluntary blood donation events are organized every year.

#### **“Assistance at Home” program**

The program is designed for non-self-sufficient elderly individuals and persons with disabilities (PWDs). It targets senior citizens who are not fully self-sufficient and individuals with mobility impairments and specific issues, prioritizing those living alone or lacking complete family care or facing financial constraints hindering access to necessary services that could improve their quality of life. The program is staffed by Social Workers, nurses, and a pathologist, who visit these individuals, providing support on nutrition, home care, and health issues.

Through the program, organized and systematic primary social care is provided with the aim of dignified and healthy living, as well as enhancing the quality of life for both the individuals and their families. Additionally,



daily food portions are distributed, and medical prescriptions are administered for non-self-sufficient individuals without a support system.

2020-2021 Prevention and Awareness Initiatives:

- Free osteoporosis screenings on occasion of the World Osteoporosis Day, celebrated every October, in collaboration with the “Petaloúda” Skeletal Health Association and the Greek Inter-Municipal Network of Healthy Cities, as part of the preventive screening and information program called “Modern Approaches to the Diagnosis and Management of Osteoporosis.”
- Introduction of a new program for free nutritional counseling by the Health & Welfare Department.
- Seminar on cancer prevention featuring renowned doctors, providing accurate and in-depth information on three common forms of cancer: breast cancer, uterine cancer, and colorectal cancer.
- Free mammography screenings during October 2020 and 2021, the month dedicated to breast cancer prevention and awareness, in collaboration with the Hellenic Anticancer Society.
- Information, Prevention, and Testing for HIV and Hepatitis B & C in collaboration with the humanitarian organization Praksis, within the framework of public health programs, through the Mobile Unit with the aim of information-prevention-testing for HIV and Hepatitis B & C.
- As part of the broader informational campaign to address the spread of the coronavirus, informative lectures at Community Centers by the Municipality's doctor.
- Conducting free screening tests for coronavirus at regular intervals in 2021, as part of preventive measures.

## 1.2. The indicators toward “a Human City” are:

A/A	Indicators	SDGs	2020	2021
01	Number of deaths due to Covid-19 per 100,000 inhabitants		26.65	7.01
02	The difference of deaths due to Covid-19 per 100,000 inhabitants at Municipality level compared to the National average		-21.05	-145.68
03	Number of elderly people who needed psychological support and help and came to the Open Care Centers for the Elderly (KAPI)		1,900	2,200
04	Number of awareness raising and preventive actions on public health issues		13	32
05	Land used for cultivation (acres)	 	2.5	2.5
06	Total number of people who needed social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	1.298	1.165
07	Total number of families who needed social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	520	481
08	Number of women in need of social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	831	833
09	Number of men in need of social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	467	332

**6 / The local strategy  
towards 2030**

10	Long shelf-life food distributed through the Social Grocery Store (number of items)	 	47,485	39,485	
11	Hygiene products distributed through the Social Grocery Store (number of items)	 	10,449	8,449	
12	Total number of people who needed social care through the Municipality's Social Kitchen	 	145	118	
13	Total number of families who needed social care through the Municipality's Social Kitchen	 	95	82	
14	Total number of meals produced through the Municipality's Social Kitchen	 	27,367	27,424	
15	Total number of people who needed social care through the Municipality's Social Pharmacy	 	125	142	
16	Total number of people who needed support from the Municipality's Community Center		685	570	
17	Total visits to the Municipality's Community Center		3,336	3,399	
18	Total number of services offered at the Municipality's Community Center		3,477	3,624	
19	Shared spaces per 1,000 inhabitants (Sq)	 	922.3	922.3	

20	Users of free public wi-fi		90,000	90,000	
21	Number of road traffic accidents		78	76	
22	Children 0-4 attending preschool education in public institutions		488	465	
23	School-age children participating in the Municipality's Child Creativity Center		152	154	
24	Number of Children participating in the "Play Holidays" summer creative program		550	550	
25	Number of children participating in the municipal summer camp		410	417	
26	Number of high school students participating in the Social Tutoring Center		104	94	
27	Percentage of girls who participating in the Social Tutoring Center		55%	44%	
28	Number of volunteer teachers contributing to the Social Tutoring Center		38	42	
29	Percentage (%) of students successful at the Panhellenic exams		91.7%	52.9%	

# 6.2.2 / An Economically Strong City

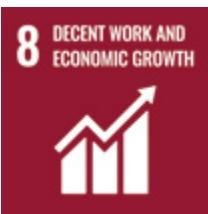
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## 6.2.2 / An Economically Strong City



In order for Agios Dimitrios to become an economically robust city, a combination of strategic planning and sustainable development is required. First and foremost, the city must invest in technological innovation, attracting businesses and investors that will create jobs and contribute to the growth of the local economy. Additionally, the city should invest in sustainable infrastructure, such as the public sector, transportation, and environmental initiatives, to improve the quality of life for residents and attract more visitors. With proper planning and policies, Agios Dimitrios can evolve into a city that thrives economically and benefits all its citizens.

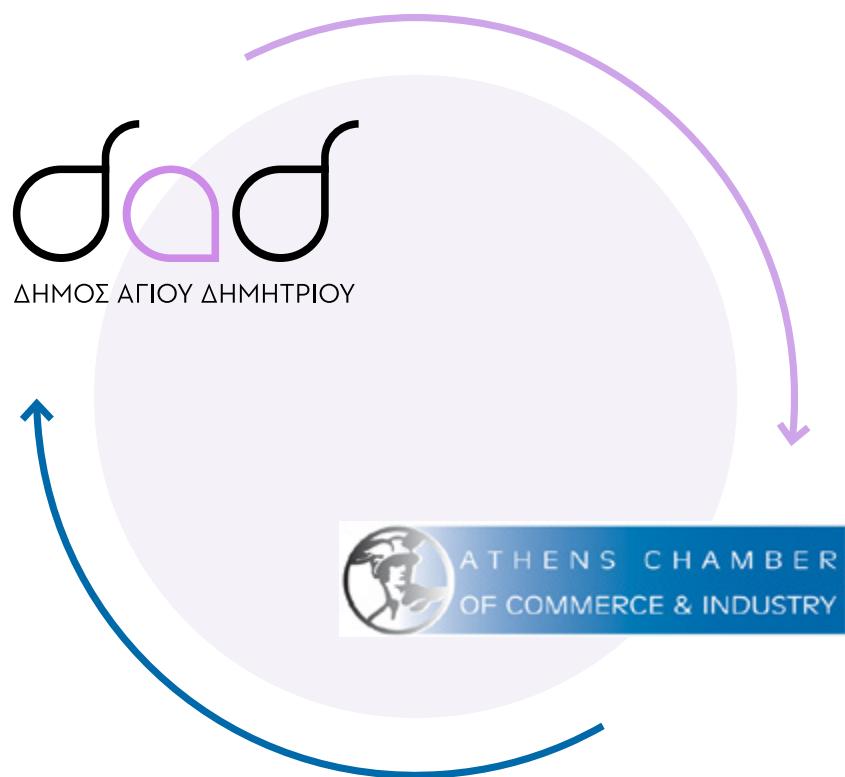
Agios Dimitrios hosts a variety of small businesses that offer technical, educational, financial, and insurance services. As an economically strong city, Agios Dimitrios supports existing and new businesses through:

- Utilizing existing assets to support businesses and companies based in the municipality.
- Stimulating innovation through collaborations with the government, businesses, the community, and relevant authorities.

**Collaboration between the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios and the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).**

As part of the collaboration with the Municipality, the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry will undertake the following initiatives:

- Conducting a study for the creation of a Local Development Plan



for a specific area of Agios Dimitrios (following the AGORA ATHENS program model).

- Providing free online training sessions led by industry experts for professionals and businesses in the Municipality.
- Offering free skill development programs for professionals in the Municipality.
- Providing advisory services from tax consultants, lawyers, and labor experts of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry to local businesses and professionals.

## **2.1. The Materiality Issues toward “An Economically Strong City” are:**

### **1. Utilization of funding sources from European and National development programs**

The sustainability of a city depends largely on its ability to finance projects and initiatives that contribute to improving the quality of life of its residents, protecting the environment, and fostering economic development. Utilizing funding sources from European and developmental programs can provide additional financial support for major projects, contributing to the local economy and the city's prosperity.

To effectively leverage funding sources, the municipality of Agios Dimitrios has developed a strategic management approach. This approach involves prioritizing projects, identifying funding sources, and implementing a timeline. The strategy aligns with the city's overall plan for sustainability. Outlined below are key projects facilitated through funding from national and European developmental programs:

#### **1. Urban interventions to enhance the local market on asyrmatou street**

- › Incorporated into the green fund on 11/25/2020
- › Announced on 15/01/2021

The proposed environmental revitalization of Asyrmatou Street significantly enhances the municipality's supra-local green lung, successfully extending it into the adjacent residential area. However, the environmental and social significance of the intervention area can only be fully assessed within the broader framework of public shared spaces and the overall urban functions of the surrounding area.



As part of a network of central and secondary roads traversing the neighborhood, Asyrmatou Street lacks tree-lined sidewalks and organized vegetation on both sides. The existing greenery is considered rudimentary and unsuitable for pedestrian movement on existing sidewalks, prompting the need for substantial changes.

Redesigning the street as part of an open public space network emphasizes environmental enhancement, natural soil release, and vegetation reinforcement. This allows the intervention area to contribute comprehensively to the upgrading processes of the municipality's space network with broader supra-local significance, ultimately leading to an improved city life.

The environmental goals of the Asyrmatou Street revitalization, as reflected in the project, include:

- Completion of the green design promoted by the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, aiming for unified environmental and functional character across the wider area. Asyrmatou Street is a key internal road network of the municipality.

- Exemplary presentation of the “green face” promoted by the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios through street redevelopment, aligning with previous studies on upgraded roads. The successful completion of the green design is expected to promote a visible model of environmental awareness in the broader metropolitan area. The proposed environmental revitalization of the street, combined with architectural design, will not simply contribute to physical improvement of living conditions, but will further enhance the environmental education of the city’s residents.
- Highlighting the specific natural characteristics of the urban space and its unique cultural features. Contribution to the broader promotion of a new urban ethos in design and construction, characterized by increased environmental sensitivity.
- Efforts to impart a distinctive architectural character to the area, upgrading its cultural presence and making the free public space comparable, and possibly superior, in terms of quality and visibility to neighboring privately owned spaces.
- Traffic management improvements leading to a reduction in areas allocated to car circulation and parking. This reduction promotes shared green spaces while allowing for increased areas available for pedestrian and ADA use, as well as mild traffic flow.
- Suitability of redevelopment materials and satisfactory cost-to-lifespan ratios, coupled with the need for limited maintenance.
- Liberation and immediate facilitation of pedestrian movement and stops, minimizing vehicular traffic as much as possible, and maximally enhancing vegetation, a primary means of urban environmental improvement and counteracting climate change.

## 2. Energy upgrade interventions for school buildings in the municipality of Agios Dimitrios

- › Approved under NSRF on 03/11/2020
- › Announced on 27/07/2021

The proposed project contributes significantly to:

- Improving the energy efficiency of buildings
- Substantial resource savings on an annual basis, through a reduction in energy costs
- Environmental protection
- Raising public awareness
- Creating comfortable conditions for building users



In accordance with the national plan to increase the number of nearly Zero Energy Buildings, all new buildings or those undergoing extensive renovations and housing services of the public and broader public sector must be nearly Zero Energy Buildings. The proposed actions/interventions will both: a) enhance energy efficiency and b) lead to energy savings and a reduction in the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of school buildings.



The proposed interventions within the framework of the project respond to the undeniable and urgent need for energy upgrading of school buildings, which currently consume significant amounts of energy for heating and cooling, both of which are necessary, and for creating suitable working conditions, events, and other activities that take place within them.

Upon completion of the project, a significant improvement in comfort, safety, and hygiene conditions in school buildings will occur, simultaneously ensuring rational energy use and conservation. This will be achieved by limiting thermal losses and maximizing thermal gains.

### **3. Construction of ramps and sanitary facilities for access and service of people with disabilities in the school units of the municipality of Agios Dimitrios**

- › Included in ‘philodimos’ on 27/05/2020
- › Announced on 22/11/2021

The study was conducted under the ‘PHILODIMOS II’ program and involves the construction of ramps and sanitary facilities for the access and service of people with disabilities in school units of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios. Aiming to improve the quality of life and daily routine of students by ensuring their unimpeded movement, especially for individuals with reduced mobility, the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios intends to undertake interventions for the construction of inclined levels (ramps) and accessible toilets for people with disabilities in the schools of the Municipality.

The study followed the guidelines of the Design for All program of the Office of Studies for People with Disability of the Ministry of Education and current legislation. The interventions involve the construction of new inclined entrance levels in school units where the specified specifications are not met, and as for the sanitary spaces, the interventions include either the creation of new sanitary facilities or the reconstruction of existing ones.

### **4. Creation of safe school crossings 2021**

- › Announced on 16/12/2021

The interventions described in this study consist of local-scale improvements to the road infrastructure to enhance road safety during the movement of students to schools in the Municipality.

The interventions are carried out simultaneously with the rearrangement and enrichment of road signs. The study aims to differentiate the characteristics of the road infrastructure, so that on the one hand, traffic



is conducted more gently, and on the other hand, children are exposed to fewer risks during their movement. The interventions are implemented through the reconstruction of selected road segments with small-scale projects, widening of sidewalks, and the construction of crossings with differentiated road surfaces.

## 2.2. The indicators toward “An Economically Strong City” are:

A/A	Indicators	SDGs	2020	2021
01	Number of new businesses	 	142	161
02	Number of businesses that closed	 	48	43

## 6.2.3 / A city that respects and is inspired from its environment and culture



## 6.2.3 / A city that respects and is inspired from its environment and culture



A city that respects and is inspired from its environment promotes intergenerational equality, requiring present generations to choose how to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. The quality of the urban environment is increasingly recognized as a key means of rejuvenating cities, and environmental protection becomes a factor in attracting socially and environmentally responsible investments, creating comparative advantages for both the city and its residents.

Agios Dimitrios, like Greece as a whole, is likely to face an increasingly unstable climate, with lower rainfall, more intense storms, floods, and heatwaves. Climate change puts pressure on the fundamental elements of the city's sustainability, such as clean air, water, and green spaces, posing risks of energy poverty, climate migration, and environmental degradation.

As a city that respects and draws from its environment, the Municipal Authority continues to take initiatives to mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt to it. This includes actions to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the overall resource efficiency through:

- Using renewable energy sources
- Restoring flora and fauna and expanding green spaces
- Conserving resources by prioritizing better water management
- Ensuring the city's resilience for an immediate and effective response to climate-related challenges.

Regarding culture, the artistic, cultural, and creative life of Agios Dimitrios is crucial for the community's well-being. It provides a common language for people of all ages and backgrounds to explore ideas, connect through authentic experiences, and engage in broader discussions. A city that respects and draws from its culture serves as a bridge between the worlds of science and technology, art, and culture. It satisfies people's fundamental need for a sense of belonging, building a sustainable and inclusive future.





Achieving this goal requires the right foundations and supportive structures, such as:

- Encouraging creativity as a pillar for building an innovative and sustainable city
- Empowering artists and creative professionals by providing resources and spaces for production and collaboration
- Encouraging everyone to promote new ideas
- Providing an environment that inspires artists and encourages the public to question boundaries and explore new horizons
- Encouraging dialogue between cultures, disciplines, genders, and ages
- Supporting every artistic and cultural action that responds to and connects with the real needs of society.



### 3.1 / The Materiality Issues toward “A city that respects and is inspired from its environment and culture” are:

1. Creation of new green spaces, enhancement, and maintenance of existing ones

The creation and maintenance of green spaces constitute a fundamental pillar of the sustainability of Agios Dimitrios. Green spaces are essential for improving the quality of life for citizens and addressing the challenges posed by urban development. The establishment of new green areas provides opportunities for recreation, sports, social interaction, and the exploration of nature, simultaneously enhancing the microclimate of the area.







In order to achieve the creation of new green spaces and the preservation of existing ones, Agios Dimitrios has adopted a comprehensive approach. This approach includes the planning and development of new green spaces based on the needs of the citizens and the protection of biodiversity. Additionally, the city is committed to the continuous maintenance and improvement of existing green spaces, having invested in awareness programs for their utilization by the community. This encourages citizen participation in shaping, protecting, and maintaining these spaces.

Extensive landscaping work was carried out in 2020 in squares, communal green spaces, and schools, following the staffing of the relevant Department with personnel hired specifically for this purpose through a four-month employment contract. The following areas were cleaned, trimmed, and pruned in more than 60 public spaces including squares, pedestrian streets, kindergartens, primary schools etc.



## 2. Rational waste management, increased recycling, and promotion of circular economy – reuse

Environmental protection and the promotion of sustainability at the urban level require an open and cohesive vision that focuses on rational waste management, increasing recycling rates, and promoting a circular economy. Agios Dimitrios, like all European cities, now faces the need to reassess its practices regarding waste management, advocating for efficient collection, sorting, and recycling. In this context, the campaign to encourage a circular economy and reuse becomes crucial, as it promotes the sustainable use of resources and reduces environmental impact.

Rational waste management requires collaboration among local authorities, the business community, and citizens. Informing and educating citizens are both critical to achieving an increase in recycling rates and protecting the city's environment.



Agios Dimitrios aims for recycling to become an integrated part of citizens' and businesses' daily lives, while promoting the use of products made from recycled materials.



To achieve this, the city promotes rational waste management, increased recycling, and a circular economy. This includes the development of high standards for waste collection and sorting, as well as the promotion of reuse. Simultaneously, it supports citizen education and encourages innovative solutions that reduce the city's environmental footprint and promote sustainability.

## Recycling Festival in Asyrmatos

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, in collaboration with the Athens Makerspace Organization, presented the ‘Recycling Festival’ in Asyrmatos, featuring a unique Upcycling Plastic Workshop and the Precious Plastic Lab. The Precious Plastic Lab is a workshop equipped with 3D printers specialized in processing plastic waste with the aim of transforming them into useful products.



The venue featured a dome made entirely of recycled plastic, a specially designed Green Spot, a colorful bench made from 20,000 bottle caps, and informative activities about the entire program. The machines of the Precious Plastic Lab were used to create commemorative gifts for both children and adults, using plastic caps.



### 3. Actions for the conservation and restoration of the natural environment, protection of ecosystems, and the natural landscape (e.g. Pikrodafni stream, Asyrmatos)

#### Pikrodafni Stream

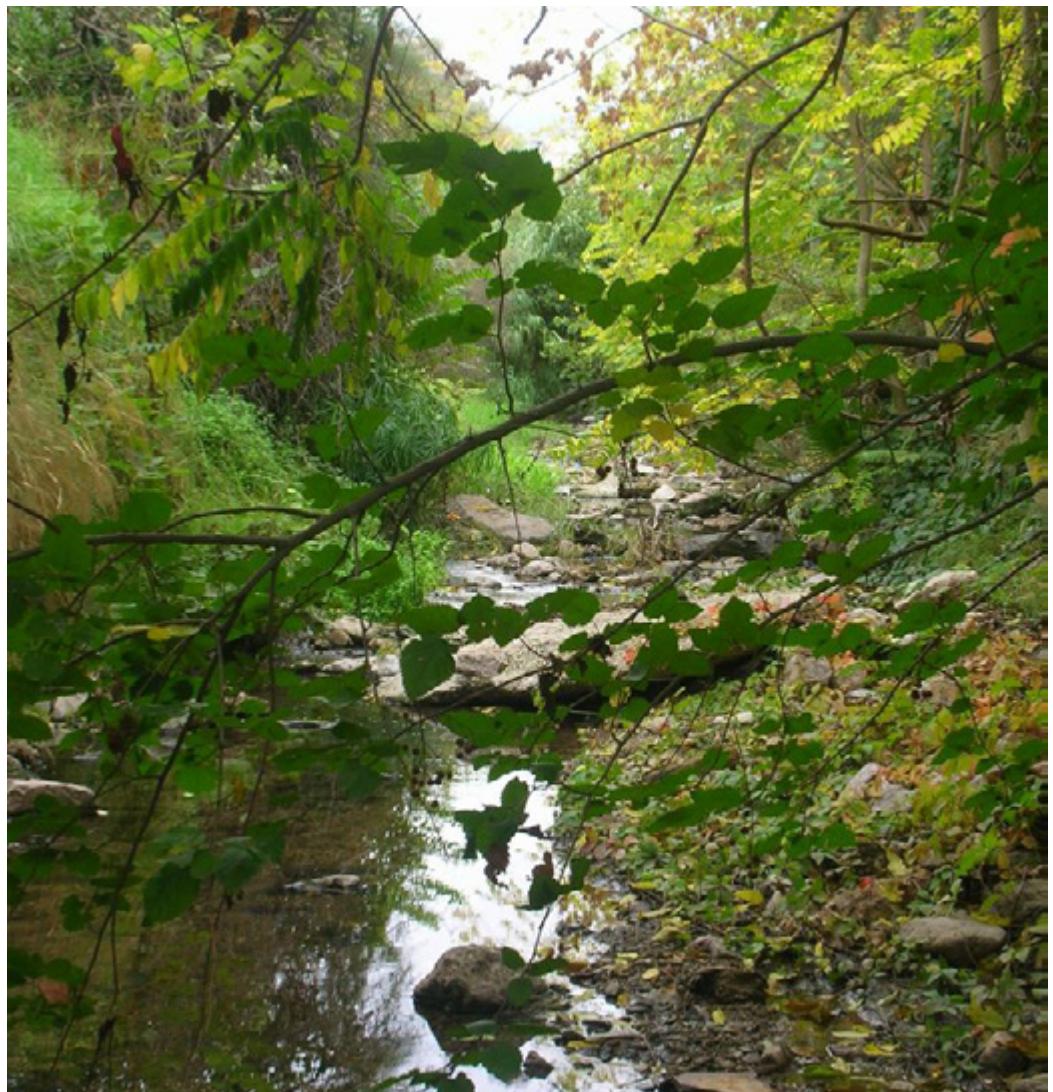
Perhaps the most significant natural element of the municipality is the Pikrodafni Stream. Originating from the foothills of Mount Hymettus, the Pikrodafni Stream flows into Piraeus Faliron, representing one of 13 only open streams that remain in the Attica region. It is designated as a site of 'special environmental interest'.

The responsibility for the Pikrodafni Stream, concerning planning, study, construction, and maintenance of flood protection works, as well as the cleaning and policing of the stream and alienated areas along it, falls under the jurisdiction of the Attica Region.



The Pikrodafni Stream originates from the western part of Mount Hymettus, with its hydrographic network extending within the boundaries of the municipalities of Vryonas, Ilioupoli, Agios Dimitrios, Paleo Faliro, and Alimos. Its drainage basin covers an area of approximately 23 kilometers, with an average altitude of 258 meters. The stream's estuary is in close proximity to the Marina Alimou.

The Pikrodafni Stream can be distinguished into three significant sections: the upper section, defined from its sources to the height of Vouliagmenis Avenue; the middle section, between Vouliagmenis Avenue and Amphithea; and the lower section, between Amphithea and its estuary.



Certain sections of the stream feature extensive natural vegetation and fauna. The area hosts 150 different bird species, including birds of prey, herons, kingfishers, swallows, night herons, and others. Simultaneously, it serves as a refuge for various mammal and reptile species. Additionally, various flora and insect species contribute to the uniqueness of the area. The significance and benefits of the Pikrodafni Stream are diverse. Like all urban streams, it creates a true oasis of life of special environmental value. It serves as a habitat for biodiversity, positively influences the microclimate of the wider area, and contributes to the reduction of air pollutants, thus improving the overall quality of the atmospheric environment.

In the Pikrodafni Stream, city residents can enjoy a non-artificial landscape with alternations and diversity, feeling the vitality of nature and the changing seasons. It also provides an opportunity for active citizen participation in the protection of the natural environment, promoting environmental awareness. Environmental education related to the study of the stream can contribute to understanding various general environmental issues and problems.

Despite these benefits, the Pikrodafni Stream has faced multiple threats over the years, including illegal construction, disposal of waste, sewage, bulk waste, and other pollutants, resulting in noticeable impacts of urban development on the natural environment.

The environmental conservation and gentle restoration of the Pikrodafni Stream are essential, contributing to the improvement of residents' quality of life. Along the streambed, special paths and connections to the urban fabric through crossings and bridges can be created. Furthermore, dense planting along the stream's length will rejuvenate biodiversity and establish green and recreational hubs. In this way, one of the last remaining natural stream landscapes in the basin will be highlighted, serving as an incentive for the restoration of the natural environment within the urban space and becoming an ecological development model for the municipality, the basin, and future generations.

The preservation and restoration of the natural environment, as well as the protection of ecosystems and the natural landscape of Agios Dimitrios, specifically the Pikrodafni stream and Asyrmatos, are critical aspects of the city's sustainability. The city faces increasing environmental challenges, including biodiversity loss, pollution, and urban overheating. Coordinated actions are required to address these challenges, focusing on the conservation of the natural environment and the protection of ecosystems.

Specifically, the Municipality has focused on preserving green spaces and natural ecosystems that shape the urban landscape. This includes the creation of parks and green playgrounds, as well as the reconstruction of urban ecosystems that have suffered environmental damage.



Through these actions, not only is the quality of the natural environment ensured, but the same stands for the city's ability to address modern environmental challenges.

For example, on Sunday, June 6, 2021, in celebration of World Environment Day (June 5), the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios organized a voluntary cleaning action for the Pikrodafni stream. The invitation was extended to all schools, community organizations, and citizens who love Pikrodafni and wanted to spend some of their time in order to clean and explore one of the city's most beautiful paths.





## 4. Efficient energy management, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change impacts

The efficient management of energy is a cornerstone of the sustainability of Agios Dimitrios. The efficient use of energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions represent primary goals pursued by the city. To achieve this, active participation and collaboration of the public sector, the private sector, and society are required, along with innovative solutions and technological investments. The promotion of the use of renewable energy sources, energy saving in public buildings and transportation, as well as the development of municipal transportation, are significant initiatives in this direction.

Moreover, addressing the impacts of climate change requires strategic action on multiple levels. Agios Dimitrios is developing adaptation plans to protect residents from extreme weather events and maintain the sustainability of infrastructure. Furthermore, education and awareness initiatives about climate change are promoted to enhance support for taking action. With coherence, collaboration, and determination, Agios Dimitrios aims to play a critical role in reducing the impacts of climate change and shaping a sustainable and progressive path for the future.





Specifically, the challenge of climate change has become critical for our planet. The effects of rising temperatures, pollution, and depletion of natural resources are evident worldwide. In this fight, city mayors play a central role. In an effort to address climate change and promote energy sustainability, in 2020 Agios Dimitrios decided to join the European initiative called 'Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.'

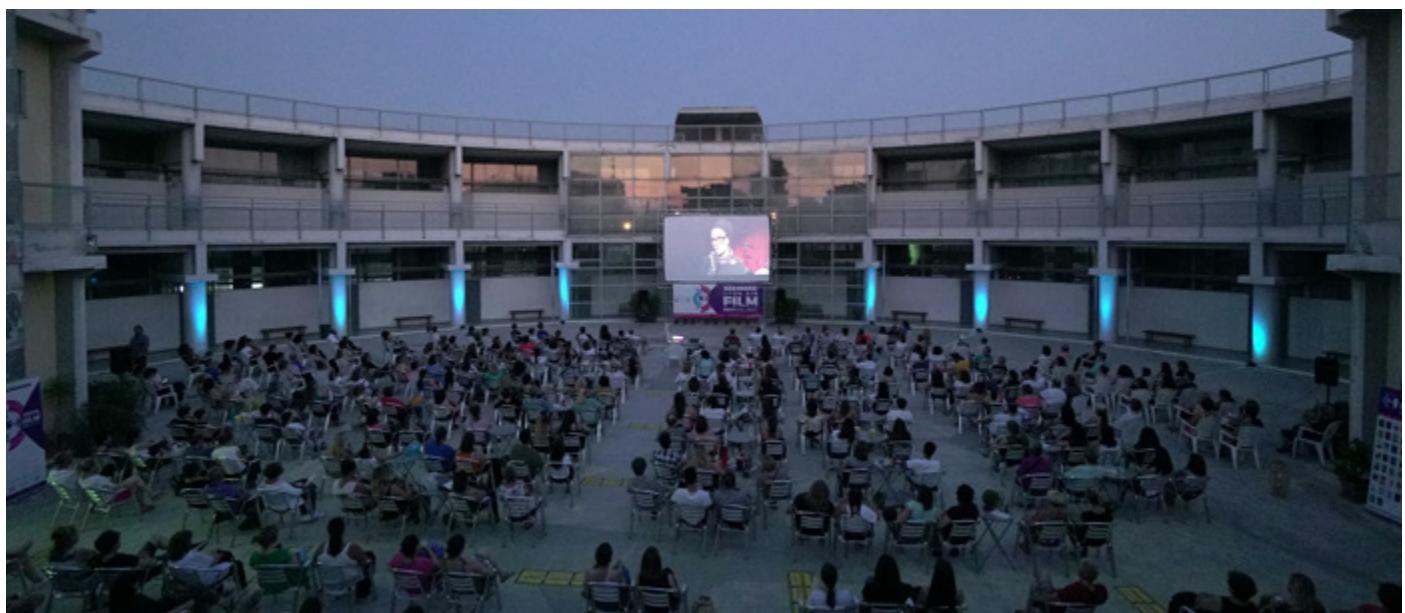
The 'Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy,' signed by Agios Dimitrios, is a global movement aimed at strengthening local-level action for climate change adaptation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Mayors from cities around the world unite to exchange best practices and commit to goals related to climate and energy. The city's signing of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy represents a significant step towards achieving sustainability goals and climate protection.

The signing is a declaration of commitment from the city of Agios Dimitrios for the future, an act that demonstrates the determination of the city administration to collaborate for a sustainable and clean environment.

## 5. Designing artistic and cultural activities to develop the creative expression of residents

Creative expression is a significant aspect of the cultural capital of Agios Dimitrios, and the planning of artistic and cultural activities to develop the creative expression of residents is an important means of engaging the community and promoting cultural diversity. Festivals and cultural events provide opportunities for community participation, showcasing local talents, and enhancing cultural exchange. With a combined approach to cultural promotion, sustainable environmental practices, and social humanitarian engagement, Agios Dimitrios highlights its rich cultural heritage and promotes a more sustainable and prosperous community.

It is worth noting that during the challenging period of the pandemic (2020–2021), the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios chose to implement major cultural events, such as the ‘Autumn Celebrations’ city festival and the ‘Round Open-Air Film Festival,’ taking all necessary health protection measures to safeguard public health. This decision was conscious, considering that the Municipality felt the obligation to support and honor the artistic community, which was severely affected during the pandemic.





In the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, all cultural events are open to the public with free admission. However, solidarity is always at the core of the municipality's cultural actions, and it gratefully welcomes the contributions of citizens in the form of non-perishable food, school supplies, and cleaning and personal hygiene items for the needs of the city's Social Structures. For the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, multifaceted community support is the only way to build sustainable and resilient cities.

All cultural events during the 2020-2021 period provided tangible support to the artistic world but also created a chain of solidarity, starting from culture and extending to unwavering care for fellow citizens.

## Indicative cultural and artistic actions for 2020-2021:

### 'Autumn Celebrations' City Festival - 2020

Even in the challenging conditions of the pandemic, the Organization of Culture, Sports, and Environment planned and organized the City Festival, taking care to implement all health protection measures based on the latest guidelines of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Culture, which governed events and festivals during that period nationwide.

With concerts, theatrical performances, and shadow theater for children, in September 2020, the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios welcomed the new season with more optimism, supporting people in Culture and the Arts.



## Autumn Celebrations' City Festival - 2021

The artistic approach of the Organization of Culture, Sports, and Environment of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios focused on high-level events for 2021 that, on the one hand, honored the 200 years since the Greek Revolution and, on the other, appreciated the multifaceted expressions of the anniversary in a traditional and contemporary way.

Traditional forms succeeded modern and young artists, shadow theater for children led to exceptional theatrical productions, while traditional music from all over Greece met artists such as Eleni Vitali and Eleftheria Arvanitaki. From the Pontians of the 'Black Sea' and the lyre players of Crete to the blues, funk, jazz, rock & hip-hop sounds of well-known contemporary artists originating from the city of Agios Dimitrios!



## '1821: What Does It Mean to You?' Theatrical Documentary

The Theater Workshop of the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, wanting to celebrate the 200 years since the revolution of 1821, prepared a theatrical documentary titled '1821: What Does It Mean to You?' The action that took place on stage was based on the stimuli provided by the documentary, which consisted of interviews conducted by members of the theater workshop with 38 people of all ages.



### 3.2 / The indicators toward “A city that respects and is inspired from its environment and culture” are:

A/A	Indicators	SDGs	2020	2021
01	Municipal solid waste collected per capita per year (kilograms)		421	426
02	Percentage of recycled waste over the total waste collected		14.8%	15%
03	Municipal solid waste (tonnes)		30.228,23	30.536,95
04	Municipal solid waste, per inhabitant, collected by the Separation at the Source Recycling Program		-	65
05	Recycled materials (tons)		4,500.51	4,595.11
06	Daily Volume of Waste Collected (m3/day)		0.234	0.236
07	Total number of new bins		175	325
08	Percentage of environmentally friendly municipal vehicles (electric, hybrid) in the municipal vehicle fleet		0	0
09	Number of new trees planted in the city		260 trees & 850 shrubs	130 trees & 425 shrubs

10	Total water consumption (m3)		130,000	103,000
11	Power percentage of LED luminaires in the street lighting network		2%	2%
12	Percentage of use of LED luminaires in the street lighting network		4%	4%
13	Number of pet sterilizations		124	348
14	Number of animals treated at the Small Animal Medical Center		80	142
15	Number of cultural activities		15	24
16	Number of book presentations		8	7
17	Number of book promotion actions		9	12
18	Number of theatre performances		14	23

# 6.2.4 / An innovative, transparent and human-centered Municipality



## 6.2.4 / An innovative, transparent and human- centered Municipality



The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios acknowledges that the transition to a modern, transparent, and human-centered municipality is an ongoing journey rather than a predefined project. This transition requires a commitment to change, particularly from the Municipal Authority, the involvement of stakeholders, especially municipal employees and citizens. However, it also demands continuous effort to ensure that the municipality meets the needs and vision for the future of its residents.

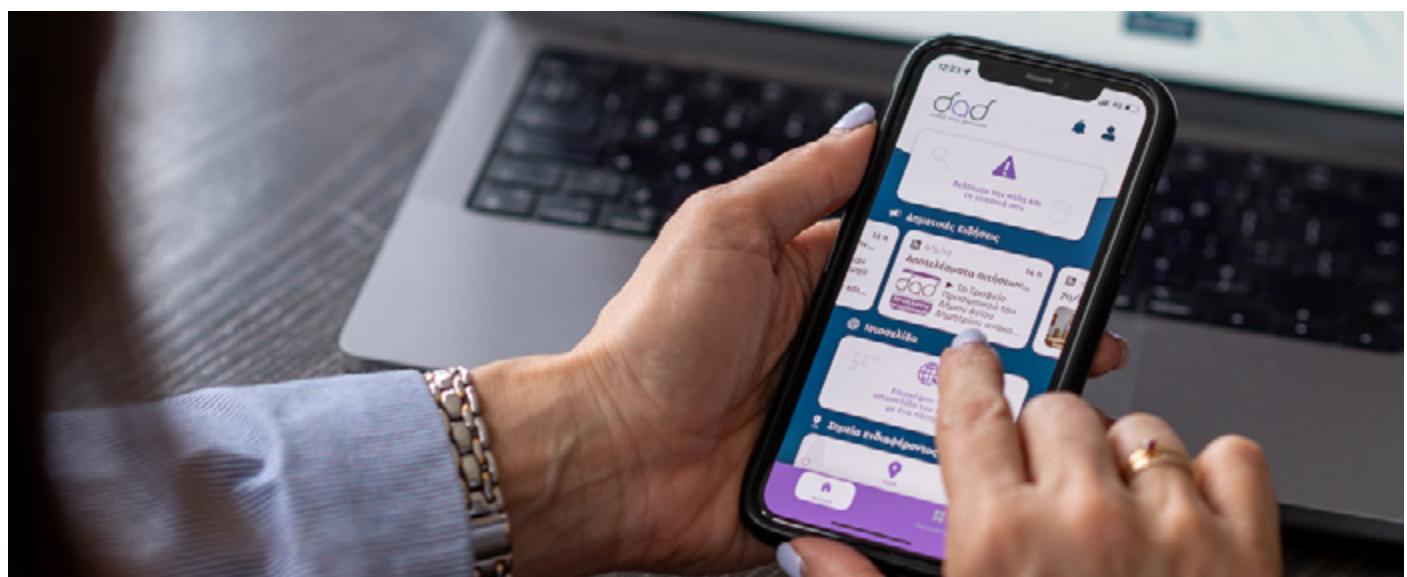
In this context, the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios has set the following key steps and strategies to improve the quality of life of its residents on a daily basis:

**1. New Technologies in the Digital Era:** The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios leverages new digital technologies to enhance communication, transparency, and efficiency continually. Through digital platforms for citizen participation, such as online portals, mobile applications, and social media channels, the municipality aims to automate processes and streamline service delivery.

**2. Open Data Initiatives:** The municipality promotes transparency by implementing open data initiatives to make public information easily accessible. This includes publishing datasets, reports, budgets, and other relevant information online.

**3. Citizen Participation Enhancement:** The municipality organizes public consultations to gather input and comments on policies, projects, and initiatives.

- 4. Transparent Governance:** The municipality establishes clear policies and practices that promote transparency and accountability through timely publication of minutes of meetings, daily agendas, and decisions.
- 5. User-Centric Services:** The municipality prioritizes the needs and satisfaction of citizens in the design and provision of services.
- 6. Development of Partnerships:** The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios develops partnerships with community organizations, NGOs, and businesses to address social issues, promote sustainable development, and leverage resources. It also encourages citizen participation in initiatives that enhance the well-being of the municipality.
- 7. Performance Measurement:** The municipality has implemented performance measurements to assess its progress toward transparency and people-centricity. Through mechanisms, it regularly monitors and evaluates initiatives to identify areas for improvement and assesses the impact of implemented changes.
- 8. Continuous Improvement:** The municipality has cultivated a culture of continuous improvement and adaptability. It seeks feedback from citizens and stakeholders, learns from best practices in other municipalities, and iterates existing processes to address evolving needs.





## 4.1. The Materiality Issues toward “An innovative, transparent and human-centered Municipality” are:

### 1. Ethics and transparency in municipal services and governance

The central principle that runs through all axes and measures in the strategic planning of the Municipality, guiding its operation, is transparency and good governance, achieved through:

- a) Continuous and dialectical collaboration with citizens and all stakeholders.
- b) Encouragement of participation and dialogue through consultation processes and digital tools.

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios consistently takes actions that can contribute to transparency and good governance through the following processes:

- Education and awareness: Providing training and awareness to public servants and the Municipality's administration regarding ethics, transparency, and good governance. Education includes seminars, training programs, and promoting awareness of transparency and ethical values in the field of public administration.
- Publication of Municipal Council and Economic Committee Agendas: The practice of publishing the agendas of the Municipality's competent bodies in advance, offering citizens the opportunity to be informed about the topics to be discussed.
- Publication of Session Minutes: Ensuring that the minutes of the Municipality's bodies' sessions are published timely and clearly,

providing the public with the opportunity to know the decisions taken and the reasons behind them.

- Open Decision-Making Processes: Implementation of open decision-making processes, where citizens and interested parties have the opportunity to participate and provide their opinions before decisions are made.
- Disclosure of Financial Information: Regular and understandable publication of financial information regarding the budget, expenses, and financial data of the Municipality.
- Electronic Participation Platforms: Development of electronic platforms allowing citizens to participate and provide feedback on decision-making processes, creating a more open and transparent participation environment.
- Disclosure of Project Information: Publication of information about the progress and implementation of municipal projects, including contract details, timelines, and expenses, offering a transparent view of project progress.

The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios creates the appropriate conditions for citizen involvement in decision-making for the city's future. On a special platform on the Municipality's website, electronic consultations are published for all topics of high interest to the Municipality and citizens.

Through the platform, citizens have the opportunity to submit ideas or proposals for projects and actions to be implemented and to comment on already posted proposals and plans.

Specifically, the following actions are taken during public consultations in the 2020-2021 period:

- Public consultation on the organization of controlled parking around the 'Agios Dimitrios' metro station.



- Open consultation for the 'Operation Regulation of Sports Facilities' plan by the Organization of Culture, Sports, and Environment.
- Consultation for the configuration of Asimakopoulou Street.
- Public Consultation for the Technical Program of Projects to be implemented in the city in 2022.
- Public Consultation for the demarcation study of the Piko Dafni stream.



## 2. Continuous improvement of service quality for citizens through the use of new technologies

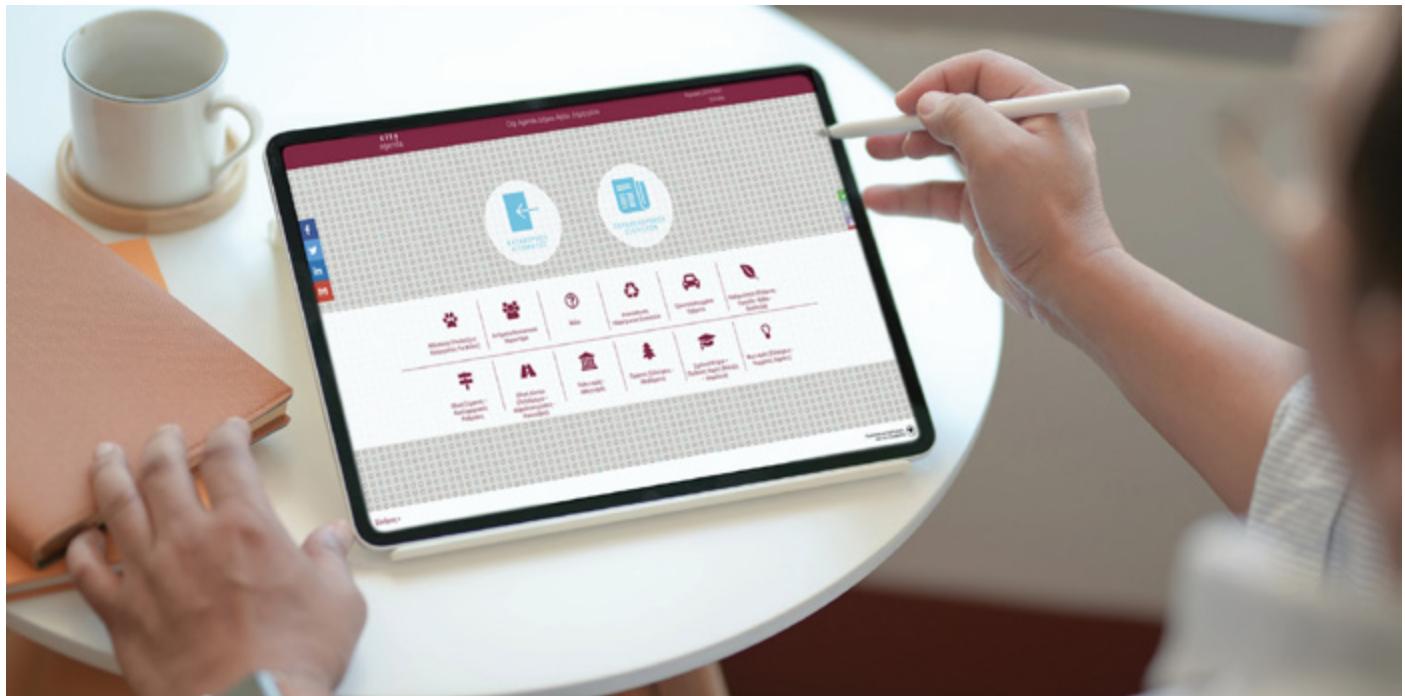
The fastest resolution of daily issues for every citizen and visitor in Agios Dimitrios, as well as the simplification of communication with the Municipality, is a fundamental priority for the Municipal Authority. Moreover, the improvement of service quality and administrative capability constitutes steadfast priorities, as reflected in the strategic planning. The Municipality of Agios Dimitrios encourages the use of new technologies in its administrative structures, with the help of user-friendly web applications for communication, recording, and monitoring daily citizen requests.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the Municipality's initiatives for its digital transformation towards the substantive functionality of services, focusing on fair and transparent service, as well as resource conservation.

Keeping all this in mind, the Municipality upgraded its operation and initiated several new projects during the 2020-2021 period, such as:

**1. City On Mobile Application:** Launched in 2021, City On is a comprehensive mobile application that provides information and digital services to every citizen or visitor of the Municipality. Through the application, users can stay informed on a daily basis about developments in the Municipality, electronically submit issues they identify in their neighborhood, get updates on Municipality actions and points of interest, and much more. Additionally, users could easily and quickly submit a movement declaration within the framework of pandemic-related health measures.

**2. Electronic Platform for Recording and Managing Requests - City Agenda:** This digital platform, operational since 2018, was upgraded to serve citizens during the restrictive measures of 2020 and 2021. On this platform, citizens can report real-time problems they identify in their area



or suggest improvements for public spaces. Particularly for 2020, the number of platform users increased by 45% compared to 2018 and 2019.

**3. Special Platform for Electronic Submission of Exemption Requests for Business Taxes:** In 2020, the Municipality announced the operation of an electronic application for the exemption of cleanliness and lighting taxes for all businesses and professionals who suspended or limited their activities due to the pandemic. These professionals could electronically apply for exemption from the unified compensatory tax for cleanliness and lighting for a period of six months.



### 3. Continuous empowerment of municipal employees' knowledge and skills through contemporary training and development programs

A fundamental part of the Municipality's vision for sustainable development is the operation of an organization where the employees constitute its strength and its most valuable asset, as stated in its operational plan. Good management is part of its strategy, and along with economic sustainability, it forms the foundation of the pillars of transparency and good governance. The Municipality places particular emphasis on cultivating harmonious relationships among its employees, fostering a safe working environment, and providing equal opportunities for training and development.

However, the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios faces understaffing and significant shortages in scientific personnel, partly due to the prolonged economic crisis in the country. Without emergency hirings, both cleanliness and other frontline services would underperform, creating significant issues in the daily lives of citizens. As expected, the Municipality's services were severely affected during the spread of the coronavirus. To address the urgent and temporary needs to curb the spread of the virus, the Municipality hired numerous employees on fixed-term contracts in various specialties. As a result, the number of municipal employees increased by 33% in 2020 and by 53% in 2021 compared to 2019 when there were no emergency conditions.

During the coronavirus period, the health and safety of employees were a top priority for the administration. For this reason, many seminars and training sessions on 'Work Safety and Proper Use of Personal Protective Equipment' were conducted for all Municipality personnel, especially those on the front lines dealing with the consequences of the pandemic, ensuring the smooth operation of municipal services. In 2020, training was

provided to 40 individuals, and in 2021 to 29 individuals, a reduced number by 60% and 70%, respectively, compared to the number of employees who attended training in 2019. This reduction is evidently due to the restrictive measures of the pandemic. However, some employees of the Municipality participated in training provided by third-party entities. The following are indicative:

- Scientific seminar on “Strategic Planning & Operational Programming in Local Government with a Vision for 2023,” 17/01/2020, Panhellenic Union of General Secretaries of Local Government - KLEISTHENIS, Athens.
- Scientific Conference: Development Financing Policy & Financial Control in Local Government, Corinth, July 2-4, 2021.

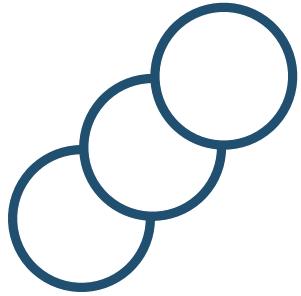
## 4.2 / The indicators toward “An innovative, transparent and human-centered Municipality” are:

A/A	Indicators	SDGs	2020	2021
01	Number of employees of the Municipality	 	577	659
02	Number of full-time employees of the Municipality	 	99%	99%
03	Number of permanent employees of the Municipality	 	42.4%	36.4%
04	Percentage of women among the Municipality's employees	  	50%	50%
05	Percentage of women in the administration of the Municipality		31%	31%
06	Number of employees of the Municipality that received training or attended seminars	  	40	29
07	Debt obligations of the Municipality (€)	 	3,891,324.86	3,398,878.85
08	Operating costs of the Municipality (€)	 	20,987,396.99	22,208,191.2
09	Net Results of the Municipality (€)	 	-1,142,564.85	-959,456.12

10	Current Assets / Total Liabilities of the Municipality	 	1,427	1,610
11	Total amount of contracts of the Municipality (€)	 	2,806,490.15	5,273,008.54
12	Page views of the Municipality's website		532,992	436,349
13	Number of users of the Municipality's website		99,677	95,592
14	Number of Municipality website visitors		224,151	191,074
15	Number of requests handled online / Year (via the City Agenda platform)		189	332
16	Users of the City Agenda electronic request platform		6,387	3,298
17	Average Session Duration in the City Agenda online request platform		2:42	3:38
18	The number of sessions in the City Agenda online request platform		9,000.00	5,691.00
19	Total fossil fuel consumption of the Municipality's vehicles (liters)	 	212,549.4	151,065.15

20	Number of participants in digital consultation processes	 	1,383	2,417
21	Number of sessions of digital consultation processes	 	1,911	3,148
22	Number of digital consultations	 	4	8
23	Number of propositions and comments from citizens during the digital consultations	 	37	54
24	Average duration per session of the digital consultation processes (minutes)	 	2:16	1:57
25	Number of stakeholders who participated in the Materiality Assesment	 	638	

# 6.3 / Monitoring towards 2030



Establishing a robust monitoring mechanism is paramount for the development and maintenance of a sustainable city, drawing inspiration from global best practices and standards such as ISO 37120 and ISO 37101. The importance of a monitoring mechanism lies in its ability to systematically assess and manage the city's sustainability, ensuring it remains on course to meet environmental, social, and economic objectives.

One of the key reasons for implementing a monitoring mechanism in Agios Dimitrios is the ability to measure and track progress against the comprehensive set of indicators specified. By consistently monitoring these metrics, city officials can gain valuable insights into the effectiveness of sustainable initiatives, identify areas for improvement, and adapt strategies to meet evolving challenges. This promotes a dynamic and adaptive approach to sustainable development, ensuring that Agios Dimitrios remains responsive to changing circumstances.

More specifically, ISO 37101 provides a structured management system for sustainable development, emphasizing the need for a proactive and integrated approach. The standard outlines requirements and guidance for effective governance and decision-making processes in a sustainable city. Implementing such a system, we ensure that sustainability is not an isolated effort but is ingrained in the city's overall management framework, fostering a holistic and coordinated approach to urban development.

Another crucial benefit of the aforementioned monitoring mechanism is the optimization of resource utilization. By continuously monitoring resource consumption, waste generation, and environmental impact, Agios Dimitrios

will identify inefficiencies and implement targeted interventions to enhance resource efficiency. This does not only contribute to cost savings, but also aligns with environmental sustainability goals, supporting the city's commitment to responsible and efficient resource management.

Transparency and citizen engagement are integral components of a successful monitoring mechanism. By making relevant data accessible to the public, Agios Dimitrios will promote transparency and inclusivity.

Informed citizens can actively participate in decision-making processes, provide valuable feedback, and collaborate with local authorities to co-create a sustainable urban environment. This fosters a sense of community ownership and pride, strengthening our city's social fabric.

The following indicators are part of the mechanism that we establish for future monitoring. We were unable to measure them for the 2020-2021 period, but we should do our best to implement the monitoring mechanism in the years that follow.

A/A	Indicators	SDGs	Analysis
01	Average sound pollution level dB(A)	 	The “Average sound pollution level” is a critical indicator for measuring the quality of life in Agios Dimitrios. Lower sound pollution levels signify a quieter, healthier, and more livable urban environment. Monitoring this indicator reflects a city’s commitment to reducing noise-related health issues and promoting a serene atmosphere for its residents. A focus on minimizing sound pollution aligns with the broader goal of enhancing well-being, productivity, and overall urban sustainability.
02	Number of urban development projects		The “Number of urban development projects” is measuring Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to growth and sustainability. A higher count indicates an active approach to improving infrastructure, roads, and amenities. Monitoring this indicator reflects the city’s dedication to enhancing its livability and economic opportunities. Urban development projects can contribute to a more vibrant, sustainable, and resilient city, offering improved quality of life for its residents while also attracting investment and fostering economic growth.
03	Number of infrastructures that facilitate the movement of vulnerable road users	 	The “Number of infrastructures that facilitate the movement of vulnerable road users” is assessing Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to road safety and inclusivity. A higher count of such infrastructures reflects the city’s dedication to improving accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and individuals with reduced mobility. Monitoring this indicator underscores the city’s goal of creating a safer and more equitable transportation environment.
04	Number of integrated actions to support local entrepreneurship	 	The “Number of integrated actions to support local entrepreneurship” is assessing Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to economic development and local business growth. A higher count signifies the city’s dedication to creating an environment that nurtures entrepreneurship, providing a range of support mechanisms. Monitoring this indicator reflects the city’s proactive approach to fostering economic sustainability, promoting job creation, and enhancing the overall economic vitality.

<b>05</b>	Number of businesses per 1,000 persons	 	The “Number of businesses per 1,000 persons” is measuring Agios Dimitrios’ economic vibrancy. A higher count indicates a robust and diverse business environment, fostering economic growth and job opportunities. Monitoring this indicator reflects the city’s commitment to a flourishing economy, where residents have access to a variety of goods, services, and employment options that enrich their quality of life.
<b>06</b>	Percentage of recycled waste over the total waste collected		The “Percentage of recycled waste over the total waste collected” is evaluating Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to sustainable waste management and environmental responsibility. A higher percentage indicates a more effective recycling program, reducing the burden on landfills and conserving resources. Monitoring this indicator demonstrates the city’s dedication to environmental sustainability, contributing to reduced waste disposal costs.
<b>07</b>	Number of Blue Recycling Bins	 	The “Number of Blue Recycling Bins” is evaluating Agios Dimitrios’ infrastructure for sustainable waste management. A higher count of these bins signifies the city’s commitment to promoting recycling and waste reduction practices. Monitoring this indicator underscores the city’s dedication to providing convenient and accessible recycling options.
<b>08</b>	Percentage of renewable energy in the total energy consumption		The “Percentage of renewable energy in the total energy consumption” is assessing a city’s commitment to clean and sustainable energy sources. A higher percentage reflects the city’s dedication to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating its environmental impact. Monitoring this indicator highlights the city’s progressive approach to environmental sustainability, contributing to reduced carbon emissions, and energy efficiency in the pursuit of a greener and more sustainable future.
<b>09</b>	Public outdoor recreational space square meters per inhabitant		The “Square footage of public outdoor recreational space per inhabitant” is a crucial indicator for assessing Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to providing green and recreational areas for its residents. A higher square footage per capita reflects the city’s dedication to creating a healthier and more livable urban

environment. Monitoring this indicator demonstrates the city's focus on public well-being, promoting physical activity and community interaction

<b>10</b>	Green space per 1,000 inhabitants (acres)	 	The “Acres of green space per 1,000 inhabitants” is assessing Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to environmental sustainability and quality of life. A higher number of acres per capita signifies the city’s dedication to providing ample green spaces for residents to enjoy. Monitoring this indicator reflects the city’s focus on public well-being, promoting physical and mental health, community engagement, and overall quality of life. It contributes to a more sustainable, attractive, and resilient city that prioritizes the natural environment and the well-being of its inhabitants.
<b>11</b>	Electricity consumption of the city of Agios Dimitrios		The “Electricity consumption of the city” is a fundamental indicator for assessing Agios Dimitrios’ energy usage and sustainability efforts. Tracking the total electricity consumption provides valuable insights into the city’s energy efficiency and environmental impact. Monitoring this indicator enables the city to make informed decisions about energy conservation, renewable energy adoption, and emissions reduction, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally responsible urban environment, while potentially lowering energy costs and reducing carbon footprints.
<b>12</b>	CO2 emissions produced by the Municipality (tons)		The “Tons of CO2 emissions by the Municipality” is assessing Agios Dimitrios’ environmental impact and carbon footprint. Monitoring these emissions provides insights into the city’s commitment to mitigating climate change. By tracking and reducing CO2 emissions, the health of its residents is prioritized. This indicator reflects a proactive approach to addressing climate change at the local level.
<b>13</b>	Average per capita electricity use for households		The “Average per capita electricity use for households (kWh/year)” is assessing energy efficiency and sustainability at the household level. Lower average electricity consumption per capita indicates a more energy-conscious community. Monitoring this indicator reflects the city’s commitment to promoting energy conservation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and managing utility costs.

14

Energy consumption of  
municipal buildings per year



The “Energy consumption of municipal buildings per year” is a critical indicator for assessing Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability in its public infrastructure. A lower energy consumption per square meter signifies the city’s dedication to reducing energy waste and promoting eco-friendly practices. Monitoring this indicator reflects the city’s emphasis on environmental responsibility and cost-effective resource management. It helps to reduce energy costs, carbon emissions, and the overall environmental footprint of municipal operations.

15

Energy production from  
renewable sources



The “Energy production from renewable sources” is assessing Agios Dimitrios’ commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly energy generation. A higher capacity in kWp signifies the city’s dedication to harnessing clean and renewable energy, reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Monitoring this indicator reflects the city’s proactive approach to environmental sustainability, contributing to lower carbon emissions, energy self-sufficiency, and a more eco-conscious city.

15

Energy consumption for  
street lighting (MWh)



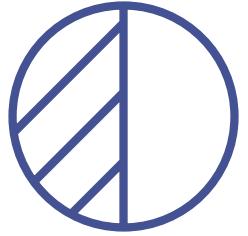
The “Energy consumption for street lighting MWh” is assessing Agios Dimitrios’ energy use in its public lighting. Monitoring this metric provides insights into the city’s energy efficiency efforts and environmental impact. By tracking and reducing the energy consumed for street lighting, the city can make informed decisions to enhance efficiency, lower energy costs, and reduce its environmental footprint.

# Discussion & recommendations

7 /



# 7 / Discussion & recommendations



In this section, we engage in a comprehensive discussion of the findings from the Agios Dimitrios VLR and provide actionable recommendations for the city and its partners. These measures and follow-up actions are aimed at advancing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals within the local jurisdiction.



# 7.1 / Discussion of Findings



## 1.1. SDG Implementation Assessment

- We have assessed the current status of SDG implementation within the city and identified areas of progress and challenges.
- Key findings reveal notable achievements in areas such as renewable energy adoption, education access, and social equality. However, challenges persist in climate action.

## 1.2. Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement has played a crucial role in the VLR process, providing diverse perspectives and insights.
- The active involvement of civil society organizations, local residents and public-private partnerships has facilitated a more inclusive and holistic assessment.

## 1.3. Data Gaps and Limitations

- During the VLR, we encountered certain data gaps and limitations that hindered a comprehensive analysis.
- Recommendations have been made to address these gaps through improved data collection methods and data-sharing agreements.

# 7.2 / Recommendations – next steps

## 2.1. Priority SDG Areas

- Prioritize the SDGs where the city has shown significant progress and is well-positioned for further improvements.
- Allocate resources and set clear targets to advance in areas such as renewable energy transition and education access.

## 2.2. Targeted Interventions

- Develop targeted interventions to address the identified challenges in poverty reduction, climate action, and social inequality.
- Establish partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and businesses, to leverage resources and expertise in these areas.

## 2.3. Data Improvement

- Invest in data improvement initiatives to address the identified data gaps and limitations.
- Collaborate with regional and national authorities to enhance data-sharing mechanisms, ensuring access to comprehensive and up-to-date information.

## 2.4. Inclusive Governance

- Strengthen mechanisms for inclusive governance and citizen participation in decision-making processes.
- Promote transparency and accountability by regularly reporting progress on SDG implementation to the public.

## 2.5. Capacity Building

- Invest in capacity building for city officials and partners to enhance their knowledge and skills in SDG implementation.
- Training programs and knowledge sharing should be tailored to the specific needs of different stakeholders.

## 2.6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress toward SDG targets.
- Regularly assess the impact of interventions and adjust strategies accordingly to ensure effectiveness.

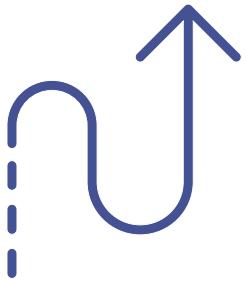
## 2.7. Partnerships

- Forge and strengthen partnerships with neighboring municipalities, regional authorities, and international organizations.
- Collaborative efforts can lead to synergies, resource sharing, and collective action for sustainable development.

## 2.8. Communication and Awareness

- Enhance communication and awareness campaigns to engage the community and promote SDG awareness.
- Foster a sense of ownership among residents, encouraging active participation in local development initiatives.

# 7.3 / Follow-up Measures



## 3.1. Action Plan Development

- Develop a comprehensive action plan that outlines specific measures, responsible stakeholders, timelines, and resource allocations based on the recommendations provided.

## 3.2. Regular Reporting

- Establish a regular reporting mechanism to keep stakeholders informed about progress on SDG implementation.
- Publicly share reports and updates through various communication channels.

## 3.3. Periodic VLRs

- Commit to conducting periodic VLRs, in line with the methodology outlined in this report.
- These reviews will help track progress, identify emerging challenges, and refine strategies over time.

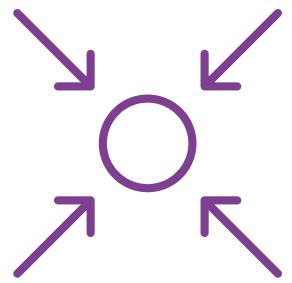
In conclusion, the discussion and recommendations provided here reflect a holistic approach to advancing sustainable development within the city and its partnerships. By implementing these measures and follow-up actions, the city can continue its journey towards achieving the SDGs, fostering inclusivity, and building a more sustainable and resilient community.

# Conclusions

8 /



# 8 / Conclusions



The completion of the Agios Dimitrios Voluntary Local Review (VLR) marks a significant milestone in our collective journey toward sustainable urban development. As we reflect on the intricate process undertaken, it becomes evident that the VLR has not only provided a comprehensive snapshot of our city's current standing in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals but has also been a catalyst for invaluable reflections and insights. This introspective analysis, coupled with the active engagement of diverse stakeholders, has laid the foundation for informed decision-making and strategic planning.

Throughout the VLR process, the city has demonstrated its commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. The collaborative efforts of local government officials, civil society organizations, residents, and other stakeholders have created a dynamic platform for dialogue, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for our city's sustainable future. The VLR has not just been an assessment tool; it has emerged as a medium for building partnerships, enhancing community awareness, and instigating a renewed sense of ownership in the pursuit of common goals.

Looking ahead, the potential commitment to perform another VLR in the future looms as a promising prospect. The lessons learned and experiences gained from this initial VLR form a solid foundation for continuous improvement. A commitment to periodic VLRs aligns with our dedication to adaptive governance and evidence-based decision-making. It signifies our willingness to embrace change, measure progress, and respond to emerging challenges with agility. Another VLR would not only serve as a benchmark for tracking the evolution of our city's sustainable

development journey but also as a vehicle for continuous engagement, ensuring that the aspirations and priorities of our community remain at the forefront of our strategic initiatives.

In conclusion, the VLR process has been more than an evaluation; it has been a transformative experience that has set the stage for a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for our city. As we contemplate the prospect of future VLRs, we do so with a sense of optimism, recognizing that each iteration holds the potential to deepen our understanding, strengthen our partnerships, and propel us even further on the path to becoming a model of sustainable urban development in the European landscape.

# Annexes

9 /



## 9.1 / Summary table of Performance Indicators to achieve the local goals and the SDGs

[https://dad.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/deiktes\\_bivsimhs\\_anaptyjhs\\_2020-21.pdf](https://dad.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/deiktes_bivsimhs_anaptyjhs_2020-21.pdf)

A/A	Indicators	SDGs	2020	2021
01	Number of deaths due to Covid-19 per 100,000 inhabitants		26.65	7.01
02	The difference of deaths due to Covid-19 per 100,000 inhabitants at Municipality level compared to the National average		-21.05	-145.68
03	Number of elderly people who needed psychological support and help and came to the Open Care Centers for the Elderly (KAPI)		1.900	2.200
04	Number of awareness raising and preventive actions on public health issues		13	32
05	Land used for cultivation (acres)	 	2.5	2.5
06	Number of participants in digital consultation processes	 	1,383	2,417
07	Number of sessions of digital consultation processes	 	1,911	3,148
08	Number of digital consultations	 	4	8
09	Number of propositions and comments from citizens during the digital consultations	 	37	54

10	Average duration per session of the digital consultation processes (minutes)	 	2:16	1:57
11	The number of stakeholders who participated in the Materiality Assesment	 	638	
12	Total number of people who needed social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	1.298	1.165
13	Total number of families who needed social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	520	481
14	Number of women in need of social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	831	833
15	Number of men in need of social care through the Social Grocery Store	 	467	332
16	Long shelf-life food distributed through the Social Grocery Store (number of items)	 	47,485	39,485
17	Hygiene products distributed through the Social Grocery Store (number of items)	 	10,449	8,449
18	Total number of people who needed social care through the Municipality's Social Kitchen	 	145	118
19	Total number of families who needed social care through the Municipality's Social Kitchen	 	95	82

20	Total number of meals that produced through the Municipality's Social Kitchen		27,367	27,424
21	Total number of people who needed social care through the Municipality's Social Pharmacy		125	142
22	Total number of people who needed support from the Municipality's Community Center		685	570
23	Total visits to the Municipality's Community Center		3,336	3,399
24	Total number of services offered at the Municipality's community center		3,477	3,624
25	Shared spaces per 1,000 inhabitants (Sq)		922.3	922.3
26	Users of free public wi-fi		90,000	90,000
27	Number of road traffic accidents		78	76
28	Children aged 0-4 attending preschool education in public institutions		488	465
29	School-age children participating in the Municipality's Child Creativity Center		152	154

<b>30</b>	Number of Children participating in the “Play Holidays” summer creative program		<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>31</b>	Number of children participating in the municipal summer camp		<b>410</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>32</b>	Number of high school students participating in Social Tutoring Center	 	<b>104</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>33</b>	Percentage of girls participating in the Social Tutoring Center		<b>55%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>34</b>	Number of volunteer teachers contributing to the Social Tutoring Center		<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>35</b>	Percentage (%) of students successful at the Panhellenic exams		<b>91.7%</b>	<b>52.9%</b>
<b>36</b>	Number of new businesses	 	<b>142</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>37</b>	Number of businesses that closed	 	<b>48</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>38</b>	Municipal solid waste collected per capita per year (kilograms)		<b>421</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>39</b>	Percentage of recycled waste over the total waste collected		<b>14.8%</b>	<b>15%</b>

40	Municipal solid waste (tons)		30,228.23	30,536.95
41	Municipal solid waste, per inhabitant, collected by the Separation at the Source Recycling Program		-	65
42	Recycled materials (tons)		4,500.51	4,595.11
43	Daily Volume of Waste Collected (m3/day)		0.234	0.236
44	Total number of new bins		175	325
45	Percentage of environmentally friendly municipal vehicles (electric, hybrid) in the municipal vehicle fleet		0	0
46	Number of new trees planted in the city		260 trees and 850 shrubs	130 trees and 425 shrubs
47	Total water consumption (m3)		130,000	103,000
48	Power percentage of LED luminaires in the street lighting network		2%	2%
49	Percentage of use of LED luminaires in the street lighting network		4%	4%

50	Number of pet sterilizations		124	348
51	Number of animals treated at the Medical Center for Small Animals		80	142
52	Number of cultural activities		15	24
53	Number of book presentations		8	7
54	Number of book promotion actions		9	12
55	Number of theatre performances		14	23
56	Number of employees of the Municipality		577	659
57	Number of full-time employees of the Municipality		99%	99%
58	Number of permanent employees of the Municipality		42.4%	36.4%
59	Percentage of women among the Municipality's employees		50%	50%

<b>60</b>	Percentage of women in the administration of the Municipality		<b>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>	
<b>61</b>	Number of employees of the Municipality that received training or attended seminars		<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>62</b>	Debt obligations of the Municipality (€)		<b>3,891,324.86</b>	<b>3,398,878.85</b>	
<b>63</b>	Operating costs of the Municipality (€)		<b>20,987,396.99</b>	<b>22,208,191.2</b>	
<b>64</b>	Net Results of the Municipality (€)		<b>-1,142,564.85</b>	<b>-959,456.12</b>	
<b>65</b>	Current Assets / Total Liabilities of the Municipality		<b>1,427</b>	<b>1,610</b>	
<b>66</b>	Total amount of contracts of the Municipality (€)		<b>2,806,490.15</b>	<b>5,273,008.54</b>	
<b>67</b>	Page views of the Municipality's website		<b>532,992</b>	<b>436,349</b>	
<b>68</b>	Number of users of the Municipality's website		<b>99,677</b>	<b>95,592</b>	
<b>69</b>	Number of Municipality website visitors		<b>224,151</b>	<b>191,074</b>	

<b>70</b>	Number of requests handled online / Year (via the City Agenda platform)		<b>189</b>	<b>332</b>
<b>71</b>	Users of the City Agenda electronic request platform		<b>6,387</b>	<b>3,298</b>
<b>72</b>	Average Session Duration in the City Agenda online request platform		<b>2:42</b>	<b>3:38</b>
<b>73</b>	The number of sessions in the City Agenda online request platform		<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>5,691.00</b>
<b>74</b>	Total fossil fuel consumption of the Municipality's vehicles (liters)	 	<b>212,549.14</b>	<b>151,065.15</b>



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**ACT NOW**  **TAKE  
CLIMATE  
ACTION!**

# PlanBe

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