

# 'How EU regulation can support urban green infrastructure'

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## 1. Latest developments at EU level

- Announcement of at least **55% GHG emission reduction target by 2030**
- **EU economic recovery** plan
- Commission EU **Biodiversity** Strategy for 2030
- European Parliament's own-initiative report on Maximising the **energy efficiency** potential of the EU building stock

## 2. What is next?

- **EU Renovation Wave**
  - In 2021: revision of **the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive**
- Review of the **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive**
- New **Climate Adaptation** Strategy

# 1 Climate neutrality objective and an increased climate ambition to at least 55% by 2030

State of the Union 2020, 16 September 2020  
Europe to become green, digital and more resilient



*„The European Commission is proposing to increase the 2030 target for emission reduction to at least 55%.“*

*„Our buildings generate 40% of our emissions. They need to become less wasteful, less expensive and more sustainable“.*

## 2 EU Recovery Plan and the next EU long-term budget - biggest focus then ever before on „green” investments



Next Generation EU	<b>Temporary reinforcement</b> €750 billion
Multiannual Financial Framework	€1 100 billion

**30% climate-related expenditure across the entire EU budget!**

EU countries will need to invest in „green” within the next years.

### 3 New EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – proposed by the European Commission

- **Urban biodiversity** specifically addressed
- **Nature-based solutions to be systematically integrated into urban planning**, including in the design of buildings and their surroundings
- A requirement for **cities of at least 20,000 inhabitants to develop ambitious Urban Greening Plans** by the end of 2021
  - will have a central role in choosing the European Green Capital 2023 and European Green Leaf 2022
- Setting up **an EU Urban Greening Platform**, under a new ‘Green City Accord’ with cities
- **Financing: at least €20 billion a year should be unlocked for spending on nature**, including for halting and reversing the decline of pollinators

## 4 European Parliament's recent proposals for promoting green roofs and walls

**Own-initiative report by MEP Ciaran Cuffe on Maximising the energy efficiency potential of the EU building stock, adopted in plenary on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2020**

### CREATE SYNERGIES

**Building renovation to contribute to buildings' climate resilience**, including through creating green spaces, roofs and walls.

### Multiple benefits of green infrastructure solutions:

- improved air quality and comfort
- climate resilience
- reduced energy needs
- restoring the water cycle
- support urban biodiversity
- contributing to circularity principles

### The European Commission to:

- **Incentivize** the deployment of green rooftops and walls during **major building renovations and the construction of new buildings**
- Promote green infrastructure solutions and biodiversity features in **the renovation wave initiative**



# Recommendations

## Use the opportunity of the EU Renovation Wave to make cities greener, healthier and climate resilient

### 5 policy asks for the Renovation Wave

1. **Introducing mandatory green surfaces installation for new buildings and major renovations**
2. **Establish a strong link between Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and Renovation Wave**
  - Link Urban Greening plans, EU Urban Greening Platform, Green Cities Accord with NECPs and LTRs
3. **Establish a European bio-solar rooftop programme**
4. **Promote green procurement**
  - Prioritise “green over grey” and boost nature-based solutions
5. **Promote water-saving measures to exploit the water-energy nexus**
  - Promote green infrastructures for water and energy savings in the framework of Art. 7 EED

## 6 Revise the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

The 29-year-old Directive needs to be updated to better address increasing challenges of climate change and water crisis

**Incorporate a better legal framing for urban runoff and storm water management with the specific goal to promote the uptake of nature-based solutions**

**Integrate nature-based solutions in urban areas as an effective strategy for runoff and urban heat island reduction**

**Provide support to cities**



For more details please go to:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12405-Water-pollution-EU-rules-on-urban-wastewater-treatment-update-/F548958>

## Promote green roofs and walls in the upcoming EU Adaptation strategy

Announced for 2021 in the EU Green Deal's communication

Provide a legal framework for the uptake of green roofs and walls as a way to:

- tackle the urban heat island effect
- enhance urban biodiversity
- increase climate resilience
- manage more and more frequent extreme rains
- limit storm water runoffs while rebuilding the natural water cycle in urban areas



**Thank you!**

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