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DE VALÈNCIA

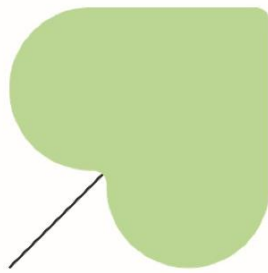


València  
Sostenible

# Acuerdo climático de la ciudad de *València*







# *Agreements and City Vision*

*1st iteration – January  
2026*

# Introduction

Cities are at a key moment of transformation towards a new model of society, in which people occupy the central space, sustainability and the protection of people and the environment are ensured, prosperity and economic development are consolidated, and fair social integration is achieved that leaves no one behind.

The distinctions received by Valencia in recent years, such as the Mission Label and the European Green Capital 2024 award, are recognitions given to pioneering cities that show the way forward in making the green transition to the city of the future. Green capitals are cities that show a clear commitment but, above all, are committed to action and to promoting real projects that improve the lives of their inhabitants and visitors.

The European Union has committed to leading climate action and has set a target of reducing its emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. These commitments have a clear impact on European cities, as they generate more than 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and consume more than 65% of energy globally.

*The European Green Deal* represents the roadmap for moving forward towards these commitments. It is an ambitious and visionary strategy that encompasses a wide range of policies and plans that seek to transform sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture and industry. At its core, the Green Deal seeks to decouple economic growth from resource consumption and environmental degradation, thus ensuring a more resilient and equitable future for Europe and all its citizens.

The European Union's mission "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030" aims to support the transformation of cities to accelerate compliance with the Paris Agreement, and to act as both a catalyst and driver for the implementation of the European Green Deal, as well as a demonstration that it is possible to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

In Spain, on 8 September 2021, the city councils of Barcelona, Madrid, Seville and Valencia, together with the Spanish Government, signed the Declaration "Climate-neutral cities by 2030" as a sign of the signatory cities' commitments and initiatives to move towards climate neutrality and improve their resilience. Following in their footsteps, on 13 December the city councils of Soria, Valladolid, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Zaragoza signed the Declaration.

In addition, on 15 September 2021, the Senate Plenary approved a motion urging the Government to promote climate neutrality in cities within the framework of the European Mission ' ' for Cities. The motion recognises the fundamental role of cities in climate improvement and environmental protection, and highlights the opportunity to accelerate the necessary cross-cutting changes to make cities climate neutral by 2030. It also values the fact that the various regional administrations are promoting and facilitating climate neutrality in

Spanish cities through their incorporation into the Cities Mission and through the development of transformation projects.

In this regard, on 25 November 2021, the Cities Mission launched a call for expressions of interest aimed at European cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants interested in participating. Of the 377 that applied, 100 from the EU-27 were selected, including the Spanish cities of Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, Valencia, Valladolid, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Zaragoza.

In April 2023, Valencia presented its City Climate Agreement, which contained the following documents:

- Commitment document
- Annex I – Climate Action Plan
- Annex II – Climate Investment Plan
- Annex III – Partnerships and Governance

Valencia's ACC was positively assessed by the European Commission, which awarded the city the Mission Label in October 2023 in recognition of its commitments and the soundness of the work plan presented.

The ACC is configured within the framework of an iterative process, as a document that is subject to monitoring and updating, both through the signing of addenda and other accession documents, thus bringing together other actors necessary for the city to achieve the established climate neutrality objective.

Now, after more than two years of implementation and learning based on that first Agreement, the city is presenting the first update to its ACC, with the aim of reinforcing its commitments, aligning the city's priorities with the objectives of the European Climate Neutral and Adaptation Cities missions, updating the status of its action plan and, in general, serving as a point of monitoring and evaluation of what has been achieved so far.

This update contains the following documents:

- Agreements and City Vision
- Annex I – Climate Action Plan
- Annex II – Inventory and Indicators
- Annex III – Partnerships and Affiliations

# Context of Sustainable Valencia

## A consensual, broad and lasting vision

The city of Valencia has a solid and consensual mandate on sustainability and environmental protection that has grown in scope and ambition over the years and is now more necessary than ever following the tragic floods caused by the DANA on 29 October 2024. This shared vision reflects a long-term commitment to protecting natural resources and people, reducing environmental impact and promoting a more resilient city that is prepared to face the climate challenges of the future.

This comprehensive and collaborative approach has been developed in the Valencia Urban Strategy, which defines a model for the city for the coming decades, and is specified in the "sustainable vision" contained in the Strategy. This vision offers an ambitious outlook that brings together all local and strategic initiatives that have the common goal of improving urban sustainability, protecting the environment and increasing the city's security and adaptability to adverse weather conditions. Sustainable Valencia is not just a present-day project, but a medium- and long-term strategy that looks to the future, accompanied by initiatives such as the **European Green Capital** and the **Climate Mission**, ensuring the continuity of actions and policies that promote balanced urban development that respects the natural environment.

The development of this Urban Strategy and its "sustainable vision" is the result of the convergence of various initiatives and strategic frameworks that have been driving the transformation of Valencia into a greener, more inclusive city that protects its citizens from extreme weather events. These initiatives include the **Innovation Missions**, which have enabled the exploration of disruptive urban solutions in areas such as energy, mobility and citizen well-being, and the **Covenant of Mayors**, which highlights the continuity of Valencia's commitments and actions in environmental matters. Another significant milestone is the recognition of Valencia as **European Green Capital 2024**, which has rewarded decades of work in favour of the environment and sustainable and balanced urban growth, and reinforces the city's position as an international benchmark in sustainability.

Sustainability in Valencia is not a recent phenomenon, but dates back decades, when Valencia began to integrate environmental criteria into its urban planning. Over time, this vision has been expanded and enriched, adapting to new global challenges and aligning itself with regional, national and European strategic and regulatory frameworks. In this regard, Sustainable Valencia has sought to provide coherence and continuity at the local level for major plans and initiatives such as the **European Green Deal** and the city's commitments to the green transition ( ), attempting to create an urban model that meets current needs and ensures a better future for the next generations.

## Milestones of Sustainable Valencia

The city of Valencia has a solid and consensual mandate on sustainability policies, which has grown in scope and ambition over the years:

- 1927:** purchase of l'Albufera by the city of Valencia.
- 1957:** Great Flood of Valencia.
- 1961:** Diversion of the Turia riverbed.
- 1974:** Halting of the Saler urban development plan to protect El Saler beach, located in the Albufera.
- 1986:** Inauguration of the Turia Gardens.
- 1986:** Declaration of L'Albufera as a National Park.
- 1988:** Opening of the first underground section of the metro.
- 1989:** Recognition of L'Albufera as a "Wetland of International Importance".
- 1994:** First tram line in the city (line 4).
- 1997:** First waste separation bins in the city.
- 2000:** Approval of the Valencia 2000 Strategic Plan.
- 2004:** Inauguration of the Parque de Cabecera.
- 2007:** Opening of Bioparc, an innovative and sustainably designed zoo.
- 2009:** Signing of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
- 2010:** Approval of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the city of Valencia (SEAP).
- 2010:** Valenbisi public bicycle system.
- 2011:** Approval of the VALÈNCIA 2020 Strategy on Climate Change.
- 2013:** Approval of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (PMUS).
- 2014:** Signing of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate Change Adaptation.
- 2015:** Signing of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
- 2019:** The FAO declares the "Historic Irrigation System of l'Horta de València" a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS).
- 2019:** Approval of the Action Plan for Climate and Sustainable Energy (PACES).
- 2019:** Approval of the Climate Emergency Declaration.
- 2019:** Opening of the first Energy Office.
- 2020:** Valencia reduces its greenhouse gas emissions by 30.9% compared to 2007.
- 2021:** Signing of the Paris Declaration to keep the global average temperature increase below 2 °C.
- 2022:** Selection of Valencia for two European missions on sustainability: CITIES Mission and ADAPT Mission.
- 2022:** Approval of the Valencia Urban Strategy.
- 2022:** Selection of Valencia as European Green Capital 2024.
- 2022:** Accreditation of Valencia as a Wetland City under the International Convention on Wetlands.
- 2023:** Award of the European Union Mission Label, as approval of the city's Climate Agreement.
- 2024:** Celebration of the European Green Capital Valencia 2024 year.

**2024:** Approval by the Valencia City Council Plenary of the Biosphere Reserve project.

**2024:** Flooding caused by the cold drop on 29 October.

**2024-26:** Declaration of l'Albufera as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.

**2025:** Publication of the Valencia Green Paper.

**2025:** Creation of the Sustainable Valencia Forum.

**2026:** Creation of the Autonomous Municipal Organisation Sustainable Valencia.

**2027:** Implementation of the Desembocadura Park as the final extension of the Turia Gardens.

**2030:** Smart and climate-neutral city, by and for citizens.

**2030:** Adapted and resilient city.

## Commitments to climate neutrality and resilience by 2030

**In this context and through the Climate Mission**, Valencia has reinforced its commitment to remain at the forefront of climate improvement in Europe, as well as to collaborate and accelerate the implementation of solutions that produce social, economic and environmental benefits for urban transformation. These commitments include:

- + Adhering to a process of urban transformation within the framework of the European Missions, with a commitment to collaborate and accelerate the implementation of solutions that promote equity and produce social, economic and environmental benefits in our cities.
- + Approving and updating goals and objectives, and designing a roadmap to achieve the decarbonisation and green transition of the city of Valencia, with a vision of a just transition.
- + Accelerate the implementation of the European Mission for Cities and the Adaptation Mission and communicate the social value of urban transformation processes in partnership with citizens.
- + Carry out, or where appropriate update, a climate risk assessment at the urban level, in coordination with regional and/or metropolitan administrations, in order to ensure a coherent, effective response that is aligned with broader territorial frameworks.
- + Coordinate and facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders within the city and together with the Government of the Valencian Community and the Government of Spain towards common objectives, consisting of:

- Achieving climate neutrality by 2030 in accordance with the definition of the European Mission for Cities and its implementation plan.
- Advancing the city's adaptation and resilience, in accordance with the framework proposed by the European Mission for Adaptation.
- Advancing, with the support and commitment of the Valencian Community, Spain and the European Union, in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 84% in scopes 1 and 2 (and part of scope 3).
- Share and transfer the lessons learned and knowledge acquired with other cities and municipalities in Europe.
- Develop and implement projects with transformative capacity in cities with a commitment to involve all stakeholders (private sector, academia, civil society, citizens and the media, together with the different levels of government).
- Deploy scientific research to analyse the viability and strengths of each district of the city in the decarbonisation process, within the framework of the University-City Binomial existing in Valencia.
- Be a European hub of innovation in the field of sustainability, digitalisation and just transition.

## Priorities and strategic interventions

### The views of Valencia

Valencia aims to move towards a green, sustainable city model that is prepared for the future. This green Valencia is not only a sustainable city committed to caring for the environment, it is also a city that promotes a healthy lifestyle in all its actions and provides safety and protection for its inhabitants. It is a shared city that seeks to promote justice, inclusion and equality and that enables everyone to enjoy a dignified life; it is a prosperous and entrepreneurial city that strengthens economic development, innovation, professional growth and the attraction of talent; it is a creative city where art, culture and creativity make it more liveable, enjoyable and resilient; it is a Mediterranean city that opens up to the world with solidarity and its own identity, exporting culture, traditions and talent; and, finally, it is a city that is rebuilding itself, not only repairing what already exists, but improving it and preparing for a more secure future.

### Valencia European Green Capital 2024

Valencia has been chosen as European Green Capital in 2024. This recognition by the European Commission highlights the sustainable approach that Valencia has applied to its public policies over the last few decades to leave a city that is more friendly to future generations and positions it as a beacon of green policies in the Mediterranean. 2024 was also the year in which Valencia suffered one of the most tragic events in its recent history, caused

by an extreme weather phenomenon in October, which further highlights the importance of promoting these policies to protect the environment and people.

The Turia Gardens, Cabecera Park and Central Park are just some of the many urban green spaces in the city. In addition to these, there are unique ecosystems such as the Albufera Natural Park, where native flora and fauna coexist with agriculture, fishing and other relevant actors in this unique wetland. Furthermore, mobility and public space policies that put people at the centre and facilitate cleaner and healthier air are also noteworthy.

## Valencia in the face of extreme weather events

Valencia and its metropolitan area are located in the Mediterranean arc, and for this reason, they have been suffering the effects of rising temperatures for decades, making extreme weather events more frequent than in other parts of the world. The city has been working for some time to adapt to these circumstances, thanks to the lessons learned from past events such as the 1957 flood.

Our fighting spirit as a society and our ability to learn meant that measures such as the construction of large infrastructure projects to prevent, as far as possible, disasters such as the one experienced in 1957. The largest of these actions is the Plan Sur, whose purpose was to divert the course of the Turia River and which, after the floods on 29th October, has proven to be an effective measure in keeping much of the city safe.

Unfortunately, Plan Sur has not been able to protect the entire municipality of Valencia, which is why the city is already working to analyse the causes and use its knowledge to provide solutions to protect the affected areas of the city and its districts, as well as other neighbouring municipalities with which it shares river basins.

## A collective path

Promoting the green transition requires a clear vision and a firm political commitment, but it also requires joint and collaborative action by the whole of society. Citizens therefore play a central role in this journey and must be supported by public administrations, private companies, research centres and, ultimately, all those organisations that are located in or have an impact on the city.

It is important to raise the profile of the entities and individuals who are leading the way towards a green Valencia, and who are as varied as the farmers who keep the Valencian countryside alive, the small businesses and energy cooperatives that are promoting the deployment of renewables in the city, the supermarkets that are electrifying their vehicle fleets to protect the air we all breathe, property managers who support residents in the renovation of their buildings, and neighbourhood associations that work to improve their neighbourhoods and respond, in coordination with the city council, to tragedies by coordinating the delivery of food, materials and volunteer work.

# Areas of action of the Mission

The Mission defines **seven areas of impact on emissions** that structure its policies, projects and actions:

1. **Mobility:** a systemic shift towards the decarbonisation of urban and metropolitan mobility in Valencia through the promotion of active and collective modes of transport, the renewal and electrification of public and private transport, the development of sustainable mobility infrastructure with a metropolitan reach, the improvement and decarbonisation of its bus fleet, the development of sustainable mobility plans for its two public universities, and the development of strategic rail infrastructure.
2. **Urban planning and housing:** a systemic change towards the massive renovation of the city's buildings and homes, where public buildings and infrastructure belonging to any level of administration will demonstrate energy efficiency and renewable energy production, and where a wave of renovation of residential buildings in Valencia will be promoted. On the other hand, the aim is to promote an urban model based on quality and urban planning with local facilities in the city's different neighbourhoods, reducing the need for unsustainable mobility to access services, facilities, shops, leisure, sports, culture and employment.
3. **Energy:** a systemic change towards a renewable and fair transition of the city's energy model, with the development of local and neighbourhood actions aimed at promoting energy communities, efficiency in public lighting, mass production of renewable energy in cemeteries and other municipal spaces, advice offered in Energy Offices in different districts, and the development of the Municipal Strategy to tackle Energy Poverty.
4. **Water, Food and Cleanliness:** a systemic change towards a fair, sustainable and local agri-food system for the city that reinforces the vegetable garden as an identity, cultural and productive space. Valencia, together with its farmers, is transforming the city's agri-food culture in favour of more sustainable production, social and environmental models, advancing in the development of fairer value chains that can improve the profitability of farms. At the same time, the city is making progress in promoting the circular economy and reducing and recycling waste, raising public awareness of cleanliness and waste separation issues, and electrifying the fleet of vehicles used for cleaning and waste collection.
5. **Biodiversity and Adaptation:** a systemic shift towards renaturalisation and biodiversity in the city of Valencia and its surroundings, promoting green infrastructure, nature-based solutions and ecosystem services in the city's neighbourhoods, large urban parks and the Valencia South green corridor, the Desembocadura Park and the Turia Natural Park, the renaturalisation of the northern beaches, the regeneration of La Albufera and La Devesa, the transition and interrelation between the city and the countryside, and green

corridors as flagship projects for biodiversity, renaturalisation, resilience and climate adaptation.

6. **Innovation, Economy and Tourism:** a systemic shift towards a sustainable economic development model based on smart tourism that sets the standard with its carbon and water footprint certification; on local trade; and on an economy based on design, knowledge and innovation as a source of prosperity and development. In this inclusive and sustainable economic development, the Port of Valencia has become a port of the future, modern, sustainable and competitive, with a roadmap for decarbonisation that includes the reduction of GHG emissions and locally based compensation systems.
7. **Cross-cutting:** a cross-cutting domain that encompasses systemic actions that impact all other domains, such as the creation of an Autonomous Municipal Sustainability Agency in the city, the monitoring work carried out within the Climate Mission itself, and the analysis and study of green transition pathways by district, carried out with the support of the Polytechnic University of Valencia.

At the same time, there are **10 areas of systemic action**, which cut across the areas of impact in a cross-cutting and interconnected manner. These 10 elements do not define a linear process of steps to be followed, but are continuously interrelated in a complex and dynamic way.

1. **Political leadership:** a key element in driving a city's transformation towards sustainability is political commitment and consensus. Without clear and sustained leadership over decades, it is impossible to promote projects that require a long-term vision, involve large investments and entail changes in the way citizens live. In Valencia, this political leadership is reflected in the continuity of different climate initiatives and commitments over decades, with different municipal governments. Some of the most recent political consensus includes the candidacy for European Green Capital, the approval of the Climate Mission, the approval of the strategic framework of the Valencia Urban Strategy, and the presentation of l'Albufera to be declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.
2. **Internal governance:** we need to equip ourselves with the people, tools and structures that will enable us to carry out this mandate successfully and efficiently. Sustainability and environmental policies cut across many areas and therefore require training, coordination and teamwork. In Valencia, different working spaces in the climate field have been adapting to the advancement of green policies, such as the PACES Internal Coordination Group, the Climate Mission Community, and the Technical Committee of the European Green Capital 2024. In addition, the municipal foundation València Clima i Energia has made it possible to consolidate a team of technical workers in different areas, promote innovative projects, and attract European funding and learning.
3. **Collaboration with the ecosystem:** becoming a green city that is prepared for the future is not solely in the hands of the City Council, but requires joint action from the entire ecosystem of public, private, social, and academic entities. In Valencia, various

initiatives seek to establish collaborative networks with entities in the city in areas related to sustainability, such as the Energy Transition Roundtable, the Missions Valencia Ambassador Entities programme, the sponsorship and collaboration of various organisations with the European Green Capital Valencia 2024, and the collaboration of society in response to the floods caused by the DANA.

4. **Citizen involvement:** of course, the transformation of the city must be done by and for the citizens. In other words, the green city we are seeking must be a better city to live in, as well as a safe city, prepared to face, manage and respond to extreme events. In Valencia, citizen participation has been and continues to be a central pillar of sustainability policies, with a wide variety of initiatives such as urban gardens and the promotion of Local Energy Communities. In addition, there have been notable historical social movements calling for sustainability in the city, such as "El llit del Túria és nostre i el volem verd" (The Turia riverbed is ours and we want it green), "El Saler per al poble" (El Saler for the people), and the declaration of l'Albufera as a Biosphere Reserve.
5. **Just social transition:** The process of transforming the city must take into account the most vulnerable people, so that the changes do not have a negative impact on them, but rather improve their quality of life. Promoting a just social transition can be summed up in the idea of leaving no one behind, protecting and improving the lives of all people. In Valencia, the aim is to maintain a vision of just transition in all projects and plans related to sustainability and inclusion. Some examples in the energy field are the WELLBASED project, which works with families in energy poverty to improve their physical and mental health, and the POWERUP project, which enables vulnerable people to participate in collective self-consumption in the city.
6. **Data-driven strategic planning:** successful climate action requires a strategy that allows us to understand where we are, where we want to be and how we can get there. Defining this strategy involves collecting data, making sense of it, agreeing on a vision for the future and prioritising lines of action. All of this, of course, is done in collaboration with the internal structure of the City Council, entities within the ecosystem and citizens. In Valencia, different plans guide long-term sustainability action, notably the strategic framework of the Valencia Urban Strategy and the commitments of the Climate Agreement. These strategies are supported by data from Smart City VLCi, emissions inventories and projections of future scenarios.
7. **Action plan:** once we have an ambitious and realistic strategy, it is time to define in detail the projects and actions that will enable us to achieve those objectives. Again, the exercise must be collaborative, as most projects require direct action from other entities or individuals. In Valencia, the action plan of the Valencia Urban Strategy, also developed in the Climate Agreement, offers a set of projects and policies that enable the city to move towards sustainability.
8. **Financing and investment:** a crucial step in the green transformation of a city is that commitments and plans are directly translated into municipal budgets. However, public administration funding is not sufficient for everything that needs to be done. Therefore,

innovative financing mechanisms can enable companies, entities or citizens to take direct action and invest in the sustainability of their homes, vehicles or neighbourhoods. In Valencia, the Climate Investment Plan developed in the Climate Agreement estimates that the savings and economic benefits of climate neutrality are 85% higher than the necessary investments.

9. **Evaluation and continuous improvement:** it is important to note that none of this process is linear or static; rather, everything usually happens at the same time and is constantly evolving. Therefore, it is crucial to evaluate what is happening at all times and adapt to needs and possibilities. In Valencia, plans and strategies have a set of monitoring indicators that allow us to assess whether the objectives set are being achieved. In the case of the Climate Agreement, for example, iterations are carried out every two years to assess what has been achieved and reformulate the following years.
10. **Communication:** Communication is a key element, as it is necessary for the whole of society to participate and lead the change. Specifically, three main objectives can be defined:
  - Raise awareness of the importance and benefits of being more sustainable.
  - Highlight and showcase good work and success stories.
  - Provide sufficient information and tools to motivate action.

## Lessons and benefits of the Mission

In this iterative process of building the Climate Agreement for the city of Valencia, we have been able to draw lessons and conclusions that reinforce the idea that it is absolutely necessary and highly beneficial to continue with the roadmap that will lead us towards climate neutrality and resilience by 2030.

### **Lesson 1: The transformation must be accelerated.**

According to the city's emissions inventories, Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gases have decreased by 38% in the period 2007-2023 (2007 is the reference year for the Covenant of Mayors and the first year for which emissions data is available for the city, and 2023 is the last year for which complete data is available to compile the inventory) and by 9.1% in the period 2019-2023 (2019 is the base year used for the Climate Mission inventory). However, the ambitious goal set by the city in the Mission requires accelerating action and multiplying efforts. Thus, if we estimate the downward trend in emissions for the period 2007-2023 and extrapolate it to the year 2030, we see that these emissions would be 330.9% higher than the target set.

### **Lesson 2: The main causes of the problem.**

Furthermore, analysis of these emissions and their projection to 2030 leads to the conclusion that, in Valencia, the sectors with the greatest percentage impact on these emissions are electricity production, transport and energy consumption in buildings. We will have to give priority to these sectors in our efforts to decarbonise in order to fulfil the mission.

### **Lesson 3: The mission is economically, socially and environmentally profitable.**

Finally, from the initial analysis of the economic case for Valencia, it follows that the initial investment is high, but that the co-benefits by 2050 and cumulative savings over time are such that **an estimated return on investment (ROI) of more than 85%** is achieved, considering direct and indirect costs. It should be noted here that the ROI considered is that established by the case study provided by the model, a case study with four primary sectors and 13 subsectors on which to act, and which does not consider some structural and cross-cutting costs. Future iterations of the agreement will need to consider and include other sectors of importance in the case of Valencia, as well as the cross-cutting and structural costs necessary for its calculation.

### **Lesson 4: The effort must be shared, and it will be necessary to activate the entire ecosystem.**

One of the strengths of the modelling exercise proposed to us by CitiES and Net Zero Cities is the distribution of the economic burden among the different agents that must be involved in the purpose. It follows from the economic case exercise provided by this model that the investments necessary to advance the Mission are distributed among different agents in the ecosystem, including different public administrations, private companies, and other academic or social actors. To activate the ecosystem, Valencia City Council is taking on an exemplary role and, in addition to setting an example with its own decarbonisation actions, has developed a shared city model geared towards the mission and communication and awareness-raising strategies significantly focused on the co-benefits of the Valencia Climate Mission, precisely in order to bring actors on board in this major decarbonisation effort. This activation of the ecosystem is sought to be articulated through our Sustainable Valencia Forum initiative.

### **Lesson 5: The interrelationship between mitigation, adaptation and health.**

As part of the ACC review, three key indicators that interrelate these three areas have been analysed: the "Number of warm nights", the "Maximum duration of heat waves" and the "Cooling degree days" (CDD). The number of warm nights shows a clear upward trend, with the possibility of them becoming two to three times more frequent by the end of the century. At the same time, the duration of heat waves will increase significantly, with an estimated average duration of around 17 days between 2010 and 2039, double that of the historical reference period (1951-2000). Looking ahead, models indicate that for the period 2070-2100, heat waves could have an

average annual duration of between one and two months. Finally, the "cooling degree days" (CDD) indicator, used to estimate energy demand for cooling, shows an upward trend. By the end of the century, the values of this indicator will almost double in the most pessimistic scenario. These projections developed for different emission scenarios show that reducing greenhouse gas emissions could significantly limit the most severe impacts of global warming in Valencia, moderating the increase in warm nights, the duration of heatwaves and the resulting pressure on people's health and the energy system itself.

## Co-benefits of the mission

Committing to climate neutrality is not only an environmental obligation, but also an urgent public health necessity. GHG emission mitigation policies represent an unprecedented opportunity to reduce the burden of disease associated with air pollution, environmental noise, extreme heat and sedentary lifestyles. Acting now means preventing respiratory, cardiovascular, neurodegenerative and metabolic diseases, reducing premature mortality, improving mental health and increasing the overall well-being of citizens. Accelerating the energy transition, promoting active mobility, expanding green infrastructure and reducing exposure to air pollutants are measures that save lives, especially among the most vulnerable groups. In this context, climate action is also a health policy based on scientific evidence and social justice criteria, as emphasised by organisations such as WHO Europe and its Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health.

The main co-benefits by 2050 associated with Valencia's Climate Mission and which the Valencia Climate Agreement will help to accelerate are:

- + Better health for people.
- + Better health for biodiversity ecosystems.
- + More green spaces near home to enjoy, play and do sports.
- + Cleaner air and less pollution.
- + Less noise and traffic jams caused by car traffic.
- + More space in the city for people and less for traffic.
- + Less energy waste and cheaper electricity bills.
- + More efficient and better quality housing.
- + More local and better quality food.
- + Higher water quality.
- + Greater road safety.
- + An economy and society that produces less waste and reuses more.
- + Sustainable economic development in the city with a strong knowledge and innovation base.

- + Creation of high-quality green jobs associated with sustainability.
- + A fair social transition that reduces inequalities.

All of this makes the city's commitment to climate neutrality more meaningful than ever.

The following table provides an analysis of the individuals and groups who will benefit from the mission.

<b>Beneficiaries of the mission</b>	
<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ People who live and interact in Valencia and its area of influence.</li> <li>+ Children, young people and future generations who will have a better city model.</li> <li>+ Older people who will have a more liveable and accessible city.</li> <li>+ People with health problems, mainly respiratory problems.</li> <li>+ Pedestrians and cyclists.</li> <li>+ Nature and biodiversity.</li> <li>+ Companies related to the green economy and transition.</li> <li>+ The city as a hub of innovation and a magnet for talent in the fields of innovation and sustainability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ People residing in other surrounding municipalities.</li> <li>+ The healthcare system.</li> <li>+ The job market with new types of jobs related to the ecological transition.</li> <li>+ Local businesses and producers.</li> <li>+ The tourism sector in Valencia, which has a competitive advantage over other destinations.</li> <li>+ The Valencian productive fabric, which is anticipating the systemic transition brought about by the European Green Deal.</li> <li>+ The city's innovation ecosystem, which is at the forefront and has a European reach.</li> </ul>

## **Governance of the Mission**

The current iteration of the Valencia Climate Agreement aims to accelerate Valencia's transition to a green and sustainable city, achieving efficient implementation and real impact of its climate strategies.

To realise this vision, Valencia has defined the following six strategic objectives in relation to governance, partnerships and ecosystem membership:

1. Establish a coherent and unified sustainability framework at the local level, bringing coherence to the fragmentation of European, national, regional and local initiatives.

2. Improve internal coordination within the municipality to avoid isolated work in departments and facilitate efficient, cross-sectoral action.
3. Integrate sustainability among municipal staff, the five propeller entities and citizens, providing the information, tools and empowerment necessary to make the mitigation of extreme weather events a priority for society.
4. Improve coordination, collective learning and efficient action among the entities of the 5 propellers of Valencia's sustainability ecosystem.
5. Involve, activate and empower citizens to facilitate their direct action towards sustainability.
6. Defend the fundamental role of cities in the sustainability and ecological development of Europe, as well as the importance of true multilevel governance and action.

With the aim of fulfilling the six strategic objectives defined above, Valencia has defined a group of eight actions that will enable it to improve collaboration with other actors, internal coordination between different departments and the search for support for its Climate Agreement:

1. **OAM Sustainable Valencia:** create a new municipal body, from the merger of existing entities, to unify, coordinate and promote sustainability and environmental improvement projects in the city.
2. **Valencia Green Paper:** to draw up a strategic and informative document that reinforces Valencia's identity as a green and sustainable city and serves as a guide for professionals and individuals interested in sustainable urban development.
3. **Valencia Sustainable Driving Force Team:** consolidate a strategic team to ensure high-level decision-making and the coordination of sustainability policies and projects.
4. **Sustainable Valencia Community:** create an expanded team for municipal coordination and exchange between municipal departments and public entities working on sustainability, taking advantage of existing working teams such as those related to PACES or the Green Capital.
5. **Green Ambassadors Programme:** continue training courses on sustainability to promote sustainability skills and culture among municipal staff.
6. **Sustainable Valencia Forum:** create a multi-sector space to facilitate cooperation and synergies between entities in the five areas of the sustainability ecosystem, as well as the collection of projects and commitments from these entities.
7. **My Green Neighbourhood:** organise events to connect and engage with citizens at the neighbourhood level to diagnose needs, support neighbourhood improvement and celebrate progress in sustainability.
8. **Valencia Green Charter:** to highlight the importance of cities in climate and sustainability and to emphasise the aspects for further progress in the EU Cities Mission.

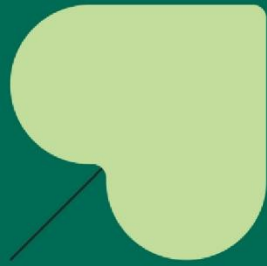
## Monitoring, updating and modifying the climate agreement and its annexes.

This Declaration and its Annexes, which form an integral part thereof, are configured within the framework of an iterative process as a dynamic and flexible document that will be subject to

monitoring, updating and modification for the purpose of reviewing and adjusting the commitments, actions and/or investments necessary to achieve the City's climate neutrality objectives.

The signatories undertake to monitor, at least every two years, the progress of the commitments made in this Agreement and its Annexes and to update them as necessary. This monitoring and updating is established without prejudice to the inclusion of specific methodologies for monitoring, review and updating in the various Annexes.

When necessary for the better achievement of its objective, without affecting its essential purpose, and provided that it involves a specification, improvement or upward revision of the objectives and commitments undertaken, the signatories to the Declaration may introduce amendments to it and/or to any of its Annexes. These amendments shall preferably be made within the framework of the biennial monitoring of the Declaration and shall be sent to the other signatories for information purposes.



*València*