



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Building a resilient and
sustainable future

Join the FAO
Green Cities Initiative

As the world becomes increasingly urbanized,
it is critical to ensure the environmental, social and economic wellbeing
of urban populations through more resilient, inclusive, and innovative solutions.

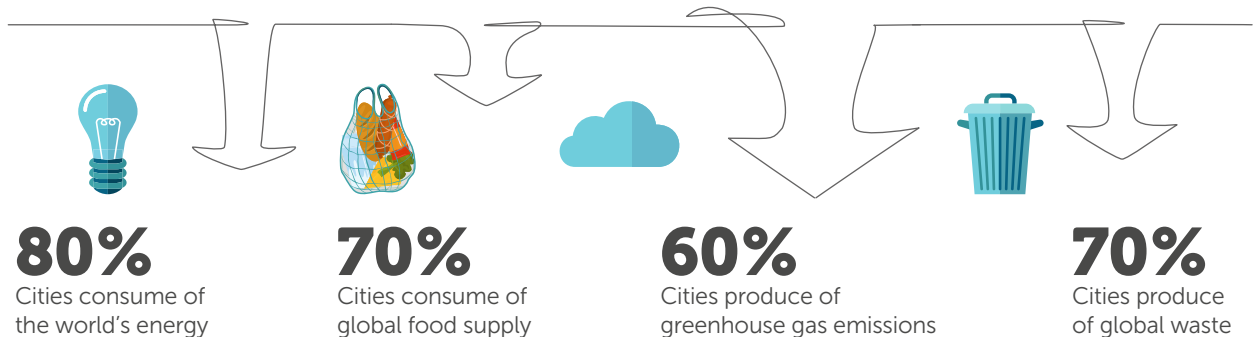


In 2022 **57%** of the
world's population live in cities



By 2050 the urban population will double and increase by

+3.2 billion



A challenging future for cities

Some Regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Melanesia, endure unprecedented rapid and sustained population growth. In this context, the vulnerability of cities to **climate change and environmental crises, economic shocks**, human health and **social inequality** is intensified.

Everyone, everywhere should be able
to live in a green and healthy environment with access to nutritious diets
from sustainable agrifood systems.

FAO's Green Cities Initiative

In 2020, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched its **Green Cities Initiative** to help small, intermediary and metropolitan cities to improve their resilience and the well-being of urban and peri-urban populations.

The FAO Green Cities Initiative aims to increase people's well-being through better access to improved products and services provided by urban and peri-urban forestry, agriculture and food systems on a sustainable basis.

Context-specific entry points are selected through multi-actor engagement processes. They support systems thinking, foster an integrated approach and support local governments in mainstreaming agriculture, food systems and green spaces in local policy, planning and actions.

The Initiative contributes to achieving the commitments of the UN Food Systems Summit.



FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Our goal is to achieve food security for all and ensure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

What can FAO offer?

FAO offers technical expertise **in three key areas: urban and peri-urban agriculture, forestry and food systems**. FAO works in partnership with UN agencies, universities and non-governmental organizations to develop projects and activities on the ground.

By integrating agriculture, forestry, and food systems into urban policy, planning and action, cities can:

- increase food security and access to green spaces for all;
- improve public health, nutrition, air quality, and resilience to extreme weather events;
- improve the local economy and creation of green jobs;
- better mitigate risks from multiple shocks (climate change, economic, pandemic, etc.);
- reduce the ecological footprint.

The Green Cities Initiative contributes to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration by supporting landscapes, green spaces and agricultural interventions within and around cities, that enhance ecosystem services such as cleaner air, temperature cooling, biodiversity preservation, and improved water management.



Some **cities** are already taking **action**.

PRODUCE FOOD LOCALLY

- Home gardens
- School gardens
- Community gardens
- Commercial urban farming

Promoting sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices in and around cities means shortening the food supply chain, diversifying diets, creating employment and supporting education on nutrition.

PROMOTE URBAN GREENING

- Planning, design and management of urban and peri-urban forests and green spaces
- Designing standards for tree management
- Identifying nature-based solutions in and around cities

Urban and peri-urban forests contribute to climate risk mitigation (prevention of floods, reduction of urban heat islands and protection from sandstorms), improved physical and mental health, food and nutrition security, and the creation of green jobs.

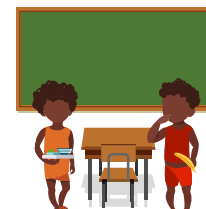
IMPROVE URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SUSTAINABILITY

Context-specific entry points are selected at local level to enhance systems thinking, develop holistic food strategies and foster integrated approaches. Possible entry points are:

- Prevent, reduce and recover food waste through a circular bioeconomy
- Enhance local food supplies, improve the food environment (including formal and informal retail food distribution) and promote public food procurement
- Enhance food safety measures.

ESTABLISH LOCAL GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

When local authorities and stakeholders are given opportunities through formal or informal consultative groups they can help mobilize their local community and identify innovations that lead to lasting and sustainable changes.



JOIN THE GREEN CITIES INITIATIVE and be part of the municipalities benefitting from FAO's technical support to create a world without hunger and poverty.

For more information and to get involved: www.fao.org/green-cities-initiative/en/
Contact your **FAO Country Office** or greencities@fao.org



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