

"Adapt Your Schoolyard" – Zaragoza Local Green Deal"

Zaragoza - Spain

Short description

The "Adapt Your Schoolyard" initiative is a key element of Zaragoza's strategy. This innovative program aims to transform schoolyards into greener, more sustainable environments through nature-based solutions. It addresses climate challenges, fosters biodiversity, and enhances urban sustainability while providing educational benefits. Environmental impacts include mitigating high temperatures and enhancing biodiversity. Socially, the initiative aims to improve well-being for students and teachers while fostering a culture of environmental awareness. With the development of a Climate Solutions Catalogue, Zaragoza is setting a precedent for replication in schools across the region and beyond. The challenge of adapting school playgrounds to the effects of climate change requires a multi-level approach, in which the key actors in the process (regional and municipal governments, municipal technical team, regional technical teams, educational teams, parents' associations) co-design and prioritise those interventions that are designed under transversal principles based on the promotion of biodiversity, temperature attenuation, the use of sustainable materials and low economic impact, and are adapted to the nature, location, configuration and needs of each school centre. The project highlights collaboration among key stakeholders, including the regional Government of Aragón and the educational community. It integrates environmental education into curricula, making sustainability a core component of student learning. Led by the Zaragoza City Council, the project targets two schools in its pilot phase in 2024: CEIP Hispanidad and CEIP José María Mir. These schools will see their outdoor spaces transformed by adding vegetation, shaded areas, and green infrastructure, with an allocated budget of €100,000.

**ADAPTA
TU PATIO**

Industry/Sector

- Construction & built environment

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Regional Government of Aragón – Public Administration
- CEIP Hispanidad – Primary school (students, teachers, school staff, and parents)
- CEIP José María Mir – Primary school (students, teachers, school staff, and parents)

Scope of LGD

- Renaturalise schoolyards to create greener, more sustainable environments.
- Reduce urban heat by increasing vegetation and shaded areas.
- Enhance urban biodiversity.
- Promote environmental education and awareness among students and the community.
- Develop a Climate Solutions Catalogue for replication in other schools.
- Contribute to achieving the net zero objective by 2030 (European Mission) as carbon sink

Concrete measures/commitments

- LGD contributing to Zaragoza's Climate Adaptation Strategy – target: create climate-resilient educational spaces.
- LGD aligned with the Urban Biodiversity Enhancement Plan – target: increase vegetation in urban settings.
- LGD aligned with the Climate City Contract of Zaragoza (European Mission) – target: generate carbon sinks.
- LGD aligned with the Urban Agenda of Zaragoza – target 3: Environment: Preventing and reducing the impacts of climate change and improving resilience.

Citizen Forest of Zaragoza

Zaragoza - Spain

Short description

The "Citizen Forest of Zaragoza" is a large collaborative environmental project aiming to transform Zaragoza into a more naturalised and resilient municipality. The core action is planting 700,000 trees by 2030, one for each inhabitant, across 1,200 hectares of public land. This initiative involves the City Council, an NGO, other public institutions, companies, citizens, and schoolchildren in a co-creation process. It seeks to combat climate change, improve air quality and health, increase biodiversity, and integrate waste utilisation through the use of compost.



Industry/Sector

- Construction & Built environment

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Zaragoza City Council (Local government), ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo (NGO, non-profit), Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro (Publicly owned company), Ministerio de Defensa (Public Entity), Gobierno de Aragón (Regional public governmental Entity), THIRD PARTIES (Private sector and citizens including companies, associations, foundations, institutions, individuals, schoolchildren)

Scope of LGD

- To transform Zaragoza into a more naturalised and resilient municipality committed to combating climate change and enhancing health benefits. It aims to create new green spaces and improve the health of inhabitants by facilitating the planting of 700,000 new trees. The scope also includes involving various stakeholders in a collaborative process and aligning with existing city strategies for climate change adaptation, air quality, green infrastructure, and circular economy].

Concrete measures/commitments

- Zaragoza City Council commits to increasing green infrastructure, as well as the connectivity of green and blue spaces.
- Zaragoza City Council commits to the planned recovery of up to 1,000 hectares of public lands with native forests.
- Zaragoza City Council commits to facilitating the planting of 700,000 trees.
- Zaragoza City Council commits to leading the structure of the initiative together with ECODES.
- Zaragoza City Council commits to coordinating overall execution and allocating public budgets/ensuring funding availability.
- Zaragoza City Council commits to monitoring project KPIs annually.
- ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo commits to increasing green infrastructure and connectivity of green and blue spaces.
- ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo commits to contributing to the planned recovery of up to 1,000 hectares of public lands.
- ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo commits to collaborating in the planning and execution of planting activities.
- ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo commits to promoting environmental education.
- ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo commits to facilitating the participation of citizens, companies, associations, and other entities.
- ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo commits to participating in the technical monitoring committee.
- Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro commits to Granting of land for reforestation.

- Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro commits to the reforestation of up to 66 hectares of land close to the Water Canal named "Canal Imperial de Aragón".
- Ministerio de Defensa commits to Granting of land for reforestation.
- Ministerio de Defensa commits to the reforestation of up to 523 hectares of land in the San Gregorio area.
- Gobierno de Aragón commits to Granting of land for reforestation.
- Gobierno de Aragón commits to the reforestation of up to 20 hectares of lands.
- **THIRD PARTIES** (Companies, associations, foundations, institutions, private persons) commit to contributing through sponsorship.