



DISTRICT C

A Zero-Carbon Commitment

GUIMARÃES, PORTUGAL

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities



Multi-sector waste management & disposal



Land use (agriculture, forestry & other land uses)



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure



All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)

Key Focus Areas

Citizen pact | Climate culture | Waste and circular economy | Urban gardens | Community governance | Community energy | Heritage-sensitive solutions

Levers of Change

Democracy and participation | Financing and funding | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation

Description of the Pilot Activity

Guimarães tested District C as a neighbourhood-scale laboratory for zero-carbon transition, rooted in culture and civic participation. Centred on a citizens' pact for climate neutrality, the pilot engaged residents, schools, associations, universities, and businesses in co-creating actions on energy, mobility, circular economy, waste, and land use—placing citizens at the heart of systemic change.

Innovation Highlights

The green belt pilot and participatory budgeting demonstrated that when citizens are trusted with responsibility, they deliver solutions that strengthen both climate goals and social cohesion.

Impact & Results

The pilot triggered a cultural shift in Bairro C, where residents, schools, and local groups began identifying with climate neutrality and acting as agents of change. Over 12,000 citizens were engaged through Green Week, Spring Party, school projects, and placemaking workshops. More than 130 entities signed the Climate Pact.

A Citizens' Assembly attended by 38 participants was extended due to high demand. Digital tools like Maptionnaire enabled residents to map local challenges and opportunities. In surveys, 86% of residents within pilot boundaries considered air quality good or excellent.

The Climate Pact evolved from a mobilisation campaign into a governance instrument anchoring collaboration—enabling the launch of five Local Green Deals with business partners and opening structured dialogue with the European Investment Bank and Bankers without Boundaries.

An energy community in the market square featured solar panels styled as traditional tiles—illustrating how design can create win-win outcomes tapping into heritage pride while advancing climate goals.

