



LC³

Limassol City Cooling Challenge

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



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



Land use (agriculture, forestry & other land uses)



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure



Key Focus Areas

Urban cooling | Heat island effect | Lemesos Commons | Participatory governance | Nature-based solutions | Behavioural change

Levers of Change

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

Description of the Pilot Activity

Limassol's severe urban heat island effect has long been met with unsustainable reliance on individual air-conditioning. LC³ demonstrated alternative "smart" interventions to improve the microclimate, lower energy demand for cooling, and deploy nature-based solutions.

At its core, the pilot tested participatory governance through the Lemesos Commons, engaging residents, landlords, and stakeholders to shift attitudes from passive consumption toward shared ownership of climate action.

Innovation Highlights

The Lemesos Commons model created new institutional spaces for dialogue on climate adaptation — shifting focus from technical fixes to cultural change.

The pilot highlighted that adaptation of existing buildings is more urgent than focusing solely on new builds—particularly relevant for southern European cities facing similar cooling challenges.

Impact & Results

The Lemesos Commons was established as a participatory governance model, engaging residents, landlords, city staff, and stakeholders in co-design workshops and decision-making. The pilot directly engaged 468 citizens.

Surveys and citizen testimonies showed increased awareness and readiness to experiment with alternative cooling approaches beyond individual air-conditioning.

Small-scale interventions such as shading, urban greenery, and solar integration were tested to influence microclimate and reduce cooling demand. While limited in scale, they served as visible demonstrations of how adaptation can combine with mitigation in dense urban settings.

Strong political support from the new Mayor and administration allowed the city to create new internal structures and embed the project in municipal routines.

