



Greening

Cities unite to make culture green

European cities have come together to commit to making culture more sustainable.

At a recent conference in Lille, France, representatives from over 30 cities signed the Eurocities Lille Call to Action on Sustainable Culture. This agreement aims to embed environmental sustainability across all aspects of culture. The [Call to Action](#) urges cities to take concrete steps to reduce the ecological impact of cultural activities. It covers everything from venues and events to public art and heritage preservation. The goal is to align cultural policies with climate targets and make the sector carbon-neutral by 2050.

Greener venues and events

Signatories pledged to improve energy efficiency in cultural buildings. Measures could include upgrading to renewable energy sources, enhancing insulation, and investing in smart thermostats. Cities also aim to promote sustainability criteria for new cultural constructions. In addition, the Call to Action advocates assessing and reducing emissions from cultural events. Strategies include selecting low-impact materials, minimizing waste, and offering sustainable catering and transport options. Cities agreed to guide venues and organizers in calculating and offsetting their carbon footprints.

The city museums in [Reims](#) have led the ecological transition in the cultural sector. Bologna transformed Piazza Rossini, a historically significant public space turned into a pedestrian green area. The Manchester Arts Sustainability Team (MAST) achieved a 16% emissions reduction over three years. Greentrack Ghent, a network of cultural organizations in the Belgian city, is making efforts to achieve greater sustainability.

Rethinking public art and heritage

To turn the commitments into reality, cities plan to develop sustainability roadmaps for their cultural sectors. These will have clear targets, timelines, and budgets. Progress will be tracked through regular monitoring and reporting. The Call to Action invites national governments to support cities through funding schemes and legislation. Cooperation across levels of government is deemed essential to drive the transition to a low-carbon culture.

- Read more: [A green dress for everyone's culture](#) | Eurocities

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