



Antwerp
for Climate

Left Bank (Linkeroever) Climate-Neutral 2030

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Dear reader

Antwerp is determined to be a pioneer in the fight against climate change. In doing so, we reduce our own impact, and we inspire and mobilise others to do the same. The Left Bank Climate Contract is therefore an ambitious milestone in our joint efforts to make this district of Antwerp climate-neutral by 2030.

Our choice of the Left Bank is no accident. This district represents a microcosm of Antwerp with diverse demographics, housing typologies and specific challenges and opportunities. By adopting a district-oriented approach, we can increase the impact of our actions. This way, we can respond more directly to residents' needs and capabilities.

The Climate Contract is the result of intensive collaboration between various partners, both within the city and with external stakeholders. It reflects a collective ambition founded on co-creation and shared ownership. The comprehensive analyses, action plans and financial strategies form the basis for our transition to climate neutrality.

We are facing a challenge that affects us all and for which every contribution counts. It is our collective responsibility to act and invest in a sustainable future for everyone. This Climate Contract is not just a plan. It is a call to action, an invitation to participate in a future in which the Left Bank is not only a beautiful district to live in, but also an example of how cities can lead the climate transition.



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Antwerp's Left Bank as a trendsetter **Achieving climate neutrality by 2030 together with 100 other cities**

The story of the Left Bank and the Antwerp Climate Contract is part of a broader European plan for climate neutrality. This plan is part of the EU mission to create 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. The European Union aims to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, and the mission for these cities is a crucial element in this strategy.

The Left Bank serves as a living lab and test project for the European Commission's ambitious goals. The district is an example of how local actions that are tailored to specific circumstances and needs can help reach overarching climate goals. With its ambition to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, the Left Bank is ahead of the EU's targets. It therefore provides valuable insights and experiences we can share with other European cities.

These efforts are in line with the European Union's approach of combining climate adaptation and socio-economic transformation with technological innovation. The Left Bank's experiences help to create a blueprint that other cities can follow. They also contribute to a large-scale transformation to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Left Bank

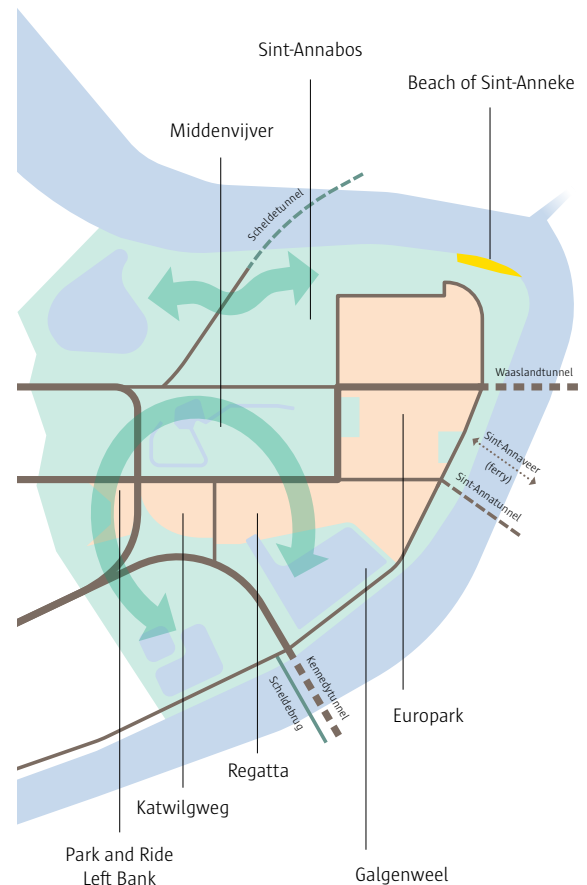
In brief

Name: Left Bank (Linkeroever)

Surface area: 10.11 km²

Number of residents: 17,591 (May 2024)

Objective: to reduce the Left Bank's carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, using the urban emissions inventory drawn up in 2019 as a reference point.



The Left Bank district was chosen for the Antwerp Climate Contract, as it is representative of the entire city thanks to a unique mix of residents and buildings. The Left Bank has a diverse population, a high percentage of multi-family homes and a significant presence of vulnerable households. This combination is a great opportunity for the city to implement innovative climate actions that are both socially equitable and scalable. The district serves as a 'living lab' for testing sustainable solutions, which can later be applied throughout Antwerp and beyond. With this, the city aims to confirm its pioneering role in Europe's transition to climate neutrality.

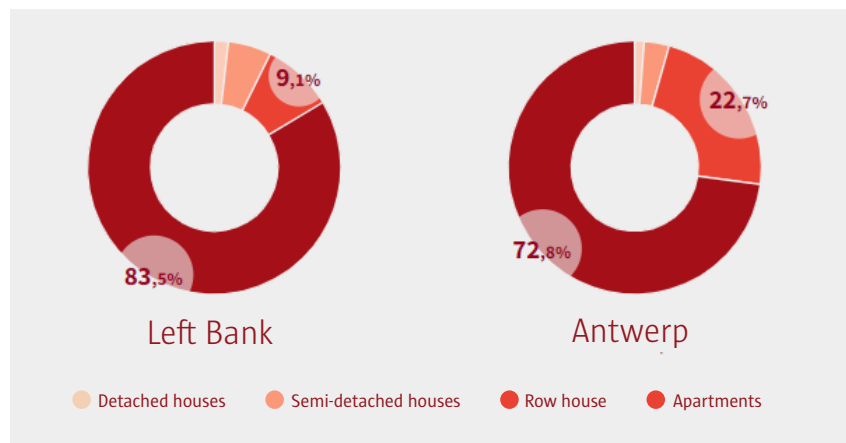
This project aims to improve the quality of life on the Left Bank and make sustainable solutions accessible to its residents, businesses and visitors. The focus is on inclusive participation and the support of vulnerable groups, so that the transition to climate neutrality is socially equitable and achievable for all.

The City of Antwerp and its partners aim to actively involve residents in the process, value their input and work together to create a healthier, more sustainable living environment.

This means opportunities for improvements in residential areas, energy supply and local mobility, which will benefit the whole district, and ultimately the whole city.

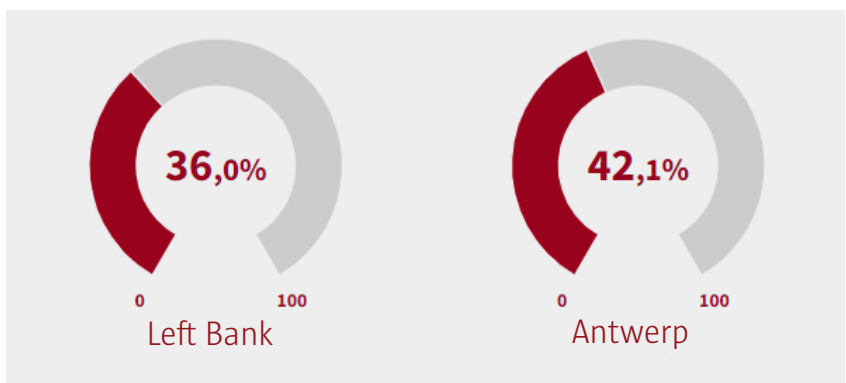
Housing type details

Breakdown of inhabited homes by type for the Left Bank district and the City of Antwerp



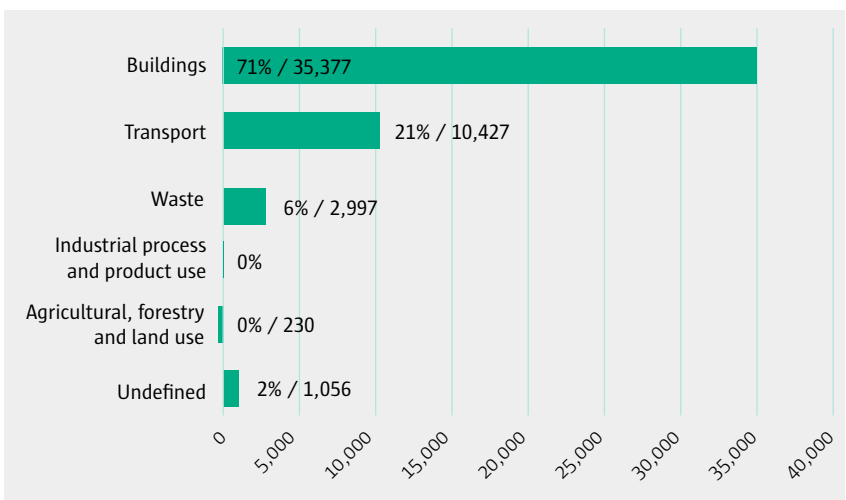
Homes occupied by the owner

Percentage of homes occupied by the owner for the Left Bank district and the City of Antwerp



Left Bank emissions inventory 2019

Left Bank CO₂ equivalent per year



Timeline

The Left Bank Climate Contract did not come out of the blue. The city had been working towards a climate-neutral Antwerp for more than 15 years already. Here we list the key moments.

- 2009** | Antwerp was one of the first cities to sign the **Covenant of Mayors** in early 2009. In this covenant, several European cities committed to emitting at least 20% less CO₂ by 2020.
- 2011** | The **Antwerp Climate Plan 2020**, which was drawn up after signing the covenant, was approved. In the plan, the city explained its climate policy with higher ambitions for its own urban operations: it wanted to reduce its own carbon emissions by 50% by 2020.
- 2015** | In 2015, the city signed the European Covenant of Mayors on Climate Adaptation. We committed to climate adaptation in this agreement. This means that we wanted to arm the city against the impact of climate change and take the necessary measures in all our ongoing plans and processes. We also updated the Climate Plan 2020.
- 2017** | In 2017, we went one step further and signed the renewed Covenant of Mayors. We committed to emitting at least 40% less carbon, fighting energy poverty and building a climate change resilient city.
- 2018** | The preparation of the **Climate Plan 2030** began, which pushed up our ambitions. The city has the potential for urban carbon reduction investigated. Based on these research results, we aimed to reduce carbon emissions by 50-55% by 2030 compared to 2005.
- 2019** | The Climate Plan 2030 was finalised together with the internal and external stakeholders.

What came before

- 2020** | Antwerp city council approved the Climate Plan 2030 in early December 2020. With this plan, the city aimed to remain at the forefront of the fight against global warming. 'Antwerpen voor Klimaat' (Antwerp for Climate) brings together all measures and projects and converts them into potential climate gains. By doing so, Antwerp was the first city in Flanders to follow the European Green Deal.
- 2021** | The City of Antwerp appointed Manon Janssen as **Climate Coordinator**. She has an independent role and is instrumental in managing the implementation and progress of the Climate Plan. Her role is to bring together and activate stakeholders, as well as identify and remove bottlenecks. She also advises the College of Aldermen and chairs the newly formed **Climate Council**.
- 2024** | In the spring of 2024, the **Left Bank Climate Contract 2030** was proposed. This ambitious plan is part of an EU mission, an initiative stemming from the European Green Deal. It aims to reduce the Left Bank's carbon emissions by 80% by 2030.

Cooperation as a common thread

Transparency as the connecting factor

The Left Bank Climate Contract is the result of intensive co-creation between various partners, with the City of Antwerp as the pivotal point. This process involved local authorities and businesses, as well as the social housing company, the grid operator and the residents themselves. By joining forces and sharing knowledge, we have developed action plans and investment strategies to make the district climate-neutral by 2030.

What came before

The focus is on participation and inclusion. Together with our partners, we actively seek input from all stakeholders. This ensures a sustainable and socially equitable transition that responds to local needs and opportunities.

- **Stakeholder engagement and mandate structure (January-April 2023):** This involved some 30 interviews with city departments, authorities and representatives from various emission and expertise areas (such as finance, policy, innovation and participation). As a result, a steering committee and transition team were formed to develop a strong mandate and well supported plan.
- **System analysis and barrier detection (January-June 2023):** In this phase, we documented the current Left Bank climate situation and policies. We analysed emissions data, examined existing policies, reviewed financial flows and listed the stakeholders. In addition, we identified the potential barriers to achieving climate neutrality.
- **Action and investment plan development (June-December 2023):** Based on the previously defined thresholds and systemic insights, possible scenarios and action pathways were developed. This resulted in a detailed portfolio of actions and investment strategies. Financial models and an economic strategy for the action plan's implementation were also prepared in this phase.
- **Implementation and follow-up:** The action portfolio is implemented in partnership with local governments, utility and other companies, communities and individual households. Coordination and financial planning are essential for success in this regard. This includes resource management, project alignment, as well as regular Climate Contract reviews and adjustments.

The co-creative process emphasises transparency, inclusiveness and participation, with all stakeholders actively helping to shape a sustainable and equitable future for the Left Bank.

What came before

The specific partners in the Left Bank Climate Contract 2030 are a mix of public and private entities, including:

- **Woonhaven Antwerpen:** the social housing company involved in improving housing conditions and making housing more sustainable.
- **Fluvius:** the grid operator providing energy distribution and supporting the energy transition on the Left Bank.
- **Mobility:** various government departments and organisations working on mobility and transport solutions.
- **Flemish Energy Agency VEKA:** the Flemish government agency providing support in terms of the energy and climate policy.
- **NetZeroCities:** the organisation supporting mission partners in their transition to climate neutrality on behalf of the European Commission.
- **Samen Klimaatactief:** an initiative focused on making businesses and organisations more sustainable.
- **Confederatie Immobiliënberoepen (CIB):** one of the national professional organisations representing the real estate industry and building administrators.
- **Organisatie Duurzame Energie (ODE):** the sector organisation for renewable energy in Flanders working towards a 100% renewable energy system.
- **Flux50:** the Flemish energy cluster that brings together companies, research institutions and governments in innovative energy projects.

These partners use their expertise, network and resources to realise the ambitious goals of the Left Bank Climate Contract. They collaborate in a coordinated effort to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

Our plan of action

The City of Antwerp proposes a portfolio of action points based on the completed emissions inventory. A thorough analysis shows us where actions are needed to achieve climate neutrality. We call these actions interventions.

This results in a structure for all actions, categorised into **five major intervention themes**. Three of these are emission reduction targets, which focus on emissions of buildings, vehicles and materials. The other two are offset targets, which focus on the shift to green energy and the creation of new green infrastructure.

The portfolio of action points is reviewed every two years. New initiatives are added, while ongoing (or completed) actions are evaluated and fine-tuned.

If you have any ideas of your own to contribute to a climate-neutral Left Bank, feel free to contact us at missielinkeroever@antwerpen.be. Both private and professional initiatives are eligible.

Financing

The action plan outlines the actions we will take in cooperation with our partners to make the Left Bank district climate-neutral. The investment plan attaches costs to this and sets out how to bridge the financial gap.

The biggest investment challenge for the Left Bank is to make the buildings fossil-free by constructing a heat network and by renovating the buildings' energy systems.

All parties (the city, network operator, social housing company, homeowners) were identified for each investment. In parallel with this exercise, an analysis was carried out to set up new targeted actions to make the climate transition feasible and affordable. This can be done by creating new financing instruments, for example, but also by developing new building techniques that reduce the renovation costs.



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Buildings

Maximum carbon reduction for buildings

We aim to make existing buildings sustainable and are encouraging green new construction projects. Central to our approach are measures for the energy-efficient renovation of homes, the introduction of sustainable heating and cooling systems and the raising of insulation standards.

Buildings account for 71% of the Left Bank's carbon emissions.

Mobility and transport

Maximum carbon reduction for vehicles

We are developing a sustainable mobility plan that will reduce carbon emissions of transport. This plan includes encouraging public transport, promoting a bicycle and pedestrian friendly infrastructure and supporting electromobility, which includes the installation of charging stations.

Vehicles currently account for 21% of emissions in the district.

Renewable energy

Maximise the production and use of renewable energy

We are investing in the production and use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. We are also rolling out infrastructure that harnesses residual heat, such as heat networks.

Materials

Maximum carbon reduction for materials

We are taking measures to reduce waste and encourage recycling and reuse. In new construction and renovation projects, we also apply circular economy principles.

The use of sustainable materials can reduce up to 6% of carbon emissions in the district.

Green infrastructure

We are creating green spaces, and we are adapting to make cities more resilient to climate change. Measures such as water management, building green roofs and urban gardens are good examples of this.

Breakthrough projects vs strategic actions

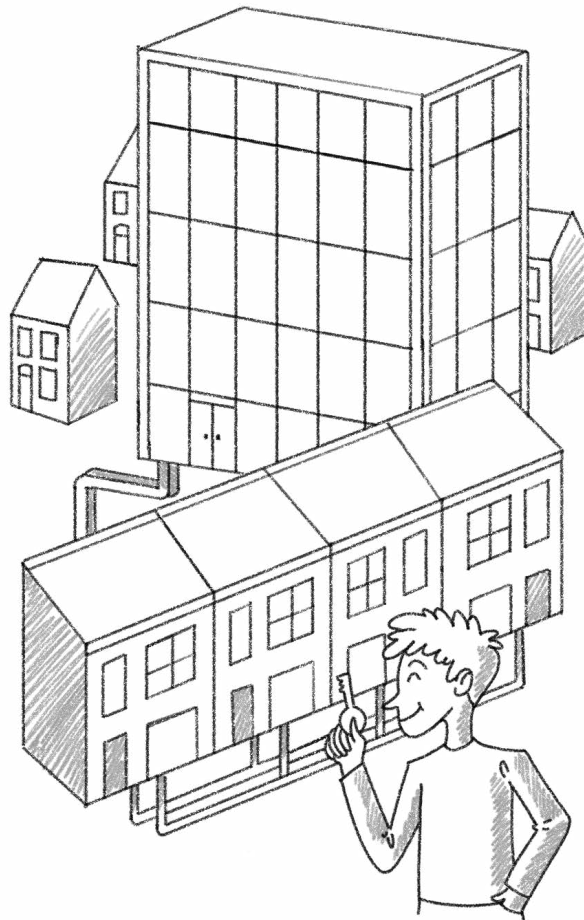
We can classify the various interventions as breakthrough projects or strategic actions.

The road to climate neutrality has several obstacles, such as restrictive regulations, technology that is not yet available and lack of financial resources, time and space. If we can overcome those obstacles, we force breakthroughs that help us to achieve things or to achieve them in a faster and/or better way. We therefore call innovative projects that are committed to overcoming one or more obstacles to work towards climate neutrality **breakthrough projects**. These projects help us to accelerate the climate transition for the whole city (and beyond).

Other interventions are valuable and necessary in other ways in order to make the Left Bank district climate-neutral. They are existing climate actions that we scale up or accelerate, or new actions that we set up to respond to a current or future need: more shared transport, homeowner guidance and (financial) support, an energy broker to help with large solar panel installations, ... We call such interventions **strategic actions**.

We list the different actions for each theme and clearly show whether they are breakthrough projects or strategic actions.

Buildings



How can we drastically reduce the carbon emissions of the Left Bank's many different buildings by 2030?

- Creation of a heat network using residual heat
- Renovation of multi-family homes
- Renovation of single-family homes
- Renovation of homes in Woonhaven Antwerpen
- Renovation of shops, offices and businesses (sites)

Creation of a heat network using residual heat

Antwerp is collaborating with Fluvius to construct a city-wide heat network, which will meet half of the heat requirement by 2050. As the Left Bank has many high-rise buildings and is situated close to industrial sites that are producing renewable residual heat, it serves as a pilot area for this heat network.

Collective district renovation with fossil-free energy hubs

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Henderyckx Aerial Photography



How can we get apartment buildings to ditch gas and oil soon, even if there is no heat network yet? The city wants to do this by temporarily connecting buildings to a mobile heat pump plant (a fossil-free energy hub) that provides the necessary heat. The funds that would normally go towards renovating the old boiler room can then be used to make sustainable improvements to the building's exterior. This reduces energy consumption, but also housing costs, especially for vulnerable groups. Buildings can later be connected to the heat network, which can be expanded in a flexible way. The energy hubs can also serve as a temporary

back-up while the heat network is being built. During this project, the city encourages residents to share their thoughts on collective renovation options and it looks for ways to make the environment greener.

Target group: Co-owners, social housing company and social housing tenants

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Strengthen the heat network connection policy to reach maximum number of large consumers

To enable a smooth rollout of the heat network – also for smaller consumers – the city is examining how to connect as many large consumers (with a target of 85%) to the heat network as possible and what conditions it can impose.

Target group: Owners of buildings with a high energy consumption

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Renovation of multi-family homes

80% of Left Bank residents live in co-owned apartment buildings. The complex structure of these co-owned properties and the significant maintenance backlog of these types of buildings require a specific approach and fine-tuning.

How to finance the renovation of energy systems in apartment buildings

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT



Engineering firm Gevelinzicht ingenieur-architecten is investigating a new model with the support of financial and legal experts. This new rolling fund is customised to suit an association of apartment building co-owners. Such an alternative financing approach ensures that the majority of owners remain committed to their energy renovations. This project examines whether models common in other contexts (such as housing cooperatives, leasing ...) can also be applied to a co-owners' association.

Target group: Co-owners and building administrators

Action scale: Left Bank district



Gevelinzicht ingenieur-architecten

Heating as a Service for small/medium-sized apartment buildings

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



NON.energy is an innovative start-up that aims to provide heat pumps on a rental basis and as an all-in package that includes warranty, service and monitoring. The company aims to offer its customers a full-service financial and technical solution to heat their buildings without any fossil fuels sooner. NON.energy is setting up a platform for local installers who are using sustainable technologies and is training them to install the heat pumps. The company is also planning to investigate the feasibility of the project further based on five pilot projects in small to medium-sized multi-family homes.

Target group: Co-owners and building administrators

Action scale: Left Bank district



NON.energy

Prepare apartment buildings for heat pumps by adjusting heating curves

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



Pixii is an independent knowledge platform and members organisation that encourages co-owner associations in the Left Bank district to analyse and optimise their heating settings. The aim is to convince owners to adjust their heating system so that the buildings can be heated at a lower temperature. For these optimisations, Pixii works with an engineering firm specialising in sustainable energy systems, and an expert in participatory processes. They investigate whether the buildings can switch to heat pump heating right away or can connect to the city heat network in the future – and whether other adjustments are needed first. Pixii also supports co-owners' associations to make their buildings more sustainable and insulated.

Target group: Co-owners and building administrators

Action scale: Left Bank district



Pixii / Passieffhuis-Platform vzw

Implement Left Bank heating transition plan with new tools and scaled up renovation guidance

The city is preparing a heating transition plan for the Left Bank with a heating and renovation scenario for each building type. The Heating Coordinator provides new tools and scales up the renovation guidance to disconnect the district from fossil fuels.

Target group: Co-owners and building administrators

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Offer city investment grant to encourage landlords to renovate their properties' energy systems

The city encourages landlords to renovate the energy systems of their rental properties by offering an additional grant. This grant improves housing quality and keeps rents affordable. Under the Flemish government's Mijn VerbouwPremie grant for renovation and energy-saving investments, landlords are always given the highest income category, which means they get the lowest grant. The extra city grant ensures that landlords get the same support as those in the middle-income category. This support applies to insulation work on roofs, external walls, floors, windows and doors. Landlords can also combine this grant with the special loans and grants provided by the Flemish government, such as Mijn VerbouwLening and/or Mijn VerbouwPremie.

Target group: Landlords

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Offer city investment grant to encourage energy switch during multi-family home renovations

The city offers co-owners' associations a grant to thoroughly renovate the energy systems of apartment buildings to EPC label A or B. This grant pays back up to 20% of the investment. In a fossil-free scenario, the city provides an additional bonus.

Target group: Co-owners' associations

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Scale up building-specific long-term financing for apartment building renovations

KBC Bank and Insurance is developing building-specific long-term financing for co-owners' associations. The communication and implementation of this product in a targeted way on the Left Bank makes major energy renovations of apartment buildings more accessible.

Target group: Co-owners' associations

Action scale: Left Bank district



KBC Bank and Insurance

Reduction of property tax after energy renovation

Anyone in the City of Antwerp who heats their home or building fossil-free with a heat pump or by connecting to the heat network is exempt from the municipal surcharge on property tax for six years.

Target group: House or apartment owners

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Matchmaking and networking for professionals and co-owners' associations to reduce energy consumption

Samen Klimaatactief (SKA) will bring together different groups on the Left Bank in order to meet the 2030 climate goals. It will invite co-owners' associations of large apartment buildings and various providers of products and services that can help achieve these climate goals.

Target group: Co-owners and building administrators, companies

Action scale: Left Bank district



Samen Klimaatactief (SKA)

Renovation of single-family homes

Single-family homes are mainly concentrated in specific estates on the Left Bank: a neighbourhood of houses with tuck-under garages, a garden neighbourhood ... These estates offer opportunities for collective renovation projects and a neighbourhood-level energy supply.

Investigate the energy future of estates

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT



The city is exploring the possibility of developing a vision for energy consumption and spatial planning for specific estates on the Left Bank, such as a neighbourhood of houses with tuck-under garages or a garden neighbourhood. This vision should form the basis for designing and transforming private and public spaces. In private spaces, urban planning tools – such as specific criteria for the approval of external wall insulation – can help to realise this vision. Public spaces can also do this with the help of investments from the city and partners such as Fluvius in support of this vision of the future. After an evaluation, this approach may expand to other neighbourhoods and buildings in Antwerp.

Target group: Left Bank residents

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Implement Left Bank heating transition plan with new tools and scaled up renovation guidance

The city is preparing a heating transition plan for the Left Bank with a heating and renovation scenario for each building type. The Heating Coordinator provides new tools and scales up the renovation guidance to disconnect the district from fossil fuels.

Target group: Individual homeowners

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Renewal of homes

Woonhaven Antwerpen

Woonhaven Antwerpen accommodates 44% of Left Bank residents, most of whom live in one of the 19 Europark high-rise buildings. The social housing company is going for sustainable energy renewal and new construction.

Climate-neutral renovation of residential towers Europark social housing estate

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Filip Dujardin



The 19 residential towers of the Europark social housing estate will be renovated or refurbished to be (at least) climate-neutral. Woonhaven Antwerpen really focuses on innovative building techniques: new green-blue structures, sustainable mobility, circular construction, new planning concepts and innovative building methods and energy concepts. This allows the social housing company to set higher ambitions and speed up the renovation process wherever possible.

Target group: Social housing tenants

Action scale: Europark neighbourhood (Left Bank)



Woonhaven Antwerpen

Sustainable neighbourhood renovation of single-family homes Woonhaven Antwerpen

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Woonhaven Antwerpen



In a neighbourhood of ground-level social housing, Woonhaven Antwerpen will develop a range of practical renovation solutions to make the homes energy-neutral more quickly. The social housing company will explore ways to accelerate the renovation of the entire building envelope of occupied single-family houses using sustainable methods. At the start of the renovation, (collective) renewable energy production will also be provided combined with energy storage. Besides investigating a new technical renovation concept, opportunities to attract new funding for neighbourhood renovations and a successful participation process with residents are being explored. The implementation in this neighbourhood, which includes both rented social housing and owner-occupied homes, shows that the new renovation solutions can be applied in other city neighbourhoods as well.

Target group: Social housing tenants and owners of private family homes

Action scale: City of Antwerp



Woonhaven Antwerpen

Innovative renovation and construction with a circular touch Blancefloerlaan

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Filip Dujardin



Woonhaven Antwerpen is currently developing a renovation and construction project of 115 housing units on Blancefloerlaan with financial support from the Flemish government for innovative projects. This project focuses on circular use of materials (for example, recovery of materials in the existing housing stock and use of bio-based materials for wall and roof construction), energy monitoring (building management system) and collective climate-resilient gardens.

Target group: Social housing tenants

Action scale: Left Bank district



Woonhaven Antwerpen

Raising awareness of energy consumption among social housing tenants by using an energy advisor

Woonhaven Antwerpen is recruiting an energy advisor to actively involve its local social housing tenants in the energy transition. This expert informs and helps social housing tenants to reduce their energy and water consumption and use systems correctly.

Target group: Social housing tenants

Action scale: Left Bank district



Woonhaven Antwerpen

Renovation of shops, offices and businesses (sites)

Although the tertiary sector on the Left Bank only accounts for a limited percentage of carbon emissions, shops, offices and businesses (sites) do offer opportunities for climate action.

Governance model to encourage more sustainable business parks

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Sky Vision



Collective projects to make business parks more sustainable can have more impact than separate, individual projects taken by each company. When companies want to collaborate, however, they often lack the right tools and governance models to take collective action. KBC Bank and Insurance is setting up such a model, which allows companies to take a structured and organised approach to their project. This means they can rely on a valid partner for whom it is easier to conclude contracts with third parties, such as contractors, financial institutions and governments. By making cooperation between businesses easier with a

governance model and accompanying roadmap, the financial institution aims to increase companies' willingness to take collective action to make business parks more sustainable.

Target group: Businesses (sites)

Action scale: Left Bank district



KBC Bank and Insurance

From business park to creative hotspot for living and working

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Lucid



The Combori business park is an old industrial site on the Left Bank with a surface area of more than 36,000 m². It has an imposing brick hall next to the sizeable Regatta residential development. Property developer Vooruitzicht and PMV are redeveloping the business park into an urban place for living and working. The site will be transformed into a creative hotspot, with homes and innovative tech companies. This hub is the physical anchor of an innovation ecosystem, in which different stakeholders work together to invent, make and test sustainable solutions. This ecosystem consists of govern-

ments, public agencies, knowledge institutions, companies and citizens. With this project, Vooruitzicht goes for clean air in the urban environment, greener public spaces, social and mobile inclusion and economic sustainability.

Target group: Governments, public agencies, knowledge institutions, companies and citizens

Action scale: Left Bank district



Vooruitzicht



PMV

Matchmaking and networking for professionals and the tertiary sector to reduce energy consumption

To reduce the Left Bank's carbon emissions, Samen Klimaatactief is putting local retailers and businesses in touch with contractors, installers and engineering firms. The focus is on the renovation of buildings' energy systems and energy savings in production processes.

Target group: Companies, contractors, installers and engineering firms

Action scale: Left Bank district



Samen Klimaatactief (SKA)

Mobility and transport



How can we drastically reduce the carbon emissions caused by transportation on the Left Bank by 2030?

- Avoid motorised travel
- From private car to other transport
- Accelerate the transition to zero emission transport
- From privately owned vehicles to shared ownership

Avoid motorised travel

There is no better way to reduce motorised transport of people and goods than to simply avoid them as much as possible. The city is currently putting in place 'smart mobility links' and is investigating the feasibility of innovative logistics solutions.

Fine network of off-street parcel lockers and pick-up points

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



This project reduces the impact of logistics traffic by grouping flows as much as possible and by avoiding unnecessary trips due to 'failed' home deliveries (in e-commerce in particular). The city is looking for partners to encourage and facilitate a fine network of off-street parcel lockers and pick-up points.

Target group: All Left Bank residents who have parcels delivered to their homes

Action scale: Left Bank as pilot project, if successful scaled up to other city districts (Antwerp)



City of Antwerp

Transfer hub for more efficient deliveries to retailers and businesses

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



By investing in a central B2B transfer hub on the edge of the Left Bank, retailers and businesses can be supplied more efficiently and unnecessary logistics trips are avoided. A transfer point also allows for the *last mile* in urban areas to be handled by city-sized vehicles. The city is looking for partners to implement this.

Target group: Logistics service providers and commercial businesses on the Left Bank

Action scale: Left Bank, if necessary also the surrounding districts (Antwerp and Zwijndrecht)



City of Antwerp

(Construction) logistics transport to and from the Left Bank by water

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Sigrid Spinox



In this project, the city wants to explore the possibilities and potential to make certain transport flows go by water. In a second instance, a pilot project could be developed with (construction) logistics transport, for example.

Target group: Logistics service providers, construction sector

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Develop smart mobility links that encourage smart modes of transport combinations

The city encourages residents and visitors to use the most appropriate modes of transport (combinations). Different modes of transport connect seamlessly thanks to the development of mobility hubs and smart links.

Target group: Left Bank residents and visitors (everyone who travels), Park and Ride users

Action scale: City of Antwerp and beyond



City of Antwerp

Use accessibility managers to engage employers to make commuting more sustainable

The city is engaging accessibility managers to make commuting more sustainable for medium-sized and large businesses. They conclude cooperation agreements with companies and provide a mobility scan, sustainable accessibility advice and a learning network.

Target group: Employers operating in the City of Antwerp

Action scale: City of Antwerp and beyond



City of Antwerp

Strengthen the walking and cycling networks on the Left Bank along the Scheldt

To prevent future flooding, the Flemish government is raising the levees in Antwerp. The city is seizing this opportunity to build a new, 6 km green promenade in a natural setting along the Scheldt on the Left Bank.

Target group: Walkers and cyclists (including commuters)

Action scale: City of Antwerp and beyond



City of Antwerp

From private car to other transport

If travel is unavoidable, you can also switch to cycling or collective transport. Options are an additional ferry, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Scheldt, a railway station on the Left Bank, a modal split for major events and cycling classes ...

An additional electric ferry service between the banks of the Scheldt

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



The Scheldt is a major natural barrier to sustainable travel. However, passenger transport by water is a fully-fledged alternative to other means of transport. An additional electric ferry was commissioned during the works on the Sint-Annatunnel in 2023. This ferry soon proved very popular and contributed significantly to the modal shift. However, the ferry was discontinued when the works on the tunnel under the Scheldt were completed. By reinstating the ferry, we provide an additional sustainable link between the two banks. Choosing a fossil-free means of transport helps to ensure a cleaner and better-quality environment.

Target group: Employees/visitors of the city

Action scale: City of Antwerp



Maritime and Coastal Services

Connection between the banks of the Scheldt for pedestrians and cyclists

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© SBE + OMGEVING



'De Grote Verbinding' (The Big Link) is a project of the Flemish government and the City of Antwerp that creates complete ring roads around Antwerp for cyclists as well as motorists. In the north of the city, a convenient bicycle tunnel will be added along with the Oosterweeltunnel. In the south of the city, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge will cross the Scheldt not far from the Kennedytunnel with an opening section for shipping traffic. The new bridge will give people in the south of the city a fast and smooth connection between the two banks of the Scheldt. The bridge will also link the ring road parks and the cycling and walking paths to and from the city

nearby. This will contribute to the city's ambition of a modal shift in which less than half of all journeys are made by car.

Target group: Cyclists and pedestrians

Action scale: City of Antwerp



De Vlaamse Waterweg nv



City of Antwerp

Creation of Antwerp-West railway station as part of the suburban network

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

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The train is a good alternative to the Antwerp ring road and the planned cycling and walking bridge. The connections to the Antwerp-South and Antwerp-Berchem stations and the very limited train travel time to these stations, mean that a railway station on the Left Bank has the potential to grow into an important hub for this urban district. The city urges train company SNCB to open the Antwerp-West station as an essential part of the development of a coherent suburban network. The Antwerp-Ghent railway line is peripheral to the residential parts of the Left Bank: proper and quick accessibility of the station therefore needs to be investigated.

Fossil-free buses (see below) may also contribute to this. This allows an additional Scheldt crossing to be added at a local level.

Target group: Train passengers (including commuters)

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Implement modal split for all major events with at least 60% sustainable travel

The city wants to encourage and force organisers to take sufficient measures to ensure that events are easily accessible, and journeys are pleasant. For major events, the city imposes a modal split with at least 60% sustainable travel.

Target group: Visitors to major events
Action scale: City of Antwerp and beyond



Organise cycling classes for target groups with limited access to mobility

The urban cycling school organises classes for adults who want to learn how to ride a bicycle (more safely). Social organisations can also request a customised class. This increases the opportunities for people with limited access to mobility.

Target group: People who can't ride a bicycle (often disadvantaged groups)
Action scale: City of Antwerp



Accelerate the transition to zero emission transport

Motorised traffic with low or zero emissions is preferred. The low-emission zone is also getting systematically stricter on the Left Bank. There will be more public charging stations, and from 2027 all buses will be zero emission.

Gradually make the low-emission zone for road traffic stricter

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



The Left Bank is part of Antwerp's low-emission zone. The regulations state that the access criteria will get gradually stricter in 2026, 2028 and 2031 to keep out older, polluting vehicles. From 2026, only diesel vehicles with emission standard Euro 6 will be permitted. From 2028, this will change again to Euro 6d. From 2031, only diesel vehicles with a payable permit will be permitted. For petrol vehicles, the standards are becoming gradually stricter to Euro 3, Euro 4 and Euro 6 in 2026, 2028 and 2031, respectively. This means that the cars allowed to circulate in the Left Bank district are rapidly getting cleaner and cleaner.

Target group: Residents and visitors with older vehicles

Action scale: City of Antwerp and beyond



City of Antwerp

Accelerate the transition to fossil-free public transport on the Left Bank

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



Zero emission public transport is essential to reduce carbon emissions. Because the Left Bank is part of Antwerp's low-emission zone, all regular public transport run by Flemish public transport company De Lijn will be fossil-free by 2027. Now that the Oosterweeltunnel works on the Antwerp ring road and the accompanying new green spaces are underway, it is best to make all public transport fossil-free on the Left Bank without delay. With better comfort (without any disturbing noise and vibrations) and a more modern appearance, fossil-free buses will make public transport more attractive on the Left Bank. This creates a quality network

that complements the tram routes and takes into account the challenges in terms of climate and air quality. It also strengthens the alternatives to car travel further.

Target group: Tram and bus users (including commuters)

Action scale: City of Antwerp



Flemish public transport company De Lijn

Develop the charging infrastructure on the Left Bank further based on the city's principles

The transition from fossil fuel cars to electric cars requires an extensive charging infrastructure network. In time, this network will consist of various charging stations on private land. In the transition phase, the city provides charging infrastructure in public spaces.

Target group: All (potential) drivers of electrically powered vehicles

Action scale: Left Bank district



AG Mobiliteit en Parkeren Antwerpen

Accelerated shift to fossil-free company vehicles on the Left Bank

The federal government is encouraging the shift to fossil-free cars with new rules on the tax deductibility of company vehicles and the CO₂ contribution for company cars. By 2030, almost all company vehicles on the Left Bank should be fossil-free.

Target group: Left Bank employers and residents with company cars

Action scale: Left Bank district



Belgian federal government

From privately owned vehicles to shared ownership

The city will work with its mobility partners to expand the different types of shared mobility and to make them easier to access on the Left Bank: (electric) shared cars, shared bikes, cargo bikes, shared scooters ... The city encourages residents to engage in shared mobility.

Car sharing awareness campaign for residents

As part of its residents' approach, Slim naar Antwerpen is running communication campaigns on the many benefits of car sharing. The city is working with car sharing providers to develop a trial offer for its residents. Incentives will be provided, if necessary.

Target group: Residents

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Increase and strengthen the supply and visibility of shared mobility on the Left Bank

The city wants to increase and strengthen the supply and visibility of shared mobility on the Left Bank: there will be more drop zones, smart car sharing places near 'smart mobility links' and potential transfer points.

Target group: Residents and visitors (workers, commuters, recreational users ...) of the Left Bank

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Expand the bicycle sharing network on the Left Bank

To improve the connection with the Park and Ride, the ferry and the city centre, four stations are added to the bicycle sharing network on the Left Bank. This ensures a better service in the district with connections to the current network.

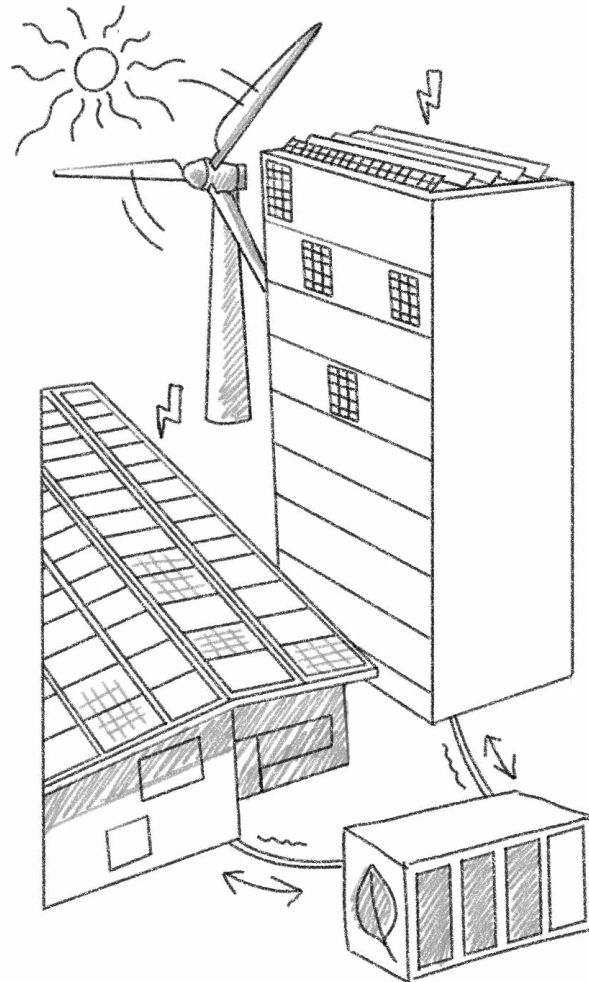
Target group: Left Bank residents and visitors

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Renewable energy



How can we maximise the production and use of renewable energy on the Left Bank?

- Generate more renewable energy
- Construct new, energy-positive buildings

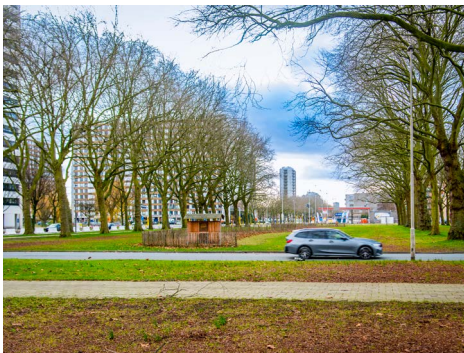
Generate more renewable energy

Solar and wind energy offer great opportunities to move towards a sustainable, carbon-neutral energy system. Electricity is a viable and proven technology to capture and use this infinite amount of energy.

How to make a residential tower energy-positive with solar panels on the wall

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Frederik Beyens



Engineering firm Gevelinzicht ingenieur-architecten and the co-owners' association are working on an energy wall renovation of a residential tower on the Left Bank. Gevelinzicht is working with the manufacturers to investigate whether wall solar panels (building-integrated photovoltaics) can add value for high-rise buildings and whether they meet the Belgian fire safety standards. Can investments in solar panels generate revenue for a rolling fund to renovate the energy systems in apartment buildings?

Target group: Co-owners of one residential tower on the Left Bank

Action scale: Apartment building on the Left Bank

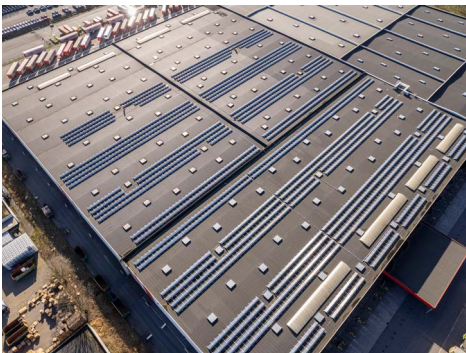


Gevelinzicht ingenieur-architecten

Deliver renewable energy from company roofs to social housing tenants

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Sky Vision



The Energielink project of property management company LAMMP promotes the installation of solar panels in industry and the service sector on the Left Bank to achieve an economic and social return on their property. The generated energy goes primarily to the companies themselves. Any surplus energy is then distributed through power purchasing agreements. LAMMP is exploring a new method of mutual charging that would enable companies to get better compensation for their energy surpluses. It also ensures that any surpluses of sustainable energy are put to good use. For instance, social housing tenants could get their energy at a

lower price. This way, LAMMP wants to make industry and the service sector more sustainable and address energy poverty.

- Target group:** Left Bank businesses and residents
- Action scale:** Left Bank district



Develop climate-neutral event venues on the Left Bank

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Lucid



The City of Antwerp wants to develop several climate-neutral event venues in the Left Bank district. The city wants to do this by supporting event organisers in their switch to 100% electric energy. This will be linked to renewable energy production where possible. The city makes the necessary efforts itself to make this transition easier.

- Target group:** Organisers of events on the Left Bank
- Action scale:** Left Bank district



'Solar broker' offers owners of buildings with large roofs advice and help on solar panel installation

A 'solar broker' appointed by the city will activate, support and offer owners of large roofs an all-in service to install solar panels on their roof(s). This independent party proactively approaches these owners and gives them free advice if they are interested.

Target group: Left Bank businesses

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Combine (collective) renewable energy production with energy storage in renovation and new construction projects

The (collective) production of renewable energy is integrated in neighbourhood-level renovations or renovations of collective residential buildings from the very beginning. This is combined with energy storage, which is crucial to handle peak loads on the grid.

Target group: Public and private owners of collective residential buildings for which renovation plans have been or are being drawn up

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Construct new, energy-positive buildings

The various developments allow us to evolve towards energy-neutral and even energy-positive projects. This requires partnerships between developers, the city and other governments.

Develop Katwilgweg business park as a climate-positive area

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Jasper Léonard



At Katwilgweg business park, property developer Ghelamco is planning Nova West: a future-proof area development. This vibrant and multifunctional area will be climate and nature-positive and closely linked to the city. Nova West aims to be carbon-free. A heat network will use residual heat from data centre buildings and can also provide heat to other nearby locations. Any surplus electricity generated on site by solar panels will be used to power the data centres. Nova West will make energy sharing between producers and consumers easier and will provide sustainable heating to homes and the tertiary sector. The district is committed to

sustainable water management with water-neutral buildings. This creates natural habitats and makes the environment more liveable.

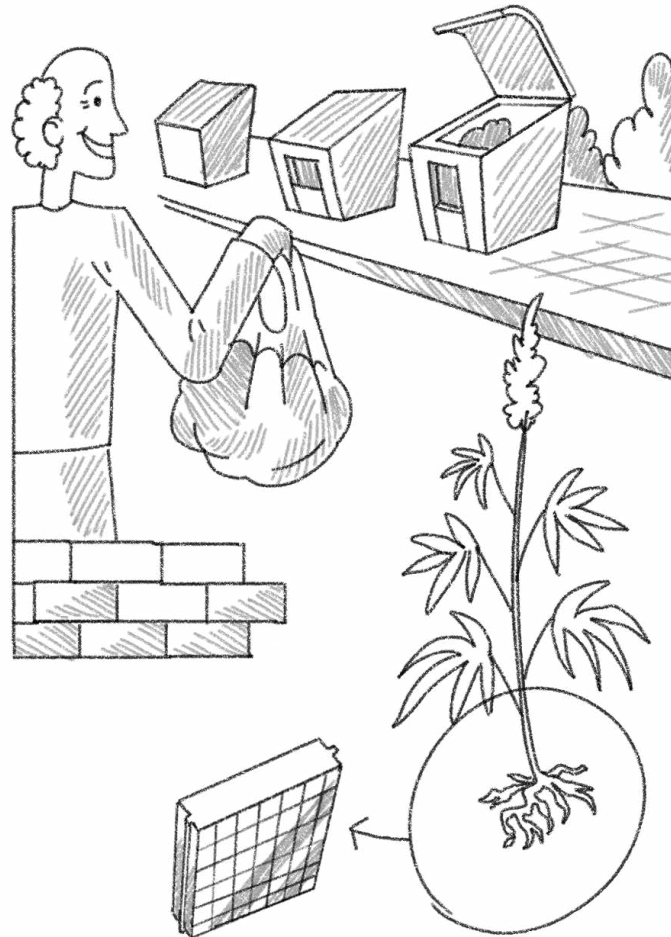
Target group: Businesses and residents

Action scale: Katwilgweg business park (Left Bank)



Ghelamco

Materials



How can we drastically reduce the Left Bank's carbon emissions caused by the use and processing of materials by 2030?

- Make waste collection more sustainable
- Support the circular economy

Make waste collection more sustainable

Antwerp wants to make sorted waste collection easier for its residents. In order to reduce its residual waste further, the city has focused heavily on making recycling more accessible in recent years. Thanks to its scale and building typology, the Left Bank district has opportunities to make waste collection more sustainable.

Mini and maxi recycling points on the Left Bank to collect locally sorted waste

It is not easy for some residents to get to a recycling centre. The city wants to make waste sorting even easier. It does this with local temporary recycling points in the neighbourhood, where citizens can drop their sorted waste.

Target group: Left Bank residents
Action scale: Left Bank district



Smart sorting bins throughout the Left Bank district

The entire Left Bank district is equipped with smart sorting bins, which are emptied only when they are almost full. You can place any type of waste in the correct sorting bins at any time. It is the perfect solution for people living in apartments with little room for sorting waste at home.

Target group: Left Bank residents
Action scale: Left Bank district



Support the circular economy

The city wants to support projects that are committed to the circular economy. Existing materials and products are shared, leased, reused, repaired, refurbished and recycled for as long as possible to add value. This extends the life cycle of products. The selection and promotion of innovative building materials and processes also actively reduces carbon emissions.

Conduct research into carbon-neutral and carbon reducing construction and insulation materials

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Dries Luyten



Property developer Vooruitzicht is working with AG Real Estate to investigate the application of carbon-neutral or carbon reducing materials as part of its Regatta and Combori property projects on the Left Bank. These can range from facing brick alternatives to organic insulation materials.

Target group: Construction companies and contractors

Action scale: Regatta and Combori (Left Bank)



Vooruitzicht



PMV

Develop an assessment framework to choose renovation or construction in the redevelopment of residential blocks

The city wants to draw up a clear assessment framework for the renovation of residential blocks that provides clarity to tenants and owners. The value and quality of the buildings are important here, as well as the environmental trade-off between renovation or demolition.

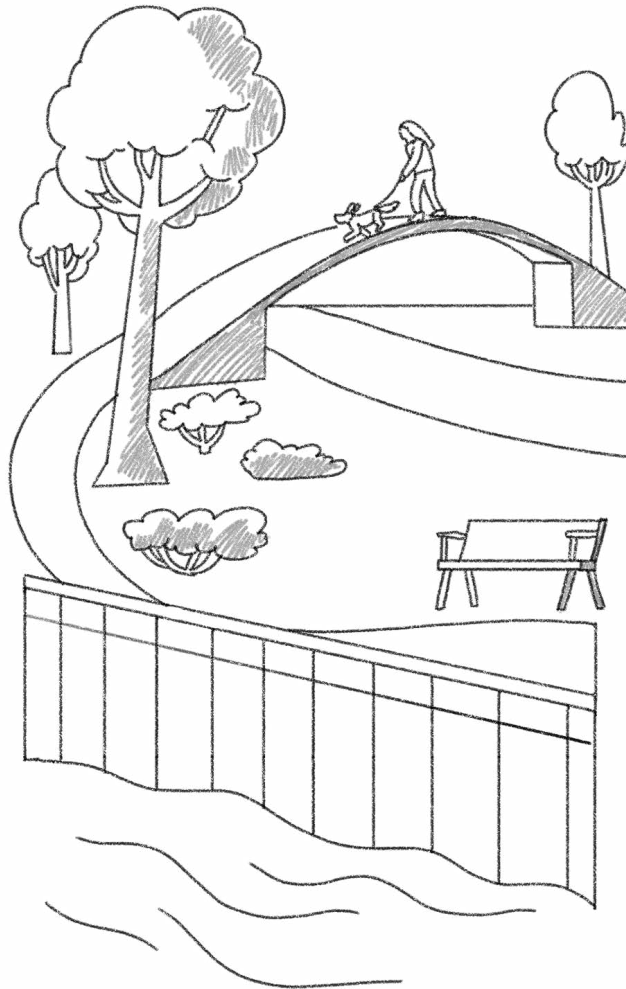
Target group: Tenants and owners

Action scale: City of Antwerp



City of Antwerp

Green infrastructure



**How can we make the Left Bank
more climate resilient?**

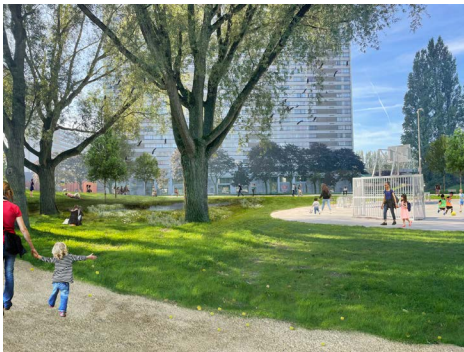
New (landscape) parks as environmental and recreational building blocks

Within the scope of the mission, the following three actions will be taken under this theme: the creation of a new landscape park for the Europark social housing estate, the creation of a new landscape park on and along the banks of the Scheldt and the creation of the Ringpark West project on liveability and a ring road canopy.

Creation of a new landscape park for the Europark social housing estate

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Bureau Bas Smets



The Europark Master Plan and associated landscape design interconnect the major landscape structures of the Left Bank. An organic path system and additional trees are the district's lifelines. Motorised traffic will be concentrated along the neighbourhood edges. The landscape design reinforces three major systems in the social housing estate: water, forest and open plain. These three supporting elements are environmental building blocks as well as recreational building blocks for the park. The creation of the new landscape park in the social housing estate strengthens the climate resilience of the entire Left Bank neighbourhood.

Target group: Left Bank residents and visitors

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Creation of a new landscape park on and along the banks of the Scheldt

BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

© Bureau Bas Smets



The levees are being raised to protect the city from flooding. The Flemish government is doing this as part of the Sigma Plan. That plan sets the height of the levee and divides the area into an outer levee and inner levee landscape. The inner levee landscape is currently characterised by large open grassy areas with tall trees. To strengthen the blue-green network on the Left Bank, the city is adjusting the area's profile (where possible), adding species that thrive in the sandy subsoil and ensuring maximum infiltration of water into the ground. Outside the levee area, the valuable mudflats and salt marshes are preserved as much as possible and expanded (where possible).

Target group: Left Bank residents and visitors

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Liveability and ring road canopy project Ringpark West

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Ringpark West comprises three liveability projects and is part of the future project De Grote Verbindend. In total, this future project consists of seven ring road parks and the Scheldebrug. The design team of De Urbanisten-Omgeving-COBE produced a vision for a connecting set of sound-absorbing screens and green verges along the cycle network of Ringpark West. The cycle network on the Left Bank will be expanded significantly to connect Waasland, the port and the city over and under the Scheldt. On a recreational and environmental level, the sizeable natural and recreational areas that exist today on the Left Bank will be connected. New ecoducts, streams and

cycling and walking paths will allow people and animals to move more freely in nature. Charles de Costerlaan will be depaved and allowed to merge into a coherent new green area.

Target group: Left Bank residents and visitors

Action scale: Left Bank district



City of Antwerp

Contact



© Viviane Vermeiren



Explore 'Left Bank Climate-Neutral 2030' (Dutch only) at magazine.antwerpen.be/linkeroever-klimaatneutraal →

If you have any ideas of your own to contribute to a climate-neutral Left Bank, feel free to contact us. Both personal and private initiatives are eligible.

Any questions, comments or suggestions regarding this publication?
Contact the Left Bank Climate-Neutral 2030 project team at missielinkeroever@antwerpen.be.

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Disclaimer

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