

Building resilient Green Municipalities and Regions of the Future

The European Greens are committed to supporting European citizens and their local communities with practical measures and public policies aimed at investing in a fairer, greener, and more digital future. The health and climate crises have proven that resilient and active municipalities and regions are needed to offer services to citizens, adapt to new conditions and innovate.

Greens are most present at the local level and are committed to driving changes to ensure a more sustainable and resilient Europe to prepare them for current and future challenges. Thousands of local councillors and mayors are delivering green innovation and solutions to create a better future for all – tackling mobility, biodiversity, energy savings and production, food systems, social cohesion, inclusivity and more.

Regions and municipalities are also at the forefront of citizen engagement and thus a cornerstone of democracy in the EU. They are vital to the implementation of European programmes and projects, strengthening the European Project.

The European Green Party calls for:

- All local and regional decision-makers to acknowledge the importance of a long-term approach to resilience to ensure that cities, towns, and villages become less prone to the impacts of the climate crisis, contribute to a sustainable and healthy environment, and fight against poverty.
- Decision makers on all levels to defend the municipalities' right to regulate in the interest of their citizens and the environment, including their independent use of sufficient financial resources.
- Local administrations to support the strengthening of citizen participation in public life and in decision-making processes to strengthen social cohesion, empower citizens and strengthen democracy.

- Local councillors and municipalities to acknowledge and fulfil their important role in climate and biodiversity protection and address challenges before they emerge by supporting the energy revolution, adapting the transportation system, and safeguarding our soils and biodiversity.
- Local councillors and regional representatives to put a focus on environmental and climate resilience to protect people's lives, wellbeing, and livelihood in the event of extreme weather such as floods, droughts or heatwaves.
- Local councillors to put social resilience into focus through the strengthening of social housing, social services, schools, healthcare, family and elderly care, culture, and youth services, organizing shelter for homeless people and refugees.
- The role of municipalities and regions in delivering innovative policies to be recognised, and the laws to be changed to enable agile problem-solving. It is also vital to take digital services into account to strengthen these innovative policies in the times of the digital transformation.
- European institutions to have a stronger focus on regional and local needs in their decision-making, regarding the policies mentioned above, especially in fields that are vital for their resilience.
- All green and green-minded local councillors, mayors, and regional representatives, activists to cooperate and to share experiences and lessons learned across Europe to strengthen international cooperation and resilience.
- Municipalities to enable local ownership and control of community facilities and services as a way of strengthening local resilience.

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This text is based on the resolution "Building resilient green municipalities and regions of the future", adopted by the 34th Council of the European Greens.