

Residents Striving for Sustainable Cities MANIFESTO

Empowering citizens to engage in co-creating healthier, more environment and climate friendly metropolitan areas

WHO WE ARE

Residents Striving for Sustainable Cities (RSSC) is a group of 5 EU funded projects that joined forces to boost decision makers' ambition in fighting the effects of environmental pollution and climate change in European urban areas.

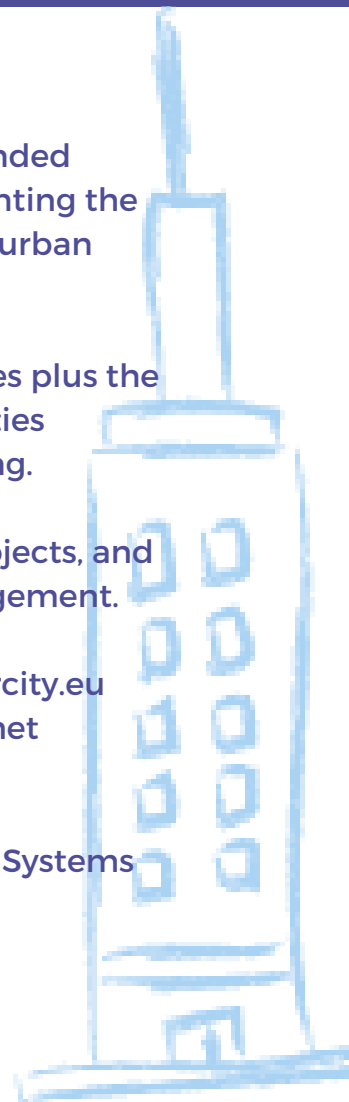
The RSSC group includes: 63 organisations from 15 EU Member States plus the UK, Norway and Switzerland; 7 Regions and 20 towns or municipalities directly impacted; 21 citizen-led pilot projects developed and running.

Thousands of European citizens have already participated in the projects, and lessons from the research are informing future citizen science engagement.

- Citizen-led Air Pollution Reduction in Cities (ClairCity): www.claircity.eu
- Citizens Observing Urban Transport (WeCount): www.we-count.net
- Improving the smart control of air pollution in Europe (iSCAPE): www.iscapeproject.eu
- Integrated Climate forcing and Air pollution Reduction in Urban Systems (ICARUS): www.icarus2020.eu
- Participatory science toolkit against pollution (ACTION): www.actionproject.eu

OUR MAIN AIMS ARE

- Encourage resident participatory methods and tools in pollution abatement policies and climate change governance, e.g., shaping local transport.
- Increase environmental awareness of citizens and decision makers.
- Promote project results for cleaner air, water, soil, night skies, sound in conurbations.
- Foster, among others, sustainable transport for healthier, calmer and safer neighbourhoods.
- Link research and society through citizen science.
- Increase the reuse and impact of citizen-led environmental actions.



WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESIDENTS STRIVING FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES GROUP ACKNOWLEDGE THAT

- The inclusion of citizens in policy co-creation, co-monitoring and co-management processes is beneficial for all stakeholders, as it promotes scientific education, improves relationships, and increases confidence in public authorities.
- Citizen engagement and policy co-creation and ratification leads to faster transition and emission reduction than business as usual scenarios.
- Urban governance needs to focus more on the inclusion of health, social equality, and environmental risks, including air pollution and climate change in the governing and development of the city, striving for social cohesion, liveable cities and long-term urban resilience.
- Intersectional characteristics need to be accounted for to communicate with different audiences. Source apportionment modelling can make air pollution and carbon relatable to who and why creates emissions.
- More public awareness of the links between air quality, carbon emissions and health will localise the short and long-term impacts of these issues. Intersectional characteristics need to be accounted for to communicate with different audiences. Source apportionment modelling can make air pollution and carbon relatable to who and why creates emissions.
- Citizen science projects provide data for residents to learn more about these issues in their communities, and to champion the changes they seek for liveable neighbourhoods. At the same time, it can provide decision-makers with diverse, affordable and reliable data for evidence-based policy making and for monitoring achievements.
- We need to continue to invest in methodologies to improve and communicate the quality of citizen generated data, explore different mechanisms for data governance, and create incentives that encourage data reuse by researchers, businesses and policy makers.



THEFORE, WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT

- To empower citizens by putting them at the heart of the innovation process to develop evidence-led involvement in the political discussion on civic and environmental issues.
- To develop tools and strategies to assess the impact of traffic, pollution and climate change on urban living, taking into account different demographic characteristics.
- To continue to communicate these issues to communities across our pilot cities and beyond.
- To make citizen science more inclusive by changing the mostly scientist-led process to include citizen engagement in the scientific process.
- To empower communities to use scientific data, reports, visualisations and sensor data to champion their needs for liveable communities.
- To support and advocate for the development of critical data infrastructures and institutions to ensure that citizen generated data is reused more widely with greater impact.
- To advocate for residents in urban policymaking by continuing to call for greater public awareness, engagement, and co-creation of policies to mitigate air pollution and carbon emissions in cities.



For **ClairCity**: Enda Hayes, Technical Coordinator



For **WeCount**: Kris Vanherle, Project Coordinator

For **iSCAPE**: Francesco Pilla, Project Coordinator



For **ICARUS**: Dimosthenis Sarigiannis, Project Coordinator

For **ACTION**: Elena Simperl, Project Coordinator



We call all interested parties championing citizen involvement in city life to **join us!**

Together we can do better!