Adapting the Bovisa Campus to Climate Change

Participants: 20 Erasmus Staff Training participants + 28 students in urban planning Instructors: Eugenio Morello, Doruntina Zendeli, Asef Ayatollahi, Eleonora Perotto, Paola Baglione, Chiara Minerva

Meeting point: La Masa Campus Entrance of EN:Lab, BL 31 at 9:15; from here we move together to the classroom.

- 9:30 Introduction to Climate Change Adaptation concepts and measures and the POLIMI Adaptation Plan (Prof. Eugenio Morello, Dr. Doruntina Zendeli)
- 10:30 Introduction to a brief collaborative activity: enhancing adaptation on POLIMI Bovisa Campus team building: 5 groups composed by about 5 students in urban planning and 4 staff members each
- 10:45 De-waterproofing and de-paving solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation (Arch. Barbara Vai, Arch. Giuseppe Mondini, POLIMI ATE)
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:45 Field Survey of Durando Campus (with Arch. Barbara Vai and Arch. Giuseppe Mondini)
- 13:00 Lunch break (independent)
- 14:30 Back to BL 31 EN:Lab Collaborative activity: work activity in 5 groups (with support of instructors and tutors)
- 16:30 Presentation of outcomes by the 5 groups to the Environmental Sustainability Officers and the Instructors
- 17:30 Closing



Day/Workshop objectives

Build knowledge

Gain a foundational understanding of climate change adaptation principles, challenges, and opportunities.

Learn from a real case

Explore how adaptation is addressed within a university campus context, through the case study of the Politecnico di Milano Climate Adaptation Plan.

Apply in practice

Work collaboratively on the Bovisa Campus to design an adaptation strategy, identifying actionable measures and sitespecific solutions for enhancing campus resilience.

Work modality

- In the collaborative activity we will work in teams
- Each team will be composed by:
 - 5 students in Urban Planning + 4 University Staff Members

What is climate adaptation?

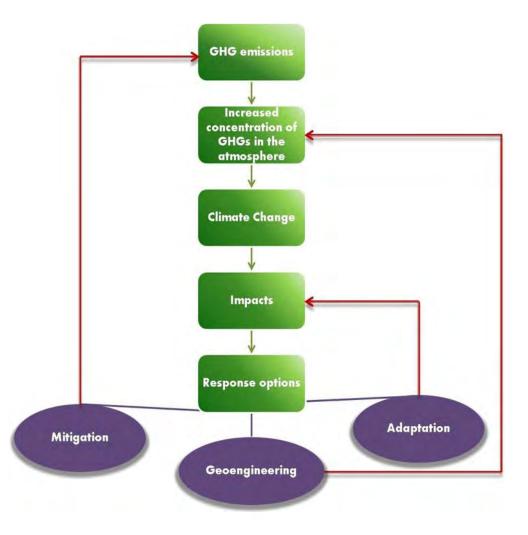


The difference between mitigation and adaptation...

Mitigation measures are actions taken to reduce and contain greenhouse gas emissions, while adaptation measures are based on reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

Mitigation, therefore, deals with the causes of climate change. Its goal is to reduce future climate change by slowing down the rate of increase, or by reducing the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

While adaptation addresses the impacts of CC. And it is defined by the IPCC as "Initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against the effects of actual or expected climate change".



Climate Adaptation Plan of Politecnico di Milano

Example of University Climate Adaptation And Action Plans



Vision

The Climate Adaptation Plan of the Politecnico di Milano (PdA) was conceived with the goal of reducing climate-related risks and increasing the resilience of the academic community.

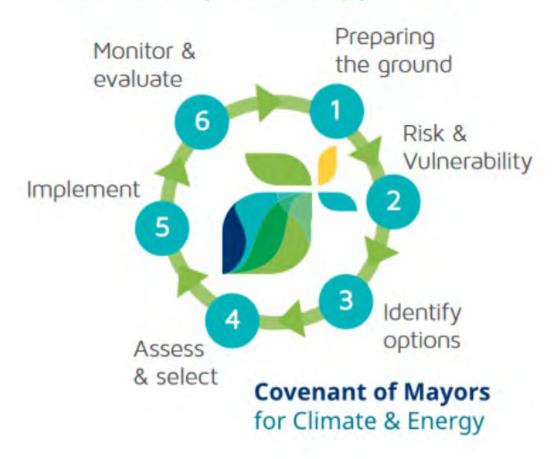
The university positions itself as a **living lab of innovation, research, and experimentation**—capable of integrating climate challenges within its infrastructures, organizational processes, and the daily life of students, faculty, and technical-administrative staff.

Objectives

- O1 / Identify and map the major climate risks and their corresponding impacts on:
 - the Polytechnic community, particularly concerning activities such as studying and working, commuting, and living;
 - infrastructures;
 - other species—particularly flora and fauna—in order to help preserve biodiversity in a changing climate.
- **O2** / Propose adaptive solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change on our community, infrastructures, and other species.
- **O3** / Promote a culture of climate change adaptation across the entire university, also through "soft" measures related to awareness, knowledge, and capacity building to respond to the challenge—through education, research, and service activities on our campuses, following a *living lab* approach.

Steps

Urban Adaptation Support Tool

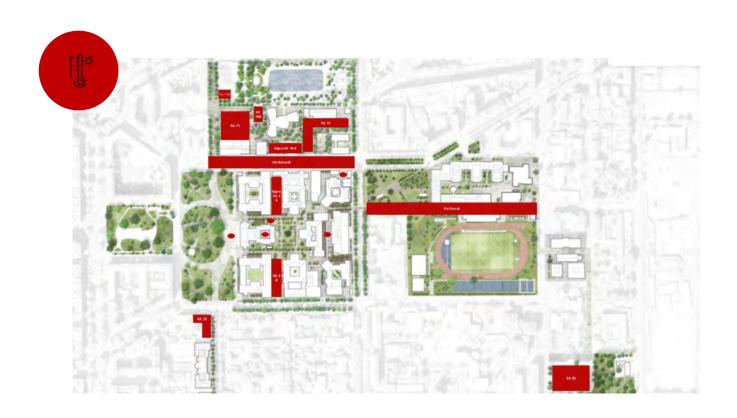


| - | Hazards | Living | Working/Studying | Moving |
|--------|---------|---|--|---|
| HEAT | | Reduced comfort in classrooms and dormitories Health risks for students and staff Increased energy for cooling university buildings | Reduced productivity in classrooms and offices Increased cooling costs for IT and research labs | - Discomfort on public transport - Rail buckling |
| FLOODS | | - Damage to facilities such as libraries and dormitories - Health risks from damp/mold - Power outages disrupting campus life | Restricted access to campus due to flooding Damage to academic and administrative infrastructure Delayed operations and services | - Blocked roads and railways affecting commuting to campus |
| WATER | | Restrictions on water use in dormitories, kitchens, and green spaces Health risks due to limited clean water access | Limited water availability for research and utility systems Reduced productivity in water- reliant facilities | - Delays in essential supplies such as catering and lab equipment |
| STORMS | | Structural damage to buildings and student housing Increased health and safety risks on campus | Disruptions to classes, research, and administrative operations Repair costs for damaged infrastructure | - Blocked roads and public transport disruptions affecting access to campus |
| HEAVY | | - Damage to campus buildings and green spaces - Safety risks from falling trees - Power outages affecting campus life | - Damage to infrastructure such as solar panels and signs in public spaces - Disruptions to research and IT operations | Unsafe travel conditions on roads and paths Public transport route disruptions |

Source: Adapted from EEA, 2016

| Hazards | | People | Infrastructures | Open Spaces / Vegetation | |
|---------|------------|---|--|--|--|
| HEAT | ◎ ※ | - Reduced comfort in buildings, open spaces, and pathways - Illnesses or heat shock incidents - Decrease in productivity - Activity interruptions | - Deterioration/damage to plants or systems - Increase/peak in energy demand for cooling - Power outages / blackouts - Surge in emergencies to manage - Higher energy consumption/costs for cooling - Increased repair/restoration costs | - Distress/weakening/damage to trees and greenery due to excessive heat - Reduced canopy / vegetation cover - Increase/peak in irrigation water demand - Higher water consumption for irrigation | |
| FLOODS | | Disruptions/delays/interruptions in mobility Restrictions/delays/interruptions to study and work activities | Deterioration/damage to plants, infrastructures, buildings Power outages / blackouts Surge in emergencies to manage Logistical difficulties in managing routine and emergency activities Increased repair/restoration costs | Deterioration/damage to trees and open spaces due to excess water Root weakening Increased repair/restoration costs | |
| WATER | | Discomfort/health issues due to limited water | - Reduced water availability for buildings and systems - Lower functionality of water-dependent infrastructures and systems - Surge in emergencies to manage | - Distress/weakening/damage to trees and greenery due to water scarcity - Reduced canopy / vegetation cover - Tree loss - Increased repair/restoration costs | |
| STORMS | | belongings - Disruptions/delays/interruptions in mobility - Restrictions/delays/interruptions in study/work | - Deterioration/damage to roofs, solar panels, windows, etc. - Power outages / blackouts - Surge in emergencies to manage - Logistical difficulties in managing routine and emergency activities - Increased repair/restoration costs | Deterioration/damage to trees and open spaces Reduced canopy / vegetation cover Root weakening Tree loss Increased repair/restoration costs | |
| HEAVY | | belongings - Disruptions/delays/interruptions in mobility - Restrictions/delays/interruptions in study/work flows and activities | - Deterioration/damage to lightweight or protruding elements (canopies, etc.) - Power outages / blackouts - Surge in emergencies to manage - Logistical difficulties in managing routine and emergency activities - Increased repair/restoration costs | - Deterioration/damage to trees and open spaces - Reduced canopy / vegetation cover - Root weakening - Tree loss due to uprooting - Increased repair/restoration costs | |

Extreme heat

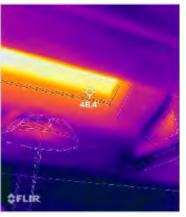






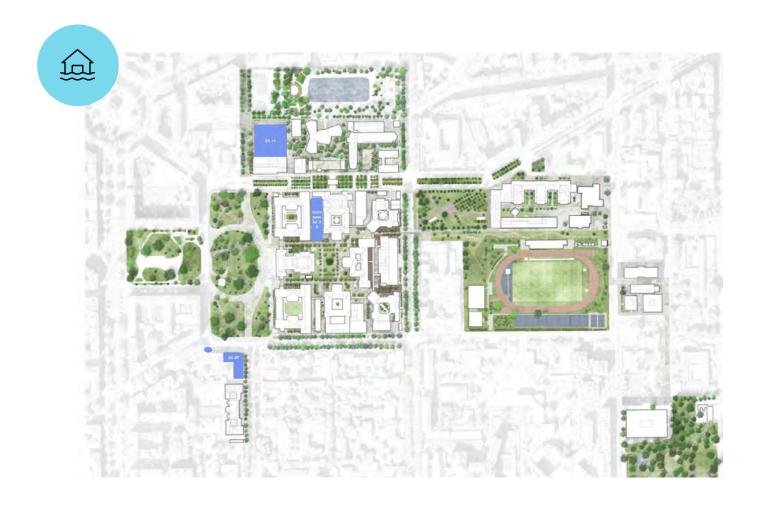








Flooding



















Heavy wind









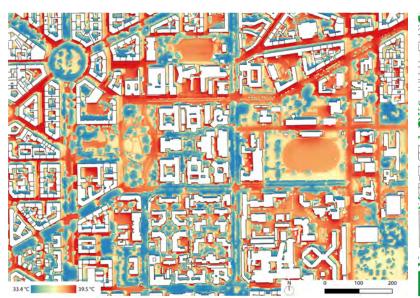






Mapping

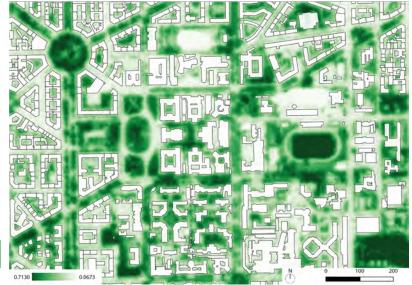
Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI) Resolution: 1m pixel



Tree canopy
Resolution: 1m pixel



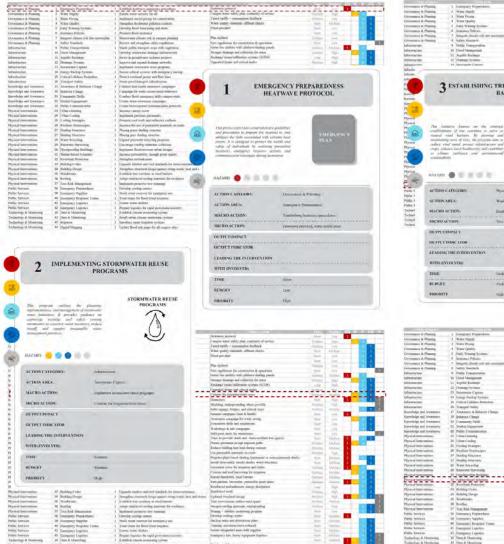
Normalized Difference Vegetation Index(NDVI) Resolution: 3m pixel



Source: MultiCAST

https://multicast.netbistrot.com/about/





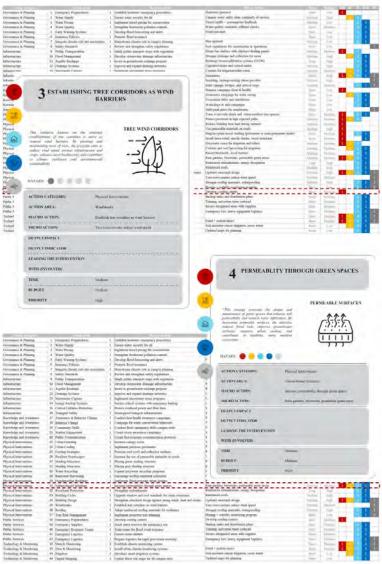
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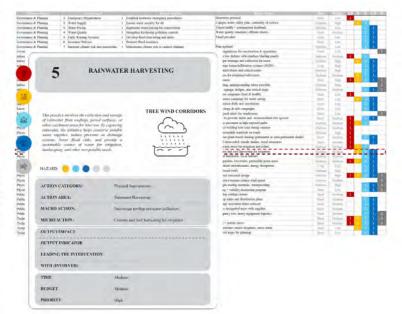
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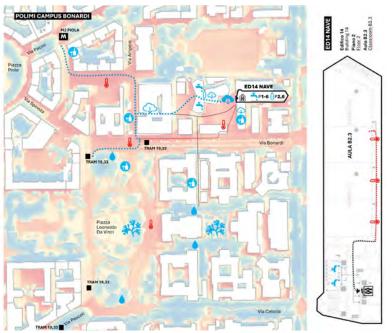
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LAUREE FRESCHE COOL GRA DECALOGO FRESCO COOL DECALOGUE

FRESCO COOL

CALDO HOT



Consulta See MAPPA DASI FRESCHE CODL AREAS MAP



.... Usa i percorsi più freschi per raggiungere l'aula della laurea Use the cooler paths to reach the graduation classrom



Fai caso allo Staff LAUREE FRESCHE (t-shirt azzurra) che si trovano all'ingresso dell'edificio, nel corridolo, nell'aula Look out for the COOL GRAD Staff (blue t-shirts)

at the building entrance, in the hallway, in the classroom

Aluta i tuoi famigliari e amici a orientarși nell'edificio, nel campus Help your family and friends find their way around the building and campus

Se vogliono riposarsi o devono aspettare, indirizzali verso la zona fresca più vicina if they need to rest or wait, direct them to the nearest cool area

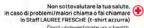
Vestiti comodo, leggero, con colori chiari e invita i docenti, i tuoi famigliari e amici a fare lo stesso Wear comfortable, light clothing, with light colors and encourage your teachersm family and friends to do the same

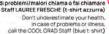
Consulta Sée
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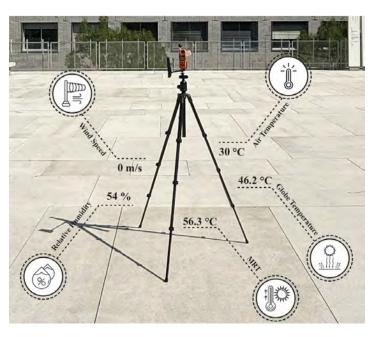
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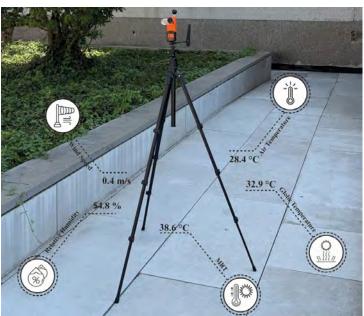
Non rimanere troppo tempo senza bere acqua Don't go too long without drinking water











Different climate adaptation measures

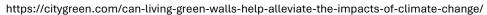
Green Roofs

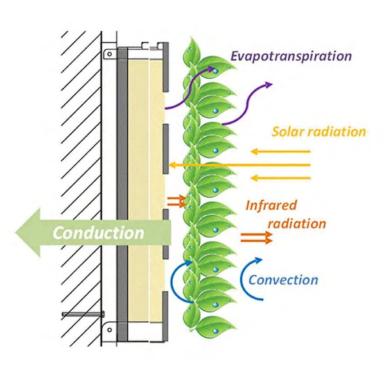




Green walls







Green walls







Milano

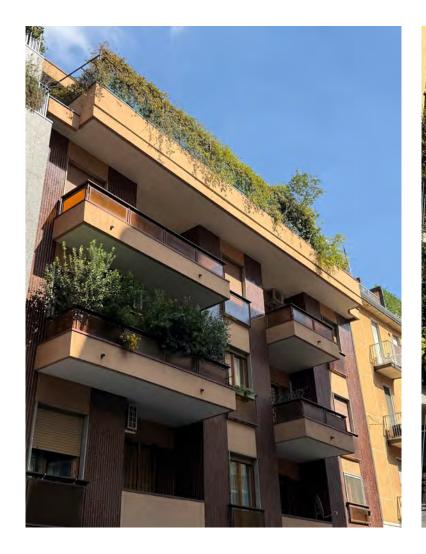
Green walls





Milano

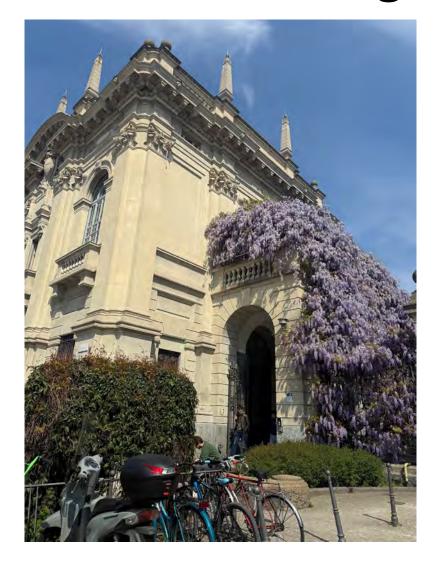
'Green balconies'





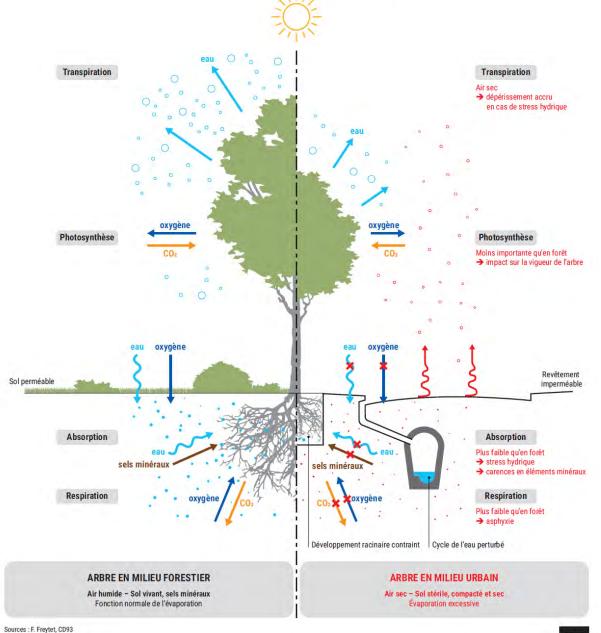


Seasonal change

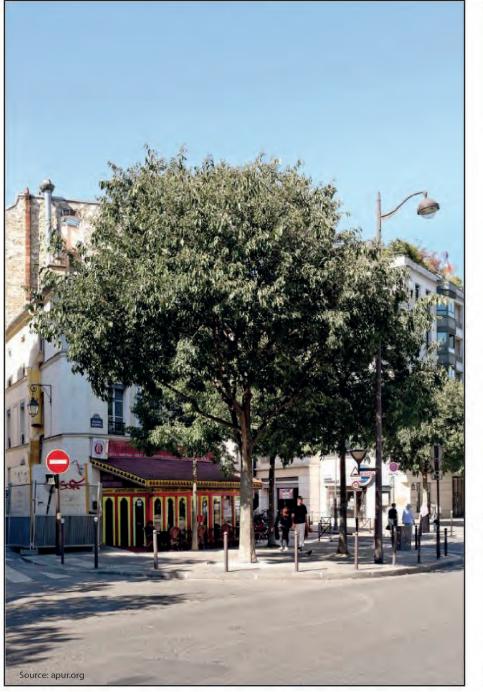


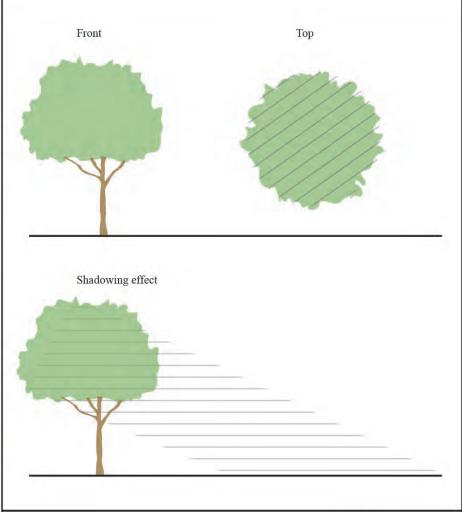


Trees



Trees





Type of tree: Celtis australis **Height:** 15-25 m average growth **Canopy:** 31 m² min - 145 m² max

Source: apur.org Photo reproduced

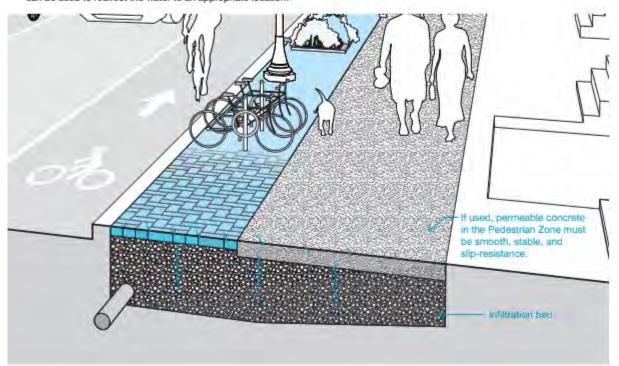
https://www.apur.org/fr/nos-travaux/canopee-arbres-plantes-espaces-publics-parisiens-etude-comparative-8-essences-principales

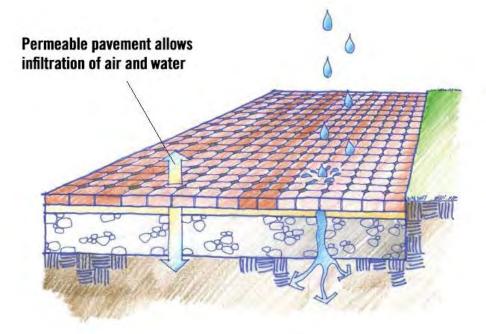
Use

- Permeable paving can be used in a broad variety of settings. All designs must consider the drainage characteristics of the underlying soils, the depth of the water table, and the slope of adjacent land.
- Permeable pavements can be used in sidewalks, plazas, cafés, parking areas, alleys, and other low-traffic areas.
- Soft paving materials are only appropriate for the Greenscape/Furnishing Zone or Frontage Zone, typically around trees, planters, and enclosed greenscape elements.
- Permeable concrete pavement can be piloted for use in the Pedestrian Zone as long as the resulting surface is durable, smooth, stable, slip resistant, and meets all other accessibility guidelines.
- Porous unit pavers are most appropriate in the Greenscape/ Furnishing Zone or the Frontage Zone, except where there is active pedestrian use such as at bus stops or at crossings. They may also be used in small plazas offset from the sidewalk Pedestrian Zone.
- In specific locations where infiltration is not desired, such as adjacent to building foundations, engineered geotextile liners can be used to redirect the water to an appropriate location.

Considerations

- Compared to traditional impermeable pavements, permeable pavements can provide increased traction when wet because water tends not to pool, and the need for salt, sand, and plowing can be reduced during winter due to low or no black ice development.
- Designs should include methods to convey larger storms to the storm drain system
- Long-term maintenance costs may be reduced because permeable pavements resist cracking and buckling in freeze-thaw conditions.
- · Regular maintenance of permeable pavements include:
 - Annual inspection of unit pavers and permeable concrete for deterioration
 - Periodic replacement of sand, gravel, and vegetation where applicable
 - Annual vacuuming of pavements may be required to unclog sand and debris (Note: The use of sand in ice prevention should be avoided because it will clog pavement pores.)







https://www.utiledesign.com/work/boston-complete-streets-design-guidelines/

SUDS - Bioswales







SUDS – Ground infiltration





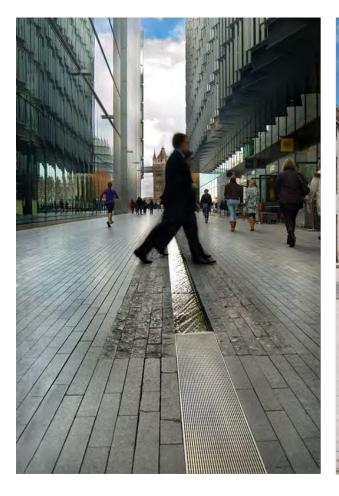


SUDS – Water squares





SUDS - Gutters







Urban Shading



Cairo, 2025.



Polimi Campus, Mantova, 2025.



Skopje, Old Bazaar, 2024.

Urban furniture

Lausanne







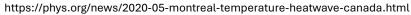
https://www.lausanne.ch/apps/actualites/index.php?actu_id=77510

Wind towers and urban cooling devices



Water bodies and fountains



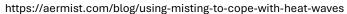




https://www.politico.eu/article/italy-uptick-hospitalization-heat-wave-sweep-eu-continent/

Misting Cooling System

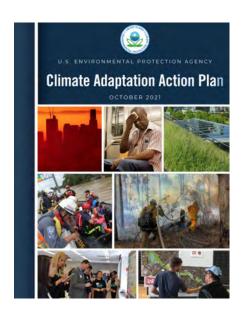






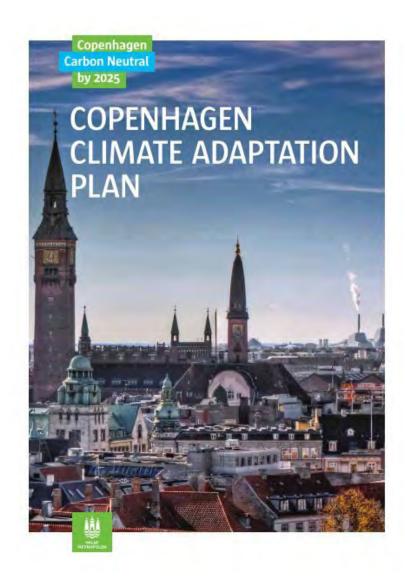
https://www.newsnationnow.com/science/ap-health-officials-issue-warnings-as-uk-bakes-in-the-first-heat-wave-of-2025/

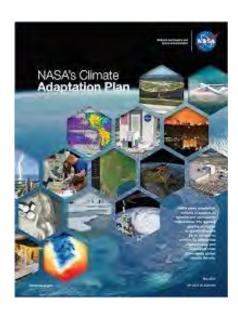
Examples of adaptation projects

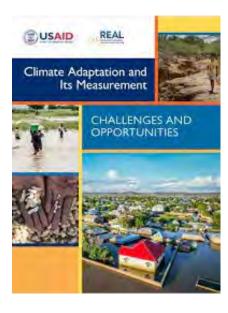




Enhancing climate change adaptation strategies and measures in the Metropolitan City of Milan



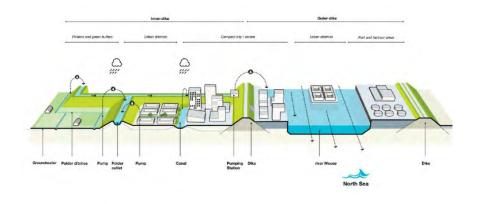




NY Climate Resilience Plan



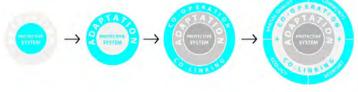
Rotterdam Adaptation Strategy





https://www.urbanisten.nl/work/rotterdam-adaptation-strategy





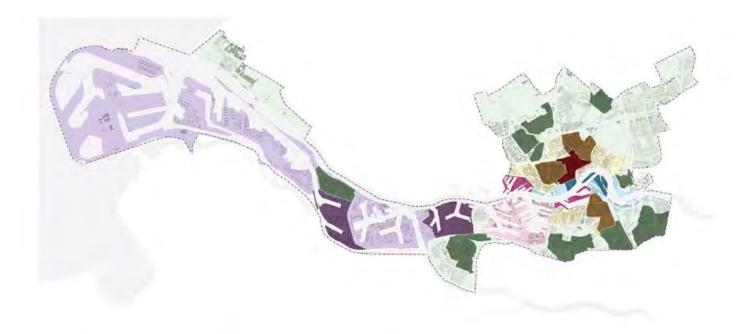
Rotterdam Adaptation Strategy

ROTTERDAM CLIMATE PROOF

ADAPTATION PROGRAMME



CONNECTING WATER WITH OPPORTUNITIES







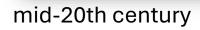












90s

PLAZA DE LA ENCARNACIÓN DE SEVILLA



Now



PLAZA DE LA ENCARNACIÓN DE SEVILLA







PIAZZA LEONARDO, POLIMI



Walking' forest of 1,000 trees transforms Dutch city



Thermally sensitive design of public spaces: some examples



Requena-Ruiz, I., Siret, D., Stavropulos-Laffaille, X., & Leduc, T. (2022). Designing thermally sensitive public spaces: an analysis through urban design media. Journal of Urban Design, 28(1), 44–65. https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2022.2062312



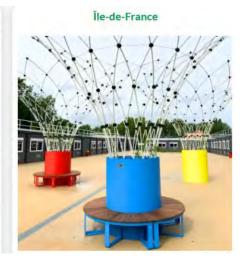
https://www.urbancanopee.com/nos-projets-urban-canopee/









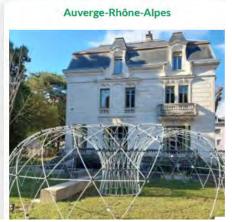




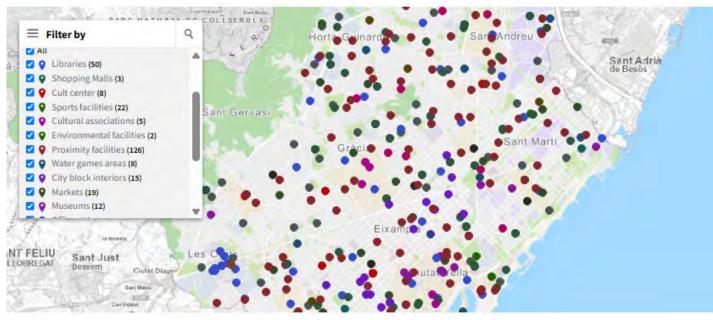








Climate Shelters Barcelona



Pla Clima

https://www.barcelona.cat/barcelona-pel-clima/en/specific-actions/climate-shelters-network







https://www.singulargreen.com/en/green-shades-valladolid/

High albedo, the example of mediterranean towns

'Heritage-based solutions', learning from traditional Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, and desert architecture for sustainable urban design. For both summer and winter adaptation

Alberobello



https://fearlessfemaletravels.com/alberobello-travel-guide/

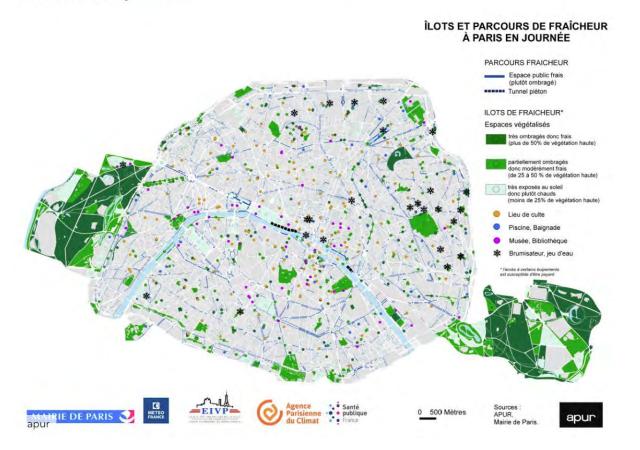
Frigiliana

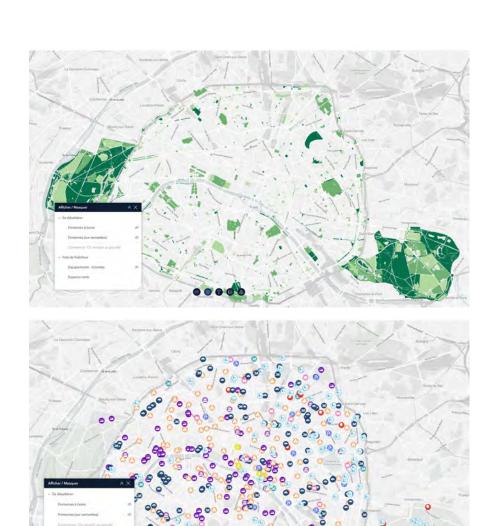


https://www.ruralidays.co.uk/travel/city-guide/what-to-see-in-frigiliana/

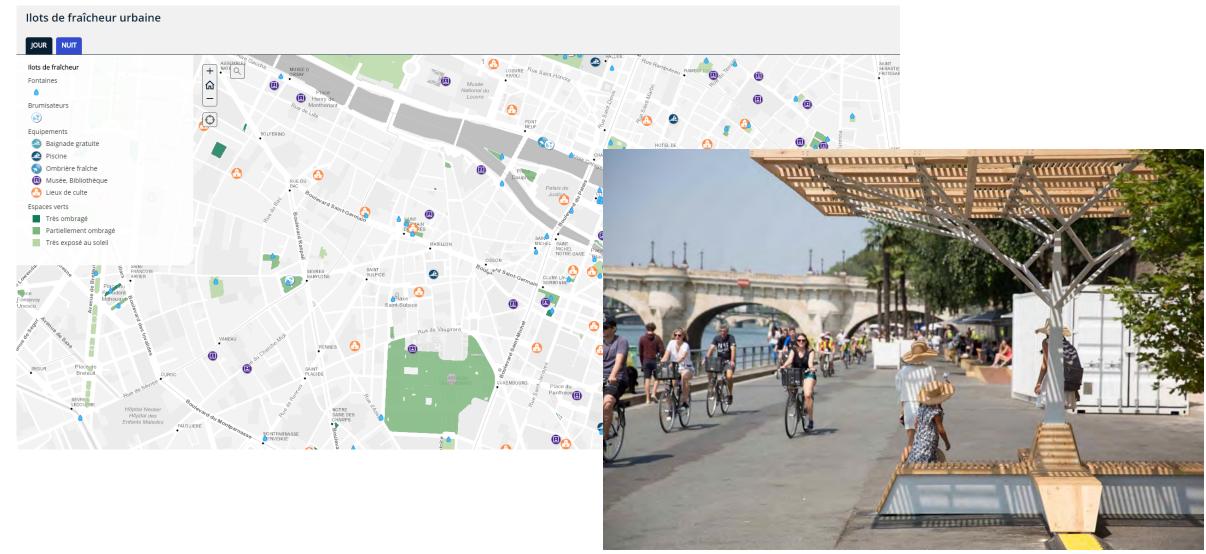
Cool islands in Paris

Shaded green spaces, swimming pools, misted areas... Ultra-cool places!





Cool islands in Paris



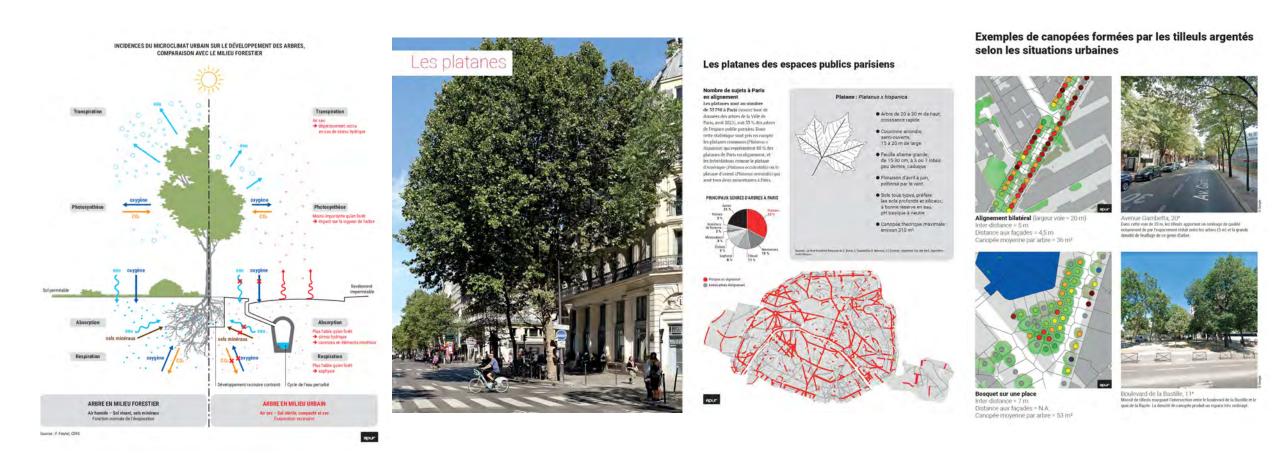
Cool islands in Paris



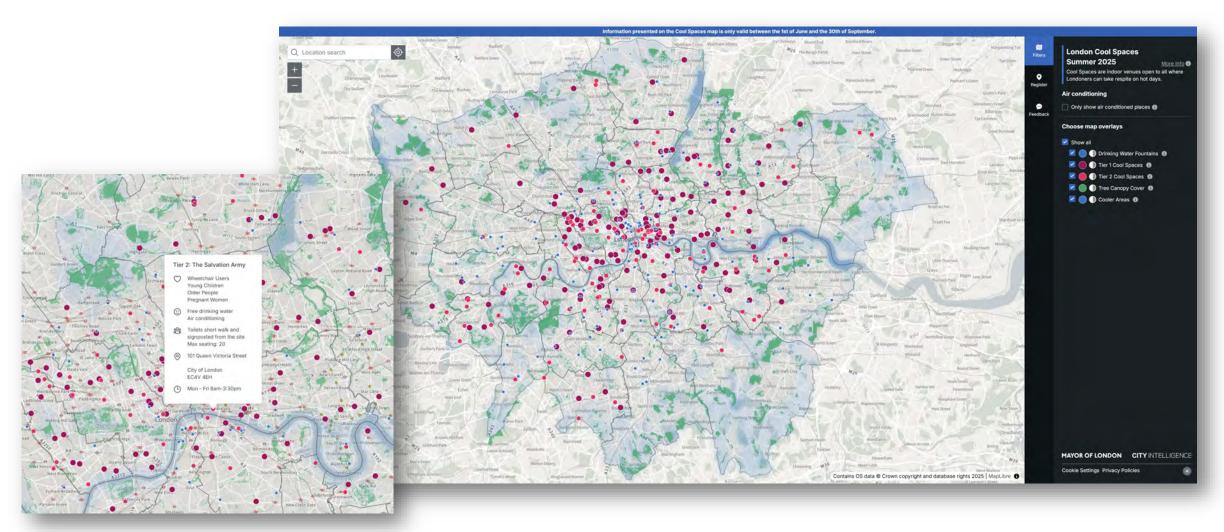


https://www.paris.fr/en/pages/where-to-cool-off-in-paris-when-it-s-hot-28052

Trees in Paris' public space in 2022



Cooling spaces and centres in London



Green tram lines of Bordeaux



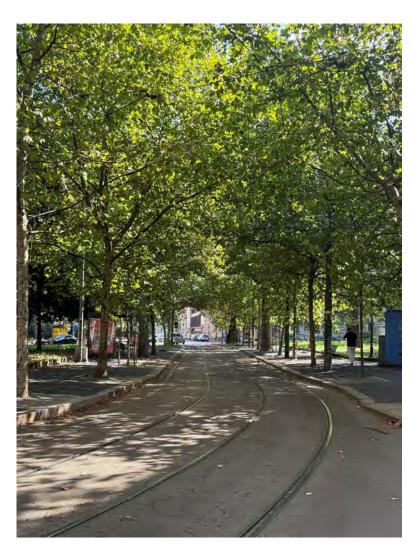


https://www.themayor.eu/en/a/view/bordeaux-launches-study-for-the-construction-of-metro-12082

https://www.istockphoto.com/it/search/2/image-film?page=2&phrase=modern+tram+in+bordeaux

Green tram lines of Milan





'Cooling-Park' in Vienna



https://www.raintime.at/en/cooling-park-vienna-mariahilf-with-raintime-mist-showers/



https://www.raintime.at/en/climate-resilient-cities-with-water-fog/

Colorful shading strategy in Malaga







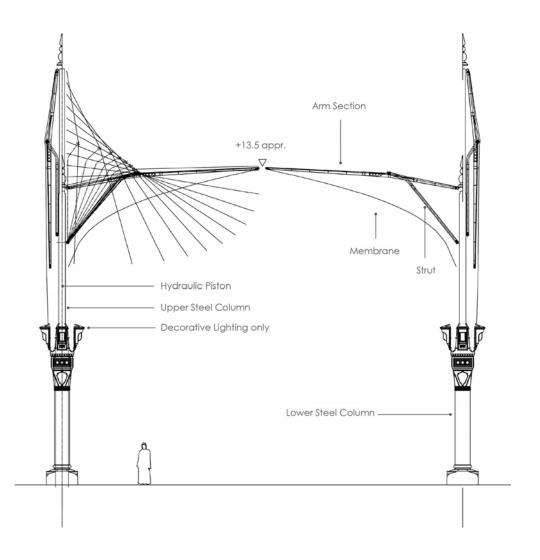
https://www.demilked.com/crocheted-canopy-malaga-eva-pacheco/

https://luvinland.com/handmade-shades-in-the-streets-of-alhaurin-de-la-torre/

Responsive shading in Medina

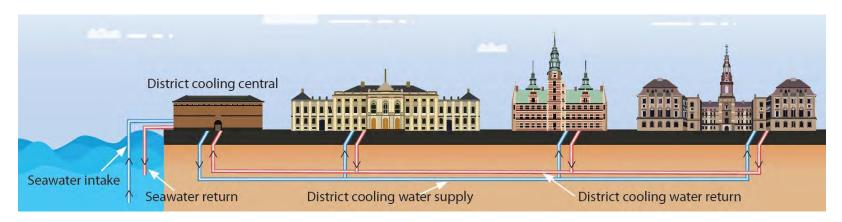






https://www.sl-rasch.com/en/projects/courtyard/

Cooling strategy with sea water in Copenhagen



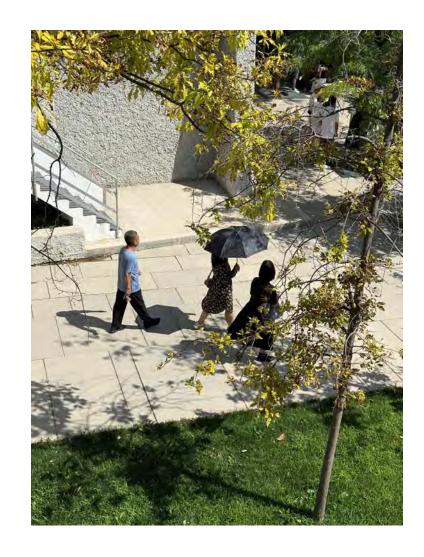




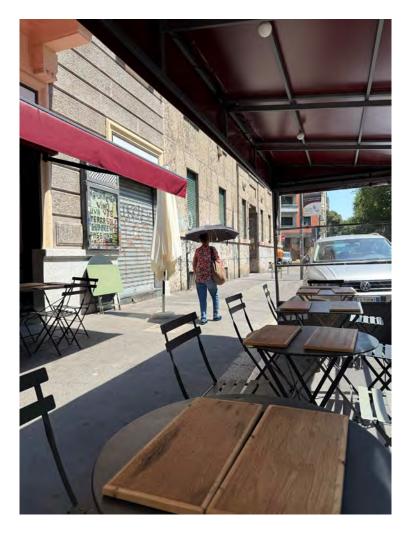


People's adaptation behaviours during heatwaves

In Italy

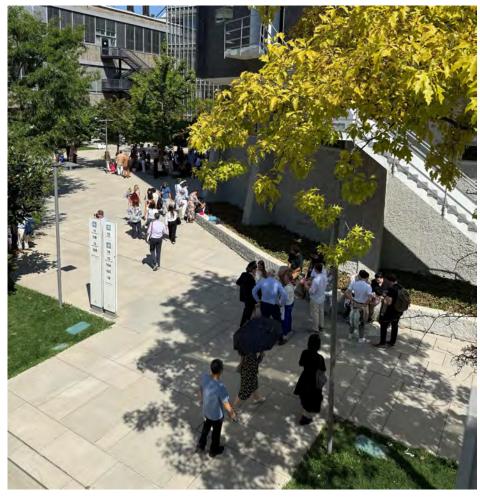






In Italy





In Italy





In Netherlands



In Netherlands





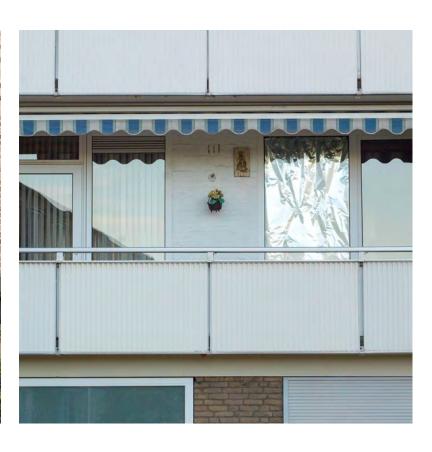


Credits: Broei Kas ©, 2022

In Netherlands

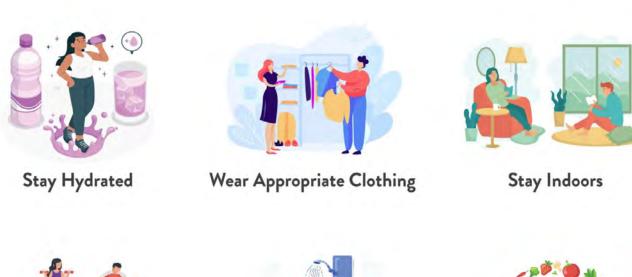






Credits: Broei Kas ©, 2022

...and more!







Ready for a quick test? Let's give this a try!

Mitigation or Adaptation?

Solar Panels



Primary Mitigation

Solar Panels



They act as a mitigation strategy, generating electricity from sunlight, a renewable source which replaces fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and slowing



Mitigation or Adaptation?

Textile shading



Primary Adaptation

Textile shading

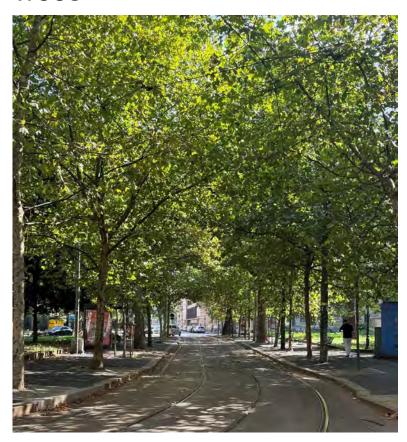


Textile shading structures can be considered an adaptation strategy, especially when they are dynamic and responsive to changing environmental conditions, helping cities become more resilient to a warming climate



Mitigation or Adaptation?

Trees



Both Mitigation and Adaptation

Trees



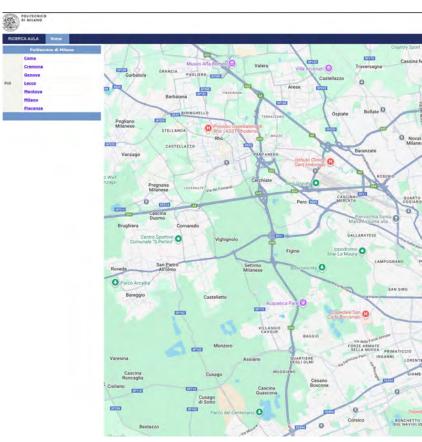
They mitigate by reducing urban temperatures and greenhouse gases and adapt by helping people and ecosystems cope with climate impacts.



Ready for the exercise?

Let's jump in!

The study area – Bovisa Campus

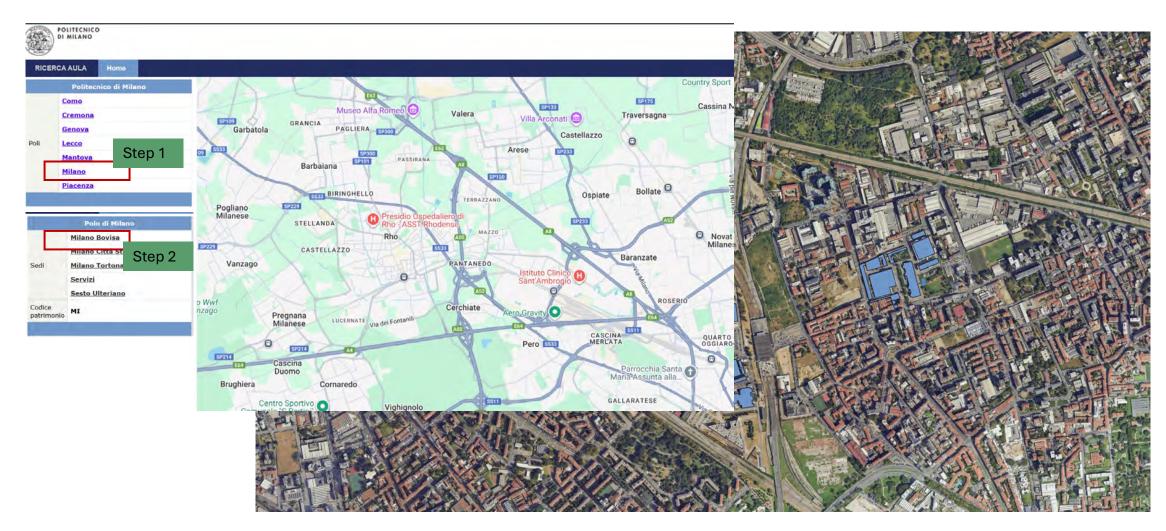


https://maps.polimi.it/maps/

The study area



The study area

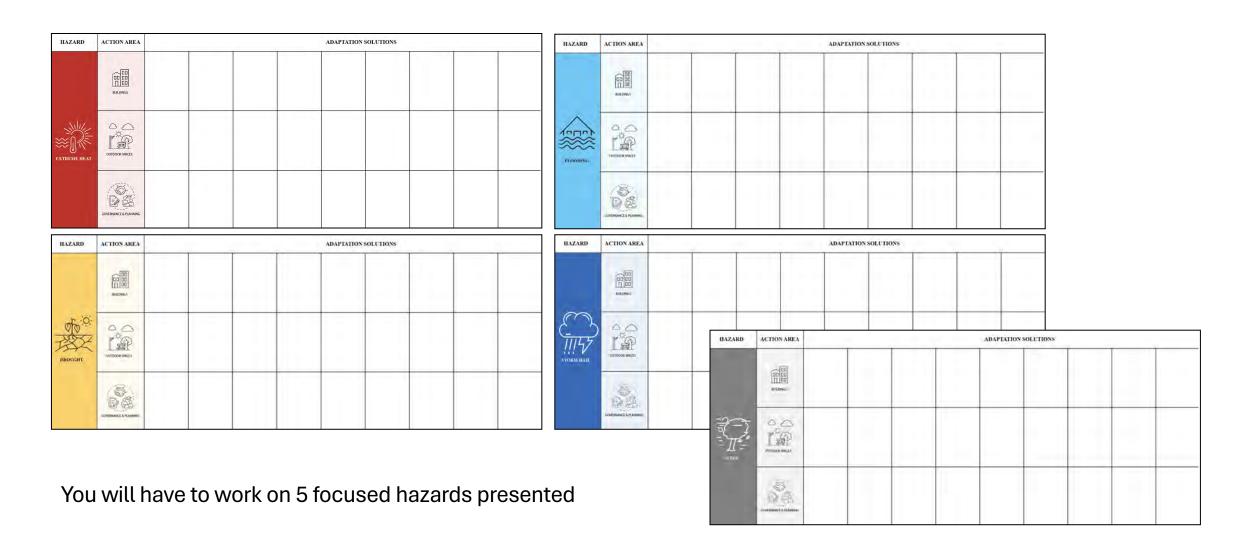


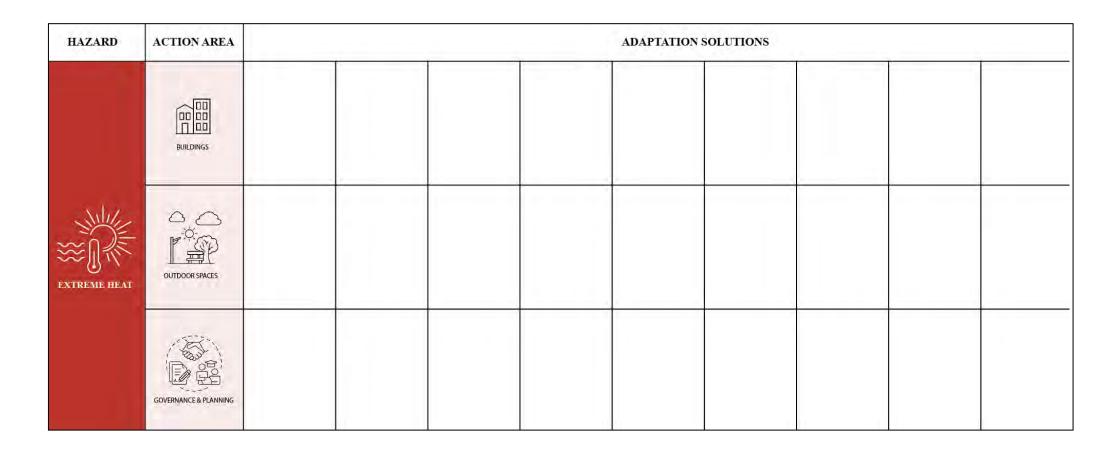
The study area



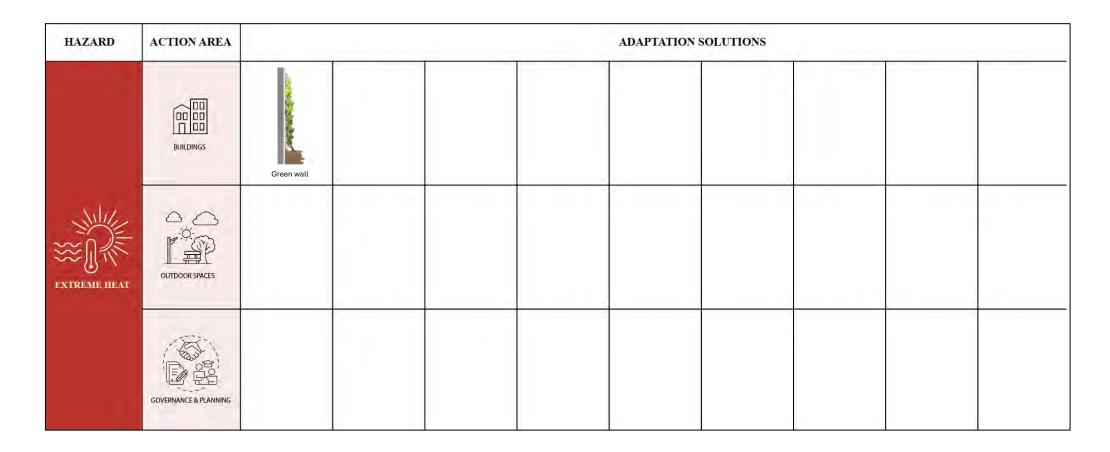
Exercise in Miro



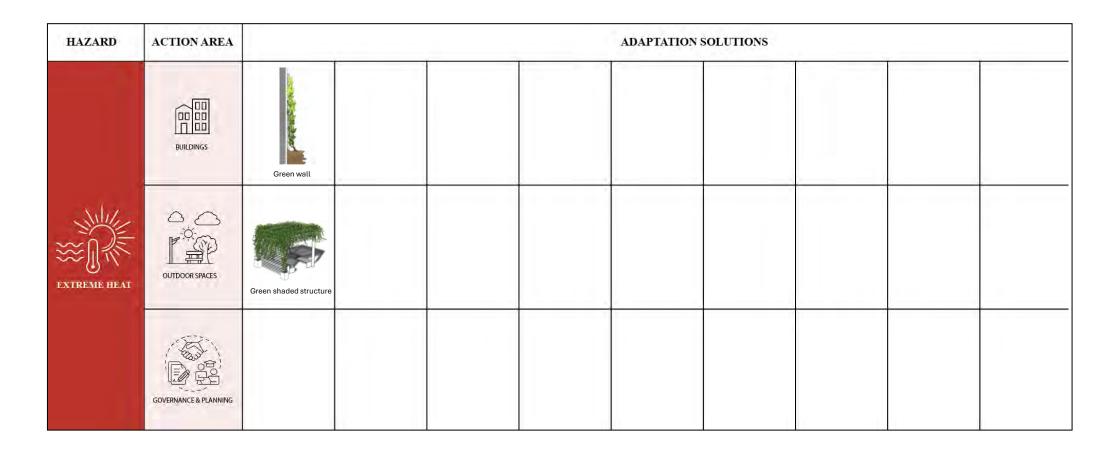




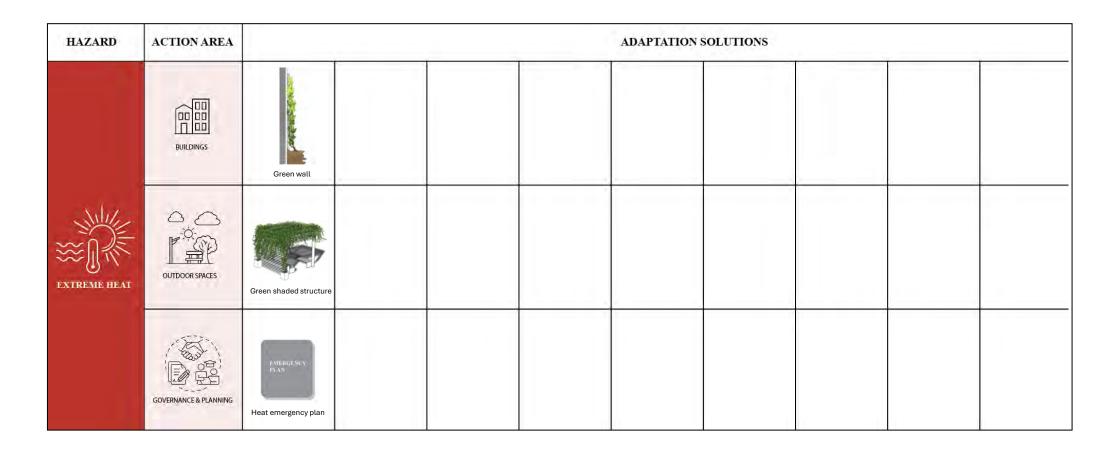
You will have to fill all the boxes one by one with an adaptation example solution per action area



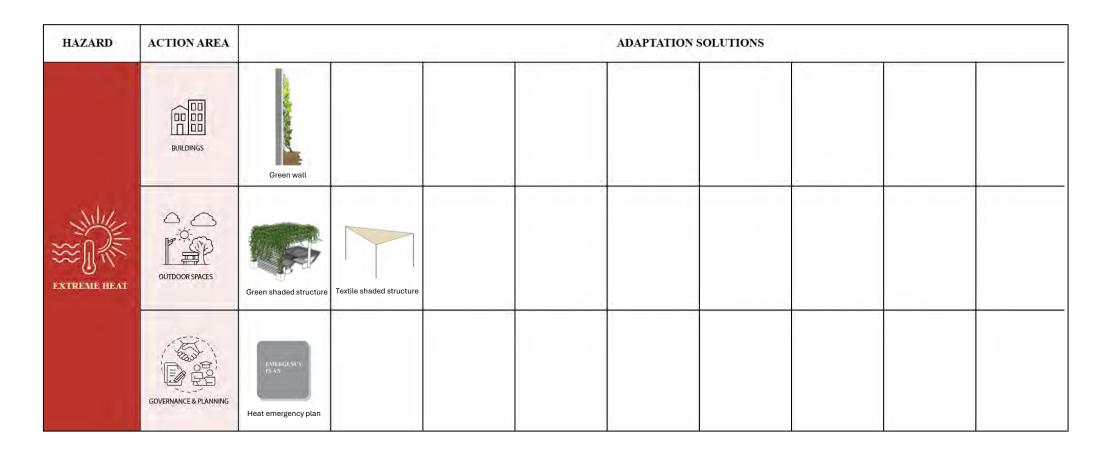
For instance, here we pun an example for the building adaptation solution



For instance, here we pun an example for outdoor spaces, a shaded structure grey or green



For instance, here we pun an example for governance and planning, a heat emergency plan



For instance, here we pun an example for governance and planning, a heat emergency plan

