



**Draft**

**Title:** **Building resilient green municipalities of the future**

**Tabled by:** Committee, European Green Party

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1 Municipalities all over Europe are establishing themselves more and more as  
2 actors for green changes. Their actions are delivering green solutions in many  
3 areas connected to a better future, such as mobility, biodiversity, energy  
4 savings and production, food systems, social cohesion, inclusivity and many  
5 more. They often deliver such concrete changes much quicker than national  
6 governments.

7 The COVID crisis and post-COVID recovery have proved that, in such an emergency,  
8 there is a need for active municipalities which are able to work continuously on  
9 their resilience, adapt to new conditions and innovate their approach to their  
10 missions.

11 We Greens are committed to driving such changes. Resilience is key for  
12 delivering our priorities. The local level is the platform where Greens are most  
13 present all over Europe. Thousands of local councillors and mayors in both large  
14 and small municipalities are working hard to solve current problems and improve  
15 the resilience of our municipalities towards future challenges.

16 Municipalities are also at the forefront of citizens' engagement with public  
17 decision-making and participation. It is the utmost responsibility of all local  
18 politicians to listen to, engage with and enable our citizens to participate in  
19 a green project. This helps to strengthen the credibility of politics and trust  
20 in elected politicians in an age of populism and vague promises. As  
21 municipalities are often important in implementing European programmes and  
22 projects, this also strengthens their identification with the European Project.

23 The European Green Party:

24 - Calls for all local decision-makers to acknowledge the importance of a long-  
25 term approach to resilience. We need to plan, invest and execute with resilience  
26 all projects concerning mobility, urban planning and many more areas. Our cities,  
27 towns and villages must become less prone to climate change impacts, thereby  
28 contributing to a sustainable and healthy environment and improving social  
29 cohesion and the fight against poverty as key aspects of resilience.

30 - Supports all municipalities in their independent access to the necessary  
31 resources, be it from tax revenues, the national budget, or European funds.  
32 Municipalities need a fair share of both financial and human resources to  
33 deliver their policies and should have enough freedom and room to manoeuvre on  
34 any independent political decision within the constitutional boundaries  
35 framework, human rights, and the rule of law.

36 - Welcomes all means of strengthening the voice of citizens, their participation  
37 in public life and in decision-making processes. We value such participation as  
38 a way of strengthening social cohesion in the municipalities, which empower  
39 citizens and encourage people to trust in our democratic system once again. We  
40 also support all volunteer-based activities, which have proved very important  
41 during the COVID crisis and are complementing services provided by the state,  
42 regions or municipalities where needed.

43 - Urges local councillors to address not only environmental and climate  
44 resilience, which helps in events of extreme weather such as floods, droughts or  
45 heatwaves, but also social resilience. Social housing, social services, schools,  
46 healthcare, family and elderly care, culture and youth services – all these need  
47 to be strengthened so that we can withstand future challenges.

48 - Recognises the importance of municipalities in swiftly delivering innovative  
49 policies during the COVID crisis. There are hundreds of examples of how  
50 municipalities could rapidly change and adapt to the new normal and test new  
51 approaches. We should learn from these agile approaches and use them to tackle  
52 issues other than COVID and, when needed, we should change our laws to address  
53 the limits municipalities are facing in such agile problem-solving.

54 The European Greens invite all green and green-minded local councillors, mayors,  
55 and urban activists to cooperate and to share experiences and lessons learned

56 across Europe. Strengthening international cooperation at the local level is one  
57 of the tools required to strengthen resilience. The EGP provides a space for  
58 such learning and exchanges of experience, both online on its platform and  
59 offline through various events.