

SUSTAINABLE DISTRICT

The strategy for the development of sustainable districts in Brussels takes various forms, from the built intervention of new districts to the reorientation of lifestyles. The tour is intended to give you an overview of the two dynamics, one "top down", the other "bottom up":

Bervoets: first new sustainable district in Brussels.

The Bervoets project, developed by the SDRB (regional operator), is one of the first "new" sustainable districts in Brussels. The project was developed in an urban logic, characterised by a typology of exclusive blocks with clear identification of the private and public spaces. The public space is conceived as the structuring element of the project; it is of high quality and is brightened up by the planting of various species of trees and by setback areas. It comprises 239 dwellings, of varied typology (single-family units with garden, apartments), and inexpensive workshops and shops. In terms of energy, since the project was developed before the obligation of the passive standard for all new construction, it achieves a "low energy" standard. The project was supposed to provide for an investment in alternative energy systems covering at least **20%** of the heating and domestic hot water energy needs. This objective has been exceeded through the installation of an urban heating system (3 condensing boilers) and a cogeneration plant (140kW elec/207kW therm). A particular feature of the project is that it provided for storm water basins, not underground but in the roof, under the green roof! It is planned that the visit to the almost completed site will take place with the "urban renovation" director of the SDRB.

Green Forest city: a sustainable district to recreate the link between man and nature

The Green Forest city comprises a series of small, rather stylish social housing units and buildings.

Supported by the Brussels region in the context of the call for "sustainable district" projects, the inhabitants have taken up the challenge of reinvesting the city's public places in a spirit of sustainable development and friendship. Supported by an organiser, they work in partnership with the town of Forest, some associations, a shopkeeper, and the Foyer Forestois (social housing company). As a result of district meetings and a poll carried out among neighbours, activities have been set up in order to review several themes, including one strong one: "recreating the link between man and nature". Today, numerous projects have come into being: a district kitchen garden and orchard, an aromatic spiral and a neighbourhood kitchen garden, while a nature and heritage trail is being finalised. In 2022, the garden City will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its existence. Will it have successfully met the challenge of reconciling sustainable development (high energy performance in the buildings, green energy production, reduction in waste, soft mobility, sustainable food, increased biodiversity, etc.) and the new needs of its inhabitants?

The "call for sustainable district projects" initiative has enabled the Brussels region to support around fifteen similar local initiatives emerging in the districts. It falls within a strategy aimed at working on the existing town with its inhabitants, from a "bottom up" perspective of the voluntary reorientation of lifestyles.

For further information: <http://www.citeforestvert.be> and <http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/quartiersdurables>



