

VALLADOLID DECLARATION

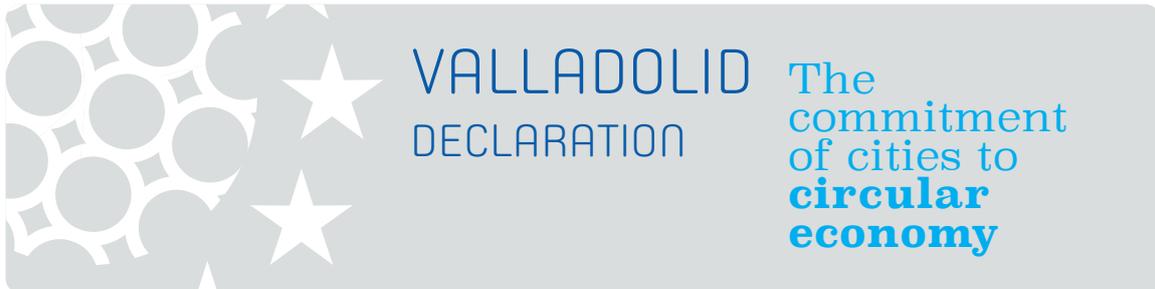
The
commitment
of cities to
**circular
economy**



Ayuntamiento de
Valladolid







The global crisis resulting from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has called into question the current growth model based on the production of goods and services, and which entails the intensive use of natural resources and places high demands on the environment, thus accelerating climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

These are exceptional times. We have a great chance to promote policies that help improve the quality of life of people in a way that addresses not only the situation caused by the pandemic, but also climate change, by promoting sustainable mobility, the circular economy, territorial balance, and by designing sustainable, healthy, safe, resilient and inclusive cities.

The crisis caused by the coronavirus has laid bare the deficiencies of our cities, while at the same time bringing about important changes in the use of public spaces, transport, leisure places, and relations between urban and rural settings. This is forcing us to redesign and regenerate our cities and towns.

To this end, government agencies must work in a coordinated manner, in collaboration with the private sector and the public, to find solutions that allow us to respond to the needs of the 21st century.

But we must not forget the fundamental role that Local Governments play in this process of change. In our country, nearly 80% of the population lives in cities, and it is in cities where the battle for sustainability will be won or lost, meaning they should play the greatest role in the recovery. And let us not forget the existing interrelation between the rural world and the urban one that must be based on a balance between ecology and territory.

We cannot waste the opportunity offered by the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, endowed with a significant amount of European funds, which will allow us to make this change.

The model for rebuilding our cities and towns must be consistent with the principles of the European Green Deal: circular economy, clean energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, increased biodiversity, pollution abatement and the fight against climate change.

The Seville Declaration, signed by 231 Local Entities representing more than 20 million inhabitants, has managed to give a strong boost to the realization of the SDGs, included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to the process of decarbonizing our society.

**THAT IS WHY THE CITIES GATHERED TODAY IN VALLADOLID,
AT THIS CONFERENCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY,
RECONSTRUCTION AND LOCAL ENTITIES,
COMMIT WITH OUR SIGNATURE TO:**

- ★ Promote and support both the call made by the city of Paris for a circular economy, and the Seville Declaration, signed on March 15, 2017.
- ★ Highlight the important role that Local Governments - as those closest to the citizens and thus the ones that can prevent major environmental conflicts - play in actions to promote and develop a new model based on the principles of Circular Economy.
- ★ Promote the role of new entrepreneurs by boosting the protagonism that young people play in creating and developing new companies.

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- ★ Encourage compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals included in the 2030 Agenda by promoting a model of sustainable, healthy, inclusive and resilient urban development, increasing the demand for socioeconomic activities that produce environmental goods and services, fostering green employment and high-quality social employment and guaranteeing a Fair Ecological Transition.
- ★ Elaborate Local Circular Economy Strategies, such as the model endorsed by the FEMP, which can be used to diagnose the situation of the Local Entity and its territory, draft action plans and establish indicators that ensure compliance with waste reduction targets, including the constant review of plans for their continuous improvement. These strategies will seek to prevent and reduce waste generation, together with the adverse impacts of its generation and management, reduce the overall impact from the use of resources and improve the efficiency of said use, in order to protect the environment and human health, and transition to a low-carbon, circular economy.
- ★ Encourage sustainable water use by optimizing the supply and sanitation networks, using water more efficiently, reducing water consumption, endorsing its reuse and guaranteeing the right to water access.
- ★ Promote the application of the Spanish Urban Agenda by integrating sustainability in territorial planning, implementing urban policies with social, economic and environmental objectives, and encouraging urban planning that stimulates urban compactness, regeneration and resilience.
- ★ Promote energy efficiency and energy saving in the housing stock and in the commercial and industrial sectors, providing advice to combat energy poverty.
- ★ Manage land to promote sustainable mobility by regulating the occupation of public space, prioritizing pedestrian uses, integrating sustainable mobility in urban planning, reducing transport emissions into the atmosphere and promoting public transport.
- ★ Rethink our way of producing, supplying and consuming, leading to healthier behaviors for the environment and the citizenship, and creating equal opportunities in both urban and rural areas.

- ★ Promote healthy spaces and behaviors by boosting sustainable rural development, incentivizing urban planning for a healthy environment, encouraging healthy habits and responsible consumption, and reducing food waste.
- ★ Establish circular economy as a source that drives new technologies that help change the economic model and reduce environmental impacts.
- ★ Involve the scientific community in the research and development of projects and programs to promote circular economy by expanding RDI programs.
- ★ Encourage cooperation between public administration, developing and sharing best practices among cities, within the framework of implementing Local Circular Economy Strategies.
- ★ Promote multilevel governance of the territory and improve awareness, sensitization and participation of our citizens in local actions to boost circular economy.
- ★ Strengthen public-private partnerships to spur alliances between different stakeholders of the public sector, the civil society organizations and the private sector.

Valladolid, June 30, 2021







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