



Call for Contributions: Regenerative Neighbourhoods Position Paper

Deadline for Abstract Submissions: November 15, 2023

Deadline for Full Submissions: March 15, 2024

Expected Publication: June 2024

In our rapidly changing world, where the human caused environmental degradation are increasingly felt, traditional approaches to environmental sustainability are proving insufficient to meet the challenges confronting cities and societies. The concept of mitigating environmental damage, while crucial, no longer stands as the sole remedy. Instead, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment where regenerative actions must take center stage. These actions are designed not merely to sustain, but to enable human endeavours to co-evolve harmoniously within the delicate balance of planetary boundaries. Through regenerative practices, we can establish socio-ecological systems that nurture the positive impacts of human activities on our environments.

In an urban context, regenerative urbanism is a holistic approach to urban development that envisions cities in which nature (non-human species) and humans can thrive in balance and symbiosis. Understood in this way, regenerative urbanism includes but goes beyond the mere restoration/regeneration of human and natural systems, and instead starts from an understanding that humans are nature and that there is no way we can sustain human life on this planet without this recognition. It is an evolving concept that seeks to address the pressing challenges facing cities in the 21st century, such as climate change, social inequality, biodiversity loss and economic resilience.

The Circular Urban Economies Transition Pathway (CUE TP) in the Driving Urban Transitions partnership, aims to foster the design of urban environments and neighbourhoods that not only sustain themselves but also actively regenerate and enhance the well-being of their inhabitants and the surrounding ecosystems. With this Position Paper, we aim to achieve a collection of cutting-edge contributions that showcase angles and perspectives on this topic which is oftentimes not recognised in the urban EU debate.

Position Paper Objectives

We aim to provide quick and insightful learnings from various angles and to display a holistic understanding of regenerative neighbourhoods by presenting real world examples, stories and best practice cases. We believe that a wide array of voices and perspectives will enrich our position paper, providing a comprehensive view of regenerative urbanism in a neighbourhoods context that aligns with the CUE TP:s mission to foster sustainable, thriving cities for all. It will illustrate the concept through practical examples, offering a clear perspective of what we mean when we talk about regenerative neighbourhoods. To achieve this, we are inviting contributions from a diverse range of stakeholders, including:

- **Community Actors:** We encourage community organisations, activists, and residents to share their experiences and initiatives that contribute to the regeneration of neighbourhoods.





- **Researchers:** Understood broadly to include academics, researchers at knowledge and governmental institutions, researchers working at institutes and universities of applied science as well as commercial research offices. We are looking for a wide array of research perspectives on regenerative urbanism, for practice-oriented approaches as well as theoretical insights, empirical and case studies as well as overviews and synthesis work etc.
- **Urban Planners and Architects:** We invite professionals in the fields of urban planning and architecture to contribute their innovative designs and ideas that promote regenerative neighbourhoods.
- **NGOs and Advocates:** Environmental organisations, advocates, and activists are encouraged to share their strategies and campaigns aimed at advancing regenerative practices in urban areas.
- **Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs:** We seek contributions from business leaders and entrepreneurs who have successfully implemented regenerative approaches in urban development and can offer insights into their impact.
- **Civil Society Organisations:** Civil society groups working on issues related to sustainability, inclusivity, and community development are invited to share their perspectives and stories.
- **Citizens:** We value the input of individuals who may not belong to formal organisations but have valuable insights and experiences related to regenerative urbanism. Your stories and ideas are welcome contributions.
- **Government representatives:** We welcome contributions from government officials at the local, regional, and national levels that showcase policies, projects, and strategies aligned with regenerative urbanism.

Target Audience and Contribution Formats

Our position paper is intended for a wide audience of city practitioners and urban stakeholders, including politicians, planners, administrators, urban innovators, cultural and creative sectors, and the general public. While maintaining a level of professionalism, we aim to make the paper accessible and engaging for all interested parties.

The position paper will embrace a format designed to maximise clarity and conciseness. It will feature clear and concise key messages, fundamental information presented in a visually identifiable manner, and dynamic content aimed at enhancing engagement. To foster a multifaceted perspective on the topic, we encourage the incorporation of various types of contributions, including:

- **Case Studies:** Detailed accounts of successful regenerative urbanism projects, providing real-world examples and lessons learned.
- **Infographics and Visuals:** Visual representations of data, concepts, and trends that aid in understanding complex ideas at a glance.
- **Expert Interviews:** Insights and perspectives shared through interviews with leading figures in the field, adding depth to the paper's content.
- **Narratives and Anecdotes:** Stories that convey the human dimension of regenerative urbanism, showcasing the impact of these initiatives on individuals and communities.

- **Best Practices:** Practical guidelines and recommendations based on successful implementation experiences.
- **Community Voices:** First-hand accounts from residents, activists, and local leaders, offering a grassroots perspective on regenerative urbanism.
- **Innovative Solutions:** Innovations and technologies that are driving positive change in urban environments, with a focus on sustainability and regeneration.

By encouraging a diverse range of contributions, we aim to create a comprehensive and engaging position paper that appeals to a broad audience, from professionals to citizens, while providing valuable insights and inspiration for a regenerative urban future.

Abstract Format

Remember to keep your abstract clear, concise, and aligned with the position paper objectives. It should effectively communicate the essence of your proposed contribution and why it is relevant to the theme of regenerative urbanism and neighbourhoods. The abstracts should adhere to the following format:

- **Title:** Begin with a clear and concise title that reflects the content of your proposed contribution.
- **Author Information:** Include the names and affiliations of all authors. If multiple authors are contributing, specify the corresponding author for correspondence purposes.
- **Abstract Content:** Your abstract should be a summary of the main points you intend to cover in your full contribution. It should provide a clear and concise overview of your proposed content, including the key message or objective.
- **Keywords:** Include a list of relevant keywords that capture the main themes and topics of your proposed contribution. These keywords will help potential readers and reviewers identify the focus of your work.
- **Word Limit:** Abstracts should be kept within a 300-word limit while accommodating various formats beyond written text.
- **Contact Information:** Include your contact information, such as email address, for correspondence regarding your abstract submission.
- **Submission Deadline:** November 15, 2023, as mentioned in the call.
- **Submission Email:** Send your abstract to the designated email addresses provided in the call: Björn Wallsten (bjorn.wallsten@formas.se) or Ann Maudsley (ann.maudsley@formas.se).

Timeline

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** November 15, 2023
Contributors submit abstracts of their proposed contributions.
- **Notification of Acceptance:** December 15, 2023
Authors are informed whether their abstracts have been accepted for full submission.
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline:** March 15, 2024
Authors submit their complete papers in accordance with provided guidelines.
- **Publication:** Mid-June 2024
The position paper is officially published and made available to the public and relevant stakeholders, in line with the mid-June target.

We look forward to your valuable contributions!

Sincerely,

Björn and Ann, CUE TP coordinators
DUT/Formas