

Cities to Nature

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THE PROBLEM

- Cities are not nature, which leads to...
- Heat islands, floods, draughts, biodiversity loss, air pollution
- Increased illness and mortality where 75% of population lives
- We have **6** years to turn the tide on destabilization of Earth systems

THE SOLUTION

- Turn cities into nature
- Green Panels, rooftop flowers, eco-tiles
- Scaling up and governing as a commons

THE IMPACT

- Benefits at neighborhood level
- Stable city ecosystem
- Social and cross-cultural sustainability in neighborhoods



STAD EN NATUUR:
De transitie naar natuurinclusief stedelijk gebied



CITIES TO NATURE:
We're crafting the city green

OUTCOMES

- **FUNDING ACQUISITION**
 - **Nov. 2023, submitted: PI of Transforming Urban Building Envelopes, MSCA proposal (25+ consortium, with SBE/VU+UT)**
- **RESEARCH**
 - **2024-ongoing:** Supervision of executive PhD student (Marina Bosman, owner of Dakbloemenweide)
 - **2024-ongoing:** writing 2 articles from 50+ interviews with professionals in circular & blue-green infrastructure (with Jan Brusselaers [IVM/VU] et al.)
 - **2024-2025: bottom-up scaling of affordable, modular, effective blue-green roofs for both flat and sloped roof types.** ← JOIN US
- **OUTREACH**
 - **April 2024:** 2nd cities to nature symposium (with Mus Muslimov [StartHub/VU] & Nicolien van der Grijp [IVM/VU] & Bep Schrammeijer [Athena/VU] & UT) **REGISTER HERE →**
- **TEACHING**
 - **July 2024:** Summer school (with Marina Bosman), integrating city-nature walks in teaching about circularity



LESSONS LEARNED

- Broad vision, but maybe not a good strategy
- Better strategy:
 - Getting (collaborative) research published
 - Communicating about collaborative research results
 - Putting the topic on the agenda