

PROMOTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
IN THE UNECE REGION

69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission



**UNECE**

# A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT ATHENS

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# CIRCULARITY AND THE CITY OF ATHENS



## Circularity:

**waste minimization and the judicious use and reuse of resources.**

We are finally recognizing that Circular principles are fundamental to **resilient and sustainable economic models**, which are essential for building a **resilient and sustainable city**.

Athens has been a late-comer to this paradigm shift.

A few years ago we started designed and we are now starting to implement initiatives with circularity in mind.

# CIRCULARITY IN ATHENS



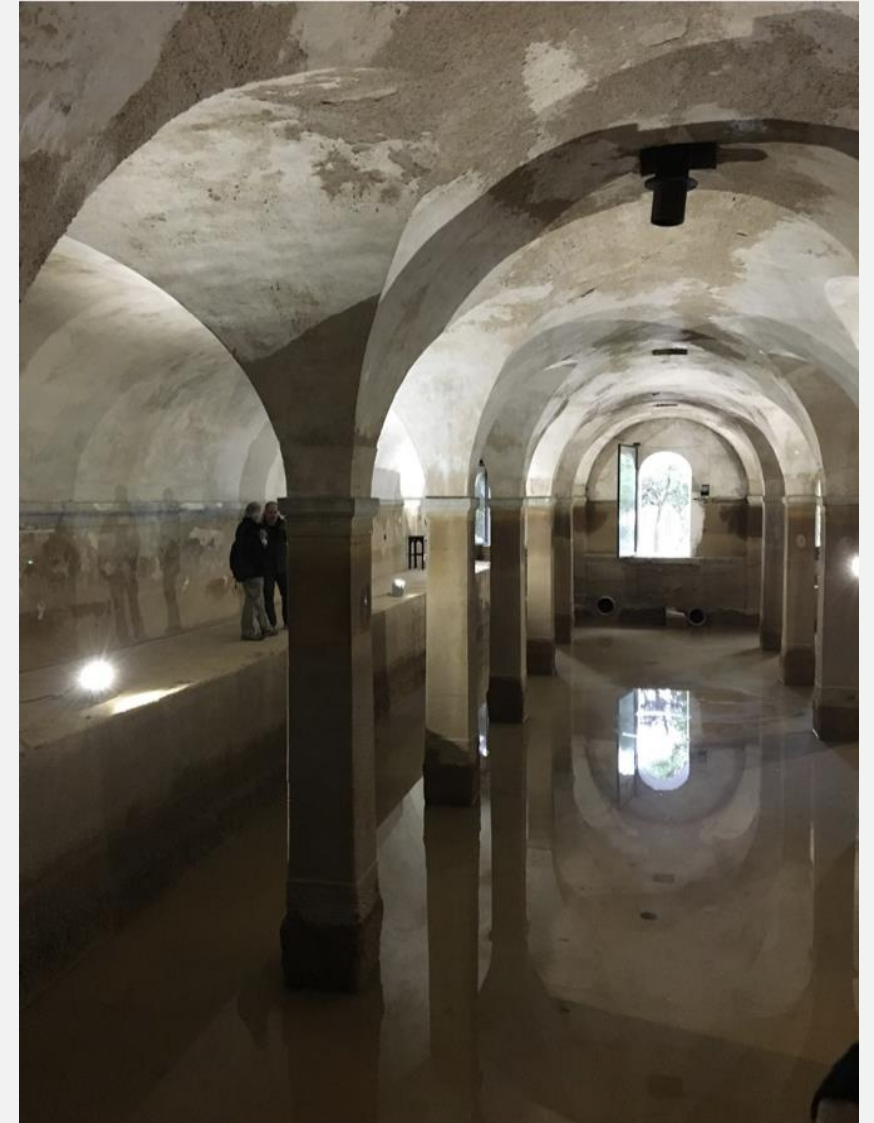
We've just started the last few years reconsidering our resources:

- **Food Waste to compost** increased tenfold in the last 4 years as 40% of our waste is biowaste
- **Water**
- **RES**
- **Sustainable Tourism**

# WATER SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

**NextGEN H2020** Mobile units that transform blackwater to blue, enabling novel wastewater reuse options at the point of demand for urban green irrigation and other non-potable uses (fire protection, street cleaning, etc)

**Hadian's Aqueduct** The City of Athens is planning to use the large water quantities (more than a million tons per year) found in the unique technological achievement of public interest from the Roman era **Hadrian's Aqueduct**. The water, today wasted will be used for irrigation and other non-potable uses. Athens will re-use this infrastructure, a symbol of the city's resilience over the centuries.



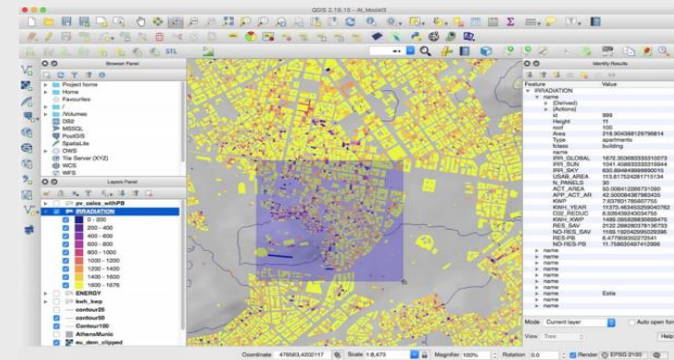
# ATHENS' SOLAR MAP



Athens' CAP has set as a minimum goal the installation of 20MW photovoltaic systems on city buildings by 2030.

1. School and other municipal buildings
2. With the technical assistance of C40, a solar map was developed which evaluates the installation potential of photovoltaics on the roofs of all Athenian buildings, along with:

- the estimated energy production,
- the estimated installation costs,
- the estimated emission reduction,



The city is designing a financing scheme to support people's development of these systems.

# ATHENS A SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION



- **Tourism almost 25% of Greek GDP, and in the last few years Athens more than doubled its visitors**

The problems that tourists come up against and report affect locals equally: the quality and cleanliness of public spaces, heat and air pollution

- **We want Athens to be a desirable and equitable city to live, work, study in and visit**
- **If tourism is a basic city resource, how can we use it judiciously to form a better city?**
- **A holistic approach to destination management**

No more about sites, attractions, and experiences, but about providing good conditions of living to all = improvements to quality of life for our residents as the driving force of our tourism marketing.

This calls for a wide-ranging shift in the ways we do things: from redesigning public spaces, waste management and water use, to creating a new sustainable tourism observatory, i.e., new city functions to monitor and assess such as the city's carrying-capacity.

# ATHENS A SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION



- **Task = to connect the value of tourism to our quality of life.**

Tourism is not a bubble, separate from the day-to-day business of the city. It is part of our everyday life with benefits that we welcome as well as challenges that we must manage.

- **A circular economy model will support the sustainability of the destination allow tourism revenue to support the city**

We are rethinking tourism through a more sustainable economic growth model where it is easier for resources to be used in clever ways and reused, where our skills and knowledge are utilized effectively, where the benefits of tourism are distributed fairly and are not outweighed by the costs.

We are now investing in the sustainability of our city as living space and destination using the principles of circularity as our approach to resources and growth. This is our vision for keeping tourism revenue in Athens so that it can continue, be invested and re-invested in the city and put to work to continue improving the city's quality of life.

# ATHENS FAB CITY



- **Athens committed to become a FAB CITY**

**Fab City Global Initiative** is a collective of civic leaders, urbanists and innovators working on shifting the industrial urban paradigm to one that better supports life on Earth.

A global collaboration with a distributed network of cities that prototypes local approaches to meet the challenge of producing everything the city consumes by 2054.

<https://fabcity.gitbook.io/handbook/fab-city-manifesto>



Thank you !

