

**COME  
AND  
JOIN!**

# FUTURE GREEN CITY

**#FGC2024**

**WORLD CONGRESS**  
**SEPTEMBER 23-26 / 2024**  
**UTRECHT / THE NETHERLANDS**

“Now, over half of us live in an urban environment. My home, too, is here in the city of London. Looking down on this great metropolis, the ingenuity with which we continue to reshape the surface of our planet is very striking. It’s also very sobering and reminds me of just how easy it is for us to lose our connection with the natural world.”

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



# FUTURE GREEN CITY WORLD CONGRESS

**W**elcome to the Future Green City World Congress! From 23 to 26 September 2024, over the course of four days, more than 3,000 experts from around the world will share their passion and knowledge about the liveable green city with a future here.

The Future Green City World Congress is an initiative of Royal Association Stadswerk the Netherlands and the Royal Dutch society for garden designers and landscapers (VHG). In Utrecht, they bring together the worlds of green and civil engineering, in cooperation with World Urban Parks (WUP) and the International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME). The congress connects construction, greenery, infra and water. By showing different solutions and by connecting networks in these domains, we are building a city with a future together. As organisers, Stadswerk, VHG and

the City of Utrecht warmly welcome you to the Beatrix Theatre in Utrecht. For four days, this is the place to hear the best speakers and see the most inspiring examples of green transformations of cities from all over the world. And above all: here you can engage in conversation with peers from all parts of the world.

## Future Green City brings green professionals and civil engineers together

Seven programme lines (see pages 10 through 13) will address the most pressing social issues: climate adaptation, energy transition, biodiversity, inclusiveness, transformation strategies, asset management, design, circularity, and health. Besides lectures and case studies, there will be excursions in Utrecht and to other Dutch cities, debates, design workshops, master classes, science labs, workshops, film,

theatre, serious games, early bird sessions, a photo exposition, a TV studio, a trade fair, side events, and much more. There will be a choice of over 200 sessions with over 400 speakers. Teams of students from universities and colleges are taking part in the Future Green City Student Challenge, culminating in the final at the world congress. In an 'Extreme makeover', participants will convert a petrified neighbourhood in Utrecht into a green, healthy, biodiverse, and climate-adaptive urban oasis in four days. The presentation of the International Association of Horticultural Producers' World Green City Awards 2024 will also take place.

In the evenings, participants will get to know each other and the city of Utrecht. The programme includes a street artist festival in the city centre, a gala dinner, and several smaller receptions. In short, enough to hear, see and experience during these four inspiring and unforgettable days!

## Future Green City Congress in Numbers



## WHO WILL YOU SEE AT FGC?

At the Future Green City World Congress, you will meet city makers from countries and urban regions around the world who are leading the way in greening and making urban environments more sustainable. Think about:

- Politicians and administrators
- Policymakers and programme managers
- Urban planners (Landscape) designers

- Gardeners and landscapers
- Civil engineers
- Public space managers
- Park professionals
- Professionals of non-profit organisations such as housing associations
- Representatives of interest groups
- Entrepreneurs
- Scientists
- Journalists and communications professionals
- Active residents

# THE FUTURE OF THE CITY IS GREEN

**T**he city with a future is green. Green is the answer to almost all pressing challenges our growing cities and urban regions are facing.

Green makes you healthy, happy, cools, purifies, provides renewable building materials and food, and provides a natural habitat for every kind of human and animal. All over the world, cities are therefore looking for a new balance between nature and culture and the connection between the city and countryside: the Future Green City.

Urban regions face major challenges worldwide. More and more people are coming to cities to live and work. This puts increasing pressure on urban infrastructure. How do we create enough housing for everyone? How do we keep cities accessible? How do we ensure sufficient energy, food, data connections and other amenities? And above all, how do we provide attractive streets and squares as living rooms of the city and parks

as communal gardens, where there is room for everyone? We see the effects of global warming on a daily basis. On the one hand, our cities are the cause of it: the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions released to build houses, run cars, and generate energy are huge. How can we ensure that our cities become much

## Innovative solutions from civil and cultural engineering come together at the Future Green City World Congress

more circular and climate-neutral? On the other hand, cities bear the consequences of climate change: in a petrified environment, heat and abundant precipitation can hardly escape. How can green transformations help cope with climate change and keep our cities liveable? How can we strengthen biodiversity? What civil engineering

solutions do we need to green a petrified environment? And how will we properly manage our assets so that they continue to work? It is precisely in our cities that all the talent is present to find answers to the challenges: scientists, administrators, designers, managers, entrepreneurs, active residents. Cities are breeding grounds of innovation. All over the world, we see more and more fine examples of successful interventions: from small alterations in streets and neighbourhoods to large transformation strategies, from tiny forests to forests encircling the city, from façade gardens to contemporary urban parks, from urban wadis to separate sewer systems. The Future Green City World Congress brings together all these initiators and initiatives to inspire other cities, to exchange knowledge and to forge coalitions that work together to create healthy, green urban environments for us and generations to come.

# WELCOME TO THE NETHERLANDS, THE GREEN RIVER DELTA

**A**lmost 18 million Dutch people live in the green delta of the Rhine and Meuse rivers. More than half of them live below sea level. The population is growing rapidly. In terms of urbanisation, the Netherlands occupies a leading position in Europe. Dozens of cities within a stone's throw of each other form a tight urban and economic network. Therefore, the question is increasingly being asked: is the Netherlands a densely populated country, or a sparsely populated city? As a green delta metropolis, we know the challenges of achieving a green and healthy living environment. Travel

distances are short, public transport are connections excellent. During the Future Green City World Congress, participants will explore various cities in the Netherlands from Utrecht: from medieval cities to 'new towns', from sinking cities in the polders in the west to cities in the middle of nature in the east. History and innovation go hand in hand in the Netherlands. For centuries, the Dutch have successfully fought against the rising water. We build dams and dykes, we dig canals, we reclaim land, and we create new nature. We are adept at finding answers to ever-changing challenging

natural conditions. Our designers and engineers are flown in from all over the world because of their knowledge, skill, and creativity. The same goes for our entrepreneurs and scientists from top international institutes. We are also the land of renowned botanists and growers. For instance, our flower bulb fields are world-famous. We are also the world's second largest agricultural exporter. And all this in a country of just 42 thousand square kilometres. At the Future Green City World Congress, you will get to know the Netherlands with all its qualities and challenges. [www.holland.com/global/tourism.htm](http://www.holland.com/global/tourism.htm)

City Award. Everything Utrecht does, it does together with residents. The green roofs on bus shelters and the Fish Doorbell, for instance, became a great success. The new Hof van Cartesius residential area will be designed according to the principles of the 'blue zones', and the Merwedekanaal zone will have a large new green residential area where only shared cars will be found in the streets. All of them innovative projects that are attracting attention at home and abroad. Utrecht is a frontrunner when it comes to sustainable mobility. For instance, the city was named the best cycling city in the world. It has the largest bike park in the world, right next to the largest train station in the Netherlands. Utrecht aims to make everything its residents need (work, sports, care, schools, culture, nature) accessible within a ten-minute walk or bike ride. Participants of the Future Green City World Congress will have every opportunity to get to know Utrecht and its innovative companies, world-class knowledge institutions and progressive public authorities, through the various excursions on foot, by bike, boat, and bus.



**W**elcome to the heart of the Netherlands. Welcome to host city Utrecht. This historic university city is popular with visitors and residents. By 2040, the population will have increased by a quarter. The city is making every effort to let green and health grow just as fast. "Heart of Health" is the motto of the city and region, which was named the most competitive region in Europe. The fourth largest city in the Netherlands has been passionately working on a healthy and green city for years. Green and health is in the DNA of the municipality of Utrecht. Utrecht is the beating heart of a healthy society. With healthy people in a healthy environment, it is a region where com-

panies, institutions and governments work together on knowledge, ideas, solutions, and applications for a sustainably healthier world. It is Utrecht's ambition to become the region that contributes most to a healthier world. Green is an essential part of that. For example, Utrecht laid a revolutionary adaptive water system in its new Leidsche Rijn district. It reopened the city canal to make room for water and greenery and for encounters instead of asphalt. The city was named soil animal city of the year, received an international award for the Rijnvliet edible neighbourhood, won an international Green Flag Award for the Maxima Park, and was nominated for the World Green City Awards and the Global Green

# VENUE

## THE BEATRIXBUILDING

The Beatrixbuilding of the Royal Jaarbeurs is the beating heart of the Future Green City World Congress. In the imposing Beatrix Theatre, we welcome participants for the opening pro-

gramme and scheduled leading speakers and case studies on inspiring green world cities. The adjacent Jaarbeurs Meet Up will be transformed into a green congress venue. In the many halls, participants will meet and

inspire each other during workshops, debates, master classes, film screenings, science labs and many more substantive sessions. [www.jaarbeurs.nl/organisator/beatrixgebouw](http://www.jaarbeurs.nl/organisator/beatrixgebouw)



FOTO: JAARBEURS



## WHAT'S COOKING – RESTAURANTS IN THE CITY CENTRE

Did you or would you like to meet new people at the Future Green City World Congress? Thursday 26 September is a good time to get (better) acquainted during the What's Cooking Tour we have in store for you at various restaurants on and around the river Oude Rijn in the historic centre of Utrecht.



## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



### World Urban Parks (WUP)

World Urban Parks is the organization to go to for international advice, support and getting connected with urban park, open space and recreation issues, people and activity. We combine the experience of our members and partners with opportunities to help build urban parks leadership and bring about significant improvements in cities where rapid urbanization is occurring.  
[www.wup.connected-community.org](http://www.wup.connected-community.org)



### International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME)

Globalisation, localisation and the knowledge revolution are the three key driving forces in the world today. These drivers also clearly come under the gamut of an international organisation such as IFME whose member organisations represent municipal and public works engineers working at a local level. A key objective of the Federation is to foster technical and cultural exchange between municipal and public works engineers worldwide. International exchange of information, innovations, skills, and experience is even more important in today's global world than when the Federation was first formed over 60 years ago.  
[www.ifmeworld.org](http://www.ifmeworld.org)



### Royal Association Stadswerk the Netherlands

Stadswerk, founded in 1898, is a knowledge network of professionals for public space. We are here for everyone who is curious about working solutions for major social challenges. Challenges that often converge in public space and require joint vision and knowledge development. As a network of over 4,500 passionate colleagues, we offer a forum to exchange knowledge and experience in this broad field.  
[www.stadswerk.nl](http://www.stadswerk.nl)



### Royal Dutch society for garden designers and landscapers (VHG)

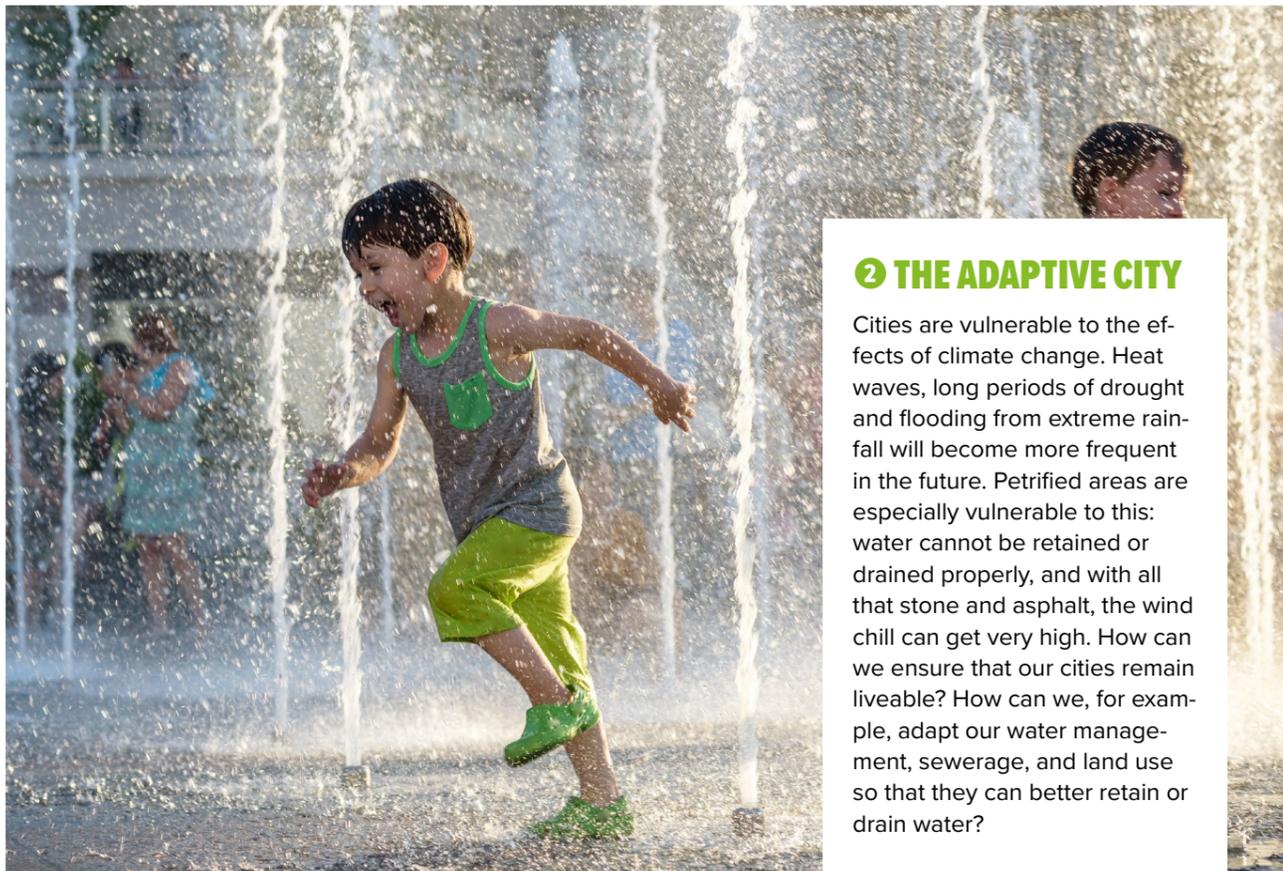
Royal VHG is the trade association for entrepreneurs in green space such as gardeners, landscapers, interior planters, roof and facade landscaping and tree specialists. Some 1,100 companies are affiliated with us. Small, large, with or without staff. For over 100 years, we have represented the interests and questions of green entrepreneurs in the Netherlands.  
[www.vhg.org](http://www.vhg.org)

# CONGRESS THEMES

Over the coming months, we will be working hard on a versatile programme. Seven programme lines will take centre stage at the Future Green City World Congress.

## 1 GREEN CITY STRATEGY

Choices we make now in the design of our cities have major effects on future generations. But (how) do we know now what developments in the distant future we need to consider? How do we make the right choices for our cities within the constraints of time, money, and space? How do government, entrepreneurs, scientists, professionals, creatives, and residents together come up with the best integrated solutions for the major challenges we face?



## 2 THE ADAPTIVE CITY

Cities are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Heat waves, long periods of drought and flooding from extreme rainfall will become more frequent in the future. Petrified areas are especially vulnerable to this: water cannot be retained or drained properly, and with all that stone and asphalt, the wind chill can get very high. How can we ensure that our cities remain liveable? How can we, for example, adapt our water management, sewerage, and land use so that they can better retain or drain water?



## 3 THE NATURAL CITY

Cities urgently need nature in the city. Urban nature and rich urban biodiversity are essential for clean air, fresh water, water drainage, cooling, reducing the impact of natural disasters and a healthy living environment for people. How can we further strengthen urban nature and biodiversity in times of population growth and climate change? How can we integrate nature into the design of buildings and urban outdoor spaces? How can we add new parks and improve existing ones?



#### 4 THE INCLUSIVE CITY

The city's public spaces belong to everyone. It is the place where all layers of the population meet, where everyone can do sports and exercise, experience culture and enjoy greenery. Yet, the city is not equally attractive, safe, and accessible for everyone. How do we design our streets and squares, gardens, and parks in such a way that everyone feels at home in them, regardless of age, (dis)ability, gender, cultural background, or size of one's paycheck?



#### 6 THE ATTRACTIVE CITY

Cities are becoming increasingly crowded and busy. How do you make or keep the city attractive and authentic for this growing group of residents and visitors? How do we develop outdoor spaces that have value and meaning for the user? How do we create outdoor spaces that feel good, stimulate the senses, evoke emotions, and incite you to think, to do, to meet, where you want to be? And what role can green design, parks, and programming play in this?



#### 5 THE HEALTHY CITY

The health of residents in cities is not doing well. For instance, the number of overweight people is growing at a rapid pace. Unhealthy temptations are on the lurk and we exercise less and less. Moreover, there are large health disparities within cities themselves. How can we transform the public spaces of our cities to make healthy choices easier, and create a healthy lifestyle within everyone's reach?



#### 7 THE CIRCULAR CITY

We are at the dawn of the post-fossil era, in which we are independent of fossil fuels. The extraction and use of raw materials have too great an impact on natural resources and the earth's climate. How do we reside, work, live and move around in cities that can no longer use oil, gas, and coal? How do we ensure value preservation and reuse of resources? And how does this affect the choices we make in the design, layout, and management of public spaces?

# DAILY PROGRAMME

On Monday 23 and Thursday 26 September, we will go in depth. Visitors can participate in +/- 4-hour Workshop XL on a wide range of topics or go on a Fieldtrip XL to other Dutch cities. On Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 September, the Beatrix Theatre will be the scene of a lively conference-in-festival format. Participants will put together their own programme from a wide choice of substantive topics and working methods. On Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 September, conference participation can be combined with a visit to the Vakbeurs Openbare ruimte (Public Space Trade Fair).

## MONDAY

### 23 SEPTEMBER

#### During the day

- Workshops XL: four hours of in-depth discussions with each other and experts on topics such as energy transition, climate adaptation, water management, citizen participation, the connection between city and countryside, etc.
- Fieldtrips XL: theme visits by train to cities no more than one hour's travel time from Utrecht.
- Special events
- Start extreme makeover
- 'Before and after' photo exhibition

#### In the evening

- Reception by City of Utrecht

## TUESDAY

### 24 SEPTEMBER

#### During the day

- Main stage: Opening Show
- Press conference
- Main stage: Masterclasses
- Finale Future –



PHOTO: NIELS DE VRIES

#### Future Green City Student Challenge

- Choice of 30+ substantive sessions
- Urban trails: excursions around Utrecht
- 'Before and after' photo exhibition

#### In the evening

- Drinks & Street-food in the city centre

## WEDNESDAY

### 25 SEPTEMBER

#### During the day

- Main stage: Topcases in transformative
- Presentation World Green City Award 2024
- Choice of 30+

#### substantive sessions

- Urban trails: excursions around Utrecht
- 'Before and after' photo exhibition
- Possibility to visit the Expo for Public Space
- Drinks in Beatrix Theater (Mies Bouwman Foyer)

#### In the evening

- Gala dinner AIPH (invitation only)

## DONDERDAG

### 26 SEPTEMBER

#### During the day

- Workshops XL: four hours of in-depth discussions with each other and experts on topics

- Fieldtrips XL: themed visits by train to cities up to one hour's travel time from Utrecht
- 'Before and after' photo exhibition
- Special events
- Final extreme makeover

- Possibility to visit the Expo for Public Space

#### In the evening

- What's Cooking Restaurant Tour along restaurants in Utrecht city centre



Locations are subject to change

# ALL ABOUT THE CONFERENCE TICKETS

YOU CAN REGISTER FOR THE FUTURE GREEN CITY WORLD CONGRESS 2024 VIA THE DIGITAL REGISTRATION FORM ON THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE:

**FGC2024.COM**

You can register for the full four-day conference program (passe-partout), or for a specific day (day ticket). After you have sent the completed registration form, you will automatically receive notification of your registration. Well before the conference you will receive an email confirming your participation with further practical information.

#### DAY TICKETS

Buy your day ticket today and select your preferred day later. At this time the programme is still under development. So you don't have to choose a specific day yet. You can buy your ticket today and specify your preference in the registration form. With a day ticket you get access

to all sessions (upon registration) on the chosen day. If you choose Tuesday, September 24, you are welcome for a drink and a bite in the city centre after the conference day. The conference day on Wednesday, September 25, will end with drinks in the Beatrix Theatre.



## PRICES

We distinguish different ticket categories:

- board members of IFME, WUP and AIPH;
- members of Stadswerk, VHG, IFME, WUP and AIPH;
- non-members;
- emerging countries;
- students.



JOIN US IN UTRECHT. SCAN THE QR-CODE TO GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY

#### MEMBERS

Ticket price for members of Stadswerk, VHG, IFME, WUP and AIPH:

- Early bird ticket € 395
- Day ticket € 450
- Early bird Passe-partout € 895
- Passe-partout € 995

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Ticket price for board members of IFME, WUP and AIPH:

- Early bird ticket € 320
- Day ticket € 360
- Early bird Passe-partout € 720
- Passe-partout € 795

#### NON-MEMBERS

Ticket price for non-members:

- Early bird ticket € 450
- Day ticket: € 495
- Early bird Passe-partout € 995
- Passe-partout € 1095

#### EMERGING COUNTRIES

Ticket price for emerging countries (GDP per capita < \$ 25.000,00)

- Early bird ticket € 270
- Day ticket € 300
- Early bird Passe-partout € 600
- Passe-partout € 660

#### STUDENTS

Ticket price for students:

- Day ticket € 49,50
- Passe-partout € 175

21% VAT not included.

# MUCH MORE EXCITING EVENTS

## Future Green City Student Challenge

The Future Green City Student Challenge is a competition in which several student teams compete to see who can best solve a challenging public space issue. The teams are given the same Utrecht case to work on. Each team gets the same data and background information and has to formulate an advisory opinion within the same time frame, which they present to a jury. The winning solution will be presented at the congress. In doing so, we want to involve future generations and give them a voice at the Future Green City World Congress.

## Expo for Public Space 2024: 400+ exhibitors

For twenty years, the Expo for Public Space has been the trade fair for everyone professionally involved in the design, layout, maintenance and/or management of public space. Over 7,000 visitors will find more than 400 exhibitors on the exhibition floor from the lighting, greenery, street furniture, paving, play and exercise, mobility, construction and infrastructure, landscape architecture and design and advice and management sectors. The fair will be held on 25 and 26 September 2024, in the exhibition halls of the Jaarbeurs, a five-minute walk from the Beatrix Theatre. Visitors to the Future Green City World Congress will have access to the trade fair. More information at [www.openbareruimte.nl](http://www.openbareruimte.nl)



## World Green City Awards 2024

The AIPH World Green City Awards aim to promote nature-inclusive design and management of cities. The Awards are presented to cities that use plants and nature to improve the urban environment and increase economic, social, and environmental resilience. There are seven categories, with three finalists in each category. There is also a special Youth Award. The winners will be announced at the Future Green City World Congress. More information at: [www.aiph.org/green-city/green-city-awards](http://www.aiph.org/green-city/green-city-awards)



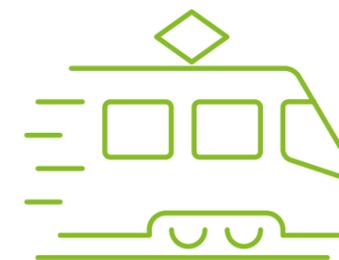
## ACCOMMODATION

Information about different types of accommodation in Utrecht

For information about different types of accommodation in Utrecht you can visit our hotel page:



In Utrecht we work together with the (sustainable!) booking platform of Time to Momo which you will see once you are on the website.



## TRAVEL

Information about traveling to and in the city

Utrecht has a compact historic centre which is easy to navigate by bike or on foot. Bikes can be rented at various places. The city is easily accessible by train (Utrecht Centraal station), express tram (Utrecht Centraal stop) or by bus (stops throughout the city).

Please find here a Door-to-door journey planner:



Travelers making use of public transportation in Utrecht can check in and out with a contactless debit or credit card in U-OV buses and streetcars and Syntus Utrecht busses. For those travelling by car from outside the city, you can avail one of the P+R

locations located close to the highways around the city. You can also park your car in the city centre in one of the seven Interparking car parks. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is a 37 min. train ride away from Utrecht Central Station.



## MEET THE TEAM



**MAARTEN LOEFFEN**  
Managing Director  
Royal Association  
Stadswerk the Netherlands



**MARC VAN ROSMALEN**  
Managing Director Royal Dutch  
society for garden designers  
and landscapers (VHG)



**MARC GERRITSEN**  
Senior congress  
manager, VNG Connect



**SUZANNE NEDERSTIGT**  
Congress manager,  
VNG Connect



**JEROEN MATERS**  
Concept developer  
and programmer,  
Maters & Hermsen



**CAROLINE TOGNI**  
Concept developer  
and programmer,  
Maters & Hermsen



**ERLIJN MULDER**  
International  
Affairs  
City of Utrecht



**JEROEN SCHENKELS**  
Senior policy adviser for  
the green environment,  
City of Utrecht

## CONTACT

### ANY QUESTIONS

[info@FGC2024.com](mailto:info@FGC2024.com)

Do you have general questions about the Future Green City World Congress? You can email your question here.

### FUTURE GREEN CITY STUDENT CHALLENGE

[Challenge@FGC2024.com](mailto:Challenge@FGC2024.com)

At the Future Green City World Congress, we are happy to give space to a new, young generation of city makers through the Future Green City Student Challenge. Get in touch with the organisers via this mail address.

### SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

[Partners@FGC2024.com](mailto:Partners@FGC2024.com)

We are happy to seek collaboration with companies and organisations that share our ambitions to give the world's cities a green, healthy, and liveable future. If you think a partnership with the Future Green City World Congress would lead to mutual reinforcement, we would be happy to discuss the possibilities.

### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

[Media@FGC2024.com](mailto:Media@FGC2024.com)

Would you like to attend the Future Green City World Congress as a media representative? You are more than welcome. We would love to hear how we can be of assistance. For logos, images, press releases and more, we have put together a media kit that you can download from our website.

### CONTACT

VNG Connect /  
Future Green City  
World Congress  
Nassaulaan 12  
2514 JS Den Haag  
The Netherlands

**CU IN  
UTRECHT  
23-26  
SEPTEMBER  
2024**

**ORGANISORS**

