



## Urban Agenda Platform

The global platform for sharing progress, action and knowledge on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve sustainable urban development.

# Youth power in the Luxelakes Park Community

Region	Asia and the Pacific
Award Scheme	Shanghai Manual
Themes	Environmental Resilience Housing Land Planning & Design Regeneration
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

## Summary

The Luxelakes Park Community in Chengdu serves as an innovative model for integrating urban and ecological systems, aimed at addressing long-term sustainability through public education, cultural activities, and community engagement. The community has successfully employed diverse approaches to foster ecological awareness, including cultural festivals, youth-driven design competitions, and educational drama for children.

## Background and Objective

The Luxelakes Park Community, located in the Tianfu New Area of Chengdu, is part of the Park City concept, which emphasizes the harmonious integration of natural ecosystems with urban living. Spanning over 8,000 acres, Luxelakes represents a large-scale, ecologically focused urban development project that aims to accommodate 200,000 permanent residents. The initiative's primary goal is to transform the area into a sustainable community that blends water systems, green spaces, and human living areas. One of the main challenges of such a development is the long-term management of vast public spaces, such as parks and lakes, once the developers exit. To address this, the Luxelakes Community Foundation was established to lead efforts in ecological conservation, cultural integration, and community participation. The foundation's objectives include nurturing ecological awareness, fostering youth involvement, and promoting a culture of sustainability within the community.

## Actions and Implementation

its Green Action Plan, focusing on projects that promote ecological education, low-carbon living, and community involvement. The foundation launched several significant efforts, including ecological wetland creation, urban biodiversity education, and the reuse of landscaping waste. A key initiative was the partnership with C40 Cities in the second C40 Students Reinventing Cities Global Competition, where university students were invited to design sustainable solutions for the community. This competition involved students from diverse disciplines such as architecture, environmental science, and urban planning, who contributed innovative ideas like organic waste management systems and solar-powered community spaces. In addition to design competitions, Luxelakes has fostered cultural events that



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intertwine ecological education with community engagement. Three major festivals—the Fishery Harvest Festival, Co-Creation Night, and the Dragon Boat Festival—have been established to encourage participation and raise awareness of environmental issues. These festivals are co-created by residents, youth, and volunteers, with ecological themes integrated into performances, art installations, and educational activities. A further extension of community involvement is the Children’s Council, where local children engage in discussions about climate change and propose solutions, which are then implemented in the community.

## Outcomes and Impacts

The initiatives undertaken by the Luxelakes Community Foundation have successfully fostered a culture of sustainability within the community. The C40 competition, for example, not only provided the community with practical, innovative design solutions but also involved university students in real-world urban planning, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and community development. The cultural festivals have attracted thousands of participants, strengthened the sense of community, and increased public awareness of environmental issues. Through these festivals, residents have developed a deep emotional connection with their environment, which has contributed to higher levels of engagement in eco-friendly practices. The integration of youth into such initiatives has been particularly impactful, with young people taking leadership roles in both the design and implementation of sustainable projects. The focus on youth participation has not only empowered this demographic but has also cultivated a sense of responsibility toward the environment. The educational drama initiatives have provided a creative and effective way for children to engage with complex environmental concepts, encouraging them to become future leaders in sustainability.

## Sustainability and Scalability

The sustainability of the Luxelakes initiative is evident in its emphasis on community-driven participation and education. By involving residents, particularly youth, in the design, planning, and execution of ecological and cultural activities, the initiative ensures that sustainable practices are ingrained in the community’s ethos. The programs are designed to be scalable, with the community foundation actively seeking partnerships and resources to extend its impact. The integration of university students in design competitions and the establishment of recurring cultural festivals are both scalable models that could be replicated in other urban development’s aiming for sustainability.

## Gender and Social Inclusivity

The Luxelakes initiative has a strong focus on inclusivity, engaging a diverse range of participants from different social and gender backgrounds. The community's cultural festivals, volunteer activities, and



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educational projects are open to all residents, ensuring equal opportunities for involvement. The Children's Council encourages the participation of both boys and girls, fostering a sense of equality in the next generation's involvement in community affairs. The initiative also supports social inclusivity by integrating residents from various backgrounds into the community's activities, allowing for a broad spectrum of voices and ideas to shape the development of the area.

### **Innovative Initiative**

The Luxelakes initiative stands out for its innovative approach to integrating sustainability with urban living. By combining ecological principles with cultural and educational activities, the community has created a model that goes beyond traditional urban development. The use of design competitions to involve university students, the establishment of children's councils, and the organization of eco-themed cultural festivals all demonstrate an innovative blend of environmental consciousness and community engagement. These initiatives provide a new model for how cities can approach sustainability, making it an intrinsic part of the community's identity.

### **Resources devoted to delivery**

The success of the Luxelakes Park Community initiative is due in large part to the resources devoted by both the local government and the private sector. The Luxelakes Community Foundation, initially funded by Chengdu Wanhua New City Development Co., Ltd., has expanded its funding sources through government grants and social donations. These resources have supported a wide range of activities, including the design competition, ecological education projects, and the creation of cultural events. Volunteers, particularly university students and local residents, have also played a significant role in delivering the initiative, contributing thousands of hours of service to the community's development.

### **Conclusion**

The Luxelakes Park Community serves as a pioneering example of how urban developments can successfully integrate sustainability, cultural engagement, and community participation. By fostering a culture of ecological awareness through education, design innovation, and collaborative activities, Luxelakes has created a model for future urban developments focused on environmental stewardship. The community's approach to sustainability is not only shaping the present but also ensuring a greener future through the active involvement of its residents, particularly the youth. As such, Luxelakes demonstrates the potential for urban areas to evolve into vibrant, eco-friendly spaces that serve both the needs of their inhabitants and the environment.