



LowCarbonCity

Management report 2024



Our organization in numbers 2015-2024



133,252 People Impacted



6,286

Followers



1,041

Experts We Collaborate With



7,800

Followers



52 Partner Organizations



6,041

Followers



598

Volunteers



48,857 Views



Sumando Voces Alliance

We participated in the Sumando Voces Alliance, contributing proposals to the city's development plan alongside a broad coalition of civic organizations in Medellín. Our contributions focused on representing environmental interests, with particular emphasis on biodiversity protection and the inclusion of citizens in research and nature conservation efforts.

We also called for meaningful climate adaptation measures that recognize the importance of safeguarding essential ecosystem services such as water, food, soil, air, and recreational green spaces. Additionally, we urged greater attention to rural Medellín, which represents 72% of the municipality's territory and has campesino origins. Remembering where we come from is essential to preserving our natural identity.

Together with other organizations, we advocated for improved conditions for sustainable mobility, as well as stronger guarantees regarding air quality and its direct connection to public health.

Through this alliance of more than 90 organizations, we collectively called for a rethinking of the city model, encouraging a shift toward a more human-centered city that provides opportunities for vulnerable populations, protects children, women, and diverse communities, and prioritizes care over displacement.

Throughout this advocacy process, we presented our proposals to the Secretariat of Planning, the Secretariat of Environment, the Disaster Risk Management Unit, and even directly to the Mayor and his cabinet.

The Sumando Voces Alliance achieved an important milestone by bringing together so many organizations around a shared objective: safeguarding Medellín's future.

Although several proposals were partially incorporated into the 2024–2027 Development Plan, we were disappointed, both as an alliance and as Low Carbon City, to see that key environmental proposals were ultimately not included. This outcome reflects a limited level of political commitment to climate action and environmental protection. Nevertheless, we remain committed. We continue to engage in dialogue and collaborate with partner organizations that share our vision of a healthier city, one that lives in greater harmony with its ecosystems and is better prepared to face the climate crisis.

[Discover the Proposals](#)



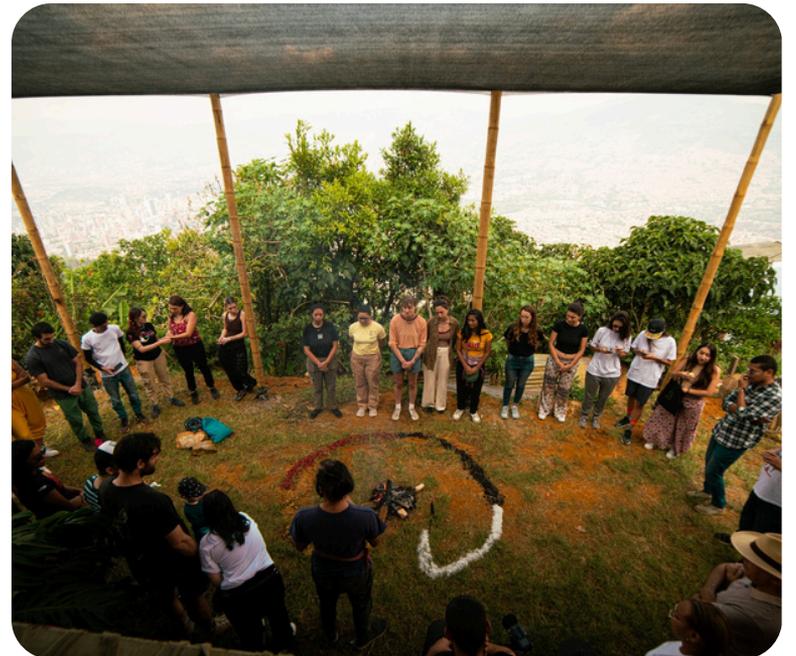
Voices from the Territories 3

We held the third grassroots gathering of communities living on the northeastern hillside of Medellín, in the La Honda neighborhood of Comuna 3, where we were warmly welcomed by our friends from Somos Por Naturaleza.

This edition of Voices invited us to reflect on what it means to inhabit the boundaries between the urban and rural areas of Medellín. Together, we discussed and co-created insights around climate adaptation, resilience to climate change, and risk management; the role of community-based social organizations and their impact within territories; self-built neighborhoods, urban planning and construction; the right to the city; the origins of the hillside settlements; human rights; dignified housing; women's experiences; and the diverse realities present across Medellín's hillsides.

One of the central reflections emerging from this gathering is the urgent need to listen to territories and adapt to them. We must recognize the particularities and diverse realities in which communities live, and continue collectively shaping a city model that leaves no one behind, especially in times of climate crisis.

There is profound collective wisdom within these communities that can strengthen and transform our urban development model. It is precisely within diversity of thought and lived experience that the most effective solutions to crises are born. Now is the time to foster dialogue among citizens, governments, academia, and the private sector to ensure timely and meaningful implementation of solutions.



[Voices Webpage](#)





Low Carbon Hub



Opportunities and Challenges of the Energy Transition



Mechanisms for the Transition to Net Zero and COP16 Commitments



Climate Adaptation in the Private Sector



The Triple Planetary Crisis: Opportunities and Challenges

We created a space to build community around climate action, focused on bringing together entrepreneurs, companies, and citizens. Our goal is to stay informed and engaged on key issues such as a just energy transition, climate and biodiversity finance, climate risk management, and the challenges and opportunities presented by the triple planetary crisis.

These spaces have enabled meaningful connections among stakeholders developing projects aimed at closing the gap between the requirements of the Paris Agreement and current realities.

We recognize that the journey toward regeneration and net-zero development is a long one, and it can only be traveled collectively by bringing together diverse actors and combining our capabilities to accelerate progress.

Although the goal may still appear distant, it is essential to optimize available resources to generate the greatest possible impact. This can only be achieved by continuing to convene and collaborate in the implementation of solutions.

The community we have built is actively developing projects within companies while also fostering new ventures, all united by the shared purpose of protecting our planet. We will continue this work because we understand the power of collective action and believe it is the path toward a prosperous and just society that leaves no one behind.

[Access the recordings](#)



Allies



Building the Future: Dear Tomorrow



We launched an alliance between Dear Tomorrow and Low Carbon City to create spaces where, both collectively and individually, we can imagine and build the future we envision for 2050.

This inspiration stems from the need to recognize ourselves as part of a community mobilized to care for the planet. At times, the journey can feel solitary. Yet when we look more closely, we realize that many of us are driven by the same aspirations: personal and family well-being, the joy of experiencing nature, living in places with clean air, and enjoying spaces that nurture both body and mind.

Dear Tomorrow's motivation is to connect those individual dreams into a shared collective vision that inspires present-day action to shape the future we long for.

Through their "Imagining Futures" program, we learned and applied their methodology to identify common purposes that challenge us to become better citizens for the planet and to inspire others to take action. Through this initiative, we engaged more than 200 children in Nueva Jerusalén and over 30 youth and adults, encouraging them to dream, to invite their support networks to join them in building a hopeful future where they can grow up healthy and safe, and to share their aspirations with their communities so that, together, they can move toward achieving them.

We were also part of a network of six organizations from the Americas and Europe, collaborating to learn this methodology and adapt it to different local contexts.

Allies



Ecos Latinos Climate Action Award

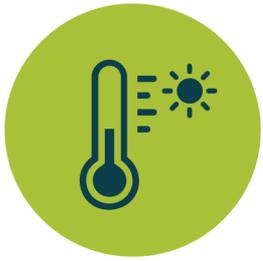
Within the framework of the Dear Tomorrow alliance, we launched the Ecos Latinos Climate Action Award, an initiative designed to promote the participation of organizations, collectives, movements, and citizens across Latin America. The award seeks to highlight effective actions in climate justice, adaptation, resilience-building, Nature-based Solutions (NbS), regeneration, citizen participation, and innovative communication for climate mobilization.

We believe that actions emerging directly from territories carry exceptional value. They respond to the specific needs of communities, fostering internal organization and strengthening adaptive capacities in the face of climate change. Such initiatives not only increase resilience to climate impacts, but also cultivate autonomy and social cohesion, enhancing collective capacity to drive positive transformation within their territories.

Allies



VI Low Carbon City World Forum



**Climate
Adaptation and
Resilience
Building**



**Biodiversity
Management**



**Nature-
based
Solutions**



**Regenerative
Economies**



**Well-being of
People and
Ecosystems**

We held this flagship event of the organization on October 16 and 17, 2024, under the theme “Regenerating Ourselves to Regenerate Our World.” The forum created a space to reconnect with one another, with ourselves, and with the environment around us, returning to what is essential and equipping our beneficiaries with both the inspiration and the tools to take action in the present while safeguarding the future for coming generations.

The event brought together nearly 200 participants, 33 speakers including 7 international guests, 10 social enterprises, 16 partner organizations, 11 volunteers, and the Low Carbon City team, who led the planning and implementation of the forum.

Through this gathering, we fostered dialogue and practical learning around key themes such as climate adaptation and resilience-building, biodiversity management, Nature-based Solutions, regenerative economies, and the well-being of both people and ecosystems.

[Access the recordings](#)

[Forum Report](#)





Official Members of COP16

We also participated as part of the official civil society observer organizations at the United Nations Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), held in Cali from October 21 to November 1, 2024.

During the conference, we hosted a panel alongside representatives from the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, the Club of Rome International, Colombia Regenerativa, and Bioectur. Together, we shared experiences of transformative change across diverse contexts and territories, highlighting pathways toward regenerative development. We challenged prevailing paradigms and identified the unique potential of Latin America to lead the necessary transitions toward systems that prioritize collective well-being.

This space also provided an opportunity to draw inspiration from the ongoing transformations advancing climate action that safeguards life in all its forms.



[Watch the Panel Replay](#)



	Luisa Grajales Directora Low Carbon City	Ingeniera de procesos con experiencia en economía circular y liderazgo climático. Lidera movimientos ciudadanos como Jóvenes y ODS y SDN Youth.
	Simon Ticehurst Advocacy and Movement lead Wellbeing Economy Alliance	Con 35 años de experiencia en América Latina y el Caribe, especialista en cooperación, gestión de programas de desarrollo y campañas. Tiene maestría y doctorado en Estudios Latinoamericanos.
	Melina Angell Cofundadora Colombia Regenerativa	Consultora en acciones bioinspiradas y regenerativas, líder en regeneración y biomimética en América Latina. Impulsor de comunidades biorregionales, educación en regeneración y transición empresarial sostenible.
	Carlos Alvarez Secretario General Club de Roma	Experto en investigación, innovación y gestión empresarial con más de 30 años de experiencia. Se especializa en pensamiento complejo, transdisciplinariedad y modelado de sistemas complejos.
	Juliana Gutierrez Cofundadora Bioectur Dir. Ashoka Región Andina	Especialista en estudios políticos, cofundadora de iniciativas sostenibles, consultora en cambio climático y biodiversidad, docente universitaria y fellow de Echoing Green y Ashoka.

BiodiversaMente and COP16

In partnership with the Nature, Trade, Investment and Development Observatory Research Group at Universidad EAFIT (NATIDO), the National Youth Summit for Climate and Biodiversity (LCOY Colombia), and the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), we organized the event BiodiversaMente: Youth and Biodiversity to foster greater awareness around the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) held in Cali.

Our objective was to actively engage citizens in this major global event, contributing our perspectives to the National Biodiversity Plan and to the recommendations put forward by Colombian youth for the protection of life.



¿Buscas un lugar para co-crear soluciones camino a la COP16?

Lunes 30 de septiembre y martes 1 de Octubre
1:00pm a 6:00pm
Universidad EAFIT

En BiodiversaMente podrás:

- Fortalecer tus conocimientos sobre la COP 16 de biodiversidad
- Co-crear propuestas de acción junto a otr@s jóvenes
- Conectarte con personas que comparten tu propósito

[Inscríbete aquí:](#)



Somos la fuerza del cambio, y por eso nuestra voz no se puede quedar por fuera.

@natidoeafit

Citizen Survey on Eco-Anxiety

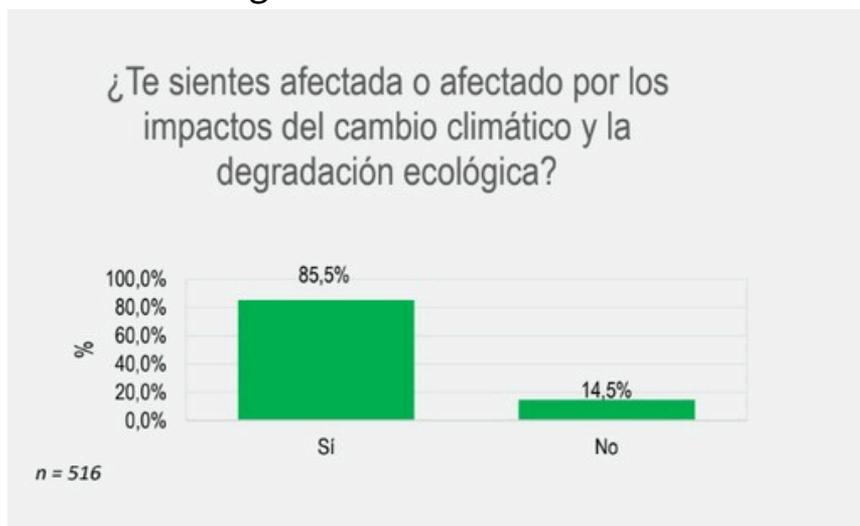
Aware of the mental health impacts of the planetary crisis, we decided to explore the emotions associated with climate change among young people in the Valle de Aburrá, seeking to understand whether it affects their emotional well-being.

In partnership with Universidad EAFIT, and with the support of Corporación Universitaria Lasallista and Universidad UPB to reach the target audience, we conducted the first Eco-Anxiety diagnosis in the territory.

We received responses from 516 young people between the ages of 18 and 28, primarily university students.

The main findings were:

- Youth in the Valle de Aburrá feel connected to nature and recognize it as a key factor for well-being.
- They report experiencing negative emotions such as sadness and guilt related to the climate crisis and ecological degradation.
- They have a limited perception of effective action by government, businesses, and formal education systems in addressing climate change and ecological degradation.
- They indicate having knowledge, confidence, and willingness to act in favor of caring for the planet, but do not consistently translate this into sustained engagement.



[Access the recording](#)



Climate Change, Adaptation, and Climate Solutions Course

We carried out the second cohort of this course, benefiting 66 citizens and community leaders from Santa Elena, Rionegro, Guarne, and Comuna 9. In partnership with the Concesión Túnel Aburrá Oriente, we set out to educate participants on the importance of advancing climate adaptation strategies alongside mitigation efforts, as well as on the potential of local communities and civic organizations to implement projects within their territories.

The course emphasized the replication of knowledge and the collective management of climate risks in collaboration with the public sector, private sector, and academia. Through a project-based methodology, we covered topics ranging from the fundamentals of climate science to the development of indicators for project monitoring. This approach strengthened participants' capacity to design and implement their own initiatives with a positive impact on their neighborhoods.

As a result of this course, two new projects will be implemented in the territory, aimed at promoting climate change education and mobilizing solutions focused on adaptation.



Cities for Children Alliance

Low Carbon City, together with Hill, partnered in the creation of the Colombia chapter of Cities For Children, a global alliance dedicated to advancing the well-being of children in urban areas. Through this initiative, we have worked to make visible the needs of Colombian children to grow up in healthy and regenerative environments, while safeguarding their future.

On June 21, the alliance was officially launched during the International Forum & Expo on Sustainable Design and Construction, Construverde, held in Bogotá. We participated alongside Hill, WRI, Fondo Acción, Walk21, Despacio, Bauen Project, CCCS, and other member organizations of the alliance.

The event notably included the active presence of children and adolescents, who formally presented the alliance and led activities throughout the forum, inviting adults to reconnect with the world through the perspective of childhood.



[C4C Colombia Website](#)

Advocacy for the Green and Biodiverse Cities Bill

We had the opportunity to contribute to the Green and Biodiverse Cities Bill (Bill 284 of 2024). This advocacy process began with the dissemination of the Fair Climate Action Guide that we launched in 2023, which enabled us to provide input to the bill and to be part of the group of organizations offering ongoing feedback to strengthen this legislative proposal. The bill seeks to enhance risk management and climate adaptation in Colombia through the promotion of green and biodiverse cities.

The project is currently awaiting its fourth debate in the House of Representatives, with the support of more than 20 members of Congress. Recognizing the loss of biodiversity in cities and increasing exposure to climate-related risks, they aim to provide the country with a legal instrument that encourages the implementation of projects to build resilience and protect nature and its ecosystem services.



[Learn more](#)

3rd International Congress of Green Engineering – Mexico

We also participated in an important event organized by the Latin American Association of Natural Sciences (ALIC) in Puebla, which gathered more than 200 attendees. There, we shared our experience implementing Nature-based Solutions in communities for regeneration and climate adaptation, particularly through our work in Nueva Jerusalén and Moravia. This work has included active engagement with children and adolescents in collaboration with allied organizations.

The event brought together engineering students from various disciplines, who learned from leading experts across Latin America and from organizations like ours that are working toward a more regenerative and harmonious future with nature.



Allies



La Siembra Festival

We participated alongside our partner La Siembra Festival in this event, which in its second edition in Medellín is positioning itself as one of Colombia's leading sustainable festivals.

We joined a panel together with WWF Colombia and C40 to discuss the importance of individual and collective action by citizens in addressing the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

This space allowed us to share concrete actions and key figures to inspire attendees to implement changes in their diets, lifestyles, and purchasing decisions, prioritizing quality and durability in order to avoid the unnecessary overexploitation of natural resources.

In addition, we collaborated in the creation of a podcast series with artists invited to the festival. Through these conversations, we explored their love for and inspiration from nature, as well as their commitment to communicating meaningful messages about caring for the planet. The podcast is currently in pre-production and will be available soon.



[Event Report](#)



6th Placemaking Latinoamérica Gathering and the 9th International Festival of Urban Interventions

**Domingo 22 de septiembre 2024
5 - 7 pm, Planetario de Medellín**

Panel I - Medellín:

Cielo Holguín - Oasis Urbano, Alejandro Echeverri - EAFIT Urbam, Luisa Grajales - Low Carbon City, Edgar Mazo - Connatural,

Panel II - LATAM:

Ingrid Salazar & Flavia Muro - Ocupa Tu Calle (Perú), Guillermo Bernal - Fundación Placemaking (México), Kurt Steffens - Fundación Olivo (Chile), Elizabeth Gomez - Ortopedia Urbana (México), Kdu dos Anjos & Fernando Maculan - Colectivo Levante (Brasil)

Moderadora: Maira Duque



On September 22, we delivered a presentation on the potential of Nature-based Solutions for the regeneration and adaptation of self-built neighborhoods in Latin America.

We participated in a panel alongside Alejandro Echeverri from EAFIT Urbam, Cielo Holguín from Oasis Urbano, and Edgar Mazo from Connatural during the Placemaking Latinoamérica gathering.

This space brought together a wide range of citizen-led experiences in neighborhood improvement and habitability, demonstrating how vibrant, living spaces can be built within communities. It also highlighted efforts to strengthen citizen urbanism across Latin America and to contribute to the improvement and regeneration of public spaces through the implementation of temporary, participatory urban interventions.



Regeneration
Experiences –
Nueva Jerusalén



Acknowledgments

What we have achieved has been possible thanks to all our allies, the 40 social and private organizations with whom we carried out joint actions this year, the experts, artists, and community leaders, and the more than 20 volunteers who joined our team to help bring these initiatives to life.

We also extend our gratitude to our core team: Sofia Villada Ciro, Mariana Cano, Tommaso Ferdinando Molino, Angie Marcela Mena, Natalia Cardona, Gabriela Ruiz, Carmen Ruiz, Andrés Giraldo, and Luisa Fernanda Grajales Hoyos.

And to our Board of Directors for their guidance and support along the way: Maribel Díaz, Sara Arango, Juliana Gutiérrez, Alejandro Álvarez-Vanegas, and Federico Restrepo.

Volunteers 2024: Alejandro Gúzman, Juliette and Zoé, Eliza Baring, Alejandra Bedoya Gallego, Alejandro Velasquez Ortiz, Arley Alejandro Oquendo, Julián Esteban Gómez, Manuela Ardila Pineda, Nora Margarita Arango, Sergio Angelo Muñoz, and Stefania Echeverri Ramirez.

