

MANAGEMENT REPORT

2025

WHO ARE WE?



Low Carbon City is a global non-profit organization, based in Medellín, Colombia, driven by citizens, dedicated to creating collective, multi-actor solutions to address climate change from cities and territories. Founded in 2015, it works on education, connection, co-creation, and knowledge generation to strengthen community resilience, foster active citizen participation, and accelerate climate action.

Through educational programs, workshops, creative actions, international partnerships, and community projects, Low Carbon City collaborates with citizens, experts, and public and private actors to design and implement regenerative solutions that drive urban transformation toward regenerative

development models aligned with the transitions we need to achieve a present and future within planetary boundaries.

The organization positions itself as a key actor for local and global climate action, contributing to public dialogue, building citizen capacities, and generating sustainable impact in diverse territories.



A decade of walking ...

In 2025, we celebrate 10 years of work for climate action, a journey that began with a group of friends and citizens eager to care for the planet and its people.

In these 10 years, much has changed. Today we see interest in climate issues in schools, in the news, in conversations among family members. In some way, the climate agenda has become democratized (whether out of necessity or interest). We have seen advances, but also setbacks in policies, in how governments manage things, and in ourselves — we sometimes fall into the trap of letting everything happening around us become 'just part of the scenery.'

The way we approach the climate crisis has also changed. We know it does not depend only on decision-makers and people in suits sitting in offices. Work has begun in neighborhoods and communities — without, and sometimes despite, current government leaders. Fortunately, more relevance and support have been given to Indigenous communities (though there is still so much to achieve); children and youth also play an active role in mobilizing change; and we are also understanding that solutions come not only from technology and financing,

Climate action starts from within

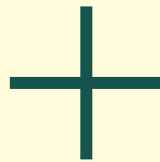
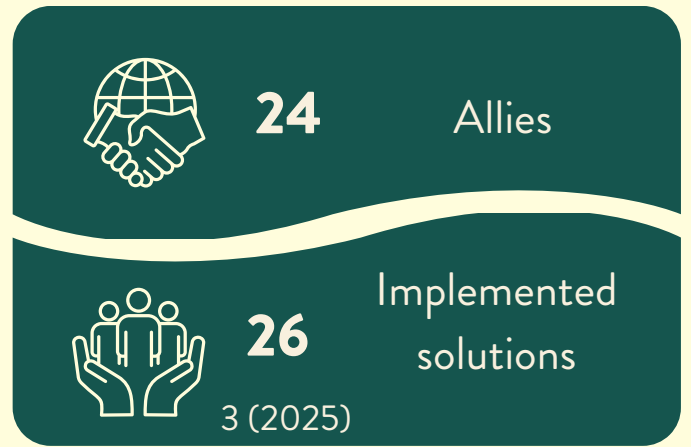
but that we need to work on our spirit — to recognize ourselves as part of nature and Mother Earth, to heal and regenerate social relationships in our communities, our offices, our families — and from there, we also shift the extractivist system toward a system of collective care.

We continue walking the path of regeneration and transitions, recognizing that there is still a long way to go, and happy to enjoy the landscape along the way — convinced that every person can be the change the world needs, and making that possible every day; trusting that cooperation is the way to achieve it; and believing that now more than ever, we need to value the diversity of solutions and worldviews in order to build prosperous and safe futures for all forms of life on this Earth, the only one we have.

Luisa F. Grajales - Executive Director, Low Carbon City



OUR ORGANIZATION IN NUMBERS 2015-2025



People reached



6,215



7,760



14,700



2,730

CONTENT

Collective Climate Resilience Actions in the Pacific	05
Communities That Sustain Agriculture: A Commitment to Food Sovereignty and Regeneration to Combat Desertification	07
Dear Moravia ... Dear Tomorrow	10
We Co-create the Urban Oasis Garden in Moravia	12
Citizen Conversations about the POT (Land Use Plan)	13
Children's Solutions for Healthy and Safe Cities	15
De Raíz Podcast ...	18
Award Ceremony for the Winners of the Ecos Latinos Climate Action Prize	20
Climate Change Course for Community Leaders	25
Poder Ver Alliance	26
Acknowledgments	27



Collective climate resilience actions in El Pacífico

We carried out the construction of a nursery for the El Pacífico neighborhood in Comuna 8, thanks to the collaboration of different allies and the community.

This nursery is part of the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Plan for Comuna 8, which was built entirely by the community and guides the prioritized actions to address the impacts of climate change in this area of the city.

Comuna 8 is located in the northeastern part of the city of Medellín. The El Pacífico neighborhood has been self-built by its inhabitants since the 1990s, when migrants from different parts of the country — displaced by violence — arrived and found refuge in these mountains.

It has been a story of citizen resistance, where many of its residents feel that the rest of the city has pushed them out due to issues such as the high cost of living, which worsens as the years go by.



THE BUILT NURSERY IS PROPOSED AS A STRATEGY TO

- Provide the community with specimens of native species to reforest the mountain.
- Prevent the invasion of a piece of land intended for the benefit of the community.
- Demonstrate that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are a cost-effective alternative for addressing environmental problems.
- Validate a lightweight structure as a prototype built with affordable materials.



ITS CONSTRUCTION WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THESE ALLIES, IN NO SPECIFIC ORDER.

- Fundación Puntos Verdes Lito – who donated the materials thanks to companies that donate points from the electronic waste they collect.
- Culturas Sirco and Taller Heptico – who donated the design and labor of architects Juan Pablo Buitrago and Armando Montenegro to build the structure.
- Mesa de Hábitat y Vivienda de la Comuna 8, the Junta de Acción Comunal (JAC) and Movimiento de Laderas – organizations that bring residents together to mobilize community work and opened the doors for us to work in the territory.
- The University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University – who have been accompanying the community and organizations like ours that work on NbS for climate change adaptation.

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE BOOKLET CREATED BY THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE NURSERY AND OTHER NBS [HERE](#)



Communities that Sustain Agriculture. A Commitment to Food Sovereignty and Regeneration to Combat Desertification

Thanks to the G20Land initiative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), we have been developing a project that seeks to promote the work of the CSA Colombia Network — a network of diverse Communities that Sustain Agriculture (CSAs) throughout Colombia, of which we are a part and an ally since its inception in 2020.

In practical terms, CSAs function as a subscription model in which co-farming families (those who receive the food) make a monthly payment and receive agroecological, fresh, and diverse food weekly directly from a farming family.

On the other hand, the farming family commits to growing organic, diverse, and fresh food produced agroecologically to deliver to the families — which can range from 6 to 50 families! These associations promote healthy, fair food while building a dynamic, conscious community.

673 organizations from **100** countries applied for the grant, and we were one of the **39** winning organizations.





This program empowers civil society organizations by:

1. Recognizing and rewarding innovative community initiatives.
2. Increasing the visibility of community initiatives.
3. Inspiring community organizations to join forces to share ideas and learn together and from one another



COMMUNITIES THAT SUSTAIN AGRICULTURE: A COMMITMENT TO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND REGENERATION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION



Our project focuses on creating one new CSA in Colombia and strengthening at least two more with specialized technical assistance, inputs to boost organic production, and ongoing monitoring of the results of family and regenerative farming practices in the intervention area – adding this information to the global CSA network. Additionally, it seeks to raise awareness of this exchange model, promoting short supply chains, direct value exchange with farming families, and the creation of a supportive community around the consumption of organic and local foods.

Among the community activities we carried out were:

- The national CSA Colombia meeting, where valuable practices for farmers were shared, we had the opportunity to analyze the network's way of working, and proposed points to improve and expand the reach of the CSA Colombia network.
- Sustainable packaging booklet – [DOWNLOAD IT HERE](#)
- Soil and food chromatography workshop: we learned from Danilo, a chromatography expert, how to read soil chromatography from farms, analyze indicators of soil enzymatic activity, and compare analyses from conventional farms that use agrochemicals with those from CSA farms that produce free of these compounds.
- Open discussion: Food, tradition, and future: how what we eat shapes our ways of inhabiting. This gathering, held in La Pascasia, led us to reflect on how both individually and collectively we can have a great impact on the socio-environmental problems caused by massive, traditional production methods, and opened our eyes to alternative actions to change the system one person at a time.

Relive the event [here](#)



We need more people to join this movement, to reach more farming families and regenerate food systems and the Colombian countryside – one person at a time and one CSA at a time!

If you want to join, contact us at coordinacion@lowcarboncity.org or contacto@redcsacolombia.org

Dear Moravia ... Dear Tomorrow



The Dear Moravia project is an intergenerational project carried out thanks to our alliance with Dear Tomorrow and the Oasis Urbano Foundation. We invited residents of the Moravia neighborhood in Medellín – from children to the elderly – to reflect on the future they dream of and the individual and community role in creating this collective future.

Through an integrating figure like Mama Chila, a community leader of the territory, we let ourselves be inspired by her legacy, her story, and her teachings to continue building the neighborhood as a green, resilient, and supportive space for all living beings.

Through the Arts Lab, we explored the children's connection to the neighborhood, its history, and nature. Through activities of inner exploration and creation with various materials and environments, the children were able to let their imaginations fly. Many imagine a future full of technology – like flying cars – but also with many green spaces to play and have fun.





With the mothers and fathers of the children in the program, we also paused to imagine a hopeful and prosperous future for their children, asking ourselves: 'What can I do today to help shape the future I dream of for my family?' In this way, we got parents to become drivers of the change we need, working from all spheres to care for nature (which includes us humans) in order to protect our tomorrow.

In 2026, we will continue the activities, weaving bridges between intergenerational care communities and sharing tools that help us navigate the transitions toward the regenerative futures we need and dream of.





We Co-created the Oasis Urbano Garden in Moravia

Thanks to the partnership with the University of British Columbia in Canada (UBC), Daniel Sax, a doctoral student at that university, came in alliance with us to work in Moravia with the Oasis Urbano Foundation to bring life to one of the green areas of the 'Parquecito' (little park) in Moravia, together with the neighborhood children.

Daniel studies how citizen participation in Medellín, Colombia, and in Vancouver, Canada, enables the expansion and continuity of green public spaces in cities.

During the co-creation of the garden, a planting bed made of plastic wood was designed to make it resistant to rain and durable for many months or years. The garden was designed with species that are resilient to the climatic conditions of Moravia, with advice from an expert in urban agriculture, and we got to work with the children from the Oasis Urbano Foundation to bring even more life to the little park.



The garden has been producing all year: cilantro, aromatic herbs such as 'pronto alivio' and lemon verbena, cassava (yuca), plantain, and other vegetables and fruits that will continue to grow for months and even years, bearing fruit.

This consolidates the little park as a biodiversity refuge in Moravia. If you take a walk there, you'll hear a variety of birds that come to the park to feed and then cool off in the La Bermejala stream that runs through the neighborhood.



During this co-creation, the children had the opportunity to plant various species themselves. They learned to use the pick and shovel to work the soil and prepare it before planting, and they have learned to connect with their food from the earth – seeing how the food that eventually reaches our plates grows.

Citizen Conversations around the POT - Sumando Voces

Through the Sumando Voces alliance, of which we have been a part since 2024, we organized a series of conversations in public spaces to educate citizens about the medium-term update process of Medellín's POT (Territorial Planning Plan) and to inform them that in 2027, a new document for the city will be approved, defining its future for the next 14 years.

The conversations revolved around governance of air quality in the city, the lack of management of the urban housing deficit, and access to public space.

Some of the reflections gathered from these spaces include that there is a lack of coordination between strategies for reducing pollutant particles and gases and what is truly needed to address this problem as a public health issue. There is no governance over air quality in the Aburrá Valley, and the measures taken are reactive to alerts that arise – but no progress is seen in reducing the particle load nor in prevention efforts aimed at citizens to prevent diseases.

Additionally, regarding urban housing, construction in the city has increased overall, but the supply of VIS (Social Interest Housing) and VIP (Priority Interest Housing) remains insufficient to meet demand. This has caused informal housing construction to increase year after year in high-risk disaster neighborhoods. Due to the lack of control and lack of housing supply, this is creating a structural problem that makes climate and environmental management of the territory more difficult.

To continue making progress on these public problems, it is necessary to strengthen civil society participation and public-private sector dialogue to implement solutions that improve the quality of life for residents of the city and the Aburrá Valley.





After each event, the day ended with a bike ride led by the SiClas collective, who also used the public space to promote citizen participation and conversations around the POT.

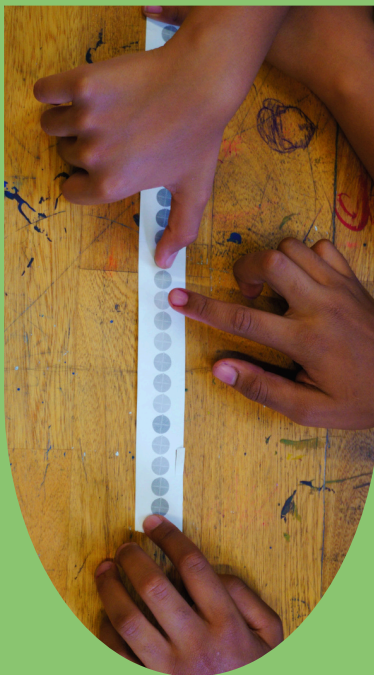




Children's Solutions for Healthy and Safe Cities

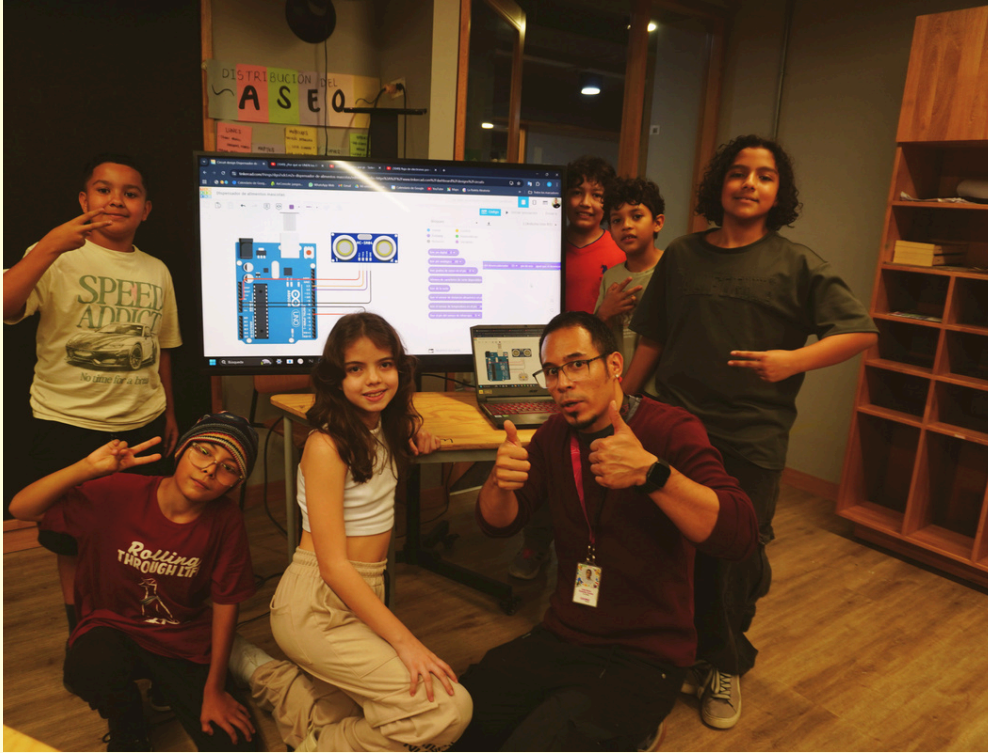
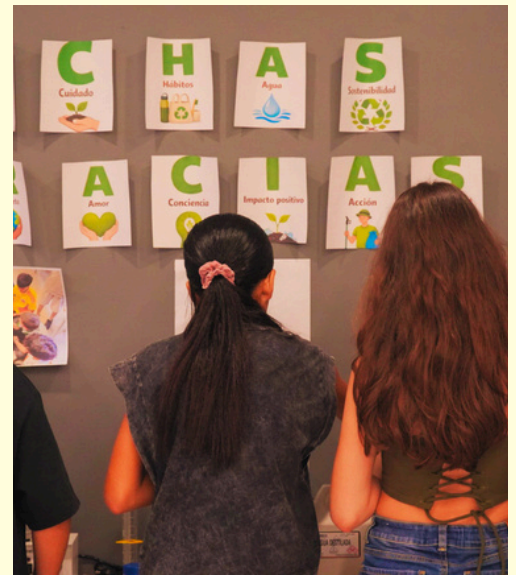


We carried out this project called Young Voices for the Planet thanks to a microgrant from Our Kids Climate, where we developed solution prototypes with 5th-grade children from Cosmo Schools. At the beginning, we held a series of workshops dedicated to understanding what air quality is, how it affects our health and the health of the environment, how and who measures it, and how this issue connects to the burning of fossil fuels and the need for an energy transition. Throughout the project, we worked with the children, their teachers, and even sought to include parents or caregivers to develop low-carbon solution prototypes to protect our health, animals, and the environment in general.



Some of the most developed prototypes were: an air monitoring module and an automated feeding system for stray animals powered by solar energy, where a sensor detects stray animals (dogs and cats) approaching it and delivers a portion of food and clean water for their consumption. They also built a gravity-fed irrigation system for the school garden they are cultivating, and a Wall-E type robot that runs on solar energy and moves around the school picking up waste from the ground so that the children can then properly separate the waste and keep their school clean.

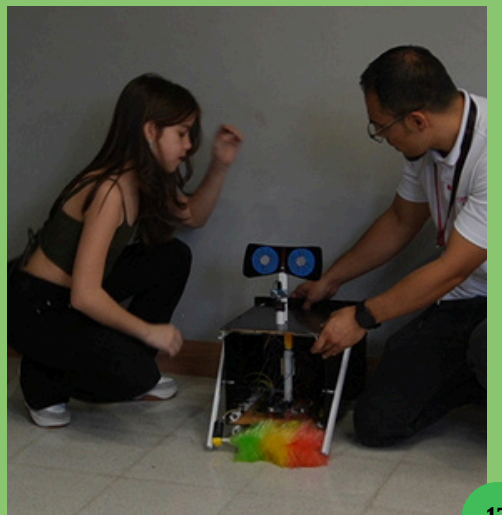




All these prototypes were designed and built with their own hands, and through this project we were able to give the school a basic robotics kit, with the sensors and boards needed to make the prototypes work.

The projects were presented at a school fair for the school and parents/guardians, where the students explained how the prototype was developed, the stages of the process, and demonstrated how they work.

As recognition for their participation, at the end of the project we were able to acknowledge the work of the children and teachers by donating a chemistry lab kit to the school, planting the seed so that future scientists can develop and experiment.



Podcast De Raíz ...



As a result of the Images of Latin America project, in which we participated during 2024 and 2025, we co-created the podcast 'De Raíz' (By the Root) together with the Latin American Resilience Alliance. This is a space that seeks to contribute to more inclusive climate communication and make visible the experiences of those living with the consequences of the climate crisis.

There are 12 episodes in which, through personal stories and conversations with local actors, scientists, and public policymakers, a complex vision of what resilience can mean in practice is constructed. The videos produced are understood as platforms for exchange and connection: tools that facilitate access to knowledge, challenge dominant narratives, and foster collective learning.

The focus is on stories of resilience, local knowledge, and collective approaches that strengthen adaptive capacity. The podcast addresses the specific vulnerabilities of rural and urban regions to extreme climate events, biodiversity loss, and growing food insecurity. But it not only highlights the challenges — it also showcases the perspectives and actions of people in the territories.



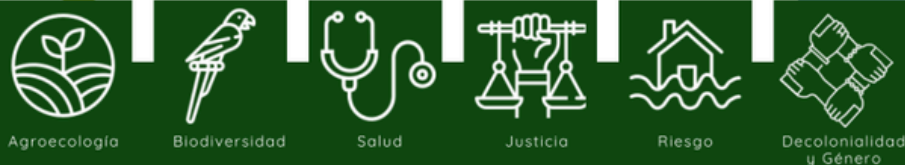
Las responsables del proyecto: izq. Carolina Rendón, cent. Jessica Agüero, dcha. Vincente Medaglia.

[Access all episodes here](#) →



PARA LA COMUNICACIÓN CLIMÁTICA

ÚTILES PARA ABORDAR LA INTERSECCIÓN CON:



1

DEFINIR

EL MENSAJE

¿Cuál es el mensaje? ¿Qué quieres lograr? También considera qué tipo de evidencia, testimonios o casos de éxito quieres comunicar. Además de qué sentimiento vas generar en tu audiencia: ¿esperanza? ¿Indignación? Busca generar llamados a la acción.



2

IDENTIFICAR

A TU PÚBLICO

¿A quiénes quieres llegar? ¿Cómo se informan? ¿De qué tipo de institución/organización hacen parte? Es importante pensar en el sistema de creencias de tu audiencia, su posicionamiento frente al Cambio Climático, cómo consumen información y qué acciones es más probable que adapten en su vida diaria.



3

ADAPTAR

PUNTOS CLAVES

¿Cómo comunico mi mensaje a mi audiencia? ¿Cuáles son los mensajes más esenciales? ¿Cómo afecta a tu público? Considera en qué medio y formato puedes transmitirlos, qué imágenes, historias y cifras pueden acompañar también lo que quieres contar. Adapta el lenguaje climático a tu audiencia.



4

DESARROLLAR

UNA ESTRATEGIA

¿Cómo llego a mi audiencia? ¿Qué otras organizaciones trabajan este tema? Usa mensajes positivos, datos y evidencia científica, planea el enfoque, el tono [informativo, convincente, educativo], crea un calendario y lista de materiales que utilizarás.



5

EVALUAR

la recepción

¿Cómo evalúo lo que comunico? Evaluar, más allá de cifras en redes, ayuda a mejorar lo que hacemos, asegurarnos que el contenido es pertinente y seguir su impacto en la comunidad y en las políticas públicas.



In addition to the podcast, you can download the Action Guide for Climate Activists on Agroecology and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this infographic with tips for climate communication in Spanish and English.



This podcast and the guides are part of the 'Images of Latin America' project, a cooperation between the Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein and BEI (Bündnis Eine Welt Schleswig-Holstein e.V.).

 **HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG**
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN



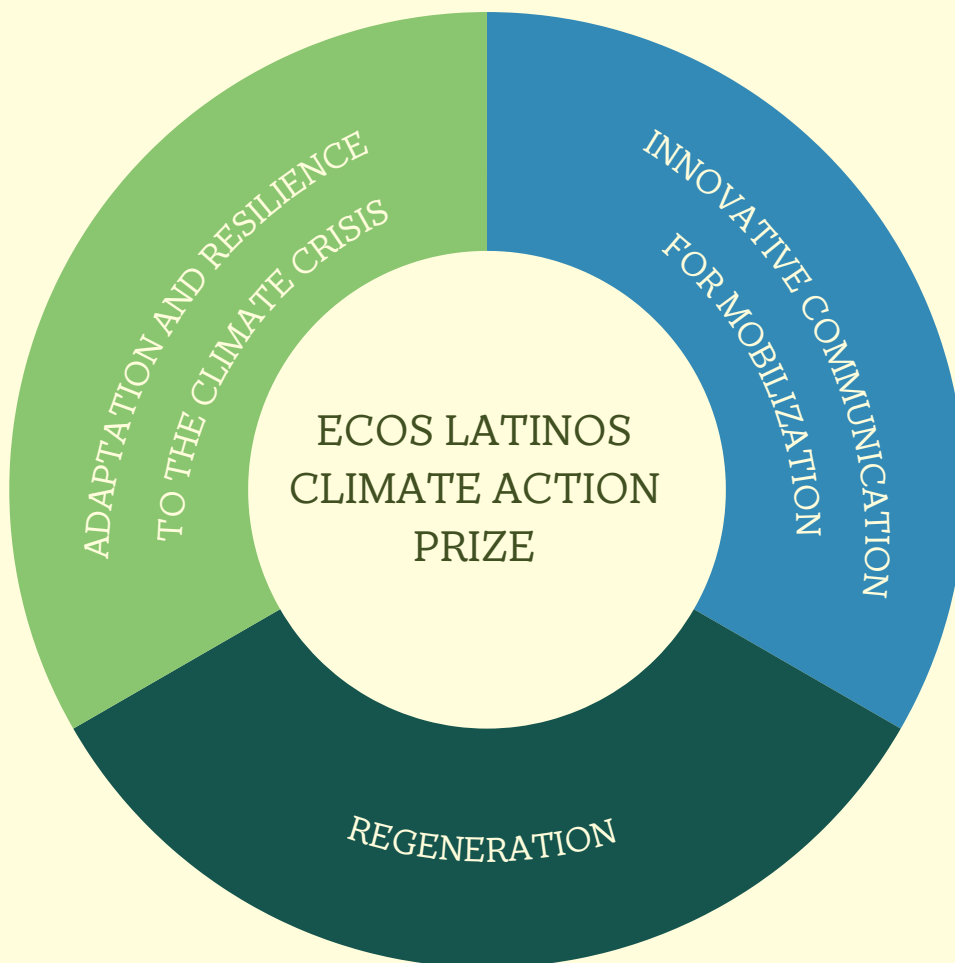
BEI
Bündnis Eine Welt
Schleswig-Holstein



Award Ceremony for the Winners of the Ecos Latinos Climate Action Prize

In 2024, in alliance with Dear Tomorrow, we launched the Ecos Latinos Climate Action Prize, which seeks to promote the participation of organizations, collectives, movements, and citizens in Latin America to make visible effective actions in the areas of climate justice, adaptation, resilience building, nature-based solutions (NbS), regeneration, citizen participation, and innovative communication for climate mobilization.

The organizations presented projects related to:





The winners of the 3 places were:



1 Centro Cultural Agroecológico Huerta Culhua

In 2019, in Culhuacán, Iztapalapa, Mexico City, a group of young people united not only by their friendship but by the ideal of building a local action space in the face of the climate crisis decided to break through the concrete of a private plot to create an urban garden. This space was consolidated as the Centro Cultural Agroecológico Huerta Culhua, whose mission is to promote the personal and cultural development of the community by facilitating access to nature and culture through events, workshops, and talks from an environmental education perspective, in order to become a meeting point for learning and the exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the climate crisis and its relationship with agribusiness.

2 Colectivo La Otra Ciudad. Proyecto Barrios Vivos

La Otra Ciudad was born as a youth collective focused on urban planning and environmental issues. Co-founded by undergraduate students and recent graduates from different fields of knowledge, convinced of the transformative power of dialogue, transdisciplinary work, and community engagement. Today they are a corporation with more than 20 members whose purpose is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable urban communities and dignify the territories they inhabit, promoting sustainable development through nature-based solutions, public space design and management, and the strengthening of social fabric.





03 Aylluq Q'anchaynin / La energía de la comunidad

It is part of the Latin American Observatory of Energy Geopolitics (OLAGE), a platform that promotes education and training on energy issues through courses and webinars open to the public. It is also dedicated to raising awareness and fostering youth participation in key decision-making spaces, such as the Conferences of the Parties (COPs).

This team is interdisciplinary and multicultural, composed of young people from Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Peru, including representatives of Indigenous peoples such as the Quechua and Wayuu. This diversity not only enriches the project's perspectives and strategies but also reinforces its commitment to a respectful and inclusive approach toward the Indigenous communities of Latin America.

The Aylluq Q'anchaynin project's main objective is to provide renewable energy through the installation of solar panels to benefit 40 families in the community of Alto Mishuagua, in the district of Megantoni, Cusco, Peru. This community is located in the Peruvian Amazon, a region that faces significant limitations in access to basic services such as electricity and communication.





Special Mentions

Natour Caicedo Environmental Collective

This movement aims to promote the social appropriation of knowledge about the biodiversity of the municipality of Caicedo, Antioquia – a municipality that throughout its history has lived through a time of violence and that led it to declare itself the first non-violent municipality in Colombia over 20 years ago. They do this through nature photography, local research, environmental education, and nature tourism in the territory, enabling them to report on, disseminate, and reflect on the region's biodiversity, ecological importance, and heritage value.



'¿Y a mí qué?' – Digital media outlet"

This project is a community initiative born to address specific needs observed after analyzing the realities of Commune 1 – Popular in the district of Medellín. Currently, the garden consists of 15 families from the Commune. The main lines of action of the garden are: planting, food processing, circular economy, memory tours, and education.

This project is a community initiative born to address specific needs observed after analyzing the realities of Commune 1 – Popular in the district of Medellín:

- Current lack of environmental education programs and activities for climate change adaptation

- Lack of social and community gathering spaces (intergenerational and intercultural)
- Growing interest in land use for self-sufficiency and an organic, healthy diet





Special Mentions

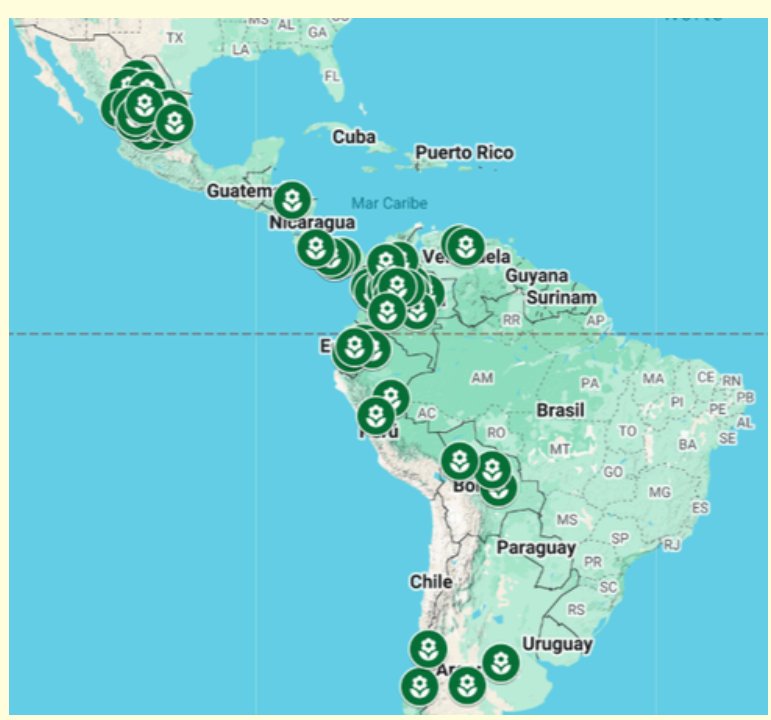
Corporación huerta escuela Esther Vásquez

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- Growing interest in land use for self-sufficiency and an organic, healthy diet



Check out the MAP of all the prize initiatives [HERE](#)



Get inspired and connect with regenerative initiatives that are working for resilience in your country and across Latin America!

Climate Change Course for Community Leaders

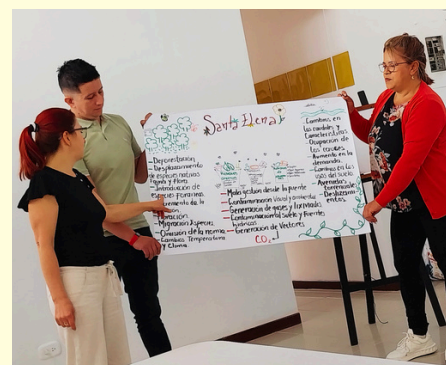


We developed the third cohort of the Adaptation and Climate Change course for leaders of Santa Elena, Rionegro, and Guarne, with the support of the Concesión Túnel Aburrá Oriente.

We trained 30 people with basic knowledge on climate change to identify challenges in the territory related to water, waste management, biodiversity conservation, and climate-related risks.

We had a very diverse cohort, with people ranging from 26 to over 70. There were university students, professionals from various disciplines, and other tireless leaders from these territories, who combined their knowledge and abilities to propose projects that enable grassroots transformations to face the impacts of climate change in a collaborative manner and assuming shared responsibility.

The new graduates of the course will continue sharing their newly acquired knowledge within their spheres of action: schools, public and private entities, Community Action Boards (Juntas de Acción Comunal), foundations, universities, and residential units – in order to transform the way we relate to natural resources and reduce our impact on the climate, while adopting measures and behaviors that allow us to be more resilient, caring for nature and for ourselves.





Poder Ver Alliance

In 2025, we joined the Poder Ver Platform, a space where various social organizations from Medellín and Antioquia converge with the common goal of exercising social oversight of the city council, the departmental government, and other public entities, and enriching public discussion on administrative and political management in Medellín and Antioquia.

We actively participate in the Environmental Justice Committee alongside other organizations such as Corporación Confiar, Las Marías Al Aire, the Instituto Popular de Capacitación (IPC), Corporación Vamos Mujer, and the Red Intercorregimental de Medellín.

As part of this platform, we held seminars on Air Quality and Climate Justice, where we analyzed the context of Medellín, primarily addressing issues such as the impact of pollution on public health and the strategies implemented by institutions to address it. We concluded that the measures are insufficient given the

challenge and risk that air pollution poses to public health. Likewise, regarding climate justice, we see a lack of strategies to educate and provide the necessary tools and skills for the population to respond promptly to the emergencies we face as a result of the climate crisis: floods, landslides, flash floods, heatwaves, and drought. We concluded that the city and the department must strengthen their climate governance, also inviting citizen actors to decide on investments, programs, and projects related to climate change, food security, biodiversity, emergency response, and Disaster Risk Reduction – seeking interventions that are preventive rather than reactive to damages and losses caused by a lack of timely management.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our work has always been collective, always accompanied by community leaders, experts, passionate citizens, organizations, and government officials. Thank you for walking alongside us, for your friendship, your support, and for believing in building a different world every day.

Thanks to all our team, allies, and volunteers:

Mariana Martínez

Juan Pablo Buitrago

Fundación Oasis Urbano

Mesa de vivienda de la comuna 8

Fundación Puntos Verdes Lito

Red CSA Colombia

Dubian Monsalve

Cosmo Schools

Juan Miguel Chimá González

Natalia Osorio

To the board of directors:

Juliana Gutiérrez, Alejandro Álvarez-Vanegas, Sara Arango, Maribel Díaz, Federico Restrepo y Luisa F. Grajales.





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