



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

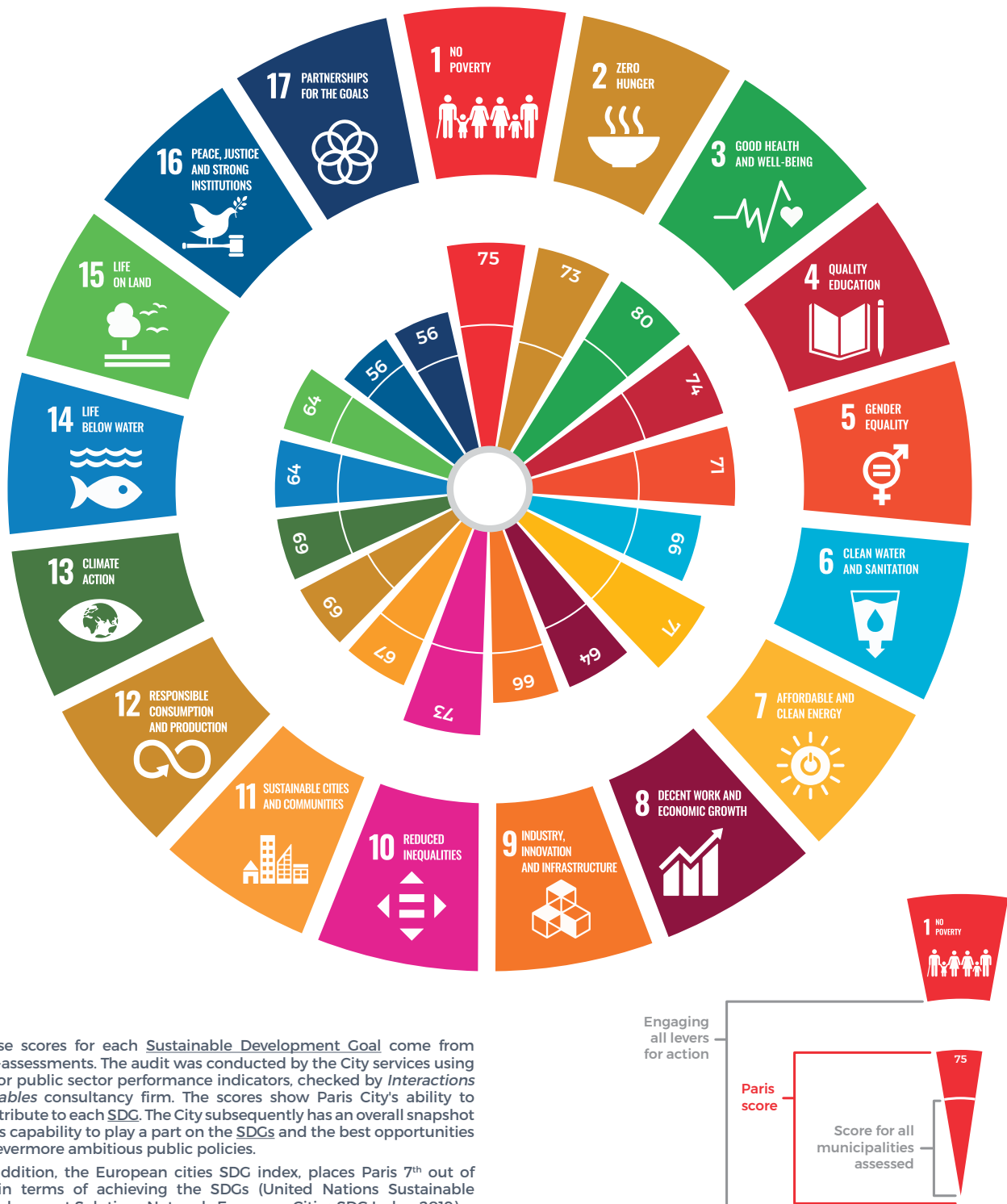
### 2020

Successive lockdowns during the health crisis upset urban routines. Paris took action throughout the year to deal with emergencies brought on by the pandemic and to protect the city's residents. The pandemic provided a boost in a certain number of key areas, with positive effects on biodiversity, non-motorised forms of transport and fine particle emissions, yet led to adverse impacts on the lives of Parisian people (health, financial and mental strain, etc.). While these effects were temporary and limited to the periods of the pandemic, they subsequently raise the question of the city's resilience. Already central to public policy, resilience must underpin even more firmly all the City's actions.

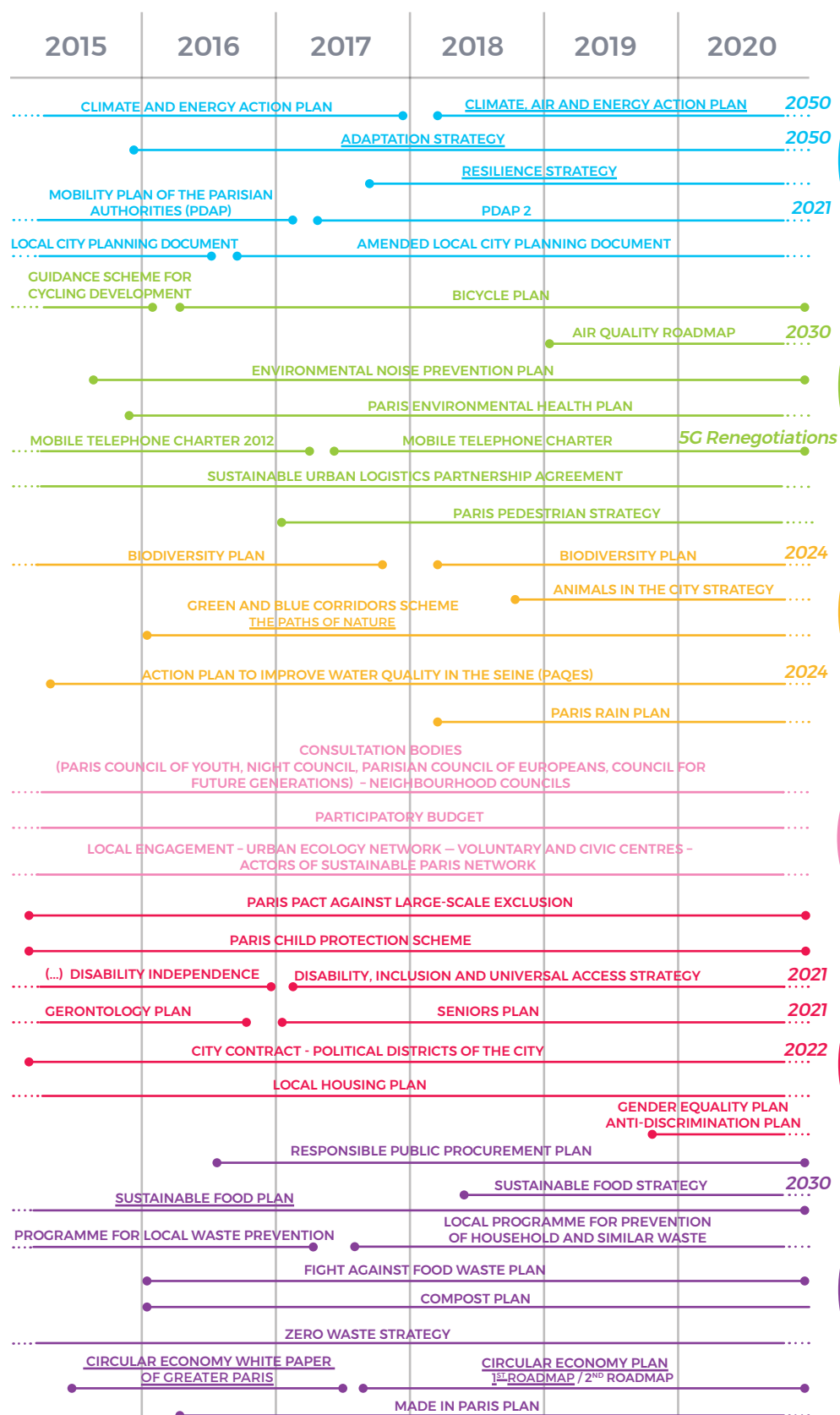
This 11<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Report reviews the actions undertaken in 2020.

## City of Paris' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) have been largely adopted both nationally and internationally to build tomorrow's world. The 17 SDGs were endorsed in 2015 by UN Member States, including France. They constitute a global approach to the environmental, social and economic challenges that we face. They chart a course for 2030 with regular progress assessments. This is why in 2020, Paris measured the contribution of its public policies in relation to each goal by conducting an audit with its teams and an independent evaluator.



The plans and strategies diagram is issued and updated annually and illustrates the work undertaken by the City's departments to adapt Paris to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It shows in an instant the various plans and strategies that shape the City's activities on a daily basis.



CLIMATE

AIR QUALITY,  
HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY

CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION

SOCIAL COHESION

CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY

OLYMPIC TRANSFORMATIONS,  
THE PARIS 2024 LEGACY PROGRAMME 2024





## 1. Tackling climate change and adapting the city

In 2020, the City of Paris reiterated its commitment to tackling climate change by organising the *Zero Carbon Forum*. This online event brought together national and international figures involved in energy transition, to step up actions to be carbon neutral by 2050.

In addition, the City also introduced an urban cooling strategy. As such, it has developed 47 *Oasis* school playgrounds, including 15 new playgrounds in 2020. The City has also run pilot projects to tackle heat islands, while its heatwave plan measures were maintained by adapting them to public health requirements.

Furthermore, the City continues to renovate existing buildings. Since the launch of the first Climate Action Plan in 2008, more than 87,000 homes have been renovated, including 8,193 and 3,740 privately-owned and social housing properties respectively, in 2020. The City has also revised its Local City Planning document to bolster its efforts to build a sustainable and resilient Paris, by setting the target of making it a bioclimatic city.

As the ecological transition goal is both overarching and cross-cutting, the City has sought to involve all stakeholders of its territory, especially businesses. In 2020, the 73 signatories of the Paris Climate Action Charter subsequently defined 128 solutions to overcome the crisis, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals. €19M have been allocated to a dedicated investment fund, called the *Paris Green Fund*, to support innovative projects.



Greenhouse gas emissions dropped by **33%** while the city's estimated carbon footprint saw a **58%** reduction during the first lockdown (17 March - 10 May).



## 4. Contributing to the fulfilment of all through citizen participation

In 2020, the City developed consultation mechanisms so that Parisians could have a say in decisions concerning them, particularly in urban development plans, traffic calming measures and changes to parking. Two public meetings were also organised for revision to the Local City Planning document and developing 5G coverage in the city.

Numbers of local residents wishing to lend a hand to their city are rising. There are now 40,000 *Volunteers*, including 25,000 for the climate and almost 6,000 "Acteurs du Paris durable". Given the public health crisis, the *jemengage.paris* and *idee.paris* web platforms have also been adapted to foster community volunteering initiatives and activities for those affected by the pandemic.

The *Participatory Budget*, introduced in 2014, is the centrepiece of civic participation, having supported almost 1,000 projects and invested half a million euros, in all. The scheme will be revised in 2021 to include even more Parisians. The City would like a quarter of its future investments to be decided through participatory decision-making, compared to roughly 5% in 2015-2019.



**700,000 volunteers** and **70,000 associations** registered on the *jemengage.paris* website. The City used this web platform during the pandemic to map public health-related needs.



## 2. Improving the environmental quality of Paris

The pandemic lockdowns upset the travel patterns and encouraged Parisians to reconsider their immediate surroundings. As such, the City stepped up its efforts to promote sustainable and shared forms of transport by introducing 50 km of additional cycle lanes called, "coronopistes". It has encouraged people to use public transport and its Vélib bike hire scheme by making them free for under-18s. Finally, it has also created quieter and safer routes, with more space for pedestrians, such as its 122 "Rues aux écoles" initiative. It has also regulated the use of electric scooters by signing a contract with 3 operators.

Due to the pandemic, Parisians' health was top priority for the City, in 2020. It set up 3 fixed laboratories and 15 mobile units so that city residents could be tested for free. It also installed 2,000 hand sanitizer dispensers in streets and on public transport in addition to distributing 2.2 million face masks. Aside from surges in the pandemic, Paris has maintained and adapted

medical services so that the city's population can continue to access healthcare.

The lockdown period also coincided with an improvement in air and environmental noise quality in the capital. The City continues its efforts to set up *Low urban emissions zones*, innovative systems to measure air quality, trials with anti-noise and anti-heat road and pavement surfaces, etc. The City is committed to gradually phasing out diesel engines from its fleet by 2021.

Finally, the City has reiterated its commitment to improved water management and conservation measures. It is, in particular, studying the possibility of giving legal status to the River Seine, which would allow it to take legal action to protect the river.



Atmospheric nitrogen dioxide levels during the first lockdown (17 March to 10 May) dropped by **20-25%**, while levels of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> fine particles fell by **7%**. Noise levels over the same period dropped to between **3.5 to 6.5 decibels** during the day and between **5 to 9 decibels** at night. Drinking water consumption also fell by **20%**.



## 5. Boosting social cohesion and solidarity between territories and generations

The Covid-19 pandemic further compromised vulnerable people in the community. During lockdown, the City opened shelters and food distribution centres, in particular, for its 3,552 registered homeless, in late January for the 3<sup>rd</sup> "Nuit de la solidarité". Several initiatives were also introduced for non-French-speaking people and persons with disabilities, to explain preventive measures.

Paris also provided year-round support to those residents especially affected by the crisis. This included school tutoring, the provision of tablets, an alert system for families in difficulty, food assistance and psychological support for students, etc. A range of online leisure and mutual support activities were organised during the summer holidays, prioritising isolated seniors and young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

In addition to emergency healthcare, the City continued its efforts to develop access to justice, inclusion and to tackle all forms of discrimination. In particular, it supported the drafting of a Parisian Charter for Child Rights and the introduction of innovative schemes (smart voice-pick-up terminals, virtual interpreters) for persons with disabilities. Paris has also supported the creation of the "Cité Audacieuse" (6<sup>th</sup>), inaugurated in March and the first venue in France dedicated to gender equality.



**1,300** City agents voluntarily helped the most vulnerable during the first lockdown (17 March - 10 May). During this period, the City's social services dealt with **300 to 500** Parisians on a daily basis.



## 3. Promoting biodiversity

The first lockdown revealed the outstanding biodiversity present in Paris' parks, gardens and farms that closed for almost 3 months. This period also helped demonstrate how nature on our doorsteps is key to the well-being of the city's people.

In 2020, Paris continued to safeguard and foster wildlife and plants throughout the territory. The City surveyed the biodiversity in some thirty green spaces and updated the *Nature Paths*. Following this survey, it created more protected areas and created new parks and gardens. Paris will again step up its efforts over the coming years with plans to plant 170,000 new trees by 2026 and increase permeable and planted areas in the city from 33% to 40% by 2040.

The City is also giving greater consideration to the place of animals in the city and is seeking the views of residents on the subject by distributing a practical guide for animals in the city and by launching a podcast on the city's natural heritage.

Finally, Paris is continuing to expand urban agriculture, with almost 30% of new farming ventures coming from the *Parisculteurs* scheme.



## 6. Promoting responsible production and consumption methods, and developing the circular economy

Paris is committed to the circular economy, especially by fostering re-use and repurposing schemes for demolitions and eco-construction projects. The City is also actively participating in disseminating good practice to the business community and general public. In 2020, it also coordinated the manufacturing of 500,000 face masks in 40 Paris-based workshops, then produced a €5.18M recovery plan allocated to 85 social economy and solidarity organisations.

The City is pursuing its Zero Waste Strategy by developing Trilib waste sorting points and by supporting innovative schemes such as the *Zero Waste Street* (10<sup>th</sup>) and the river waste facility in the Deux Rives district (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>). The overall quantity of waste fell by 14.6% from 2019 to 2020.

In addition to its efforts to tackle food waste in canteens and markets, Paris is also promoting sustainable food. City-run catering facilities (crèches, school canteens, care homes and other City-run restaurants, etc.) will serve 100% 'responsible' meals by 2026, with half coming from short and local supply chains supported by the City. To achieve this goal, the City has a tool called AgriParis, which is designed to promote local sustainable food production, transport and sales. Alternatives to avoid the use of plastics are also being provided to the operators of council-owned catering facilities in Paris.

Paris is also supporting local retail, which has been severely affected by the pandemic. Several schemes have been introduced in 2020 to promote take-away sales and to allow bars and restaurants to expand their terraces in the streets. The City has encouraged the financing of renovation work to premises to make them more environmentally-friendly and accessible.



The amount of waste collected fell by **40%** during the first lockdown (17 March - 10 May).



**Biodiversity** gained ground during lockdown, as seen by a couple of foxes and their **four cubs** that moved into Père Lachaise cemetery (20<sup>th</sup>), a first for the city-centre landmark.

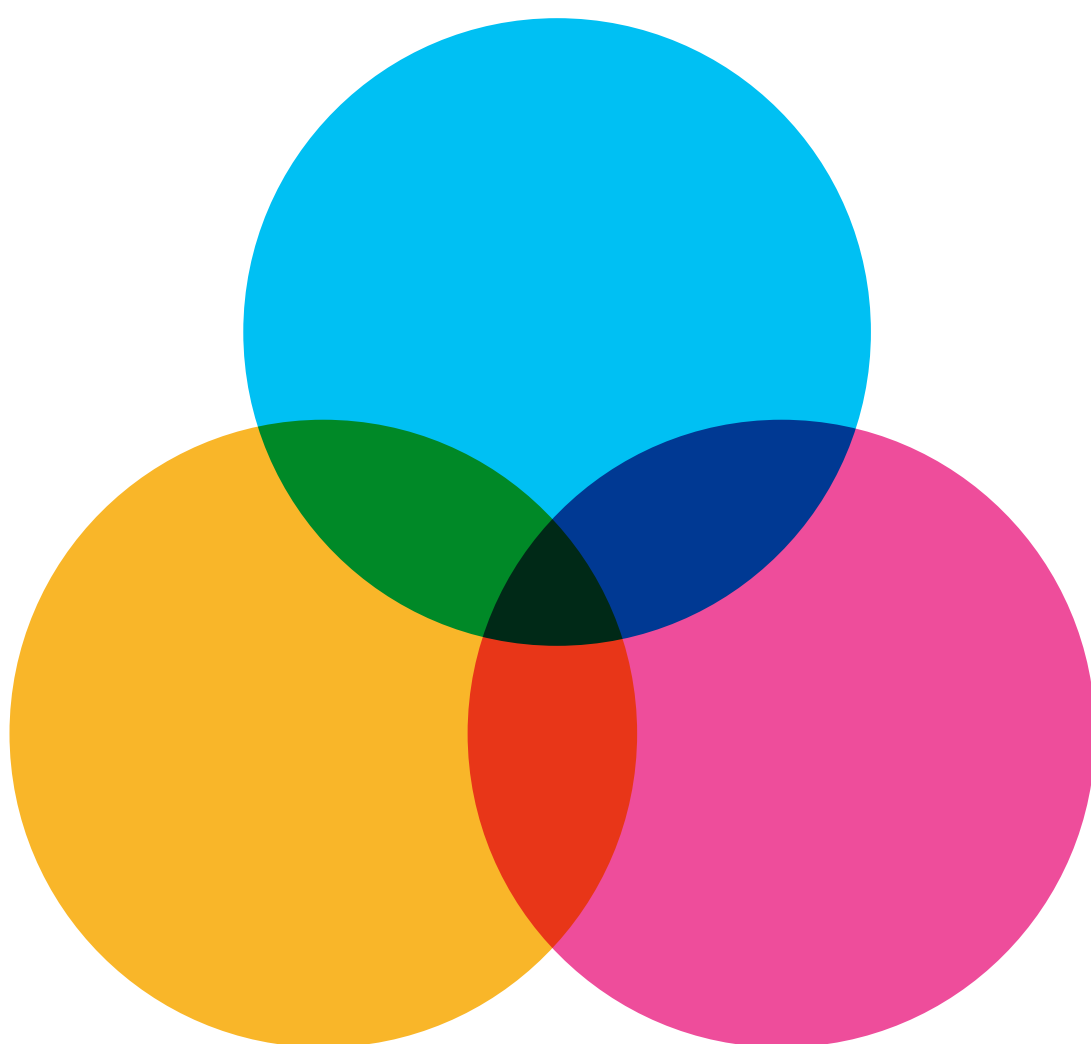


## 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Paris is actively preparing for the *2024 Olympic Games*, by transforming itself into a sustainable and responsible city.

The Indy Bowling building at Porte de la Chapelle (18<sup>th</sup>) has undergone "circular" demolition works to make way for the future Arena. This multi-purpose facility, which should be completed by July 2023 will be built using exemplary construction practices promoting the environment and accessibility. These "universal design" principles also underpin renovation works to the Pierre de Courbertin Stadium (16<sup>th</sup>) and in plans for 15 pilot areas. These facilities will be entirely accessible to persons with disabilities, in the vicinity of stations, squares and the Olympic venues.

Looking ahead to this public event, the City has also produced a strategy to end single-use plastic in 2020 with 21 practical measures. The strategy draws, in particular, on behavioural science to change habits and to foster innovation, as evidenced by the challenge Eau de Paris (the City's water company) set itself to invent a universal access drinking water fountain to reduce the use of plastic water bottles.



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