RECOLT WHITE PAPER

The End of Ornamental Urbanism

Why European Cities Must Shift from Decorative Green to Productive Soil Assets

The future of urban engineering and soil regeneration.

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1. THE DIAGNOSTIC

The Broken Paradigm of Urban Greening

For decades, urban green spaces have served as mere ornaments: lawns, non-functional shrubs, and symbolic trees planted solely to secure building permits.

The Maintenance Trap

Perpetual, resource-intensive upkeep (irrigation, chemical inputs, fossil-fuel mowing) yielding zero ecological, energetic, or nutritional returns.

The Regulatory & Climate Squeeze

Zero Net Land Take (ZAN), strict bioclimatic local urban plans (PLUs), urban heat islands, and stormwater runoff—developers can no longer afford to waste a single square metre on inert, non-performing surfaces.

2. THE VERDICT

Urban soil can no longer be a liability.

Ornamental urbanism is dead.

The era of productive soil engineering begins.

3. THE RECOLT VISION

From Residual Space to Standardized Productive Asset

Every square metre of urban soil must fulfill a multi-functional, measurable biological purpose. Three methodological pillars:

PRU

Urban Resilience Potential

Diagnostic: Can a degraded space, brownfield, or mineral surface sustain an autonomous, self-sustaining biological loop?

RE-SOL

In-Situ Soil Transformation

The zero-waste construction site: Excavated earth becomes a fertile growing medium directly on-site, with no costly hauling to landfills.

IPN

Food Potential Index

Standardized metric: Anticipated annual yield of edible biomass in kg/year—converting vague “green” ambitions into concrete planning data.

4. THE CATALYST

Immediate De-sealing and the Oosterwold Principle

Inspired by Europe's most advanced models, such as the functional productivity quotas of Oosterwold (Netherlands), cities must valorize what is already sealed rather than consume virgin land.

The Mineral Challenge

Millions of square metres of asphalt, parking lots, and wastelands act as waterproof lids, aggravating urban heat islands and saturating stormwater networks.

The RECOLT Solution

Methodically fracturing sealed surfaces and coupling them with RE-SOL and IPN: regenerated topsoil, validated renaturation balances, and local production, without acquiring an extra hectare.

5. THE CALL TO ACTION

To European Urbanists, Planners, and Visionaries

Stop designing spaces that consume resources: engineer assets that regenerate them.

Integrate standardized metrics (IPN & PRU) into your master plans, zoning regulations, and international design competitions.

The tools exist. The standards are operational. Let us transform the blind spots of European concrete into living, fertile, and productive assets.

LET'S TAKE ACTION

RECOLT – Ingénierie Nourricière

Engineering bureau specialized in edible engineering and soil regeneration.

Institutional Partnerships · Co-contracting · Access to our audit protocols (Audit d'Actif Nourricier - AAN)

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