



EUSKIRCHEN, GERMANY

Euskirchen County is taking tangible steps to address increasing climate risks through nature-based adaptation. With support from the EU Mission on Adaptation and the LAND4CLIMATE project, the region is transforming urban spaces to boost resilience, biodiversity, and community well-being.

EU MISSION IMPACT

Euskirchen County is advancing its climate adaptation efforts with support from the EU's Horizon Europe programme, working under the strategic umbrella of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Through the LAND4CLIMATE project, the region has implemented its first nature-based solution, transforming underused land into a vibrant climate park and tiny forest.

Guided by the Mission's objectives, this initiative showcases how European funding and Mission-aligned action can drive local impact, strengthen resilience, and offer replicable models across the continent.

“

I congratulate the residents to the climate park and the tiny forest. It is now their park and their tiny forest! They shall experience and enjoy it as a piece of nature on their doorsteps (where they can snack berries and fruits) and they shall take good care of it!

MR ACHIM BLINDERT
General representative of the County of Euskirchen District Administration

”

REGIONAL PROFILE

The County of Euskirchen is a semi-rural district in southern North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, bordering Belgium and Rhineland-Palatinate. It spans 1,248 km² and is home to nearly 199,000 residents across eleven municipalities. The region is marked by a diverse landscape of low mountain ranges, forests, agricultural land, and rivers, including part of the Eifel National Park. Known for its natural heritage and cross-border connectivity, Euskirchen combines rural character with growing urban development, making climate resilience a rising priority.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Euskirchen is increasingly exposed to extreme climate events, including floods, droughts, and heatwaves, driven by global warming and the region's vulnerable topography. The devastating flood of July 2021 resulted in 27 fatalities and caused long-term damage to infrastructure and communities. In summer, the district faces rising heat stress, declining groundwater levels, and biodiversity loss. The growing frequency of tropical nights intensifies the urban heat island effect, posing significant health risks in more densely populated areas.

SOLUTIONS

On 14 and 22 May 2025, Euskirchen County inaugurated its first Tiny Forest and Climate Park, marking the region's first Nature-based Solution (NbS) under the LAND4CLIMATE project. Developed in partnership with the municipal housing company Eugebau, this milestone initiative demonstrates how public and private actors can transform disused urban land into vibrant, biodiverse spaces that enhance local climate resilience and community well-being.

The site blends native plant habitats, shaded walking paths, and cooling vegetation to help mitigate heatwaves and heavy rainfall, pressing challenges in the region. Within a decade, the tiny forest is expected to grow into a thriving woodland ecosystem. The project also highlights the crucial role that private landowners can play in adaptation efforts, setting a precedent for inclusive, cross-sector collaboration. As the first NbS launched by a German front-running region in LAND4CLIMATE, the site provides a visible, tangible model of how nature can be harnessed to build resilience from the ground up.



OUTPUTS

The Tiny Forest and Climate Park in Euskirchen is already delivering tangible climate and community benefits. The site attracts pollinators, reduces surface temperatures, and serves as a vibrant gathering space for residents. Locals report noticeably cooler surroundings and greater biodiversity, reinforcing the project's ecological value. Within ten years, the forest is expected to develop into a dense, self-sustaining ecosystem.

This pilot site demonstrates how small-scale, nature-based solutions (NbS) can offer scalable models for urban resilience. By integrating native vegetation and green infrastructure, the project enhances climate adaptation while revitalising underused land.

The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change supports the initiative through the LAND4CLIMATE project, which provided essential funding, structure, and visibility. This backing enabled Euskirchen to translate a local vision into a replicable NbS model that inspires similar interventions across Europe.

LESSONS LEARNED

Early community engagement was vital to building local ownership and ensuring long-term stewardship of the site. A flexible planning approach made it possible to adapt the design based on ecological observations. While coordinating land-use priorities and cross-sectoral collaboration posed challenges, open dialogue and a shared vision for climate resilience enabled stakeholders to work together effectively. This experience shows that even small-scale projects can deliver meaningful adaptation outcomes when grounded in inclusive planning and supported by strong partnerships.

[See the region's earlier climate adaptation efforts](#)

