



## CHARTER FOR LOCAL ACTION AGAINST GLOBAL CRISES

### R-URBAN OBJECTIVES: WHY TO ACT?

**We, citizen of this planet, we do not have time to wait anymore for concrete solutions from governments and international institutions to the global crises (Climate Change, ecosystems pollution, economic crisis, social segregation, etc.).**

These crises are due in fact to our lifestyles, which produce too much waste and CO<sub>2</sub>, which consume too much energy and are based on individualistic behaviours that do not carry any hope for a better future.

To achieve a long-term sustainability for our planet, we need to reduce our ecological footprint by changing our lifestyles, by reducing and managing our waste and by reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emission, etc. We need to act quickly and coordinate our efforts, knowing that Climate Change will have immediate effects on all of us and not only on the 'future generations'. In fact, following the conclusions of the most recent studies, **if we do not act effectively within the next 5 years, our planet will become inhospitable in 15-30 years time.**

**The main R-Urban objective is to enable citizen to fight against Climate Change by assembling competences, enabling collective practices of urban resilience through civic networks and locally closed circuits.**

## HOW TO ACT AGAINST GLOBAL CRISES ?

How to realise effectively this civic transition? How to initiate a radical change within our modes of living and working, consumption, transportation, food production, etc... ? How to initiate a citizen transition while we are all so busy with our everyday life and when it is so difficult to find funding for civic projects? How to start than?

**Since 2008, a network of partners grown around the R-Urban strategy, acting concretely against global crises effects by setting up Hubs for Civic and Ecological Transition which allow citizen to change their lifestyles by consuming less, polluting less, recycling and mutualising more, etc.** The R-Urban Units allow for the development of a diversity of programmes and activities: co-housing, urban agriculture, recycling and waste management, circular and collaborative economy, green transportation, local currency, solidary funding, etc...

Currently, the R-Urban network has built two hubs in a suburban town near Paris - Agrocité et Recyclab - and has started to build a hub in London –WOW. New hubs start to be initiated by different groups and stakeholders in France and in other places in Europe. Being part of R-Urban means having the necessary credibility for such initiatives, it is having access to specialist knowledge, networking with other projects, having access to funding, etc.

All initiatives are welcome and all citizens can join any project or team in the network. Civic organisations can benefit from the experience and credibility constructed in time by the R-Urban partners. We would like to multiply and diversify these initiatives by enabling a movement to emerge at different scales and levels via the R-Urban Charter. This Charter is meant to evolve in time, along the network, allowing the involvement of concerned citizen in a movement that works at the everyday level to face the planetary challenges.



Map of existing and emerging R-Urban Hubs

## ACTING AND DEVELOPPING R-URBAN

Through the R-Urban Charter, we want to create opportunities for new project stakeholders and new emerging units in other neighbourhoods, other cities and other countries. The creation of new R-Urban Units is expected to explore and develop - practical approaches for a more sustainable society by relying in particular on the following principles:

- **initiate or participate in a citizen initiative of ecological transition:**
  - Get involved in a group to develop a Unit or a local network of several R-Urban Units operating by in a complementary way (shared housing, local economy, smooth transportation, organic farming, etc.)
  - Promote the emergence of a community of users and project stakeholders developing principles of urban resilience and citizen ecological transitio
  
- **participate in the development of a R-Urban unit based on the following principles:**
  - Implement activities with a strong ecological dimension (CO2 reduction, reduced environmental footprint, management and reduction of waste, etc.)
  - Support local economy activities, self-supportive and circular, participatory financing and the emergence of a Cooperative Land Trust, etc.
  - Promote the sharing of spaces, resources and equipment to reduce the various types of consumption (energy, water, transport, etc.)
  - Participate in the development of all types of public facilities able to contribute to the objectives of the charter.
  
- **promote R-Urban principles and promote local dynamics**, at a small scale, while **contributing to dissemination networks** on a larger scale, partnerships with specialists from different fields, etc. ; participate in the structuring of a just and caring society, overcoming the scarcity of certain natural resources and promote the collective management of R-Urban tools as common property.
  
- **develop democratic ways of managing R-Urban Units by different mechanisms for sharing responsibilities and rights** (one person, one vote, rotational assignments, fostering cooperative models, projects without profit and general interest).
  
- **educate the public and elected officials, policy makers, professionals and local and international institutions** about the priorities promoted by the strategy and the R-Urban units and fight against the global crisis via numerous local initiatives; challenge the government on the need to act against global crises, in order to put all the necessary resources and promote an environmentally just society.
  
- **participate in evaluation dynamics and transmission of knowledge in the areas supported by R-Urban** (urban ecology, renewable energy, pollution control, urban agriculture, etc.); contribute to efforts to improve the collective and institutional infrastructure (regulations, studies, analyses, national strategies and other scales, etc.) and thus support the development of projects and the R-Urban Strategy.

**JOINING THE R-URBAN CHARTER**

In a practical way, stakeholders of resilient projects are invited to join the R-Urban Charter and make contact with the existing network to develop new initiatives and new R-Urban projects. Do not wait, start to act!

By joining the R-Urban Charter as a project leader, you express interest to initiate R-Urban Units and benefit from the support of the other members of the network, through knowledge exchange, specific partnerships (participatory financing, financial structures, business models, resilient practices, devices and eco-architecture prototypes). May also join R-Urban: groups of citizens who bring a project for an ecological transition unit, institutions, professionals, municipalities, networks bringing together various local actors, etc.

Membership is an act of commitment to ensure the realization of the proposed project, its operation within the network in order to pool resources, share skills, manage together the common assets (knowledge, resources, technical and financial structures, etc.). Drawing on the skills and knowledge already acquired, we could reduce on average by 40% the carbon footprint of each of us, and by 50% our CO2 emission. These concrete results will be accompanied by training seminars, by collective research of locations and spaces available for new units.

By joining the R-Urban Charter as a member, you can actively support emerging R-Urban Units in your city or nearby and participate on a continuous basis to existing activities. All members can benefit of the network facilities and resources and can get in touch with other members of the network: project stakeholders, researchers, architects, etc. in order to help with the creation of new Units. You will be able to join in emerging teams who are setting up new projects in your proximity.

A first meeting with new members will be organised in the next month. We need indeed to cross our forces and competences to increase the impact of our current actions in order to influence positively the future.

**SIGNATURE OF THE CHARTER :**

- On behalf of the collective / team ..... with the objective of developing a project ..... in the spirit of R-Urban Charter
- On my own name.....to join and promote the principles of the charter and integrate into existing structures or R-Urban groups near my place of residence.
- On behalf of the institution ..... to promote R-Urban principles through dissemination networks at different scales and within different institutional and professional milieux

Signature

Date

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Contact:

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