

Vitoria-Gasteiz: Green Infrastructure for a Sustainable Development

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Infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society. In addition, it is in charge of sustaining the well-being of the members of society. Infrastructure is more than tunnels that reduce commuting time, or bridges that open trade between two regions; it is a tool to give society more time to enjoy their preferred activities, and a way to connect with other people. The strong tie infrastructure has with society's well-being, is the reason why a well-designed infrastructure is key to develop sustainably.

This paper illustrates the efforts of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain to develop sustainably through the adoption of a comprehensive green infrastructure. The importance of green infrastructure is that it reminds society of its bio-centric past, and of the vast number of wheels that need no reinvention. In addition of the aesthetic and environmental services green infrastructure provides when properly planned, society also gains a broad range of economic and social benefits. This document will explore such benefits using Vitoria-Gasteiz's Green Infrastructure (VG-GI) as an example and contrasting it to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This project is limited to the targets and goals in which VG-GI has had a direct impact.

It was determined that VG-GI has had a direct impact on SDGs 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 15. The study aims to demonstrate the potential green infrastructure has as a tool to meet the UN SDGs. It is worth noting that many of the targets examined in this study are not met solely by the physical aspect of VG-GI, but by a combination of projects, policies, and outstanding individuals that rely on the green infrastructure as a source of inspiration, a space for experimentation, and a vital piece of the community. VG-GI should serve as an example of how infrastructure can once again become a tool for well-being, community, and sustainability.