

## GREEN INOVATION AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN VALONGO, PORTUGAL

Valongo, a municipality in the Porto district of Portugal, has been actively advancing green innovation and circular economy initiatives. Here are some verified highlights:

- European Green Leaf Award 2022

Valongo received the European Green Leaf Award in 2022, recognizing its commitment to environmental sustainability. The municipality has implemented various projects to enhance biodiversity and promote sustainable practices.



- Circular Economy Initiatives

Valongo is dedicated to building a circular economy to preserve resources, promote sustainable growth, create jobs, and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The city aims to become an incubator for innovation and an attractive area for investment.

- Urban Agriculture Laboratory

The municipality has established an "Urban Agriculture Laboratory" along the Leça River. This initiative demonstrates food production processes in urban spaces, promotes the requalification of urban and riparian forests, and contributes to the preservation of ecological values and the circular economy.

- Sustainable Urban Mobility Award

In 2022, Valongo won the European Commission's Mobility Week Award in the smaller municipalities category. The city has invested in sustainable urban mobility solutions, including implementing its Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan and the Municipal Plan of Accessibility for All.

- Reforestation Efforts

As part of its European Green Leaf 2022 activities, Valongo initiated reforestation projects to restore native flora. Between January and February 2022, over 2,200 trees were planted, involving 428 participants, including volunteers and schools.

These initiatives highlight Valongo's commitment to environmental sustainability and its proactive approach to implementing green innovation and circular economy principles.