

▣ A city lab for Antwerp

📍 → ANTWERP, BELGIUM

KEYWORDS: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DURATION: from 2013 onwards

WHO: City Council, citizens and other stakeholders

BUDGET: Unknown

SUMMARY

“Stadslab2050” is an **urban living lab** located in Antwerp. It is a space open to collectively develop new ways of thinking and doing, while contributing to building a sustainable future for the city. The lab has been **initiated by the Municipality** and brings together individuals from within and outside the city to co-create knowledge, network and develop new innovations and projects. The lab plays a key role in creating a diverse network of (social) entrepreneurs, citizens, civil servants, academics and other stakeholders to find new ways of looking at challenges and create new solutions. Individuals and organisations can participate in “Stadslab2050” by joining one of the workshops or by submitting a project during the open calls for projects.

GOALS

- Support the city of Antwerp to become **CO2 neutral by 2050**;
- Contribute to make Antwerp a more sustainable and liveable city;
- Generate **creative processes** of thinking and acting for building a sustainable future of the city;
- Create a **diverse network** of citizens, policy makers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to generate new ideas and solutions to address complex sustainability problems;
- Include citizens and other stakeholders in the urban policy-making process;
- Generate a space for synergy, creativity and innovation by addressing these three core goals: **solve, learn and connect.**



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TOMORROW

HOW IT WORKS

“Stadslab2050” provides the space for initiating and reinforcing **partnerships and collaborations** among citizens, companies, public institutions and other stakeholders contributing to build a sustainable city. The initiative provides a **testing ground for innovations**, offers a toolbox of methods and techniques in order to transform ideas into realistic and feasible initiatives. It is an urban laboratory aiming at addressing sustainability challenges, currently experimenting on diverse topics such as climate adaptation, energy, circular economy and mobility.

Stadslab is composed of three main groups:

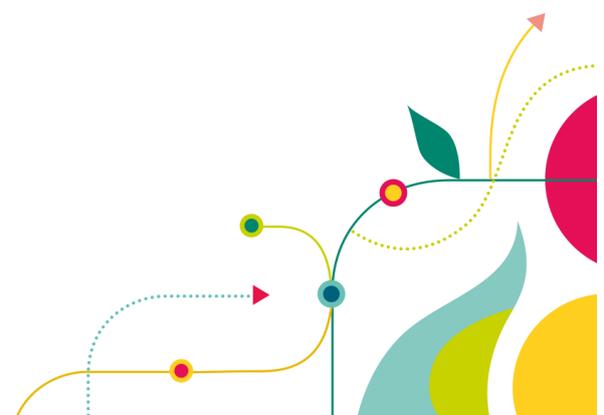
- **“Urban laborants”**: participants in the Stadslab with different backgrounds and level of expertise, who team up for testing the innovations and provide collective feedback.
- **Strategic partners**: the Municipality is the initiator of the Stadslab, but it is constantly searching for the cooperation of partners for collectively solving complex urban issues.
- **Project team**: municipal staff and external consultants, supporting the “urban laborants”, guiding and facilitating the process of testing innovations and managing the Stadslab network.

“One of the hidden gems of the city is the Stadslab2050. A lab that, unlike the central administration, has a lot of room for experimentation and dares to look openly to the future. I recently tweeted: ‘Stadslab2050 makes Antwerp people proud again’, and I still confirm that today”

→ Gert Vandermosten, Stadslab2050

TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL

Stadslab2050 enhances the collaboration and co-creation of knowledge among multiple stakeholders for addressing complex sustainability challenges and contributing to build a more sustainable and carbon neutral city. Stadslab2050 represents an interesting example of an urban living lab. Urban living labs in general have a transformative potential since they enable synergies among diverse actors that normally are disconnected. These labs provide **spaces for developing new ideas, critical reflections and actions** by bringing together different perspectives, background and knowledge.



MORE INFORMATION

[Stadslab2050 website](#) (in Dutch)

[Antwerpen Morgen](#) (in Dutch)

[Flemish Government website](#) (in Dutch)

