

# From Plans to Practice:

## *Local Heating & Cooling Strategies for Resilient Cities*



Presented by:

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# Extreme heat grips Europe

NEWS



Green > Green News

## Climate change tripled death toll from European heatwaves this summer, study says

Europe's summer of extreme weather caused €43bn of short-term losses, analysis finds

Spain

## Heatwave that fuelled deadly wildfires in Spain's 'most intense on record'

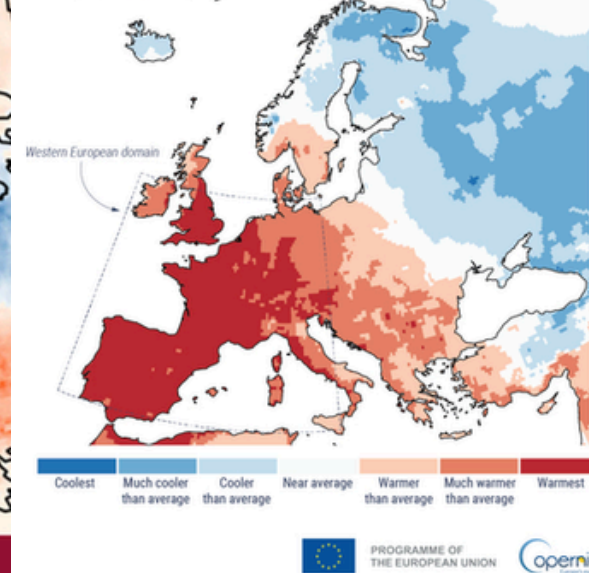
Country's weather agency says 10-day period from 8-17 August was hottest since at least 1950, as fires still rage



IMPLEMENTED BY



Average anomalies from 17 June to 2 July 2025



## nature

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## Summer 2025 is roasting hot: these charts show why it matters

Data reveal how this year's back-to-back heatwaves are affecting populations and economies across Europe.



# THE CHALLENGE

*Cities are heating up faster,  
a public health emergency*

**48,000**

heat related deaths  
in Europe in 2023

**1/3**

households in Spain cannot  
keep cool in summer

**1/2**

among vulnerable  
households



Urban Heat Islands can rise  
surface temperatures by 10–15 °C



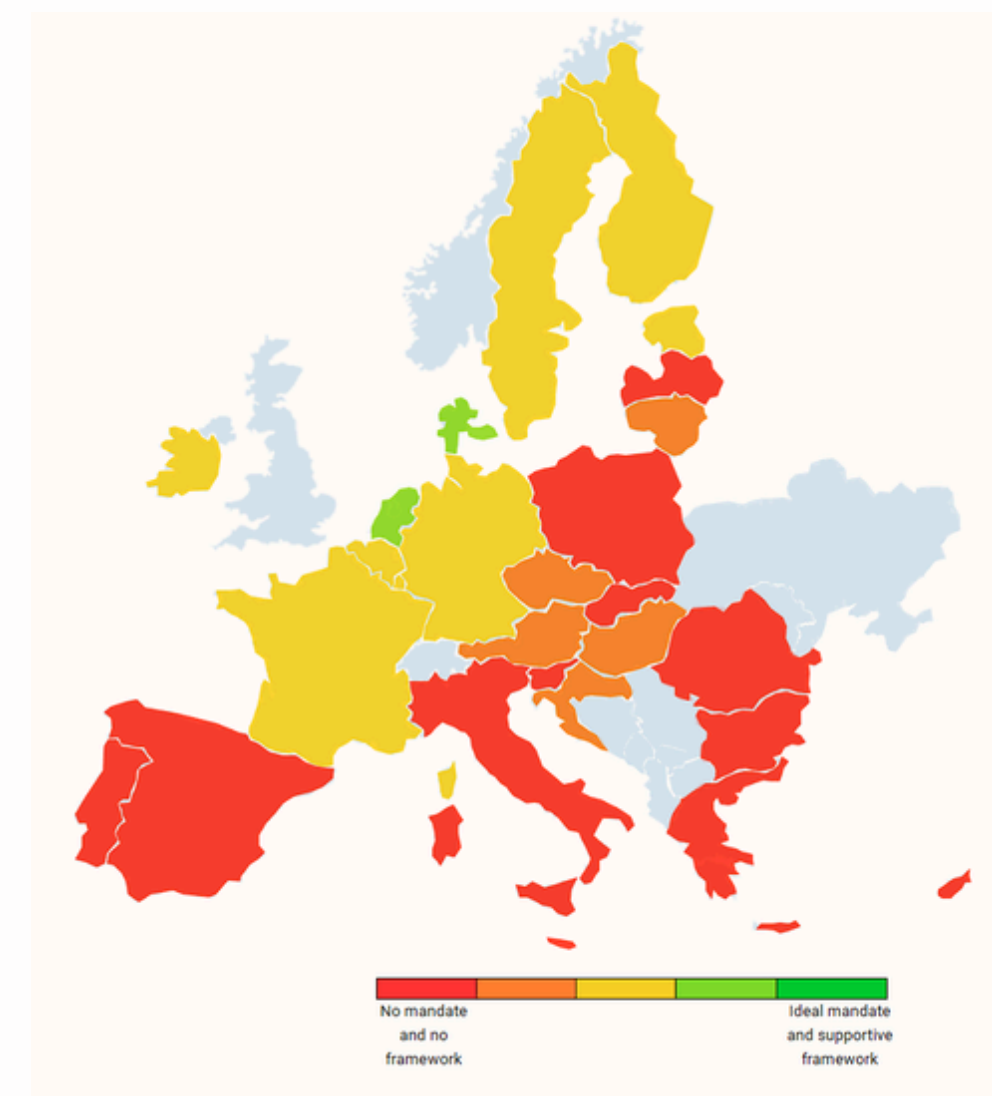
# THE RESPONSE

## Why local Heating & Cooling Planning is needed

**~50%**

of building energy use comes from heating & cooling and is still fossil-heavy

- **It's the Law** → EED requires cities >45k inhabitants to plan for heating & cooling.
- **We're Not Ready** → Spain: 162 cities, but only 1 has a plan.
- **Why It Matters** → Planning integrates retrofits, urban design, cooling needs nature-based solutions, and citizen participation into one **coordinated** strategy.



SOURCE: ENERGY CITIES. EU TRACKER [ENERGY-CITIES.EU/LOCAL-HEATING-AND-COOLING-PLAN/](https://energy-cities.eu/local-heating-and-cooling-plan/)

# THE URBAN DIMENSION

*Why cooling cities matters, not only buildings*



SEALED SURFACES AND DENSE BUILDINGS TRAP HEAT

URBAN HEAT ISLANDS: +10-15 °C IN EXTREME EVENTS

- **Cities hit hardest** → Urban density, sealed surfaces, and scarce greenery make heat waves deadlier in cities.
- **Cooling is essential** → Heat pumps are essential for decarbonisation, but their deployment must be planned and efficient.
- **Collective solutions help** → District Heating & Cooling networks can reduce local waste heat and support resilience.

*The question is not whether we cool — it's how, where, and at what scale*

# THE SOLUTIONS

*A hierarchy for cooling cities and make them more livable*




Nature-based solutions




1

Integrated urban design and natural materials



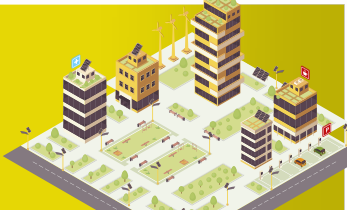
2

Passive building strategies



3

District heating and cooling networks




4

Centralised heating and cooling



5

Efficient individual systems



6

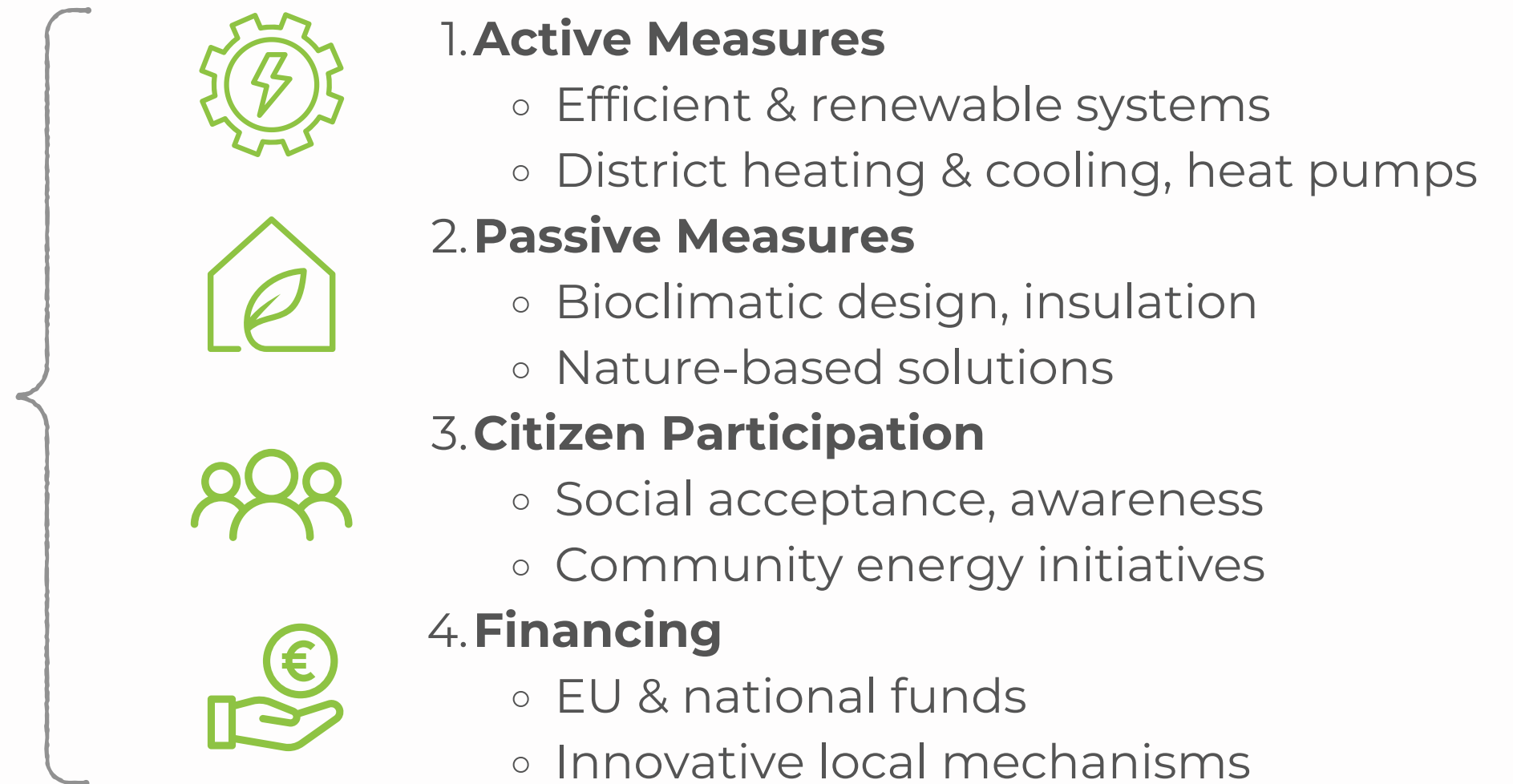


# THE FRAMEWORK

## Four pillars for effective Heating & Cooling Planning

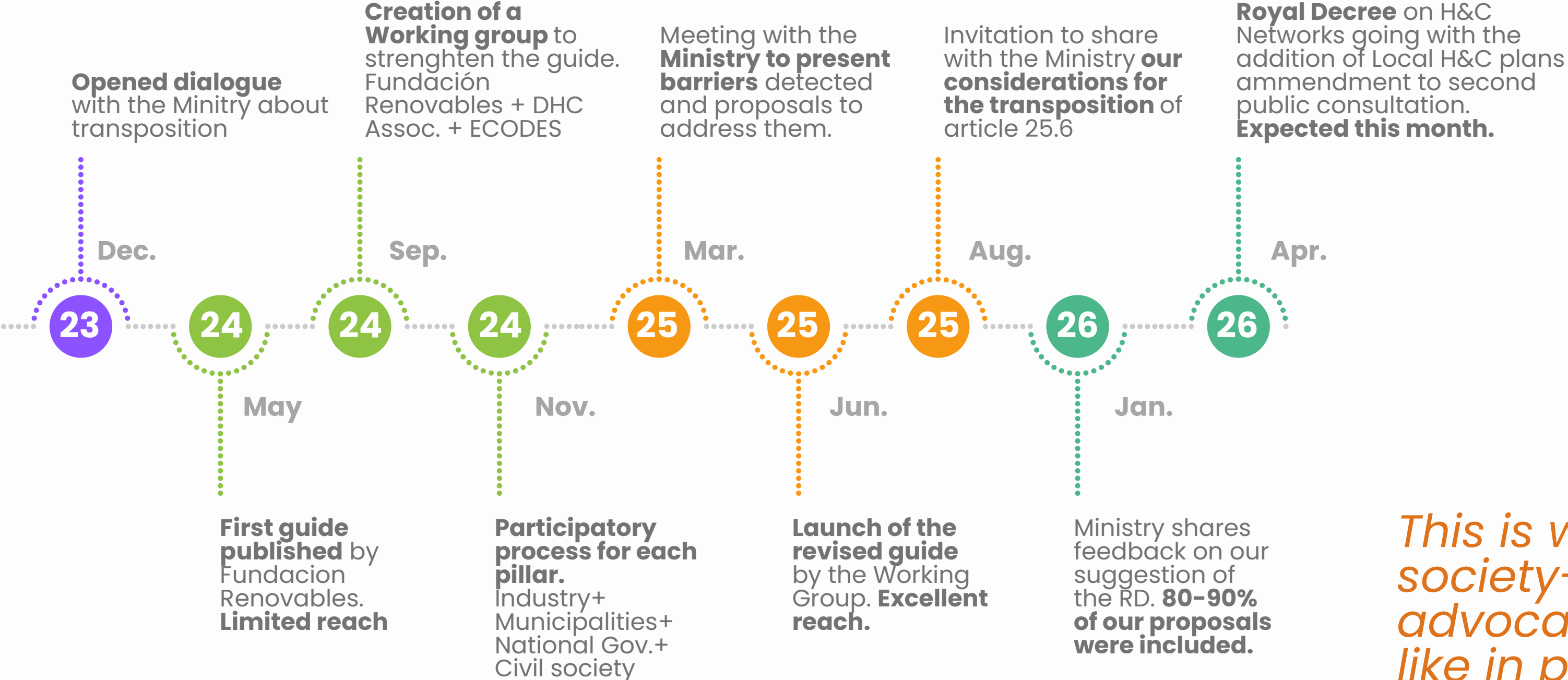


*Built through a participatory process with 60+ experts and active Ministry involvement*



SOURCE: ECODES, FUNDACIÓN RENOVABLES & ADHAC, GUIDE FOR LOCAL H&C PLANS (2025)

# FROM ADVOCACY TO LEGISLATION: *The Spanish case: how civil society helped shape national policy*



*This is what civil society-led policy advocacy looks like in practice.*



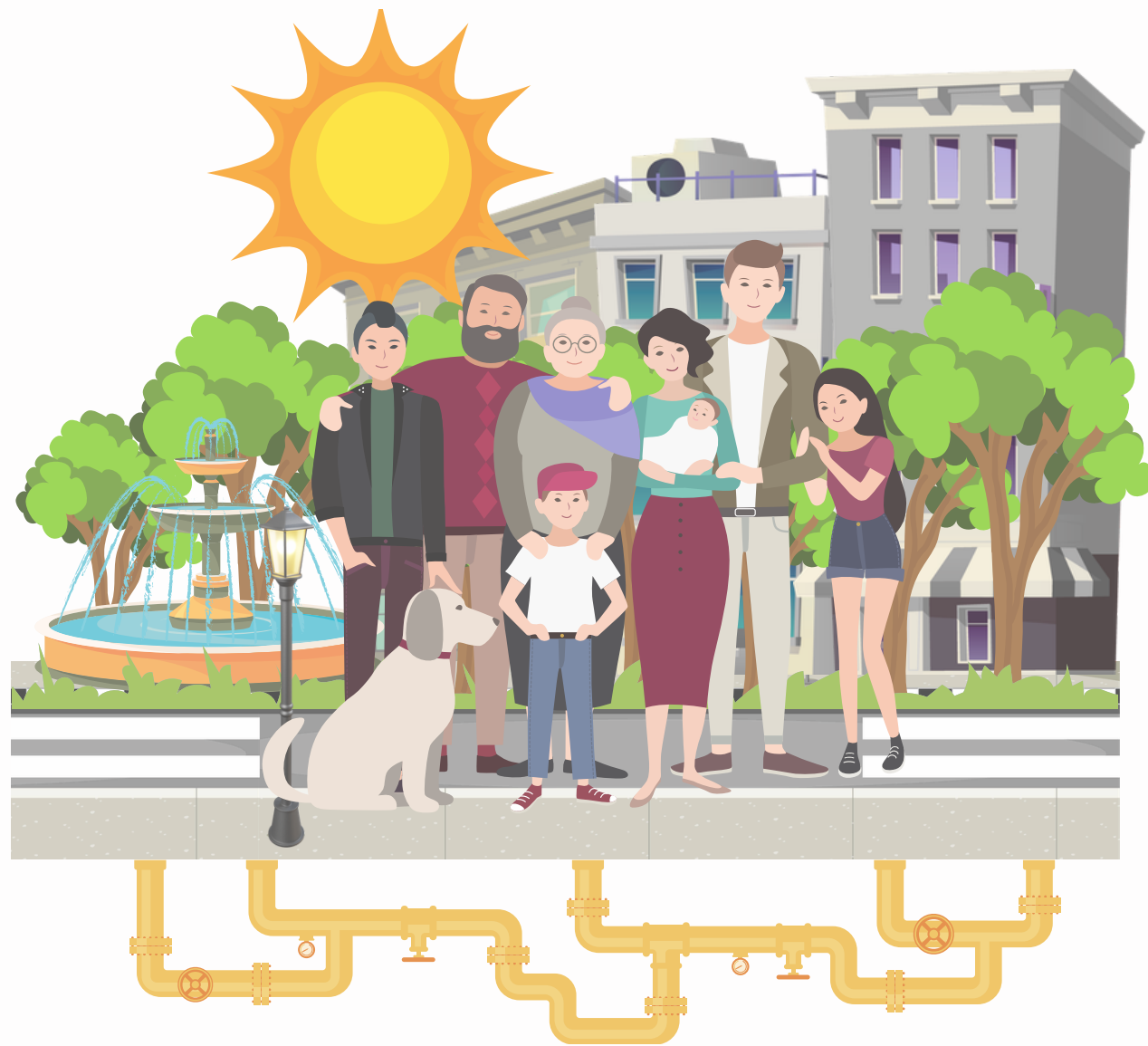
# GOING BEYOND THE EED

## What Spain's transposition adds to Art. 25.6

EED Art. 25.6	Spain's Royal Decree (our proposal)
Cities >45,000 inhabitants	Three tiers: >200k / 100–200k / 45–100k with differentiated deadlines
Participation of stakeholders	Explicit citizen participation + public consultation process
Consider existing energy infrastructure	Mandatory technical assessment of DHC network suitability
-	Explicit analysis of nature-based solutions for urban heat island mitigation
-	National coordination unit to review, approve and monitor plans
-	Option for joint plans between neighbouring municipalities
-	Mandatory integration with urban planning instruments
-	Progress review every 5 years

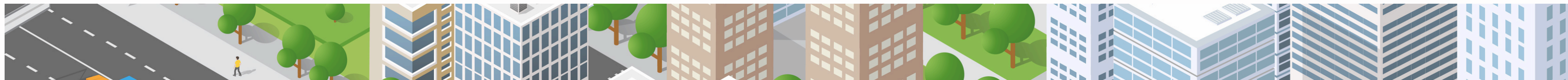
*Not just transposition – legislative improvement, built from the ground up with stakeholders.*

# COOL BUILDINGS START WITH COOL CITIES



- Europe has advanced on heating, but **cooling remains under-addressed**.
- Cities need **integrated planning** to tackle both: H&C in buildings and urban cooling.
- Local H&C plans are the tool to connect **decarbonisation + adaptation + resilience**.
- The legal window is open — **the time to act is now**

*The lesson from Spain:  
Don't wait for perfect legislation.  
**Build the coalition, do the work,  
and bring the government with you.***



**THANK  
YOU**



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Strategies for Resilient Cities*



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