

İzmir Climate Citizens' Assembly – Prioritized 30 Recommendations

Nature-Based Solutions, Water Management and Health (translated from Turkish).

Prepared on 2026-02-04.

| No | Recommendation Title | Recommendation Text | Score |
|----|--|--|-------|
| 1 | Addressing warming, pollution, and ecosystem loss in the Gulf through nature-based solutions | To prevent warming in the Gulf, fish deaths, and odor problems, we demand the treatment of industrial and domestic waste in the waterways flowing into the Gulf, seabed cleaning, naturalization of coastal strips, and the protection of underwater natural life. | 161 |
| 2 | Protecting groundwater and surface water resources and exploring alternative water sources | To support declining water reserves due to climate change and population growth, we recommend encouraging individual water saving and pollution-preventing behaviors. We also demand that alternative sources such as desalination (treatment of seawater) be researched and that investments be increased. | 159 |
| 3 | Developing education and awareness programs on nature-based solutions | Because our community does not have sufficient knowledge about nature-based solutions in the city, we recommend organizing short training programs in schools, neighborhood centers, and digital platforms; implementing voluntary nature-care programs and “Climate Ambassadors” campaigns. We also demand that social media and information screens across İzmir be used effectively to ensure social participation in these awareness efforts. | 156 |
| 4 | Implementing water-saving education programs for children and adults | To educate children and adults about water consumption, we recommend scaling up conscious water use by informing the public through visual and written media or via social-media content creators, and by establishing NGO collaborations. We also demand that İzmir Metropolitan Municipality’s Education Department develop child-friendly modules explaining the risks of incorrect consumption and the benefits of proper water use, and that interactive workshops be held for different age and education groups in cooperation with municipalities and schools. | 155 |
| 5 | Safeguarding drinking-water quality against temperature and pollution risks | In İzmir, there is a negative bias and trust problem about whether tap water is drinkable. To build confidence, we demand the public be provided with analysis results and water-analysis literacy trainings; the establishment of a water-quality monitoring system; coordination among relevant municipal departments; and independent auditors to oversee the process. | 154 |
| 6 | Scaling up rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation practices | To prevent wasteful irrigation in agriculture and enable rainwater harvesting, we recommend promoting drip irrigation and climate-friendly techniques. We also demand the use of methods such as near-surface collection areas, sponge-city approaches, and separating conveyance lines; making rainwater harvesting mandatory in new buildings through legal regulation; and providing financial incentives for implementation. | 152 |
| 7 | Planning and monitoring systems to prevent uninformed and uncontrolled water use | In sectors such as industry, livestock, and agriculture, water is consumed excessively, unconsciously, and without control. To bring this under control, we request institutional water-footprint calculations, controlled water-use campaigns through traditional and new media, and the creation of an AI-supported regional water-management plan. | 152 |

| No | Recommendation Title | Recommendation Text | Score |
|----|--|--|-------|
| 8 | Increasing shaded and cool pedestrian areas across the city | As İzmir Climate Assembly members, to address insufficient shaded areas in public spaces and strengthen access to safe water, we recommend creating shaded walking routes, installing breathable shading systems in parks and squares, and expanding drinkable water points. We also request vegetative cooling tunnels and shaded seating areas, use of climate-appropriate materials, and dedicated sections for vulnerable groups such as children, people with disabilities, and older adults. | 149 |
| 9 | Creating nature-based play and learning areas for children | So that our children can have sufficient contact with nature, we demand the creation in parks and gardens of natural discovery areas where they can touch soil and greenery; insect observation points; birdhouses; small urban gardens; and city-forest education trails, along with active use of QR-coded information panels. | 148 |
| 10 | Nature-based, heat- and shading-focused arrangements in transport and pedestrian areas | Because of the lack of bicycle lanes and sidewalks that citizens can use in hot weather, we demand the creation of shaded pedestrian corridors and the paving of main arteries with surfaces that reduce heat. | 148 |
| 11 | Guaranteeing public access to safe and sufficient water | For access to safe drinking water in public areas, we request the installation of sensor-activated fountains and the production of visually supported informational work to raise awareness about the importance of water and saving water. | 148 |
| 12 | Reducing urban hot spots through nature-based solutions | To prevent summer overheating of heat islands, hot spots, and large asphalt surfaces, we recommend tree-planting in parks and gardens, climate-appropriate planting campaigns with local species, a requirement for a certain level of shading in parking lots, light-colored asphalt and permeable surface applications, and encouraging site managements to take measures as well. | 147 |
| 13 | Controlling the impacts of rising temperatures on waste management and hygiene | To ensure effective waste management, we demand increasing waste storage and separation areas; locating them in ways that do not endanger public health; cleaning waste containers more frequently; and actively including citizens and NGOs in decision-making processes on this issue. | 147 |
| 14 | Improving air-conditioning and comfort standards in public transport | As the İzmir Climate Assembly, to prevent heat-related comfort and health problems in public transport vehicles and address capacity shortages, we recommend installing temperature sensors, training drivers in air-conditioning and first aid, and improving vehicles and increasing their number. We also demand regular inspections of existing air-conditioning systems to ensure they operate effectively, safely, and hygienically. | 146 |
| 15 | Strengthening nature-based approaches in zoning and planning | Because dense construction blocks airflow and leads to heat and pollution accumulation, we recommend creating wind corridors with known and appropriate methods in new zoning plans or during/within urban transformation, using stream beds as air channels, and limiting zoning density to allow coastal winds. We also recommend promoting nature-based solutions and material use in zoning and planning work. | 145 |
| 16 | Increasing awareness and capacity for climate risks in health institutions | To raise awareness and capacity for climate risks in health institutions, we recommend effective use of screens within facilities, carrying out information and in-service trainings in this scope, and increasing cooperation with universities and civil society organizations. | 144 |
| 17 | Closing the water cycle through reuse of greywater and rainwater | To address gaps in the limited use of greywater, rainwater, and treated water, we recommend installing and scaling up greywater and rainwater systems. We also demand that, through legal regulations, new buildings be subject to enforcement and incentives so that sink water can be treated and used in toilet flushing or other areas. | 144 |

| No | Recommendation Title | Recommendation Text | Score |
|----|---|---|-------|
| 18 | Preventing excessive water consumption and illegal water use in buildings | To reduce excessive water use and prevent illegal water use, we recommend encouraging greywater use, making smart meters mandatory, increasing inspections, introducing deterrent penalties for illegal use, and raising awareness. We also demand that smart meter use be made mandatory. | 141 |
| 19 | Developing climate-crisis awareness and a culture of adaptation | To address information and behavioral gaps in climate-change adaptation, we demand public trainings, regional events, and activities that enable students to participate actively; and, at various education levels and in cooperation with NGOs under the name “climate ambassadors,” first-aid trainings on heatstroke as well as various events and trainings. | 141 |
| 20 | Preventing illegal well drilling and excessive water use | To prevent illegal water use in industry, agriculture, and households and to solve the problem of illegal wells/drilling and meters in industry, we recommend increasing the frequency of inspections, expanding rapid response teams, and establishing an honorary inspector system for oversight. | 140 |
| 21 | Creating green corridors along coasts and stream banks | To reduce the negative impacts of concrete development that cuts off airflow and ecological connectivity, we recommend opening stream and coastal edges for public use, creating green areas along stream banks, shading walking and cycling paths, and carrying out regular maintenance and repairs with ongoing follow-up. | 139 |
| 22 | Protecting people with chronic illnesses against the climate crisis | To protect people with chronic illnesses against the climate crisis, we recommend establishing mechanisms that increase climate resilience, informing chronic patients, raising awareness, setting up mobile health centers and making them accessible—for example, increasing the frequency of public transport services during periods of extreme heat—and providing information about these measures. | 139 |
| 23 | Monitoring zoonotic disease risks and implementing preventive awareness work | To monitor zoonotic disease risks and increase preventive awareness, we recommend combating vectors, ensuring animal population management, and conducting awareness, education, and preventive implementation activities for pet owners regarding wild-domestic animal contact. | 138 |
| 24 | Developing digital participation platforms for nature-based planning | So that citizens can be informed about projects in their regions, we recommend presenting these projects to the public in an accessible and understandable way via existing or new digital maps, and enabling people to track project stages and provide feedback through digital applications. | 137 |
| 25 | Scaling up green and blue infrastructure applications | Because dense construction makes rainwater management and cooling elements more difficult, as the İzmir Climate Assembly we demand the creation of rain gardens, flood-zone water-resilient parks, misting systems in city squares, green corridors, and micro-forests. | 135 |
| 26 | Strengthening heat and temperature-stress protection measures for outdoor workers | To reduce heat and temperature stress by providing protection for people working outdoors, we demand adjusting working hours during extreme heat periods according to the sector; creating shaded areas where appropriate based on the characteristics of the workplace; developing heat-protection strategies within occupational health trainings; providing personal protective equipment and cooling clothing suitable for health conditions; and ensuring regular fluid support. | 135 |
| 27 | Strengthening ecological corridors and the green connectivity network | To reconnect fragmented ecological linkages and integrate green areas that are currently disconnected, we recommend establishing ecological connections and green corridors between parks and community gardens to provide passage areas for plants and animals. | 132 |

| No | Recommendation Title | Recommendation Text | Score |
|----|--|---|-------|
| 28 | City-scale solution models to reduce water use in car washes | In İzmir, due to excessive water use and the inability to utilize greywater in businesses and households for car and carpet washing, we demand that the municipality establish and expand cost-effective car-wash stations using water-saving devices, ensure reuse of greywater covering private businesses as well, and increase inspection mechanisms to prevent illegal unmetered use. | 132 |
| 29 | Protecting companion animals against heat and temperature stress | To protect companion animals against heat and temperature stress, we recommend informing the public; creating shaded areas, water points, and sensor-activated drinking areas; building climate-appropriate dog parks; establishing collaborations with civil society organizations; and running awareness campaigns via social media. (The definition of companion animals here includes all animals living on the street without an owner within the city.) | 123 |
| 30 | Managing the impacts of using water purification devices at homes and workplaces | To make use of excessive wastewater discharged from purification devices, we recommend encouraging storage of this water and providing community education on its in-home use. | 116 |