



# Maracena<sup>///</sup>

## The Ecoguide



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# The Project

## Youth Participation against Climate Change

RYCA is a 2 year project aims at fostering youth networking, participation and action on the matter of Climate Change. This contributing on one hand, to the general goal of the European Youth Together call to increase youths engagement in the European political debate and on the other, to the broader goals indicated in the European Green Deal to address the imminent danger represented by the global climate crisis.

The rationale of the project sees the two streams of general objectives as complementary and intersected with each other:

- Increasing the youth ability to participate in the social and political life, locally and transnationally, in Europe both as a way to reconcile its often disrupted relations with grassroots, informal political streams of action
- and as a way to bring the European Green New Deal to the more capillary level of local actions and debates, where often the Europeans institutions are felt at their farthest from the EU citizen.

## Content list

0. Intro to the guide location
1. Food production and consumption
2. Sustainable Fashion
3. Waste, Recycling and Upcycling
4. Transportation & Travel
5. Water
6. Energy
7. Biodiversity
8. Education
9. Participation
10. Laws and regulations
- II. Sources and additional info

Check out the online version of  
MARACENA Ecoguide [HERE](#)

## Intro to Maracena

Maracena is a town located in the province of Granada, Andalusia, in the southern part of Spain. It has 22.000 inhabitants and it is one of the most relevant towns in the metropolitan area of Granada.

The city council of Maracena has been awarded several times for its great social and vivid actions. Some of the examples that will be included in RYCA Ecoguide are actions implemented by locals in previous projects carried out by the youth of Maracena.

The youth center of Maracena is one of the most active and remarkable in the Andalusia region. Espacio Joven runs an eco project named ECO CASA which motivates young local people to be more ecofriendly and to promote suitable values.



# 1. Food production and consumption



## I. Food production and consumption

*Food is inseparable part of human existence. We need to eat to survive but what we choose to eat and how is a topic of debate we will take up in this part of our ecoguide. The more we understand, the better choices we can make and more positively can we influence our local environment and community. Here are some of our practices we are proud to share with you.*

### Local food workshops

The aim of these workshops is to promote the importance of using fresh and seasonal ingredients in the making of our traditional dishes. It's a great opportunity for the younger generation to get to know the culture of our community and explain to them where the culinary traditions came from.

It is part of eco aula projects which means the process doesn't start in the kitchen. Some of the children plant the ingredients during spring in a garden close to our establishment. They take care of the plants over the necessary time and then when it comes the time, they get to gather them and use them in the kitchen.

It gives children the opportunity to experience cooking before stepping into the kitchen. It makes them aware of the process and appreciate it.

Frequently we organise with local restaurants to create events called *Marachef* which give the professionals a chance to teach kids local recipes and maybe influence some of them to pick up a new hobby.

It helps to keep our community together and pass down the tradition to next generations.



Crop planting calendar



## 2. Sustainable Fashion



## 2. Sustainable Fashion

*With the changing weather of Maracena, it's important to dress appropriately for the seasons. Obviously everybody wants to look fashionable and up to date with the latest trends. We have some news for all, the trends come back and you can always save a buck by looking into your parent's closet from time to time.*

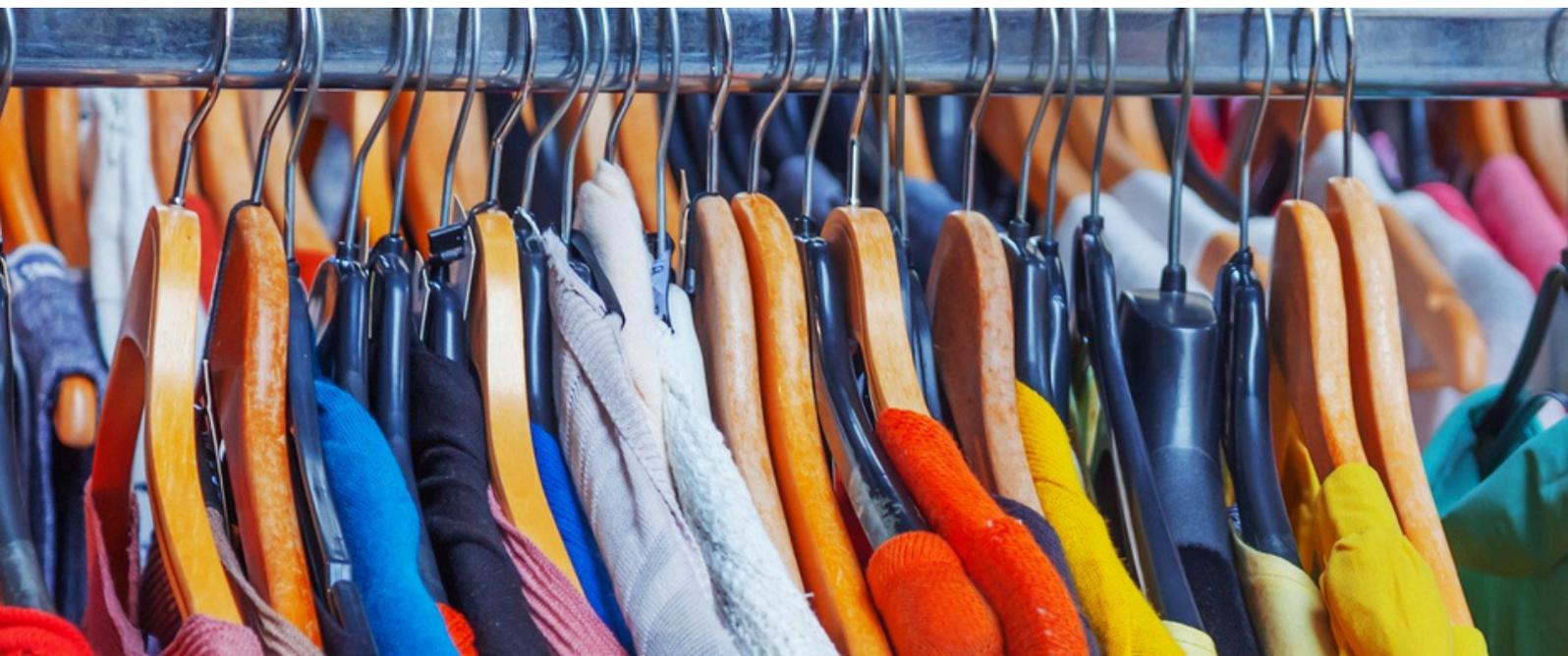
*It's also important to be aware of what you are buying and how you dispose of it. Fast fashion is our worst enemy in this topic and we try to work around it as much as we can.*

### **Fashion projects in Maracena**

The project 'La leonera' is a 12-month activity funded by the European Solidarity Corps program. The project consists of creating a social space in the city of Maracena so that its citizens can exchange clothes as well as participate in various workshops related to the theme of fashion.

The main objective of the project is to raise awareness about the environment and also to foster collective consciousness regarding the impact our consumption has on the planet. Indeed, numerous studies have shown that the textile industry has considerable repercussions in both social and environmental spheres.

For this reason, the City Council of Maracena wants to get involved at its level, educating young people about environmental issues and proposing activities that they can carry out independently, such as the creation of the Tie-Dye workshop.



# 3. Waste, Recycling and Upcycling



### 3. Waste, Recycling and Upcycling

Here we have the most important topic of *The Ecoguide* in our eyes. The day to day life of Maracena's inhabitants.

#### **CAMPAÑA DE CONCIENCIACIÓN Y SENSIBILIZACIÓN** **Awareness and sensitization campaign**

*This project has developed a large amount of material and distributed it through various activities, such as:*

- *3,400 reusable fabric bags have been printed, with messages about sustainable mobility on both sides.*
- *One of the most direct and extensive actions of this campaign was the distribution of a fabric bag, a seed pack, and a printed awareness brochure to all schoolchildren in Maracena, up to the 2nd year of ESO (Spanish Secondary Education), including the five preschools or early childhood education centers. This action reached over 3,000 students and their families directly, ensuring that each schoolchild received this material by distributing it center by center. The distribution took place on May 22, 23, and 24, 2023, with the help of the environmental volunteer group.*
- *The leftover materials from the initial campaign have also been subsequently distributed in other activities, meetings, and events throughout the development of the three batches to achieve maximum outreach. Distribution will continue until all materials are exhausted.*



## 4. Transportation & Travel



#### 4. Transportation & Travel

*The public transport around Granada and local cities, including Maracena, is already quite affordable but we don't stop at that.*

##### **Comic concourse “The hero of your school”**

On Friday, September 15, 2023, the campaign was launched and the school comic contest on sustainable mobility and road safety began.

The campaign was introduced by the Mayor of Maracena, Mr. Julio Pérez, along with the Youth Councilor, Ms. Amabel Adarve Anguita, and the project leader, Juan Antonio Díaz, from the Youth Department.

To promote International Mobility Week, advertising was done at educational centers and on the streets for several days, mainly on September 12 and 13.

For this comic contest, brochures were printed and distributed to educational centers, and a roll-up banner was used for activities and presentations during International Mobility Week.

The contest was aimed at schoolchildren in Maracena in 5th and 6th grades. The promotion also involved young people from the environmental volunteer group.



## Sustainable Mobility and Road Safety

Espacio Joven and Ayuntamiento de Maracena have committed to teaching its youth about sustainable mobility and road safety. That's why all children from Maracena's schools have the opportunity to enjoy different workshops that take place in Anfi teatro, where they learn the importance of following traffic signs and rules while being a pedestrian, a cyclist, a car passenger or an user of public transport like metro or bus.

They also gain confidence riding a bike, experiencing agility challenges and having a bike ride together from their school to Anfi teatro. It is the second year in which the safety roads to school are being implemented, where we try to incentivise the use of sustainable transport such as walking, cycling or public transport as the way the children of our town commute to schools.

There are signs in the streets that point to all of the schools. Meeting points and safety points were created, where the children can reunite to walk together to school.



# 5. Water



## 5. Water

*Water is the most important resource to sustain life. Spain being one of the driest countries in Europe, with regions like southern and southeastern Spain experiencing arid and semi-arid climates, had to resort to putting rules in place for during dry episodes. Over the years, climate change has deepened water scarcity which raised the importance of saving as much water as possible.*

### **Our local rules for water conservation**

Periodic droughts are common, and water resources are often stretched, particularly during the hot summer months. There were rules put on local population to help with water scarcity. As an example you are not allowed to wash your car during the dry episodes, neither can you fill your pool to the brim.

There have also been created El Pacto Andaluz por el Agua (andalusian water pact) which was designed to tackle Andalusia's water challenges by unifying policies, promoting sustainability, and ensuring equitable distribution of water resources. It's main components are:

1. Inclusive Development Process - the pact was created with input from multiple stakeholders: political groups, social and economic agents, public consultants. This allowed the project to be as impartial as possible.

#### 2. Key Objectives

- Sustainable resource use - maintaining water quality and preservation of ecosystems;
- Modernization - infrastructure improvements are prioritized;
- Climate change adaptation - drought mitigation, resource optimization, securing future water availability.

#### 3. Action Plans and Governance

- Integrated Management - planning includes regional and local governments to more efficiently manage water basins;
- Ecosystem protection - restoring water bodies and integrating water management into broader environmental initiatives;
- Monitoring and Research - developing new technologies and methodologies to monitor usage and adapt policies dynamically.

#### 4. Significance for Andalusia

- The pact addresses the region's reliance on water for key economic sectors like agriculture and tourism, while mitigating issues such as droughts and overuse of aquifers. By emphasizing collaboration, it seeks to balance human needs with environmental sustainability.

The Pacto Andaluz por el Agua is a forward-looking framework that aims to leave future generations with a robust and fair water system.



## 6. Energy



## 6. Energy

*Sustainable energy in Maracena, a municipality in the province of Granada, Spain, is a growing area of focus as part of broader efforts to reduce environmental impact and promote energy efficiency. While Maracena may not have large-scale renewable energy projects like solar or wind farms, there are several initiatives aimed at incorporating sustainable energy practices at the local level.*

- **Solar Energy** - like many parts of Spain, Maracena benefits from abundant sunlight, making it ideal for solar power. The municipality may encourage the installation of solar panels on homes and public buildings, contributing to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering energy bills. In recent years, Spain has seen increased investment in renewable energy, and Maracena likely participates in regional and national programs that support the transition to solar power.
- **Energy-Efficient Buildings** - Maracena is likely involved in promoting energy efficiency through regulations and incentives for new construction and retrofitting existing buildings. This includes the use of energy-efficient appliances, improved insulation, and green building standards to reduce energy consumption and emissions.
- **Public Transport and Mobility** - sustainable energy also ties into mobility solutions, and Maracena may be working to enhance its public transport network and infrastructure for electric vehicles. Encouraging the use of electric cars, buses, and bicycles helps reduce carbon emissions in the urban environment. The installation of electric vehicle charging stations could be part of the municipality's long-term strategy.
- **Energy-Efficient Street Lighting** - the municipality might also be replacing traditional street lighting with LED lights, which are more energy-efficient and cost-effective, contributing to overall energy savings.
- **Community Awareness and Education** - Maracena, through local programs and initiatives, likely promotes sustainable energy practices to residents and businesses. This includes raising awareness about energy-saving behaviors, the benefits of renewable energy, and opportunities for local investments in sustainability.
- **Regional and National Initiatives** - Maracena participates in Spain's broader climate action plans, which aim to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Local governments are encouraged to align with national strategies that focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable development.

While Maracena is still developing its sustainable energy infrastructure, these efforts contribute to a growing commitment to clean energy, helping reduce the town's carbon footprint and make progress toward sustainability goals.



# 7. Biodiversity



## 7. Biodiversity

*Maracena, as almost the whole Spain, is quite a dry area which makes our efforts to upkeep local flora that much more important to us.*

### **Reforestation excursions**

This excursion not only educate young people and children about the importance of reforestation but also allows them to make a tangible and positive contribution to the environment.

The primary goal is to engage young people in reforestation activities to promote environmental awareness, teamwork, and respect for nature.

In addition to planting a tree and caring about the environment, the community that grows with people's awareness creates an environment that supports new generations to easily join and develop their own sense of responsibility about nature. It brings local communities together and tightens their bonds that have formed since they were just kids.

### **Forest bathing**

As one of the activities organised in Maracena forest bathing is one aimed at connection with nature and yourself. It is used as a way to engage the youth with environment during workshops, projects and other events.

It's roots come from Japanese practice of immersing oneself with nature. It has multiple benefits like: reducing stress, improving mood, boosting immune system, improving physical health and feeling more connected to nature.



# 8. Education



## 8. Education

*The most important part of actions taken to be more sustainable is the education of the youth. Without it there would be no speaking of retention of knowledge. The educational projects allow new generations to tackle future problems and go on educating their next generations.*

### ECOCASA

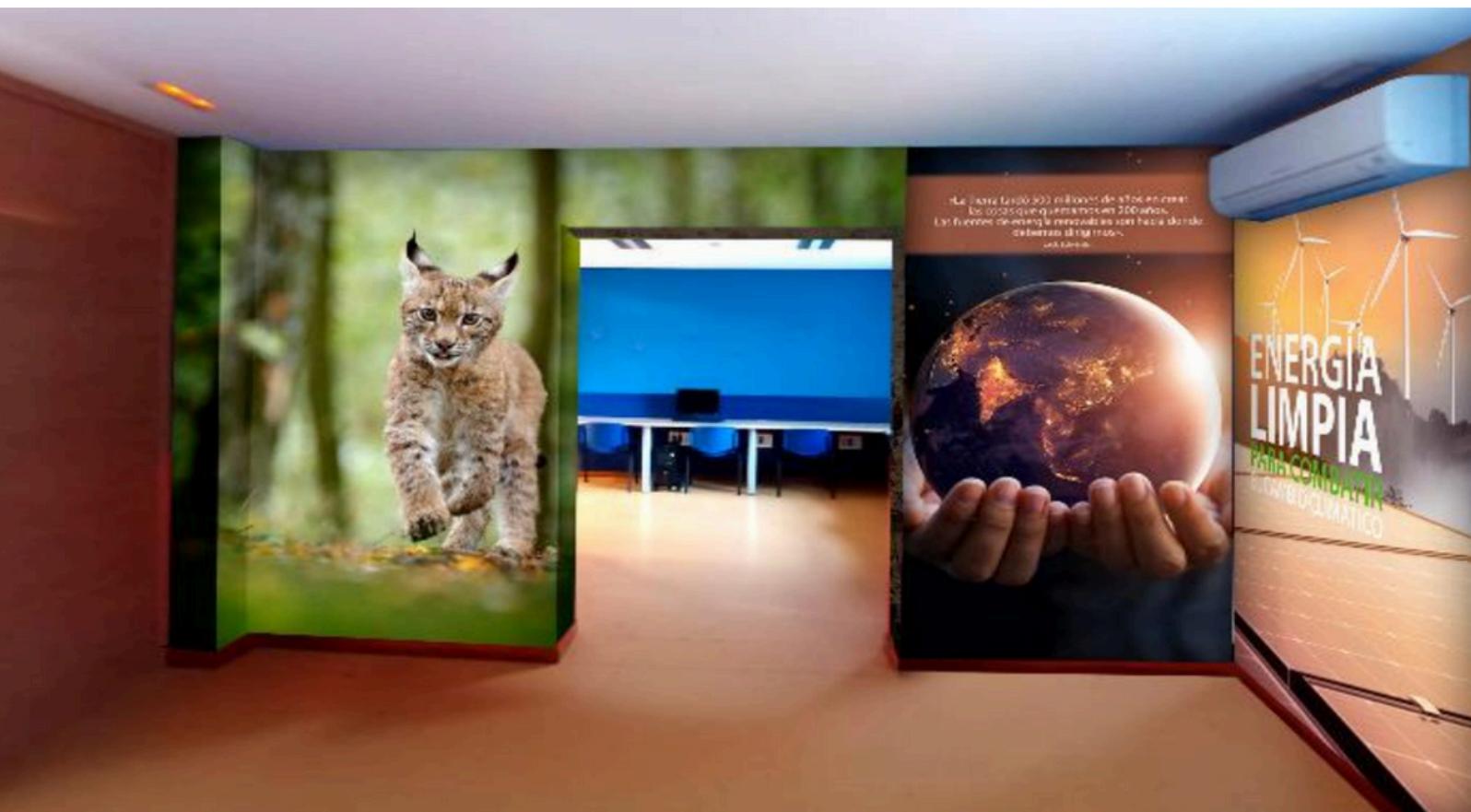
This January, the Maracena Town Hall inaugurated Andalusia's first eco-classroom. This is a permanent public center dedicated to environmental education, adhering strictly to a non-formal educational methodology.

The eco-classroom is divided into two sections. The first section addresses the environmental consequences of climate change, while the second section explores potential solutions.

Our environmental education center welcomes daily visits from educational institutions across the province of Granada. Through a series of workshops, we shed light on the structure of the European Green Deal, examine the scientific factors contributing to global warming, and conclude with two interactive sessions:



- A 3D glasses simulation depicting a devastated planet and a "Clean" planet, offering a comparative before-and-after perspective.
- A workshop on local food and consumption, where young participants learn to prepare recipes using local products.



# 9. Participation



## 9. Participation

*Active community participation is essential for driving environmental sustainability in Maracena. Here is how we get the community involved to make a tangible difference:*

The Youth Space of Maracena launched a local youth volunteer group with the mission of promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices among young people in their communities and educational centers. By empowering young people to take the lead in planning, organizing, implementing, and evaluating these initiatives, the program provided them with valuable non-formal educational opportunities that promoted their learning while creating active citizenship and fostering social participation.

Through hands-on activities, the young volunteers not only learned about the importance of environmental protection but also developed leadership skills, teamwork, and communication abilities. The key focus of these activities was to create positive, lasting impacts on both the local environment and the broader community.

One of the notable events organized by the youth volunteer group was a local initiative aimed at promoting the use of bicycles as an eco-friendly mode of transportation while also raising awareness about road safety in public spaces. The event had several key objectives and activities that aligned with both environmental and social goals:

- **Various Animation Workshops by the Environmental Mobility Volunteer Group** - these workshops were designed to engage young people in the topic of sustainable mobility, focusing on the benefits of cycling for both the environment and personal health;
- **Road Safety Education Circuit for Children and Young People** - in addition to promoting sustainable transportation, the event also included a practical road safety education circuit which aimed at teaching children how to navigate public spaces safely while using bicycles by simulating real-life traffic scenarios;
- **Presentation of Public-Use Bicycles for Young People** - a key component of the event was the introduction of public-use bicycles, which were made available to young people as an alternative, sustainable mode of transportation;
- **Exhibition of Vintage Sustainable Mobility Vehicles** - as part of the event, an exhibition was held to showcase vintage vehicles that promoted sustainable mobility.

The event was a huge success, not only in terms of raising environmental awareness but also in encouraging young people to take ownership of their community's sustainability efforts.



# 10. Laws and regulations

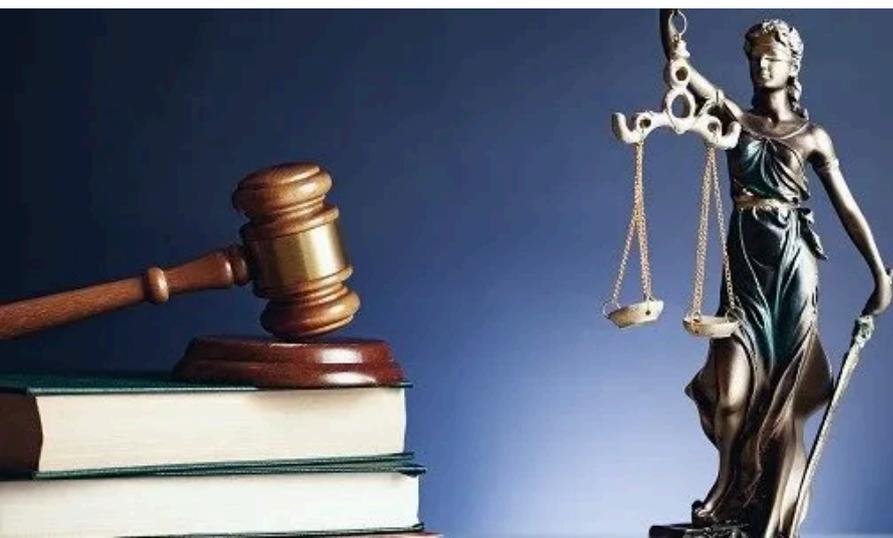


## 10. Laws and regulations

*In Maracena, urban life and land management with respect to environmental sustainability are governed by a mix of national, regional, and local laws. Here are the key regulations that shape sustainability efforts in the municipality:*

- **Spanish Constitution (1978)** - establishes the right to a healthy environment and mandates the protection of natural resources for future generations.
- **Land and Urban Rehabilitation Law (Ley del Suelo)** - governs urban planning, promoting compact urban development and sustainable land use, ensuring that new projects integrate environmental sustainability.
- **Environmental Impact Assessment Law (Ley 21/2013)** - requires projects to undergo environmental assessments to minimize adverse impacts on air, water, and soil.
- **Waste Management Law (Ley 22/2011)** - mandates recycling, waste reduction, and remediation of contaminated soils, with municipalities responsible for providing waste management services and recycling infrastructure.
- **National Energy Efficiency Plan** - encourages energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy, and green mobility, with local governments implementing energy-saving measures.
- **Water Law (Ley 10/2001)** - Promotes water conservation, efficient management of water resources, and initiatives like rainwater harvesting in urban planning.
- **Climate Change and Energy Transition Law (Ley 7/2021)** - Focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, with local governments fostering green spaces and low-carbon transport.
- **Local Urban Development Plans (Planes de Ordenación Urbana)** - Maracena's own urban plans must incorporate green infrastructure, sustainable construction standards, and promote public transport and cycling.
- **Green Spaces and Biodiversity Regulations** - Ensures the creation and maintenance of parks and green areas that enhance biodiversity, improve air quality, and offer recreational spaces for the community.
- **Sustainable Mobility Law (Ley 37/2015)** - Promotes sustainable transport options, including cycling, electric vehicles, and public transport, reducing car dependency and promoting eco-friendly mobility.

These laws guide Maracena's efforts to balance urban development with environmental protection, fostering a more sustainable, resilient, and livable urban environment for its residents.



## II. Sources and additional info

*At Maracena City Council, we are deeply committed to sustainability as a shared responsibility and a collective journey. We firmly believe that meaningful change begins at the local level, empowering communities to act as the foundation for broader societal transformation that reaches all sectors.*

*Through our eco-guide, we aim to share our core values and showcase the key initiatives and campaigns that have become pillars of our local identity over the years. This guide serves as both an inspiration and a practical resource for fostering eco-conscious practices within our community.*

*Our primary goal is to cultivate an engaged and proactive community, one that not only recognizes global environmental challenges but also responds to them with empathy and collective action. By promoting solidarity and collaboration, we work together to devise and implement sustainable solutions, ensuring a healthier, more resilient future for all.*

Ayuntamiento de Maracena Team





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