



Burgas

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.

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the Piacenza Ecoguide [HERE](#)

Intro to Burgas

Burgas is a city where the rhythm of the Black Sea meets a growing commitment to ecological balance. Here, the wild beauty of coastal wetlands and the hum of urban life coexist in a delicate negotiation, shaped by both tradition and the urgency of environmental change.

Sustainability in Burgas is not a polished showcase but a work in progress—a collective effort to preserve what is vital while reimagining what is possible.

The city's compact layout and accessible green spaces encourage movement on foot, by bike, or via its steadily expanding electric bus network. At the same time, Burgas is reconnecting with its natural surroundings through initiatives that protect biodiversity, such as the careful stewardship of the Atanasovsko and Burgas Lakes, where rare birds find sanctuary. This ecological consciousness extends to its markets and food culture, where local producers and chefs champion organic farming and celebrate the region's seasonal abundance..

Burgas also carries the seeds of change in its approach to fashion and waste. Small businesses and creative collectives here are rethinking consumption, embracing upcycling and sustainable materials to foster a more circular economy. Education plays a central role, with schools, workshops, and public campaigns encouraging residents to reflect on their habits and imagine new ways of living more lightly on the earth.

Yet, like the tides that shape its shoreline, Burgas is not without its challenges. The pull of mass consumerism and urban sprawl often tests its ecological aspirations, but the city resists, carving out spaces where community and nature can thrive together. This is a place where sustainability is not a finished story but a living conversation—an open invitation to care, collaborate, and create a future where Burgas' natural and human landscapes flourish side by side



1. Food production and consumption



I. Food production and consumption

Burgas has a network of small local businesses offering different healthy food, which in turn supports the community and reduces the overall environmental footprint. All around the city, you'll find shops selling fresh, locally sourced meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, and herbs. This reduces the need for long-distance transportation of foods, cutting down on food waste and packaging materials.

While in the city a great place to shop for fresh, seasonal produce is Krasnodar Market. It's open every day from 7 AM to 7 PM, and is the biggest and most popular market in Burgas, located in the Vuzrajdana neighborhood, which is around 5 minutes from the city center. The market has local farmers selling their produce, which is everything from fruits and vegetables to fresh fish and meats. It's a great spot to buy actually "eco" foods and to support locals. Of course, there are other smaller markets around the city, but Krasnodar is the biggest, most fully stocked and really beautiful market of the city.

Burgas is also making progress in reducing plastic waste, thanks to the Blue Label initiative. This program shows the restaurants and cafes that are against single-use plastics like straws, bags, and cutlery. Some of the best Blue Label spots in the city include:

- Butlers Coffee & Kitchen
- St. Anastasia Island
- Caffetteria Milano
- "Golden Fish" Restaurant

These places offer eco-friendly alternatives to plastic and source all of their produce from locals.



2. Sustainable Fashion



2. Sustainable Fashion



Burgas has plenty of options for second-hand clothing, tech, and furniture, giving us the chance to pass on items that are still in good condition but no longer needed. This helps prevent the unnecessary waste of materials that would otherwise be used to make new products.

One of the biggest second-hand clothing stores, Zig Zag, is located within the before mentioned Krasnodar Market, which is a 5 minute walk from the city center.

Some of the biggest second-hand clothing stores in Burgas include:

- Zig Zag
- Pimpo
- Humana
- Mania
- Denvil
- Reni
- BNB

Here is a map of some of these stores:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1YNrKlgbfXFOxdHI6tBVEymCbTZtrsDw&usp=sharing>

In addition to these, there are many smaller shops that sell second-hand furniture and white appliances, like washing machines and dishwashers that have been repaired and are as good as new. Burgas also has clothing bins for people who want to donate items they no longer use. These bins are part of a national campaign run by TEXTLIFE in partnership with the Bulgarian Red Cross. The goal is to make textile recycling easier and more efficient, following a model already established in Western Europe.

Here's a map of the clothing bin locations in Burgas: [Map](#)



3. Waste, Recycling and Upcycling



3. Waste, Recycling and Upcycling

Even if we strive to use less plastic and other materials that are harmful for the environment in our day-to-day lives, we still must dispose of them properly in order to truly reduce their negative impact the best way we can.

Here are a few ways we can go about this in Burgas:



- Bin system for segmented waste: Similar to other cities across Europe, in Burgas we categorize the different bins by colour, depending on the type of the waste:
 - Green bins: Glass
 - Blue bins: Paper and cardboard
 - Yellow bins: Plastics and metals
 - Brown bins: Organic waste
 - Gray bins: Mixed/Non-recyclable waste
- System for non-standard waste: If the type of waste you need to dispose of does not fall under any of the above categories, there are still ways you can discard responsibly. If you need to throw out things like batteries, electronic devices, or makeup, you can go to one of the many Recycling Depots (called “Mobile Centers”) located in key areas around the city. To make sure these depots are used, the local council has implemented a points-based raffle with potential rewards the more you use the proper bins.
- Repurposing old furniture and upcycling: We all have some old furniture that are technically still sturdy but maybe they’re showing cracks, maybe they’re out of style or maybe you just want something new. You can ask the council to take it away for you using this form. Or, if you are in a creative mood - why not re-paint it and give it a new life or give it as a gift.
- Composting: We can always use organic waste and repurpose it instead of throwing it out? You can use things like fruit scraps, coffee or eggshells as a free and natural fertilizer for your plants!



4. Transportation & Travel



4. Transportation & Travel

Transportation is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. When choosing eco-friendly travel options, you significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

These are some of the options in Burgas:

- Bicycle and scooter rental: The city offers several bike and electric scooter rental options, with different brands and prices. They can be found various locations around the city and especially in the city center. These alternatives to using a car are both eco-friendly and healthy, seeing as they make you move more. Not only that, they're cost-effective and way more fun seeing as you don't sit in traffic jams.
- Navigate the city safely: Thanks to the city's growing network of bike lanes, (shown below) you can safely get around with a bicycle, skateboard, electric scooter or rollerblades. Although it may seem unusual at first, more and more young people seem to be going to work using these methods of transport, not only because they're more eco-friendly but because it savours their childhood.
- Public transportation: Choosing public transportation is one of the easiest ways to lessen your environmental impact. Not only does it reduce emissions, but it is also cheaper and can help minimize traffic jams. Furthermore, most of the public transport buses in Burgas are now electric, which is even more wonderful for the environment and for the animals!



5. Water



5. Water

“Water is the source of life” so the saying goes and yet it’s a resource we often take for granted. Taking simple steps and adopting habits, which are easy to keep in order to conserve water ensures its availability for the future while also keeps us healthier and more aware of our surroundings.

Here are a few ways we can make sure that we use water in the best way possible:

- Use water fountains: In [this map](#) you can find public water fountains (in the whole country!) to keep hydrated while you’re outside, which reduces usage of plastic bottles too. Also, investing a small amount in a reusable water bottle not only means that you are using less plastic, but also that you will have water always, regardless of the opening hours of the stores.
- Optimize water use at home: You can install water-saving devices like low-flow showerheads or aerators for faucets. These products reduce water flow without compromising its quality or the performance of the device itself. Additionally, you should regularly make sure you don’t have any water leaks in your home - these add up over time!
- Adopt mindful habits: Changing daily habits usually has a lasting impact. For instance, turning off the tap while brushing your teeth or doing dishes conserves water effortlessly. Every small effort adds up to the bigger picture and to your savings account.



6. Energy



6. Energy

Burgas is gradually shifting towards renewable energy.

Around the city center, there are many solar-powered USB hubs, which are a small but positive example of sustainable energy use in public spaces. The city also uses electric buses, exchanging them with the older ones, which helps the entire city to reduce carbon emissions.

Many municipal buildings are also installing solar panels on their roofs and partially running on green energy, which is a huge step in our country to show that renewable energy can be integrated into everyday infrastructure.

A large photovoltaic park is also being developed in Meden Rudnik, which will hopefully also be a step in the right direction.

On a smaller level, everyone can do their part too, by:

- Turning off appliances and lights when not in use.
- Switching to energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Using rechargeable batteries or solar-powered devices.
- Considering solar panels or participating in community energy programs if available.



7. Biodiversity



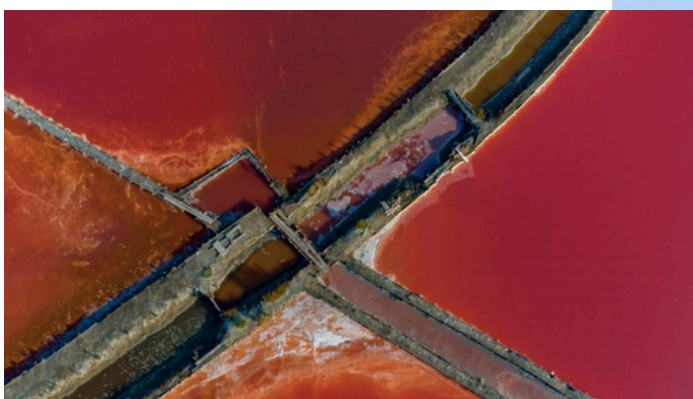
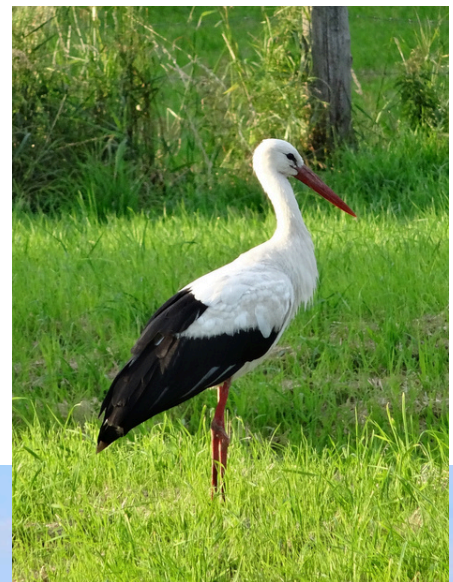
7. Biodiversity

Burgas is home to incredible natural diversity, because of its borders to the Black Sea to the east and because it's surrounded by three lakes—Burgas Lake, Atanasovsko Lake, and Mandrensko Lake. Together, they form the largest coastal lake complex in Bulgaria and are designated protected areas. The Burgas Bay alone is home to around 140 species of fish.

The region is also part of Via Pontica, one of the main bird migration routes between Europe and Africa. Each year, thousands of migratory birds, including 78% of the world's white stork population and the entire European population of the rosy pelican, pass through this corridor. Rare species like the imperial eagle and Egyptian vulture also migrate along this path.

If you want to see the region's biodiversity, here are some fantastic spots for birdwatching and nature observation:

- Protected Area "Poda": Located south of Burgas city center along the road to Sozopol.
- Eco Park for Biodiversity and Alternative Tourism "Vaya": A dedicated park for exploring the natural beauty of Lake Vaya.
- Park "Mineralni Bani": Near the ancient and medieval town of "Akve Kalide – Thermopolis," this park combines nature with history. The mineral water here, at 41°C, supports numerous spa and rehabilitation centers.
- Birdwatching Hide at Atanasovsko Lake: Located on the lake's western shore in the "Burgas Salt Pans" protected area.



8. Education



8. Education

Education is essential in upbringing, seeing as it's the way everyone learns about the world around them. Climate Change therefore should be a part of education seeing as if people are not aware of the issues at hand and what we can to improve them, progress becomes impossible.

In Burgas, we try to include this topic in education using the following methods:

- Public awareness campaigns: Activities such as "Fishing for Waste," where local fishermen collect waste during their regular fishing activities. Another is a seabed clean-up operations conducted by divers from the NGO "Friends of the Sea."
- Community workshops: You can participate in workshops and other community events carried out by organizations such as Greenburg. These also aim to educate people of all ages on current climate issues, while also sharing different methods and approaches on combating climate change.
- School programs: Projects such as Changing with Climate aim to improve formal school education by discussing climate change and what each youngster can do to maintain more sustainable habits not only in Burgas, but in the whole country!
- Online resources: Online portals like Green City, created by the local municipality, are an online space where you can learn how to responsibly dispose of all types of waste in Burgas, including links, locations and maps like the ones we've provided above.



9. Participation



9. Participation

Active participation in community and political processes is a big part of working towards sustainable change. In Burgas, several initiatives encourage residents to participate in environmental activities:

- **Join Local Initiatives:** Participate in environmental groups focusing on sustainability in Burgas. For instance, the Clean Sea Burgas project aims to improve the ecological status of marine waters through public involvement and awareness campaigns.
- **Engage in Dialogue:** Attend town or local meetings where environmental issues are discussed and where everyone shares their concerns and ideas. Events like the RELAUNCHTOWIN project emphasize citizen engagement in urban development.
- **Volunteer:** You can always join in local environmental projects. Initiatives such as seabed clean-up operations, organized by NGOs like Friends of the Sea, provide opportunities for direct involvement in preserving marine ecosystems.
- **Advocate for Change:** Support or initiate campaigns that promote stronger environmental policies at the local government level. Start by collaborating with local NGOs, community groups, or like-minded residents to propose solutions for cleaner neighborhoods, better waste management, or greener public spaces. You can also participate in petitions such as this one to drive change on a national level.

10. Laws and regulations



10. Laws and regulations

Efforts are being made to integrate greener practices into urban planning and development, with the municipality adopting policies aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the city.

However, information on green laws and regulations in Burgas is still limited, and more transparency and/or public awareness would help the people who live there to learn about and support these efforts.

One such initiative is the city's participation in the JUSTGREEN project, which focuses on creating socially inclusive and fair climate policies. It discusses the importance of reducing the impact of the climate on vulnerable communities.

Unfortunately, there isn't much detailed information available on broader green politics or regulations in Burgas at the moment.

We hope to see more development and communication around green policies in the future, as well as increased initiatives that engage the community in building a more sustainable city.



II. Sources and additional info

Food Production and Consumption

- 1.Information about the Krasnodar Market – [Burgas Municipal Website](#)
- 2.Details on the "Blue Label" initiative – [Greenburg Handbook](#)

Sustainable Fashion

- 1.Overview of second-hand shops – [Greenburg Handbook](#)
- 2.TEXTLIFE textile containers initiative – [Bulgarian Red Cross](#)

Energy

- 1.Financing for green energy in Burgas – [Burgas Municipal Website](#)
- 2.Green energy initiatives in Burgas – [Far Agency](#).

Biodiversity

- 1.General information on biodiversity – [Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation](#)

Laws and Regulations

- 1.JUSTGREEN project details – [Interreg Europe](#)





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