Planning for urban forests: Defining targets and resource needs through data

Technical workshop & call for pilot cities

Date: Tuesday, 24th February 2026
Time: 15h00 – 16h30 CET
Online: Microsoft Teams

Across dryland cities, city forestry divisions and management staff are often asked to do more with less, even as heat intensifies, droughts deepen, and communities depend more than ever on the cooling, health, and resilience benefits of trees. Yet many cities still lack one essential ingredient: clear operational data that shows how much workforce, time, and funding are truly needed to manage their urban forests effectively. Seen differently: how many green jobs can urban forestry create.

This workshop introduces the **UNECE Urban Forest Compass**, a practical framework that helps cities measure and compare key aspects of their urban forests – from canopy cover and accessibility to planting, survival, investment and equity. By using standard indicators, the Compass offers a clear picture of where urban forests are thriving, where gaps exist, and where targeted investment can make the greatest impact.

Building on this high-level assessment, the session will also present a complementary tool, the **Urban Forestry Workforce Estimator**. Drawing on the City and County of Denver's long-term dataset, the session will demonstrate how data on labour hours, pruning cycles, and maintenance costs can be translated into powerful insights for realistic planning and target setting, while providing good evidence to estimate realistic budgets and request required resources from city leaders.

Participants will see a live demonstration, reflect on their own operational realities, and be invited to join an international working group refining these tools for cities worldwide. The goal is simple but ambitious: to empower cities with the evidence they need to strengthen their urban forestry programmes, secure resources, and build more resilient green spaces for their communities.

REGISTER NOW!!

Agenda

15:00 – 15:05	**Welcome & framing** **Ms. Sara Pecchinotti,** Associate Expert, Forest and Bioeconomy Section, UNECE Introduction to the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition and its mission to strengthen cities through shared knowledge and practical tools.
15:05 – 15:20	**The UNECE Urban Forest Compass: A planning and monitoring tool for cities and countries** **Mr. Daniel Griswold,** Data Specialist, Forest and Bioeconomy Section, UNECE Presentation of the UNECE Urban Forest Compass, a standardized questionnaire that helps cities assess their urban forests and compare results internationally.
15:20 – 15:50	**Urban and peri-urban time and workforce estimator** **Mr. Cole Agenbroad,** Forestry Staff Manager, Forest City and County of Denver Presentation on Denver's data-driven approach to understanding workforce and maintenance needs in urban forestry, including a demonstration of the Workforce Estimator.
15:50 – 16:00	**Q&A and peer exchange**
16:00 – 16:15	**Join an international working group: expression of interest** Cities are invited to express interest in piloting the Workforce Estimator and join a collaborative effort to refine the tool, benefit from peer exchange, and build a shared evidence base for stronger planning and decision-making.
16:15 – 16:25	**Q&As**
16:25 – 16:30	**Closing**