

Valletta renewable energy growth

Following the success of Valletta's economic, social and cultural regeneration and the Valletta 2018 legacy, the Valletta Cultural Agency is now working on a long-term vision for a cleaner and greener city which offers a better quality of life for the communities and for the visitors.

This vision for our Capital is achievable. One only needs to look at the Valletta Design Cluster which was a resounding success in terms of how to develop a sustainable building for the green cities of tomorrow.

Green energy replaces the negative effects of fossil fuels with alternatives that are more environmentally friendly and sustainable. By shifting to clean and renewable energy, we continue to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, allowing us to do our bit in the battle against climate change.

Renewable energy can be very beneficial for cities since it results in cleaner air, modern services, and more habitable spaces. Malta can further invest in solar energy, especially considering our islands have on average 300 sunny days per year. By creating more incentives and initiatives to drastically increase the number of solar panels in Valletta so that private residences, offices, shops and other buildings, we can capitalise on renewable energy.

The Valletta Design Cluster also makes use of solar energy, generated from a glass canopy installed atop the Cluster's central courtyard that has in-built photovoltaic (PV) cells, thus reducing Cluster's dependence on fossil fuel energy.

Officially inaugurated earlier this year, the Cluster can be considered a pilot project in how to scale up green infrastructure. The community space for cultural and creative practice situated in the renovated Old Abattoir building (il-Biżerija) in Valletta, houses a roof garden which helps increase oxygen in our atmosphere while also contributing a green public space in a fortified urban city.

Furthermore, the greenery on the roof also helps to keep the temperature stable inside the rooms underneath, making the space less dependent on artificial cooling and heating throughout the year. The watering of the garden is also sustainable as the irrigation system is connected to two large underground cisterns that are fed by a new rainwater catchment system installed in the building.

o In the forthcoming budget, the government should incentivise and encourage the Valletta communities, retail shops and other businesses but also government buildings, to switch to solar energy.

o As from 2030, new permits for hospitality including, but not only, for hotels, holiday apartments, restaurants and other entertainment venues should be granted only to those who are 100% eco-friendly.



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o By 2023, all vehicles providing services in Valletta, including waste collection, the servicing of the hospitality industry in Valletta, and others, must all be electrically powered and of one specific size, respecting the narrow streets of Valletta and its environment.

o By 2023, all services coming to Valletta, including delivery trucks, must be provided on specific days and times of the week according to a schedule in agreement with the concerned owners. This is a great effort to reduce traffic in the centre of Valletta which is one of the main air polluters in the city constantly damaging restored buildings.

o More pedestrian areas and squares should be considered in the coming future namely, parts of St Christopher Street and Archbishop Street from the current Valletta Police Station up to the Archbishop's Palace to Independence Square, including the Square itself in front of St Paul's Pro-Cathedral.

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