

COUNTRY	REGION	POPULATION	LAST REPORTED EMISSIONS	MITIGATION TARGET
SPAIN	MOLINA DE SEGURA	71,000 (2018)	N/A	-40% BY 2030 (BASELINE YEAR: 2008)

# In Molina de Segura, a Youth Climate Participatory Budget to mainstream climate action into a city-wide participatory budgeting process

Inspired by Lisbon’s experience on Participatory Budgeting (PB), the [Youth Climate PB](#) in Molina de Segura (Murcia, Spain) was the first of its kind when it was launched in 2020. Its explicit aim is to raise students’ awareness on tackling the effects of climate change and get them involved in proposing and implementing ecological initiatives. The dramatic effects of flooding in the city in the previous year constituted an opportunity for the municipality to introduce the idea of greener PB that could address the challenges of climate change. Since then, inspiring projects based on students’ proposals were voted on and implemented.

The municipality of Molina de Segura started Participatory Budgeting (PB) in 2015. Since then, under 2% of the successful proposals have been related to the environment and climate change. Against this background, the Town Council decided to reactivate the citizen-based Municipal Council for Environment, which has a consultative status and is composed of experts, volunteers and political activists. The municipality also decided to allocate the entire Youth PB to 14 to 15 year-old students’ initiatives tackling the effects of climate change. Molina de Segura launched the first-ever Youth PB for climate change in early 2020, with information sessions in schools using visualisation materials on the effects of climate change at both the international and local level. One source of inspiration for this initiative was the Portuguese [Lisbon Green Seal PB](#) for schools.

## Learning from experience

After the disastrous rains and floods of 2019, the impacts of climate change had become a crucial issue citywide, and the municipality decided that the 2020 PB cycle should take it into account. The authorities launched an innovative communication campaign highlighting their desire to “make Molina de Segura a reference for combating the effects of climate change.”

Issues related to climate change were then discussed with citizens.

The swift shift to greener PB and innovative school based PB is largely due to the combination of different elements. The municipality made good use of communication and mobilisation strategies, through seminars and local media, creating public debates to envision possible ways of facing climate challenge, as well as grassroots lobbying. In particular, the Federation of Neighbours Associations played a critical lobbying role, highlighting the importance of raising political awareness of local issues caused by the effects of climate change. It should also be noted that contrary to the Lisbon’s PB model for instance, which is led by the municipality, in Molina de Segura the rules and norms of the Climate PB are defined by the federation of local associations, which somehow lead the process even though it is technically implemented by five members of staff within the municipality. In turn, this contributed to

successfully putting the issue on the local political agenda.

Citizens are consulted in establishing the rules and norms for the PB, which ensures that it is tailored to their expectations, encourages greater appropriation, and ultimately facilitates engagement in the process. Despite being paralysed during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, students’ participation increased by 13% in the [2021 edition](#) of the PB compared to previous year. The Youth PB for the year 2022 will continue to focus on the environment and climate change, thus giving continuity to the process.

SCHOOL CLIMATE PB MOLINA DE SEGURA, SPAIN: STEPS AND TIMELINE (2020) - Source: [Cabannes, Y., 2021](#)

