

## An artistic approach to solve the environmental challenges of cities



Always more frequently, many cities within and beyond Europe, are approaching the issue of pollution in a creative way. **Street art** becomes not only a decorative element, but also a tool to raise awareness on issues related to environmental sustainability and **concretely help the environment**: thanks to special paints which work on a principle comparable to the photosynthesis process in plants, **the murals have the ability to purify the air**.

"Eco-murals" are achieving great success in Poland, as one of the countries struggling the most with air pollution.



Source: Bydgoszcz City

One of the last cities that is fighting smog with art, is **Bydgoszcz**, where the **eco-mural "The Source"** realized by Marcin Czaja from Krakow, covered a wall of 374 square meters. According to the city website, one square meter of anti-smog paint absorbs 0.44 g of nitric oxide, the same absorbed by one tree per day: the area of the wall is equivalent to planting 374 trees, in an urbanized area where this is hardly possible.

**Warsaw** also hosts a similar mural, as part of a collaboration project with [Converse City Forests](#) in September 2020.

The cities of **Bielsko-Bia?a** and [Katowice](#) and **Zabrze** have also decided to tackle air pollution by creating a wall painting for air purification

These environmentally friendly murals are increasing all over the world.



Light-activated catalysts that can neutralise airborne pollutants are being embedded in paint with a view to cleaning up city air. Image credit - AM Technology

From <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine>

In **Milan** (Italy) the "**AnthropOceano**" **eco-mural** by street artist Iena Cruz, underlines the beauty and fragility of the marine environment.

On 5 June 2021, on the occasion of World Environment Day, the colorful "**Stand with us**" **mural** was inaugurated in the Holland tunnel of **Jersey City**, the route that connects New Jersey with New York. "Stand with us", created by the artist Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, in addition to the ecological skill it also launches a strong message against racism.



Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya's digital illustration for "Stand with us" mural