



REPORT 2022

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CLIMATE ACTION

LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

SOIL MONITORING

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ECO-INNOVATION

Greetings from the president of Ihobe

**Accelerating the
transition process
to achieve a more
sustainable
Basque Country**



Arantxa Tapia Otaegi
Minister of Economic Development, Sustainability and
Environment of the Basque Government, President of
Ihobe, Public Society for Environmental Management.

The Basque Government develops its own roadmap to achieve an economic model in which industry and technology are the main axes for the climate and energy transition. The Green Pact of the Basque Country is a firm commitment to the circular economy, technology, science and support to local administrations to achieve greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation to climate change.

During 2022 Ihobe has contributed to such objectives with actions such as the elaboration of the Soil Protection Strategy with a comprehensive approach, or the deployment of Erreminta-Gida, the service charter with all the tools and services intended for city halls and regional entities to accelerate the required climate and energy transition.

From these lines I invite you to know the main milestones reached by Ihobe in 2022.

Director's greetings



Alexander Boto Bastegieta
CEO of Ihobe,
Public Environmental Management Company.
Basque Government.

**Circular economy
for a more
sustainable
Basque Country
facing the
challenge of
climate change**

The memory of Ihobe 2022 is a reflection of the great challenge that entails dealing with the current climate emergency. The Basque Circular Summit has confirmed that the circular economy and eco-innovation are key tools for the decarbonisation of Basque industry. However, the climate and energy transition would be impossible without climate action projects such as Life Urban Klima and the impulse and determination of the local administration that during 2022 has celebrated the 20th anniversary of Udalsarea 2030, the Basque network of sustainable municipalities.

At Ihobe, we believe that this is the only way, from the sum of people and efforts, we will achieve the environmental improvement of the Basque Country.

we are lhobe

We are a public entity attached to the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment that works to improve the environment by integrating environmental criteria into public policies.

We are specialized drivers in the fields of soil protection, circular economy, climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

”

what do we do

we design and manage public instruments that favour the sectoral integration of the environment and generate and transfer applied knowledge for decision-making.





mission

We are a public entity attached to the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment that works to improve the environment by integrating environmental criteria into public policies.

We refer to public and private entities and relate to the citizenship of the Basque Country.

We are specialized drivers in the fields of soil protection, circular economy, climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

vision

At Ihobe, the Basque Environment Agency, we want to be a reference point for our stakeholders in the design and deployment of environmental policies.

To that end, we design and manage public instruments that favour the sectoral integration of the environment and generate and transfer applied knowledge for decision-making.

Our approach is comprehensive, it covers the entire public policy cycle, it relies on innovation and contributes to the environmentally sustainable development of the Basque Country.

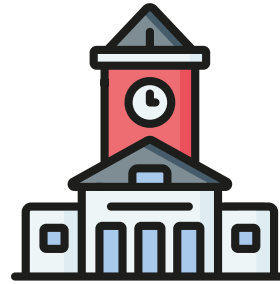
Ihobe in action





+800

mobilized **companies**
in circular economy



209

**municipalities, 10
supramunicipal entities and 21
counties** adhered to Udalsarea
2030



+120.000

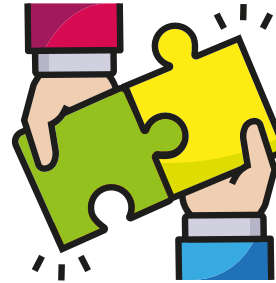
people are part of
the change of the new
Ekoetxea network





173

young people with practical training in circular economy



10

cross-cutting and collaborative projects

following the approval of the first Basque Country Soil Protection Strategy, pioneer for its comprehensive approach

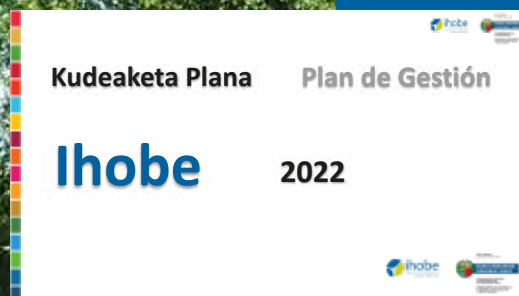


7

innovative projects regarding the adaptation to climate change - Klimatek

Strategic Objectives 2024

- **OE1** Incorporate environmental sustainability into public policies.
- **OE2** Catalyse the investment or expenditure in eco-innovation, environmental protection and soil recovery.
- **OE3** Ensure Ekogarapena's trust for instrument deployment in soil protection, circular economy, climate change and environmental sustainability policies.
- **OE4** To become a reference in the transfer of knowledge and expert criteria for decision-making.
- **OE5** Mobilize companies and municipalities to act in soil protection, circular economy and climate change.
- **OE6** Achieve effective impacts on the 2030 agenda.
- **OE7** Facilitate the decrease of GHG emissions and the efficient use of material resources.
- **OE8** Promote changes regarding sustainable behaviour in citizenship.
- **OE9** To be considered an exemplary organization with advanced management.



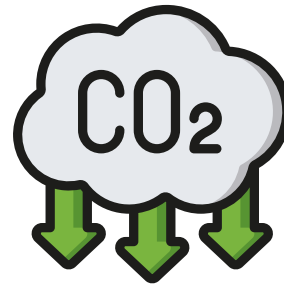
Ihobe, through work during the year 2022, has induced the following improvements:



30 million €

from third parties mobilised
in the **sectoral integration
of environmental policy**

The multiplier effect has been 2.86€:
for every euro of budget spent by
Ihobe, about 3 have been mobilized in
environmental investment.



13.933

**tonnes of reduced
greenhouse gases**



257.000

**tons of waste and land to
be reintroduced into the
economy**



31

advanced knowledge tools
for decision-making

(publications, viewers,
methodologies, technical guides, etc.)



1084 million €

mobilized in green public
purchase



81,6%

entities consider acting or
modifying decisions
based on knowledge
provided by Ihobe through
its tools



Activity reports

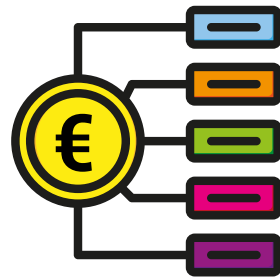


www.ihobe.eus



11,9
million €

Operating budget
in 2022



100%

Budgetary
execution in
2021



0%

Financial
indebtedness



13days

Average payment term
of invoices to supplier
companies 2022

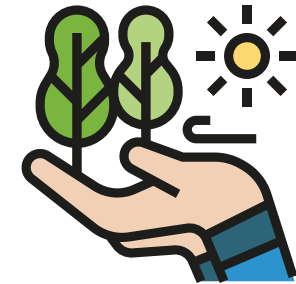
Areas of action



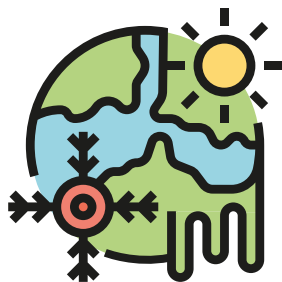
Climate action



Circular Economy



Environmental Sustainability



Climate action

Soil Protection Strategy

The Soil Protection Strategy 2030 responds to the need to preserve a crucial, irreplaceable resource for society with an approach that brings together previously stand-alone elements in favour of a new paradigm focused on integration based on innovative concepts.

The document has been prepared in collaboration with different levels of the administration, stakeholders, and members of society in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country with soil management and is regulated by the Fifth Additional Provision of Law 4/2015, of 25 June, for the prevention and remediation of soil contamination in the Basque Country.



ASTEKLIMA 2022

The third edition of ASTEKLIMA, Climate and Energy Week, promoted more than 200 activities through **58 city halls, a groupiing of municipalities and three administrative boards**, as well as three associations and five private sector entities, to mobilise and put the challenge of climate change and energy transition on the citizens' agenda.

In addition, with the start of the Basque Country Climate and Energy Week, Ihobe called the first edition of the short film youth competition on climate change **KLIMAMETRAJE**, with two different categories: "Impacts of climate change in the Basque Country" and "Solutions, initiatives, or tools that boost climate action in the Basque Country". Juliana Ribeiro and José Carlos Pérez were proclaimed winners in both audiovisual categories, where the jury also recognized the works of José Carlos Pérez and Izaro Zelaia, available on the Ihobe Youtube channel.



LIFE IP Urban Klima 2050



During 2022 LIFE IP Urban Klima 2050 invested 6.15 million euros in climate change adaptation and/or mitigation projects. As technical secretary of the largest climate action project in the Basque Country for the coming years, Ihobe participated with its own space in the V Transboundary Congress on Climate Change and Coastal "Uhinak" held in November 2022.

URBAN KLIMA 2050



OPCC Adapyr 2022



The Basque Country is involved in the development of the first European transboundary strategy for adaptation to climate change through the **project Adapyr**, led by the Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory (OPCC) The Pyrenean Working Community (CTP), presented at the fourth "International Colloquium on Climate Change in Mountain Areas held in Bilbao the results of this initiative of **good practices for adaptation to climate change in the Pyrenees** in a context of cross-border cooperation. Ihobe, associated entity of the project together with 11 other regional, state and international institutions, has contributed through 14 recommendations distributed in 6 phases, **for the integration of climate change policies** for the adoption of both regional and local political measures in the Pyrenees.



POSIDON



The **POSIDON** challenge is to tackle the lack of innovation driven by public demand in the soil decontamination field in Europe. During 2022 PHASE III of the project begins, which involves the execution of pilot tests in the field, of the two innovative technologies selected and implemented in a plot of Zorrozaurre (Bilbao) and in the Port of Trieste (Italy)





Circular Economy

Basque Circular Summit



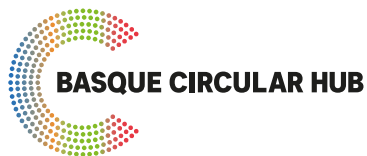
The Basque **Circular Summit**, the largest meeting of circular economy in southern Europe, mobilized **more than 800 people** and around 350 companies from multiple industrial sectors to learn new circular business models, a key tool for the decarbonization of the Basque industry.



New Basque headquarters Circle Hub



Vitoria-Gasteiz hosts a new headquarter of the Basque Circular Hub, the advanced services centre for circular economy in the Basque Country and a benchmark due to its offer of market prospecting, advanced training, trend analysis and expert knowledge generation services



Beginning of the traveling exhibition Zirkularrak – Circulars



Beginning of the travelling exhibition Zirkularrak- Circulars to promote knowledge about the circular economy both among citizens and among Basque companies interested in knowing and applying successful developments in eco-innovation. After its opening within the framework of the 10th anniversary of the European Green Capital of Vitoria-Gasteiz, the exhibition continued its journey in Irun on the occasion of the Basque Circular Summit.



SMEs Circular Basque Country



Implementation of SMEs Circular Basque Country, with the participation of 22 intermediary agents, who mobilize more than 2,000 companies and 175,000 workers from industrial value chains throughout the Basque Country



European Week for Waste Prevention and Management

Reactivation of the OCRU technical working group and celebration in November of a new edition of the European Week for Waste Prevention and Management with the presentation of the Basque candidates for this European Union initiative.

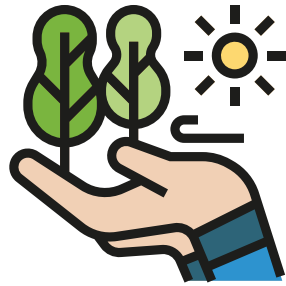


Eco-innovation in the Basque Country



Ihobe publishes "Eco-innovation in the Basque Country. 105 industrial projects for new circular solutions", a journey through successful examples of public-private collaboration in the territory intended to reduce the consumption of raw materials and increase the durability of products. For each public euro invested, an additional annual turnover of €21 has been mobilised in the private sector.





Environmental Sustainability

Udalsarea 2030 renews its membership agreement

- Udalsarea 2030, the Basque network of sustainable municipalities celebrates its 20th anniversary with 152 municipalities, 21 regional entities from the three historical territories and 10 supra-municipal entities adhered
- Udalsarea 2030 presents its new collaboration framework agreement for the promotion of sustainable local action and the Local 2030 Agenda in the Basque Country



udalsarea
2030

udalerrri jasangarrien euskal sarea
red vasca de municipios sostenibles

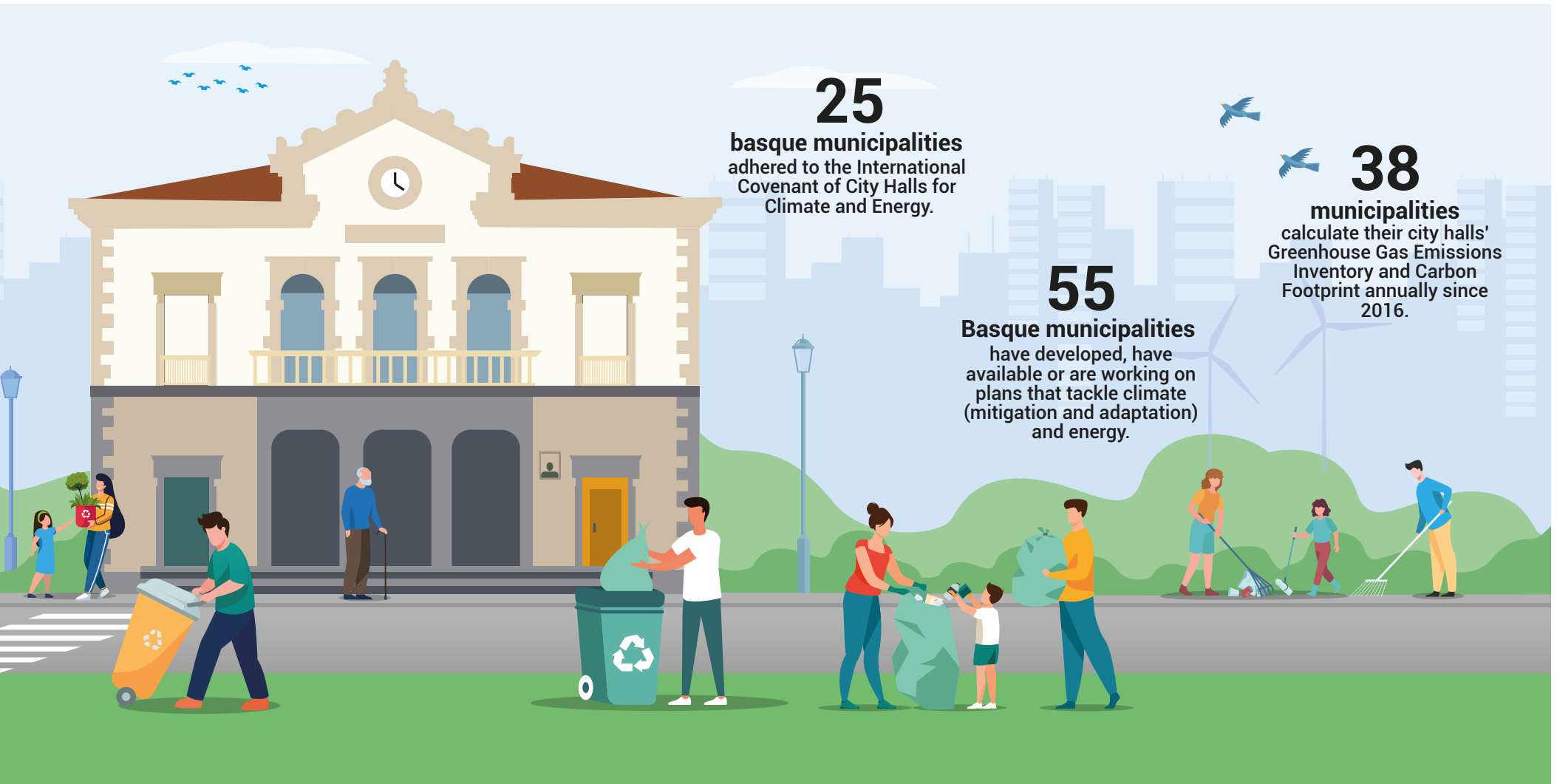


Ihobe is the technical secretariat of Udalsarea 2030, a reference network for the contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the field of climate neutrality and resilience, soil protection and circular economy.

50
municipalities
working on Local
2030 Agenda.



Areas of action



25

basque municipalities adhered to the International Covenant of City Halls for Climate and Energy.

38

municipalities calculate their city halls' Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Carbon Footprint annually since 2016.

55

Basque municipalities have developed, have available or are working on plans that tackle climate (mitigation and adaptation) and energy.

Green Purchase and Procurement Program of the Basque Country 2030

Presentation of the Green Purchase and Procurement Program of the Basque Country 2030 to which some twenty entities adhere



Ihobe and EVE present “Erreminta-Gida”

The Basque Network of sustainable Municipalities coordinates the regional visits where Ihobe and EVE present “Erreminta-Gida”, the guide of tools and devices to face energy and climate transition. The initiative deployed through Udalsarea 2030 makes available to local administration the accompanying supports and assistance programs in the field of transition and climate change.



Erronka Garbia certificate

The Erronka Garbia certificate consolidates with more than 200 sustainable events to raise awareness of the negative impacts associated with the development of mass activities.



School of Education for Sustainability 2030

First edition of the School of Education for Sustainability 2030 of the Summer Courses "Challenges from gender perspective". Organized by the Environmental Education Service of the Basque Government, Ingurugela and Ihobe.



Ekoetxea - network of environmental centres in the Basque Country

The new network of environmental centres in the Basque Country received more than 120,000 visits during 2022, the year of its double premiere.

Launches new website and purpose: to change the way people think when acting in a sustainable manner.

During 2022, the network managed by the Basque Government through public society Ihobe develops a new approach where its interpretation centers become environmental centers to accompany citizens in their commitment and engagement to ecological and energy transition.

The network consists of four own centres (Ekoetxea Urdaibai, Ekoetxea Meatzaldea, Ekoetxea Txingudi and Ekoetxea Azpeitia), and during 2022 begins the construction of a new own centre in Araba, Ekoetxea Añan.



A close-up photograph of a child's hands hugging a tree trunk. The tree bark is dark and covered in vibrant green moss. The child's hands are positioned on either side of the trunk, with fingers spread against the moss. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

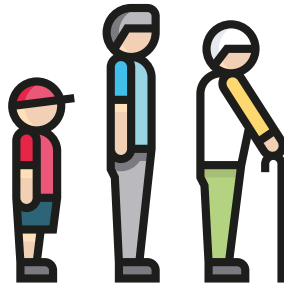
**Ihobe
regarding
people** ↗

We are an organization committed with **transparency**, **good governance** and **equality** between women and men



74

people
24 men
50 women



44

years
average age



78%

people have
Higher Education



8,53

satisfaction degree
with the work in
Ihobe

Board of Directors



PRESIDENCY

Arantxa Tapia Otaegui

Minister for Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment



VICE-PRESIDENCY

Amaia Barredo Martín

Deputy Minister for Environmental Sustainability



BOARD MEMBER

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Director of Environmental Quality and Circular Economy



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General Director of Aclima



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Alberto José Fernández González

Director of Technology and Innovation



BOARD MEMBER

Ane Etxenausia Aramburuzabalai

Director of Tax Administration



SECRETARIAT

José Antonio Armolea Solabarrieta

Ihobe Legal Counsel Director



GENERAL DIRECTORATE

Alexander Boto Bastegieta

General executive chief

Ihobe Organization Chart



We are recognized as a “Collaborating Entity for Equality between Women and Men” granted by Emakunde, a network comprised by entities with the emblem of Collaborating Entity for Equality between Women and Men, and voluntarily committed to promote equality between women and men.



Some results of the III Equality Plan have been:

- the review of recruitment procedures for the correction or incorporation of equality clauses;
- collaboration with environmental agents to promote women employability in situations of difficulty when having access to labour market;
- training given to the staff through workshops
- the recognition by Bai Sarea rewarding a good practice on conciliation;
- monographic conferences on women's leadership in corporate events and study of gender perspective facing climate change

During the year 2022, the draft of the IV Equality Plan was prepared.

We ensure the development of the entities that make up the social environment,

where we operate, taking an active part in those activities in which we can perform social work, in line with our capacities and values, reinforcing our strategy, while promoting measures that contribute to environmental sustainability.

All this, from the involvement, creating a breeding ground that allows proposing and deploying activities of **cooperation, insertion and education.**

Main milestones in 2022



Recruitment and Insertion

- **27% increase** in the turnover of insertion companies and special employment centers.
- **4 insertion companies** and special employment centres hired.
- **Recruitment of about 19%** of insertion companies, above the 5% established by the Basque Government.
- Application of **positive discrimination** in 3 bidding specifications applying equality or insertion clauses.
- **Paid internship in Ihobe** of a person from Lantegi Batuak with a disability, as part of a collaboration with the Biscay Square building.



Cooperation

- **Strategic alliance with Elankidetza** for the benefit of environmental and cooperation activities through initiatives as well as on the ground.
- **Reuse of fixed assets** in use as five years old computers.

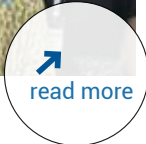


Education and employment

- **Involvement in the Lanbide program** for the one year recruitment, of up to **20 professionals** to facilitate their first experiences in the labor market and extend environmental awareness.
- Stay of an average of **five interns** at Ihobe in different areas of knowledge.
- **Involvement in an altruistic way** in the teaching of environmental issues in several masters and **postgraduate courses.**

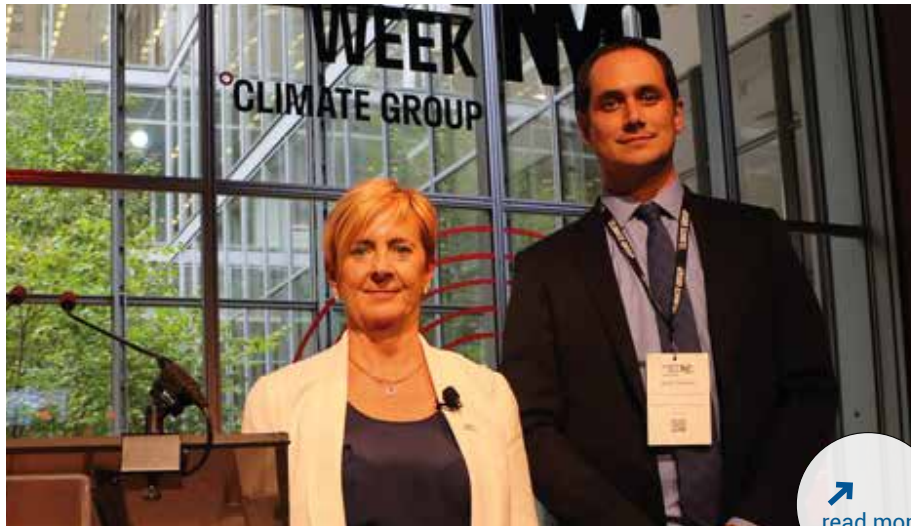
more ↗
Ihobe

The Basque Country has taken on the Presidency of Regions4, the global network of regional governments for sustainable development. It brings together **77 regions** representing more than **300 million people** through various initiatives to cooperate on climate change adaptation and biodiversity, using the 2030 Agenda as a roadmap to ensure a sustainable and resilient future.



Summary of Ihobe's activities: In **2022**:

- It oversaw the renewal of the Basque Country's presidency of the network until 2024.
- Its General Manager, Alexander Boto, made a presentation on the **Basque Country's green transition** at the Eurofound Foundation Forum 2022.
- It made a presentation on the **Basque Environmental Education Strategy** at the event organised by Lombardy at the **World Environmental Education Congress** (Praga).
- Took part in the **Regions4 General Assembly**, represented by its General Manager, Alexander Boto, who moderated one of the high-level inter-regional discussions that looked at good practices in adaptation and pathways to resilience. In addition, it led the **"Declaration of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra of Subnational Governments towards COP27"**.
- Provided support **to the Basque delegation taking part in COP-27 on climate change** held in Egypt, where they made presentations at two high-level events the **"Declaration of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra of Subnational Governments towards COP27"** signed by 45 regional governments and international networks and the **"Regions Adapt 2021-2022 Progress Report"**, which covers 322 actions for adaptation to climate change in 32 regions in 16 countries, including the Basque Country, featuring the Kostegoki and LIFE Urban Klima case studies.
- Provided support to the President of the Basque Government, Iñigo Urkullu, who took part in the 7th Summit of Subnational Governments at COP-15 on biodiversity in Montreal.
- Oversaw the Basque Country joining the **RegionsWithNature initiative** and the presentation of 2 case studies on the Basque Country on its platform.



In **2022**, the Under2Coalition network achieved the following goals:

- It supported **the Basque delegation, led by Minister Arantxa Tapia**, which took part in different high-level political events organised by The Climate Group and Under2 Coalition **at New York Climate Week**, and had bilateral meetings with the State of California, the Government of Scotland, the Government of South Africa and representatives of UN-Energy.
- It was part of the Basque delegation at a high-level event on climate action at COP-27 on climate change in Egypt, which explained **the Basque Country's leadership as a region committed to climate change**, its multilevel governance and the LIFE Urban Klima project.

In **2022**:

- It made a **presentation on good practices in climate action in the Basque Country** at IFAT (World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management), which was held in Munich.
- Ihobe staff took part in the TAIEX European expert workshops on **climate change adaptation and blue infrastructure and the circular economy**.

Alliances

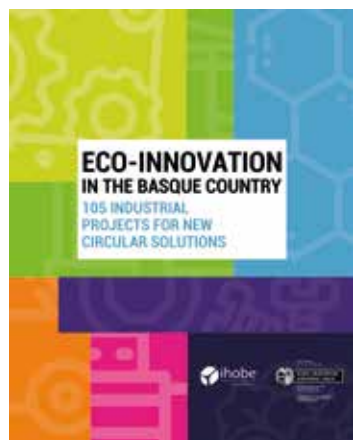
Ihobe's main distinguishing features are its firm commitment to and **ongoing cooperation** with other institutions and entities with which it maintains a dynamic of collaborating on environmental **policy to achieve environmental improvement** through climate action, developing the circular economy and local sustainability in the Basque Country as a whole.



Featured publications



Soil Protection Strategy 2030



Eco-innovation In The Basque Country. 105 Industrial Projects For New Circular Solutions



ERREMINTA - GIDA. Support to local administrations in their energy and climate transition



Inventory Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Of The Basque Country 2020.



udalsarea 2030, 20 years working for local sustainable development



Ihobe and the environmental communication

At Ihobe we believe that quality environmental communication is key for society to move forward on the path of sustainability. Therefore, in 2022, we have renewed our support for the Environmental Journalism Award of the Basque Country, we continue leading the School of Environmental Communication of the UPV-EHU Summer Courses and we continue generating content on our podcast channel on sustainability and environment In Verde-Berdean.

School of Environmental Communication



We maintain a collaboration agreement with the [Association of Environmental Information Journalists -APIA](#) from which, among other initiatives, was born the School of Environmental Communication, framed in the Summer Courses of the University of the Basque Country, UPV/EHU, to respond to two major concerns: communication and environment.

The fourth edition of the School of Environmental Communication, held on 7 and 8 September 2022, was entitled "Ecological crisis, health crisis", with the aim of addressing the close relationship between [climate crisis, the conservation of ecosystems and people's health](#).



Environmental Journalism Award



As a result of the joint work with the Association and the Basque School of Journalists (CVP-AVP), since 2019 and thanks to the support of Ihobe, the **Environmental Journalism Award of the Basque Country** is granted annually, with the aim of recognizing information professionals due to their work to disseminate sustainable development, disclose the effects of climate change or promote the preservation of natural environment, among other issues.

In 2022, the award was granted to **Ramón Bustamante**, veteran announcer and journalist of Radio Popular, with four decades behind him addressing social and environmental issues.



Podcast channel



In 2021, we launched **En verde-Berdean**, Ihobe's podcast channel on sustainability and environment, led by the journalist Begoña Beristain. Last year 2022 two programs were recorded to accommodate different expert voices on how to better communicate the health and ecological crisis; and on circular economy and eco-innovation.

These episodes of own production are included as well in the Ihobe podcast channel where the interventions of the technical people of Ihobe in the media are gathered with the aim of informing and disclosing the technical knowledge resulting from the daily work of the Public Environmental Management Company of the Basque Government.



2022 in milestones



The Basque Circular programme for SMEs

March 2022

is launched to further implement the Basque Country's **Circular Economy Strategy**.



The Basque Country designs its new Environmental Framework Programme

April 2022

outlining the path for its **sustainability policy** up to 2030.



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

2022 in milestones



Soil Protection Strategy of the Basque Country 2030

June 2022

The first holistic strategy for **protecting soil** is approved.



Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the Basque Country

June 2022

The pandemic was behind the Basque Country's **12% record drop in greenhouse gas emissions** in 2020.



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2022 in milestones



Presentation of the Basque Green Public Procurement Programme 2030 July 2022

Procurement Programme 2030, which has attracted around twenty entities.



Udalsarea 2030 celebrates its 20th anniversary with 205 municipalities September 2022

In 2022, the Basque network of sustainable municipalities presented its new framework collaboration agreement to promote **sustainable local action** and the Local **Agenda 2030** in the Basque Country



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2022 in milestones



New methodology for risk calculation climate

September 2022

Ihobe presents a new **collection of instruments** for **driving climate action** on natural heritage.



Opening of a new Basque Circular Hub

October 2022

The Basque Government boosts the **circular economy** with the opening of a new **Basque Circular Hub** in Vitoria-Gasteiz.



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2022 in milestones



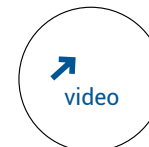
Support administrations in tackling the energy and climate transition November 2022

Ihobe and EVE present **support** services for local administrations in **tackling the energy and climate transition**.



Euskadi, a benchmark in economics subject circular November 2022

The Basque Circular Summit presents the circular economy as a key tool for **decarbonising Basque industry**



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2022 in milestones



Ihobe presents a guide about eco-innovation in the Basque Country November 2022

Public-private collaboration drives **105 eco-innovation projects** in the Basque Country with successful circular solutions



Ekoetxea experiences linked with the climate action December 2022

The Basque Network of Environmental Centres revamps its website to offer experiences linked to **climate action**.



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our online community



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