

I would like to share a vision....

Imagine admiring the new Athens from the Acropolis, the hills of Lycabettus and Immito, a city lost under an endless, natural, Hellenic meadow, which is completely self-sustaining and maintenance-free. Imagine a riot-of-colour which changes hue and texture with the seasons, attracting a multitude of beautiful butterflies and ladybirds which in turn attract robin redbreasts, yellow hammers and coal tits with their the dulcet tones. The song birds draw spectacular kestrels and rare birds of prey back into the city. An urban paradise scented with indigenous Greek lavender, thymes, oregano, mints, rosemary, chamomile, marjoram and lemon grass. Herbal aromas drift on the breeze. This meadow cools our homes and offices in the summer and heats those same buildings in the winter without the need to use expensive, depleted, finite energy resources in air-conditioning and heating. The urban meadow protects our buildings from the elements doubling or tripling their useful life, making these buildings a joy to live in. A natural ecosystem which devours carbon dioxide/monoxide and the heavy metals found in pollution as if they were a haute cuisine feast and produces abundant supplies of fresh clean oxygen to the Athenian bowl. An ecosystem which filters waterborne pollutants in the rain and breaks the runoff of storm-water radically reducing the chances of flooding in the metropolis free-of-charge. Imagine that we have restored the once pristine, bio-diverse natural environment of Athens quickly and cost effectively and not one building has been sacrificed in this effort. Finally, imagine that this is happening now.

I thank you for your attention and ask you to hold this vision and I call you to action ... Together we can green the Mediterranean, step by step with oikosteges now.