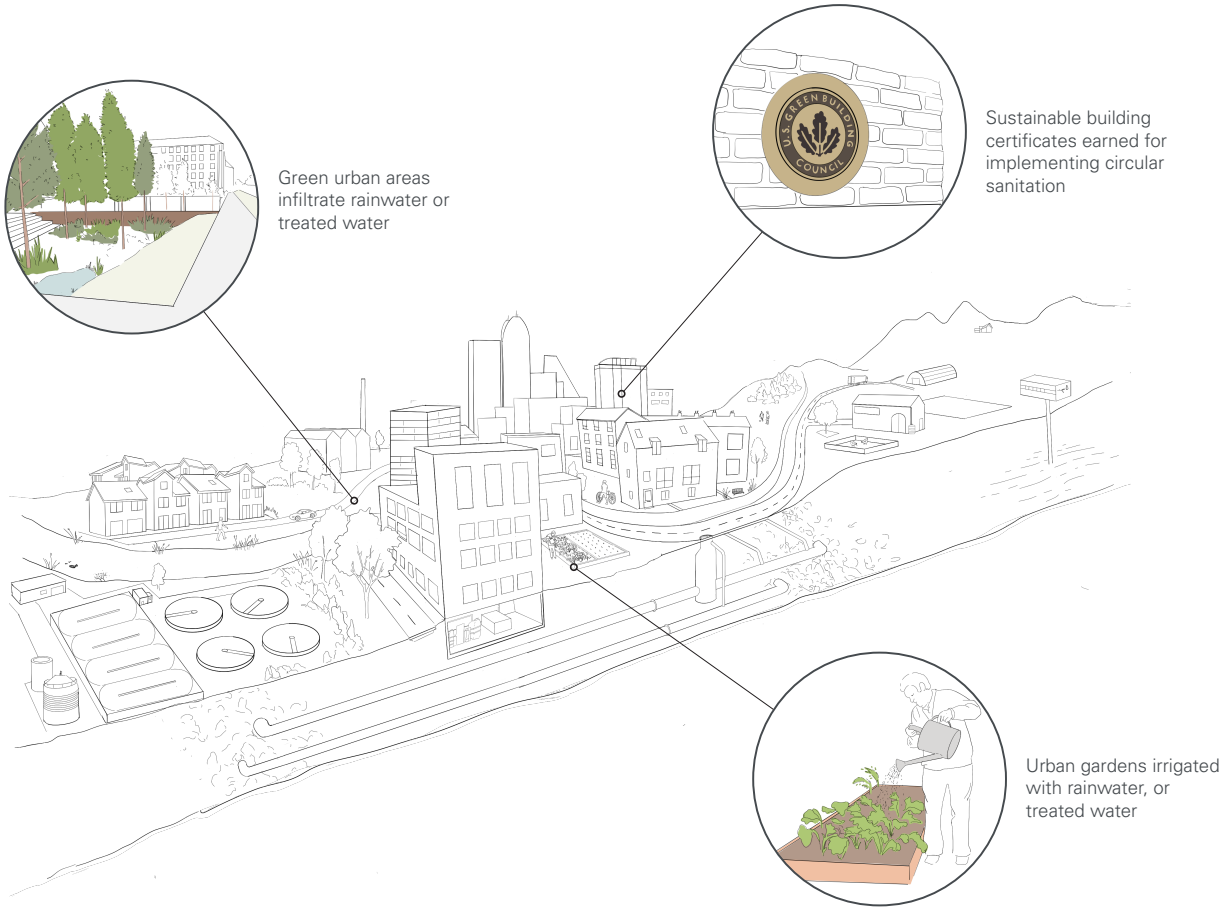
BUILD RESILIENT CITIES

GOAL

Urbanization has significant impact on resource flows, concentrating the use and loss of water, nutrients, and energy. Warmer weather increases demand for cooling and irrigation, while heavy rainfall leads to more frequent stormwater overflows into sewers. Recovering and reusing resources from wastewater, and closing resource cycles between urban activities, can improve local self-sufficiency and climate resilience. Many sustainable building certifications, such as BREEAM and LEED*, recognize the contribution of circular sanitation to meeting their sustainability criteria. Certified projects often enhance public image and property values.

*BREEAM: Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method; LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design



SUPPORT BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Use rainwater and/or reuse treated water to support 'blue' urban hydrological functions and provide a water source for the irrigation of 'green' vegetation. Blue-green infrastructure positively impacts the urban environment: increasing biodiversity, mitigating climate change (e.g., urban cooling), and promoting of human health and well-being.

COMPLY WITH CERTIFICATIONS

Water, nutrient and energy management practices are prerequisites to obtain sustainable building certifications (e.g., BREEAM, LEED, Living Building, Minergie). The impact that circular sanitation implementations have on the final score can vary depending on the type of certification, project, context, etc. Often the labels only indicate targets and principles and leave ample margin for the selection of specific solutions.

PROMOTE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy aims to decouple economic activity from the consumption of finite resources; it promotes an economy where resources are circulated. The recovery of nutrients, water, and energy from source-separated streams reduces dependencies on external inputs, minimizes waste production, reduces pollution, and enhances local resource availability.