

# Via Verde — Mexico City's Highway-Pillar Vertical Gardens, and Its Walked-Back Air-Quality Claims

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Mexico

Quality score: 13/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

## Summary

Mexico City turned over 1,000 elevated-highway pillars into vertical gardens using closed-loop rainwater irrigation, but its founder and the city itself now say the touted air-pollution benefits never materialised.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                               | Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced             | 0/3   |
| Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced    | 0/3   |
| Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control | 1/3   |
| Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced             | 0/3   |
| Governance, certification & transferability             | 1/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[Verde Vertical \(Fernando Ortiz Monasterio\) with the Mexico City Autoridad del Espacio Público](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[CityChangers.org: Greening Mexico City's Biggest Highway](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[RESET.org: The Vertical Gardens Making Mexico City's Motorways Greener](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

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