



Green City Accord

Clean and Healthy Cities for Europe

Press kit – Information on the Green City Accord for media



Environment

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What is the Green City Accord?

The Green City Accord is a movement of European cities committed to safeguarding the environment.

In signing the Green City Accord, city leaders agree to take further action to make their cities greener, cleaner and healthier places.

The Green City Accord will support the delivery of the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Goals

In joining the Accord, mayors agree to taking further action to achieve the following goals by 2030:



Significant improvement in **air quality** in cities, moving closer to respecting the World Health Organization's Air Quality Guidelines, while ending exceedances of EU air quality standards as soon as possible.



Important progress in improving the **quality of water bodies** and the efficiency of water use.



Considerable progress in conserving and enhancing urban **biodiversity**, including through an increase in the extent and quality of green areas in cities, and by halting the loss of and restoring urban ecosystems.



Advance towards the **circular economy** by securing a significant improvement in the management of household municipal waste, an important reduction in waste generation and landfilling, and a substantial increase in re-use, repair and recycling.



Significant reduction in **noise** pollution, moving closer to the levels recommended by the World Health Organization.

Why Cities should join?

The Benefits

- Acquire Europe-wide visibility in recognition of your city's environmental actions and achievements.
- Contribute to shaping EU environment policy and become part of a community of like-minded cities driving the transition towards a clean and healthy Europe.
- Increase your transparency, accountability and credibility vis-à-vis the local community.
- Gain access to information concerning EU funding opportunities.
- Participate in networking events, avail of capacity-building opportunities.
- Receive tailored guidance and support via a dedicated helpdesk.
- Benchmark your city achievements against progress in other cities

How to join?

The Accord is open to any city located in the European Union.

The Accord step by step

- **SIGN:** The Mayor or an equivalent representative of the local council signs the Green City Accord [Commitment Document](#), after an official resolution has been adopted by the council (or equivalent decision-making body);
- **DEFINE:** Within two years, the city establishes its ambitious targets in the five domains of the Green City Accord, and determines baseline levels reflecting the starting point in each domain;
- **ACT:** The city plans and implements policies and programmes in an integrated manner to achieve its targets by 2030;
- **MONITOR AND REPORT:** The city reports back on progress every three years through an easy-to-use online tool.

Signatory Mayors' testimonies

"In addition to climate actions, we need to safeguard urban ecosystems and their biodiversity. A cleaner and more diverse urban environment will directly improve the daily life and well-being of our citizens."

Pekka Timonen, Mayor of Lahti

European Green Capital 2021

"We intend to position Braga at the forefront of innovation and knowledge creation to develop impactful solutions for our environment over the next decade, in line with the new Cohesion Policy objectives and the United Nations 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development."

Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga

"Turku's ambitious climate action goes hand in hand with environmental protection and the promotion of circular economy. We are currently drawing up a programme to protect biodiversity, implementing a progressive forest strategy and working to conserve the Baltic Sea."

Mina Arve, Mayor of Turku

"Climate change is the most pressing long-term pandemic we are all facing. Cities should lead by example work towards a greener and more sustainable Europe."

Carlos Carreiras, Mayor of Cascais

"It's a great honour for us to be part of the Green City Accord community. Given the environmental challenges we face, working together to share our experiences is the best way to achieve better results for everyone."

Antonio de Sousa, Mayor of Penafiel

"Becoming part of the Green City Accord community is an important step for Torres Vedras to make our territory more sustainable, green and efficient. It is our duty to improve our cities to safeguard the health and well-being of our citizens from growing environment-related risks and impacts". Torres Vedras won the European Green Leaf Award in 2015 in recognition of its outstanding efforts in the areas of mobility, biodiversity and water management."

Carlos Bernardes, Mayor of Torres Vedras

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