

# European Green Leaf Open call for 2027

Will your city be the next European Green Leaf winner?

The European Commission has launched the new competition round to nominate the European Green Leaf 2027.

The title of European Green Leaf is awarded annually to one or two European cities with a population between 20 000 and 99 999 inhabitants for their commitment to environmental sustainability. It is linked to the title of European Green Capital, awarded to cities as of 100 000 inhabitants.

Is your city becoming cleaner and healthier, while inspiring others to do the same?

Deadline for applications is **15 April 2025**.



## Why apply?

Being the European Green Leaf makes citizens proud and spurs local action on environmental projects, making the city more attractive as a destination and a better place to live. The application process helps generate self-promotion and gives the opportunity to compare actions with other cities. Finalists and winners also become part of a network of frontrunning cities that exchange knowledge and best practices.

The European Green Leaf comes with a financial prize of EUR 200 000 per winning city (max. two cities per year) intended to help environmental action on the ground and contribute to achieving the city's sustainability vision.

The award also contributes to the dissemination and exchange of green actions among European cities supporting key EU policies, such as the [European Green Deal](#), the [New European Bauhaus](#) and the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#). In addition, it complements the [NetZero Cities Mission](#) to deliver tangible benefits for citizens in several areas.

## How to apply?

[Information and competition rules of the European Green Capital and the European Green Leaf](#)



## Evaluation process

The award criteria are grouped around **seven environmental and climate focus areas**:

- 1 Air Quality
- 2 Water
- 3 Biodiversity, Green Areas & Sustainable Land Use
- 4 Waste & Circular Economy
- 5 Noise
- 6 Climate Change: Mitigation
- 7 Climate Change: Adaptation



A panel of seven independent experts will carry out a technical assessment of the eligible applications received. Afterwards, the Commission will select the finalists that will present to their vision on the city's environmental governance to a jury, along with their communication strategy and actions for the year 2027 as European Green Leaf.

The jury, chaired by the Commission, will select the winner, or winners, based on the following award criteria:

- 1 The technical assessment of the environmental performance of the applicant city.
- 2 The applicant city's overall strategy, vision and commitment to sustainability, alongside short- and long-term implementation plans.
- 3 The applicant city's communication strategy and actions for its role as a European Green Leaf.

The title will be awarded at a festive ceremony in Vilnius, Lithuania, in **autumn 2025**.

## European Green Leaf 2027 - Key Dates

- January 2025: Competition opens
- February 2025: Online applicant city workshop – how to make a strong application
- April 2025: Competition closes on 15/04/2025 at 23:59 CEST (GMT+2)
- May-June 2025: Assessment of applications by the expert panel
- July 2025: Announcement of finalist cities
- Autumn 2025: Jury presentation
- Autumn 2025: Awards ceremony in Vilnius

## What do past winners say?

"We are very proud to have been recognized as a Green Leaf City 2025. This prestigious award not only evaluates the policies and initiatives we have undertaken so far but also acknowledges our vision for a sustainable and inclusive future. Being a Green Leaf City carries a significant responsibility toward other European cities and citizens: we must serve as a concrete example of how investing in sustainability, inclusivity, and quality of life can drive meaningful change. We will continue to work with determination and passion to ensure that our city remains a model of innovation and environmental stewardship."

Mario Conte, Mayor of Treviso, Italy, European Green Leaf 2025



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"The recognition of Viladecans as a Green Leaf city fills us with pride and further strengthens our commitment to fostering ecological sustainability, protecting the environment, and promoting healthy lifestyles. It is a unique opportunity to deepen both collective and individual commitment, while also fostering awareness, responsibility, and pride among citizens, local stakeholders, and the administration, encouraging all of us to become active agents in the Green Transition."

Olga Morales Segura, Mayor of Viladecans, Spain, European Green Leaf 2025



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