



European
Commission

Green City Accord

Clean and Healthy
Cities for Europe



Environment

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.

Why a Green City Accord?

Urban areas are home to some 70% of the EU's population. The state of a city's environment affects everyone who lives in and visits the city. Today cities across the European Union face a host of environmental challenges that pose risks to the health and wellbeing of their citizens. Air pollution in many cities still exceeds EU standards. Rivers, lakes and coastal waters remain under significant pressure. Noise pollution is on the increase. Urban sprawl is affecting the availability of green spaces, while the generation of waste is having a big impact on the local environment.

Clean air and water, low noise levels, and access to nature are essential for our physical and mental well-being. The circular economy will help cities become more resource-efficient by turning waste into resources. By taking ambitious action in these areas, local governments will make their cities more sustainable and attractive for their citizens.

The Green City Accord will also build coherence with other EU city initiatives and support the delivery of the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Image: Unsplash / Ignacio Brosa



Vision

The Green City Accord brings together mayors and leaders of local governments across Europe around a common vision of an urban future where by 2030:

Cities will be attractive places to live in and will promote citizens' health and well-being.

All citizens will breathe clean air, enjoy clean water, have access to parks and green spaces, and experience less environmental noise.

The circular economy will be a reality and waste will have been turned into a resource by encouraging greater reuse, repair and recycling.



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 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. Regional and national authorities, associations of cities and regions, civil society organisations, academic institutions, and businesses may join the initiative as Green City Accord Supporters.

The Accord step by step

SIGN: The Mayor or an equivalent representative of the local council signs the Green City Accord, 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.

➔ www.greencityaccord.eu
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