

# The European Green Leaf Awards



An initiative of the  
European Commission



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European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards

**Directorate General for the Environment**

**European Commission**

**DG ENV.C.3 air quality and urban policy**





# Goal of the Awards

- **Acknowledge** cities that have a consistent record of working towards high environmental standards
- **Encourage** cities to intensify and speed up current targets in implementing the European Green Deal targets – and reduce pollution
- Act as a **role model** inspiring other cities and promoting experience and best practice in other European cities

Winning has advantages..

- ✓ Boosts local confidence and citizen engagement
- ✓ International media coverage and visibility
- ✓ Networking and new alliances
- ✓ Attracts public financial support
- ✓ Better access to EU funding possibilities
- ✓ Momentum to continue improving even more

# Green Leaf winners since 2015



## Winning cities





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## Award Process

- **Application:** performance indicators and progress report in the five key environmental areas: air, water, noise, biodiversity&nature, circular economy and climate change
- **Selection in 2 stages:**
  - 1: Technical assessment by Expert Panel and DG ENV
  - --> Selection of finalists
  - 2: Jury presentations
    - > Selection of award winners
- **Price money: 200.000€**

# Application Form

## Example questions on air quality

### Past

- Describe the **plans and measures implemented** over the last five years for the improvement of ambient air quality. Comment on which measures have been most effective.
- Particular reference should be given to:
  1. Existence and implementation status of an air quality management plan
  2. Local measures taken to improve air quality and quantify their effect on air quality in terms of pollutant emissions abatement;
  3. Information for the public (both inhabitants and tourists) on air quality levels

### Present

- Describe the **present situation in relation to ambient air quality**, including any relevant constraints, for example from historical, geographical and/or socio-economic factors which may have influenced this indicator. Topographical constraints should also be mentioned where relevant.
- **Air quality data** (addressing NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> at a minimum) should be provided to show trends over time.

### Future

- Describe the short and **long-term objectives for the future**, proposed plans and the proposed approach and measures for their achievement, including in relation to the air quality-related targets of the Zero Pollution Action Plan for 2030 and the updated WHO Air Quality Guidelines of 2021. Quantify the expected effects of proposed measures on air quality in terms of pollutant concentrations in ambient air (if possible).
- Emphasise to what extent plans are supported by commitments, budget allocations, and monitoring and performance evaluation schemes.

# Next steps



- 27 October 2022: winners to be announced at the Awards ceremony for the 2024 titles
- December 2022: New call for applications to be published for the 2025 Awards with updated rules of contest
- March 2023: closing of the application phase
- June 2023: technical assessments finalised and finalists announced
- October 2023: presentation in front of the jury and awards ceremony – in the city of Tallinn (Estonia) – the 2023 Green Capital winner

# Green City Accord

a tool for cities to achieve green targets

- *New initiative started in 2020*
- *100 cities signed the Accord today*
- *Commitments in five key areas: air, water, noise, biodiversity&nature, circular economy*
- *A reporting tool is being developed – it helps cities to advance in making their cities greener, cleaner and healthier places.*
- *29 November: high-level signatory event in Brussels*

*More details:*

[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord_en)

