



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges



#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCities



WHY A MISSION ON CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CITIES?

- **75%** of EU citizens live in cities (projected to increase to about 85% in 2050)
- More than **65%** of energy consumption and more than **70%** of CO2 emissions worldwide
- Co benefits – lower air / noise pollution, congestion and road deaths. Lower energy bills and better energy security. Loveable and liveable cities !
- The **European Green Deal** is set at EU / national level, but will be implemented at local level – particularly in cities: where policy meets people.
- Cities have the **ambitions** to go further – but few have declared readiness to be fully climate neutral by 2030. We have to help cities address the barriers they face.



OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

1

Deliver at least 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030;

2

Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to put all European cities in a position to become climate-neutral by 2050.

Actions to deliver climate neutrality will bring massive and more visible co-benefits: better air quality, less road congestion, more livable spaces



MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION

**Climate City
Contracts**

Mission Platform

Tailor-made help
with funding and
financing

A Mission label to
unlock synergies
with other
programmes

R&I action under
Horizon Europe

Innovative city
governance
models and citizen
engagement

Common
framework for
monitoring,
reporting and
verification



CLIMATE CITY CONTRACTS

- **Tailor-made plans** on how to reach climate neutrality, adapted to the individual needs of the city, supported by the Mission Platform
- Non legally binding – **Memorandum of Understanding**
- To be **co-created** with the involvement of national authorities, regions and local stakeholders, including citizens and local economic actors
- Focus on innovative (“holistic”) city governance, investment plan, and monitoring and reporting
- Signed by the Mayor (or equivalent), witnessed by the Commission and others



SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES FOR CITIES

- The Mission will not replace involvement in other programmes, such as Covenant of Mayors, or Climate Pact, but build synergies with them.
- A Mission label will help create funding opportunities in other EU and other programmes.
- National networks to ensure synergies with national and regional programmes



HOW WILL THE PROCESS WORK?

- October 2021: Publication of comprehensive info kit for cities to help cities prepare for the Call
- Cities can already [pre-register](#) for the Call for Expression of Interest
- November 2021: Publication of Call for Expression of Interest addressed to cities (questionnaire)
- January 2022: Call closes
- By March 2022: Selection of participating cities
- As of mid 2022: Mission Platform works with first cities to develop Climate City Contracts



QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- Population thresholds – 50 000 (but with some flexibility to bring in cities from all Member States)
- Stated ambition to achieve climate neutrality by 2030

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: INCLUSIVENESS – DIVERSITY – GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE

Range of factors, such as

- the cities' level of ambition and preparedness (but not just “usual suspects”)
- true geographic diversity – from south and east of Europe, not just north and west
- the cities' commitment to involving citizens and stakeholders



Email:

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Web Page:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en

Next event:

[Conference on European Missions \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en), 25 November, 9:30-12:15



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Thank you!

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