

European Green Capital – Open call for 2025



Will your city be the next European Green Capital? The European Commission has launched the new competition round to nominate the European Green Capital for 2025.

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

If you feel that your city is on track to become cleaner and healthier, and can inspire other cities - why not apply? Deadline for applications is **30 April 2023**.

Why apply?

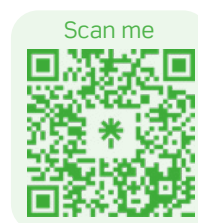
Being European Green Capital makes citizens proud and spurs local action on environmental projects, making the city attractive as a destination and as a better place to live for its citizens. The application process helps create self-awareness and gives the opportunity to benchmark with other peer cities. Finalists and winners become part of a network of frontrunning cities that exchange knowledge and best practices.

The European Green Capital 2025 comes with a financial prize of EUR 600,000 to help environmental action on the ground and trigger an even more ambitious vision.



How to apply?

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



Evaluation Process

The Award contributes to disseminate and transfer green actions in European cities joining, among others, EU ambitions of the [European Green Deal](#), the [New European Bauhaus](#) and the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#). It complements the [NetZero Cities Mission](#) with tangible results for citizens in visible areas.

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

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

A panel of seven independent experts will carry out a technical assessment of the eligible applications received. Afterwards, the European Commission will establish a number of short-listed cities that will have the opportunity to present their application and action plan to a Jury panel. The Jury, chaired by the European Commission, will select the winner on the basis of 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, short and long term implementation in practice.
- 3** The applicant city's communication strategy and actions for its role as a European Green Capital.

The title will be awarded in a festive ceremony in Tallinn on **5 October 2023 evening**.

European Green Capital 2025 - Key Dates

- January 2023: Competition opens
- 8 March 2023: Online Applicant City Workshop: How to make a good application
- 30 April 2023: Competition closes at 23:59 CEST (GMT+2)
- May – June 2023: Assessment of applications by the Expert Panel
- June 2023: Announcement of finalist cities
- 5 October 2023: Jury presentation and Awards Ceremony in Tallinn, Estonia

What do past winners say?

Get inspired by other cities' journeys, discover what it means to get involved in the Awards, find tips and tricks from previous winners.

"It will be the cities that implement the EU Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level. The European Green Capitals are the pioneers, taking leadership in creating sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities of the future."

Mihhail Kõlvart, Mayor of Tallinn, Estonia
[European Green Capital 2023](#)



"Being Green Capital is extraordinary. It allows to bring many local actors on board. Already the application process allowed us to structure many aspects."

Éric Piolle, Mayor of Grenoble, France
[European Green Capital 2022](#)



"When I look at it two years later, it was very beneficial for us. The acceptance of local people was very high, the image of the city improved a lot and got a lot of support from stakeholders to move forward faster and accelerate our green transition. Even applying is important! We were finalists before and we learnt."

Pekka Timonen, Mayor of Lahti, Finland
[European Green Capital 2021](#)



The European Green Capital and the European Green Leaf awards are managed by the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission.

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