

Local Green Deals

What Mayors Are Saying



“*The Municipality of Tripolis, in close collaboration with the city’s ecosystem, has embarked on transforming into a Green City. With the implementation of digital opportunities, Tripolis brings forth local entrepreneurial activities with the aim to foster tourism, nurture eco-mobility, and meet citizens’ daily needs. With utmost respect to the city’s natural resources and the environment, a Local Green Deal will be an opportunity to prepare the city for a more prosperous and cohesive society in the future.*”

“*By launching initiatives such as Green Deal on circular construction and long-term building renovation strategy, Flanders is committed to investing in a sustainable future and making Local Green Deals a reality. Against a backdrop of rapid urbanisation, we have also made smart city development our spearhead to develop new, innovative and sustainable solutions to tackle urban challenges. The Flemish government is encouraging and supporting Flemish cities to harness new digital technologies and data to improve energy efficiency, mobility, water quality, thus tackling climate and environment-related challenges while improving the quality of the lives of the citizens and of public services.*”

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Andries Gryffroy
Member of the Flemish Parliament

“Concern for the environment and climate has a long tradition in Heidelberg. In 1992, Heidelberg was the first city in Germany to introduce a municipal climate protection concept. On our way to becoming a climate-neutral city, we have launched a major action plan with the first 30 specific proposals. The City of Heidelberg is committed to climate protection in all areas. This ranges from waste avoidance through multi-use coffee cups and energy saving in buildings to innovative mobility solutions that include grants worth up to 10,000 euros, depending on vehicle type, to purchase cars with alternative drive systems. Heidelberg’s Bahnstadt district is one of the largest urban development projects in Germany and is seen as a model for climate-neutral urban development worldwide. Heidelberg has extremely good links with many cities around the globe, not least as an Innovator City in the C40 network of international cities, as well as through the Climate Alliance, the Energy Cities network and the German Association of Towns and Cities.

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“*Local and regional authorities must cooperate with each other, with businesses, national governments and the EU for the green transition to be successful. A good example of multi-level cooperation is our hydrogen project in Northern Netherlands. We are building Europe's first Hydrogen Valley in my home district, Drenthe. The project is funded by a combination of public and private investors, including the EU. Hydrogen is a new and clean technology which can serve a large part of our industry. Our goal is that by 2026, we can host the entire hydrogen value chain from production to distribution, storage and local end-use, which will power industry, mobility and the buildings. If this is successful, it can be easily replicated by other regions.*”

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Tjisse Stelpstra

Member of the Council of the Province of Drenthe

“*As a core partner of the 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge, Leuven will continue to nurture and grow its model of radical participation and empathetic leadership, empowering citizens and stakeholders to collaborate in a structural way on complex societal challenges. In Leuven, we innovate for the better, with and for all. As a European city lab of the future, we aim to harness the power of our ecosystem to deliver strategic innovation and push transformation towards intelligent, socially responsible, and sustainable prosperity. Through our Leuven 2030 initiative, we have committed to working with stakeholders to take action across 13 program areas, including energy, mobility, and urban resilience, as well as cross-cutting areas such as governance, finance, social justice, and data and monitoring.*”

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Mohamed Ridouani
Mayor of Leuven

“Citizens, local companies, knowledge institutions, and decision-makers in the City of Aarhus are working on important and joint steps towards CO2 neutrality in 2030. Through close and honest dialogue, we will find new solutions together for us to achieve our goal. We need to learn everything we can from each other to combat the global climate challenge we all face. By applying our own local green deal and the European Green Deal, we will achieve greater well-being and prosperity for the citizens in Aarhus as well as the rest of Europe.”

“*In Seville, we have been working on the sustainable development of the city for years. Convinced members of the Covenant of Mayors, we have worked on housing, public spaces, mobility, circular economy and many other topics. The launch of the Green Deal and the need to create its local chapter is the opportunity for us to create a stronger common framework and make the community of citizens feel more than ever part of an ambitious project looking forward. Transitions being planned on paper at the European and national level, become a reality in our streets and in our buildings, bringing improvements, but also changes and new challenges: only a strong alliance between local government and citizens can make us succeed in tackling this challenge and promote a just climate transition for all.*”

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Juan Espadas Cejas

Mayor of Seville, Chair of the ENVE Commission and Chair of the Green Deal Going Local working group of the Committee of the Regions

“ *Nice is committed to the ecological and digital transition to assert itself as the green capital of the Mediterranean, to foster local green growth in the framework of the 2.5 billion local Recovery Plan, stimulate the job market, strengthen the local industrial sectors (building and public works, tourism, digital innovation, green and blue technologies, healthcare, culture...) as well as SMEs and start-ups, and ensure solidarity, well-being and resilience on its territory, between the sea and the mountains, for all citizens. The main challenge of the Nice Côte d'Azur metropolitan area is to keep developing a new development model that reconciles innovative ecological solutions with the traditional economy to achieve territorial carbon neutrality in 2050.*

To do so, the Metropole Nice Côte d'Azur signed a protocol agreement with the French Government on 15 April 2021 for a total public investment of €2.5 billion, generating €12.5 billions of private investments to support a wide range of green projects. The French State is providing more than 1 135 billion Euros under the national recovery plan (40% co-financed by the EU) to support public procurement, ecological transition and the economy of the Nice Côte d'Azur metropolitan area.

Resilience is a key aspect of the recovery programme of the Metropole Nice Côte d'Azur, as our territory is highly vulnerable and has been severely impacted in recent years by numerous crises: terror attacks, health crisis, natural disasters such as Storm Alex, which devastated our valleys in October 2020, with very important human and economic consequences. The EU will support the reconstruction with €59.3 million from the EU Solidarity Fund. In order to improve the territory's resilience to the multifaceted risks, we created the first Health, Environmental and Risk management Agency (ASSER) in France in July 2020. Its mission of which is to coordinate advice and provide strategic expertise at the metropolitan level in the event of a crisis.

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Christian Estrosi
Mayor of Nice

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Porto is genuinely committed to transforming its economic model and improving the health and well-being of the region's inhabitants and visitors, as stipulated in the European Green Deal.

As much as the city wants to implement improvements in all the agreement's strands, Porto set some priorities to achieve the Deal's goals. One of them is the Energy field, where Porto is investing in producing its energy with multiple photovoltaic projects using its buildings and promoting decentralised energy production throughout the city. Moreover, Porto is developing energy communities targeted to their social housing, representing 13% of the total housing in Porto and incorporating storage to maximise energy usage. Porto has now its municipal Water and Energy company to manage all these projects. On the energy efficiency side, Porto is determined to increase the energy efficiency in housing - rehabilitation and requalification in municipal neighbourhoods carried out over the last few years with more than €150 million invested, tackling energy poverty in social housing, with a decrease in energy consumption of 47%. A great example is the new neighbourhood "Rainha D. Leonor", the first in the country to obtain an A+ energy classification. At a regional level, the North of Portugal is at the forefront of renewable energy production in the country, with over 50% of energy production.

Mobility is also considered a priority because it is a critical factor to reduce carbon emissions and subsequent neutrality. Porto needs to have a hyper-connected region, with good transports. A competitive railway that competes with individual transport in terms of travel time and cost is considered urgent. In the last few years, Porto has transitioned 70% of its vehicle fleet to electric vehicles at the level of municipal services, have renewed the heavy waste management fleet for natural gas, and is making the bus fleet more sustainable. Porto also slashed the monthly intermodal tickets to €30 and made using public transport costly-free for the kids and young people until 18 years old.

These are a few examples of what Porto has been up to, always bearing in mind that this is a long-run process and, to leave no one behind, it's essential everyone is fully onboard.

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Rui Moreira
Mayor of Porto

“*The Barcelona Green Deal sets out the urban economic agenda for the next decade, designed to make the city more equal, sustainable and competitive, and able to adapt to challenges such as the ecological and digital transitions which have been speeded up by the pandemic. This new roadmap consists of 38 measures, including urban transformation to revitalise or create new strategic areas for economic activity. The goal of the Barcelona Green Deal is to generate diverse economic activity for the future based on strategic sectors: digital, creation, local economy, visitor economy, 4.0 industry, bio health and the green circular economy.*”

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The city of Vari Voula Vouliagmeni is a place that embraces tomorrow with open arms and sees each new challenge as a chance to secure a brighter future for our children, the next generation of citizens. We recognise the environment as our most important asset, as it is the cornerstone of personal well-being, strong communities and prolonged economic growth. In the city, we take the following actions to support our sustainable transition:

- 1- We engage the community: we believe that both residents and businesses should also be given the opportunity to work in partnership with key actors towards the development of small community-driven projects.*
- 2- We bring together local experts: it is imperative that the local areas possess the necessary capacity to transition to a green local economy.*
- 3- We provide education and build skills for a green economy into the local community*
- 4- We create local and regional economies that prioritise the protection of the climate, natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems in economic development, and put the health and quality of life of current and future generations at their centre.*
- 5- We transform urban spaces and service systems to make them more attractive places for people to enjoy and to adapt to the changes caused by accelerated digitalisation, the impact of online shopping, and increasing work from home.*
- 6- We implement and offering value added digital services to citizens and businesses: 100% of citizens 'and business' transactions will soon be digital / paperless.*
- 7- We are promoting energy efficiency and optimal waste management systems: our target is to reduce households and businesses' CO2 emissions by 50%.*
- 8- We are setting up holistic smart and green mobility and transport framework to reduce traffic within the city's limits.*
- 9- We are creating a business-friendly environment to achieve sustainable economic growth.*

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Vari Voula
Vouliagmeni representative

“Galati public authorities, alongside the local academic environment and with the support of both private companies and the entirety of the local community, are fully committed to maintaining a sustained pace in implementing public policies supporting pollution reduction. Together we are identifying innovative solutions and enforcing decisions aiming at improving citizens’ lives, in full agreement with the European Green Deal, which emerges as an ambitious joint engagement and a common investment in the future of the continent and the world, while founded in our joint efforts. We have already implemented and currently carrying out numerous projects centred on green energy and sustainable mobility in particular, smart technology, green transport and energy rehabilitation of public and residential buildings. We are devoted to continuing our work in identifying and implementing the best financial measures and solutions in a coherent and responsible manner.”

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Ionut Pucleanu
Mayor of Galati

“*Environmental policies are the levers for the transformation of cities towards the goal of sustainable development. Las Rozas, with 50% of its territory protected, and as a Spanish reference in green environment, aims to become a climate-neutral city by 2030. Las Rozas Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets the principles of EU Green Deal and establishes our commitment to eco-innovation, RDi of scientific technology centers, public-private collaboration, alliances with other cities, investment in green public procurement, as well as citizen participation. As the first Local Office against Climate Change in Spain, as a member of SDG 2030 Spanish Network, and as part of the Covenant of Mayors, we strongly believe that preservation of the environment entails the rational use of natural resources, and implies the necessary action of public bodies. We must do it together. This is why we have participated and will keep participating with a partner event, in the EUW Regions and Cities, EU Green Week, EUW Waste Reduction, and EU Sustainable Development Week. And we will keep on working with our 28 eco-schools and with our public-private allies of ECCUS Circular Economy hub. This is what will lead us to offer our citizens and neighbours a better future.*”

“ *Ioannina is a picturesque city, with great history and a remarkable natural landscape. Sustainable urban development, with respect and protection of the natural environment, and the promotion of the city's history and cultural heritage, are key elements and horizontal major strategic goals of all policy strategies of the municipality. The city is a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and already implements its Sustainable Urban Development Strategy, SECAP and Urban Mobility Plan aiming to become a greener, smarter, and more sustainable city. The city participates in several European projects such as:*

- 1. “POCITYF”, through which city administrators, planners, universities, entrepreneurs and citizens are engaged in a coordinated effort to formulate the future development of European cities and especially involving cities with heritage sites in Europe’s renewable energy transition*
- 2. “SPROUT” that will provide a new city-led innovative and data-driven policy response to address the impacts of the emerging mobility patterns, digitally enabled operating & business models, and transport users’ needs*
- 3. “CONNECTING NATURE” that co-works with local authorities, communities, industry partners, NGOs and academics who are investing in large scale implementation of nature-based projects in urban settings, measuring the impact of these initiatives on climate change adaptation, health and well-being, social cohesion and sustainable economic development in these cities.*

The municipality has designed a project of the reconstruction of a significant park in the city, based on NBS’s principles. Projects of recycling and reusing, replacing vehicles with others that are more energy-efficient, designing a network for charging electric vehicles, smart LED electric lighting, are already funded and projects of buildings’ energy upgrade are scheduled and will be funded soon. Promoting LGDs, participating in initiatives like EWWR and ELDW, involving citizens in building a better future of Ioannina!

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Moses Elisaf
Mayor of Ioannina

“*It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves”, said William Shakespeare. It's my duty as Mayor to build the destiny of my city, Algeciras, which is located in a privileged environmental place to enliven the city and improve neighbours' well-being through effective policies that respect the principles of Local Green Deals, our local sustainable transformation guide. The municipality of Algeciras has become a Spanish benchmark because of its 2030 Urban Agenda development for the environmental, economic, social, spatial and governance progress of the entire city. We shall continue to encourage the practices aimed at boosting projects such as the environmental quality meters, efficient outdoor public lighting, water purification plan, zero-emission zones, digitalisation, home sustainability and beach recovery. We are working with The Andalusian Regional Government, Port Authority of Algeciras Bay and University of Cadiz as well as other public and private institutions, because achieving Local Green Deals is everyone's responsibility. Our cities are stars and we hold their destiny.*”

“Three key concepts SMART-OPEN-RESILIENT will steer Rijeka towards 2030 and provide incentives for further development. Climate change and the need for sustainable resource management are our imperatives. Rijeka has already begun to rethink its spatial and social development, starting from circular management, reuse of existing spaces and responsible use of what it has at its disposal. Under the given conditions, work on the modernisation of communal services and the development of green infrastructure in Rijeka will contribute not only to a better state of the environment, but also to the quality of life and the attractiveness of the city for life. By 2030, Rijeka wants to be completely transformed into a city of modern industries, especially creative, technologically innovative and green. Its relationship with the Port of Rijeka should also be designed within the boundaries of spatial and environmental sustainability, without giving up on the development and technological modernisation of the port. In the next ten years, Rijeka will continue to repurpose its existing spaces as it has done so far, revitalising its cultural and industrial heritage. Rijeka will green its space, make public and private green spaces more accessible. Our plan is to reach the highest quality of utilities, green urban mobility, including public transportation, responsible, efficient and affordable waste, water supply and drainage management.

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Marco Filipovič
Mayor of Rijeka

“ *Our newly formed municipality, the dedicated staff and all the stakeholders of the city agree that to achieve our vision to transform the new Municipality of Central Corfu and Diapontian Islands (MCCDI) into one of the most sustainable islands in Europe, we should learn how together we can better use our resources in efficient, effective and reproducible ways. Our main goal is to successfully achieve further carbon footprint reduction so we can be ready to meet the goals of 2030 and 2050 and actively participate to help Europe becomes the world's first climate-neutral continent. We are committing to set all the necessary green and blue infrastructures, to build all the necessary partnerships and take all the necessary actions mostly but not only in the following areas:*

- 1. The waste management, recycling up-scaling, and transition to a circular economy.*
- 2. e-Government and digitising public services*
- 3. The scaling up of renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions*
- 4. The smart and green mobility and transport*

Our ambition is to fulfil our commitment to comply with the United Nations' SDG indicators and support the European Green Deal (EGD) and transform our island into a place where citizens will be proud to live in and visitors happy to come back to all year round.

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Merope Hydraiou
Mayor of Corfu

“Alcoy City Council, in collaboration with the companies in its area of influence and different social and educational institutions, is taking decisive steps in the design of a new economic model focused on people's talent and on ensuring that our professionals receive an adequate upskilling. Through planned investments in line with the Local Green Deal, we want to achieve a strengthened industrial ecosystem and provide it with the necessary tools to face the digitalisation process that will make them more competitive. All this without forgetting crucial issues such as the promotion of sustainable mobility, clean energy production or smarter energy consumption, both in the urban core and in industrial areas.”

“ *Resource wisdom is one of four city strategy's spearheads. Jyväskylä joined Covenant of Mayors in 2016 and achieved a target to reduce CO2 emissions by 40 % already last year. Jyväskylä aims to be CO2-neutral by 2030 (Resource wise Jyväskylä -program). Jyväskylä's energy production (Alva-yhtiöt) will also be CO2-neutral by 2030. Local busses will use only environmentally friendly fuels (biogas, biodiesel or electricity) by 2025. There is already a local biogas ecosystem to produce and use biogas from biowaste and wastewater sludge. We also encourage inhabitants to move smartly, which means better walking and cycling possibilities, good local transportation and co-use of electric cars. The city of Jyväskylä works actively to reduce its own use of electricity in governmental and service buildings and uses 100 % renewable energy.* ”

“*Working collaboratively with local academic experts, public bodies, the SME sector and the community sector, Cork City Council aims to better understand how open data can inform and enhance the lives of people living, working and visiting Cork City. By better engaging with our citizens and communities we aspire to understand the challenges they are facing. We hope that by working collectively we can utilise the vast expertise of our city stakeholders to explore these challenges and together, provide better information to help inform and empower our citizens.*”

“*The new stage in regional development assigns significant responsibilities to mayors for the implementation of the principles of the Local Green Deal. One of the first steps is the introduction of systematic methods for energy management. Municipal energy planning is a relatively new task for local administrations, which will become increasingly important in the overall concepts of regional development. It is essential to work for the energy efficiency of municipal and residential buildings, ecological transport, and the use of energy from renewable sources, application of new methods for waste utilisation. The Municipality of Vratsa is implementing a project for the renewal of public transport and the transition to environmentally friendly vehicles. For the last 5 years were implemented energy efficiency measures in 29 municipal and residential buildings. The Municipality has signed 126 contracts with the Condominium Owners' Associations for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in residential buildings for the next programming period. The municipality of Vratsa is starting the construction of a passive sports complex with the use of green hydrogen and the expectations are that the energy costs required for the operation of the facility will be 50% lower than usual. The plan for integrated development of the municipality for the next programming period 2021-2027 includes investments in renewable sources, which will further reduce energy costs in the renovated residential buildings. All efforts made by the municipalities at the local level would be impossible without raising the awareness of the citizens, improving their ecological culture and turning the community into a supporter of the local government.*”

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Kalin Kamenov
Mayor of Vratsa

“*The city of Thessaloniki focuses on critical roads and mobility modes infrastructure, open green spaces, data empowered city and digitalisation, economic growth and creation of an ecosystem that enables human talent, inclusiveness, give prominence to the cultural history, the tourism along with respect for its natural resources and the connection with the Thermaikos Bay, the port and the sea. Local Green Deals can deliver new ways of co-working, planning, thinking and constructing to achieve economic development, effective governance and better well-being in a sustainable, smart and resilient manner. The City of Thessaloniki applies those key principles by working together with local stakeholders, civil society, academia and local entrepreneurs with a robust and participatory approach to implement a long-term Resilient Strategy “Thessaloniki 2030” to address current and future challenges. It operates an urban observatory to collect data and monitor indicators that aims to improve the implementation of SDGs. And it uses smart tools and applications to incentivise and improve its people daily life. And, finally, connects with other cities and organisations to gain technical expertise and exchange good practices.*”

“*The metropolitan area of Milan has a long-lasting history of environmental policies, with a focus on the circular economy, biodiversity and climate protection. This area has also been hit hard by the pandemic. For us, building a Local Green Deal means building a social pact for a reconstruction of the economy and the territory aimed at accelerating the energy and climate transition, building upon the many actions already in place. The opportunity to host PreCOP26 in Milan will be an important opportunity to involve citizens of all ages in this new project of society and territory: we are firmly convinced that this project can only be successful if we are able to design it together with citizens, making them the first protagonists.*”

“*As a city mayor who, for over a decade, has carried out one of the biggest area revitalisation projects in Europe, I believe that the European Green Deal initiated by Vice President Frans Timmermans will help us accelerate the delivery of projects responding to the current reconstruction and environmental challenges. For over a year, I have been implementing the Ecopact, which, together with the revitalisation process, is our local response to the Green Deal. I have invited everyone to make our City greener and more livable. I am expanding cooperation with business and other entities - power companies, heating plants, higher education institutions, schools, municipal companies - in order to effectuate pro-environmental behavioural change and implement climate projects. Together, we plant trees, create new parks, rain gardens and wildflower meadows, harvest rainwater or fight low-stack emissions - from the replacement of non-ecological heating sources to clean transport.*”

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Hana Zdanowska
Mayor of Lodz