

Will your city be the next European Green Capital winner?

The title of European Green Capital is awarded every year to a European city for its commitment to environmental, social and economic sustainability. The first city was awarded the title in 2010.

Now in its 10th year, the European Commission has launched the competition to identify the winner of the European Green Capital 2020 title. For the first time, the winner of this title will be also receiving a financial incentive of €350,000 to kick-start their environmental programme for the year!



European Green Capital Award - Celebrating 10 years



An initiative of the
European Commission





A message from EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella

With over two thirds of Europeans now living in urban areas, cities across Europe are presented with problems related to energy consumption, pollution, waste management, housing, unemployment, transport, and water conservation.

By showcasing the achievements of European cities in tackling these issues, the European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards aim to lead by example and inspire others to take action.

A highlight of our most recent award cycle is that the nominees for both awards are literally from the four corners of Europe; north, south, east and western cities are represented. This is a sure sign that the European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards idea has truly taken root. The diversity of experiences that these nominees bring shows that there are many and varied paths to becoming a modern Green city.

Karmenu Vella

EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Make your city 'Fit for Life'

Today, about 70% of Europeans live in towns and cities and this number is predicted to rise. Urban areas concentrate most of the environmental challenges facing our society, but also bring together commitment and innovation to resolve them.

The European Green Capital Award promotes and rewards these efforts, recognising co-operation and partnerships between local authorities, citizens, businesses and other stakeholders to improve our urban living environment.

Applications for the European Green Capital 2020 Award are now open and will run until 18 October 2017 16.00 CEST (GMT +2).

Financial incentive¹

For the first time, in order to celebrate the 10th year of the European Green Capital competition, the Commission will award €350,000 to the winning city of the 2020 European Green Capital title (cities having more than 100,000 inhabitants) to help them with kick-starting their green year. All of the details regarding this financial incentive and winning city obligations are contained in the Rules of Contest 2020, available on the website.

Who can apply?

The European Green Capital Award is open to...

- Applicant cities from EU Member States, EU Candidate Countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
- Applicant cities from the countries listed above which have more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Eligibility

- In countries where there is no city with more than 100,000 inhabitants, the largest city is eligible to apply.
- A 'city' is understood to be an urban area, excluding metropolitan areas, larger urban zones and conurbations, and is understood as an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body.

Rules of Contest

- In any given year, cities can apply for either the European Green Capital Award or European Green Leaf Award, but not both at the same time.
- Past winners may not apply for a period of ten years after they held the European Green Capital title.

¹ Subject to the approval of the EU 2018 Budget and approval by the College of the 2018 Financing Decision for the EU LIFE Programme

Application Process

The competition to become the European Green Capital 2020 opens in May 2017 and entries must be submitted by Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 16:00 CEST (GMT +2) via the online application form at ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/applying-for-the-award/.

If you think your city can be an international ambassador, showcasing best practice in environmental management and planning in order to motivate and inspire other cities, then you should apply!

The selection of a winning city will be assessed on the basis of the following twelve indicator areas:

- | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Climate Change: Mitigation | 7 | Noise |
| 2 | Climate Change: Adaptation | 8 | Waste |
| 3 | Sustainable Urban Mobility | 9 | Water |
| 4 | Sustainable Land Use | 10 | Green Growth and Eco-innovation |
| 5 | Nature and Biodiversity | 11 | Energy Performance |
| 6 | Air Quality | 12 | Governance |

The Award Application Form has four sections per indicator:

- A** Describe the present situation.
- B** Describe the measures implemented over the last five to ten years.
- C** Describe the short and long term objectives for the future and proposed approach to achieve these.
- D** List how the above information can be documented; add links where possible.

Evaluation Process of the European Green Capital Award

A panel of twelve independent, internationally acknowledged experts carry out a technical assessment of the applications and provides a ranking of the applicant cities, along with a short-list to go to the next stage of the competition. The shortlist of cities is then submitted to an international Jury, chaired by the European Commission.

The European Green Capital Award shortlisted cities are invited to present a communication strategy along with an action plans on how they intend to fulfil their European Green Capital year, should they win, to the Jury.

At this presentation, the Jury assesses:

- The city's overall commitment, vision and enthusiasm as conveyed through the presentation.
- The city's capacity to act as a role model, to inspire other cities, promote best practices and raise the awareness of the EGC model further – bearing in mind city size and location.
- The city's communication strategy actions which should address:
 - Citizen communications and involvement to date in relation to the 12 environmental indicators, including its effectiveness in terms of changes in citizen behaviour, lessons learned and proposed modifications for the future.
 - The extent of the city's (local, regional and national) partnering to gain maximum social and economic leverage.
 - How they intend to fulfil their role of EU Ambassador, inspiring other cities.

Based on the quality of this presentation and the expert team assessment, the Jury then takes its final decision. The findings of the expert panel and jury are publically available.



Detailed instructions on how to apply, including a guidance note can be found on ec.europa.eu/europeangreencapital or email info@europeangreencapital.eu



Nijmegen, European Green Capital 2018

European Green Capitals keep on winning

Being a European Green Capital brings many benefits including;

- ✓ Increased tourism
- ✓ Positive international media coverage
- ✓ Increased international profile, networking and new alliances
- ✓ New jobs – a European Green Capital is more attractive to foreign investors
- ✓ Attracts public financial support
- ✓ More emphasis on environmental projects through sponsorship and grants
- ✓ Boosts local pride and generates a feeling of belonging
- ✓ Momentum to continue improving environmental sustainability
- ✓ Access to the European Green Capital Network of previous winners and shortlisted cities to share ideas and experiences.

European Green Capitals so far

- 2018 / Nijmegen
- 2017 / Essen
- 2016 / Ljubljana
- 2015 / Bristol
- 2014 / Copenhagen
- 2013 / Nantes
- 2012 / Vitoria-Gasteiz
- 2011 / Hamburg
- 2010 / Stockholm



2020 Award: Key dates

May 2017:	Competition opens
Late June 2017:	Applicant Workshop
18 October 2017:	Competition closes
November 2017 – March 2018:	Assessment by Expert Panel
April 2018:	Announcement of shortlisted cities
May/June 2018:	Jury presentations by shortlisted cities (in Nijmegen)
May/June 2018:	Awards ceremony (in Nijmegen)

The European Green Capital Award and the European Green Leaf Awards (for smaller cities and towns) are initiatives of the European Commission.

To find more information about green cities, how to apply for the awards, how the winners are selected, and for any other questions, please visit our website.

ec.europa.eu/europeangreencapital



Publications Office

ISBN 978-92-79-68540-8
doi: 10.2779/228914

