



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



July 2025

EU MISSION: CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES

WHAT ARE THE EU MISSIONS?

EU Missions are large-scale initiatives under Horizon Europe designed to tackle major global challenges, such as climate change, cancer, soil health, ocean restoration, and the development of climate-neutral and smart cities. They set clear, time-bound goals and bring together research, policy, and stakeholders to drive innovation and deliver concrete solutions for societal benefit.

MISSION CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES

The Cities Mission supports 112 cities in their journey to climate neutrality by 2030, positioning them as pioneers of urban transformation. These cities serve as innovation hubs for testing and scaling solutions that will enable all European cities to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

Targets:

- **100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030**
- Ensure that these cities **act as experimentation and innovation hubs** to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **112 cities selected** as frontrunners in climate neutrality – they are developing Climate City Contracts and receiving tailored support and help with access to funding.
- Cities have set out to achieve **200 million tons CO₂eq (carbon dioxide equivalent) reduction**, equal to the emissions of the Netherlands and Croatia combined.
- Mission Cities engages local stakeholders and citizens, gathering on average **40 co-signatories** per Climate City Contract.
- Member States are establishing **national support structures** – Romania, for example, allocated EUR 300 million to its 3 mission cities and 10 additional cities.
- The European Investment Bank offers financial advisory services and a **€2 billion lending envelope**.

SUCCESS STORY

Barcelona shows how the Cities Mission drives climate action with an emission reduction strategy across sectors, in-depth stakeholder and citizen engagement and effective use of funding opportunities:

- **Governance:** applying a [Whole-of-Government Approach](#) to convey the necessary political, organisational and economic capital.
- **Industry collaboration:** engaging businesses through innovation challenges ([low carbon paving stones](#), [industrialised public housing](#)) for Mediterranean climate and voluntary agreements ([zero plastics initiative](#)).
- **Citizen participation:** involving residents through [climate assemblies](#), [participatory budgets](#) and the [collaborative challenge on decarbonisation](#).
- **Social perspective:** tackling energy poverty through [structured advice](#), [shared municipal renewable energy at low price](#), support to grassroots energy communities and [targeted building retrofit grants](#).
- **Finance:** adding the [purposeful use of tourist tax overheads](#) and an [EIB loan of EUR 175 million under the Cities Mission envelope](#) to attract investment in decarbonisation.



ALIGNED AMBITIONS AND SYNERGIES



The Cities Mission contributes to Europe's clean and digital transition, aligning with the European Green Deal and the Policy Agenda for Cities, and the Clean Industrial Deal. It contributes to Industry Dialogues, bringing cities and industries together to advance clean technologies, circular economy practices, and energy efficiency. Moreover, the Mission contributes to the EU's strategy in support to Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction, through the association of 12 Ukrainian municipalities that will develop climate neutrality plans for 2050.

The Mission also contributes to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through local climate-neutrality strategies.

MORE INFO AND CONTACT

Learn more: [Climate-neutral and smart cities - European Commission](#)

Get in touch: RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-CITIES@ec.europa.eu

Sign up to the Mission's [newsletter](#)

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