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70% of Europeans live in our towns and cities

Most of our environmental challenges are concentrated in urban areas



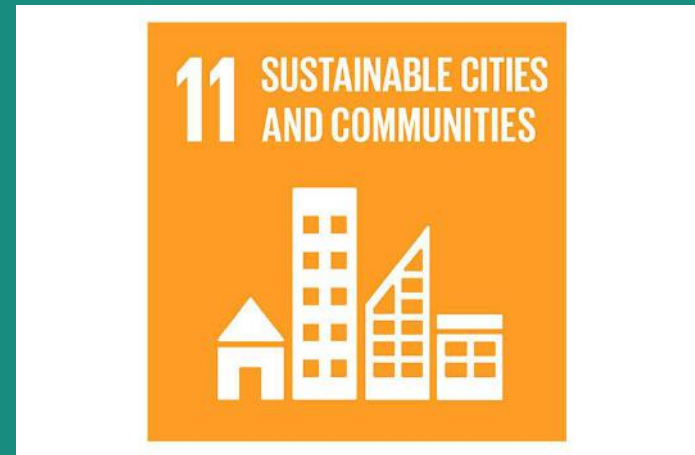
Resulting in urban problems related to
Energy consumption
Pollution
Housing
Waste management
Unemployment
Water Conservation
Transport



The Global context

UN - Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



New Urban Agenda
20 October 2016 Quito (Ecuador)

**United Nations Conference on
Housing and Sustainable Urban
Development (Habitat III)**



The European context

- EU is implementing **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11** and the urban-related dimension of the 2030 Agenda, so the New Urban Agenda
- **7th Environment Action Programme**
- EU has its correspondent political agenda: **the Urban Agenda for the EU (Pact od Amsterdam of May 2016)**
- **European Structural and Investment Funds** are the main contributors for the implementation of SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda



The EU Urban Agenda

Objective: Include urban dimension in policies

Involve cities in the design

Mobilise cities in the delivery

Output: Action Plans for selected themes

Actions (better legislation, better funding, better knowledge) -Good projects to be scaled-up and transferred across the EU

Governance: Work in partnership

EU institutions; Member States; Cities (and cities associations)

Stakeholders experts (NGOs, business, etc.)

Priority themes: Jobs and skills in the local economy, urban poverty; Housing; inclusion of migrants and refugees; sustainable use of land and Nature-based solutions; Circular economy; Climate adaptation; Energy transition Urban mobility; Air quality; Digital transition; Innovative and responsible procurement



Funding opportunities for cities (2014-2020)

European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) €21 billion

>Enterprise and Industry

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF): €454 billion

>Regional Policy

1. European Regional Development Fund **€186 billion**
2. European Social Fund **€70 billion**
3. Cohesion Fund **€63.4 billion**
4. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development **€100 billion**
5. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund **€5.75 billion**

Horizon 2020 *>Research and Innovation* **€80 billion**

LIFE *>Environment* **€1.1 billion**





The Awards for Cities



An initiative of the
European Commission



An initiative of the
European Commission



Objectives

Recognise and promote the efforts of towns and cities towards better environmental management and outcomes



European Green Capital Award (EGCA)



- European cities with 100,000+ population
- Ten winners since 2010
- Competition for EGCA 2020 now underway

Performance measured under 12 Indicators



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

European Green Capital Award Winners



**2010:
Stockholm**



2011: Hamburg



2012: Vitoria-Gasteiz



2013: Nantes



2014: Copenhagen



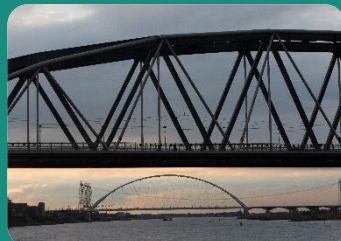
2015: Bristol



2016: Ljubljana



2017: Essen



2018: Nijmegen



2019: Oslo

- Smaller cities and towns
- 20,000-100,000 population
- Working on green initiatives
- Committed to growing greener
- Five winners since 2015
- Competition for EGLA 2019 now underway

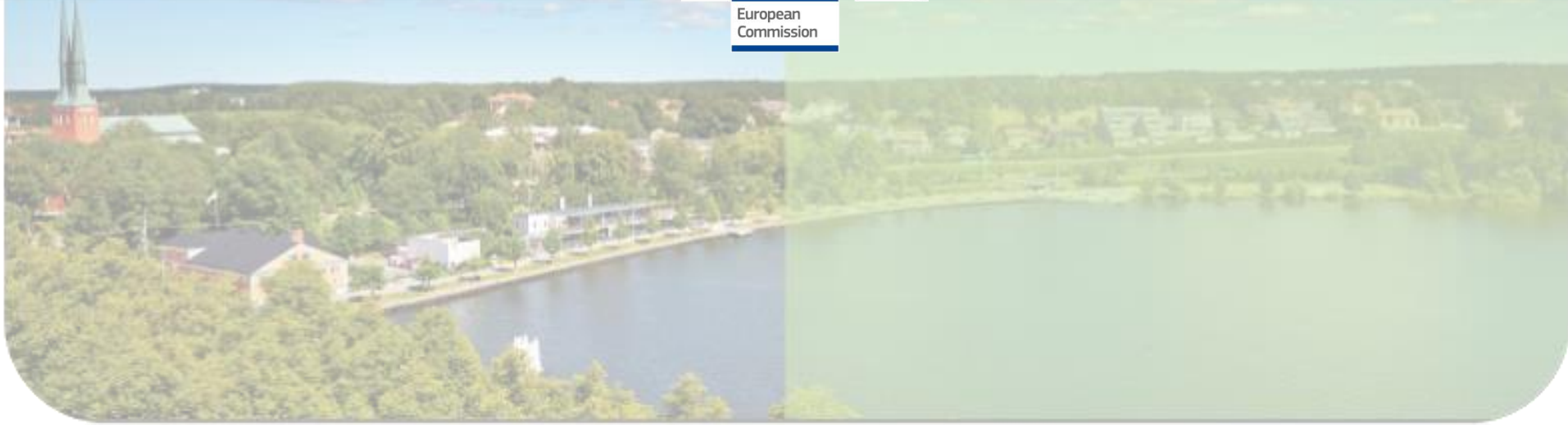
European Green Leaf Award (EGLA)



- Climate Change & Energy Performance
- Sustainable Urban Mobility
- Nature, Biodiversity & Sustainable Land Use
- Air Quality and Noise
- Waste and Circular Economy
- Water

Performance measured under 6 Topic Areas





Five European Green Leaf Award Winners

2015: Mollet del Vallès, Spain and
Torres Vedras, Portugal

2017: Galway, Ireland

2018: Leuven, Belgium and
Växjö, Sweden



Benefits of Entering the Awards

- Individual technical assessment of your city
 - **by International Panel of Experts**
 - **Technical Assessment Report**
 - **Benchmark your city against others**
- Identify your environmental achievements and gaps and plan for the future
- International publicity
- If at least shortlisted, becoming member of the Green Capital Network.





Financial Incentive introduced in 2017 to celebrate 10 years

- Kick-start winners' environmental programme
- €350k for European Green Capital Award Winner
- €75k for each European Green Leaf Award Winner
- New Rules of Competition



Award Winners

- ✓ **Committed to Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability**
- ✓ **Foster co-operation - local authorities, citizens, businesses and other stakeholders working together**
- ✓ **Act as role models, lead by example and inspire other towns and cities**



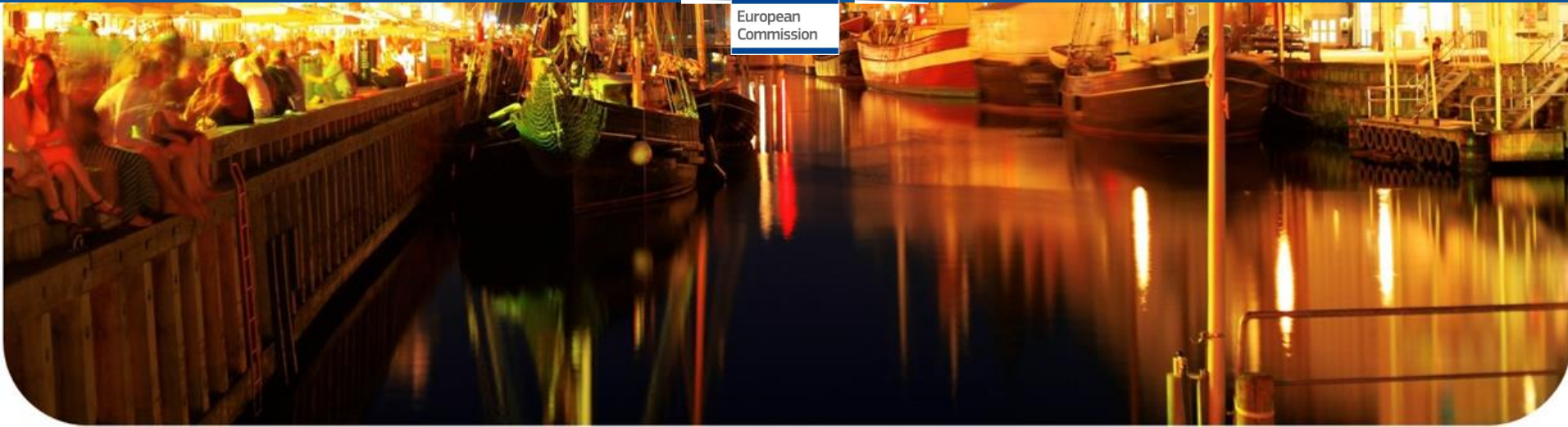
Stockholm's 5-year Report, after being EGCA 2010, demonstrates continuous improvement

- The city has decided to become fossil-fuel free by 2040
- Järva suburbs became Sweden's most solar district – over 10,000 m² of solar panels generating 1.3 million kWh solar energy annually and supply up to 20% of homes
- Substantial investments by real estate companies to renovate existing properties to ensure greater energy efficiency
- The city partnered with businesses including IBM and Siemens towards sustainable urban development projects



Hamburg's 5-year Report, after being EGCA 2011, displays commitment to achieving even more

- Halving carbon emissions by 2030
- Double the share of bicycle traffic in future years
- Working towards transferring Hamburg's district heating distribution network back to the local authorities, to facilitate energy transition of heat supply

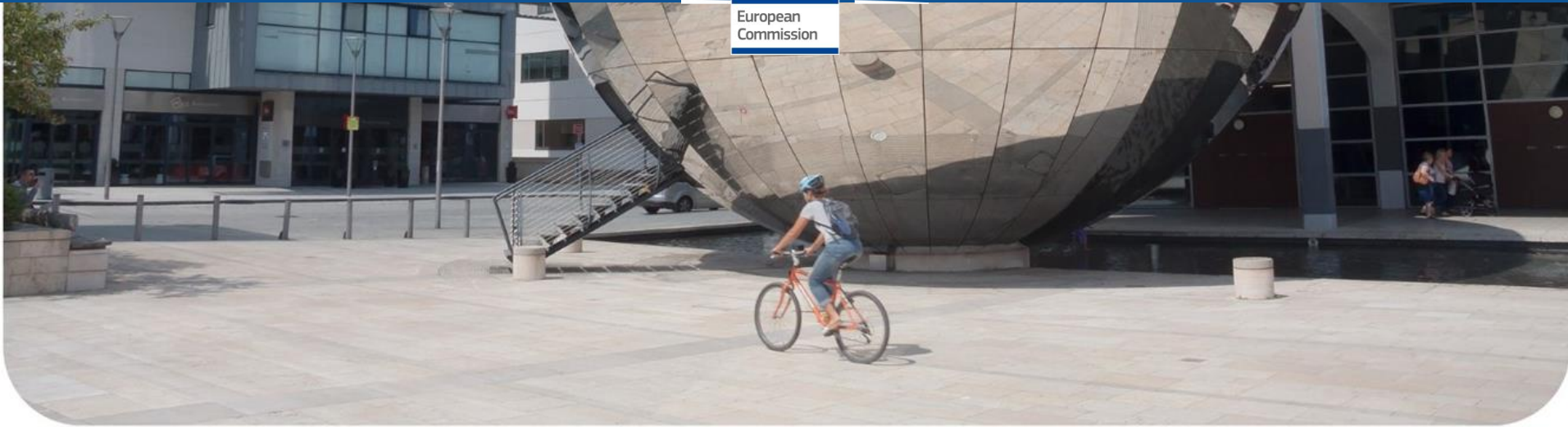


Copenhagen, European Green Capital 2014

- During its year
 - 570,000 people participated in Sharing Copenhagen events, conferences and guided tours
 - 90+ new green thematic partnerships established
 - 250 events, conferences, guided tours and
- Working to become world's first carbon-neutral capital in 2025
- 98% of households connected to district heating system



European
Commission



Bristol, European Green Capital 2015

- Five Themes: Nature, Transport, Energy, Resources, Food
- 36,000 trees planted in the One Tree Per Child initiative
- 50,000 people pledged to make sustainable change in behaviour
- 62% more members in Bristol Green Capital Partnership (BGCP) – to make Bristol a low carbon city with a high quality of life for all
- 1,224 business committed to Going Green
- 200 business & civil leaders from 11 countries attended events

Conclusions: winners keep on winning

- ✓ Increased tourism
- ✓ International media coverage
- ✓ Better international profile, networking and new alliances
- ✓ Attract public financial support
- ✓ New Jobs – award winners are more attractive to investors
- ✓ More emphasis on environmental projects through sponsorship & grants
- ✓ Momentum to continue improving environmental sustainability
- ✓ Boosts local pride
- ✓ Access to an exclusive club: The European Green Capital Network / The European Green Leaf Network of previous winners and shortlisted cities to share ideas and experiences



Thank you!

