Green City Accord
Clean and Healthy Cities for Europe
What is the Green City Accord?

The Green City Accord is a movement of European cities committed to safeguarding the environment.

In signing the Green City Accord, city leaders agree to take further action to make their cities greener, cleaner and healthier places.

The Green City Accord will support the delivery of the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Why a Green City Accord?

*Urban areas are home to some 70% of the EU’s population*

*Urban areas face a host of environmental challenges that pose risks to the health and wellbeing of their citizens*
Vision

The Green City Accord brings together mayors and leaders of local governments across Europe around a common vision of an urban future where by 2030:

• Cities will be attractive places to live in and will promote citizens’ health and well-being.

• All citizens will breathe clean air, enjoy clean water, have access to parks and green spaces, and experience less environmental noise.

• The circular economy will be a reality and waste will have been turned into a resource by encouraging greater reuse, repair and recycling.
Goals

In joining the Accord, mayors agree to taking further action to achieve the following goals by 2030:

1. **Significant improvement in air quality** in cities, moving closer to respecting the World Health Organization’s Air Quality Guidelines, while ending exceedances of EU air quality standards as soon as possible.

2. **Important progress in improving the quality of water bodies** and the efficiency of water use.
Goals

Considerable progress in conserving and enhancing urban biodiversity, including through an increase in the extent and quality of green areas in cities, and by halting the loss of and restoring urban ecosystems.

Advance towards the circular economy by securing a significant improvement in the management of household municipal waste, an important reduction in waste generation and landfilling, and a substantial increase in reuse, repair and recycling.

Significant reduction in noise pollution, moving closer to the levels recommended by the World Health Organization.
How to join?
The Accord is open to any city located in the European Union.

The Accord step by step

− **SIGN**: The Mayor or an equivalent representative of the local council signs the Green City Accord, after an official resolution has been adopted by the council (or equivalent decision-making body);

− **DEFINE**: Within two years, the city establishes its ambitious targets in the five domains of the Green City Accord, and determines baseline levels reflecting the starting point in each domain;

− **ACT**: The city plans and implements policies and programmes in an integrated manner to achieve its targets by 2030;

− **MONITOR AND REPORT**: The city reports back on progress every three years through an easy-to-use online tool.

Note: In this initiative, the term ‘city’ refers to an urban area, such as a community, a town, or a city with an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body.
To 2030

**SIGNATURE**
(political)

**2030 TARGETS DEFINITION**
(within 2 years)

**ACTION**
(implementation)

**MONITORING & REPORT**
(every three years)
Green City Accord Supporters

Green City Accord Supporters are defined as not-for-profit organisations that have the capacity to promote the Green City Accord, mobilise cities to become Green City Accord signatories, and/or support signatories in implementing their Green City Accord commitments.

They take action on their territories and within their areas of expertise (e.g. environment, waste, water, air, noise, biodiversity, etc.), and at different levels of governance (e.g. European, national, and regional/local) to promote the Green City Accord and/or support the signatories in their remit.
Who is eligible

Green City Accord Supporters fall within the following types of organisations:

- Networks and associations of Local and Regional Authorities;
- Provinces and regions;
- National authorities (e.g. relevant ministries)
- Local, regional and national thematic agencies (e.g. environment agencies);
- International organisations;
- Business associations or federations;
- Universities and research organisations (incl. think tanks);
- Non-governmental and civil society organisations.
What is the role of Supporters?

- **Promote** the GCA to EU cities
- **Support** the GCA and signatories
- **Facilitate** exchange of experiences
- **Disseminate** experience and success of GCA signatories
- **Participate** in GCA activities
How to become a GCA Supporter?

Two steps (being currently implemented):

1. Fill in a registration form on GCA website [www.greencityaccord.eu](http://www.greencityaccord.eu)

2. After confirmation of eligibility, complete and sign the **Supporter Statement** on the Green City Accord Website

The GCA website section on Supporters will include the list of Supporters with a link to their website.
What’s Next

The Green City Accord is open for signature.

Package for Supporters:
- Supporter’s statement
- Leaflet (EN, FR, ES, RO – soon available in all languages)
- Letter to cities signed by Commissioner (EN, FR, DE, ES)
- Template short article with visuals
- Email when municipalities sign the Accord
For more information regarding the Green City Accord, please visit www.greencityaccord.eu or write to contact@greencityaccord.eu

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The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.