**Introduction**

Cities can lead the way to make Europe’s environment safe and sustainable. Many successful actions have already been taken at local level, but further efforts are necessary to face this century’s environmental challenges.

**The concept**

The Green City Accord is a movement of European mayors committed to safeguarding the natural environment and making cities cleaner, healthier and more resource-efficient. It will support cities in their efforts to become more environmentally sustainable and thereby improve city dwellers’ quality of life.

This voluntary initiative is open to all cities in the European Union. Participating cities enjoy the following benefits:

* Increased visibility for their environmental efforts
* A framework for managing local resources more effectively and support for more integrated delivery of environmental goals
* Technical support to plan and implement environmental actions through a helpdesk, peer-learning and capacity-building
* Improved access to information about financing
* Opportunities to exchange knowledge and good practices with other cities
* A line of communication between cities and European policy-makers.

**Objectives**

The Green City Accord will complement the [Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](https://ccre.org/en/activites/view/3), by addressing environmental issues not covered by the Covenant. It will also build coherence with other EU urban initiatives and support the delivery of the European Green Deal and of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Accord will mobilise cities willing to step up their actions in five areas of environmental management:

* Improving air quality
* Enhancing nature and biodiversity
* Reducing noise pollution
* Improving municipal waste management and advancing the circular economy
* Improving the quality of water bodies and the efficiency of water use

**How to join ?**

The Green City Accord can be signed at any time by all municipalities in the European Union, whatever their size. Please note that only the Mayor (or equivalent representative) can sign.

There are only two steps to become a signatory:

1. The Accord is presented to the municipal council (or equivalent decision-making body).
2. Once an official resolution has been adopted by the council, the Mayor – or equivalent representative – signs the [Green City Accord political commitment document](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/system/files/2020-10/Green%20City%20Accord%20political%20commitment.pdf) electronically. To sign, please download the Green City Accord political commitment text here and click on ‘sign now’.

## **Contact**

For more information and any questions concerning the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Accord, please contact: contact@greencityaccord.eu