

# NET ZERO CITIES



**EU MISSION PLATFORM**

**CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES**



NetZeroCities has received funding from the H2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement n°101036519.



# Learning from awarded Climate City Contracts

Summary of the feedback of the European Commission to cities  
who got the Mission Label





# Mission Label

- **10 cities** from **Window 1** received the Mission Label ( autumn 2023);
- The European Commission **provided each awarded city with a detailed feedback on their CCC;**
- This presentation pulls together **key learnings from the EC feedback:**
  - review topics;
  - key areas of interest;
  - most commonly addressed issues.



# Review process in the European Commission



- **The Main Commitments:** reviewed by the *Cities Mission Secretariat*;
- **The Climate Neutrality Action Plan:** reviewed by the Commission's scientific service, *the Joint Research Centre*;
- **The Climate Neutrality Investment Plan:** reviewed by *a group of independent financial experts*. The InvestEU Advisory Hub and JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions), act as an observer.





# Review topics

1. The city's climate neutrality ambition
2. Quantification of emissions and planned reduction
3. Status quo analysis
4. Overall strategy
  - *Strengths, aspects to consider/ further improve, barrier removal/ enabling environment, governance, integration*
5. Pathways and action portfolio
  - *Maturity, balance, observations at sector level,*
6. Horizontal topics
  - *Innovation and digitalisation, air quality, social aspects, citizens and partnership building*
7. Monitoring
8. Investment planning





# 1. The city's climate neutrality ambition

- A **clear statement** on reaching the climate neutrality objective, that is **80% reduction** of GHG emissions as compared to the baseline/ Business as Usual scenario (Economic Model);
- A **clear statement** of the geographical boundaries;
- The GHG inventory covering **all sectors, required scopes and gases** (refer to Info Kit) - and if not, exclusions explained





## 2. Quantification of emissions and planned reduction

- **A clear and robust quantification of the reduction of emissions** resulting from the Action Plan (emissions gap); robust assumptions and methodologies;
- **A credible description of residual emissions** - only the actually hard to abate - based on a comprehensive analysis (why 20%?), with strategies that consider cost analysis, technological challenges, addressing specific sources of emissions.





# 3. Status quo analysis

- **detailed data** on each sector, incl. AFOLU and IPPU sector;
- **comprehensive data considering:** building performance levels, power plants, existing RES generation and future potential, waste heat potential, modal shares, fleet characteristics, waste/wastewater generation and management.





# 4. Overall strategy



## Strengths:

- strong **participative approach**;
- good **evidence for comprehensive stakeholder involvement** during the plan preparation;
- **various action types** (e.g. technical, urban spaces, NBS, governance/regulation, social innovation, digital transformation);
- **detailed description of actions** with quantitative and qualitative approach;
- **very stable** governance structure;
- **attention to synergies** and possible trade-offs between climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection;
- focus on **climate justice** and commitment to ensuring a fair transition with equitable distribution of benefits.





# 4. Overall strategy

## Aspects to consider/ further improve

- **risk assessment of high – impact actions** (big CO2 reduction, e.g. interventions on the infrastructure networks while there is the risk that citizens and private parties may decide to disconnect from/not reconnect to the network);
- **aligning** city energy requirements and expected CO2 reductions;
- **realistic level of ambition and funding** towards actions /providing details on the action portfolio/.





# 4. Overall strategy

## Barrier removal/ enabling environment

- **details on** how the barriers will be addressed and effectively removed; **sector-specific barriers** should be identified

## Governance

- the governance structure **aligned to the climate-neutrality purpose**; **clear description** of the internal governance structure, including any possible internal governance changes to be implemented.

## Integration

- **multi-stakeholder** and **multilevel** collaboration and co-creation; **multidimensional impacts** of the actions portfolio; **pilot projects** and their scalability in a city-wide perspective





# 5. Pathways and action portfolio

## Maturity

- **pathways covering all sectors**, including IPPU and AFOLU;
- the usage of **systemic levers**;
- **quantitative/measurable description of the actions** including e.g: short and medium term targets, roles and responsibilities at different levels, estimated emission reduction, expected other impacts (co-benefits).





# 5. Pathways and action portfolio

## Balance

- actions **responding to major emission** generating activities;
- supporting **credibility of planned actions** - evidence-based approach, risk assessment / risk mitigation;
- proposed actions **with balance between all sectors**;
- **balance in the field of financing actions**, without focusing on one sector in the IP





# 5. Pathways and action portfolio

## Observations at sector level- transport:

- **specific measures addressing the reduction of the need for motorized transport**, for modal shift and for shared transport;
- **impacts beyond CO2 emissions** on changes in mobility for individual actions (i.e. on energy use or transport activity), to allow for an evaluation of the actual targets;
- addressing topics like **urban freight, airports**.





# 5. Pathways and action portfolio

## Observations at sector level- waste:

- details on **the waste-related action**;
- **linking all the stakeholders** involved in view of further alignment of the emission reduction effort;
- **addressing** waste management, wastewater, circular economy waste to energy





# 5. Pathways and action portfolio

Observations at sector level- AFOLU, IPPU:

- **AFOLU - city-level actions to reduce emissions, refined** assessment of emissions from the AFOLU sector;
- **IPPU - city-level actions to reduce emissions, start** creating - even small - virtuous mechanisms and positive engagement.







# 5. Pathways and action portfolio

Observations at sector level- building environment and energy:

- Comprehensive approach to decarbonising the **heating and cooling and buildings sector** addressing demand reduction (thermal retrofits) and supply side measures;
- **Energy – RES**, PV geothermal, wind, organizational arrangements (eg. energy communities), integration of RES in mobility;
- assessment of planned **individual** RES installations capacity (with result on specific actions).





# 6. Horizontal topics

## Citizens and partnership building

- **details on effective citizen engagement** and how citizens will be effectively engaged in the process of achieving climate neutrality;
- **clear participatory methods**, strategies for the selection of participants, including identified vulnerable groups;
- **highlight** the issues citizens **are expected to solve** and how citizens **would learn about what changes** their participation has enabled;
- **co-creation** approach.





# 6. Horizontal topics

## Social aspects

- in terms of social aspects in the plan **provide the analysis of possible negative impacts from its implementation;**

## Air quality

- **status quo assessment** needed; **evaluation of the potential co-benefits or risks** while linking actions and pathways to expected air quality improvements ;

## Innovation and digitalisation

- **more details needed** in the AP on digitalisation aspects, including on the timeline for implementation, assessment of the dependencies with other actions in the plan and cost-benefit analysis for the most complex initiatives;
- **cover data governance aspects** / ecosystem of data in the city with interoperability, transparency and reusability are the core, inclusion of georeferenced data is very useful in urban matters.





# 7. Monitoring & Learning

- The list of indicators fully **covers the climate neutrality assessment, and is linked with the reductions in emissions**
- **Indicators as an informed choice**, based on the most useful evidence/data needed to signal progress through implementation and addressing barriers
- Include **Process monitoring** for tracking the **intermediate or qualitative changes** to adapt pathways as the city advances towards climate-neutrality

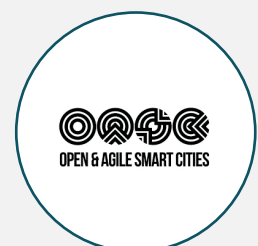
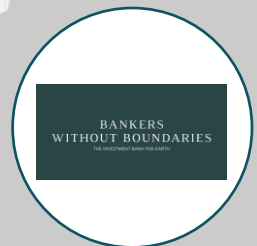




# 8. Investment planning

- **an appropriate balance** between the financing of activities and their impact on emissions ;
- **clarity** in proposing indicators, methodology, base and target values;
- **in-depth assessment of the availability of EU grants;**
- **financial instruments and private funding**, they should not play a minor role in financing actions;
- **output and climate-related result indicators**, plus the indicators for monitoring **physical progress** over time;
- **the link** between the policies and the climate neutrality;
- **policies** that target the private sector and key stakeholders.





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