NET ZERO CITIES

EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES

Call for Proposals: Enabling City Transformation

Eligibility, Assessment Criteria & Submission platform

19 June 2024

Overview

- Welcome

- 30 mins presentation (Eligibility & Assessment Criteria)

- Q&A (20 mins)

- 10 mins presentation (Grant Management System)

- Q&A (remaining time as required)

This event is being recorded

Use the Q&A functionality to ask questions

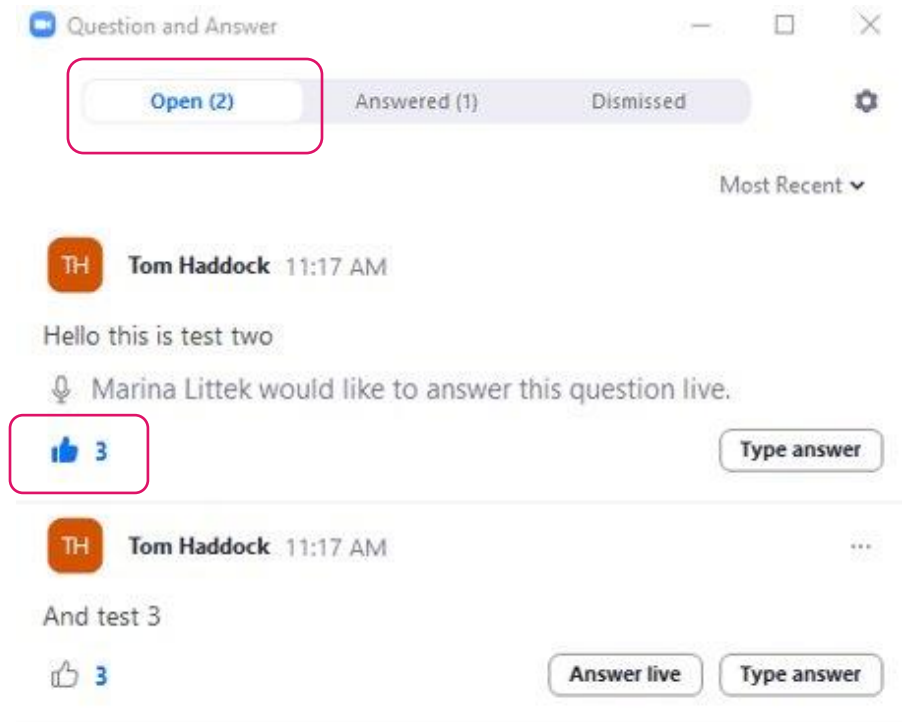Re/Name yourself and include your city and department

How to use the Q&A

1) Type down your questions
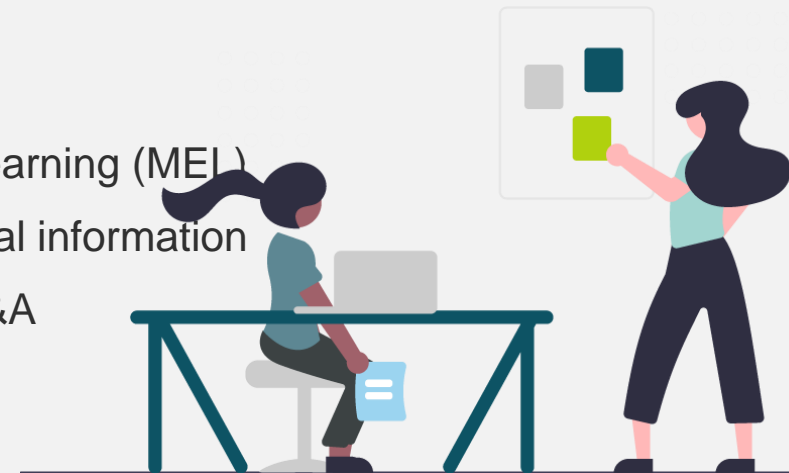
2) Vote up the questions

Welcome

Call launched:

- Call Guidelines published

- Submission platform open

- Supporting documents published (Call Guidelines, Financial Guidelines; Application templates and pro formas)

Scheduled webinars:

- Wednesday 12 June (14:00 CEST): Ambition, Approach, and Impact

- **Wednesday 19 June (11:30 CEST): Eligibility and Assessment Criteria**

- September (date to follow) – Impact Framework and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

- September (date to follow) – Refresher: Ambition, Approach & System and technical information

- September (date to follow) – Refresher: Eligibility and Assessment Criteria, and Q&A

Register for all at the NZC website: www.netzerocities.eu

This webinar…

Is for Mission Cities who wish to undertake an eighteen-month grant-supported programme of interventions **focussed on innovation in enabling city transformation, in the context of the European Union (EU) Cities Mission**.

We will cover:

- **Call Timeline**

- **Eligibility & Assessment Criteria**
  - Stage 1 – Eligibility
  - Stage 2 – Assessment
  - Stage 3 – Strategic Selection
  - Decision Communication

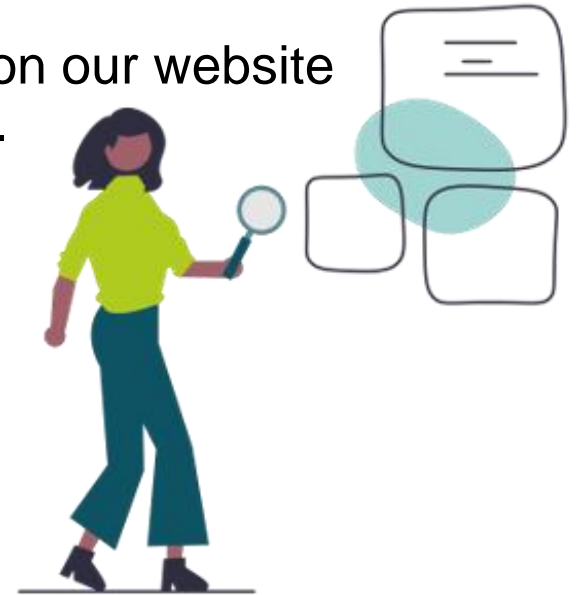- **Submission of the proposals in the Grant Management System**

Questions should be relevant to the content of the given webinar

Disclaimer

- Please note that the following slides are non-binding and for reference only. The NetZeroCities Enabling City Transformation Call Guidelines, as available on the NetZeroCities website, remain the definitive official document.

- Make sure you read the most up-to-date Call Guidelines available on our website including all associated documents before starting your application.

Enabling City Transformation Programme Team

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Key speakers

Will Wade

*NZC Pilot Cities & Enabling
City Transformation
Programme Orchestrator*

EIT Climate-KIC

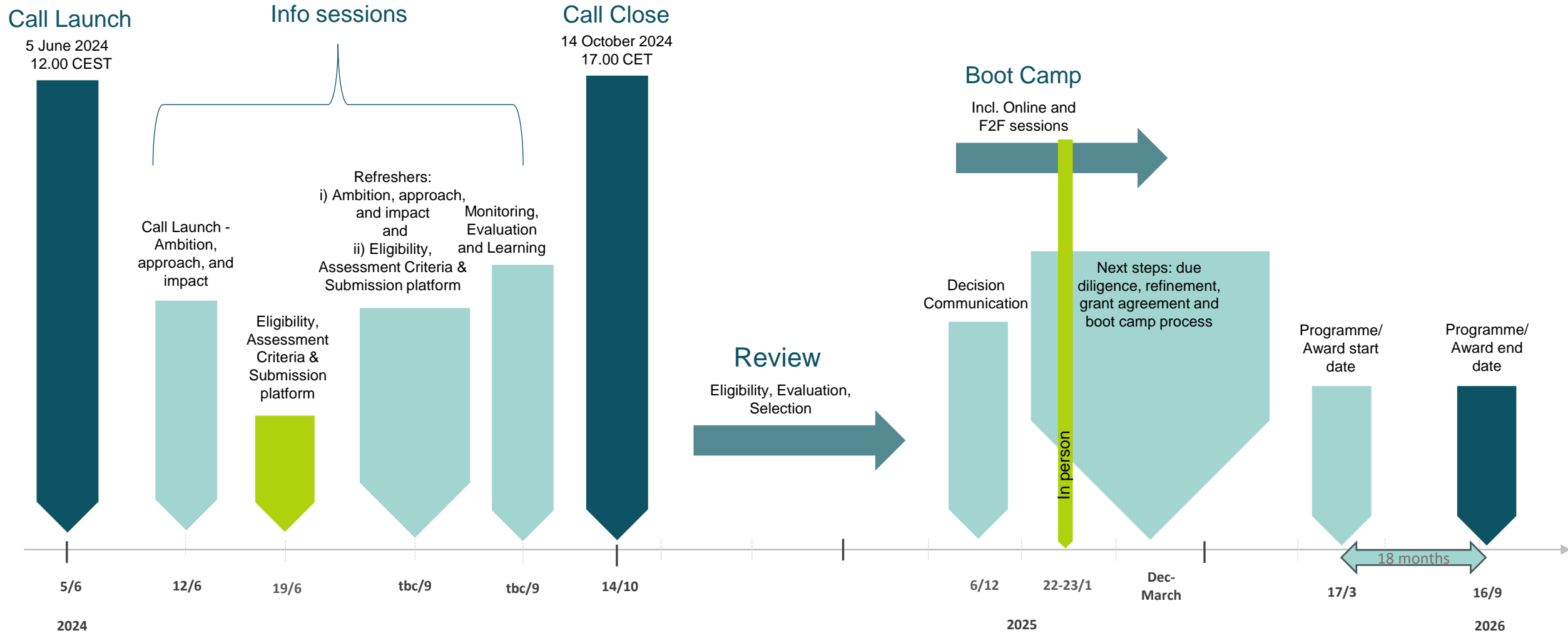Aziza Ishmakhametova

Product Manager

EIT Climate-KIC

Call for Proposals: Enabling City Transformation

Call Timeline

Call timeline

Call Launch
5 June 2024
12.00 CEST

Info sessions

Call Close
14 October 2024
17.00 CET

Boot Camp

Incl. Online and F2F sessions

Call Launch - Ambition, approach, and impact

Refreshers:
i) Ambition, approach, and impact
and
ii) Eligibility, Assessment Criteria & Submission platform

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Eligibility, Assessment Criteria & Submission platform

Review

Eligibility, Evaluation, Selection

Decision Communication

Next steps: due diligence, refinement, grant agreement and boot camp process

In person

Programme/ Award start date

Programme/ Award end date

18 months

5/6   12/6   19/6   tbc/9   tbc/9   14/10   6/12   22-23/1   Dec-March   17/3   16/9

2024   2025   2026

Funded by the European Union

Call for Proposals: Enabling City Transformation

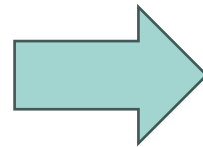**Eligibility & Assessment Criteria**

Three-stage evaluation process

Stage 1: Eligibility

Assessment of **5 pass/fail criterion** that must be all met**:**

1- Only 1 proposal/city

2- Consortium with at least 2 legal entities including the local authority

3- Proposal led by city administration

4- Letter of support from Mayor
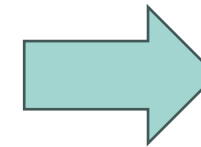
5- List of stakeholders

Stage 2: Assessment

Assessment by at least two independent experts; individual criteria are scored:

- **Mandate to Act**
- **Capacity to Act**
- **Impact**

NB: Unlike Pilot Cities Programme, there are **no specific points threshold** for individual or grouped criteria

Stage 3: Strategic selection

Selection committee selects proposals as a portfolio of enabling transformation interventions, with a maximum value of 22.8M EUR, based on a range of contextual selection criteria.

Each criteria will be explained in the next slides

Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria

1. **Only one proposal may be submitted by an eligible Mission City / District*** (also in case of multi-city applications).
    Only one proposal may be submitted by an eligible city/district. In the case of multi-city/district proposals, each city/district may appear in only one proposal. There shall be <u>no territorial double-funding</u>; therefore, a higher level of administration should not appear in a separate proposal to that of a constituent, lower-level administration (e.g., district). Applicants are advised to coordinate at the relevant city/district administrative levels before applying.

2. The **consortium** must contain **at least two legal entities** (one of which must be the local authority or city administration).
    The consortium must contain at least two partnering organisations, one of which must be the city / district administration, and any others must be separate, independent (from the city) legal entities.

3. The proposal must be **led by one of the city administrations**
    The proposal must be led by the city administration; in case of a district submission, it must be led by an authorised administration from within the specified district.

    * *City = defined as a Local Administrative Unit (LAU), or a "greater city" or metropolitan region*
    District = administrative sub-division of a city, with the authority to act on behalf of the local community

Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria

4. **A letter of support from the city mayor (or equivalent) must be provided. In the case of a multi-city proposal, one letter must be provided for each city.**
Letter of support from the city mayor (or equivalent) and/or any city official mandated to sign on the city/mayor/city council's behalf, for the Enabling City Transformation programme. In the case of a multi-city proposal, one letter must be provided for each city.

The letter must include:
- *Applicant's official document header/template.*
- *Signed and dated by a city/district official mandated to signed on the city/mayor/city council's behalf.*
- *The name of and/or code of the Call.*
- *Unambiguous commitment to collaborating and learning with other cities in the Enabling City Transformation portfolio.*

Please see pro forma template that has been provided with the launch of this Call

5. **List of stakeholders** engaged/to be engaged provided
A list of stakeholders engaged/to be engaged are provided

Stage 2 Assessment
Assessment Criteria

- Each criterion is scored, on a scale of **0 to 5**, by at least two independent external experts.

- The score across all categories is totalled to produce a ranked list of proposals. The maximum available score is **95 points**.

Criteria grouping	Points available / number of criteria
Mandate to Act	25pts / 5 criteria
Capacity to Act	25pts / 5 criteria
Impact	45pts / 9 criteria

Mandate to Act

- Clear articulation of both the **implementation challenge** but also the **enabling opportunity** that brings with it* - in the context of the applicant city/ies.

- **and** links to the city's/ies strategic ambition and vision for carbon neutrality **and the challenges connecting to achieving this overarching vision** – hence **articulating the implementation challenge.**

- * With the ECT Call and its orientation to support Mission implementation: **how** are the challenge and opportunity relevant to **other European cities**? What will they **learn?**

- Importance of having **strong political backing and mandate, and**

- …the support and / or secured collaboration of **relevant stakeholders and partners** – holding **expertise, experiences, and competencies** required to work on the challenge – to implement interventions.

Mandate to Act

Criterion	Description
Articulating the challenge(s) (15 points)	• **Enabling implementation challenge(s):** The proposal clearly articulates the implementation challenge and subsequent expected enabling innovation. (5 points) • **Strategic connectivity to city vision:** The proposed interventions are well connected to the city's overarching vision for climate neutrality and the challenges to/for implementing and achieving this vision. In the case of multi-city applications, the logic of this multi-city collaboration is well articulated. (5 points) • **Relevance of implementation challenge(s) and enabling innovation to other EU Cities:** The proposal states how and why other European cities, pursuing carbon neutrality and the Mission goals, will learn and benefit from the interventions and/or outcomes. (5 points)
Mandate to Act (5 points)	• **Political:** The proposal has a high level of political support and endorsement from the city/ies, with a strong mandate for continued support through political will (5 points),
Consortium and stakeholders (5 points)	• **Consortium and relevant stakeholders/contributors:** The proposal identifies and includes consortium partners and contributing stakeholders that are relevant and important to the challenge(s) identified, and enabling innovation proposed. There is relevant expertise, experience, and competencies represented. Roles are elaborated, and it is clear how the city/ies and partners/stakeholders will collaborate to implement the innovation interventions. (5 points)

Capacity to Act

- **It's a short programme!: The sound implementation** (including planning for space to be agile / responding to arising risks) of planned interventions and the **financial planning / sustainability** of the work that will be implemented through ECT is critical.

- Climate crisis requires becoming **more democratic, collaborative, and collectively action-oriented,** with conscious integration of considerations for *diversity, inclusion, gender, accessibility*, and a **just transition for all.**

- **Engaging citizens and urban stakeholders** in meaningful and inclusive participation, where relevant, and articulating their material contribution to the enabling opportunity.

- Building **capacity and capability <u>collectively</u>** within the city, but also with partners, stakeholders and the wider ecosystem, to leverage learning and outcomes to wider climate action and sustain progress (i.e. the conditions for implementation and change)

Capacity to Act

Criterion	Description
Capacity and capability (5 points)	• **Capability and capacity building:** The proposal comprehensively presents how the city administration, its partners, and the wider ecosystem of contributing stakeholders and long-term strategic partners, will collectively generate, share, and retain knowledge, know-how, skills, and partnerships, from the proposed interventions, beyond the life of the programme. (5 points)
Soundness of work plan (10 points)	• **Sound work plan and budget:** The proposed work plan to implement the interventions, within the allocated timeframe and budget, is sound and coherent. The proposed budget is clearly outlined and justified and reflects value for money. Where the interventions cannot be fully implemented with the provided subgrant, a coherent plan is demonstrated for identifying and securing additional resources (by the city/ies or co-financers) to fully implement within the prescribed 18 months. (5 points) • **Risk management:** The proposal identifies risks related to both the practical implementation of the interventions and the potential indirect impacts and outcomes, with adequate mitigation and appropriate contingency measures. (5 points)
Cross-cutting considerations (5 points)	• **Cross-cutting considerations:** The proposal demonstrates awareness of how its interventions and/or outcomes relate to and cater for cross-cutting themes such as diversity, inclusion, gender dimension, accessibility, and a just transition. The proposal outlines a practical and proportionate approach to how it will approach how such considerations are treated in the implementation of its interventions. (5 points)
Citizen engagement and participation (5 points)	• **Citizen engagement and participation:** Where relevant, citizens are engaged at relevant stages of the interventions, and it is clear how their engagement will contribute materially to the enabling innovation. Where relevant, the proposal describes how citizen engagement will contribute to the design and implementation of the interventions. If/where citizen engagement and/or co-design is not included, the proposal provides a robust rationale for why citizen engagement and participation is not relevant for the proposal. (5 points)

Impact

- Linking back to the articulation of the **implementation challenge** and **enabling innovation opportunity/ies:** what do **successful outcomes look like,** and how do they enable whole-city transformation? Given the European scale, innovation unique to or untested in the EU context..

- **Learnings from interventions** are continuously captured, **but also making time and provision for observing unforeseen/unanticipated outcomes.**

- **Enabling innovation is intended to pave the way for long-term impacts, learning**, Promoting and **systemising learning outputs** to make them scalable and transferable

- The ECT Portfolio is aiming at **strategically complementary and synergistic interventions –** what other interventions are cities working on (pilot activities or otherwise) and/or **proposing to this call** that connect with and can be **leveraged for enhancing/combined impact?**

- The **nature of the ETC programme** and portfolio means interventions that can be (if successful) **replicated across the EU rapidly (speed)** but also how **widely transferable (scale) the interventions are** – both in support of Mission Goals and in terms fo EU-wide and timeline targets for climate neutrality.

Impact

Criterion	Description
Innovativeness: Enabling whole-city innovation (15 points)	• **Enabling innovation (expected outcomes):** The proposal clearly articulates expected outcomes to overcome the identified implementation challenge(s), and how this will enable system change / whole-city city transformation towards climate-neutrality. (5 points) • **Openness to unforeseen outcomes (learning enquiries):** The proposal details how the consortium will plan and make space for observing and capturing unforeseen direct or secondary effects, as they emerge. To this end, relevant learning enquiries are framed in the proposal to guide the observation process, and provision is made for how these may evolve. (5 points) • **Innovativeness:** The proposal describes how proposed interventions are cutting edge innovation, relevant to both the applicant city/cities and beyond them (i.e. EU dimension), and have not been successfully implemented or tested on the ground in the European Union. (5 points)
Impact (20 points)	• **Direct Outcomes of interventions:** The proposal comprehensively describes foreseen early and later changes in/through the interventions, and how these are expected to lead to longer-term impacts in enabling innovation and implementation at the city-level. (5 points) • **Approach to integrated monitoring, learning and evaluation (MEL):** Relevant quantitative or qualitative indicators and a coherent process to monitor and continuously assess both the direct outcomes of interventions (targeted changes) and long-term impacts on GHG emissions and Co-benefits, have been included, and a description of how the MEL approach will be implemented. (5 points) • **Long-term targeted Impacts:** The proposal articulates how the enabling innovation and expected impacts will lead to reduction in GHG emissions and identifies quantified impacts on GHG emissions that would be unlocked by the successful outcome(s) deployed at city-scale. Co-benefits of the interventions are identified (from a provided catalogue and/or, where applicable, bespoke 'non-standard' co-benefits) and the link demonstrated, with relevant indicators to measure outcomes and impact beyond the scope of direct implementation. (5 points) • **Complementarity for enhanced impact:** The proposal has identified practical complementarities and synergies with one or more other proposal(s) submitted to this Call for Proposals, and articulates how collaboration could enhance the combined impact of their respective interventions and proposed outcomes. (5 points)
Enabling innovation interventions' replication and transferability (10 points)	• **Replication (speed):** The proposal describes how the interventions, if/where successful, may be replicated and deployed rapidly across the EU, in support of Mission goals and the target for 2030 climate neutrality. (5 points) • **Transferability (scale):** The proposal presents detailed assumptions of the interventions' potential for transferability to other cities and/or contexts (e.g. national) across the EU. (5 points)

Stage 3 Strategic Selection 1/2

- **Selection Committee** composed of two members of the Executive Committee, the Coordinator, and the potential addition of (an) external independent observer(s)

- **Contextual judgement** that considers and looks for potential connections, synergies, and combinatorial learning and opportunities across proposed portfolio interventions, as well as the European dimension.

- **Strategic selection** takes consideration of (in order):
  - *Geographic diversity* - based on data gathered at application stage (highest possible representation of EU MS & HE AC)
  - *Diversity of city size & typology* - based on data gathered at application stage (best possible representation of cities' size and typology)
  - *Diversity of focus on emissions domains/barriers and of intended levers* **of/for change to be tested*** - based on data gathered at application (highest representation of combined emissions domains and levers of change)
  - **Score in Stage 2**. During the portfolio selection, in the event of proposals with similar characteristics with equal scoring in Stage 2, the following parameters will be used to define the final ranking:
    - Priority will be given to those scoring highest in the grouped **Impact criteria.**
    - When the scores are still equal, priority will be given to those scoring highest in the grouped **Capacity to Act** criteria.
    - When the scores are still equal, priority will be given to those scoring highest in the grouped **Mandate to Act** criteria.
    - When the scores are still equal, priority will be given to those scoring highest on **cross-cutting considerations** (sub-criterion under Implementation).
  - • *Budget availability*

"EU Dimension" refers to the relevance and synergies of selected interventions for EU policy and directives implementation (such as the EGD, the Climate Pact, the New European Bauhaus and the Horizon Europe climate-neutral cities Mission) and geographic diversity to ensure a proper balance between EU Member States (and H2020 Associated Countries).

Stage 3 Strategic Selection 2/2

- *In line with the specific focus of this call, the selection criterion referring to diversity of focus (i.e. the third bullet point in the above list) is of particular relevance and consideration for the Selection Committee, meaning the Selection Committee will look at/for diversity of focus on **implementation challenges** across emission domains, and of **enabling innovation approaches deploying** intended levers of/for change to be tested.

Decision Communication

- EIT Climate-KIC will aim to communicate final outcomes to applicants by **6 December 2024**

- Final communication will indicate the grant allocation and state the cost eligibility period.

- A **list of selected projects** with a description of the action, grant amounts and legal names of selected applicants and their country, date of the award and duration will be **published on the NetZeroCities Platform and website**.

- Contract development and signing processes are expected to proceed between **December 2024 and March 2025**

- The **ECT Boot Camp** will run between December and February 2025 – **with a face to face event on 22 & 23 January 2025 (location tbc)**

- The grant programme start date will be **17 March 2025**, ending on **16 September 2026**

Q&A

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

Submission system

Submission of the proposal in the system

Submission System - Outline

1. Main functionalities of the System

2. Demo on the example of the NZC ECT call (quick overview of the proposal creation process)

3. Useful links and information

Submission System Main Functionalities

1. Review the Closed and Open Calls

2. Download a Budget Template

3. Create and submit a Proposal for an Open Call

4. Invite a Collaborator to work on a Proposal together

5. Generate a PDF version of your Proposal to share it with your external partners (available in the beginning of October)

Demo on the example of the NZC ECT Call

- How to find an Open Call

- Download a Budget Template

- How to create a Proposal

- How to invite a Collaborator

- Quick introduction to the tabs of the System

- How to generate a PDF version of your Proposal (available in the beginning of October)

Useful links and information

1. Log-in page – click here
2. Registration instructions – click here
3. Proposal creation without a collaborator (Budget and Impact Framework templates are inside) – click here
4. Proposal creation with a collaborator (Budget and Impact Framework templates are inside) – click here
5. General list of instructions – click here
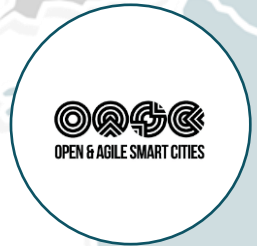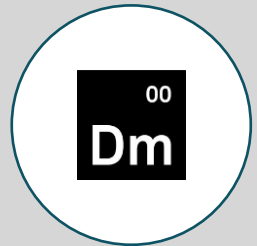6. User support – for technical support, please, contact us via NZCsupport@climate-kic.org

Q&A

The Call & System

Funded by the European Union

Get in touch with NetZeroCities!

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