

UNI eBikes

Larissa - Greece

Short description

The UNI eBikes Local Green Deal (LGD) is a joint initiative between the Municipality of Larissa and the University of Thessaly that champions sustainable urban mobility, climate action, and academic innovation. Signed under the framework of the European Commission's Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC), the LGD directly addresses pressing urban challenges such as traffic congestion, air pollution, and limited sustainable transport options. At the heart of the initiative is the installation of an IoT-enabled eBike station with nine electric bicycles at the GAIOPOLIS campus of the University of Thessaly. This smart infrastructure aims to reduce car dependency among students, staff, and visitors, while promoting healthier, low-carbon mobility options. By offering a practical and scalable solution for daily commuting, the project is set to reduce CO₂ emissions by approximately 20 tons per year and cut vehicle kilometres travelled by over 18,000 annually. The Municipality of Larissa has committed public funding for the procurement of the bikes and charging infrastructure, ensuring strong alignment with the city's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), Smart City Strategy, and EU Green Deal goals. Meanwhile, the University of Thessaly contributes the site, infrastructure (electricity and internet), and academic engagement, reinforcing its role as a driver of innovation and sustainability. Educational campaigns will reach an estimated 8,000 people within the campus community, encouraging a 15% shift toward sustainable transport behaviours. The LGD delivers broader impact through cross-sector collaboration and smart technologies. Real-time usage data will inform future urban planning, while the project serves as a living lab for academic research in sustainability and digital transformation. Furthermore, the initiative promotes social inclusion by ensuring equal access to green mobility for all campus users. By linking environmental responsibility with digital innovation and active civic engagement, the UNI eBikes LGD sets a benchmark for university-municipality cooperation. It exemplifies how local action can contribute to global goals, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - notably Good Health and Well-being (Goal 3), Sustainable Cities & Communities (Goal 11), and Climate Action (Goal 13). With implementation set for completion by mid-2025, the UNI eBikes initiative is not only transforming how people move in Larissa; it's inspiring a greener, smarter future for cities across Europe.



Industry/Sector

- Energy & renewables
- Mobility & transport Sector

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- University of Thessaly, Academia

Scope of LGD

- Promote sustainable urban mobility by encouraging the use of electric bicycles over private cars.
- Reduce carbon emissions and air pollution in Larissa through low-emission commuting solutions.
- Alleviate traffic congestion in and around the University of Thessaly GAIOPOLIS Campus.
- Generate real-time mobility data to support evidence-based urban planning.
- Integrate sustainability into education and research, offering hands-on learning opportunities.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and city residents through healthier and safer transport options. - Strengthen collaboration between local government and academia in the implementation of smart city solutions.
- Foster behavioural change toward eco-friendly transport habits among the university community.

Concrete measures/commitments

- Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP/SVAK) of Larissa
- Promotes cycling and non-motorised transport, including the development of a dense network of cycling infrastructure and shared mobility services. Strategic Plan for the Smart City of Larissa
- Supports the use of IoT and digital platforms for smart mobility management and data-driven urban planning. Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (UDP) of Larissa 2021–2027

- Advances goals related to environmental sustainability, quality of life, and smart mobility within urban development planning. City Data Strategy “Data4Larissa”
- Enables real-time data collection and analysis through the IoT-enabled eBike infrastructure, supporting evidence-based policy-making. European Green Deal
- Contributes to climate action through CO₂ reduction and promotion of clean mobility options.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Specifically supports:
 - Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
 - Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
 - Goal 10: Reduced Inequality
 - Goal 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities
 - Goal 13: Climate Action

WELL – Water Eco-Refill for Larissa

Larissa - Greece

Short description

WELL – Water Eco-Refill for Larissa: A Smart Step Toward a Plastic-Free City The WELL Local Green Deal (LGD) is a flagship environmental initiative by the Municipality of Larissa and the Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Larissa (DEYAL), aiming to reduce plastic waste and promote clean, accessible drinking water across the city. Signed within the framework of the Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC), this project reflects Larissa's strong commitment to circular economy, public health, and smart city innovation. At the heart of the WELL initiative is the installation of four IoT-enabled outdoor water refill stations in high-traffic areas of Larissa. These smart stations offer citizens and tourists free access to clean drinking water while promoting sustainable habits through digital messaging and eco-awareness campaigns. To further encourage behavioural change, DEYAL will distribute 500 reusable water bottles, promoting everyday use of tap water over single-use plastics. The impact of this initiative is substantial: based on usage estimates, WELL is expected to eliminate the need for approximately 3.15 million single-use plastic bottles annually, saving over 78 tons of plastic waste and reducing CO₂ emissions by more than 470 tons. These results directly support EU and national objectives for climate neutrality and align with the European Green Deal, Greek environmental legislation (Law 4736/2020), and multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12). Funding is provided by DEYAL to cover the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the refill stations, as well as the reusable bottles. The Municipality of Larissa contributes through targeted public awareness campaigns, educational events, and community engagement activities, ensuring the initiative's visibility and success. Real-time usage data from the IoT stations will be monitored to track environmental benefits and inform future decision-making. Beyond its environmental goals, WELL enhances Larissa's identity as a forward-looking, green city. It improves public access to safe water, encourages healthier hydration habits, and reduces the cost burden on residents. It also supports sustainable tourism by offering eco-friendly infrastructure in key public spaces. WELL exemplifies the power of local partnerships in creating lasting impact. By combining municipal leadership, technical expertise, and citizen engagement, the initiative sets a replicable example for cities seeking to integrate digital innovation with sustainability, paving the way for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for Larissa and its people.



Industry/Sector

- Tourism

Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Larissa (DEYAL) , Publicly owned company

Scope of LGD

- Promote the use of tap water over bottled water by installing free public refill stations.
- Reduce single-use plastic waste, especially plastic water bottles, across the city.
- Lower carbon emissions related to the production and transport of bottled water.
- Raise environmental awareness and encourage behavioural change through public campaigns
- Improve access to clean, safe drinking water for residents and visitors.
- Use IoT technology to monitor usage data and track sustainability impacts.
- Educate citizens, students, and tourists on sustainability and responsible water consumption.
- Strengthen collaboration between municipal entities and promote Larissa's green identity.

Concrete measures/commitments

- Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (UDP) of the Municipality of Larissa (2021–2027)

- Supports objectives related to pollution reduction, environmental sustainability, and improved quality of life. Strategic Plan for the Smart City of Larissa
- Advances smart infrastructure and the use of IoT technologies for environmental monitoring and public services. City Data Strategy “Data4Larissa”
- Enables real-time data collection on water use and environmental indicators, fostering data-informed policymaking. Law 4736/2020 (Greek transposition of EU Directive 2019/904)
- Contributes to legal requirements for municipalities to provide free drinking water points and reduce single-use plastics. European Green Deal
- Supports EU goals related to circular economy, climate neutrality, and resource efficiency. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Specifically:
 - Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
 - Goal 4: Quality Education
 - Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
 - Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
 - Goal 13: Climate Action
 - Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals