Pilot Cities Programme - Cohort 3

# Green ELB

## Green and Sustainable Energy in Elbasan Buildings

## ELBASAN, ALBANIA

### Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity

- Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities
- Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure

GreenElb

### Key Terms

**Building energy efficiency | Private building retrofits | Behavioural change | Energy Efficiency Sandbox policy | Citizen engagement | Energy assessments | Capacity building | Western Balkans replication**

### Levers of Change

**Data and Digitalisation | Democracy and participation | Financing and funding | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation | Technology/infrastructure**

### Description of the Pilot Activity

Green ELB is developing an integrated and locally grounded model for improving the energy performance of residential buildings in Elbasan, with the longer-term ambition of enabling their transformation into near-zero-emission structures. The project responds directly to one of the city's central climate challenges: the high level of emissions associated with the residential building sector, combined with the social and economic constraints that often prevent households from investing in energy-efficiency improvements. By bringing together technical assessment, behavioural insight, local governance, and community participation, GreenELB is creating a practical pathway for cleaner, more efficient, and more affordable homes in Elbasan, while generating lessons that can inform replication in other Albanian municipalities and across the Western Balkans.

### Year One Highlights

The first year of implementation has been particularly important in establishing the project's institutional and evidence base. Governance structures were set up within the Municipality, including a Project Implementation Unit and a Project Monitoring Committee. A transparent multi-criteria methodology for selecting candidate buildings was developed and applied through an open call, prioritising pre-1990 building stock and assessing structural integrity, energy performance, renewable energy potential, and socio-economic vulnerability. At the same time, behavioural research generated a stronger understanding of the barriers influencing household energy practices. While technical implementation was delayed by administrative constraints linked to the May 2025 national elections, including procurement suspension, budget freeze, and delays in pre-financing transfers, the team used that period to prepare documentation and maintain strategic momentum. With those constraints resolved, implementation has resumed on a stronger footing, and the extension of behavioural testing into Year 2 is expected to generate more robust evidence across seasonal conditions.

### Innovation Highlights

GreenELB is building more than a set of pilot household interventions. It is testing a broader transition model for residential decarbonisation at city level, one that combines technical analysis, behavioural insight, social inclusion, youth participation, municipal innovation, and policy learning. Its significance lies not only in the direct benefits for the 20 pilot households in Vullnetari, but also in its potential to provide Elbasan, and other cities facing similar constraints, with a realistic and transferable framework for improving building energy performance in a socially grounded and institutionally credible way.

### Twinning with Menteşe (Turkey)

Menteşe representatives visited Elbasan in May 2025. Lessons from Menteşe's experience with large-scale water infrastructure investment have been integrated into Elbasan's Climate City Contract planning. Elbasan visited Menteşe in November 2025, focusing on energy efficiency retrofit experience.



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