



European Green Capital Award and European Green Leaf Award 2026

Application Form

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City Introduction and Context

1. Provide an overview of the city and a general background to the application, including examples of environmental, social and economic sustainability in the city.

The City of **XXXX**.
(Figures erased to keep th content confidential)

XXXX has experienced a remarkable transformation from traditional to modern industry. Until mid-1990s, the city’s economy was primarily based on steel and chemical production, which led to significant environmental challenges, including notably poor air quality. Over the past three decades, **XXXX** has successfully diversified its economic base by developing the IT sector and services. Simultaneously, extensive modernization of the steel and chemical industries was achieved through targeted environmental regulations and technological innovations. As a result, both the quality of life and the city’s competitiveness have significantly improved.

Domain	Main Challenges	Flagship project
Air	Further improve air quality and comply with new EU regulations	Ultrafine particulate program XXXX air quality sensor network City Dashboard Shore Power for Cruise Ships
Water	Maintain high drinking water quality	EU project -----
Biodiversity	Mitigate impacts of urbanization and climate change	Urban Ecology Implementation Program
Waste	Building a local circular economy	Promote recycling and reuse
Noise	Reduce road noise throughout the city	Update of the noise inventory
Climate Change Mitigation	Climate neutrality by 2040	XXXX with -----
Adaptation to Climate Change	Implement the city’s Climate Adaptation Strategy,	----- initiative

Table 1: Main Challenges and Flagship projects of **XXXX**

In 2023 the city council has adopted a Climate Neutrality Concept, including a comprehensive roadmap and action plan aiming at achieving climate neutrality by 2040. This is extremely ambitious for an industrial city., currently responsible for 13% of ---- greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, the Climate Adaptation Concept was unanimously approved by the city council, building the foundation for climate-resilient urban development.

Collaboration with leading European networks is essential for promoting resilient, and climate-neutral urban growth. Thus, **XXXX** actively participates in ICLEI, the Climate Alliance, the Covenant of Mayors, the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, and OASC (Open and Agile Smart Cities). For expanding its network, **XXXX** recently joined the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative, hosting the NEB Satellite Event in April ----. Being awarded as European Capital of Culture in ---, **XXXX** learned how European awards positively catalyse urban transformation.

Kommentiert [WL1]: Is the term obligatory? I would meniot environment as a more general term

Kommentiert [WL2]: This refers to comnatting urban heat island impact. Is there nothing else to mention?

No social- cultural topics mentioned to support the environmental targets?
Climate adapation may include participatory engagement, e.g. adaptation of behaviour in heat waves or further

XXXX is now applying for the European Green Capital Award (EGCA), not only to celebrate its achievements, but also to embark on transformative strategic projects that will further enhance quality of life, improve environmental conditions, and foster climate-resilient urban development. Winning -this prestigious -award would be a confirmation of the successful achievement of environmental objectives till now and will boost the efforts to enhance sustainable development.

Population

Clear indication of the city's successful urban development of is the population trend: while population numbers declined between the 1970s and the 1990s, since 2000 the population is growing rapidly by ca. 1,000 inhabitants per year, confirming XXXX being an attractive place to live and work..

XXXX, thus, maintains a strong appeal for students and young professionals. Nearly one-third of its population is under 30, reflecting the rich educational and employment opportunities, such as various universities specialized in music, arts, technology, digital transformation, and economics, along with the start-up hub "----" and the City's "----".

The city's diversity is another strength, with residents hailing from over 150 countries. XXXX is committed to inclusion and integration, supported by various institutions including the municipal integration office, the women's office, neighbourhood centres, and numerous clubs within the LGBTIQ+ community.

Ecology

As XXXX was, in the 1980's, one of the most polluted heavy industry cities, huge efforts were undertaken to improve the air quality. Technical innovations to reduce air pollutant emissions have been developed, helping to rapidly improve air quality, now remaining on a good and stable level.

Multiple climate mitigation and adaptation measures have been carried out (see the chapters 6 and 7). The "Green Area Plan" of 2005 defines the maximum sealing ratio and greening requirements for building plots in the city. Green roofs are mandatory for new residential buildings and will soon become mandatory for commercial buildings. All zoning and development plans must comply with sustainability principles. For all major urban planning projects, especially high-rise buildings, the impact on urban climate must be thoroughly analysed. Therefore, a department for urban climate and environment was established in 2020 and, since then, must be involved in all significant urban planning projects.

XXXX provides several funding programs to support environmental and climate related projects. E.g. in 2020, the city established a climate fund with 1m. € year to support projects referring to climate and environment. In parallel, a PV systems implementation campaign with 20 m. € was launched, supporting households as well as businesses in installing renewable energy generation devices.

Figure erased

2. Describe the key environmental challenges the city faces, including factors which have influenced the city's development.

XXXX, a city with a 21st-century industrial profile, is often called "Steel City", due to its large steel production site.yyy With a population of xxx,000 and nearly xxx,000 jobs, more than 50% of the workforce commutes to the city, highlighting the critical importance of effective traffic management and robust public transportation, connecting the city with its hinterland.

Kommentiert [WL3]: Moved to participation section

Kommentiert [WL4]: The term ecology is somehow wrong as it refers to biodiversity, ecosystem seervice and similar, This is not the topic below...

Kommentiert [WL5]: This is a quiet basic activity. Must be more elaborated and decided into mitigation and adaptation.

Kommentiert [WL6]: Abbrev. for mio in english is m.

XXXX is home of yyy company, (employing approx. 12,000 employees locally), and is further a hub for metal processing chemical-, and pharmaceutical industries, which are substantial energy consumers and account for 13% of Austria's total air pollutant emissions. However, XXXX's industry is increasingly focused on sustainable development: Voestalpine, e.g. , has committed investing 1.5 b. € for green steel production to cut emissions by 30%,.....

Additionally, yyy has initiated the yyy project to support yyy technology research. The outcomes of this project will be shared with the yyy Board, established in 2022 in collaboration with XXXX's city administration, industry partners, banks, and academic institutions. The H2Future project is dedicated to research on production and storage of hydrogen, confirming XXXX's as a role model of a forward-thinking industrial city prepared for future challenges.

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