



Climate-neutral and smart cities

100 Climate-neutral cities by 2030 - by and for the citizens

What are EU Missions?

Partly inspired by the Apollo 11 mission to put a man on the moon, EU missions are a commitment to solve major societal challenges like:

- Fighting cancer;
- Adapting to climate change;
- Living in greener cities;
- Ensuring soil health and food, and;
- Protecting our oceans.

Each EU mission will have a specific timeframe and budget depending on how difficult their challenge is. They will go beyond research and innovation, and will spark innovation across sectors to deliver effective solutions. Moreover, missions will play a crucial role in achieving EU priorities such as the European Green Deal and Europe's Beating Cancer Action Plan.

Your participation counts

We need you to make missions happen. So far, Mission Boards, a broad mix of experts from innovation, research, policy making, civil society and practitioner organisations, have been helping the European Commission to specify possible missions. Now is the time to engage with Europeans like you to make sure missions are relevant and make a real difference. By working together we can achieve much more.

Climate-neutral and smart cities

Cities cover about 3% of the earth's land, yet they produce more than 70% of its greenhouse gas emissions. In Europe, it is estimated that by 2050 almost 85% of Europeans will be living in urban areas. That is why the current climate emergency must be tackled in cities and by their citizens.

The Mission Board for climate-neutral and smart cities identified the following mission: **Reaching 100 climate-neutral cities by 2030.**

The mission on climate-neutral and smart cities would support, promote and showcase 100 European cities in their transformation towards climate neutrality by 2030 and make these cities into experimentation and innovation hubs for all cities.

Each of the 100 trailblazing cities accepting the mission to become climate-neutral by 2030 will sign a *Climate City Contract*, adjusted to the realities of each city, and developed through a co-creation process so that voices at all levels are heard.

The role of cities' inhabitants

The people who live in cities will be at the core of this mission. Indeed, they are producers, consumers, political actors, or visitors. They have a huge impact on the environment and climate, and they can also drive the transition to climate neutrality. The Climate City Contract will give people and civil society an active role and provide them with new platforms to act and better resources to design and implement climate actions. For this, cities will need to develop effective approaches for mobilising communities and for influencing and incentivising behavioural change.

People can become agents of change through bottom-up initiatives, innovation, and through new forms of governance. The objectives of the mission include fostering a just transition to improve people's health and wellbeing, and to bring many additional benefits to the transition, such as improved air quality, job creation, and healthier lifestyles.

During 2020, the Mission Board for climate-neutral and smart cities listened to people's priorities and concerns in cities across the EU. What they heard in these events will shape the Mission Board's report and recommendations to the European Commission (expected September 2020).

For more information visit: <https://ec.europa.eu/mission-cities>

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