

An aerial photograph of a roundabout with a central green island. The roads are paved and have white dashed lines. There are trees and bushes around the roundabout. In the bottom right corner, there is a modern building with a red facade. In the bottom left corner, there are some parked cars and a building.

UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

SUSTAINABLE CITIES
COMMISSION

XVII UBC General Conference

**EU Cities Mission as a source of
inspiration and expertise for cities
towards climate-neutrality**

25 October | Palanga, Lithuania

Welcome to the meeting

- **Agnieszka Ilola**, Head of Secretariat, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

Union of the Baltic Cities

- Leading **network of cities and municipalities** in the Baltic Sea Region established in 1991.
- Today over **70 member cities** in **9 countries** around the Baltic Sea.
- Working in **eight thematic Commissions**.



UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

- Secretariat in Turku, Finland
- Provides **platforms for networking and exchange** with member cities
- Experienced in **developing and managing international projects**
- Coordinates the **UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030**

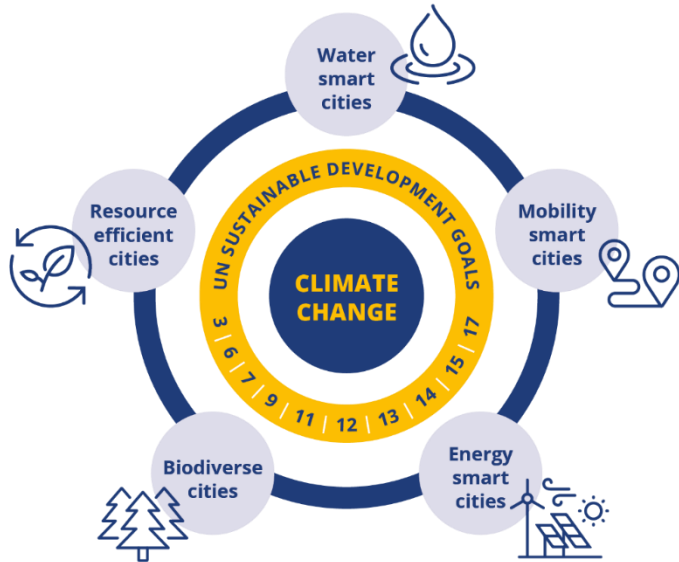
www.ubc-sustainable.net

 /ubcenvcom   @UBC_Sustainable



Topics for cooperation 2030

UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030 – with five core and two horizontal topics with respective proposals of actions for cities.



Projects:

SUMPs for BSR

Climate-4-CAST



UBC | UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

2022–2030



Support for member cities

- Following the missions and spreading information to our network cities to **increase the outreach**.
- Facilitating **peer learning and exchange of good practice** between cities to increase uptake of solutions.
- Locating **funding opportunities and developing projects** to strengthen co-creation of new solutions.



UBC mission cities:

1. Aarhus
2. Gävle
3. Malmö
4. Umeå
5. Espoo
6. Helsinki
7. Lahti
8. Turku
9. Tartu
10. Liepaja
11. Riga
12. Taurage

Webinar: UBC TALKS
about EU Mission:
climate-neutral and
smart cities by 2030

UBC TALKS

EU Mission:
Climate-neutral and
smart cities by 2030

Webinar: UBC TALKS
about holistic
solutions to mobility in
port areas

UBC TALKS

Holistic solutions to
mobility in port areas

Webinar: UBC TALKS
about future trends in
sustainable energy
production

UBC TALKS

Future trends in sustainable
energy production

Webinar: UBC TALKS
about low carbon
energy solutions in
cities

UBC TALKS

Low carbon energy
solutions in cities

112 European cities selected



Agenda: 25 October

10:00–10:10

Welcome to the meeting

Agnieszka Ilola, Head of Secretariat, UBC
Sustainable Cities Commission.

10:10–10:25

**EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
framework**

Patrick Child, Deputy Director General, DG
Environment, European Commission (online).

10:25–10:40

EU Mission Platform support

Anna Huttunen, Climate Neutral City Advisor,
NetZeroCities platform.



Agenda: 25 October

10:40–11:10

Best practices – pitches from UBC members

Risto Veivo, Climate Director, City of Turku, Finland.

Per-Åke Fredriksson, Chairman of the City Council, Municipality of Gävle, Sweden.

Kārlis Beihmanis, Project manager for Climate change and energy efficiency, Liepaja City, Latvia.

Agnė Petrošiūtė, Advisor for Sustainability, Tauragė District Municipality, Lithuania.

11:10–11:50

Panel discussion

Panelists: Anna Huttunen, Risto Veivo, Per-Åke Fredriksson, Kārlis Beihmanis, Agnė Petrošiūtė

11:50–12:00

Summary and wrap-up

Agnieszka Ilola, Head of Secretariat, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission.

A large kite with a yellow canopy and blue streamers is flying against a cloudy sky. The kite is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its tail extending towards the right. The background is a bright, overcast sky with soft clouds. The kite's canopy is a vibrant yellow, and its streamers are a deep blue. The kite is attached to a thin line that extends from the top left corner of the image.

EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities framework

Patrick Child, Deputy Director General, DG Environment,
European Commission, online

EU Mission Platform support

Anna Huttunen, Climate Neutral Cities Advisor,
NetZeroCities platform



NET ZERO CITIES



EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



NetZeroCities has received funding from the H2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement n°101036519.



Anna Huttunen
Climate Neutral City Advisor
NetZeroCities



EU Mission for “Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030”

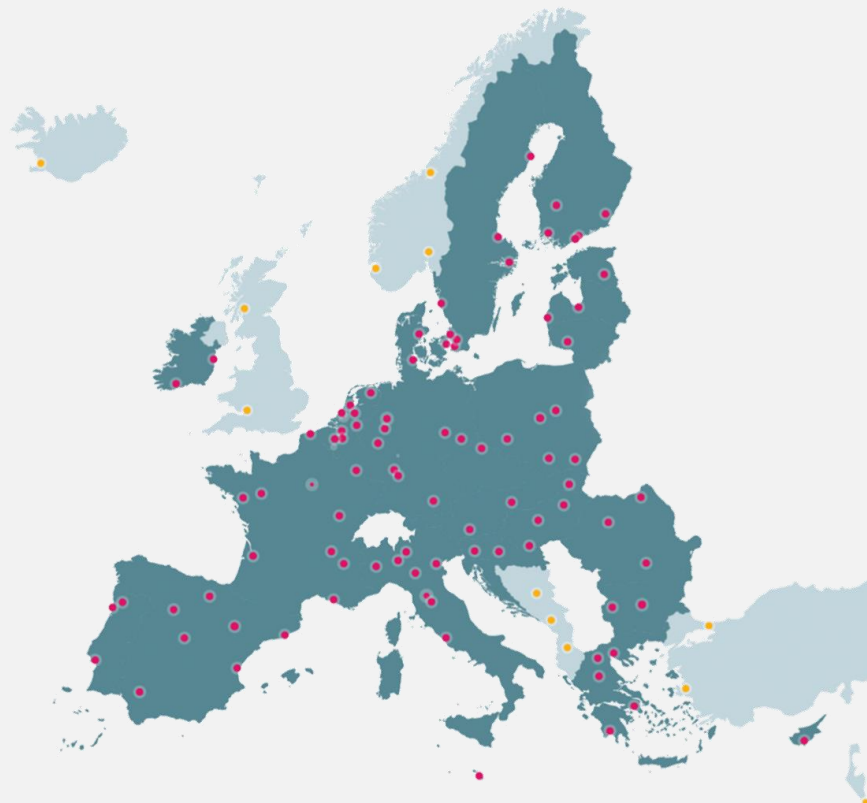


As part of the Horizon Europe programme, the EU has launched a Mission “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030”.

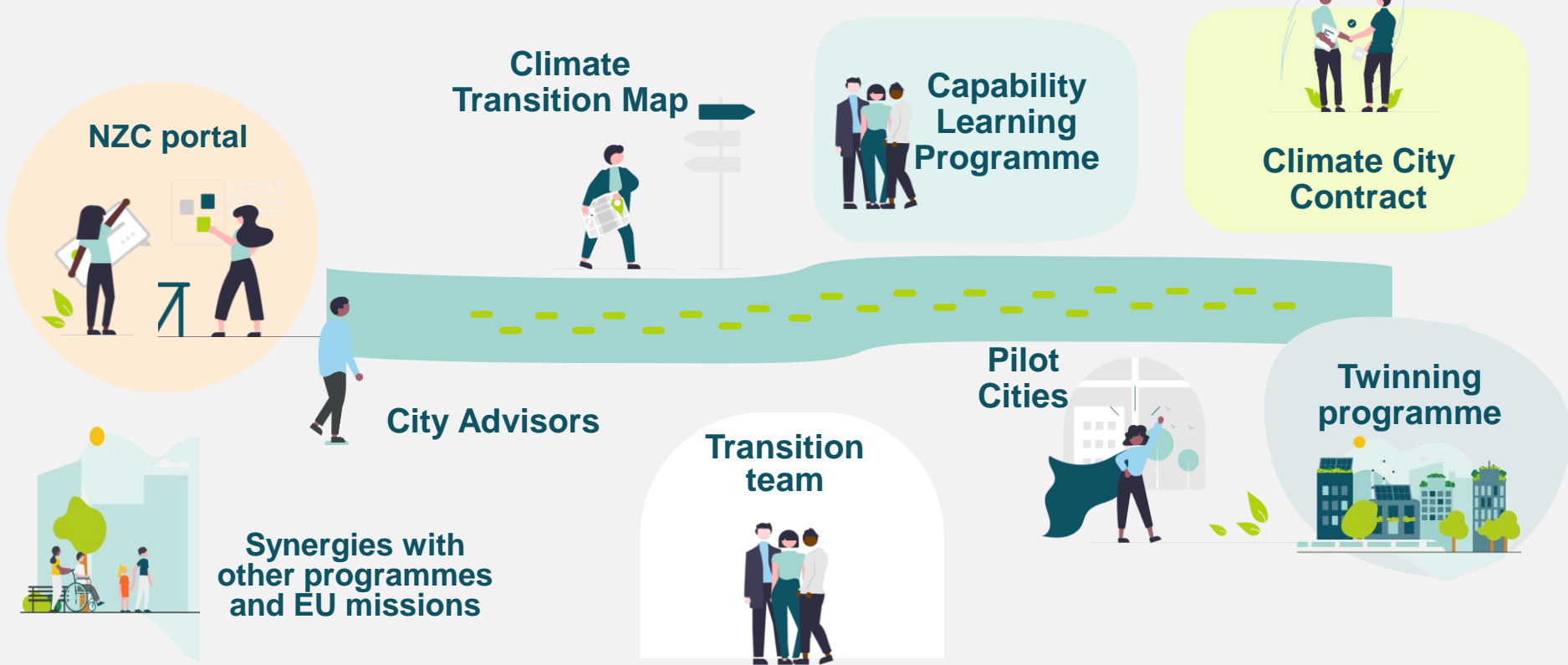
The 112 mission cities share the ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050.

NetZeroCities, coordinated by Climate-KIC, manages the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform

12 Mission Cities are also UBC member cities



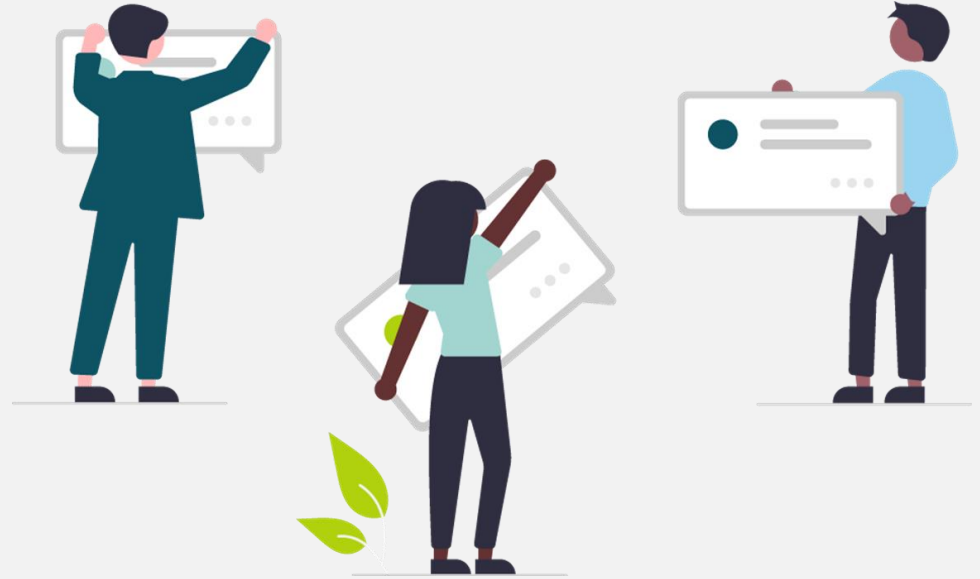
NetZeroCities Platform Support





City Advisors

17 City Advisors
supporting the 112
Mission Cities and the
Pilot Cities



Meet the City Advisors...



Jane McLaughlin



Ed Synnott



Francisco
Gonçalves



Vlatka Berlan
Vlahek



Julie Delcroix



Gabriela Uchoa



Svea Heinemann



Bob D'Haeseleer



Deniz Celik Bulgurlu



Anna Sokolowska



Justyna Wiczorkiewicz-Molendowska



Keira Webster



Anna Huttunen



Jakob Stolt



Nilofer Tajuddin



Joanna Komperda



Alvaro Soldevila





Climate City Contract

One process and document with three interlinked components: Commitments, Actions, and Investments

City cannot achieve climate neutrality alone: *Multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach is needed*

The process is iterative, as we do not know everything yet!



Cities Mission Climate City Contract





Outputs for the Climate City Contract:



Commitments

- **Vision and strategy 2030**
- Municipal commitment
- Multi-level Commitment
- Stakeholder commitments



Climate Action Plan

- Defining the 2030 emission gap
- Impact pathway(s)
- Systemic solutions
- **Portfolio of actions** to reach climate neutrality



Climate Investment Plan

- Capital needs and cost assessment
- **Investment pathways** to 2030 climate neutrality
- Co-benefits





NZC Pilot Cities

What is the NZC Pilot Cities Programme?

Cascading grant funded programme, financed under Horizon 2020

The selected 'Pilot Cities' test various impact pathways leading to decarbonisation

Targeting key emissions domains and deploying R&I solutions together with city's stakeholders

1st CALL
Fall 2022

- Grant to 25 applications, including 53 cities; €32M
- **Was open to all EU Horizon eligible cities**

2nd CALL
Fall 2023

- Open now, DL 6.11.
- **ONLY mission cities**

3rd CALL +
accelerator
in 2024

- **ONLY mission cities**





Twinning programme

- 20-month programme for knowledge sharing and transfer of good practices between the Pilot Cities and Twin Cities
- The first cohort were selected to join the Twinning Learning Programme in September
 - 40 cities, of which 27 are non-mission cities
- **The next Call for Twin Cities will open in early spring 2024.**
- **Twin cities call is open for all EU Horizon eligible cities**



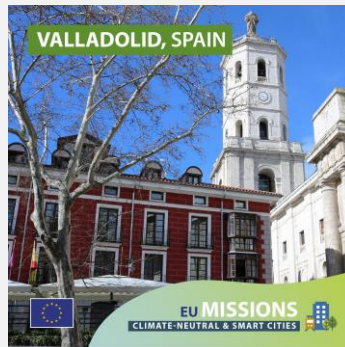
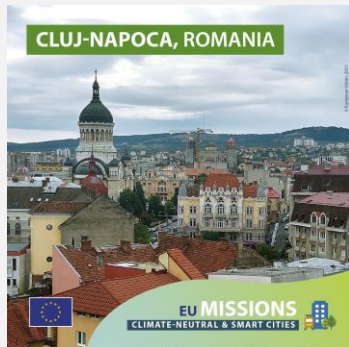
CONGRATULATIONS!

On 12 October 2023,
the first ten European
cities were awarded
the EU Mission Label





First ten cities were awarded the EU Mission Label





Unlocking cities' potential on climate neutrality

- The EU Mission Label is an acknowledgement of the successful development of Climate City Contracts by Mission Cities.
- This label, awarded by the European Commission, aims to facilitate cities' access to public and private funding to reach climate neutrality by 2030.





Let's discuss!





Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



[@NetZeroCitiesEU](https://twitter.com/NetZeroCitiesEU)



[NetZeroCities](https://www.instagram.com/NetZeroCities)



[NetZeroCitiesEU](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NetZeroCitiesEU)



[NetZeroCities EU](https://www.youtube.com/NetZeroCitiesEU)



www.netzerocities.eu



hello@netzerocities.eu



The background image shows the Turku Cathedral tower, a prominent brick structure with a green copper roof and a cross on top. It is situated on a hillside with lush green and yellow autumn trees. In the foreground, a stone wall runs along a river, with the water reflecting the sky and trees. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Best practices – pitches from UBC members: Turku

Risto Veivo, Climate Director, City of Turku, Finland

City ambition and strategic priorities

- From our perspective, the mission is an excellent idea: bringing a hundred cities together for sparring and inspiring each other; carrying out pilot actions and sharing the learnings; creating European projects for carbon-neutral cities!
- And from our long-time experience at the UBC we know the **power of good networking!** One city has always very limited resources – but when you bring together dozens of cities to work and share on the same challenges, that is very powerful!
- Our goal is not only to reach carbon-neutrality, but to develop into a **climate-positive area**, where the net GHG emissions are negative and sustainable green solutions are our core competence and the source of our livelihood.
- Our climate actions address for example topics such as energy, mobility, urban development, investments, circular economy and sustainable living – and they help to **make our city a better place for all!**

Success factors in your city climate work

- **Knowledge-based understanding, dialogue and commitment:** we benefit greatly from collaboration with our universities and other research agencies and from the fact that Turku is very much a city of research, learning and students. This has helped to create understanding of the challenges, threats and benefits. Our City Council has decided on the ambitious climate goals and actions unanimously – every time since 2009!
- So, how can we even better listen to science – and act accordingly?
- How can we better involve our partners and citizens – and make the sustainable just transition together, co-create new solutions and reach a better city, while doing our part in the bigger picture to solve the climate and sustainability crises?

Existing barriers in your city climate work

- **Money** – not necessarily (always) the lack of it but also where to and how to use it? We have recently worked extensively to apply the EU Taxonomy of Green Financing in the planning and steering of all our investments. This makes the work systematic and all-inclusive. At the same time, it is continuously important to find and mobilize resources to large climate investments especially in energy and mobility.
- **Attitudes / culture** – we have observed, that sometimes, even quite often, specialists and other key person, or groups, may tend to limit their horizons of possibilities, thinking that new ways and more sustainable solutions might not be accepted and/or implemented. However, in many cases recently the opposite has proved to be true in Turku!

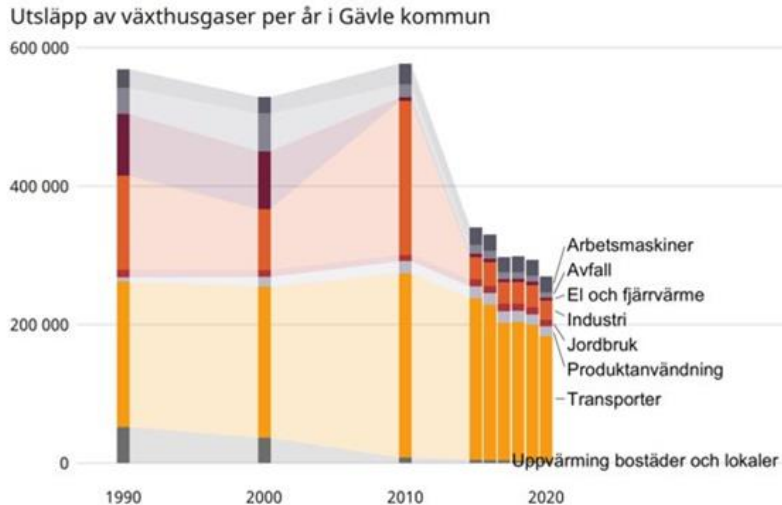


Best practices – pitches from UBC members: Gävle

Per-Åke Fredriksson, Chairman of the City Council, Municipality of
Gävle, Sweden

City ambition and strategic priorities

Gävle joined the EU Cities Mission to accelerate the transition to a climate neutral Gävle in 2030 by accessing more knowledge, resources and collaboration.



Yearly emissions in Gävle - tonnes carbon dioxide equivalents.

Source: SMHI/Emission database

From top to bottom: working machines, waste, energy/central heating, industry, farming, consumption, transportation, heating of housing and premises

Emissions from combustion engines (transport and working machines) the main challenge, stands for more than 80% of emissions in Gävle.

- Policy surrounding reducing the need to transport people and goods with combustion engines therefore crucial
- We depend to a large degree on national and international taxation and legislation

Success factors in your city climate work

PPP – Billerud paper mill and Gävle
Energy company joint power plant



Enlarging district heating to
neighbouring city
Sandviken,
- large CO2 savings



- Long term political stability surrounding sustainability goals has paved the way for Gävle to be one of the highest ranked environment municipalities in Sweden
- Knowledge and resources crucial to mobilise the organisation, companies and civil society towards climate neutrality. Net Zero Cities and Viable Cities have been crucial in this aspect.
- Proactive municipal companies

Existing barriers in your city climate work



- Around 80% of emissions come from transportation and working machines in Gävle. Loads of single users, limited policy possibilities at local level, lack of effect in electricity grid, lack of renewable fuel and behavioral change takes time.
- Understanding the gap between where we need to be in 2030 and where current policy and investments will take us.

Best practices – pitches from UBC members: Liepaja

Kārlis Beihmanis, Project manager for Climate change and energy efficiency, Liepaja City, Latvia

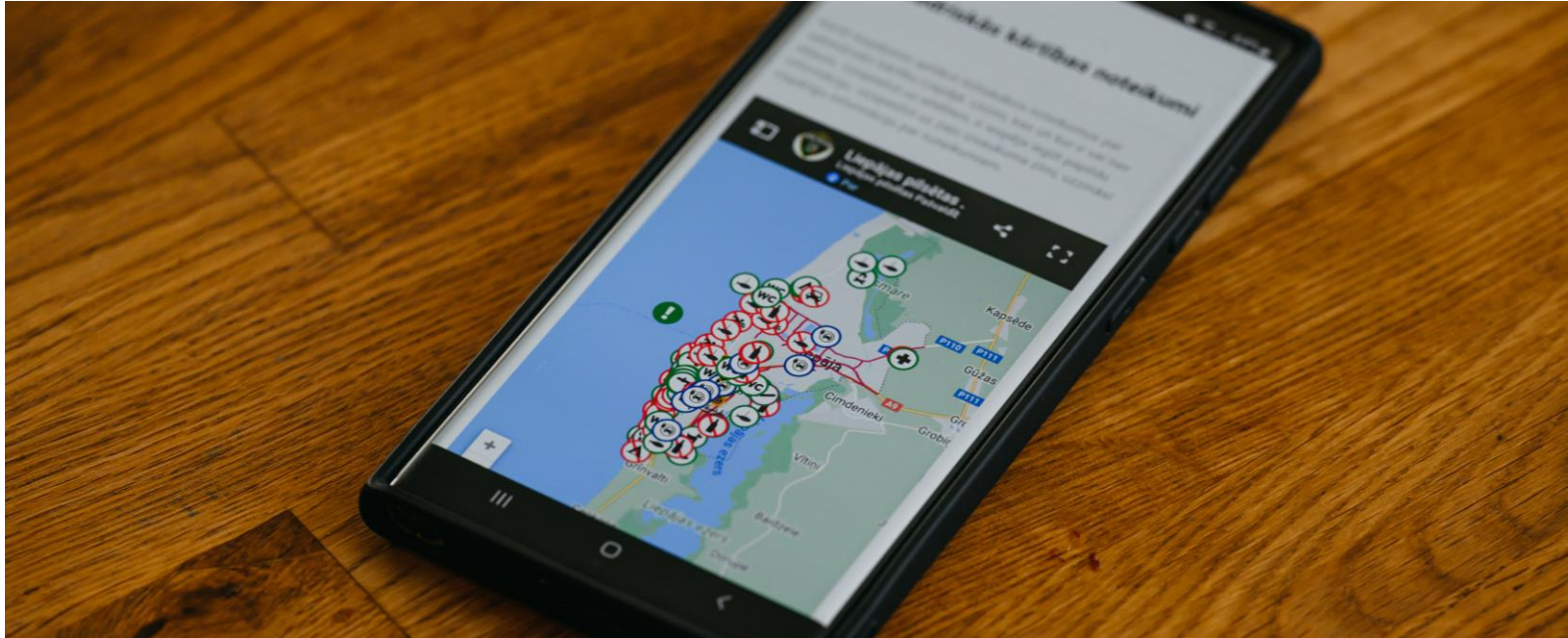
City ambition and strategic priorities

- We were the **first** municipality in Latvia to implement an **energy management system**.
- Among the state cities in Latvia, our city stands **at the forefront** in the **renovation** of public and multi-apartment housing.
- However, it's not just about being the first, it's about achieving substantial results because **we believe** in the impact it can make.
- We set the main project headlines as – **ensure safe environment, care for people's health, and create comfortable living**.
- Strategic **priorities** – energy efficiency, digitalization, RES, adaption to climate change and public education.

Success factors in your city climate work

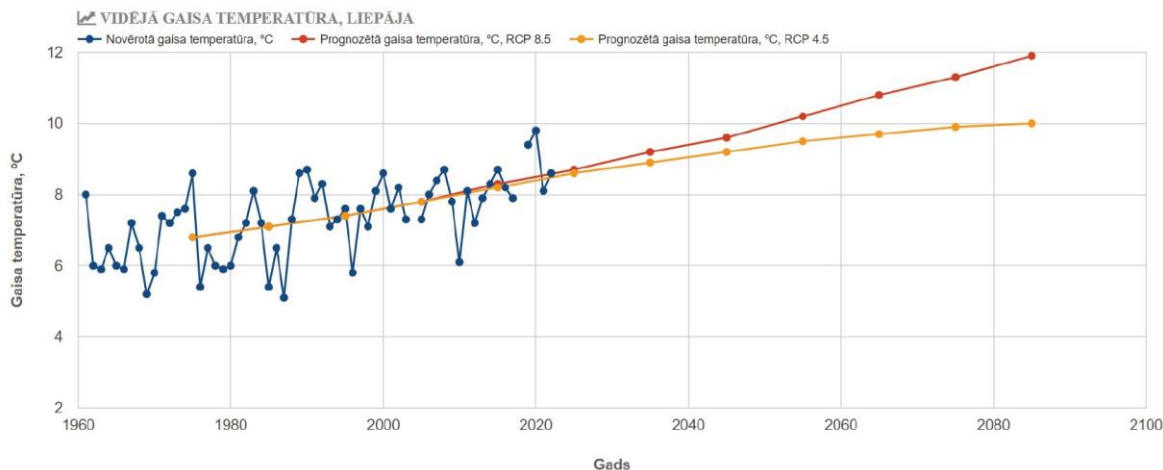


Success factors in your city climate work



Existing barriers in your city climate work

- Effective climate action often relies on the active participation and support of the community.
- There is lack of significance at the national level.
- The municipal budget funds are allocated primarily for ensuring basic needs, leaving little room for innovation or comprehensive projects.





Best practices – pitches from UBC members: Tauragė

Agnė Petrošiūtė, Advisor for Sustainability, Tauragė District
Municipality, Lithuania

City ambition and strategic priorities

- **The first municipality** in Lithuania to set climate neutrality goal.
- We have joined the Mission **to join the community** of cities working towards the same goals and to have an opportunity to learn from each other.
- The Mission pushes you forward and gives **a framework** to work with.
- Taurage district municipality is currently **in progress** of creating a climate action plan so we do not have set strategic priorities yet.

Success factors in your city climate work

- One of the major success factors is **political leadership**:
 - **Strong priorities**;
 - **Consistency**;
 - **Transparency**;
 - **Not being afraid to make mistakes.**

Existing barriers in your city climate work

- Climate neutrality is a big ambition and it **requires** a lot of **knowledge** and **human resources**.
- A strong **transition team**, climate neutrality **governance structure** and **stakeholder engagement** is needed in order to succeed.

Panel discussion

- **Anna Huttunen**
- **Risto Veivo**
- **Per-Åke Fredriksson**
- **Kārlis Beihmanis**
- **Agnė Petrošiūtė**



UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

SUSTAINABLE CITIES
COMMISSION

THANK YOU!

www.ubc-sustainable.net

www.ubc.net