EU initiatives to support climate and energy transition

Interactive overview
Looking for ways to navigate the wide array of EU climate- and energy-related initiatives?

Look no further than our support tool!

With the inclusion of 30+ initiatives, our tool can help you filter initiatives based on their function, topic(s), and intended beneficiaries or participants.

Whether you're interested in access to finance, support services, climate transition, or clean energy, our tool can guide you towards the initiatives that may be the best fit for your needs. Simply click on the categories you are interested in, and we will provide you with short descriptions and useful links.

Let us help you take the first step towards a cleaner, greener future!
Discover the initiatives according to their…

- **Function(s)**
- **Topic(s)**
- **Actors**

Or, check the full list of initiatives [here](#).
Discover the initiatives according to their...

- Political incentives
- Platform
- Access to financing
- Interest representation
- Support mechanism

**Function(s)**

**Topic(s)**

**Actors**
Discover the initiatives according to their…

Function(s)

Topic(s)
- Clean energy
- Circular economy
- Climate action
- Green / Digital transition
- Sustainable transport
- Multiple focus

Actors
Discover the initiatives according to their…

- Function(s)
- Topic(s)
- Actors
- Regions and/or cities
- Islands
- Multiple stakeholders
## Political incentives

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*Back to topic(s)*
Regions and / or Cities

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Islands

Clean Energy for EU Islands
Multiple stakeholders

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European Green Capital Award

Recognises and rewards local efforts to improve the environment, and thereby the economy and the quality of life in cities. The Award is given each year to a city which is leading the way in environmentally friendly urban living. The European Green Capital Network (2014) consists of winners and finalists of the European Green Capital Award. This network is an opportunity for social learning from the best cities in Europe, and activities include workshops, site visits, advocating local needs on the world stage, and the development of good practices and guidelines. Outputs such as toolkits and guidelines are available to the public.

Key functions: Political incentives; Platform; Support mechanisms

Main topics: Green transition

Main participating actors: Cities

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Green City Accord

A movement of European mayors committed to making cities cleaner and healthier. It aims to improve the quality of life for all Europeans and accelerate the implementation of relevant EU environmental laws. By signing the Accord, cities commit to addressing five areas of environmental management: air, water, nature and biodiversity, circular economy and waste, and noise.

Key functions: Access to financing; Political incentives

Main topics: Green transition

Main participating actors: Cities

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Main topics: Green transition

Main participating actors: Cities

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European Green Leaf Award

Established with the aim of recognising the sustainable efforts of small cities (from 20,000 to 99,999 inhabitants), the award aims at boosting green actions in European cities and encourage cities to actively develop citizens’ environmental awareness and involvement. The recognised city should demonstrate a good environmental record and commitment to generating green growth. Winning cities act then as a ‘green ambassadors’.

Key functions: Political incentives; Platform

Main topics: Green transition

Main participating actors: Cities

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Green Cities Europe

Providing tools and technical background for decision-makers and politicians to communicate about sustainability and climate change to their citizens. A range of methods are employed to achieve the goal, including congresses, seminars, B2B meetings, a comprehensive website, PR activities and the establishment of the European Green Cities Award.

Key functions: Support mechanisms; Political incentives; Interest representation

Main topics: Green transition

Main participating actors: Cities

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13 countries currently participating

Alkmaar won the Green Cities Award in 2022
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European Capital of Innovation (iCapital)

To recognise and reward cities in Europe that promote innovation and experimentation in their governance practices to improve the quality of life for their citizens. Winners receive a monetary prize as well as increased public interest and media coverage, making them role models for new cities to follow.

Métropole Aix-Marseille Provence won the 2022 edition

Key functions: Political incentives; Access to financing

Main topics: Multiple focus

Main participating actors: Cities

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Main topics: Multiple focus

Main participating actors: Cities

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CIVITAS

To make sustainable and smart urban mobility a reality and empowering cities to prioritise mobility in their decarbonisation efforts, by facilitating peer exchange, networking and training. Projects encompass a range of thematic areas, such as behavioural change & mobility management, clean & energy-efficient vehicles, demand & urban space management, public participation & co-creation; smart, sustainable, connected and shared mobility.

Key functions: Platform; Political incentives; Interest representation; Support mechanisms

Main topics: Sustainable transport

Main participating actors: Cities

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Main topics: Sustainable transport

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Intelligent Cities Challenge

To improve the quality of life and accelerate the implementation of relevant EU environmental laws. It is a European Commission initiative that brings together 136 cities to achieve intelligent, socially responsible and sustainable growth through advanced technologies. Fields include citizen participation and digitisation of public administration; Green economy and local green deals; Upskilling and reskilling; Green and digital transition in tourism; Supply chains, logistics and economics of mobility.

Key functions: Support mechanisms; Access to financing; Platform

Main topics: Green transition; Digital transition

Main participating actors: Cities

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Main topics: Green transition; Digital transition

Main participating actors: Cities

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Living-in.eu movement

To bring the economic and social benefits of the digital transformation to all local communities and implement an inclusive digital Europe, with powerful digital services, technologies, infrastructures and skills. Signatories of the Declaration commit to developing sustainable measures in the fields of: education & capacity building, monitoring & measuring, financial, technical, and legal.

Key functions: Platform; Support mechanisms; Interest representation

Main topics: Green transition; Digital transition

Main participating actors: Cities

Find out more on the initiative here.

More than 130 authorities have signed the Declaration

Not a city? Become a supporter and join the community of over 100 supporters from all over the EU

List of initiatives
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EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

The initiative connects local governments across Europe (and beyond) with the objective of implementing EU climate and energy objectives. The aims are to boost reduction of GHG emissions by 55% by 2030, strengthening resilience and alleviating energy poverty. By joining the initiative, local governments commit to securing a better future for their citizens and contribute to global and European climate and energy objectives.

Key functions: Platform; Support mechanisms; Political incentives; Access to financing

Main topics: Climate action; Clean energy

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EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030

The aim of the Mission is to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and to ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. The 100 selected cities are developing Climate City Contracts and build an overall plan for climate neutrality across all sectors.

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EU Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change

The focus is on supporting EU regions, cities and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change. The Mission objective is, by 2030, to accompany at least 150 European regions and communities towards climate resilience.

Key functions: Support mechanisms; Platform; Access to financing; Political incentives

Main topics: Climate action

Main participating actors: Cities; Regions

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Smart Cities Marketplace

It contributed significantly to expediting the green transition of European cities. The cities involved have common goals of enhancing citizens’ quality of life, bolstering the competitiveness of European cities and industries, and helping to attain European energy and climate objectives.

Key functions: Platform; Support mechanisms; Access to financing

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Energy Poverty Advisory Hub

A leading EU initiative aiming to eradicate energy poverty and accelerate the just energy transition of European local governments. The initiative provides supporting mechanisms by identifying and sharing best practices from all authorities across Europe (and beyond) and providing, seminars, handbooks and online training.

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Circular Cities and Regions Initiatives

The focus is on the implementation of the circular economy across Europe’s cities and regions and thus help achieve the 2050 climate neutrality target. The initiative provides supporting mechanisms via disseminating relevant knowledge and best practices and offering technical and financial support.

**Key functions:** Support mechanisms; Access to financing; Platform

**Main topics:** Circular economy

**Main participating actors:** Cities; regions

Find out more on the initiative [here](http://example.com).
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URBACT

The initiative has been driving change all over Europe via the cooperation and idea exchange within thematic networks, building skills of local stakeholders, and via the sharing of best practices and knowledge. The platform enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges.

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More than 80 URBACT III Networks
More than 650 partner cities supported

Key functions: Platform; Support mechanisms
Main topics: Multiple focus
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Represents a new multi-level working method, for urban policy and practice, promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the European Commission, and other stakeholders. The focus of the initiatives is on boosting sustainable urban development via capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and financial support.

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More than 90 applications received for the 1st call

Up to 80% of project’s activities can be financially covered by EUI
Network Nature
Nature-based Solutions Hub

Working with local partners to establish and support the launch of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Hubs. The hubs bring together stakeholders from the public and private sector to share knowledge, build relationships and find nature-based solutions to local issues.

Key functions: Platform; Support mechanisms

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A virtual platform for submitting content (e.g. good practices, strategies and knowledge), discussion forum, activities and events (e.g. EU Circular Talks) in the field of circular economy.

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More than 800 good practices and strategies

More than 40 EU Circular Talks since 2020
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Tackling urban issues by building research and innovation hubs in Europe. The aim is to connect public institutions, scientists, innovators, civil society, businesses and industries to establish a new research and innovation environment. The initiative provides experimental zones and long-term research infrastructure.

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Clean Energy for EU Islands

Central platform for the clean energy transition of more than 2200 inhabited European islands. The initiative connects island communities and provides support on project development in the field of energy transition.

Key functions: Support mechanisms; Political incentives; Platform

Main topics: Clean energy

Main participating actors: Islands

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More than 80 islands are participating

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Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy, Agri-Food and Industrial Modernisation (S3P)

Enabling tool to coordinate, rationalise and plan energy strategies, develop a shared vision on knowledge-base and set up a strategic agenda of collaborative work. The thematic S3Ps are contributing to building an increasing number of interregional partnerships across the EU. These networks analyse and tackle together various obstacles related to the implementation of smart specialisation strategies.

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Main topics: Multiple focus

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European Energy Efficiency Platform (E3P)

Platform and collaborative tool for a strong and connected energy efficiency community. The content in it is divided in six thematic and four cross-thematic areas. The aim is to facilitate the practical implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive at national, regional and local levels, with data collection and analysis.

Key functions: Platform

Main topics: Clean Energy

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European Mobility Week
MOBILITY AWARDS

The annual awards celebrate municipal administrations and a diverse array of entities that have showcased outstanding performance in promoting sustainable mobility or devising mobility plans. Awards categories include: European Mobility Week Award and Mobility Action Award. The Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) Award was terminated in 2021.

Key functions: Political incentives; Support mechanisms

Main topics: Sustainable Transport

Main participating actors: Cities

Find out more on the initiative here.

Tampere won the 10th edition of the SUMP award
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Find out more on the initiative [here](link).
European Mobility Week

MOBILITY AWARDS

The annual awards celebrate municipal administrations and a diverse array of entities that have showcased outstanding performance in promoting sustainable mobility or devising mobility plans. Awards categories include: European Mobility Week Award and Mobility Action Award. The Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) Award was terminated in 2021.

Key functions: Political incentives; Support mechanisms

Main topics: Sustainable Transport

Main participating actors: Cities

Tampere won the 10th edition of the SUMP award

Find out more on the initiative here.
European City Facility (EUCF)

To facilitate the transition towards low carbon economy in coal regions via providing support to public administrations and other relevant stakeholders through (i) connecting stakeholders, (ii) delivering tailored technical assistance, and (iii) providing supportive resources (e.g. material and information sharing).

**Key functions:** Access to financing; Support mechanisms

**Main topics:** Clean energy

**Main participating actors:** Cities

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**Key functions:** Access to financing; Support mechanisms

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**Main participating actors:** Cities

Find out more on the initiative [here](#).
Coal regions in transition

To provide tailor-made, simplified financial support in the form of EUR 60 000 lump sums to municipalities, local authorities, agglomerations and local public entities in Europe to help them develop investment concepts related to the implementation of actions identified in their climate and energy action plans.

Key functions: Platform; Support mechanisms

Main topics: Clean energy

Main participating actors: Regions

Find out more on the initiative [here](#).
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Affordable housing initiative

Focuses on the implementation of green buildings, and resource-efficient innovation to create jobs and improve lives and it is part of the Commission's renovation wave strategy for Europe. The initiative guarantees access to the necessary technical and innovation capacity to local social housing projects.

Key functions: Support mechanisms; Access to financing

Main topics: Multiple focus

Main participating actors: Multiple stakeholders

Find out more on the initiative here.
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To promote collaboration between big public buyers in the implementation of strategic public procurement for sustainable solutions, in order to boost innovative and sustainable products and services in Europe. Activities include the exchange of best practices, joint market engagement and the sharing of market intelligence.

**Key functions:** Support mechanisms; Platform

**Main topics:** Multiple focus

**Main participating actors:** Multiple stakeholders

Find out more on the initiative [here](#).
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Main participating actors: Multiple stakeholders

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ManagEnergy

To support local and regional energy actors in Europe, such as public authorities and energy agencies, to help them develop and implement sustainable energy policies and actions. It offers a range of services including technical assistance, training, networking and access to funding opportunities.

**Key functions:** Support mechanisms; Platform

**Main topics:** Clean energy

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Find out more on the initiative [here](#).
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