



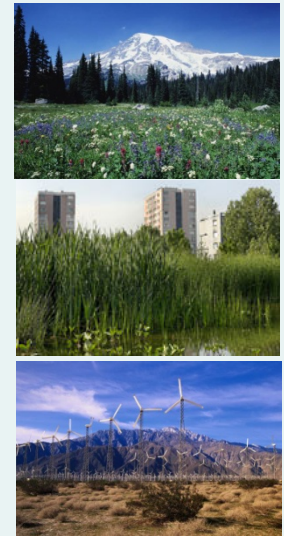
European cities

Challenges and practices for environmental sustainability

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Why are cities important for the environment?



Environmental challenges:

- ★ Air quality, traffic and congestion levels, noise pollution, urban sprawl and the generation of waste and waste water
- ★ Up to 80 % of CO2 emissions are generated by cities and, within these emissions, housing and transport account for 60 % of total

 75 % of the European population lives or works in cities and urban areas

 Significant consequences for human health, quality of life & economic performance & attractiveness of our cities





Cities and environment

- Concentration of problems
- But concentration simplifies solution
- Most environmental problems have dimensions touching other areas of city management – planning, transport, waste collection etc
- Cities are close to citizens





Cities and Europe

- Europe sets the framework of objectives with legislation in environment
- Europe provides in some areas support for implementation, exchange of ideas, funding etc
- Europe does not tell cities how to do their job nor attempts do to it for them



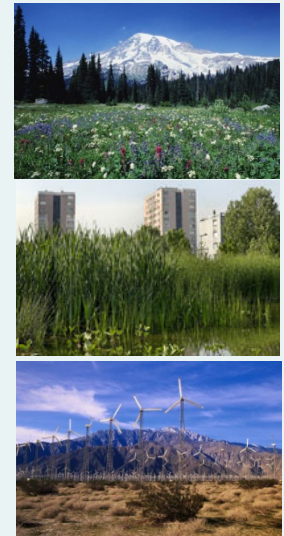


Cities and climate

🌿 Highest priority for EU environment policy

🌿 Implications for cities:

- ★ Flooding
- ★ Water scarcity
- ★ Desertification
- ★ High temperature
- ★ Migration





EU Policy Responses (I)

■ The main cause of the ongoing phenomenon of climate change is human activities, namely the emission of greenhouse gases in the air. Reducing such emissions to mitigate the impact of climate change is known as: "mitigation".

■ Assessing the specific vulnerabilities of our economies, making them resilient to climate change and being prepared to cope with the different climate change scenarios is: "adaptation".





EU Policy Responses (II)

- The international instrument dealing with mitigation is the Kyoto Protocol. However, the protocol does not bind the two biggest emitters of CO₂ (China and the USA)
- The post-Kyoto framework is being negotiated with a view to Copenhagen (December 2010).
- EU Energy - Climate Change Package: 20 % GHG reduction, 20 % Renewables, 10 % biofuels in transport
- Other actions:
 - ★ Sustainable production and consumption action plan
 - ★ Biodiversity action plan





What can be done at the city level?

a) Mitigation

- ★ Transport
- ★ Energy efficiency of buildings
- ★ Green Public procurement

b) Adaptation

- ★ Green Paper on Adaptation 2007
- ★ White Paper on Adaptation foreseen in 2008
- ★ Identifying key challenges: land use, flooding, water conservation etc



A new initiative: European Green Capital Award



Europeans have a *right* to live in healthy urban areas, and towns and cities should therefore strive to improve the quality of life of their citizens and reduce their impact on the global environment.

★ Green cities – fit for life

2008 call for entries: e-process www.europeangreencapital.eu

Deadline: 1st October 2008

End of 2008: Announcement of the first two European Green Capitals for 2010 and 2011



A new initiative: European Green Capital Award



🌿 The objectives of the European Green Capital Award are to:

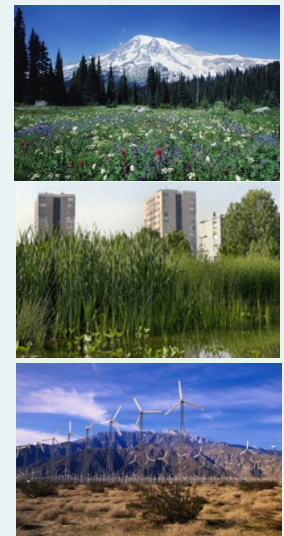
- a) Reward cities that have a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards;
- b) Encourage cities to commit to ongoing and ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development;
- c) Provide a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices and experiences in all other European cities.



A new initiative: European Green Capital Award



- **Will this award help cities improve the quality of their environment?**
 - It is important to reward cities which are making efforts to improve the urban environment and move towards healthier and sustainable living areas.
 - Progress is its own reward, but the satisfaction and pride involved in winning a prestigious European award will spur cities to invest in further efforts and will boost awareness in other cities.
 - The award will enable cities to inspire each other and share best practices, in the context of a friendly competition.
 - Winning the title of the European Green Capital will also bring advantageous side effects such as:
 - ★ increased tourism,
 - ★ more investment,
 - ★ and an influx of young professionals.
- => It is therefore in a city's interest to become a prosperous place to live and work.



A new initiative: European Green Capital Award



➤ An *expert evaluation panel* will base its assessment on 10 indicator areas:

- ★ Local contribution to climate change
- ★ Local transportation
- ★ Availability of local public open areas
- ★ Quality of local ambient air
- ★ Noise pollution
- ★ Waste production and management
- ★ Water consumption
- ★ Waste water treatment
- ★ Environment management of the local authority
- ★ Sustainable land use



A new initiative: European Green Capital Award



Winning cities will be appointed by a **jury** composed of representatives from the:

- ★ European Commission
- ★ European Environment Agency (EEA)
- ★ ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
- ★ European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)
- ★ Union of Capitals of the European Union (UCEU)
- ★ Committee of the Regions





Thank you for your attention

➤ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/home_en.htm

➤ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm

➤ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/index_en.htm

