

EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITALS AND GREEN LEAF AWARDS

The search is now on for the 2021 European Green Capital and the 2020 European Green Leaf Award winners, following the launch by the European Commission of the competition, which remains open until 18 October.

Does your city have what it takes to be the next European Green Capital or European Green Leaf Award winner? Well, why not find out by entering the European Commission's competition, but remember that the deadline for applications for both award categories is Thursday 18 October 2018.

Now in its 11th year, the European Green Capital Award (EGCA), is awarded annually to a European city of over 100,000 inhabitants that has shown itself to be a leader in environmental, social and economic sustainability. The winner of the 2021 award will receive €350,000 to kick-start its year as a European Green Capital.

Meanwhile, the European Green Leaf Award (EGLA) is open to towns and cities with between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, to recognise and promote their efforts towards better environmental management and outcomes. The winner of the 2020 award will receive €75,000 to support its activities throughout its European Green Leaf year.

Being a European Green Capital or a European Green Leaf brings many

benefits including, a greater focus on environmental projects, increased tourism and foreign investment, boosting the local economy and helping to create employment.

EGCA and EGLA winners and shortlisted cities also gain access to the exclusive European Green Capital Network and European Green Leaf Network, respectively, providing them with support and a platform for sharing knowledge and best practice.

In addition, previous applicants have said that the application process in itself proved beneficial in evaluating their progress and plans and benchmarking themselves against their peers.

Both the European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards are open to cities in EU Member States, EU Candidate Countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Check if your city is eligible for the EGCA 2021 or EGLA 2020.

1 Subject to the approval of the EU 2019 Budget and approval by the College of the 2019 Financing Decision for the EU LIFE Programme.

Winners to date since the European Green Capital Award since 2010:

- 2020 Lisbon, Portugal
- 2019 Oslo, Norway
- 2018 Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- 2017 Essen, Germany
- 2016 Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2015 Bristol, England
- 2014 Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2013 Nantes, France
- 2012 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
- 2011 Hamburg, Germany
- 2010 Stockholm, Sweden

Winners of European Green Leaf Awards since 2015:

- 2019 Cornellà de Llobregat, Spain
- 2019 Horst aan de Maas, The Netherlands
- 2018 Leuven, Belgium
- 2018 Växjö, Sweden
- 2017 Galway, Ireland
- 2015 Mollet del Vallès, Spain
- 2015 Torres Vedras, Portugal

