

# DUBLIN BIDS FOR EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2023 AWARD

Dublin has been accepted as one of 16 cities bidding to win the European Green Capital 2023 Award, and a panel of independent experts will now begin a technical assessment of each application to select a shortlist of finalist cities for the award.

The panel will assess the European Green Capital applications on the basis of 12 environmental indicators. A shortlist of finalist cities will be announced in the spring of 2021 and the shortlisted cities will be invited to present to an international jury, chaired by the European Commission.

The EGCA 2023 finalist cities will each present an action plan on how their city intends to fulfil its European Green Capital year, projects and actions it intends to put in place to enhance the city's environmental sustainability, as well as a communications strategy.

According to Liam Bergin, Executive Manager of Environment and Transport at Dublin City Council, "We hope the public's imagination and desire to make Dublin the European Green Capital of 2023 will lead to increased interest in how we can collaborate with citizens to meet our targets set out in our Climate Change Action Plan. As Dublin emerges from Covid-19 we will work together to make Dublin a climate resilient and green city."

## EUROPEAN CITIES GOING GREEN

"More and more cities in Europe are choosing to go green," noted EU Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevicius.

"This is even more encouraging in the context of the European Green Deal roll-out and recovery from the pandemic. European Green Capital and Green Leaf cities show that even in the most difficult circumstances, cities can become fit for life. This means more car-free zones, more public spaces for outdoor leisure activities, cycling paths and pedestrian zones, but also new, innovative urban solutions."

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Lahti, Finland, which is the European Green Capital for 2021. The EGCA 2023 winning city will receive €600,000 to be used in projects/actions to enhance the city's environmental sustainability and to achieve the city's

sustainability vision.

The selection of a city awarded with the title of European Green Capital is assessed on the basis of twelve environmental indicators: Air Quality, Noise, Waste, Water, Nature and Biodiversity, Sustainable Land Use and Soil, Green Growth and Eco-innovation, Climate Change: Mitigation, Climate Change: Adaptation, Sustainable Urban Mobility, Energy Performance, and Governance.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

With more than two thirds of Europe's population living in urban areas, the European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards aim to recognise the environmental achievements of cities and towns that strive for urban sustainability and eco-innovation, and inspire others to take positive action in making their cities fit for life.

Winning the European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards is a seal of approval by the European Commission and brings many benefits, such as increased international media coverage, a boost in local pride, a greater focus on environmental projects, and increased foreign investment.

All finalists and winning cities also gain access to a network of previous finalists and winning cities where they share learnings on how to overcome key challenges.

A total of 13 other cities have won the European Green Capital Award to date: Stockholm (2010), Hamburg (2011), Vitoria-Gasteiz (2012), Nantes (2013), Copenhagen (2014), Bristol (2015), Ljubljana (2016), Essen (2017), Nijmegen (2018), Oslo (2019), Lisbon (2020), Lahti (2021) and Grenoble (2022).



## The 16 cities competing for the European Green Capital 2023 Award:

Belgrade, Serbia; Cagliari, Italy; Dublin, Ireland; Gaziantep, Turkey; Gdansk, Poland; Helsingborg, Sweden; Izmir, Turkey; Košice, Slovakia; Krakow, Poland; Logroño, Spain; Rzeszów, Poland; Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia; Sofia, Bulgaria; Tallinn, Estonia; Warsaw, Poland; and Zagreb, Croatia.