



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges



#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCities



WHY A MISSION ON CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CITIES?

- **75%** of EU citizens live in cities (projected to increase to about 85% in 2050)
- More than **65%** of energy consumption and more than **70%** of CO2 emissions worldwide
- Air and noise pollution; congestion; dangerous roads – not just GHG.
- The **European Green Deal** at local level – where policy meets people.
- Cities have the **ambitions** to go further – but few have declared readiness to be fully climate neutral by 2030. We have to help cities address the barriers they face.



OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

1

Deliver at least 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030;

2

Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to put all European cities in a position to become climate-neutral by 2050.

Actions to deliver climate neutrality will bring massive and more visible co-benefits: better air quality, less road congestion, more livable spaces

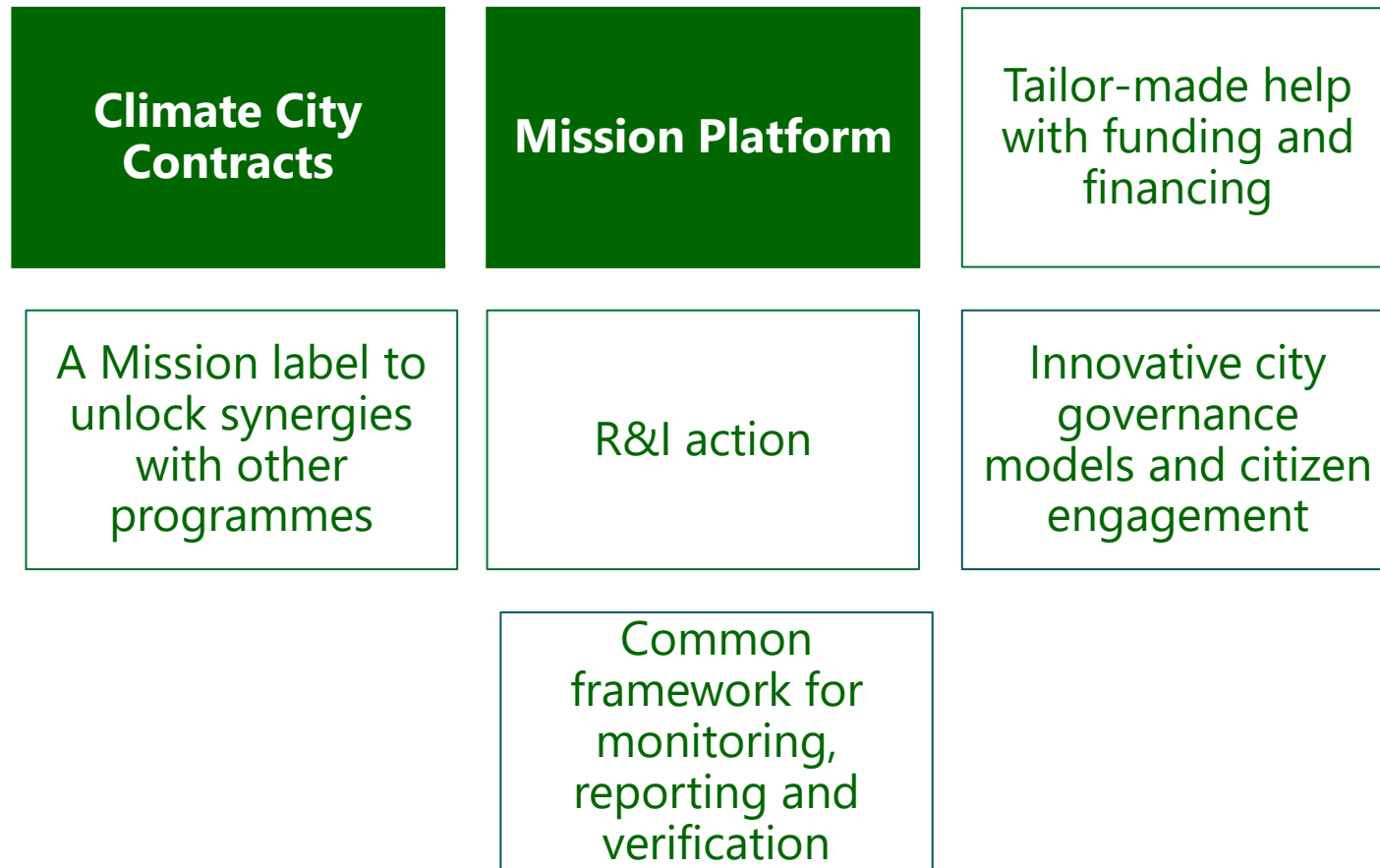


A NEW APPROACH TO URBAN CLIMATE ACTION

- Demand-driven and innovative process based on the needs of the cities
- Systemic change via actions across sectors
- Multi-level governance linking local, regional, national and EU levels
- Support for accessing necessary large scale funding and finance
- Citizens involved in the design and implementation of the mission



MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION





MISSION PLATFORM

- Run by the NetZeroCities consortium who started on 1 October
- Co-creation of **Climate City Contracts** with citizens, stakeholders and authorities
- Tailor-made **investment plans**, project preparation and financial advice
- **R&I pilots and demonstrators:** launch calls for proposals for large scale pilots in lead cities that will twin with and mentor other cities



CLIMATE CITY CONTRACTS

- **Tailor-made plans** on how to reach climate neutrality, adapted to the individual needs of the city, supported by the Mission Platform
- Non legally binding – **Memorandum of Understanding**
- To be **co-created** with the involvement of national authorities, regions and local stakeholders, including citizens and local economic actors
- Focus on innovative (“holistic”) city governance, investment plan, and monitoring and reporting
- Signed by the Mayor (or equivalent), witnessed by the Commission and others



MISSION LABEL

- Climate City Contract gives access to a Mission label
- Recognition of quality and feasibility of climate action commitments
- Allowing EU, regions, Member States to support highly visible activities in 'labelled' cities
- Boosting investor awareness and confidence



THE SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES FOR CITIES

- The Mission will not replace involvement in other programmes, such as Covenant of Mayors, or Climate Pact, but build synergies with them.
- A Mission label will help create funding opportunities in other EU and other programmes.
- National networks to ensure synergies with national and regional programmes
- Use of existing planning and monitoring frameworks like Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)



HOW WILL THE PROCESS WORK?

- October 2021: Publication of comprehensive info kit for cities to help cities prepare for the Call [Mission Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities: Info Kit for cities now available | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- November 2021: Publication of Call for Expression of Interest addressed to cities (questionnaire)
- January 2022: Call closes
- By March 2022: Selection of participating cities
- As of mid 2022: Mission Platform works with first cities to develop Climate City Contracts



QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- Population thresholds – 50 000 (but with some flexibility to bring in cities from all Member States)
- Stated ambition to achieve climate neutrality by 2030

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: INCLUSIVENESS – DIVERSITY – GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE

So we will be looking at a range of factors, such as

- the cities' level of ambition and preparedness (but not just “usual suspects”)
- the cities' commitment to involving citizens and stakeholders



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