

Green Cities Magazine

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Grenoble, the European Green Capital 2022

Preparing the city of tomorrow, forging new paths, encouraging everyone to create, test, and take actions that are good for today and tomorrow, embracing and supporting change for all: as European Green Capital 2022, Grenoble has assumed its role as a pioneering city helping accelerate transitions.

To encourage everyone – citizens, businesses, non-profit organisations, and public institutions – to commit themselves and undertake concrete action for the climate, Grenoble has created an innovative strategy that divides 2022 into 12 themes and 54 challenges to build a just and desirable future.

In the wake of climate disruption and the expansion of human activities, biodiversity is in decline everywhere. As the trees, plants, animals, and insects that surround us are a common good that must be protected, we are taking action to protect our ecosystem. There will soon be 3 urban farms, 6 collective orchards, and

42 allotments, all without pesticides. 7,500 trees have been planted on public space since 2014, and 1 new park has been created or renovated every year.

The greening of a city can only be carried out by the city and its surrounding towns. Therefore, the "Green Your City!" plan will allow Grenoble residents to either receive one or more of 19 protected species of trees free of charge, or the ability to turn an unused space in their neighbourhood into a



Eric Piolle
Mayor of Grenoble

public park or garden. In September 2022, after a historically hot and dry summer, Grenoble's citizens voted in overwhelming support of a participatory budget allowing for projects which will increase green spaces and allotments, ultimately helping to cool the city.

Vegetables are also making their way onto our plates. Since the beginning of the academic year, the "standard" lunch menu served in the city's schools has been 100% vegetarian. Families can choose a fish or meat

option for 2 to 3 days each week, the remaining days being vegetarian for all students.

At the same time, the city is continuing its efforts to increase the amount of organic food being served. 60% of the food served in schools is already organic while nearly 100% of the food served in the city's nurseries is organic.

The transition must be equitable; thus, the price of these meals varies from 0.77€ to 9.70€, according to each student's ability to pay. Additionally, individual households' participation in composting is becoming commonplace, allowing for food waste to be used to produce energy locally or to fertilise nearby farmers' crops.

Whether in the field of energy, water, waste, air, health, transport, food, city planning, nature, or biodiversity, the city of Grenoble is adapting and committing to accelerate its transition.



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European Green Capitals: Today and Tomorrow

On 27 October, the 2022 European Green Capital city of Grenoble will host the Awards Ceremony during which the 2024 European Green Capital and Green Leaf Award winners will be announced.

The 2024 European Green Capital will be selected from the two finalists: Valencia (Spain) and Cagliari (Italy). Meanwhile, the 2024 European Green Leaf Awards will go to up to two cities from a group of three finalists: Elsinore (Denmark), Velenje (Slovenia), and Bistrița (Romania).

Valencia presents a powerful case due to its creation and protection of green spaces, such as [Albufera Natural Park](#), as well as its sustainable mobility initiatives. In 2022, Valencia was named both the European Capital of Smart Tourism and the World Design Capital.

Cagliari, on the southern coast of Sardinia, is a strong contender for the Award as it accommodates a quarter of the region's population, while simultaneously boasting around 30% of the territory being taken up by nature sights. As a coastal city, Cagliari has launched a pilot project testing the use of electric vehicles in waterways.

The 2024 European Green Leaf candidates, Elsinore, Velenje, and Bistrița, all exhibit exceptional action plans in the form of [Vision 2030](#), the first [Sustainable Energy Action Plan in Slovenia](#), and [Zero Carbon Cities \(ZCC\)](#) under the [URBACT III Program](#), respectively.

The Awards Ceremony will be followed by "Kintsurkoi"—a vertical dance show organised by the company Les Imponderables and "Here we build the city in transition," an interactive exhibition to discover Grenoble.



The European Green Capital 2022 Grenoble is a climate CAMPAIGNer

The French city of Grenoble and European Green Capital 2022 experiments a low-carbon lifestyle.

CAMPAIGNers (Citizens Acting on Mitigation Pathways through Active Implementation of a Goal-setting Network) is a Horizon 2020-funded project that aims "to revolutionise the way lifestyle transformation research is conducted and how it informs policies", according to the Community Research and Development Information Service ([CORDIS](#)).

To move from hypothetical citizen behaviour to the implementation of a 'goal-setting network', the smartphone application Climate Campaigners was developed to engage with its users and challenge them in their daily routines. This way, the data collected about the different obstacles and enablers will ultimately help design methods and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sixteen major cities from 5 continents have participated in this project between 2021 and 2024. The [Climate Campaigners](#) app was released simultaneously on 15 September 2022 in 13 cities, including the European Green Capital 2022

[Grenoble](#) (France) and the European Green Capital 2021 [Lahti](#) (Finland).

Challenges will be proposed to users according to their profile with information adapted to the local context to help them. The deployment of the app is linked to the year of Grenoble as European Green Capital. This new tool will allow the city to amplify the already existing citizens' challenges and continue beyond 2022.

Learn more about CAMPAIGNers [here](#).



The European Green Leaf 2022 Winterswijk at the prestigious Floriade Expo

The European Green Leaf 2022 winner city of Winterswijk is exhibiting at the prestigious Floriade Expo 2022 in Almere, Netherlands.

The [Floriade Expo](#) is a 60-hectare park where horticultural projects and innovative green technologies about city greening are exhibited every ten years, from April to October. World countries present their 'gardens', while children activities, art exhibitions and other cultural events are organised all along the Expo. Visitors can even explore a sustainable menu thanks to the varied flavours of the Floriade Expo.

Come take a tour "around the world" at the World Food Pavilion where you will find Winterswijk's EU Green Leaf tree. Made from certified wood and accessible to disabled people, the tree offers the visitors information and pictures about [Winterswijk](#), the [European Green Leaf Award](#), and [Dorpsakker Winterswijk](#), an organic farm that has its own store, bakery, and restaurant and where people with any kind of disabilities are welcome to volunteer.

Recently, Arjan Klein Nibbelink, in charge of the European Green Leaf year of Winterswijk and Patrick Hallink, Dorpsakker responsible, received a special visit from the Board of the Provincial Executive of Gelderland and the Provincial Executive of Flevoland. The guests appreciated the green initiatives going on in the European Green Leaf winner city and encouraged the authorities to continue their missions.



John Berends, Dutch King's Commissioner, next to Winterswijk's EU Green Leaf tree



The Greenfest in Valongo

The European Green Leaf 2022 winner city of Valongo hosted Greenfest, Portugal's largest sustainability event

Greenfest, the largest sustainability event in Portugal, was held in Valongo on 1 and 2 July.



The Greenfest

This event was promoted by the municipality of Valongo and marked the EU Green Leaf events' agenda of the city.

Greenfest is a family-friendly event whose main goal is to raise awareness on sustainability issues, reminding the community that we all have the power to act and contribute to change.

Under the central theme "The Regenerative Circular Economy and Nature-Based Solutions!", the 2-day event promoted debates around environmental and sustainability policies, namely energy independence, decarbonisation plans, urban farming, and water, among many others. In parallel and reinforcing the idea of being an event for families, theatre performances, film screenings, football games, and illustration workshops were organised.

Greenfest Valongo brought together people from different backgrounds and generations, discussing and presenting solutions to some of the most urgent problems regarding sustainability.



"EntreLinhas - Festa do Ferroviário", a call to action for the railroad

The European Green Leaf 2022 winner city of Valongo (Portugal) hosted the first edition of "EntreLinhas - Festa do Ferroviário" from 26 to 28 August.

A tribute to the railroad and railwaymen, but also a way to address and discuss the importance of the train, as a mass transport, for environmental sustainability.

One of the highlights of the event was the conference on "The importance of the train in times of climate crisis", which was held at Fórum Cultural de Ermeresinde, in Valongo, and where several prestigious were present such as the Coordinator of the National Rail Plan and the Vice-President of Comboios de Portugal (Trains of Portugal). They unveiled the national strategy to make the railroad a real and effective alternative to other means of transport.

Finally, discussing alternative transportation is fundamental as we witness more and more alarming rates of CO2 emissions caused by cars, planes and ships.



Put bicycles back in the heart of urban planning

The possibility of bicycle-friendly cities is becoming more feasible every day thanks to Copenhagenize, a design company based in the European Green Capital 2014 winner city of Copenhagen.

Once dubbed the "Pope of Urban Cycling," Mikael Colville-Andersen founded Copenhagenize in 2007. Known for his advocacy for sustainable mobility, Colville-Anderson has launched many other projects centred around cycling, including a recent non-profit initiative called Bikes4Ukraine which collects donations to send bikes to refugee camps and social workers in Ukraine. His company Copenhagenize has expanded to include major global cities in its successful projects dedicated to reintegrating bicycles into cities. The mission of Copenhagenize began with spotlighting and improving cycling life in its home base of Copenhagen.

Since 2007 the design company has been making strides toward a green and mobile world with its city-planning services, branding and communication strategies, and educational services. The initiative to "Copenhagenize" other cities is unique in its people-first approach to city planning, subsequently encouraging a more active lifestyle with healthier people and a healthier environment.

European cities like Paris, Amsterdam, and Barcelona populate the company's impressive client list.

Bruges, in particular, aims to become a European Bicycle Capital and turned to Copenhagenize in 2019 to refresh its cycling network surrounding the Medieval city centre. A more recent project for the European Commission includes an educational guide called A Guide to Planning Cyclologistics Hubs. Communication and education projects are critical to Copenhagenize in an effort to put everyone on the same page in terms of terminology and significance.

Along with its global services, Copenhagenize maintains a connection with its base cities of Copenhagen and Paris. Design talks and educational bicycle tours are offered for groups travelling to the cities. The goal is to put Copenhagen and Paris at the forefront of the cycling initiative and use them as standards of change.



Let's talk at the #EURegionsWeek 2022

The European Green Capital and Green Leaf Awards Secretariat will be hosting a virtual stand on 10-13 October during the European Week of Regions and Cities 2022.

The European Week of Regions and Cities is an annual cohesion policy event hosted in Brussels. It is a time to connect with like-minded causes, as well as interact with agencies and individuals in varying areas of change in order to bridge the challenges facing Europe today. Problem-solving, networking, contextualising solutions: all these can be found in the hybrid event.

This year's programme includes four major themes:



Green transition



Territorial cohesion



Digital transition



Youth empowerment

Over 530 partners have registered in the EU and worldwide to host interactive conferences, speeches, and video showings. Government officials and politicians, experts in cohesion policy programmes, European journalists, academics in European cohesion policy, company representatives, and members of the public who want to contribute to Europe's cohesive future are invited to attend and participate in a hybrid format.

The European Green Capital and Green Leaf Awards Secretariat will be personally hosting a virtual stand and invites participants to learn about the Awards, discover past Green Capital and Green Leaf winning cities, ask questions, and connect with those willing to expand Europe's green transition.

[Register and learn more about EU Regions Week.](#)



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