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Vilnius
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The meaning, purpose, and the program of the Green Capital

2024 12 05

What is the European Green Capital?

- The European Commission's European Green Capital Award is given to a city with more than 100,000 inhabitants
- The award is intended for cities that implement changes, make efforts and strive to create an environmentally friendly city life. The award encourages reaching further green goals and feeling proud of the city.
- Winning brings a great responsibility to the city. It is needed to critically assess the city's environmental status and vision, and to become a true role model for other European cities facing similar environmental challenges.



Award selection process

Cities are selected and evaluated in two stages:

Stage 1:

A report on environmental indicators is produced, showing how the situation has evolved over the last 10 years, what it is now and what is planned for the future, in each of 7 categories: water pollution, air pollution, noise, waste, biodiversity, mitigation of climate change impacts and adaptation to climate change.

Stage 2:

Only three cities are selected. The city delegations take part in a live presentation during which they present to the jury the best initiatives they have implemented, the activities they are planning and the key communication messages they want to focus on after winning the title.

Vilnius was recognized for its strong commitment to sustainability, taking a realistic and down-to-earth approach



VILNIUS – THE GREENEST CITY IN THE MAKING

Meaning of the Title

- Recognition of the city's environmental measures at the European level
- International attention to the city and its good practices
- Becoming a member of the European Green Capitals Network
- Incentive for the city to continue implementing the "green course" program or to strategically plan the "green course" program
- Participate in international projects and be a desired partner in projects
- Presenting the city's environmental topics at international events
- An opportunity to be proud of the results already achieved in the areas of sustainability and greenness, as well as an obligation to make even greater efforts, respond to the needs of citizens and create the greenest city together

MAIN TOPICS

- Green Transformations
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Sustainable Governance

Green transformations

- Vilnius Street Standard (adaptation for all traffic participants)
- Architecture regulations
- District conversion
- Renovation of apartment buildings
- Heating system (use of biofuels, principles of circular economy in energy, etc.)
- Smart rainwater management (collection and use)
- Urban lighting systems (charging electric vehicles from electricity poles, installation of sustainable lighting in the city)
- Mobility (bicycle and pedestrian paths, vehicle sharing, use of hydrogen for public transport, etc.)
- Other

Biodiversity

- Natural nature – 61% of green areas
- Statistically, 95% of the population lives no more than 300 m from green spaces
- NATURA 2000 objects (doubled over the decade, from 9 to 18)
- Green wave (wave of planting trees and shrubs, etc.)
- Greenness index
- Fish migration (e.g. salmon migration in Neris river)
- Animal diversity in parks (e.g. bat habitats in Sapieginė)
- Principles of meadow mowing
- Other

Climate Change

- Climate neutral by 2030
- Green City Accord
- Covenant of Mayors

Sustainable Governance

- Municipal enterprises/institutions apply sustainable management strategies (11 enterprises)
- 318 municipal institutions use solar energy to become energy independent
- Open data, its use and accessibility for city residents
- Greenness index

TARGET GROUPS

Target groups

Vilnius City Municipality and teams of managers and employees of companies/institutions.

Objective: to raise awareness of sustainability issues and base ongoing work on sustainability principles, promote cross-sectoral synergy, and encourage people to become ambassadors of the Green Capital

Residents, businesses, institutions, academic community.

Objective: to increase understanding of Vilnius' sustainability, ensure awareness of the capital's sustainable initiatives, and promote resident engagement.

International audience.

Objective: to create positive content about Vilnius, promote awareness of the city, and share good practices.

GREEN CAPITAL PRINCIPALS

The year 2025 is based on:

- Communication
- Implementation of sustainable innovations
- Introduction of sustainability indicators in municipal activities
- Public initiatives/campaigns
- Sustainability education and activities in schools and kindergartens
- Business involvement
- Partnerships
- Integration in events
- Sharing of Vilnius' good experiences and mistakes at international events
- Organization of international seminars/workshops and lectures by foreign experts in Vilnius

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

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- 2025. January 22-23. Official opening (closed event)
- 2025. May 6-9. Cities Mission Conference (about 1000 participants)
- End of October 2025. European Green Capital 2027 final and awards, European Green Capitals Network meeting, etc.
- International forums/workshops in Vilnius: it is planned to organize international workshops/forums for the exchange of good practices among specialists in different fields (circular economy, urban planning, biodiversity, mobility, etc.)

Presentation of Vilnius at international events in 2025:

- Urban Future
- Velo City
- Smart City Expo Barcelona
- Placemaking week
- MOVE
- Sustainability festival Impact days
- Events of international organizations
- Events organized by the European Commission
- Events of the European Green Capitals Network
- Other regular events with the participation of Vilnius representatives

VILNIUS – THE GREENEST CITY IN THE MAKING

