



From SECAP to Climate Action

Bandırma's Journey from Local Capacity to International Partnerships

Bandırma Municipality turned a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan prepared entirely by its own staff into a platform for international learning partnerships and youth climate action with technical support from MLGP4Climate and EU4ETTR.

12 weeks

SECAP PREPARED ENTIRELY BY
MUNICIPAL STAFF

300 cities

SELECTED WORLDWIDE FOR THE
BLOOMBERG YOUTH CLIMATE
ACTION FUND (15 IN TÜRKİYE)

-1 MW

MUNICIPAL SOLAR PLANT
CAPACITY, ~4,200 PANELS

Self-Delivered SECAP

Twinned with Dunkerque, Braga & Pécs

Youth Climate Action

Investment-Ready Project Pipeline

THE CONTEXT

Strategic Port City Building Its Climate Capacity

Located on the Marmara Sea, Bandırma is one of Balıkesir's strategic districts, shaped by its port, railway connections, industry and agriculture, logistics infrastructure and university.

This same infrastructure underpins the municipality's climate and sustainability priorities. Priority areas include energy efficiency and renewable energy, greenhouse gas reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, sustainable and accessible urban transport, the energy transition of public infrastructure, climate finance and investment development, and engaging young people and stakeholders in climate action. Bandırma joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) in 2023, launching its SECAP process with 2023 as the baseline year.

Bandırma's climate journey, 2017-2026

2017-2018

MUNICIPAL SOLAR PLANT COMMISSIONED (~1 MW, ~4,200 PANELS)

2023

COVENANT OF MAYORS SIGNED; SECAP BASELINE YEAR

2024

SECAP COMPLETED IN 12 WEEKS, ENTIRELY IN-HOUSE

2026

SELECTED FOR THE BLOOMBERG YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND'S EXPANDED PHASE

The municipal solar plant commissioned in 2017—2018 covers a significant share of the electricity needs of municipal service buildings. This investment was the first concrete step in Bandırma's energy transition and part of the foundation the SECAP process would later build on.

THE EVIDENCE

SECAP prepared with municipalities team and cooperation

Bandırma's SECAP was not prepared by an external contractor. Every stage of the process data collection and verification, energy and emissions analysis, the greenhouse gas inventory, climate risk and vulnerability assessment, setting mitigation and adaptation targets, designing actions, prioritisation and monitoring was carried out by the municipality's own staff. MLGP4Climate provided technical guidance, expert input and capacity-building support throughout.

This approach ensured the SECAP would not remain only a prepared document, but form the foundation of the municipality's capacity to develop future projects and investments. It was recieved a letter of gratitude recognising Bandırma for completing its SECAP in just three months.

Five action areas, aligned with the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan

Energy

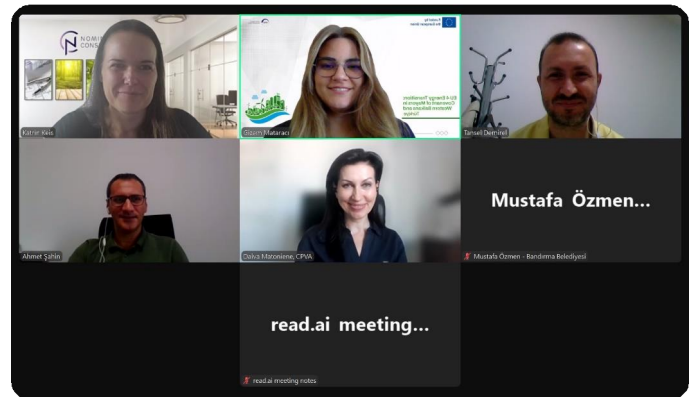
Transport

Adaptation

Decarbonization

Participation & Awareness

SECAP actions span five areas from energy efficiency and renewable energy investments to sustainable urban mobility, resilience against climate risks, decarbonising public infrastructure, and engaging young people and universities and NGOs in climate action all tracked through performance indicators under the municipality's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.



Left: EU4ETTR Project Team Leader Daiva Matonienė meeting with Bandırma Mayor Dursun Mirza, July 2024. Right: one of the online technical working sessions held under MLGP4Climate.

THE PARTNERSHIP

From 12-Week SECAP to a Global Peer-Learning Network

For Bandırma, the SECAP was not an endpoint but a starting point. Completing it quickly and in-house turned the plan into a good-practice example on international platforms.

International visibility, from Cairo to Vilnius

At the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, Bandırma's SECAP experience was presented in the "MLGP4Climate: Success Stories from Türkiye" session, attended by more than 50 participants from UCLG-MEWA, GCoM, JRC, CPMA, CDP-ICLEI and the European Network of Living Labs.. In Vilnius, the municipality held technical learning sessions on SECAP implementation, EU funding mechanisms and climate policy.

Twinned with Dunkerque, learning with Braga and Pécs

Through the NetZeroCities Twinning Learning Programme, Bandırma was one of three Turkish municipalities paired with Dunkerque, France, for a 17-month exchange on sustainable energy, climate-neutral city approaches, port decarbonisation and climate-friendly transport. The municipality also completed NetZeroCities' "Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy" online planning lab (2025), earning a certificate of attendance. It went on to join a new learning group hosted by Pécs, Hungary, alongside Gdańsk and Lushnjë, on climate governance and urban decarbonization, while continuing city-to-city learning with Braga, Portugal, on energy-efficiency renovations of housing and public buildings.

New technical networks and youth climate action

Bandırma also joined ELABORATOR as an Observer City on data-driven, sustainable urban mobility, and was selected for the ClimateFIT Replication Programme to build capacity for financing climate adaptation investments. In 2026, the municipality was selected for the expanded phase of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund one of 300 cities worldwide and one of 15 in Türkiye through which young people aged 15-24 will design and implement projects aligned with Bandırma's climate goals.



Technical learning session in Vilnius on SECAP implementation, EU funding mechanisms and climate policy.

NEXT STEPS

From SECAP to Investment, from Investment to a Climate-Neutral City

Bandırma's next goal is to turn SECAP actions into investable, financeable and measurable projects: accelerating the municipal energy transition, scaling up climate adaptation and resilience investment, and advancing sustainable transport and accessibility by building on the ELABORATOR and Dunkerque experiences.

The roadmap also includes making young people active participants in climate action through the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund, and making the European peer-learning network with Dunkerque, Braga and Pécs permanent. Bandırma's climate journey is no longer built only on municipal investment; it is a set of solutions co-produced by the municipality, the university, European cities, local stakeholders and young people.



At the Bloomberg Philanthropies and Global Covenant of Mayors booth at WUF12 in Cairo, with Bandırma among the international participants.

“With the support of GCoM and MLGP4Climate, we completed our SECAP within our own institutional capacity in a short period of time. Building on this, through technical learning in Lithuania and the partnerships we have developed with cities across Europe, we have begun turning our climate and energy goals into concrete projects and investment opportunities in sustainable transport, climate adaptation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, youth participation and climate finance.

Tansel Demirel

Head of Energy Management Unit, Bandırma Municipality