



A Resilience Model Growing from Neighbourhood to City

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality's Climate Change and Clean Energy Journey

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality is setting city-wide emissions targets through SECAP 2025-2050, while the Climate Resilience for Communities project builds a concrete, resilience model co-designed with residents at neighbourhood scale.

-80% by 2030

EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET VS. 2018 BASELINE; CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2050

69 actions

SECAP 2025-2050 ACTION DATABASE: 33 MITIGATION, 30 ADAPTATION, 3 ENERGY POVERTY, 3 JOINT GCAP ACTIONS

9 countries, 1 city each

İZMİR IS TÜRKİYE'S ONLY SELECTED CITY - A €1,008,500 PROJECT

SECAP 2025-2050

CoM Europe Signatory

Climate Resilience for Communities

Neighbourhood Committees

THE CONTEXT

A Growing Aegean City, Facing Rising Climate Risk

İzmir is Türkiye's largest city on the Aegean coast and the country's third-largest city overall. Sitting in the Mediterranean climate zone, it faces growing exposure to flooding, extreme heatwaves and wildfire risk.

Under its Climate Change and Clean Energy Directorate, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality is a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors Europe (CoM Europe). Through SECAP 2025-2050, the city targets an **80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions** by 2030 against a 2018 baseline, and **climate neutrality** by 2050.

Five priority areas, with concrete examples

Sustainable transport developed: 29-km Karabağlar-Gaziemir metro line; the phased renewal of the ESHOT municipal bus fleet with electric vehicles. Energy efficiency: converting all municipally-owned street lighting to LED. Renewable energy: scaling up solar power across municipal buildings, roadside sites and bus stops. Water and wastewater infrastructure: strengthening climate resilience in partnership with İZSU. Neighbourhood-scale resilience: community-based solutions to flooding, heatwave and food-security risks.

A three-scale climate governance model: city → district → neighbourhood

City

SECAP: CITY-WIDE MITIGATION
AND ADAPTATION TARGETS

District

RISK ASSESSMENTS SETTING
LOCAL PRIORITIES

Neighbourhood

COMMUNITY-BASED RESILIENCE
PROGRAMMES (CRC PROJECT)

These three scales reinforce one another - and are described as the distinguishing feature of İzmir's climate governance.

THE EVIDENCE

SECAP 2025-2050: 69 Actions by the Numbers

SEAP prepared in 2016 targeted a 20% reduction by 2020. Adopted by Council decision on 16 December 2020, the SECAP raised the target to 40% by 2030. Updated by Council decision on 12 January 2026, SECAP 2025-2050 raised it further to 80% by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.

The SECAP action database: 69

33

MITIGATION ACTIONS

30

ADAPTATION ACTIONS

3

ENERGY-POVERTY ACTIONS

3

ACTIONS JOINT WITH THE EBRD GREEN CITY ACTION PLAN

12 Water 11 Buildings 9 Energy 8 Waste 6 Transport 5 Agriculture & Forestry 5 Land Use
4 Environment & Biodiversity 3 Health 2 Civil Defence / Emergency 1 Tourism

Flagship mitigation actions

T1.7 - Sustainable urban mobility (integrating rail, bus, maritime transport and micro-mobility): the transport action with SECAP's highest mitigation target, ~1.22 million tCO₂e per year; its concrete output is the Karabağlar-Gaziemir metro line.

T1.5 - Phased electrification of the ESHOT bus fleet: ~175,000 tCO₂e per year.

ES1.7 - Converting all municipally-owned lighting to LED: ~122,000 tCO₂e per year.

ES1.5 - Scaling up solar power across municipal buildings, roadside sites and bus stops.

SUCCESS STORY

Resilience Model Built from the Neighborhood Up

Funded by the Z Zurich Foundation, implemented by ICLEI, and run in partnership with İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, the **Climate Resilience for Communities project (CRC)** is the Türkiye component of the global Urban Climate Resilience Program (UCRP). Launched on 1 January 2023 simultaneously in 9 countries with only one city selected per country İzmir was Türkiye's sole selected city. The total project budget is **€1,008,500**; the project has been extended **through the end of 2026** to consolidate results.

The project runs in two pilot neighbourhood groups in Konak district: the **Pazaryeri** group around Agora (Pazaryeri, Yeni, Süvari, Ali Reis, Kubilay), focused on flood risk, and the **İmariye** group around Kadifekale (İmariye, Aziziye, 1st Kadriye, Hasan Özdemir), focused on heatwave risk.

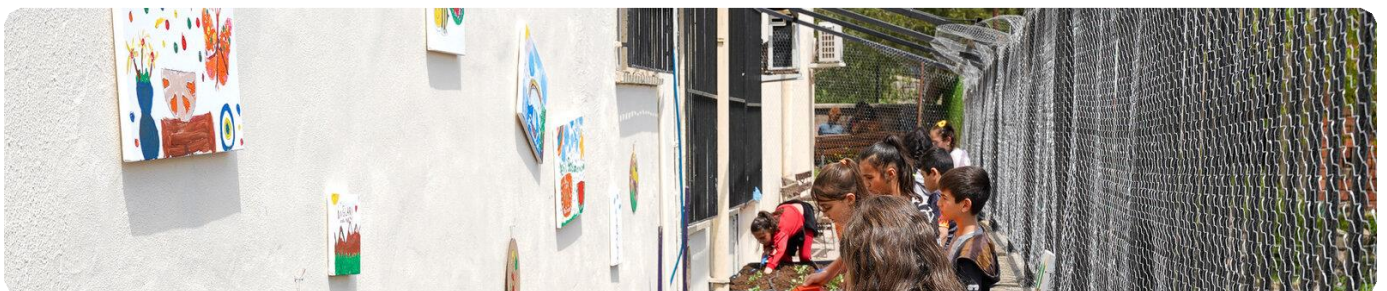
Resilience is measured through the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) framework, developed by the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, across five capitals: human, social, physical, natural and financial.

Partners: **İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, ICLEI, Z Zurich Foundation, Zurich Insurance Group Türkiye**

Sub-partners: **İZ-AFED, Social Climate Association**

Bottom-up design process, built from the neighbourhood

CRMC technical scores and household survey data were compared against residents' lived experience in an evaluation workshop, establishing a shared baseline. Three days of field information booths and school visits used "solution cards" to gather more than 100 concrete ideas directly from residents. A co-design workshop – bringing together municipal teams, CSOs and neighbourhood representatives prioritised these ideas by budget and feasibility and turned them into concrete action plans. This process resulted in permanent **Neighbourhood Committees**, formed by first contacting the muhtars and then selecting members from residents (a youth group, a women's group, and migrant representation).



Students working the soil in a school garden as part of the project's field information booths and school visits.

FROM THE FIELD

Flood Resilience in Pazaryeri, Heat Resilience in İmariye

Pazaryeri: Flood Resilience

A three-layer intervention: a social layer (Neighbourhood Committees for local coordination), a technical layer (micro-scale risk assessment of water flow and at-risk buildings), and a physical layer (modular flood barriers diverting water away from critical assets and vulnerable housing), backed by flood and extreme-weather awareness training.



Modular flood barriers installed together with residents in Pazaryeri.

İmariye: Heat Resilience

A three-pronged plan: infrastructure (a climate-resilient seedling greenhouse with rainwater harvesting, supplying urban gardens run by women and children), community action (shade-making workshops using recycled fabric), and education (a municipal climate curriculum teaching families to manage heat risk).



Left: the rainwater-harvesting seedling greenhouse. Right: a shade-making workshop with recycled fabric.

NEXT STEPS

From Neighbourhood to City: Making Resilience Permanent

The Impact Measurement Study (T1 Study), completed in August 2026 after the first implementation cycle in both pilot neighbourhood groups, produced five key recommendations:

- 1 Move from a single neighbourhood-scale resilience score to a multi-dimensional vulnerability and prioritisation mechanism.
- 2 Formally link CRMC findings to municipal governance through an official connection mechanism.
- 3 Establish a Resilience Investment Prioritisation Framework.
- 4 Develop an evidence-based monitoring mechanism to measure adaptation benefits.
- 5 Scale the successful pilot interventions in Pazaryeri and İmariye to other vulnerable neighbourhoods.

Over the period extended through the end of 2026, priorities include strengthening community and municipal capacity, broadening the partnership ecosystem, validating the Operations Guide, and sharing experience with other cities. The ultimate goal is to permanently integrate this neighbourhood-born model into İzmir's city-wide climate policy a resilience approach that scales from neighbourhood to city.

The Climate Resilience for Communities project's journey

Jan 2023

PROJECT LAUNCHED
SIMULTANEOUSLY IN 9
COUNTRIES; İZMİR IS TÜRKİYE'S
SOLE CITY

2023-2025

CO-DESIGN PROCESS AND PILOT
IMPLEMENTATION IN PAZARYERI &
İMARIYE

Aug 2026

IMPACT MEASUREMENT STUDY
(T1 STUDY) COMPLETED

Dec 2026

END OF EXTENDED PERIOD; €1,008,500 TOTAL BUDGET

PART OF A WIDER NETWORK

İzmir's Climate Work on the European Stage

On 23 May 2025, Türkiye's expert climate leaders gathered at a technical workshop held at the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy. The workshop was organized via EU4ETTR project MLGP4Climate platform members and shared tools and knowledge for municipalities to tackle climate change, strengthened local resilience through data-driven strategies, addressed energy poverty through inclusive planning, and aligned local climate action with EU frameworks. İzmir Metropolitan Municipality (Climate Change and Clean Energy Directorate) was represented on this team by Dr. Çağlar Tükel.



At the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC Ispra), the Türkiye delegation at the 23 May 2025 technical workshop, including Dr. Çağlar Tükel, representing İzmir Metropolitan Municipality.

The Climate Resilience for Communities project showed us that climate resilience is not a solution imposed from above- it is a process built directly from the neighbourhood, from the community itself. This was made possible by genuine collaboration, with every partner contributing its own distinct strength; we did not work *for* the residents, we worked *with* them, making them a direct part of the solution rather than its beneficiaries. When we enabled our most vulnerable communities to become the drivers of change themselves, solidarity among them grew stronger and our neighbourhoods became genuinely more resilient. Our experience shows that when you bring together the right partners with real solidarity and a true spirit of collaboration, you are not just protecting a city - you are empowering its people.

Dr. Çağlar Tükel

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, Climate Change and Clean Energy Directorate

