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From SECAP to Investment-Ready Projects: Karatay's Energy Efficiency Breakthrough

How Karatay Municipality turned a municipal climate action plan into a €5.3 million pipeline of ready-to-finance public building retrofits with GCoM, MLGP4Climate and EU4ETTR support opening the door to City Climate Finance Gap Fund backing.

395,499

POPULATION

2,746 km²

DISTRICT AREA

79 actions

SECAP (ADOPTED
JUNE 2025)

**-55% /
-80%**

GHG TARGET, 2035 /
2050

Renewable Energy & Efficiency

Public Building Retrofits

Sustainable Transport

Water & Climate Resilience

THE CONTEXT

A city under water stress, racing to cut emissions

Karatay is the central district of Konya, Türkiye's largest province by area, home to 395,499 people across 2,746 km² and 63 neighborhoods. The district sits inside the Konya Closed Basin, one of the country's most water-stressed regions: decades of groundwater over-use for agriculture have lowered aquifers and triggered sinkholes (*obruk*) that now threaten farmland and settlements. Rising energy demand from a growing population adds further pressure on both emissions and the water–energy balance the city depends on.

In 2024, Karatay Municipality joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) and began preparing a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) it is a roadmap to cut greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate stress, and manage water, energy and land together rather than in isolation.



Left: Karatay district (shown in red) within Konya province. Right: the Mevlana Museum, one of the emblematic landmarks of Konya's cultural and historical heritage.

Through our cooperation under MLGP4Climate and GCoM, support from the City Climate Finance Gap Fund is helping Karatay Municipality turn its climate goals into concrete projects, strengthen its technical capacity, and open new opportunities for sustainable investment.

-Karatay Municipality

THE PROCESS

From a signed protocol to a credible climate plan

Turning that ambition into a bankable plan required more than good intentions. Karatay's technical teams built a greenhouse gas inventory and a climate risk and vulnerability analysis the evidence base every SECAP needs while support from the EU-funded **EU4ETTR** program (EU for Energy Transition: the Covenant of Mayors in the Western Balkans and Türkiye) and the **MLGP4Climate** platform helped strengthen the plan's financial dimension, translating climate ambition into costed, financeable actions.

That cooperation was formalized on 15 January 2025, when Karatay Municipality, the KOP Regional Development Administration and Lithuania's Central Project Management Agency (CPVA) signed a cooperation protocol at Karatay's stakeholder workshop opening the door to the technical and financial support that followed. Five months later, in **June 2025**, Karatay's Municipal Council formally adopted the SECAP: **79 actions** across nine thematic pillars, targeting carbon neutrality by 2050 and a **55%** cut in per-capita emissions by 2035, rising to **80%** by 2050.



Karatay Municipality's technical team and partners at a project working session during the energy-efficiency pre-feasibility study



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THE OUTCOME

Turning audits into a €5.3 million investment pipeline

GCoM - City Climate Finance Gap Fund approved support on 29 July 2025 for “Innovative Energy Efficiency Solutions in Karatay”

13

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21

BUILDINGS COVERED

100,000+ m²

FLOOR AREA AUDITED

€5.3M

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IDENTIFIED

-2,000 t

CO₂E AVOIDED / YEAR

10,000+

STUDENTS, TEACHERS & STAFF BENEFITING

The Gap Fund financed Investment-Grade Energy Audits, rooftop solar potential assessments, financial modelling and stakeholder engagement across Karatay's public buildings. It fed directly into a follow-on 2026 initiative the *Pre-feasibility Study of Energy Efficiency Measures in Public Buildings in Karatay, Türkiye* covering 13 schools and 21 buildings, more than 100,000 m² of floor space.

The result: an identified €5.3 million portfolio of ready-to-finance retrofit investments, expected to cut roughly 2,000 tonnes of CO₂e every year while improving conditions for more than 10,000 students, teachers and staff. Karatay is also expanding generation at the source a new 105,000 m² solar (GES) site in İsmil adds renewable capacity alongside the efficiency program.



WHAT'S NEXT

What Karatay's experience means for other cities

Karatay's path from a 2024 SECAP commitment, to a signed cooperation protocol, to GCoM Gap Fund financing, to a costed public-building investment pipeline in under two years shows what a mid-sized Turkish municipality can achieve when climate planning, technical assistance and finance are deliberately connected rather than left to run in parallel.

The municipality's own priorities for what comes next: carrying through the SECAP's remaining actions, especially on water, drought and sinkhole risk in the Konya Closed Basin; scaling the public-building retrofit model across the rest of its building stock; building a continuous pipeline of finance-ready projects rather than one-off studies; and sustaining the international partnerships with GCoM, MLGP4Climate, EU4ETTR and, going forward, CITY-ACCEL that made this progress possible.



Karatay Mayor Hasan Kılca and EU4ETTR Türkiye Team Leader Daiva Matonienė at the signing ceremony (15 January 2025) for a cooperation agreement to prepare a financial-model feasibility study supporting implementation of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP).

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To reach their climate goals, municipalities need to do more than identify the right projects. They also need to prepare them for investment and financing. The cooperation we have built with GCoM and MLGP4Climate is strengthening Karatay's capacity to turn its climate goals into concrete projects, investment opportunities and implementable solutions.

Fuat Özcan, Director of External Relations, Karatay Municipality