

TALLINN

winner 2023



An initiative of the
European Commission



Tallinn is very proud to hold the title of European Green Capital 2023. Especially since the idea of a European green capital was born in Tallinn – in 2006, 15 cities signed a memorandum for the title of European Green Capital in our city.

We want every citizen of Tallinn to benefit from the European Green Capital year and the accompanying developments, because our goal is a greener city with a better environment and urban space.

Tallinn's goal is to produce greater economic value and well-being while using fewer resources and creating less waste. Being an economic hub for the entire country Tallinn solves its challenges technology-wisely and offers its solutions also to the international community. Think globally, test in Tallinn – is the motto to encourage companies to test their smart and eco-friendly products and services in city environment.

There is still a lot to do to turn Tallinn into a truly sustainable and green city, but green transition is Tallinn's priority, and we strive towards integrating environmentally friendly actions to the whole management and development of our city. For us, a green capital means that Tallinn is inviting, comfortable and clean – a friendly global city of the future.



Mihhail Kõlvart
Mayor of Tallinn

Tallinn was awarded the EGC title for our systemic approach to green governance and interlinked strategic goals, which reflect the ambitions of the European Green Deal and United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Tallinn has more than 2100 hectares of protected areas – nature reserves, protected parks and even an island. Biodiverse protected areas cover about 20%, natural surfaces over 65% of the area of Tallinn.

Tallinn is one of the few capital cities that has its own bog.

And probably the only one where Scottish Highland cattle are employees of the city.

Tallinn aims to reduce CO₂ emissions 40% by 2030 and reach climate neutrality by the middle of the century.

We are transitioning to a circular economy. The goal is that more than 65% of waste will be recycled by 2035. New reuse and repair centres are being opened all over the city.

Tallinn wants to achieve climate-neutral and free public transport by 2035. Already today, all trams and trolleys in Tallinn run on 100% renewable electricity.

Tallinn leads the Global Goals for Cities network of 19 European cities, which aims to implement the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals at local level.

In 2022 Tallinn had 28 community gardens and 71 educational gardens that the city supports financially. The trend of growing your own food is becoming more and more popular.

THE CITY



Sustainability and the green transformation are becoming central principles of leadership globally, not only in cities. Tallinn applies environmentally friendly ways of thinking to all our development plans and strategies to make our city a better living environment and to integrate green policies horizontally into the management. We have re-organized the whole city structure and organization to better coordinate sustainability and work better with the European Green Deal and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We welcome you to visit Tallinn during our European Green Capital year. Our diverse green capital program is divided in four themes: learning city, inclusive city, smart city, sustainable city. We are planning over 60 projects, events and initiatives, including 17 international events, 11 flagship and legacy projects.

Krista Kampus
Executive Director of the European Green Capital 2023

The main objective of European Green Capital 2023 is to accelerate the city's green transition. For that we have made some big, positive initiatives in recent years:

Strategy Tallinn 2035 (adopted in 2020) with Tallinn's six strategic goals: friendly urban space, creative global city, healthy mobility, green transformation, kind community, home that includes the street.

Tallinn Strategy Centre (established in 2021) to better carry out and coordinate the green transformation.

Tallinn Climate Action Plan (adopted in 2021) which lists the main environmental challenges of Tallinn and solutions to these problems.

During European Green Capital year Tallinn intends to initiate change and new sustainable activities, accelerate the sustainable processes, eco-innovation, and green growth, engage citizens and organizations in becoming more sustainable and bring the city closer to the people and develop city space which considers the needs of all citizens.

GREEN GOALS

Sustainable cities conference: "Fantastic creatures: Making European cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable"	20 January
EGC Opening Ceremony	21 January
EGC opening event in Brussels	8 February
Environment themed schoolyear in public schools and kindergartens	September '22 - June '23
Biodiversity Action Days	all year
Future Forum in Ülemiste City	May
Minecraft sustainable cities competition for children	April - May
EU Green Week. "Governance Models for Green Transition in Cities"	May
Urban Space street festival	June
Environmentally friendly Youth Song and Dance Festival	30 June - 2 July
Climate People's Assembly	September
World Clean Up Day: Baltic Sea Challenge	30 August - 17 September
Impact Day sustainable entrepreneurship event	October
EGC Award Ceremony	October
Greentech EXPO	14-17 November
Smart Cities Convention	14-15 November
Cleantech Forum Europe	14-16 November
Green Tiger Conference	17 November
Black Nights Film Festival EGC Film Programme	November
Robotex "Green City Entrepreneurial Challenge"	November
EGC Closing Ceremony	December

KEY EVENTS

Pollinator Highway A vibrant 14 km long linear park, an example of sustainable co-existence of biodiversity and urbanization. An old railway dam and electric powerlines corridor will become a species-rich natural environment, a green corridor and a safe space for walking or bicycling.

Green Expo is an international business and inspiration event, the main goal of which is to promote cooperation between green technology specialists and dialogue between European cities and companies, and to show Tallinn as a meeting place for green innovation and technology, bringing together companies, academic institutions and cities engaged in green innovation and presenting the brightest achievements in the field to the general public.

Restoration of Tallinn's bog Tallinn is very proud to be one of few European capital cities that has a bog. In recent decades Pääsküla bog has dried out. Tallinn is exploring ways to improve the water regime of the bog with manmade dams.

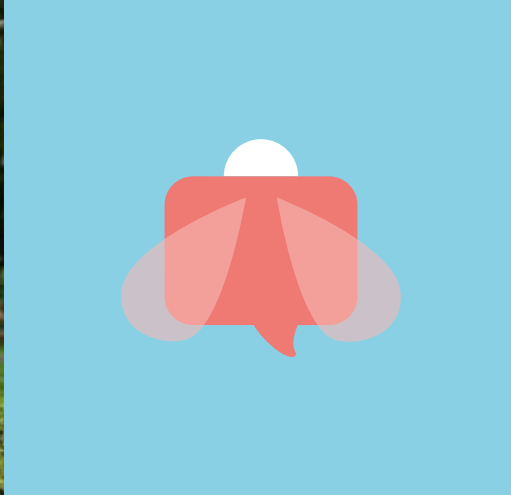
Green Twins As part of the Smart City Center of Excellence, the GreenTwins project deals with the issue of urban greening and how to better take the urban natural environment into account in urban planning processes.

Youth Song and Dance Festival One of Tallinn's most loved events that brings together up to 100 000 people. In 2023 we will have an environmentally conscious festival and celebrate European Day with planting trees for all participating groups.

Global Goals for Cities network Tallinn leads a network of 19 European cities, which aims to implement the UN SDGs at local level. The project intends to take these global objectives and turn them into a local reality.

World Clean Up Day, which originates from Estonia unites millions of people around the world to tackle the global waste problem and build a more sustainable world. Tallinn is calling upon the cities around the Baltic Sea to clean up their bodies of water and coastal areas on World Clean Up Day 2023.

FLAGSHIPS & LEGACY



During the Tallinn European Green Capital year, we will organize many events, workshops, and seminars to explain environmental issues and initiatives better to the general population.

_ The theme of the 2022-2023 school year in all of Tallinn's public schools and kindergartens is environment and there will be many **study programs, competitions and events for children.**

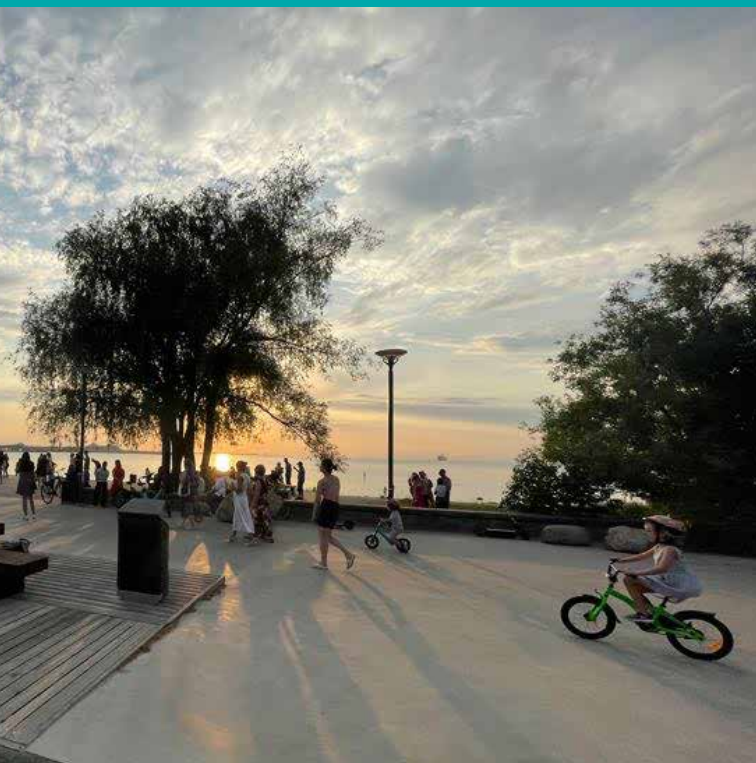
_ Teaching children how to safely **ride a bike** – Tallinn gives 100-euros for a school child to buy a bicycle if they get a bicycle licence.

_ Educational gardens in Tallinn's schools and kindergartens. The city prioritizes teaching the young to care for the environment. Around 80 Tallinn schools and kindergartens have joined the **Eco Schools Global program**, which is the largest global sustainable schools' program.

_ There will also be diverse **learning programs for citizens of all ages**, for example in Tallinn Botanical Gardens and the Estonian Museum of Natural History.

_ Tallinn has compiled a searchable **database, which rates 900 plants according to their value for pollinators**, allowing gardeners and city developers make better choices for greenspaces. This is the first such tool in Estonia.

LEARNING CITY



We are all responsible for the future: every generation must create and maintain a good living environment for their children. Tallinn is putting more and more emphasis on co-creation and participatory governance, so that citizens would have a say in the development of their neighbourhood.

_ We are investing around 1 million euros into a **participatory budget** for 2023 that focuses on green transition projects.

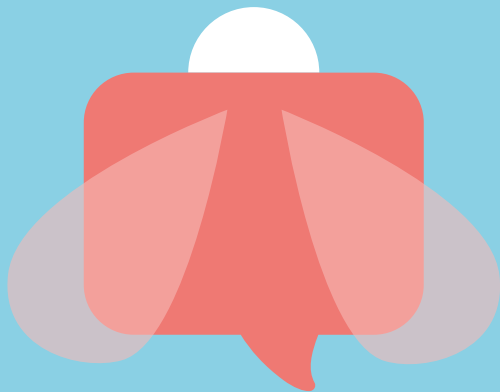
_ Tallinn is also running several co-creation projects – for example Centrinno in **Kopli Creative Centre**. To bring local people together to revive and upgrade traditional skills and know-how of food production, building, and repairing by applying global design, permaculture, and design thinking.

_ We welcome citizens' involvement in city planning – for example a co-creation and **participation hub AvaLinn** (Open City) will be opened next spring at Tallinn Strategy Center.

_ We are planning several action days that bring together communities within the city to improve their local green areas. For example, as part of the **restoration of Pääsküla bog** locals build manmade dams to improve the water regime. Plus: bog as an ecosystem is very effective in the offset of carbon dioxide.

_ **Biodiversity action days**. Through 2023, Tallinn is planning to organize various biodiversity conservation efforts that bring together communities within the city to improve their local green areas ð: garbage clean-up efforts, maintenance works in protected areas, including improving the habitats of frogs and stone lizards; work on the removal of alien species, maintenance of bird nest boxes, mapping of hedgehogs, building “cottages” for bats, spotting orchids in urban nature, etc.

INCLUSIVE CITY



Tallinn is known to be a hub of information technology. To bring more innovations to the city, we have moved towards a more systematic and practical partnership with universities and local companies want to test new environmentally friendly technologies and concepts in our city.

_ **Test in Tallinn** programme allows companies to test various green technologies in our attractive business environment. The main test areas of the title year are urban mobility and energy efficiency, chosen by the city as the areas with the greatest impact and legislative readiness, and where today's cooperation between the city and entrepreneurs has been most effective.

_ **Tallinnnovation** fund (100 000 euros) which looks for creative ideas from local entrepreneurs will in 2023 be focused on innovative green ideas that make the city's life eco-friendlier and more sustainable. A great example is Filaret – who is turning toxic cigarette butts into safe 3D printing material. Trash cans made of that material are already in use in Tallinn.

_ We welcome innovative ideas from the earliest age. Children are naturally very smart and competitions like **Robotex' Green City Entrepreneurial Challenge and Minecraft's Building a Better City** give them a opportunity to actually put creative ideas into practice.

_ Tallinn is said to be too car friendly but implementing a **Mobility as a Service (MaaS)** system and co-operating with Tallinn's smart mobility start-ups like Bolt, AuveTech, Elmo, Cleveron, Bikeep, Voltride, Starship, Comodule in 2023 will lead to a more sustainable urban mobility.

_ **Green Twins 3D** modelling of the city – an international co-project between TalTech and Aalto University. The 3D-model shows how urban greenery changes over time and helps us understand how these changes affect the city's ecosystem. The model will help urban planners by indicating where more shade is needed, where greenery could cover up traffic signs etc.

SMART CITY





One of the year's highlights will be the Greentech Week in November with the **Cleantech Forum Europe, Greentech Expo, Green Tiger Conference**, and the Smart Cities Convention. The week will bring to Tallinn up to 500 investors, innovators and entrepreneurs of green technology and more than 30 city delegations from all over Europe.

The **Tallinn Greentech Week** consists series of international business events with the main emphasis on promoting cooperation between leading specialists in green technology as well as highlighting the dialogue between European cities and companies. Tallinn as the European Green Capital will be a meeting point for environmental innovation and technology by bringing together Greentech technology companies, academia and cities.



Tallinn Greentech Week events:

Smart Cities Convention 14-15 November
Cleantech Forum Europe 14-16 November
Greentech Expo 14-17 November
Green Tiger Conference 17 November

GREENTECH WEEK

Tallinn is launching the Test in Tallinn measure, which aims to bring more smart green solutions to Tallinn.

Today, Estonia and Tallinn, have a good business environment, the creation and growth environment of start-up companies and a digital society in general. The above is also confirmed by high places in international rankings (e.g. Lausanne IMD international competitiveness, EU Startup Heatmap Europe, UN ranking of digital countries).

The strength of Estonia and Tallinn is smallness, flexibility and the technological openness of society, which favors the development and implementation of innovative solutions (including testing prototypes that have passed trials in a real-life environment on a smaller scale and, if successful, flexible amplification of solutions). In Tallinn, testing opportunities have already been used in different formats. For example: regional pilot projects in urban environments (e.g. testing AuveTech self-driving buses in city districts) or piloting the products/services of the winners of the Tallinnovation competition (e.g. Thinnect's smart community solution in Kalamaja, which provides the community with an overview of the traffic situation and noise level in the area, while also helping to improve road safety); bilateral agreements between the city and private companies to test products and provide services (goodwill agreement with companies that rent electric scooters (Bolt, Tuul), who can use bicycle parking spaces in the city center for free) etc.

Taking into account the above experience, Tallinn intends to make the capital an attractive business environment where various green technologies can be tested, with the aim of helping both domestic and foreign companies to reach other urban environments globally with their products and services.

The main test areas of the title year are urban mobility and energy efficiency, chosen by the city as the areas with the greatest impact and legislative readiness, and where today's cooperation between the city and local entrepreneurs has been the most effective.

TEST IN TALLINN




Sustainable Tallinn
European
Green
Capital  **2023**


One of the main themes of Tallinn – European Green Capital 2023 is sustainable governance – the successful implementation of green transition requires a governance model that supports it.

_ Tallinn leads the **Global Goals for Cities network of 19 European cities**, which aims to implement the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals at local level, focusing among other things on clean water, climate change, sustainable cities and energy sustainability, economic growth, poverty eradication and gender equality. The project intends to take these global objectives and turn them into a local reality and include SDGs in our development plans.

_ In 2023 we intend to open an international **hub for sustainable cities in Tallinn** and host two sustainable cities conferences.

_ **Green interventions program of innovative pop-up interventions** in Tallinn's urban space to re-evaluate and reinvent problematic places. The aim is to increase Tallinn's biodiversity as well as create a safe and pleasant urban space for every Tallinner. A city suitable for an 8- and an 80-year-old.

_ **Environmentally responsible guidelines for all events** organized by the city of Tallinn. This will be implemented during the EGC year, the guidelines will be optional for all privately organized events, but mandatory for city's own events starting 2023.

_ Lively green spaces in cities improve our well-being and health. It is especially rewarding when one can grow the greenery themselves. So, it is no wonder that the number of **community gardens** in Tallinn grows every year. In 2022 Tallinn has 28 community gardens and 71 educational gardens that the city supports financially.

SUSTAINABLE CITY

In addition to a full programme of events throughout its green capital year, Tallinn has taken on the aim of contributing to changes in the urban space. The project Green Tracks involves activities that aim to improve the quality of green areas, bring more greenery to the city and improve the spatial quality in areas with high use, support the development of green networks within the city and experiment with new spatial solutions by reorganising the urban space and creating prototypes.

Based on the Tallinn 2035 and Climate Neutral Tallinn documents, the project aims to improve the living environment of the city, increase natural diversity, create mitigative measures for climate change-related risks and instill sustainable practises by including district governments, local businesses, educational institutions and citizens in their activities.

City planning and building are usually slow processes, but many important and visible changes that improve the quality of the space can be brought to life in a shorter period of time. The Green Tracks project strives to increase greenery and the quality of space in areas where this can be done without long planning processes, using so-called tactical urbanism methods.

These activities vary in scale and content and take place in every district in the city. A few examples:

- _ Cleaning up Tallinn's coastal areas around Linnahall and the cruise port
- _ Spatial interventions in transport hubs and frequently visited locations
- _ Replacing grass plots with flower meadows by large roads and parks
- _ Establishing avenues lined with shade trees by pedestrian and cycling paths
- _ Adding greenery to traffic islands
- _ Experimenting with green roofs in bus stops
- _ Establishing food forests in multiple residential areas

GREEN TRACKS

Spatial experimentation is an important part of the project in order to discern citizens' readiness to accept new solutions and receive feedback in order to learn and develop from these experiences together.

Among other thing, the Town Hall Square will temporarily be turned into a pop-up park and the students at the Estonian Academy of Arts will be experimenting with climate-sensitive spatial solutions on Lauteri Street and creating prototypes for improved spatial objects like street furniture and traffic signs. A few places in the city will gain a new look either temporarily or permanently and institutions dealing with urban spatial planning will have a good chance to monitor the results of the changes and citizens' readiness to accept them.



See you in Tallinn!

greentallinn.eu

