



TALLINN—EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2023



INTRO TALLINN

Tallinn is very proud to hold the title of European Green Capital 2023. Especially since the idea of the European green capital was born in Tallinn.

The European Green Capital year gave Tallinn the opportunity to bring attention to environmental issues, test new green solutions in the city and launch new projects focusing on environment and inclusivity. The European Green Capital Year has helped to accelerate the green transition initiatives already underway and has laid the foundations for a number of new approaches. Pilot projects of various size and scale were implemented that accelerated the process of making Tallinn more sustainable.

The year opened the door to innovative green solutions such as interventions in urban spaces, replanting trees and establishing the criteria for environmentally friendly public events. The projects launched gave the city the opportunity to learn, experiment and discover sustainable solutions that work best and can be developed further.

Through innovation and fostering engagement, Tallinn is on its journey from a green capital to a green global capital.

EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2023 TALLINN

3 key objectives

1. RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE BIODIVERSITY IN THE CITY

Connecting green areas, pollinator-friendly plant catalogue,
digital model of the urban greenery, habitat restoration,
environmental education & awareness, the Baltic Sea environment

2. CLIMATE & GREEN INNOVATION

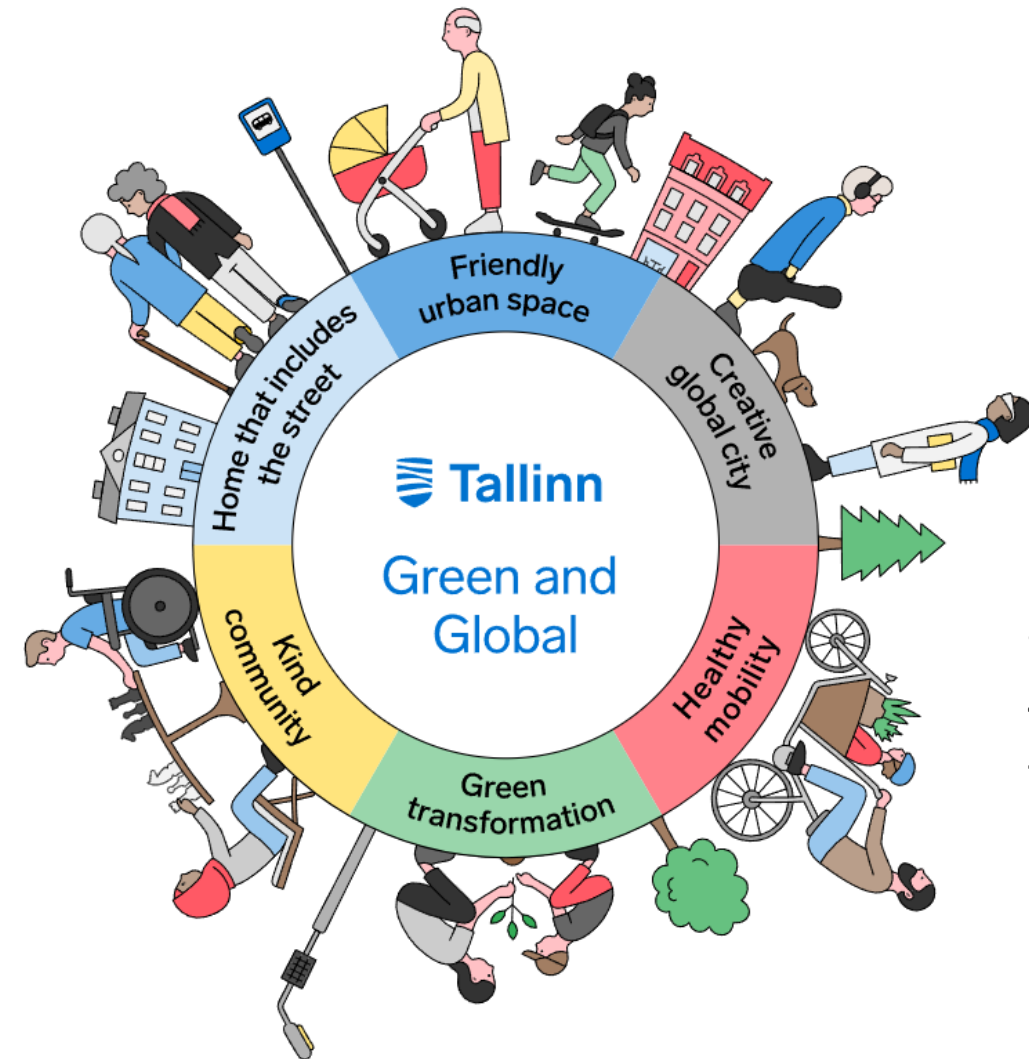
CO2 emission reduction, transition to a circular economy (65% waste recycling by 2035, circular houses, etc.), new bicycle lanes, tram and electric buses infrastructure

3. SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

Green procurement, localizing SDGs, SDGs based indicators and targets, environmentally responsible guidelines for all events, green interventions program of innovative pop-up interventions

These objectives are implemented through the four themes of the EGC program:

- learning city
- inclusive city
- sustainable city
- smart city

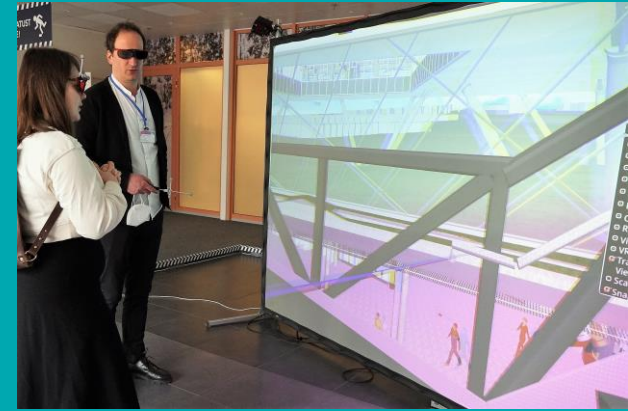




Greentech Week
Test in Tallinn & Tallinnovation
Robotex



Biodiversity action days
Inclusive budget
People's Assembly
Participation hub



More than 200 events,
initiatives, actions etc



Project Green Tracks
Baltic Sea campaign
Save our Sea
Guide for environmentally
friendly events



Environmental year in Tallinn's
schools and kindergardens
Sustainable Song and Dance festival
Special programs for adults in
Botanical Gardens, Tallinn Library
etc



SMART CITY

City that looks for new innovative solutions to make the urban environment better, cleaner, and more humane and environmentally friendly



INCLUSIVE CITY

City that creates a better urban environment together with local communities, discusses, asks for opinions and ideas, and takes into account the needs of the community.



greentallinn.eu

SUSTAINABLE CITY

City that creates a greener and more humane urban space, based on the 2035 strategy and UN Sustainable Development Goals.



LEARNING CITY

City that develops and adapts to changes in the world and helps its inhabitants to better understand why it is necessary to preserve the living environment and how they can contribute.



BIODIVERSITY IS THE KEY:

PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY AND INCREASING URBAN GREENERY

IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS, INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS:

Reducing the intensity of mowing on Tallinn green areas and parks in order to increase greenery in urban spaces. This principle will be continued incoming years.

More than 35 activities and clean-ups were carried out in the **Biodiversity action days** program through collaboration and engagement of citizens, which will continue in the coming year.

Two linear parks (Klindipark and Putukaväil) are being created in the coming years to support biodiversity. At Putukaväil or the **Pollinator Highway** the first communal garden of Tallinn **Pelguaed** will open next spring.

The development of the **Vormsi green area** (Go Green Routes project) will continue with the support of external funding, and there are also plans to increase the number of protected areas in the city. Several workshops and meetings were held in 2023, for example the VR Showcase of nature-based interventions in Tallinn's participation hub Avalinn.

Regional campaign **Save our Sea** brought together more than 156 000 people to care for their home sea, the Baltic Sea.

BIODIVERSITY IS THE KEY:

PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY AND INCREASING URBAN GREENERY

More than 60 events and activities

February-October 2023	BIODIVERSITY ACTION DAYS https://greentallinn.eu/en/events/biodiversity-action-day/
May 6	LET'S DO IT: GARBAGE COLLECTION ACTION DAY IN VARIOUS GREEN AREAS IN TALLINN
May 9	EUROPEAN DAY DEDICATED TO BIODIVERSITY
June 10	NATURE CONSERVATION FAIR
August 2023	ACTION DAYS: RESTARATION OF PÄÄSKÜLA BOG AND PALJASSAARE DRY MEADOWS
August-September 2023	INTERNATIONAL BALTIC SEA CAMPAIGN "SAVE OUR SEA"
October-December 2023	EXHIBITION „CITY WITH TREES“ AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURE

<https://greentallinn.eu/en/events/>

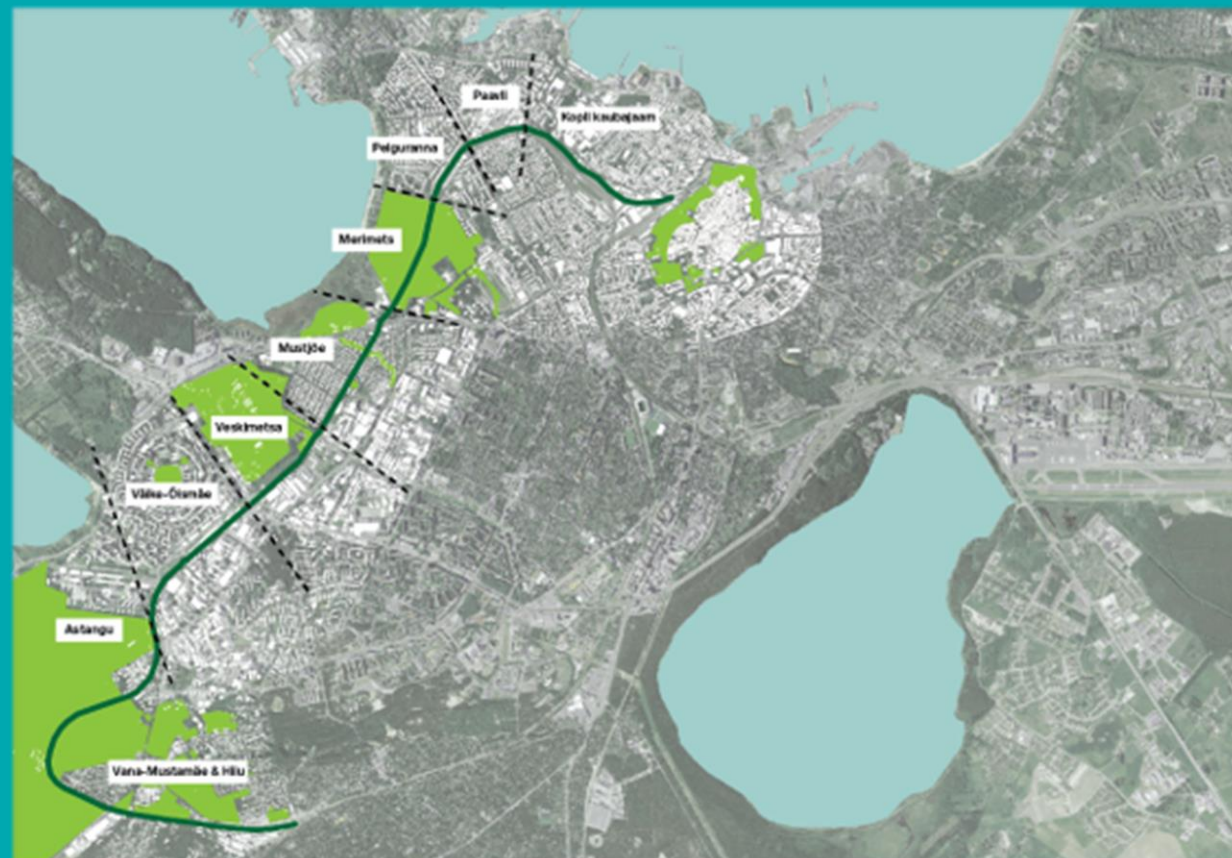
FLAGSHIP THE POLLINATOR HIGHWAY, 1ST PHASE



The Pollinator Highway

- In the Year of EGC, the building of Tallinn's first communal garden Pelguaed situated at the Pollinator Highway's North Tallinn part, was started.
- Procurement process for the first stage of Pollinator Highway has also been completed.
- The „Place Buzz“ installations of Tallinn EGC 23 at the Pollinator Highway made it to the finals at the prestigious New European Bauhaus competition.
- An Smithsonian Gardens exhibition on biodiversity was opened with the US Embassy in Tallinn.

<https://www.putukavail.ee/?lang=en>



FLAGSHIP REGIONAL CAMPAIGN SAVE OUR SEA

More than 156,00 people from 45 municipalities along the Baltic Sea took part in the activities of the European green capital Tallinn, the city of Helsinki and the Save Our Sea campaign of the environmental organization Let's Do It World.



In Europe:

91 events
45 municipalities
10 countries and
territories

In Tallinn:

- Seminar on Baltic Sea biodiversity
- Baltic Sea family day
- Going to Zero exhibition
- Life in the Baltic Sea program for schools
- Several clean-up days on beaches
- 23.08-16.09 advertising campaign

www.seacleanup.org

OTHER FLAGSHIPS

The Pollinator-friendly plant e-catalogue

In May, an advertising campaign was launched for pollinator-friendly landscaping and the catalogue, including biodiversity European Day, planting of 14 flower meadows in the city, handing out signs for not mowing the lawn, handing out pollinator-friendly flowerseeds, i.e in Tallinn EGC tram.

<https://www.putukavail.ee/haljastuskataloog?lang=en>
<https://haljastus.tallinn.ee/>



GoGreenRoutes

Several workshops and meetings were held in 2023, for example the VR Showcase of nature-based interventions in Tallinn's participation hub Avalinn. In May we presented the landscape architectural sketch of the **Vormsi green area** to the local community to analyze and get their feedback. At the end of the year, we prepared tenders for the design and construction of the Vormsi green area, and we are drifting forward to plan the start of construction activities this spring-summer.

<https://www.tallinn.ee/en/gogreenroutes>

GREY TO GREEN:

INCREASING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

The European Green Capital Year brought new green solutions to Tallinn, setting examples for other cities to follow.

One of Tallinn's strategic objective is to ensure the availability of environmentally friendly district heating solutions and the functioning of a vital service. To this end, the City of Tallinn set up a joint venture with Utilitas, Estonia's largest renewable energy Company, which will focus on **the development of renewable energy solutions** (using seawater and waste water) to ensure security of energy supply and stability in the price of heat for the citizens of Tallinn. It is also a step towards helping Tallinn move towards **carbon neutrality**.

For exploiting the potential of green innovation and strengthening collaboration with private sector, Tallinn launched the **Test in Tallinn program**.

While focusing on climate change as a priority topic, the Year of the Green Capital drew attention to sustainable **urban mobility development**.

New tram lines are under construction, with the first to be completed by summer 2024.

GREY TO GREEN:

INCREASING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

More than 40 events and activities

January 26	SMART CITY EXCHANGE FORUM
February 11	SPRINT OF IDEAS at the Tallinn Creative Incubator
10-18 June	URBAN SPACE FESTIVAL
27-28 October	24-hour climate hackathon CLIMATHON
13-17 November	NEXPO TALLINN – Tallinn Cleantech EXPO
November 13	GREENEST SUMMIT
14-15 November	SMART CITIES CONVENTION
15-16 November	CLEANTECH FORUM EUROPE
17-18 November	Competition My Car-Free City at ROBOTEX INTERNATIONAL

FLAGSHIP GREEN TRACKS PROJECT

European Green Capital pilot projects contributed to opening up and renewing urban spaces. For example, the Green Tracks project carried out a range of rapid interventions in urban space to test new solutions for planning public spaces.

The Green Tracks project aims to:

- Bring more greenery into the urban space and support the development of green networks
- Increase the quality of green areas
- Create better urban space in high-use areas
- Create some projects in every district

The projects help to test which quick solutions for improving urban spaces work well, which don't, and where should the focus lie in the future.



One of the most successful Green Tracks projects was the pop-up park in Town Hall Square, the park will be open again next summer.

FLAGSHIP GREEN TRACKS PROJECT

This year we have completed:

- Summer park on Town Hall Square
- Jõesuu 5 beach park
- Coastal area installation and city space interventions by Linnahall
- 8 parklets around the city
- 14 flower meadows
- 9 food forests
- Over 450 new trees planted

More interventions are planned to be completed in 2024 greentallinn.eu/en/green-tracks/



FLAGSHIP TEST IN TALLINN

The Test in Tallinn program, initiated in the year of the European Green Capital, invites both Estonian and foreign companies to test their sustainable products and services suitable for a smart city in the capital.

Currently, **13 innovation projects** are underway, 7 of them from abroad.

Tallinn supports the testing of innovation projects in the urban environment on a case-by-case basis with a duration of up to 12 months.

<https://www.tallinn.ee/en/tallinnovation/testintallinn>





FLAGSHIP GREENTECH WEEK & NEXPO

International business and inspiration events with the main goal of promoting cooperation between green technology professionals and dialogue between European cities and companies.

NEXPO green technology exhibition 13.-17.11

Cleantech Forum Europea 14.-16.11

GreenEST Summit 2023 13.11

Smart Cities Convention 14.-15.11

Green Governance Conference 16.11

Balanced Economy Forum 17.11

<https://nexpotallinn.com/en/>

 **NEXPO** | Tallinn
Touch of Future | 2023

13.—17.
Nov '23

TOUCH OF IMAGINATION

Let's link green with tech!



30
CITY
Delegations

500
TOP INVESTORS
From cleantech sector

4000
TECHNOLOGY
Enthusiasts



nexpotallinn.com

OTHER FLAGSHIPS

MaaS (Mobility as a Service). Development has started for MaaS platform, which is adapted to Tallinn and will combine the various transport services offered in Tallinn into a single package.

Green Twins. The digital 3D-model is being developed and tested in various city departments, that shows how urban greenery changes over time and helps us understand how these changes affect the city's ecosystem.

TREASoURcE. Continuous development of systemic circular economy solutions for currently underutilised plastic waste, batteries and bio-waste.

DigiAudit. A digital platform with dashboards, performance analytic tools, and services is tested in total 45 municipal buildings.

SPINE (Smart public transport initiatives for climate-neutral European cities). 2023 has seen the creation of innovative simulation and Digital Twinning tools.

CITY FOR ALL: FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

The European Green Capital Year encouraged Tallinn to implement new solutions to be more sustainable. For example:

- The environmentally friendly criteria for public events. Tallinn was the first capital city in Europe to implement reusable solutions on such a large scale as the National Youth Song and Dance Festival (over 100 000 participants and visitors).
- With the disclosure of the OECD Circular Economy report this year, Tallinn received a boost to invest in the circular economy by upgrading its recycling facilities and repair workshops. Construction of the first circular economy centre has started, with a second center to be built in timber construction is planned for 2024.

The European Green Capital Year also provided more opportunities for citizen participation. Examples include:

- Citizen's engagement program “Let’s create together” , that supported 48 local projects in total amount of 1,2 miljon €
- Tallinn’s first Citizens’ Assembly
- Opening the co-creation space - Tallinn’s Participation HUB Avalinn
- Tallinn Green Ambassadors Initiative - environmental activists, influencers, scientists, cultural figures,
- and entrepreneurs who, through their example, contribute to the implementation of more responsible and environmentally sustainable lifestyles and principles

CITY FOR ALL:

FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

More than 100 events and activities

September 2022-June 2023	NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL THEME-YEAR In Tallinn's Schools and Kindergartens
January- December 2023	SPECIAL PROGRAM OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL IN TALLINN BOTANICAL GARDEN
January- December 2023	GARBAGE WOLF – COLLECTION BY TYPE Campaign for separate collection of waste in kindergartens and schools
January- December 2023	SPECIAL PROGRAM OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL IN TALLINN'S PEOPLES UNIVERSITY
January- December 2023	SPECIAL PROGRAM OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL IN TALLINN'S PUBLIC LIBRARY
March and October 2023	GREEN LABELS Environmentally friendly options in the menus of Tallinn Restaurant Week.
5-6 June	5TH OECD CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROUND TABLE, presentation of OECD Tallinn Circular Economy Report

CITY FOR ALL:

FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

More than 100 events and activities

March 23	SEMINAR FOR EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY EVENTS
April-December 2023	PROGRAM GREEN AND SMART for raising awareness in Tallinn's housing co-op's with the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations
May-December 2023	Environmental awareness program NUDGING FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE
May-December	TRASH TO TREND CIRCULAR FASHION STUDIO by renowned fashion designer Reet Aus
30 June – 2 July	ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY YOUTH SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL
September 8-10	ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TALLINN MARATHON
September 22	EU MOBILITY WEEK AND CAR-FREE DAY ACTIVITIES IN TALLINN
September – December 2023	EXHIBITION „LET’S GO TO ZERO“



FLAGSHIP SUSTAINABLE SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL

As a result of the cooperation between Tallinn, the European Green Capital 2023, and Estonian Song-and Dance Festival Foundation the 13th Youth Song and Dance Festival was held in a significantly more environmentally friendly manner than before.

- 100,000 people were fed only with reusable dishes
- 3.5 tons less garbage
- 70 separate waste collection containers

More efficient public transport:

- special buses and trams
- bicycle parking lots

<https://2023.laulupidu.ee/en/>



Photo: Aivar Pihelgas



Photo: Kaupo Kalda



FLAGSHIP GREEN CAPITAL CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

The first Green Capital Citizen' Assembly took place from October 7 to November 4. With the help of experts and stakeholders, Tallinn invited citizens to discuss and answer the question: „How can we link Tallinn's green spaces into an inviting urban whole?“

Green Capital Citizen' Assembly had:

- 30 000 invitations
- 60 participants selected by geographical and socio-economical aspects to form a representative mini-Tallinn
- 39 proposals

The proposals of the Citizens' Assembly have been taken to the city government and ways will be found to turn them into real decisions and actions.

The proposals are being further processed by the Green Transition Office of the Tallinn Strategic Management Office.

[greentallinn.eu/Citizens' Assembly](https://greentallinn.eu/Citizens%20Assembly)



FLAGSHIP

KOPLI 93 MAKERSPACE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The aim of [Kopli 93 Community Centre](#) ([Centrinno project](#)) is to create an ecosystem of local stakeholders (schools, NGOs, makerspaces, artisans, businesses, activists) to boost the local productive and creative economic environment in order to make the neighbourhood more self-sufficient and resilient.

This year Kopli 93 started negotiations with existing and newly created makerspaces to map our needs and secure the future of Makerspaces in the network of circular economy centers.

In addition to the Kopli 93 Makerspace, the Centrinno project has launched several programs, and two of the most significant are [„Living Archive“](#), an archive of interviews and memories of community residents, and the "Cartography," which aims to map the network of local partners, businesses and resources to make community needs more easily met.

Other activities included Soil is Gold Week; traditional woodworking training series; workshop for making a mobile forge; successful garden season, community beehive development, regular workshops etc.



OTHER FLAGSHIPS

Sustainability Governance Framework. To achieve the transformation of our cities, we also need a transformative management system. We call this “Sustainability governance”. It takes the SDG-s as the framework and proposes a system of processes and relationships that would help us build consensus, develop policies, and facilitate skills and enthusiasm to achieve our goals. In June 2023 we launched a

Participation HUB and co-planning app „AvaLinn (Open City). An exhibition and co-creation space was opened which is equipped with state-of-the-art visualisation technology, with the aim of facilitating citizens' participation in the urban design processes and fostering meaningful discussion between the city, developers, professionals and citizens.

<https://www.putukavail.ee/virtuaalreaalsus-linnaplaneerimises?lang=en>

<https://greentallinn.eu/en/innovation/kaasamiskeskus-avalinn/>

The participatory budget. In the European Green Capital year, all of the winning ideas were environmental and urban space themed.

NUDGING THE CITY ORGANISATION FROM WITHIN

Several new guidelines, rules and regulations were introduced and adopted within the city organisation itself this year:

- [Guide to environmentally friendly events](#)
 - Materials and purchases (necklaces, paper, decorations)
 - Catering and water use (avoidance of single-use plastics, food scraps, plant-based dishes)
 - Waste management (separate collection of waste)
 - Transport (accessibility by foot, bike and public transport)
 - Energy and resource efficiency (preferring renewable energy, energy efficiency)
 - Consideration of the surroundings and community (landscape, local residents, limiting noise and light pollution)
- Green criteria in procurements
- Green office
- Sustainability governance framework
- Green factor
- Training program for city officials

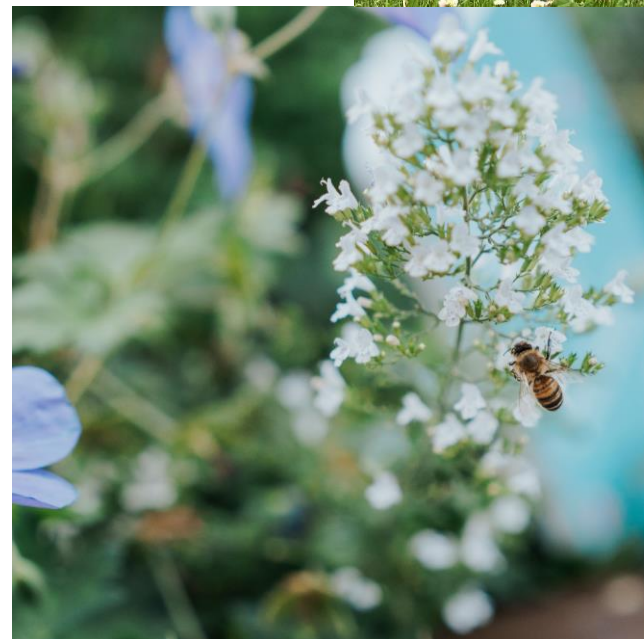
LET'S CREATE TOGETHER **FUNDING**

48 projects received non-profit support from the green capital, in total of more than 1 million euros.

We supported:

- Additional environmental education programs of international events such as Tallinn Music Week, Black Night Film Festival and Robotex
- Urban space projects such as a community sauna, the mind garden of the Chamber of People with Disabilities, bucket gardens and insect hotel installations
- Various environmental education projects for youth, children, community and people with special needs

<https://greentallinn.eu/en/create-together/non-commercial-activity-grant/>



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In collaboration with international partners, Tallinn hosted eight high-level conferences in 2023. Our partners included **influential organizations** such as the European Commission, OECD, Committee of the Regions, Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, ICLEI, and Eurocities.

We have hosted a total of **19 foreign delegations** this year in Tallinn. Official delegations visiting the city showed genuine interest in the EGC 2023 programme, its focal points, and follow-up projects. These customized visits, which always received unique additions and developments based on the guests' preferences, were particularly cherished: Pollinator Highway, Kopli 93 centre, Ülemiste City, FinEst Centre for Smart Cities, Tehnopol, Utilitas Tallinn cogeneration plants, and others. Our guests gained a comprehensive overview of the city's strategic development directions and initiatives for the title year.

Tallinn's Green Capital year was showcased on the **international stage**. The Green Capital program, its flagship projects, initiatives, and ongoing legacy were strategically presented at selected events during the Cities and Regions Week, as well as the EU Open Day in Brussels, the Urban Future Forum in Stuttgart, and the UN Climate Conference COP28 in Dubai.

With all the international events, **tens of thousands of people** from around the world have been introduced with Tallinn's Green Capital initiatives.

In 2024, Tallinn is eagerly prepared to lead the **European Green Capitals Network**, which includes 36 cities.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY TALLINN EGC2023

- 19-20 January – **The opening ceremony and opening conference of the European Green Capital 2023** "Fantastic Creatures: Making European Cities Safe, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable" and European Green Capital and Green Leaf **network meeting** brought representatives of 57 cities from more than 20 countries to Tallinn.
- February 8 – The **sustainable city management round table** and EGC2023 opening event in Brussels brought together speakers from other EU cities, umbrella organizations of cities and the European Commission.
- May 8 – Tallinn was present at the **Committee of European Regions' Open House** in Brussels
- June 6 – The circular economy round table, where we presented the **OECD Tallinn circular economy report** in cooperation with the OECD and the Committee of European Regions
- 21-23 June – **Urban Future forum** in Stuttgart, where Tallinn organized one discussion on the topic of sustainable city management, and Tallinn's representatives spoke at three other discussions.
- 4-5 September – **Sustainable city management seminar** as part of the **Open Governance Summit** and the **Baltic-Nordic Climate and Energy Pact Covenant of Mayors summit** on the topic of energy efficiency brought participants from 21 countries and 38 cities.
- 1-2 October – Tallinn was present at the **Committee of European Regions' week**
- 4-6 October – **2025 European Green Capital and Green Leaf City Awards and meeting of the Green Capital and Green Leaf Network** (October 4-6)
- 14-15 November – **Smart Cities Convention** brought to Tallinn delegates from 25 cities around the world
- December 6 – **COP28 Green Capital day** in the Estonian pavilion.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

SUPPORTED BY TALLINN EGC23

- January 25 Urban Storm Conference (part of Tallinn's LIFE UrbanStorm project)
- February 22 Sustainable hospitality MAD Academy (organizer Estonian Hotel and Restaurant Association)
- March 22 Webinar "Tallinn – the green capital of Europe – from water perspective" (organizer European Water Association)
- March 28 Microsoft CIO brunch "Sustainable cities – Tallinn" (organizer Microsoft)
- April 28 Hydrogen Conference (organizer TalTech University)
- 10-14 May Seminars on sustainable city topics at Tallinn Music Week (Organizer Tallinn Music Week)
- 11-13 May Biotoopia Conference (Organizer Biopootia NGO)
- Digital Building Conference (organizer Estonian Ministry of Economy, Tallinn Department of City Planning)
- 10-11 May Ülemiste City international conference Future Forum (organizer Ülemiste City)
- 14.09 Tallinn urban lighting seminar „Light pollution in focus“
- 5-6 October Largest sustainability festival in the Baltics Impact Day (organizer NGO Impact Day)
- 9-10 October Sustainable Tourism Conference Green Destinations (organizer EAS Enterprise Estonia)
- 14–16 November CleanTech Forum Europe (organizer CleanTech Estonia)
- November 16 Green Governance Conference „Driving Change: Empowering Sustainability Through Green Governance“ (Organizers Stockholm Environmental Institute, department of Circular Economy of Tallinn, Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia)
- November 17 Balanced Economy Forum „Elephant in the Room“ (organizer NGO Green Tiger)

CAMPAIGNS

We have held several environmental awareness campaigns:

- Public transportation and eco-friendly mobility including the EGC23 tram (Start January 2023 and September 2023)
- How the city has changed (Start January 2023)
- Biodiversity (May-June 2023), Save our Sea (Summer 2023)
- Consumption (June-July 2023)
- My City Tallinn (December 2023)



Suuna asjad uuele
ringile või paranda:
greentallinn.ee/tarbimine



“TALLINNA KOPSE”
EHK PÄÄSKÜLA RABA
ON KUIVENDATUD
JUBA ÜLE 150 AASTA



Rabakuivenduse tagajärg oli eni laastav 2002. aastal, mil kuivendamisest tingituna tekkis laastav rabapõleng. Selleks, et taastada unikaalne looduskoosus ning pakkuda lindudele ja loomadele kaitset, on linna eesmärgiks raba taastada.

#metsikultmuutuv
greentallinn.eu



Vaata, kuidas linn muutub

ROHKEM 
= VÄHEM 

MEELITA LIBLIKAD AEDA

Vaata, kuidas tuua oma
aeda elurikkust
haljastus.tallinn.ee



Tallinn
Euroopa
roheline
pealinn 2023

MAHT ON TÄIS!

Kas ka sinu riidekapis on
liiga palju riideid?

[Osta vähem!](#)



GREEN COMPASS

We have developed the Green Compass – an interactive website where people can test their environmental habits and make pledges to make their habits (even) more environmentally friendly.

The purpose of the Green Compass is to make people think about the impact of their daily habits and how they can make more environmentally conscious choices.

You can test your habits in four categories:

- energy
- mobility
- biodiversity
- consumption

www.rohekompass.ee/en





Find us on social media:
@greentallinn23

www.greentallinn.eu