



# EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL

An award for European cities dedicated to creating a green environment for their citizens



[www.europeangreencapital.eu](http://www.europeangreencapital.eu)

## How it all started...

On 15 May 2006, 15 European cities and the Association of Estonian cities met in Tallinn to discuss the establishment of the European Green Capital award scheme. A joint Memorandum was signed at the time. Currently, more than 40 major European cities, including 21 EU capitals support the initiative.

At a meeting on 29 June 2006 with the father of the initiative, Mr Jüri Ratas, former mayor of Tallinn and current Vice-President of the Estonian Parliament, EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas expressed his support and offered to contribute to the development and implementation of the award scheme.



## The concept

Europe is now an essentially urban society, with four out of five Europeans living in towns. European cities concentrate most of the environmental challenges facing our society but also bring together commitment and innovation to resolve them. The European Green Capital Award has been conceived to promote and reward these efforts.

Starting in 2010, one European city will be selected as the *European Green Capital* of the year. The award will be given to a city that:

- Has a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards;
- Is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development;
- Can act as a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices to all other European cities.

The award marks a city's wish and capability to solve environmental problems in order to both improve the quality of life of its citizens and reduce the burden it imposes on the global environment as a whole.

*On 22 May 2008, the award scheme will be officially launched at the Committee of the Regions and cities will be invited to apply via an online application form for selection of the European Green Capital of 2010 and 2011, with jury selection leading to a decision later in the year.*