



The sculptures for the winners of the European Green Capital Award are made of wood. They symbolise the fruitful symbiosis between society and nature. The green colour symbolises nature, and blue represents clean air.

« With their measures to tackle air pollution, traffic and congestion levels, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste and water management, Stockholm and Hamburg can act as role models for the rest of Europe. »

Stavros Dimas, European Commissioner for Environment

European Green Capital Awards 2010-2011: "And the winners are ..."

On Monday 23 February, Stockholm and Hamburg were named as the first winners of the new European Green Capital Award. Stockholm will be the European Green Capital in 2010 followed by Hamburg in 2011. 35 cities had applied last year for the award and at the end of the year, eight cities were shortlisted among the competitors.

The European Green Capital Award was conceived as an initiative to promote and reward environmental efforts, to spur cities to commit to further action, and to showcase and encourage exchange of best practice among European cities. The competitors were judged through 10 environmental indicators, including local contribution to global climate change and environmental management of the local authorities.

Stockholm - European Green Capital 2010: Saying Goodbye to fossils by 2050!

95% of the population in Stockholm lives only 300 meters away from green areas, and 10% of the city is composed of water. This is why the City Council decided to adopt an ambitious water protection plan and to steer the future growth of its population in a sustainable way. Concerning greenhouse gases, the emissions of the citizens are already 50% lower than the national average.

Innovative measures such as an urban toll system already reduced car use and promoted public transport. Stockholm also relies on an effective integrated waste system with high recycling rates, especially of bio-waste. Nowadays, thanks to an improvement programme of green areas, the city is creating more beaches. In the field of urban renewal, efforts are also planned on energy efficiency for buildings.

Hamburg - European Green Capital 2011: "Business development and environmental protection go very well hand in hand"

With its 1.77 million inhabitants, its harbour and its 1 700 hectares of NATURA 2000 nature reserve, Germany's second biggest city has to meet with an increasing demand of space both for housing and industrial development. Combining economical, social and sustainable growth is a real challenge.

Actions fostered by the city target different dimensions. An optimal transportation system with special attention given to accessibility is proposed. Almost every citizen has access to it within a range of 300 meters. A strong emphasis was laid on partnership with Hamburg's commercial leaders with more than 1000 active partners. Hamburg has also introduced extremely ambitious climate protection goals such as reducing its CO₂ emissions by 40% by 2020 and by 80% 30 years later.



Ulla Hamilton, Vice Mayor of Stockholm & Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research



Pictures from Stockholm and Hamburg

Sharing the experience around Europe

The award rewards the city that can become a role model and inspire other cities to boost their efforts towards a greener urban environment. This is why sharing experiences and promoting best practice among all applicants as well as other interested European cities was also important.

For that purpose, Hamburg plans to launch a "train of ideas" which would travel around Europe spreading the ideas suggested by each green capital taking part in the Green Capital Award. In the modular systems, exhibitions will be held. In Stockholm, a separate organisation will be established to monitor the communications programme as a secretariat.

2010-2011 finalists

The other six finalists were: Amsterdam, Bristol, Copenhagen, Freiburg im Breisgau, Münster, and Oslo. Their brilliant projects made the competition serious:

- Amsterdam achieved the challenge of having bikes overtaking cars. This was made possible thanks to the municipal authority, which created a complex network of bicycle routes through the entire city.
- Bristol made particular efforts to promote parks and green spaces. They are very popular among the citizens and important in the struggle against climate change.
- In Copenhagen, thanks to an improved wastewater management system, citizens can look forward to cleaner bathing waters and more green areas.
- Freiburg is working on a concept of supplying all public facilities with solar energy and hydropower.
- Münster plans to cut 40% of its CO₂ emissions by 2020 with the help of a coordination unit supervising more than 80 projects.
- In Oslo, the toll ring implemented 20 years ago entailed a traffic reduction of 3% to 5% in the city centre and raised money for the public transport services. It will be prolonged for more 20 years.

Green cities - fit for life

For more information on the awards, please follow:

www.europeangreencapital.eu

For Stockholm's website, please follow:

www.stockholm.se/-/English

For Hamburg's website, please follow:

www.english.hamburg.de

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Anja Hajduk, Senator for Urban Development & Environment of Hamburg & Janez Potočnik European Commissioner for Science and Research