12. Governance
Refer to Section 2.12 of the Guidance Note

12A. Plans and Commitments

Please complete the following table providing the most recent data available:

Table 1: Benchmarking Data - Governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commitments</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Date From:</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signatory of CoM</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Climate &amp; Energy signatory from 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aalborg signatory</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO14001 for municipal operations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Municipal waste management company PHJ; Lahti Energy Company Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-management and audit scheme for municipal operations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>WWF Green Office EMS for 10 office units of Lahti: Lahti City Hall, Lahti Urban Development, Lahti Educational Department, Lahti Social and Health Care Department, Lahti Housing company office, Lahti Development Company office, Lahti Regional Cleaning Services, Lahti Regional Catering Services, Main library of Lahti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vision and Strategy

Describe if the city has a clearly defined, widely understood and supported integrated environmental vision for the city, for example as part of a broader commitment to urban sustainability.

Is this vision reflected in different strategies and plans, for individual sectors? Please list the most important strategies and plans and indicate their relationship to the overall vision and whether they have been formally adopted by the city council.

Describe the short and long term objectives of the integrated environmental vision and the proposed approach for their achievement.

Describe present and future projects that demonstrate your commitment to integrated management of the urban environment.

Historical, Geographical and/or Socio-economic Factors

List any disadvantages resulting from historical, geographical and/or socio-economic factors, which may have influenced this indicator.
Lahti City Strategy

The City Council accepted the new City Strategy for 2030 in May 2018 [1]. Its vision “Lahti – Bold Environmental City” emphasises the critically important role of environment on the growth policy and development of Lahti. Three transformation lines (Vitality, Renewal, Communality) guide the delivery (Fig A1).

Figure A1. City strategy (2018) consists of three transformation programmes; vitality, renewal and communality.

Strategic Plans and Processes

The strategy vision and goals have been incorporated into the Lahti City Group budgets and more detailed plans.

- Lahti has developed a cyclic, continuous master plan process [7] (Fig. A2), which is monitored using 20 ecological, social and economic measures.
- The Environmental Program (2018) [29] and more detailed management plans support the delivery of the key environmental commitments outlined in the strategy [8, 9, 10, 11, 12].
- 5 annual city strategy related lighthouse projects are closed as part of the budget negotiations.
- Unicef’s Child-friendly City status was given to Lahti in 2015 and 2018.
- In 2015, Lahti won the Finnish WWF Earth Hour City Challenge [13].
- Schools and kindergartens use sustainable development indicators [14].
- The Procurement Programme (2018) promotes green public procurement [15].
Figure A2. Continuous master plan of Lahti (current cycle: 2017-2020) provides a strategic planning process with integration possibilities.

Short and Long-term Environmental Objectives

The city strategy sets targets for year 2030. The aim is to grow into a “Bold Environmental city”, an international university city that solves the challenges of the future. New processes are developed flexibly by experimenting. City of Lahti aims to cut 70% of the CO2 emissions by 2030 from 1990. While designing the city strategy, Lahti City Council emphasized the importance of cleantech RDI, wider utilization of local water-knowledhow and also nature’s impacts on well-being.

Long-term environmental objectives are governed through Lahti Environmental Program [29]. It aligns the major transition targets of the city: a carbon-free, zero-waste and sustainable city by 2050. The program also provides a more detailed and continuously updated implementation roadmap until 2030.

The annual lighthouse projects, that are part of the city strategy, enable the execution of rapid strategic changes. The evolution of the lighthouse projects is a bottom-up process: the employees suggest project ideas for the city’s governmental board. The board chooses 5 best ones for implementation. Currently the city is designing its first SUMP (integrated with master plan). Therefore the mobility changes of urban area are also well presented in the
Present and Future Projects of Urban Environment

Smart Lahti Innovation Platform

We have launched a new, for companies targeted co-creation platform (Smart Lahti), where the cleantech solutions from our region will be showcased [24].

There are several Smart City projects in Lahti that provide interesting innovation platforms for companies and students. For instance, a project piloting smart lightning is currently in the construction phase (Fig. A3) [25].

Figure A3. The Smart Lighting Project is currently in the construction phase at the Lahti Sport Centre and Harbour area (Source: Henrika Pihlajaniemi, 2017).
We received funding from UIA 2nd Call (2018-2020) for the CitiCAP project to:

- Co-create and implement a Personal Carbon Trading (PCT) scheme to reduce traffic emissions.
- Build a new model for the SUMP process integrating the traffic and spatial master planning processes.
- Develop a light and replicable mobility data platform to implement the PCT [34].

**Complete Green Shift of Local Energy Production for Lahti**

Lahti Energy Ltd. (part of the Lahti City Group) has invested in energy efficient and sustainable district heating. The City of Lahti is currently undergoing a complete transformation in centralized energy production with the aim to give up on coal by 2020 (Fig. A4) [28].

![Figure A4. Lahti Energy's Kymijärvi II power plant is an important element in the green shift of local energy production.](image)

12B. Governance and Management Arrangements

**Organisation**

Describe the organisational structure of the city council (administration) and show how the environmental vision/strategies are embedded in the organisation.

Please include an organogram and indicate which department or political body is the driving force behind the
environmental vision/strategies.

Budget

Is there a dedicated budget for implementing the environmental vision? If so please describe it.

Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

What management tools are used, to achieve your environmental objectives and targets? For example, sustainability impact assessment of policy proposals, cross departmental project structures, etc.

Describe the system of monitoring, reporting and evaluation of implementation of your environmental strategy and projects. What is generally reported to whom at what frequency?

In delivering its environmental policy does the city use any innovative approaches, tools or instruments?

Leadership by the City Council

Is the city council (administration) leading by example in environmental behavior? With reference to the commitments to ISO14001 and Eco-management and Audit Schemes listed in Table 1: Benchmarking Data - Governance, describe your activities regarding environmental management systems, green public procurement, skills development etc.

(max. 600 words and five graphics, images or tables)

Organisation

The City of Lahti has three departments (Fig. B1). The Department of Urban Environment is the smallest. Four boards regulate its operations: the Technical and Environmental Committee, the Building and Environmental Permit Committee, the Regional Public Transportation Committee and the Regional Waste Committee. The department is responsible for land use and regional projects, the urban environment and construction and environmental supervision. The Department of Administrative Affairs is responsible for leading development of environmental issues in a city-wide scale (e.g. sustainability and environmental education).
**Figure B1. Organisational structure of the Lahti Administration 2018.**

**Budget**

Annual environmental budget is allocated to different city departments. In 2017 the overall environmental expenses of Lahti City were 3.6M€ and Lahti Group (incl. municipality owned companies) 39.7M€ [31].

**Management, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Achievements of the environmental strategy are monitored using strategic indicators. The results are reported together with the annual financial statement (Fig. B2). Leadership networks have their own reporting periods (e.g. Energy Agreement annually, CoM every second year etc.). Operational level reporting is performed continuously in dedicated Boards and Committees (Fig. B1). The City Strategy (Fig. A1) and its annual lighthouse projects build upon cross-sectoral governance with dedicated Steering Groups for the three transformation programmes.
Lahti has been implementing the National Environmental Policy and Local Environmental Plans since 1996. The Environmental Workgroup (incl. representatives of the Lahti City Group) is responsible for reviewing the environmental management system.

City of Lahti is a member of Finnish Sustainable Communities network (FISU) [16] that brings residents, companies and organizations together to discuss and decide on measures to achieve carbon neutrality, zero waste and sustainable consumption goals. Lahti Region was the first Finnish region to design and execute a Regional Roadmap for Circular Economy [30].

We audit our work with regular self-evaluation (tool for departments) and citywide audits. For example, in 2015, Technical and Environmental Services conducted an audit of the processing of stormwater issues within the city organization.

In Finland the municipalities have the mandate to regulate some sectors and decide on environmental permits, and to control smaller facilities. Municipalities are also in charge of building controls and environmental health inspections.

**Management Innovations: Child Participation**

In 2014 and 2016, all urban natural areas used in early childhood education were mapped using Maptionnaire [21]. All of Lahti’s 59 day-care units responded to the questionnaire and marked down interesting areas or objects. Study findings were incorporated into the city’s GIS system to instruct planning and forest management.
For the Master Plan, a “Dream Playground” event was arranged in 2017. 36 children, 7-10 years old, drew their dream playground, and 10 were interviewed (Fig. B3).

City of Lahti is the first city in the world to have the WWF Green Office Environmental Management System [32] in place in a city-wide scale. Environmental aspects are already a major consideration in 70% of the centralised procurement decisions (2016). Examples of GPP:

- In 2012, Lahti Housing Ltd. constructed three low-energy multi-unit houses. In 2013, a near zero energy multi-unit house was built. In 2017, new houses were taken to Green Bond scheme of MuniFin.
- 7 electric cars, 35 biogas cars and a few electric bicycles for the personnel.
- Lahti Ateria Ltd. (municipal catering service): new vegetarian dishes and an increased share of organic foods.
12C. Partnerships and Public Involvement

Which stakeholders have participated in the development of the city’s environmental vision and associated strategies and action plans (e.g. contribution of civil society and citizens)?

How was the participation organised?

How are stakeholders involved in the on-going integrated environmental management of your city?

Involvement of Citizens

Describe your activities and engagement with the different communities within your city that contribute to the development or implementation of your environmental vision and strategy.

Please reference any structures/projects/programmes that you have in place to involve particular groups of society e.g. young people, elderly citizens, disabled, deprived citizens, or people from different ethnic groups.

Describe the goals of these activities, e.g. awareness raising, shared responsibility, policy development, etc.

Cooperation and Learning

Does your city cooperate with other authorities at different levels or other organisations (regional, national, EU, international) on environmental and sustainability issues? Which of these cooperation activities or projects has your city initiated or acted as leading partner? Please also refer to your participation in European funded projects and to your commitment to international initiatives, charters, etc. (For example Agenda 21, Aalborg Commitments, Covenant of Mayors, C40, Climate Alliance, ICLEI, EUROCITIES, etc.).

Public Awareness and Involvement of your Bid to be the European Green Capital

Demonstrate public awareness of this bid i.e. public consultation, access/availability to read etc.

(max. 800 words and five graphics, images or tables)

Involvement of Citizens

Both the city vision “Bold Environmental City” and the strategy [1] were developed in close collaboration between City Council of Lahti, students and youth, entrepreneurs of the region, local residential associations and other interest groups [2,3,4]. Feedback was gathered using variety of methods [5, 6] (Fig. C1; C2). Lahti personnel was immediately engaged to design the lighthouse strategy projects for 2019 as part of the city strategy implementation.
Application Form for the European Green Capital Award 2021

Figure C1. Porukka application has been actively used to increase public participation.
Figure C2. Lahti Lackathon event gathered youth, students and other interested residents to innovate the City Strategy in February 2018.

Our Youth Council, Elderly Council and Disability Council are active. For example, the Youth Council reviews and comments our plans, and drafts a youth project list for the city government every other spring.

The City of Lahti has an Environmental Counselling unit [17]. The unit has developed several innovative environmental education methods. We have had “Area Godparents” and “City Officer Godparents” for over 15 years. These groups act as mediators between the city organisation and citizens.

In 2018, we celebrated Regional Environmental Week for the 22nd time [18] together with different residential groups with the SUMP theme “Change the world by moving” (Fig. C3).
We organise resident evenings for many reasons. During the spring 2018, a series of “My Lahti” resident evenings were arranged to discuss the master plan and SUMP targets at the local level. Approximately 300 residents participated to workshops and 570 residents gave feedback through the Maptionnaire tool.

Participation of citizens, companies, university departments and the third sector is our strategic value. We want to approach them in a compelling and practical way.

- We shall collaborate with our residents on improving the energy efficiency of buildings, on everyday transportation and sustainable food choices, as well as on developing new services.
- Our long-term goal for companies is their commitment to finding solutions for reducing CO₂ emissions and
enhancing a circular economy.

- Since 2015: Climate Partnerships with companies and organizations [22]. The City of Lahti challenges companies to lower their CO₂ emissions. The current emissions of the company are calculated and based on the results the company makes climate commitments. (Fig. C1).
- The City of Lahti is part of the Helsinki Metropolitan Smart and Clean Foundation [23], which aims to build a world-class test platform for smart and clean solutions and services. We launched a new internet platform, Lahti Smart & Clean, in Nov. 2017, to enhance and improve co-creation between the city and companies [24].

**Co-operation and Learning**

We are participating in the national FISU (Finnish Sustainable Municipalities) network [16]. The network has shared long-term sustainability goals: carbon-neutrality by at least 2050, zero waste by 2050 and responsible consumption. These long-term goals are further broken down into manageable targets for 2021 and 2030, which are governed by the Environmental Programme of Lahti 2017-2030 [29].

The university departments and their students have actively participated in forming the FISU targets. Furthermore, the university students have processed the impacts of the urban sustainability transition on the daily lives of the people of Lahti [26, 27].

International co-operation networks:

- Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) since the 1990s.
- Sustainable Towns and Cities and Resilient Cities (ICLEI), since the 1990s.
- Cooperation with Saint Petersburg since 1995.
- Covenant of Mayors since 2012.
- Active cooperation with nordic twin towns: Nordic Climate Declaration 2012, seminars on climate issues.
- Sustainability co-operation with Wuxi, China since 2010 and Japan since 2016.
- EGCN since 2017.

Lahti has been a partner in many international projects since the 1990s. Examples include:

- EU Cities Climate Adapt (2012 -2013).
- BIOREGIO, EU Interreg (2017-2021) (LUAS, lead)
- CitiCAP, EU UIA (2018-2020) (LAHTI, lead)
- Over 10 years of North-South cooperation with Rustenburg and Madibeng, South Africa and Ho, Ghana.
Participation to EGCA2021 Bid

Our EGCA campaign is an open innovation process. We have completely opened the previous application (EGCA2020) [33] and encouraged residents, universities, NGO’s and other cities to utilise and develop it further.

For the current EGCA2021 Bid, a special emphasis will be on the citizen and company participation. We are planning to organise the year with preliminary idea of “My Carbon Neutral Life 2021”, providing a city-wide testbed for carbon neutral lifestyle innovations and services supporting it (Fig. C4). Lahti is the first city in the world implementing a personal carbon trading scheme from 2019 [34].

Figure C4. What it means to live in carbon-neutral way? We will demonstrate it with citizen and companies during EGCA2021.

12D. References

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible. Further detail may be requested during the pre-selection phase. Documentation should not be forwarded at this stage.

(max. 400 words)

1. Lahti City Strategy (English)
2. Lahti Elderly Council (Finnish)
3. Lahti Disability Council (Finnish)
4. Lahti Youth Council (Finnish)
5. The Porukka mobile application is used in the innovation process with residents (Finnish)
6. Video of the Porukka mobile application (Finnish)
7. Video of the Continuous Master Planning Model with resident participation (Finnish)
8. Lahti Green Space Programme (Finnish)
9. Lahti Stormwater Programme (Finnish)
10. Lahti Regional Groundwater Protection Plan (Finnish)
11. Lahti Development Plan for Walking and Cycling 2025 (Finnish)
13. WWF Earth Hour Capital of Finland, 2015, WWF news (Finnish)
14. Lahti Schools Sustainability Programme (Finnish)
15. Lahti Procurement Programme (Finnish)
16. FISU sustainability network (Finnish)
17. Environmental Counselling Unit of Lahti (Finnish)
18. Environmental Week for the Lahti region (Finnish)
19. Ekokarpaasi Campaign YouTube videos (Finnish)
20. My Lahti events, participatory future planning (Finnish)
21. Participatory Planning Examples, Lahtis' Public Participation Planner, Henrik Saari presentation (English)
22. Climate Partnership of Lahti, challenge for local companies (Finnish)
23. Smart & Clean Foundation of Helsinki Metropolitan Area and Lahti (English)
24. Lahti Smart & Clean platform (English)
25. SenCity project (English)
26. Lahti University of Applied Sciences, students course project on FISU Roadmap, 1 (English)
27. Lahti University of Applied Sciences, student course project on FISU Roadmap 2 (Finnish)
28. Lahti Energy’s new Kymijärvi III power plant will utilize 100% renewable energy (Finnish)
29. Lahti Environmental Program 2030 (English)
30. Päijät-Häme Circular Economy Roadmap (English)
31. Environmental Balance Sheet, 2017 (English)
32. WWF Green Office Environmental Management System (English)
33. Lahti application for EGCA2020 (English)
34. CitiCAP project and personal carbon trading scheme (English)

**Word Count Check**

*Please complete the below word count check for Indicator 12: Governance, Sections 12A, 12B and 12C.*

As per the Guidance Note (Annex 2 of the Rules of Contest), the word count includes text in graphics/tables and the body of text. The word count excludes text in the original application form, captions and text in Table 1:
**Application Form for the European Green Capital Award 2021**

---

**Benchmarking Data - Governance.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of words in graphics/tables</th>
<th>Number of words in body of text</th>
<th>Total number of words in graphics/tables and body of text</th>
<th>Max. words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12B</td>
<td></td>
<td>592</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12C</td>
<td></td>
<td>783</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>