



Jury Report 2018

June 2017

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE ROLE OF THE JURY

The Jury's role is to select the winner(s) of the European Green Leaf Award (EGLA), which rewards cities that are leading the way with environmentally friendly urban living, on the basis of the technical assessment work and proposals provided by an Expert Panel together with the information provided as part of the Jury Assessment.

1.2 JURY MEMBERS

The Jury for the EGL Award comprises representatives from key European and international organisations in the environmental field and is chaired by the European Commission. Jury members cover a wide range of expertise and have in-depth knowledge of the issues involved. The Jury for the 2018 European Green Leaf Award includes the following organisations and their representatives:

- European Commission: Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General for Environment
- Committee of the Regions: Sirpa Hertell, City Counsellor of Espoo
- European Environment Agency: Katja Rosenbohm, Head of Communications
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability: Stefan Kuhn, Deputy Regional Director for Europe
- Covenant of Mayors Office: Frédéric Boyer, Head of Office
- European Environmental Bureau: Dr. Mikael Karlsson, President

1.3 EUROPEAN GREEN LEAF AWARD 2018 – JURY ASSESSMENT

The Jury received the Technical Assessment Report, as prepared by the Expert Panel in April 2017. The Jury considered this report and noted the technical comments and proposals as presented by the Expert Panel. The Jury expressed its appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Expert Panel.

On the 1st June 2017, the three finalist cities presented their vision, action plans and communication strategies to the Jury. The Jury assessed the shortlisted cities based on the following criteria:

1. The city's overall commitment, strategy and enthusiasm, as conveyed by the presentation;
2. The city's efforts to communicate to citizens and the citizens' engagement in environmental activities; and
3. The city's potential to act as a 'green ambassador', promoting good practice and spreading the EGL concept further.

Each EGL finalist was allocated 30 minutes in total with the Jury which comprised 20 minutes presentation followed by a 10 minutes Questions and Answers session. Members of the media were permitted to attend each of the presentations of the shortlisted cities to the Jury. However, media attendance was not permitted to any of the Q&A sessions.

2 JURY FINDINGS

The Jury considered that all three cities demonstrated not only their excellent environmental ambition, but also their potential to be worthy European Green Leaf Award winners. In this respect, the Jury found that the level of the finalists was very high, and making a decision between these three well-prepared, dedicated cities was not easy. The Jury comments in relation to each of the shortlisted cities are summarised below.

2.1 LEUVEN

The Jury was impressed by the collaborative approach adopted by the city in order to deliver 'Leuven Klimaatneutraal 2030 (LKN2030)'. The foundation of LKN2030 provides a strong platform and an inspiring governance model for the delivery of their environmental goals.

Leuven demonstrates an open and inclusive participatory system which includes stakeholders from the city administration, citizens, business, social, academia and research. This 'collaborate' approach supports the implementation of new strategies within the city. Leuven is committed to sharing its environmental data with its citizens in an open and transparent way and evaluating the implementation of their action plans.

Leuven 2030 holds the scientific report, detailing working group action plan, at its core with the areas of science, social power and communication strategy wrapped around this to bring momentum to the action plans. Through the application of science and innovation the city is actively trying to solve environmental challenges.

2.2 LUDWIGSBURG

The Jury admired the city's commitment to creating environmental change in an impactful way notably by engaging with other cities in their region. The city recognises that behavioural change, which can be a significant challenge, is a key factor in driving environmental change.

Ludwigsburg's strategy for engaging with their citizens is notable through initiatives such as the 'Future Search Conference', which is held every three years. The city used this forum to develop its Sustainable City Development Plan and continues to use it to monitor the city's achievements and progress. The Plan focuses on 11 fields of action which were nominated by the citizens of the city as priority areas which could be inspiring for other cities. In order to manage these in an integrated way, Ludwigsburg has re-organised its administration and created a cross-cutting sustainable development department.

Ludwigsburg understands the importance of developing smart city solutions for urban sustainable development. The city implements this through their impressive 'Living Lab' initiative.

2.3 VÄXJÖ

The city recognises that brave political decisions, long term commitment to strong environmental measures and co-operation with local stakeholders as well as with peers at international level are

key elements in their success to date. This is a model that can be spread across Europe through the various networks that Växjö participates in.

The Jury commended Växjö's long term commitment to implementing environmental policy which has taken place through changing city administrations. Växjö's impressive lake restoration programme which started in the 1970s has been a key driver for the city's environmental progression since then. With regard to climate change, the city's fossil fuel free policy has been adopted since 1996 and aims to focus to phase out fossil fuels by 2030.

Växjö demonstrates how circular solutions can be applied to local issues. This was outlined by their use of biomass in their local power plant which has ensured energy security, job creation, sustainable resource management and strengthened the local economy.

3 JURY CONCLUSION

The Jury would like to commend all cities shortlisted for the 2018 European Green Leaf Award for their demonstrated excellence in a number of the environmental topic areas assessed.

Concluding its deliberations, the Jury decided to award the titles of European Green Leaf for 2018 to Leuven and Växjö.

Note: The cities are listed in alphabetical order.