

Governance Innovation at ICLEI Europe

Moving European consumption of natural resources down to a level that respects the limits of local and global ecosystems requires a socio-cultural, socio-economic and technological transition. Governance Innovation is key for local governments and their stakeholders to shape this transition.

ICLEI looks at how societies organise themselves and how this needs to change in order to support the sustainability transition. Processes of interaction, such as co-production and co-design, governance frameworks and management systems, urban-rural linkages and cultural change, crowd mechanisms and sharing approaches, can be applied to various policy areas that local governments deal with.



- ✦ Cities can benefit from linking up to global or European frameworks such as the SDGs, but they need innovative tools, methods, and financing mechanisms to achieve real horizontal integration of their local policies and financial capacities.
- ✦ The EU Green Deal will only be a success if it is implemented on the local level. Therefore, Climate City Contracts and Local Green Deals need to be developed by as many cities with their citizens, businesses, and institutions as possible, in close collaboration with national governments and the European Commission.
- ✦ New commitments and reporting frameworks are not needed. Instead, the existing strategies, resources, initiatives, and data in a city needs to be cohesively aligned across sectors and oriented to the European Green Deal ambition, to find synergies and optimise efficiency, and include citizens and civil society to reach more ambitious goals, faster.

“Cities play a strategic role in localising the European Green Deal. Through declarations such as the Aalborg Charter and Aalborg Commitments, the city continues to drive the European agenda for local governments. On top, the city leads by example, working with ICLEI on Local Green Deals to accelerate implementation of European and global sustainability targets.”

Lasse Frimand Jensen

Member of ICLEI's European Regional Executive Committee and Mayor of Aalborg



ICLEI'S STRATEGIC INVOLVEMENT

ICLEI is involved in the [Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission](#), which will involve local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050.

The [Intelligent Cities Challenge](#) provides its participants with technical support and knowledge-sharing opportunities to develop and implement Local

Green Deals in 5 sectors, especially in energy, mobility, and construction. ICLEI's main task is in supporting all participating cities through a Local Green Deal training & coaching programme.

[Green Deal Going Local](#) is a flagship initiative of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) that aims to place cities and regions at the heart of the EU's transition to climate neutrality. ICLEI has a close relationship with the CoR and agreement to collaborate on policy processes linked to localising the European Green Deal.

IMPACT

2 projects

bringing together a LGD leadership group of cities, who prototyped the LGD approach in action and delivered concrete examples of LGDs

60+ cities

trained by ICLEI within the ICC to implement LGDs

30+ years

of driving knowledge for Urban Sustainability Management



OPPORTUNITIES

The [European Sustainable Cities and Towns](#) (ESCT) Conference is ICLEI's flagship event. It shines a light on how Local Green Deals are making the EU Green Deal a reality across Europe. The conference brings to the forefront ongoing trends, challenges, and opportunities as well as demonstrates the potential of local governments to shape a new sustainable urban reality.

Is your city a member of ICLEI and would you like to engage with us on Initiatives related to Governance Innovation? Contact us at iclei-europe@iclei.org.

[Sign up to become a member of ICLEI!](#)

RESOURCES

[Local Green Deals](#): A Blueprint for Action provides cities with a blueprint to develop Local Green Deals (LGDs), with good practice case studies, to support them with the implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD) at the local level, also available in Ukrainian.

[Same, Same, but Different](#) - This briefing paper clarifies our understanding of the distinctions between Local Green Deals and Climate City Contracts and

provides a starting point for further discussion with all types of actors involved in their development to best unlock the potential power of these innovations.

[Local Green Deals: Blueprint in Action: Learning from Espoo, Mannheim, and Umea](#) summarises the three pilot cities' experiences and best practice approaches for implementing a LGD in an easily accessible step-by-step format. The resource captures the learnings from these cities in relation to the ICC Blueprint.

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ICLEI Europe

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.