



Impact Report | 2022-2026

Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge

Supported by



Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge

A Climate KIC x FedEx Collaboration

Since 2022, Climate KIC and FedEx Express Europe have organised the Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge to identify European cities with innovative projects that accelerate the transition towards **cleaner, sustainable and inclusive mobility**.

Over four years, the programme has supported **three cohorts of 4-5 cities** each. The winning projects were selected based on their potential for impact, learning, and replicability in other urban contexts. Projects needed to demonstrate how they would deliver tangible benefits for both people and the environment, while contributing to the broader knowledge base required for other cities to accelerate the transition toward healthier, more sustainable urban mobility systems.

The Challenge is part of Climate KIC's wider commitment to help transform over 400 cities into thriving, climate-resilient communities and aligns with the objectives of the European Green Deal, Urban Mobility Framework, New European Bauhaus and the EU Cities Mission.

Key highlights



14

projects funded



1.7M

total awarded
(USD)



8

countries involved



★ Also part of the EU Cities Mission, delivering 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030

The future of sustainable mobility

What are the main transport priority areas for your city over the next decade?*

- 1 Reducing car traffic and car dependency to ease congestion, noise, road danger and emissions.
- 2 Enhancing health and urban quality of life and providing space for social interaction/cohesion among citizens.
- 3 Creating infrastructure for cycling, and shift behaviour and cultural changes away from owning a private car to providing access via vehicle sharing models.
- 4 Introducing Low Emission Zones and increase pedestrian-only and new traffic-free areas that can be used flexibly for social and economic activities.
- 5 Actively prioritising vulnerable road users over others (e.g. using the road user hierarchy familiar to transport planners).
- 6 The need to provide environmentally sustainable, affordable and efficient public transport (bus, tram, train).
- 7 Improving last-mile delivery to address issues arising from large goods vehicles and van traffic.
- 8 Ensuring that urban sprawl and its resulting unsustainable travel patterns are not 'built-in' to new developments.

*This information is derived from the 2023 application form, in which 21 applicants responded to this question.

A total of 246 applications from over 30 countries

For each iteration of the programme, Climate KIC delivered a targeted outreach campaign leveraging its established network of cities and regions across Europe. In its role as coordinator of the NetZeroCities consortium supporting the EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, Climate KIC has built strong partnerships with more than 112 European cities working towards climate neutrality by 2030



Across The Hague, a dozen neighbourhood car-sharing groups operate about 45 shared cars.

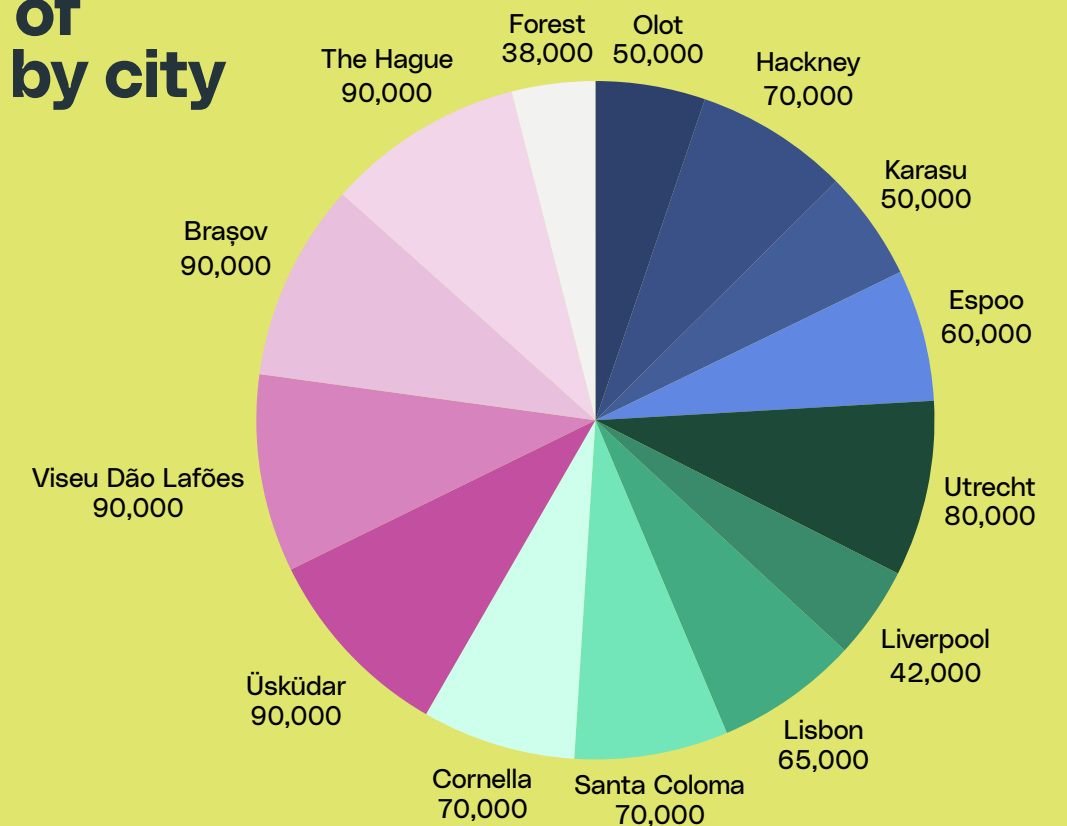


Our focus in towns and small cities

All three iterations of the Challenge accepted applications from municipalities with a population of at least 25,000 in EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

- Submissions came from city councils, municipalities and local authorities
- A mix of new initiatives or related to elements of existing city projects
- Each project selected was granted up to 90,000 EUR

Amount of funding by city (in USD)



The stories behind the city projects

8 COMMON THEMES OF INTERVENTIONS

● Reclaiming streets from cars

● Community-led transformation

● Data and digital tools for smarter cities

● Zero-emission and flexible mobility

● Safe routes for children

● Blue-green infrastructure

● Urban cooling and climate adaptation

● Active travel infrastructure



Making small businesses more sustainable with cargo bikes

“One of the biggest barriers to using cargo bikes is cost. This is why the project includes grants so that small businesses can shift to a cargo or e-bike—particularly those which are replacing a diesel or petrol van.”

Ali Howes, Senior Transport Planner at the [Zero Emissions Network \(ZEN\)](#)

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Hackney



Making cycling safer for a Turkish tourist destination

“We want to create change from the beginning – from the younger generations. Let them have safer paths so that when they become teenagers, they walk and cycle more.”

Abdulkadir Özden, Assistant Professor at the Sakarya University of Applied Sciences

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Karasu



A Finnish city's plan to promote inclusive cycling

“We understand the importance of empowering individuals with the skills and confidence to ride a bicycle, enabling them to enjoy the benefits of sustainable mobility. Therefore, we offer workshops where dedicated teachers guide the participants through the learning process.”

Veli-Pekka Korhonen, Sustainable Mobility Specialist at the City of Espoo

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Espoo



Creating a secure bike parking network in Catalonia

“We want to provide enclosed bike parking locations, where you can leave your bike securely for several hours. The idea is to encourage cyclists – especially electric bike users – to take more trips into the city by bike and no longer worry about theft.”

Joan Rigall, Mobility Officer at Olot City Council

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Olot



Reimagining car parking spaces to transform public areas

“In many urban areas, the car has long been an overly dominant feature of the landscape. In Utrecht, we want to create more community-oriented environments, which is why it's essential to reconsider the use of public space.”

Els ten Hulscher, Project Manager at Utrecht City Council

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Utrecht



Promoting cycling to reduce carbon emissions and tackle gender inequality

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Santa Coloma



Prioritising nature-based solutions to transform urban areas

“We want to ensure these changes help everyone, including residents with limited mobility such as partially sighted people or residents who use a wheelchair. We've introduced measures such as dropped kerbs and tactile paving at crossings to make it easier and safer to get around.”

Stephen Leonard, Liverpool City Council

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Liverpool



Pioneering 'Climate Itineraries' to facilitate a cooler future

“The redesign of these spaces has reinforced the sense of community that has always been prevalent in Sant Ildefons. The district is now better equipped during warmer periods and there are more opportunities to mix socially.”

Mattia Federico Leone, Professor of Building Technologies and Environmental Design at the University of Naples

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Cornellà de Llobregat

A parking space is reimagined in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

“Over the past three years, the Challenge has empowered thirteen cities across Europe to devise innovative solutions to their mobility challenges.”

● Wouter Roels
Regional President, FedEx Europe



Boosting the city's walkability through tech

“Data collection on the experience of walking is essential for our understanding of pedestrian needs, helping us to evaluate accurate measures and develop the best policies. This project will give us the opportunity to transform Lisbon into an excellent city for walking.”

João Bernardino, Advisor to Lisbon's Deputy Mayor, Lisbon City Council

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● Lisbon



Revealing a hidden river in the Green Capital of Romania

“The revitalization of the Timiș blue-green corridor on Eupărului Street is a first step in a broader effort to reconnect neighborhoods with nature, create community spaces, and expand investments in clean transport and pedestrian infrastructure. This initiative reflects our ambition to become a climate-neutral and truly green city.”

George Scripcaru, Mayor of Brașov

This project is stil in progres.

● Brașov



Green hubs for flexible transport

“It is much more than a mobility solution. It is about connecting people, bringing communities closer together, tackling isolation, and clearly reinforcing territorial cohesion.”

Fernando Ruas, President of the Intermunicipal Community of Viseu Dão Lafões

This project is stil in progres.

● Viseu Dão Lafões



Turning parking spaces into places of belonging

“We believe that this project and car sharing, in particular, will make a significant contribution to the mobility transition and improve the liveability of our city, in close collaboration with initiating residents and other involved parties.”

Arjen Kapteijns, Deputy Mayor for Mobility of the municipality of The Hague

This project is stil in progres.

● The Hague



Streets made for play

“It is possible to build safe, green streets where children can move freely and independently. Our Safe School Streets initiative was the first step, proving that even small interventions can lead to meaningful change.”

Sinem Dedetaş, Mayor of Üsküdar

This project is stil in progres.

● Üsküdar



Turning parking spaces into rain gardens

“People don't realise that you have to act on the higher parts of the city to reduce flooding further down,” she explains. “There have been years of awareness-raising among residents, because much of the system is not visible.”

Anne-Sophie Verstraet, Project Lead,

This project is stil in progres.

● Forest

City spotlight: Lisbon, Portugal

The capital is being supported through multiple projects led by Climate KIC, including NetZeroCities and the Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge.

Walking is important because it is the most resilient form of mobility. It brings benefits to the city from an environmental point of view and from an economic perspective. We believe that public space should be a place that offers comfort and safety.

● Pedro Nave
Lisbon's City Council Architect

Lisbon's climate strategy aims for climate neutrality by 2030. It focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% (compared to 2002), expanding renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, and fostering sustainable, safe mobility, such as lowering private car trips to 34%.

One way the city is tackling these targets is through walking. You might not realise it, but walking is a key part of public transport.

It's affordable, it's healthy, and in terms of decarbonising, it's absolutely crucial because better pedestrian infrastructure keeps more people in the streets and more cars off the road.

City Council Architect, Pedro Nave, is managing Lisbon's Pedestrian Accessibility Plan: a strategic, human-centric master plan aiming to transform public spaces from car-centric to pedestrian-friendly.

As part of the plan, the city is inviting pedestrians to share their walking experiences via the Walkability.App by Walk21 Foundation. The data is then used to identify areas requiring intervention from the city.

Participating in the Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge allowed him to access Climate KIC's City Advisors and the opportunity to meet other European cities promoting similar projects.



Lisbon's Walkability.app Statistics



1K

pedestrian reports



10

sites surveyed for data collection



560

citizens interviewed



Learn more about our work with cities at climate-kic.org



