



Climate City Contract

2030 Climate Neutrality Commitments

Climate Neutrality Commitments of the City of
Liepāja

Liepāja





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1 Introduction

Explain your city’s motivation to join the EU Mission “100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030” and highlight your city’s present commitments to climate action. You may also want to include the aims of this document.

Your text

The City of Liepaja in Latvia has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions in its territory. Since 2006, we have successfully decreased emissions by 45%. By joining the EU Mission "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030," the city aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, becoming one of the first municipalities in Latvia to do so. Over the past 15 years, the city has collaborated with various stakeholders to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, leading the way in testing innovative solutions to address climate change challenges. The main motivations for reaching climate neutrality include reducing the municipality's negative impact on climate change, aligning with EU and national climate policies, and serving as a model for other municipalities in Latvia, the Baltic region, and Europe.

To ensure success, the city emphasizes the integration of horizontal aspects and collaboration with stakeholders. We recognize the importance of engaging industries, service providers, residents, and others in the process of achieving climate neutrality. Principles such as "energy efficiency first" and "green procurement" will be integrated not only within the municipality but also in broader contexts, including the industry sector. The city will assess the social, economic, financial, and other impacts of policies and measures while adopting a cross-sectoral approach throughout the process.

Overall, joining the EU Mission "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030" provides the city of Liepaja with financial support, collaboration opportunities with other municipalities across the EU, visibility, policy alignment, and access to innovative solutions. These benefits can accelerate the city's transition towards climate neutrality, promote sustainable development, and position Liepaja as a leader in the global fight against climate change.

2 Goal: Climate neutrality by 2030

Articulate your 2030 climate neutrality ambition, as expressed, and defined in your Cities Mission Expression of Interest (EoI). This should include your ambition and commitment to a 2030 horizon as a whole city, as well as describe any exclusion areas and summarise how these areas would be addressed beyond 2030. (A more detailed plan for exclusion areas should be included in the 2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan.) Your 2030 ambition should be supported at a minimum by a Council decision, and it is recommended that it is also supported by a wider stakeholder group. We also recommend you to list other co-benefits you aim to achieve when working towards the climate neutrality goal, like well-being, health, equity, justice, financial savings.

Your text

The City of Liepāja has set a clear goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, and is committed to taking bold climate actions to reach this target. The city recognizes the importance of delivering these actions in a fair and just manner, ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition to a climate-neutral future.

To achieve this goal, the City of Liepāja aims to reduce its overall CO₂ emissions by 80% compared to the base year of 2006. The city has developed a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2030, which has been approved by the City Council in August 2023. The plan has received strong support from key stakeholders, including the local district heating company, public utilities, industries, and



service providers, who are among the first to back the city's ambitious plans towards climate neutrality.

It is evident that Liepāja has taken significant and strategic steps in integrating sustainability and climate action into its governance and management structures. The alignment of key personnel in various roles, coupled with the active participation of the city in initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, demonstrates a strong commitment to addressing climate and energy issues.

The fact that the deputy executive director, who serves as the municipality's energy management system manager, also holds a leadership position in the district heating company, allows for a coordinated and integrated approach. This alignment of roles can facilitate smoother communication and collaboration between the municipality and key energy stakeholders.

The involvement of Liepāja's city council members in the leadership and management roles of the Liepāja Special Economic Zone highlights a strategic approach to fostering green manufacturing companies. This ensures that economic development is aligned with sustainability goals and contributes to the city's overall climate objectives.

The mayor's role as a EU Climate Pact Ambassador and membership in the EU Committee of Regions, along with relevant qualifications in environmental science and management, reflects a high level of commitment and expertise. Such leadership at the mayoral level is crucial in driving city-wide initiatives and gaining recognition at national and international levels.

Liepāja's decision to join the Covenant of Mayors initiative in 2012 signifies a proactive approach to climate action. This commitment not only sets a standard for the city but also signals to residents, industries, and NGOs that Liepāja is dedicated to advancing sustainability and climate goals.

By being an example to other Latvian cities and already having completed foundational work towards climate neutrality, Liepāja positions itself as a leader in sustainable urban development. This can inspire and motivate other municipalities to follow suit.

Liepāja's comprehensive and collaborative approach involving key stakeholders and leaders from various sectors is a model for effective climate governance. The city's initiatives and leadership roles contribute significantly to its reputation as a forward-thinking and sustainable community.

However, it is important to acknowledge that the successful attainment of these goals for the City of Liepāja depends on navigating and mitigating a multitude of external factors, some of which may be beyond the direct control of the city.

The benefits that arise from working towards climate neutrality are widely recognized by all involved parties. These benefits include improved well-being by creating healthier and more liveable environments for residents, health benefits resulting from reduced air pollution caused by fossil fuel emissions, addressing social equity and justice considerations, realizing financial savings, generating job creation and economic opportunities, enhancing resilience to climate-related risks, and protecting the environment.

By pursuing these co-benefits alongside the climate neutrality goal, the City of Liepāja demonstrates its commitment to creating a sustainable and prosperous future for its residents while taking decisive action to mitigate climate change.

3 Key priorities and strategic interventions

This is the core section of the Commitments document that should summarise **at least 3 or 4 systemic strategic priorities** that need to be implemented for your city to become climate neutral by 2030. These should be meaningful changes that will have a profound impact on reducing GHG emissions in your city,



like decarbonising the heating system in the city or generating 100% energy from renewables. The individual commitments between your city and other stakeholders should address these key priorities and contribute to reaching them. The annexed 2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan should describe the all interventions, including those to reach your priorities as well as all further actions, in detail and describe how your city plans to implement them.

Your text

The City of Liepāja has carefully analysed its current CO₂ emissions and identified four key priorities that require urgent attention to achieve its climate neutrality goal by 2030. These priorities are as follows:

1. Decarbonising the heating system: The city aims to transition its heating system to carbon-neutral sources by 2030. This involves phasing out the use of fossil fuels and implementing renewable energy solutions for district heating.
2. 100% renewable energy generation: Liepāja aims to generate and/or procure significant share of its energy from renewable sources by 2030. This includes promoting the development of renewable energy projects and increasing the use of clean energy in the city's electricity production.
3. Sustainable transport infrastructure: The city plans to invest in sustainable transport infrastructure to reduce emissions from the transportation sector. This includes expanding electric charging infrastructure, improving public transportation systems, and promoting active modes of transportation such as cycling and walking.
4. Energy-efficient housing sector: Liepāja aims to improve the energy efficiency of its housing sector. This involves implementing building renovation programs, promoting energy-efficient practices, and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources in residential buildings.

To ensure effective implementation of its climate neutrality action plan, the city has established a clear organisational scheme with defined roles and responsibilities. This allows the city to directly involve key stakeholders in the planning, organization, implementation, and evaluation of climate actions. The initial phase of the plan focuses on identifying the most suitable actions for the first 2-3 years, implementing them, and monitoring their results. Additionally, collaboration with the city of Rīga and national stakeholders is essential to address any existing or potential barriers to climate neutrality and secure funding for the necessary actions.

4 Principles and process

Highlight the key principles that will guide your city as it implements its Climate City Contract, like accountability, transparency, or an open attitude to new approaches. The process should encompass principles like **co-creation, innovation, multi-actor and citizen engagement**, and should be **systemic and demand-driven in nature**. It should also be based on **monitoring** and **joint learning**. The Commitments Guidance document provides more specific guidance on how integrate these principles into your own process.

Your text

The City of Liepāja is committed to implementing its Climate City Contract with a strong focus on key principles that guide its actions and ensure the success of its climate initiatives. These principles encompass accountability, transparency, an open attitude towards new approaches, and the active involvement of multiple actors, including citizens. The city believes in the power of co-creation, innovation, and engagement with various stakeholders to drive meaningful change.

The implementation process is designed to be systemic and demand-driven, meaning that it addresses the systemic challenges of climate change while responding to the specific needs and demands of the city and its residents. The city recognises that effective climate action requires continuous monitoring and joint learning. By regularly monitoring progress and outcomes, the city can



evaluate the effectiveness of its initiatives, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions for future actions.

The Commitments Guidance document serves as a valuable resource, providing specific guidance on how to integrate these principles into the city's climate action process. It offers practical advice and strategies for fostering accountability, transparency, co-creation, innovation, multi-actor and citizen engagement, and a demand-driven approach. By following the guidance provided, the city can ensure that its Climate City Contract aligns with these principles and maximizes its impact in addressing climate change.

Through the application of these key principles and the guidance provided, the City of Liepāja is dedicated to implementing its Climate City Contract in a way that is inclusive, effective, and sustainable, ultimately driving positive change and contributing to the global effort to combat climate change.

An important aspect we are examining is how inclusive and accessible the development process of the Action Plan is for all members of the community. We aim to identify any efforts made to remove obstacles for the involvement of marginalised groups.

Liepāja embraces the principle of "just transition" as a guiding force in its commitment to climate action. Recognising the importance of fairness and inclusivity, we strive to ensure that CCC activities are navigated in a socially equitable manner. While our commitment to "just transition" is firm, we acknowledge the need to elaborate on its practical implementation within the commitments document.

Liepāja Central administration is already involving marginalised communities in discussions for specifically tailored needs and it covers all topics not only climate change mitigation (see Action Plan).



5 Signatories

Include a list of stakeholders who have committed to help your city achieve its goal to reach climate neutrality by 2030. Detailed commitments and agreements between individuals or groups of stakeholders should be appended to this Commitments document. This list will likely increase over time.

| Name of the institution | Sector/Area | Legal form | Name of the responsible person | Position of the responsible person |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Municipality | | | | |
| Liepāja city council | Local government | Council | 15 elected representatives | Elected representatives |
| Liepāja Central administration | Local government | Local government institution | Ronalds Fricbergs | Executive director |
| Orphan's court | Legal/Judicial | Local government institution | Taiga Ziemele | Chairman |
| Construction council | Construction planning | Local government institution | Arvīds Vitāls | Chairman |
| Civil registry | Legal documentation | Local government institution | Indra Štāle | Manager |
| Graveyard administration | Public cemetery management | Local government institution | Mairis Plūksna | Director |
| Municipal police | Law enforcement | Local government institution | Uldis Novickis | Chief of police |
| Communal administration | Public services coordination | Local government institution | Mārtiņš Jākobsons | Deputy manager |
| Education administration | Educational planning | Local government institution | Inga Ekuze | Deputy manager |
| Culture administration | Cultural affairs management | Local government institution | Juris Jirgens | Manager |
| Real estate administration | Property management | Local government institution | Ingars Apinis | Manager |



| | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Social service | Social welfare programs | Local government institution | Dace Zeļģe | Director |
| Sports administration | Sports and recreation management | Local government institution | Aivis Tints | Manager |
| Liepaja public transport | Transportation services | Local government agency | Jānis Neimanis | Director |
| Employment projects | Job creation initiatives | Local government agency | Vairis Šalms | Director |
| Ministries | | | | |
| Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development | Government | Ministry | Viesturs Razumovskis | Deputy State Secretary on Regional Development |
| Ministry of Transport | Government | Ministry | Mārtiņš Adamsons | Department of EU Affairs Senior officer |
| Ministry of Climate and Energy | Government | Ministry | Dagnis Dubrovskis | Deputy State Secretary |
| Ministry of Education and Science | Government | Ministry | Santa Šmīdlere | State Secretary |
| Ministry of Economics | Government | Ministry | Raimonds Lapiņš | Deputy State Secretary |
| Municipality capital companies | | | | |
| Municipal Ltd “Liepaja Puppet Theatre” | Theatre | Limited company | Lelde Vīksna | Member of the board |
| Municipal Ltd. “Liepājas RAS” | Waste management | Limited company | Normunds Niedols | Member of the board |



| | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Municipal Ltd. "Liepājas namu apsaimniekotājs" | Housing manager | Limited company | Artis Rimma | Member of the board |
| Municipal Ltd. "Liepāja region tourism information office" | Tourism | Limited company | Sintija Pusaudze | Member of the board |



6 Contract with signatures

When the council approves the Climate City Contract, it is automatically considered that contract have also been approved by the Liepāja Central administration, municipal authorities, and agencies.

We, the undersigned, hereby commit to help make the City of Liepāja climate neutral by 2030. We agree on the joint ambition and commitments, as formulated in the City of Liepāja’s Climate City Contract.

| Name of the institution | Date |
|---|-------------|
| Liepaja city council (together with Central administration, institutions, and agencies) | 24.08.2023. |
| Liepaja city council (together with Central administration, institutions, and agencies) | 22.02.2024. |
| Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development | 26.10.2023. |
| Ministry of Transport | 03.08.2023. |
| Ministry of Climate and Energy | 15.08.2023. |
| Ministry of Education and Science | 13.08.2023. |
| Ministry of Economics | 25.07.2023. |
| Municipal Ltd “Liepaja Puppet Theatre” | 15.01.2024. |
| Municipal Ltd. “Liepājas RAS” | 19.01.2024. |
| Municipal Ltd. “Liepājas namu apsaimniekotājs” | 16.01.2024. |
| Municipal Ltd. “ Liepaja region tourism information office” | 16.01.2024. |



Appendix: Individual Signatory Commitments

Specific agreements that articulate the details of the climate action(s) between the municipality and other stakeholders (individual or groups) can be added to the Commitments document appendix.