

**UBC**

UNION  
OF THE BALTIC  
CITIES

SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
COMMISSION

# Annual report 2022

**UBC Sustainable Cities Commission**  
Published April 2023



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### **Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission’s Annual report 2022**

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# Our work

## Editorial

The year 2022 turned to be challenging and transforming both for the Baltic Sea region and for our organisation. The pandemic had still not been over when Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine shook the whole world and fundamentally changed it and in particular our region.

Nevertheless, our work with the UBC member cities towards a sustainable Baltic Sea region has continued and remains important as ever! We are grateful and happy to see that our activities are received with interest and many cities actively engage, contribute and are excited to cooperate with others, despite the challenging situation – or perhaps because of it.

After our UBC Sustainability Action Programme was approved by the XVI UBC General Conference in October 2021, we have been working towards its implementation by planning related project proposals, events and activities with our member cities.

For example, from the project side, 2022 was largely focused on the development of new applications based on exchange with member cities on their needs and challenges. After we finalised several ongoing projects by the beginning of 2022, the active promotion of all results and solutions continued. Later in spring we submitted the EMPEREST proposal as lead partner and joined the ZeroPFAS II project supporting the water-smart cities topic; we also joined the consortium of the BALTIPLAST project strengthening our actions under the resource-efficient cities. You can read more about these proposals – already successfully approved for funding – in the respective chapter of this report.

Internally this year also brought some changes in the UBC SCC Secretariat. As Björn Grönholm left his position as Head of Secretariat after 16 years in Autumn 2021, the Secretariat is now coordinated by Esther and Agnieszka, supported by Mariia as the communication manager. For the implementation of projects, more colleagues are and will be involved.

This first annual report will give you a concise summary of all activities we have had in the past year – the meetings and events we organised or contributed to, initiatives and campaigns we have been involved in, how we cooperated with partners in the BSR and beyond, and more. This and the following annual reports will also serve as a monitoring tool for our UBC Sustainability Action Programme and as a way to transparently inform all of you, our member cities, about our activities. We hope it's an interesting read for you!

Warm greetings from the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission Secretariat,  
Esther, Agnieszka and Mariia

## Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission

UBC is the leading network of cities in the Baltic Sea Region, mobilising the shared potential of its member cities to tackle challenges related to social, economic and environmental development. Established back in 1991, today the network includes over 70 cities and municipalities.

Sustainable Cities Commission is one of the UBC Commissions, supporting the development of clean, resilient, and attractive urban environments. UBC cities are already increasingly recognized as global forerunners in climate-smart development, and together we work towards green, resource-efficient and sustainable future.

## UBC SCC Advisory Board 2022–2023

### Co-Chairs

<b>Risto Veivo</b>	Turku	Finland
<b>Per-Arne Nilsson</b>	Malmö	Sweden
<b>Dagmara Nagórka-Kmiecik</b>	Gdańsk	Poland

### Advisory Board members

<b>Andres Jaadla</b>	Rakvere	Estonia
<b>Jaanus Tamm</b>	Tartu	Estonia
<b>Elina Ojala</b>	Lahti	Finland
<b>Olli-Pekka Mäki</b>	Turku	Finland
<b>Stephan Braun</b>	Greifswald	Germany
<b>Dace Liepniece</b>	Liepāja	Latvia
<b>Gunita Osite</b>	Jelgava	Latvia
<b>Guntars Ruskuls</b>	Riga	Latvia
<b>Ola Nord</b>	Malmö	Sweden
<b>Ann Häger</b>	Malmö	Sweden
<b>Irena Sakaliene</b> (until 8/2022)	Klaipeda	Lithuania

# UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030

The Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainability Action Programme 2022-2030 has been developed over several rounds of co-creation workshops, discussions and consultations with the UBC member cities as well as network's key stakeholders, with active collaboration across all UBC bodies. The resulting document was approved at the XVI UBC General Conference, held online on 29 October 2021.

The document outlines 5 topics selected as core themes for the local cooperation in sustainability: water, mobility, resource efficiency, biodiversity, and energy. The UBC SAP 2030 also lists actions that should be taken to achieve a better and greener future in the cities.

In 2022, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission addressed 5 core topics through different strategically selected activities.



## Water-smart cities

Addressing the acute trends in the water sector, in 2022 UBC SCC started and joined several transnational projects focusing on different approaches to elimination of hazardous substances from the water cycle. The **EMPEREST (Eliminating Micro-Pollutants from Effluents for Reuse Strategies) project** launched by UBC SCC in cooperation with HELCOM, aims at the elimination of hazardous substances, and specifically emerging pollutants (PFAS) from the wastewater stream. The project will produce regional recommendations, test advanced wastewater treatment solutions, and prepare local risk-assessment plants. The **Zero PFAS II project (Minimization and reduction PFAS input to Baltic Sea)**, where UBC SCC joined as a partner, targets the challenge of PFAS through networking and communicating activities. To address hazardous substances in the upstream, UBC SCC also joined as associated organisation the **NonHazCity 3 project (Reducing hazardous substances in construction to safeguard the aquatic environment, protect human health and achieve more sustainable buildings)** led by Riga City Council. More about these and other projects – in the chapter “Projects running in 2022”!

In addition to single water-related projects, UBC SCC continued the work on the [Baltic Smart Water Hub](#) – the portal developed within the Commission to support UBC member cities with knowledge and practices on innovative and smart water management. The Water Hub was originally developed within the framework of two projects led by UBC SCC (IWAMA project and

BSR WATER platform; funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014–2020), and it is a space for sharing both successful technical developments from different projects, as well as expertise of local authorities and other organisations. In 2022, one more innovative case was submitted to the Water Hub, making it altogether 116 examples of sustainable water management in fresh-, storm-, waste-, and sea water areas.



## Mobility-smart cities

The **mobility-oriented webinar** – the first UBC TALKS issue of 2022 – concluded the transnational project HUPMOBILE (Holistic sustainable mobility solutions; January 2019 – December 2021, funded by Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2014–2020) highlighting a rich range of mobility-related solutions and tools. UBC SCC was a partner in the HUPMOBILE project, and [project outputs are available on the website](#).



## Resource-efficient cities

To address resource efficiency through the waste management measures, UBC SCC joined the **project BALTIPLAST (Baltic Approaches to Handling Plastic Pollution under a Circular Economy Context)** focusing on reducing plastic in production and consumption. The project targets city administrations, businesses and citizens, and as a partner, UBC SCC will support the transfer of the project results to the target groups.



## Biodiverse cities

Addressing the rising interest of UBC member cities towards the biodiversity topic, UBC SCC organised a **thematic workshop** in August 2022. Participating cities discussed existing challenges and barriers, and developed ideas and topics for future projects and other forms of cooperation.



## Energy-smart cities

The energy topic in 2022 has been brought high on the agenda by the ongoing crises. As a part of the ongoing activities, UBC SCC had continued cooperating with the **EU City Facility initiative**, which supports municipalities across Europe to develop investment concepts to accelerate investments in sustainable energy. UBC SCC was a supporting coordinator for this initiative in Denmark, Latvia and Estonia. UBC SCC organised information webinars for local authorities and actively disseminated information to UBC member cities. More about this in the chapter “Policy & Advocacy”.

# Policy & Advocacy

## Council of the Baltic Sea States

The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) is an intergovernmental political forum for regional cooperation. Consisting of 10 Member States and the European Union, it supports a regional perspective on global challenges. The UBC SCC cooperates closely with the CBSS through the **Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD)**. The overall aim of the EGSD is to promote sustainable development in the BSR through effective cooperation and coordinated action in line with the content and aims of the UN 2030 Agenda, the Baltic 2030 Action Plan and the Vilnius II Declaration – A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2030. The group is working within the framework of the EGSD 2018-2022 mandate, which had been extended till the end of the German Presidency (30 June 2023).

In 2022, the UBC SCC participated in several online meetings and webinars organised in the framework of the EGSD. On 18 February, Agnieszka Ilola presented the UBC Strategy and its preparation process at the Baltic Leadership Programme “Neighbours” webinar aiming at development of Joint Plan for Actions on 2030 Agenda.

On 13 May, the UBC SCC participated in the EGSD online meeting discussing the status of the Baltic 2030 implementation, EGSD mandate renewal with the question of a shared chairmanship of the expert group among CBSS-UBC-BSSSC-CPMR and exchanging on the plans and activities between CBSS, VASAB, UBC and other members.

On 21 June, the UBC SCC was invited to the EGSD Troika and Presidium meeting to follow the discussions related to the extension of the new EGSD mandate and the German Presidency priorities for the EGSD: sustainable food and circular economy. Mariia Andreeva presented an overview of the UBC SCC plan of activities to the participating experts.

On 4 October, UBC SCC took part in the EGSD – Baltic 2030 hybrid meeting organised in Berlin by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. In the meeting the information regarding the status of the Expert Group mandate was provided, emphasising that the revised mandate that was discussed and agreed within the group during the Norwegian Presidency was put on hold by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), till the end of the reflection process on the future of the CBSS. Further, the CBSS German Presidency priorities and planned events were outlined: The 6th European Resources Forum and Culinary heritage in the Baltic Sea region.



## Green City Accord

UBC SCC joined the Green City Accord (GCA) and signed official Supporters' statement in May 2021. The GCA is a European Union initiative to make cities greener, cleaner and healthier. By signing the Accord, cities commit to addressing five areas of environmental management: air, water, nature and biodiversity, circular economy and waste, and noise. Within the scope of cooperation, the UBC SCC is supporting cities in joining the GCA movement through awareness raising and communication campaigns, capacity-building activities, funding and expert advice on issues related to water quality and efficiency, urban biodiversity, air and noise pollution reduction as well as advanced circular economy measures.

In 2022, the UBC SCC participated in and promoted to the member cities several online events organised by the GCA: GCA signatories meeting (28 September), GCA online Info Session at the European Week of Regions and Cities (12 October), Technical Workshop "Advancing local action on nature and biodiversity" (26 October), High level conference "Leading Europe towards a greener future" (29 November).

The representative of the GCA Ms Barbara Anton was invited to the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission meeting taking place on 27-28 April in Greifswald to present the movement at the session "Measuring sustainability progress in the cities". Ms Anton extended an invitation to the UBC member cities to join the Accord and presented benefits of collective implementation of GCA targets and indicators for cleaner and greener urban areas.

## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

In May 2020, the UBC SCC extended the official observer status at the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). HELCOM is an intergovernmental organisation and regional platform for environmental policy making established to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution. The observer status allows UBC SCC to actively contribute to HELCOM work and process, plan common activities and projects as well as share the local position with HELCOM and its Contracting Parties on national level.

The UBC member cities committed to strengthen the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action plan and relevant recommendations by 2030. To support the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and its relevant goals ('Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter') and subsequent commitments, in 2022 the UBC SCC together with the HELCOM developed the project EMPEREST focusing on elimination of hazardous substances, and specifically emerging pollutants (PFAS) from the wastewater stream.

On 26-27 September, UBC SCC attended the Baltic Stakeholder Conference – Climate Change in the Baltic Sea (BSC2022) focused on dissemination of knowledge on the regional effects of climate change in the Baltic Sea. The Conference was held online, hosted by

Germany (German Environment Agency, UBA, and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in Germany, BfN) and Baltic Earth. More than 200 participants joined online to learn key outtakes of the Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Fact Sheet, as well as discuss the outcomes of the HELCOM Blue Carbon Workshop. Moreover, the 1-hour panel was organized to particularly stimulate and gather views on climate change mitigation and adaptation from policymakers, research community and other stakeholders in the Baltic Sea region.

## Covenant of Mayors

UBC has been a support organisation for the Covenant of Mayors since 2011. We started the commitment through a common project with Energy Cities and Climate Alliance in the beginning of the Covenant where we promoted the initiative actively in the BSR and supported cities to become signatories. We continuously follow the Covenant's activities and share and disseminate information, events and initiatives to the UBC member cities. For example, in autumn 2022 we invited the cities to join the Cities Energy Saving Sprint.

The **Cities Energy Saving Sprint** is a joint initiative of the European Commission, the Covenant of Mayors Europe and the European Committee of the regions, supporting cities in taking measures that will immediately reduce their energy consumption. As part of their work, the Covenant of Mayors supports cities and municipalities to implement emergency saving measures through exchange and sharing of experiences, collection of good practices and advice as well as connecting them with partners and initiatives. More information about this campaign is available in the [Toolkit on emergency energy saving measures](#).

## Energy Cities

UBC as a whole network has been a member of Energy Cities since 2008 and also cooperated in several projects in the past years. UBC SCC is following Energy Cities activities through their communication channels and actively shares information that is relevant for our member cities.

We also join and promote relevant campaigns and initiatives, e.g., the [#LocalStaff4Climate](#) campaign, which included a manifesto signed by many organisations – including the UBC, signed by President Mantas Jurgutis in 2022.

## EU City Facility

The EU City Facility is a European initiative to support municipalities across Europe to develop investment concepts to accelerate investments in sustainable energy. In form of a EUR 60,000 grant, the EUCEF finances services and activities to support the development of investment concepts, such as (technical) feasibility studies, market analyses, stakeholder analyses, legal, economic and financial analyses, risk analyses and further supporting tasks. The ultimate objective is to build a substantial pipeline of sustainable energy investment projects across

municipalities, local authorities and local public entities aggregating municipalities/local authorities in Europe.

With EUCF led by Energy Cities, UBC SCC was asked to become a supporting coordinator in 2020 to support the initiative in Denmark, Latvia and Estonia. Together with country experts, UBC SCC organised information webinars for local authorities and actively disseminated information to UBC member cities.

In 2022, the 4<sup>th</sup> call of the initiative was launched in June. UBC SCC hosted 2 live webinars, one for Denmark and one for Latvia, the webinar for Finnish actors was pre-recorded. Due to external hindrances, the Estonian webinar was not organised.

The live webinars attracted 22 local authorities.

## EUCF webinars by UBC SCC

**Country: Denmark, 19.08.2022**

- Organizer: EC Network (Technical org. UBC SCC)
- [Webinar recording](#)

**Country: Latvia, 05.07.2022**

- Organizer: Ekodoma and UBC Sustainable Cities Commission
- [Webinar recording](#)

**Country: Finland, 07.09.2022**

- Organizer: Finnish Consulting Group (Technical org. UBC SCC)
- [Webinar recording](#)

## EU Missions

In 2022, the EU Commission launched several missions to bring concrete solutions to some of the greatest challenges our societies are facing. The missions have ambitious goals and will bring concrete results by 2030, through delivering impact by putting research and innovation into a new role, combined with new forms of governance and collaboration, as well as by engaging citizens. UBC SCC is closely following three missions:

1. Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
2. Adaptation to Climate Change
3. Restore our Oceans and Waters

These missions are progressing differently and in 2022 the Cities Mission was the most active. 12 UBC members are among the first selection of 100 European cities to be part of the mission. UBC SCC established contact with the **NetZeroCities project** – the supporting platform for the Cities Mission, and has actively disseminated information about the platform and available funding to the member cities. We also organised the first UBC TALKS webinar on this topic, featuring the EU Mission Manager Mr Patrick Child as well as a representation from the NZC project and most importantly UBC cities that now start their journey together. We are very eager to continue supporting our UBC cities in the next years according to their needs and will continue to follow the mission closely.

# Cooperation with CDP

Union of the Baltic Cities has been for 6 years cooperating with [CDP](#) – one of the leading voluntary climate reporting organizations, for the common efforts of the sustainable development of the UBC members. Over the years, our member cities have been active in disclosing and improving their environmental data and have been praised among the leaders in climate activity in Europe.

In 2022, the disclosure period took place from April till the end of July. The cities that reported before the end of July had had their reports rated. However, the platform had remained open till the end of the year to facilitate the joining of more cities to the disclosure. The cities were welcome to amend their reports and ask for personal consultations with CDP. The cities that haven't been able to fulfil the entirety of the report for the 2022 disclosure round get an opportunity to continue and amend the necessary data in 2023 by copying and building upon the data they have already filled in.

Despite the hardships and aftershocks of the recent pandemic, as well as the economic and energy crises that sprung up from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the number of disclosing cities remained consistent with newcomers joining the common effort. This year has marked the commencement of the disclosure of environmental data by the **City of Kiel**.

## **16 cities disclosed their environmental data through the CDP-ICLEI Track in 2022:**

**Aarhus** from Denmark

**Tallinn** from Estonia

**Espoo, Turku, Kemi** and **Lahti** from Finland

**Greifswald** and **Kiel** from Germany

**Arendal** from Norway

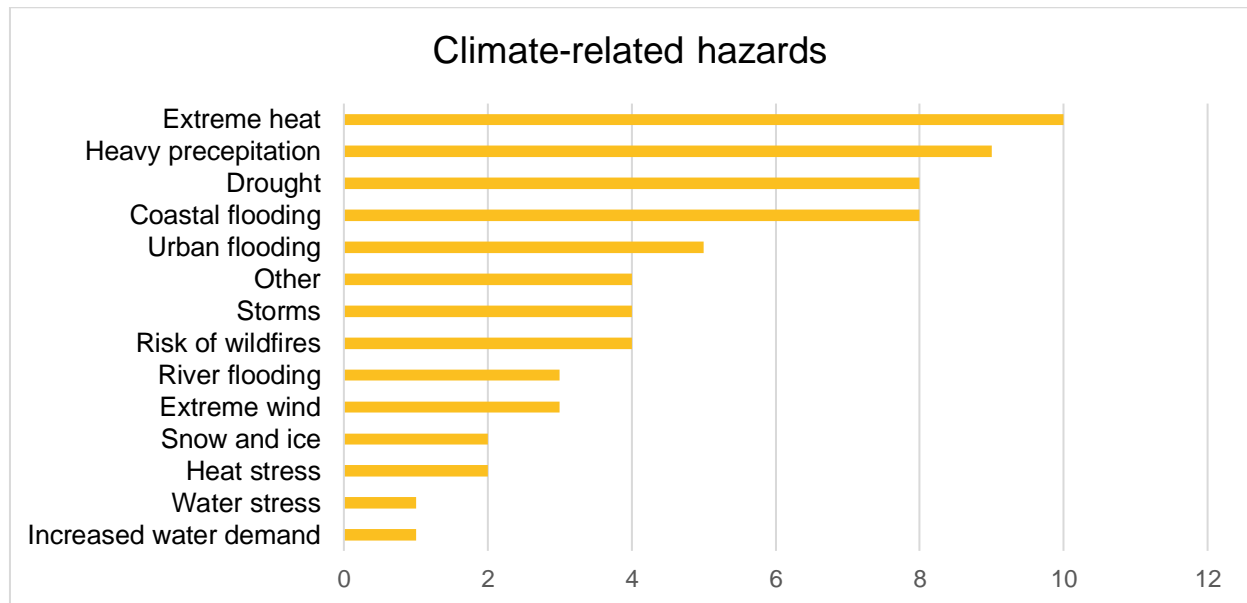
**Riga** from Latvia

**Klaipeda** and **Tauragė** from Lithuania

**Karlskrona, Malmö, Trelleborg** and **Växjö** from Sweden

In 2022, many cities have shown remarkable resilience in their environmental activities, and cities have been actively engaging in environmental disclosure. The slight dip in the number of disclosing cities might be attributed to the fact that some cities have adopted the disclosure on a two or three-year cycle.

Just as in previous years, cities were asked to indicate the most significant climate hazards experienced in their municipality. Weather-related climate hazards have been marked as the most acute ones.



In 2022 reporting, CDP commended the climate action of the consistently disclosing UBC member cities **Lahti**, **Malmö** and **Turku** by granting them the highest score (A List) for their climate leadership for taking three times as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A List cities.

## A-List City of Turku

The city of Turku has 5 adaptation targets set to be achieved by 2029, implementation of each is monitored annually.

1. One of the main objectives of the City of Turku climate policy is preparing comprehensively for the effects of climate change. Simultaneously with reducing emissions, Turku prepares for climate change as comprehensively as possible, and the city has developed to cope better with the change.
2. Understanding risks\*
3. Reinforcing risk management\*
4. Investments to enhance resilience\*
5. Developing disaster preparedness\*

*\* in line with the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*

The city of Turku is set to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2029 compared to the base year 1990, by the time Turku will become climate neutral, and thereafter would work to be climate positive.

Turku has shown strong results by achieving the target of 50% reduction already by 2020 and is on the way for the intermediate target of 75% reduction by the year 2025. The city is

strengthening local carbon sinks and developing offsetting measures, as well as decreasing emissions of district heating by 67% between 2017 and 2021 reaching 79.6% of renewable sources in production of the district heating. In 2021, 75% of energy produced was produced using renewable energy sources. The share of renewable energy of electricity and heat sold by Turku Energia will be at least 95% in 2025.

Furthermore, the target share of sustainable modes of transportation according to the master plan is set to achieve over 66% in 2030. Public transport in Turku will be turned into a carbon neutral service by 2029.

#### **Adaptation actions taken by Turku:**

- Measures advancing the water management (stormwater management, prevention of urban flooding, nature-based solutions);
- Measures advancing the safeguarding of ecosystems (securing biodiversity, protection of species);
- Measures to prevent impacts of heat and drought (increased air conditioning and cooling, urban green spaces, preparedness in water services);
- Increasing the amounts of carbon sinks (forest management, increased forestation).

## **A-List City of Lahti**

The city of Lahti has the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by the year 2025 specifically by achieving the equality between carbon sinks and emissions. The city is also planning to achieve 8% of natural reserve in Lahti area by 2030.

The city of Lahti from 2020 onwards uses only green electricity. Solar panels have been put up i.a. Lahti Sports Centre. Lahti Energy has put into operation the new biomass heat plant since 2020 and electricity production will also be almost completely fossil-free in the near years. Lahti is procuring low or no emissions for its bus fleet. In 2022, more than 50% of the fleet ran on alternative fuels and would be completely low-emission only by 2030. Lahti is currently testing energy retrofitting for 10 buildings and would choose the most cost-efficient ways to make emission reductions. Lahti is also striving to make shift from oil heating to more sustainable energy choices in individual households. The aim is to reach 500 households switching to heat pumps. Lahti procurement program states all city-owned vehicles should be low-emission by the year 2035.

#### **Lahti is taking the following adaptation actions:**

- Strategical level actions (combines the Master plan process, Sustainable urban mobility plan, Environmental programme and Service programme)
- Urban flooding prevention (stormwater programme, stormwater risk mapping)
- Heat and drought prevention (Increasing amount of green, improving the park tree network, afforestation of wastelands, fields and meadows)

## A-List City of Malmö

The city of Malmö intends to address all greenhouse gases and sectors /sources of emissions to reach climate neutrality by 2030. The environmental program states that Malmö should rely on 100% renewable or recycled energy by 2030. The energy used for electricity, heat and transport in Malmö must then come from renewable energy sources or from systems that use recycled energy that would otherwise have been wasted. Since 2020, the district heating is 100% renewable.

In 2018, Malmö approved and implemented the environmental vehicle strategy according to which 95% of the vehicles shall be powered by biogas, hydrogen, electricity (at least 15%) or hybrid technology by 2020. In 2018, Malmö has carried out a study according to which the city should aim for 15% solar energy for heat and electricity in municipality properties.

Malmö developed Sweden's first local roadmap for a climate-neutral construction and civil engineering sector by 2030. Each connected developer has promised to start construction on at least one climate-neutral construction project by 2025 in Malmö's geography.

Malmö is committed to reduce the energy use per square meter for municipal operations by 15% compared to base year 2019 and decrease overall energy consumption by the same 15% by 2030.

### **The city of Malmö is taking following adaptation actions:**

- Planned flooding areas
- Mapping and developing the tool showing the low points of the city and the water dissipation directions in case of cloudbursts
- Educating house-owners on how to avoid the damages in case of cloudbursts
- Implementing the limits for the newly built buildings to prevent flood and high groundwater damage
- Risk mapping and strategy for coastal protection
- Heat mapping tool to show the heat index
- Increasing the green areas and trees in the city

### **Adaptation goals of Malmö**

- Cloud burst planning
- Tree planting and/or creation of green space
- Restricting development in risk areas (level for new buildings should be +3.0 m above sea level)
- Malmö's resilience to a changed climate has increased

## Communicating the climate efforts

In 2022, UBC SCC discussed the possibility of CDP Europe granting the badges to the UBC member cities to acknowledge their climate action and ability to depict it on the dedicated member city pages on the UBC SCC website. CDP has issued two types of badges: one acknowledging the disclosure to the CDP-ICLEI track in 2022, and another being the A-list city of 2022 badge. The badges are displayed on the [dedicated pages of the UBC member cities](#) and serve as an additional motivation to fellow UBC members to start disclosing.



CITIES



CITIES

Since 2017 UBC has been issuing the annual CDP report that reviews the climate action and environmental data of the UBC cities disclosed during the year. The reports can be accessed through the [UBC-CDP cooperation page](#). This year, the CDP report is integrated in the UBC SCC Annual report 2022.

In 2022, UBC had continued supporting its member cities in their efforts of disclosing climate data, which already is and will further help to showcase cities' efforts as well as [compare their data to other fellow European and UBC member cities](#). During the year UBC has distributed information about the opening of the platform as well as information about the CDP scoring methodology and the possibility of getting praised for exceptional climate activity. UBC organised social media campaigns in spring 2022 to motivate UBC member cities to continue their climate efforts as well as mark the best practices from last year's disclosure. UBC was involved in regular communications with CDP Europe, discussing the best ways to interact and motivate the cities to disclose their climate data. UBC approached the member cities with emails and jointly organised the webinar which has facilitated the discussion on getting started with the disclosure, describing the benefits and challenges of the disclosure for the cities. The recording of the webinar, which answers frequently asked questions is available on the [UBC-CDP cooperation page](#).



# Sustainable Cities Commission events

## UBC Sustainable Cities Commission meeting on 27–28 April 2022 in Greifswald, Germany

The long-awaited Commission meeting was our first chance to revitalise the network contacts, meeting each other face to face after the pandemic lockdowns. Co-organised by UBC SCC with the hosting city of Greifswald, the meeting covered a wide range of topics, inspiring over 15 participating cities from the Baltic Sea Region.

The Commission meeting was opened by the Lord Mayor of Greifswald Dr. Stefan Fassbinder, and the speakers throughout the event included representatives from both cities, and international organisations and initiatives, incl. the CDP global disclosure system, and Green City Accord initiative. From UBC SCC, the Commission meeting was organised and attended by Agnieszka Ilola and Mariia Andreeva.



*Group photo from the UBC Sustainable Commission meeting on the steps of the Greifswald city hall. Photo: Greifswald press office.*

## Thematic working group on biodiversity

During the comprehensive process of developing the UBC Sustainability Action Programme during 2020/21, several thematic groups were established to discuss topics and trends, as well as needs and challenges of cities within a certain field, e.g. climate, mobility, water, biodiversity. Overall, cities were very interested in discussing these topics also beyond working towards a single strategic document, so UBC SCC decided to upkeep this initiative and activity.

In August 2022, we organised an online workshop on the topic of biodiversity and invited all member cities to take part. In the end we had participants from 9 UBC cities and facilitated an interactive workshop where we discussed cities' challenges and barriers, developed ideas and topics for future projects and other forms of cooperation.

## UBC TALKS webinar series in 2022

The UBC TALKS webinar series that we had started back in 2020 continue its regular issue: in 2022, we organised three comprehensive webinars, in which 19 UBC member cities took part.

### UBC TALKS webinar about holistic solutions to mobility in port areas

The webinar took place on 22 February 2022, bringing the examples and available tools from the transnational project HUPMOBILE. Pilot cases and studies shared in this webinar were developed in the cities of **Hamburg, Riga, Turku, and Tallinn**. The webinar was organised by Mariia Andreeva and Adham Maharramli.

#### Webinar 1-2022:

- 67 participants and viewers
- Presenting UBC members: Hamburg, Riga, Turku, Tallinn
- [Recording of the webinar](#)

### UBC TALKS webinar about EU Mission: climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030

The webinar on 25 October 2022 focused on the 100 Cities Mission and how UBC member cities included in this number plan to reach climate neutrality. The webinar was opened by the **Deputy Director General Patrick Child**, of DG Environment, European Commission; local insights were shared by representatives of **Gävle, Tartu, Umeå and Liepaja**. The webinar included a presentation about the support available for both Mission cities and those following their steps – offered by the **NetZeroCities** project. This webinar was moderated by Esther Kreutz-Hassinen and Mariia Andreeva.

#### Webinar 2-2022:

- 90 participants and viewers
- Presenting UBC members: Gävle, Tartu, Umeå, Liepaja
- [Recording of the webinar](#)

## UBC TALKS webinar about local activities contributing to the global sustainability

The webinar on 29 November 2022 investigated how cities can successfully work on the UN 2030 Agenda. The webinar shared best practices on localising Sustainable Development Goals with presentations from the Swedish think-tank

**Global Utmaning** that interviewed BSR cities, and the **Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities** supporting the cooperation between 6 Finnish cities. The webinar included a presentation of the first Voluntary Local Review prepared by the **City of Kiel** in 2022. The webinar was moderated by Agnieszka Ilola and Mariia Andreeva.

### Webinar 3-2022:

- 29 participants and viewers
- Presenting UBC members: Kiel
- [Recording of the webinar](#)

**All UBC TALKS webinars are recorded and available afterwards as a learning material.**

We have already prepared [18 recordings on different topics](#) that you can study and share with your colleagues. Some of the recordings have been used in the university courses a.o. in Turku, Tartu, Berlin.

# Representation at the regional events

## Urban Future Conference on 1–3 June 2022 in Helsingborg, Sweden

Every Urban Future conference attracts hundreds of inspired city-changers looking into creative ways of making their cities more sustainable and attractive. UBC Sustainable Cities Commission has been a networking partner of the conference for several years, and this cooperation successfully continued in 2022, when over 1600 participants from over 100 cities joined the global event in Helsingborg.

In 2022, we joined forces with the UBC Smart and Prospering Cities Commission in organising a session within the Urban Future program. The session “**Baltic Cities collaborate for change**” focused on the BSR leadership in urban transformation and attracted ca. 60 city

leaders from our region and beyond. The session was moderated by Agnieszka Ilola (UBC SCC), Wolfgang Schmidt (UBC SPCC), and Thomas Becker (STRING political network).

This session brought the insights from the international companies leading the innovation in the private sector (**Filip Elland represented Castellum AB**, and **Samir Abboud represented INNARGI A/S**), and the global perspective merging the private and public from **Étienne Métais (CDP Europe)**. The highlight of the session was the Mayors' debate with **Ulf Kämpfer (Mayor of the City of Kiel)**, **Elina Rantanen (Deputy Mayor of the City of Turku)**, and **Karin Pleijel (Deputy Mayor of the City of Gothenburg)**. A lively discussion reflecting on local challenges and offering strategic visions brought different examples from the cities' paths to success.



*Panel discussion with Mayor Ulf Kämpfer (City of Kiel), Deputy Mayor Karin Pleijel (City of Gothenburg), and Deputy Mayor Elina Rantanen (City of Turku). Photo: Mariia Andreeva.*

## **IWA World Water Congress on 11–15 September 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark**

The theme for the 2022 IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition held in Copenhagen was “**Water for smart liveable cities**”. As urbanization means more people living in cities, and a great number of the major cities in the world are located near the oceans, this raises the issue of the effect of human activities on our seas. The UBC SCC together with the SIWI Source-to-Sea Platform and Danish Water and Wastewater Association organised a workshop “**Coordinated management from source to sea – in the Baltic Sea and other basins**” attended by over 60 participants.

The focus of the discussion circulated around a holistic approach to prevent pollution of the seas, from land-based activities, thus aiming to ensure coordinated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on water and sanitation (SDG 6) and oceans (SDG 14). In the

workshop experts from several fields offered their input on how to achieve these Sustainable Development Goals, with the Baltic Sea Region being the key case. Participants in the workshop were invited to share their input through roundtable discussions lead by the speakers, as well as during a panel discussion of the key messages from the roundtables. The Deputy Head of Secretariat, Agnieszka Ilola provided a keynote presentation on the role of the city network as a platform for international experience exchange and peer learning on sustainable water resource management.

## Annual Forum for the EUSBSR on 27–29 September 2022 in Lappeenranta, Finland

For the main regional event of the year – the 13th Annual Forum for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Lappeenranta, UBC SCC planned and organised a networking stand. Other UBC commissions were invited to join, and altogether the Union of the Baltic Cities was represented in the Forum by UBC SCC (Esther Kreutz-Hassinen and Mariia Andreeva), Safe Cities (Kaspars Varpins) and the Learning Cities Commission (Matti Mäkelä), together with the UBC communication manager Irene Pendolin.



*From left to right, in the back: Matti Mäkelä and Kaspars Varpins, in the front: Mariia Andreeva and Esther Kreutz-Hassinen. Photo: Irene Pendolin.*

Besides the stand representation, UBC SCC was also an invited speaker in the panel of the session “**Contribution of EUSBSR cities and regions to combating climate change**”. There, Esther presented the UBC SCC work with cities in terms of tools and methods for climate change activities.

The Annual Forum, attended by ca. 400 participants, was a great place for networking with different partners and stakeholders incl. HELCOM and VASAB, Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, and representatives of different cities in BSR.

## **CliMaLoc project final conference on 5–6 October 2022 in Riga, Latvia**

In October, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission (represented by Mariia Andreeva) joined the final conference of the Seed project CliMaLoc, which is led by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and aimed to support knowledge and good practice exchange among local and regional actors in the Baltic Sea Region to localise climate. The final conference of the project shared the findings and presented the newly launched good practices handbook “[Localising climate in the BSR](#)”. The final conference was attended by over 40 participants, including UBC members from Riga, Liepāja, Turku, Tauragė, Kalmar, Karlskrona, and Cēsis. In addition to producing a useful guidebook on starting the climate change adaptation in the city, the project aims to build a consortium for a full-scale project application.

## **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Conference on 19–20 October 2022 in Hamburg, Germany**

Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme is one of the key instruments for funding the sustainable change in our region. The Programme Conference organised in 2022 gathered ca. 300 participants from the running and future projects to inspire each other with past project achievements and ambitions met by the opening opportunities.

Two of the projects led by the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission during the previous Programme period (2014–2020) were privileged to be able to share their stories during the event! During the conference’s first panel discussion, Agnieszka Ilola presented the highlights of the [IWAMA project](#), which focused on resource-efficient wastewater treatment. Later that day, Agnieszka also pitched the [BSR WATER platform](#) for holistic water cooperation and one of its outputs [Baltic Smart Water Hub](#) – at the inspirational corner for water-smart societies.

## **89th UBC Executive Board meeting on 1 December 2022 in Aarhus, Denmark**

After 3 years of online meetings, the UBC Executive Board meeting took place in person in Aarhus in December, with UBC SCC represented by Esther Kreutz-Hassinen and Agnieszka Ilola. Coordinators of the UBC SCC Secretariat presented the past and planned activities and initiated the long-awaited session between different UBC Commissions to kick-start better communication and cooperation.

## CBSS event “Cross-border Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in a changing (geo) political Climate” on 29 November 2022 in the German Embassy in Helsinki

UBC SCC was invited as a panellist to represent the local level cooperation in the BSR at the event organised by the German presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States on 29 November 2022 in Helsinki.

**Esther Kreutz-Hassinen**, together with **Rüdiger Stempel (Executive Secretary of HELCOM)**, **Grzegorz Poznanski (Director of CBSS)** and **Jari Vilén (Northern Dimension Partnership)**, discussed the multilevel governance and cooperation in the BSR in the changing political climate. We were pleased that UBC SCC was considered to give valuable input to the discussion and be a visible part of the cooperation ecosystem in the region.

## Projects running in 2022

In 2022, UBC SCC took part in several projects and prepared project applications.

### EMPEREST

In 2022, UBC SCC prepared and submitted an application for funding for the project **EMPEREST (Eliminating Micro-Pollutants from Effluents for Reuse Strategies)**. EMPEREST aims at the elimination of hazardous substances, and specifically emerging pollutants (PFAS) from the wastewater stream. UBC SCC is the **Lead Partner** of the project, and the cooperation will address both local and regional level actions. From the local level, the project targets both cities and the local water service providers.

EMPEREST was successfully selected for funding by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021–2027, and the duration of this project cooperation is January 2023 – December 2025.

**UBC members involved in the project:**  
Tartu, Riga, Turku, Gdańsk, Tallinn, Kaunas,  
Malmö, Panevėžys, Jonava, Tauragė.

## BALTIPLAST

The **BALTIPLAST (Baltic Approaches to Handling Plastic Pollution under a Circular Economy Context) project** focuses on reduction of plastic in production and consumption. The project will target city administrations, businesses and citizens, and as a **Work Package 3 Leader**, UBC SCC will support the transfer of the project results to the target groups.

The BALTIPLAST project was successfully selected for funding by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021–2027, and the duration of this cooperation is January 2023 – December 2025.

**UBC members involved in the project:** Helsinki, Tallinn, Kaunas, Valmiera, Hamburg.

## ZeroPfas II

**Zero PFAS II project (Minimization and reduction PFAS input to Baltic Sea)** led by IVL was accepted for funding by the Swedish Institute. The project duration is October 2022 – February 2024 and UBC SCC is a **project partner**. The project aims to strengthen the Baltic Sea PFAS network and increase PFAS knowledge sharing and information exchange within stakeholders from different fields and countries through thematic workshops and science roadshows.

## CliMaLoc

**CliMaLoc**, led by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and funded by the Swedish Institute (September 2021 – March 2023), aimed to support knowledge and good practice exchange among local and regional actors in the Baltic Sea Region to localise climate. UBC SCC was an **associated partner** in the project. In October 2022, the project organised its final conference and a.o. presented the [guidelines to prepare the climate change adaptation plan in cities](#).

## ChemClimCircle

UBC SCC joined the project **ChemClimCircle (Integrating criteria for chemicals, climate and circularity in procurement processes)** as **associated organisation**. The project aims to equip municipalities with training modules to apply circular procurement and, by this, to use non-toxic and climate-neutral products (chemicals, climate and circularity nexus). The project is funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme (October 2022 – September 2024).

## NonHazCity 3

The UBC SCC joined as **associated organisation** the **NonHazCity 3 project** proposal (**Reducing hazardous substances in construction to safeguard the aquatic environment, protect human health and achieve more sustainable buildings**) led by Riga City Council. The project received funding by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021–2027 and is implemented from January 2023 to December 2025.



# Sustainable Cities Bulletin 2022

3 Sustainable Cities Bulletins were published in 2022: on 7 April, 15 June and 3 November. Each edition was delivered to ca. 330 recipients. In addition to disseminating news and events from the Commission, we launched two call for stories for articles from UBC member cities. Several UBC member cities contributed to the SC Bulletin with their news on local approaches to sustainability and climate neutrality and we are happy to include them in this report.

## Gävle is localising the SDGs with the support of European partners

**Story from Gävle. Published on:** 7 April 2022

Gävle and other 18 cities (from 19 countries) of the EU URBACT pilot network "Global Goals in Cities" (GG4C), are already one year into the 20 months project on localising the SDGs.

By comparing the different realities, sharing ideas and solutions to common challenges with the support of the URBACT process and expertise, the cities build capacity for SDG localisation (among other things in stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising; new governance models, and local indicators to monitor progress towards the SDGs).

The motivation for Gävle municipality's participation in the Global Goals for Cities network is to get support in the work of creating a holistic perspective of the sustainability work.

"With Agenda 2030 as a starting point, we want to see how we can find synergies internally and increase commitment and participation with external partners, businesses and inhabitants for a more sustainable Gävle", says **Keli Yen**, project leader for the GG4C-project.

"We have a strong and systematic sustainability work in Gävle municipality, which is led through our three strategic programmes: Strategic Environmental Programme, Social Sustainability Programme and Business Development Programme. Since there are three separate programmes with different approaches, time perspectives and follow-up, there is a need to get a holistic perspective where we take advantage of synergies between the programmes and develop common approaches for, among other things, governance and communication. We see that the Global Goals for Cities gives us the opportunity to do so with Agenda 2030 as an umbrella."

As part of the visioning phase, Gävle has developed a video "[The Good Life in Gävle 2030](#)".

## Interview with Dagmara Nagórka-Kmiecik, Co-Chair of the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission from the City of Gdańsk

**Story from Gdańsk. Published:** 15 June 2022

The City of Gdańsk is one of the recognized forerunners in sustainability work, climate protection and adaptation. Starting from 2022, the new Co-Chair of the Advisory Board of the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission is [Ms Dagmara Nagórka-Kmiecik](#), Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection Department in the City of Gdańsk.



**UBC SCC:** *We have recently published the new [UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030](#) mapping the vision for our member cities in sustainability topics. Why is it important for UBC member cities, and how can cities use this Programme in their work?*

**Dagmara Nagórka-Kmiecik:** There are many documents describing sustainable development. We can read there what it means, how it is present in all environmental, economic and political spheres of our life. We can find there the instructions and guidelines to follow, and to include in our policies. We have some general policies to transform at the local level and to implement in our everyday activities. The UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030 is a kind of such guidance for UBC member cities.

Being the part of the UBC family we face similar problems and we have common needs. This document shows us what we can do together to strength sustainable development (SD) in our region. It shows the important topics for us (it is focused on 5 topics and is linked with relevant UN SDGs) and gives us new possibilities of co-operation. If we take seriously the need 'to think global and act local' that is a good instruction for our activity in these 5 sustainable fields. Each SD goal is important and should be implemented in all countries and cities.

It is good to have different programmes because it is difficult to focus on all environmental aspects in just one.

**I think that for us, living at the Baltic Sea, it is good to have different programmes, strategies and projects for the Baltic Sea Region.**

**UBC SCC:** *Could you tell us more about the Gdańsk's city strategy in relation to sustainability? What are the main goals and the means of achieving them?*

**Dagmara Nagórka-Kmiecik:** The sustainable development-related activities have been implemented in Gdańsk since the Aalborg Charter (1994). The city adopted SD plan which has been consequently implemented. Of course, our goals were different during these years, so the programme included different goals at different stages of its implementation. In the early 90s

we had to solve problems related to water and sewage management. Then we needed more ecological education, programme and activities to reduce air pollution, waste management, etc.

At present the main goals for us are related to climate changes. We want to be active in this field and to decrease the negative impact of climate changes.

The main Gdańsk's strategies that are related to sustainability are:

[Gdańsk 2030 Plus Development Strategy](#)

[The adaptation plan of the City of Gdańsk to climate change up to 2030](#)

**UBC SCC:** *The UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030 is focused on five core topics: water, mobility, resource-efficiency, energy and biodiversity. Which of these are seen most important for the City of Gdańsk to develop further in the coming years, and are there any specific climate-related challenges observed in the city that need addressing?*

**Dagmara Nagórka-Kmieciak:** All of the topics are important for Gdańsk and are part of the city development strategy. Thanks to our location – at the Baltic sea – water-related issues are important for us. Retention and water management need to be improved and developed.

Considering the rising level of the Baltic sea and the threats of flood, the biggest climate-related challenge is to build a storm gate on the Gdańsk Bay.

**UBC SCC:** *How does the city monitor and report on the climate progress? Does Gdańsk participate in any regional or global reporting systems?*

**Dagmara Nagórka-Kmieciak:** Of course, Gdańsk monitors progress of all adopted plans. Our activities are monitored and evaluated on regular basis and are reported once a year. Monitoring is a very important part of the strategy implementation because it can show the need for a change in priorities. We cannot base on once defined needs and goals. If we change one aspect, the next, previously defined, may occur less or more important. We need to be flexible in our activities. As for the global reporting systems we participate in [CDP-ICLEI Questionnaire](#).

# The city of Kiel publishes its first Voluntary Local Review

**Story from Kiel** (Lisa Eglhofer). **Published:** 3 November 2022

Cities and municipalities can do much to shape the living conditions of their citizens. Affordable housing for all, the successful integration of refugees, equitable access to education and new, sustainable forms of mobility – all these issues are being addressed by cities and municipalities.



The fact that cities are playing an increasingly important role can also be seen in the topic of sustainability reporting. National governments have been reporting to the United Nations for years with Voluntary National Reviews, now also more and more cities are joining in with **Voluntary Local Reviews**.

In July 2022, the city of Kiel published its first Voluntary Local Review. Kiel is the state capital of Schleswig-Holstein and is Germany's most northerly city. The City of Kiel has tasked itself with turning sustainability into a compass to guide all municipal activities, even in turbulent times. In line with the slogan we are using to communicate our sustainability efforts, "For Kiel and the world: Thinking globally, driving change locally", we believe we have a particular responsibility to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals at local level.

This first Kiel Voluntary Local Review concentrates on the strategic focus areas of the UN's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF):

- SDG 4 Quality education
- SDG 5 Gender quality
- SDG 14 Life below water
- SDG 15 Life on land
- SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

The robust facts and data underpinning the review have given us a clearer picture of our strengths and weaknesses and will guide us as we transition towards a sustainable future.

At the same time, we hope to be able to **encourage other cities and municipalities**: They play a pioneering role in implementing the SDGs, and the VLR can play a critical role in involving their citizens and other cities.

We are excited to share the progress Kiel has achieved in implementing the SDGs and we are also looking forward to join the international group of progressive cities whose VLRs are highlighting the significant role played by cities as drivers of sustainable development.

Please find the [Voluntary Local Review of the city of Kiel](#).

# What's up with the Social Kitchen in Kemi

**Story from Kemi** (Eija Kinnunen). **Published:** 3 November 2022

Four years ago, we in Kemi launched the Social Kitchen model. It was launched by Green and sustainable Kemi project and developed further by Year-round urban farming and local food production in Kemi project. Both projects were financed by the European Regional Development Fund / Regional Council of Lapland.

## The original Social Kitchen model

Once or twice a week our vegetarian food expert fetched fruits and vegetables and vegetarian food from local supermarkets. Food that was about to end up in waste. She then cleaned and chopped or pureed and freezed the food. Two or three times a week she organized events with various groups of people. They prepared smoothies and even whole meals from that “close on waste”. She instructed how to make delicious vegetarian food and after cooking together they dined together. Groups consisted of for example mothers and babies, young people, elderly people, immigrants, handicapped, children, unemployed, students, men etc.

## During covid19-pandemia

When covid19-pandemia locked people indoors, Social Kitchen took the challenge and changed its operating model: Left-over food was delivered to the homes of people in need. Local groceries still donated the food that was about to end up in waste. The food was delivered by volunteers from various organizations and employees who during lock-down couldn't work as usual e.g., in swimming or sport halls. The people in need were recognized in co-operation with social work of the city. When the world opened again, the model was changed so that social workers fetched the food with or to their customers.

The concept with all its features has been very popular and useful. For example, in the year 2021 over 70 000 liters of food has been “saved” for people needing it. And during the projects thousands of people have been contacted.

## After projects in 2022

And luckily, even though the projects have ended the work is still going on. Red Cross was one of the organizations co-operating with Social Kitchen. City of Kemi and the developers of this model are very happy to see Red Cross continuing the operation! Red Cross is expanding the model to Lapland area and probably even wider. They have recruited volunteers to work in markets to pick the eatable but no more suitable for sale fruits and vegetables and pack them for Red Cross purposes, meaning food distribution for those in need and other social kitchen operations.

## Win-win-win...

Fruits and vegetables make up the largest share of food waste in stores. And without this model it is very challenging to reduce the waste. Besides the will to do charity this is one additional reason why also groceries are very satisfied with this co-operation.

## Luleå part of EU project for inclusive climate work

**Story from Luleå** (Nataliia Hammarberg). **Published:** 3 November 2022

Luleå is one of 60 cities joining CrAFt Cities, a project to create climate-neutral, beautiful and inclusive cities.

CrAFt stands for Create Actionable Futures. The project was launched in May 2022 and will last for three years. The aim is to bring together citizens, decision-makers, art and academia to jointly shape the transition to climate-neutral cities.

**"We hope that our participation in CrAFt cities will give us the opportunity to learn from other cities and municipalities around Europe how we can become even more inclusive in our climate work," says Sophie Forsberg Johansson, climate and environmental strategist at Luleå municipality.**

CrAFt is part of the New European Bauhaus (NEB), an initiative of the European Union. NEB is an initiative that connects climate change with the urban environment and experiences.



*Photo: Luleå Municipality.*

# The Baltic Sea Challenge and Turku at the UN High-level Political Forum 2022

**Story from Turku** (Tove Holm). **Published:** 3 November 2022

The United Nations High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) in 2022 was held from Tuesday, July 5th to Friday, July 15th 2022. The HLPF is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs at the global level.

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA/DSDG) and the New York Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) organized a special event on the HLPF called “SDGs Learning, Training & Practice”. The event was a series of capacity-building and knowledge-learning sessions, featuring speakers and experts from many sectors on crucial topics related to the implementation of the SDGs under review in 2022 HLPF. The following SDGs were reviewed at the 2022 HLPF:

- SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
- SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The Baltic Sea Challenge arranged a workshop at the forum, with the Millennials Movement, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

The purpose of this workshop was to align our knowledge and practice and share transformative methods for enhancing sustainable lifestyles by putting more talent of the citizens in the process. Together the participants will reflect upon, discuss examples, and investigate how to further develop practices and follow up for well-organized stakeholder engagement. The key objective was to learn about methods that engage stakeholders to accomplish influence and tangible results regarding sustainable lifestyles.

Check out [how the Baltic Sea Challenge participated and what they learned.](#)