



# The Local Green Deals Blueprint in Action

## LEARNING FROM ESPOO, MANNHEIM AND UMEÅ



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This booklet captures the learnings from Espoo (FI), Mannheim (DE) and Umeå (SE), in relation to the ICC Blueprint, featuring good practices to inspire cities and SMEs for developing and implementing LGDs themselves.

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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet captures the learnings from Espoo (Finland), Mannheim (Germany), and Umeå (Sweden) in relation to the ICC Blueprint, featuring good practice case studies on Local Green Deals (LGDs). It aims at making the lessons learnt and insights accessible for other cities and local economic organisations aiming at developing and implementing LGDs themselves.

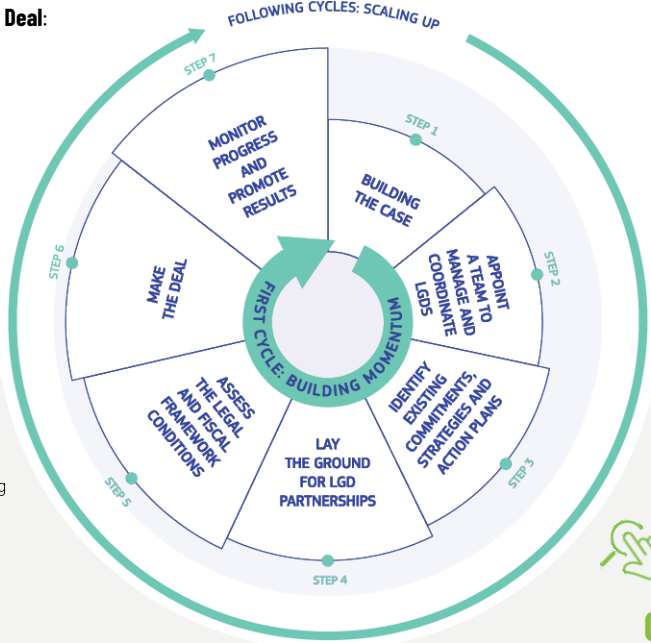
Explore the seven steps of the LGD Blueprint and the measures adopted by each of the partner cities to implement Local Green Deals in partnership with local economic actors.<sup>1</sup> The last chapter highlights three of the ten good practice principles for Local Green Deals, as outlined in the [LGD Blueprint](#).

**Select a city to read the full case:**



**Key Steps to Develop a Local Green Deal:**

Credit:  
[LOCAL GREEN DEALS.](#)  
[A Blueprint for Action,](#)  
[European Commission](#)



<sup>1</sup> Step 5 has consciously been taken up before step 4 due to the logic of clustering the steps (see guiding question in the left column of each table).



## HOW IS THE MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL GREEN DEALS ORGANISED?

### #1 Building the case

**The city strategy, “the Espoo Story”, is written in the form a storytelling narrative that has been co-created with the whole community.** It lays down the city’s values, vision and goals in addition to analysing where the city comes from, where it is now and where it wants to go. Sustainability is embedded in the Espoo Story, for example in the 2030 goal for carbon neutrality.

In addition to the city’s regular services, one way of implementing the Espoo Story is via cooperation platforms that allow the city, to develop innovative solutions through experiments and pilot projects, together with its partners. One of these platforms is the **Sustainable Espoo programme.** +

### #2 Appoint a team to manage LGDs

**The Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development is part of the Mayor’s office, and responsible for the promotion and steering of the city’s sustainable development and climate work.** They coordinate and implement the Sustainable Espoo programme, work with city departments and stakeholders, create partnerships, support the mayor’s climate action steering group and develop international visibility and cooperation. The team also helps to connect the different spheres of local governance with other stakeholders: political leadership and members of city council, city departments, the city corporate group, affiliated companies and joint municipal authorities, the private sector, universities, as well as the citizens.

### #3 Identify existing commitments, strategies and plans

The Espoo Story links the following commitments, strategies and plans. +

### #5 Assess legal and fiscal framework conditions

As Espoo is committed to be a SDG frontrunner, **sustainability actions are foreseen in the city’s own budget and different funding sources are actively explored and harnessed.** To ensure effectiveness, external funding is sought through national and EU funding sources. Part of the Sustainable Espoo development programme’s budget is used as seed funding for externally funded development projects.



## HOW HAVE THE MUNICIPALITY'S STAKEHOLDERS BEEN ACTIVATED?

### #4 Lay the ground for LGD partnerships

With the call to action 'Let's create a climate-neutral Espoo together', a **high-level event brought together 70 representatives of the city and its partners - including CEOs, top management from city departments and sustainability experts.** This kicked-off the co-creation of a working method to support climate work collaboration with companies and citizens until 2030 and beyond.

The city of Espoo is building business ecosystems together with 100 companies and developers related to the development of low-carbon transport, energy, circular economy as well as clean and smart urban solutions. These ecosystems help actors to cooperate towards reaching their sustainability goals, strengthen the cooperation between the public and private sector to promote innovation and sustainable business activities and ultimately help to grow the Local Green Deal momentum in the city.

**Examples:** 

## WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES?

### #6 Make the deal

Being part of the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, **the City of Espoo has invited 46 stakeholders in the first phase to join in a commitment for reaching climate neutrality by 2030.** Following that, the city aims to invite a larger share of stakeholders to work together on promoting sustainability and define their concrete contributions.

### #7 Monitor progress and promote results

The City of Espoo will invite the actors to regular joint dialogues, provide opportunities for co-learning and work together with our partners to further accelerate our common impact. The city will conduct a yearly monitoring and review process to see the progress on its climate goals and actions. The Climate City Contract (LGD) will be updated every two years. The City Council will update the Climate-Neutral Espoo 2030 roadmap at least once in a city council term (4 years). The monitoring is performed in the Sustainable Espoo Programme's steering group. An internal climate steering group, chaired by the mayor, follows the work and shares information between city departments.



Hear more from **Maria Tereza Dickson**, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, City of Espoo




## HOW IS THE MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL GREEN DEALS ORGANISED?

### #1 Building the case


**In 2020 Mannheim and ICLEI have co-designed the “Mannheim Message”, which laid the basis for the Local Green Deal project.** In July 2021 the city council tasked the city administration with the development of a Local Green Deal, setting-up a permanent LGD office and to apply to the **EU Mission** for 100 climate neutral and smart cities by 2030, which was successful.

Through its Local Green Deal, Mannheim is now combining and systematically concretising the commitments made at different levels: the sustainability and climate goals of the mission statement **“Mannheim 2030”**, the “Mannheim Message” and the climate neutrality target of the **EU Cities Mission**. 

### #2 Appoint a team to manage LGDs

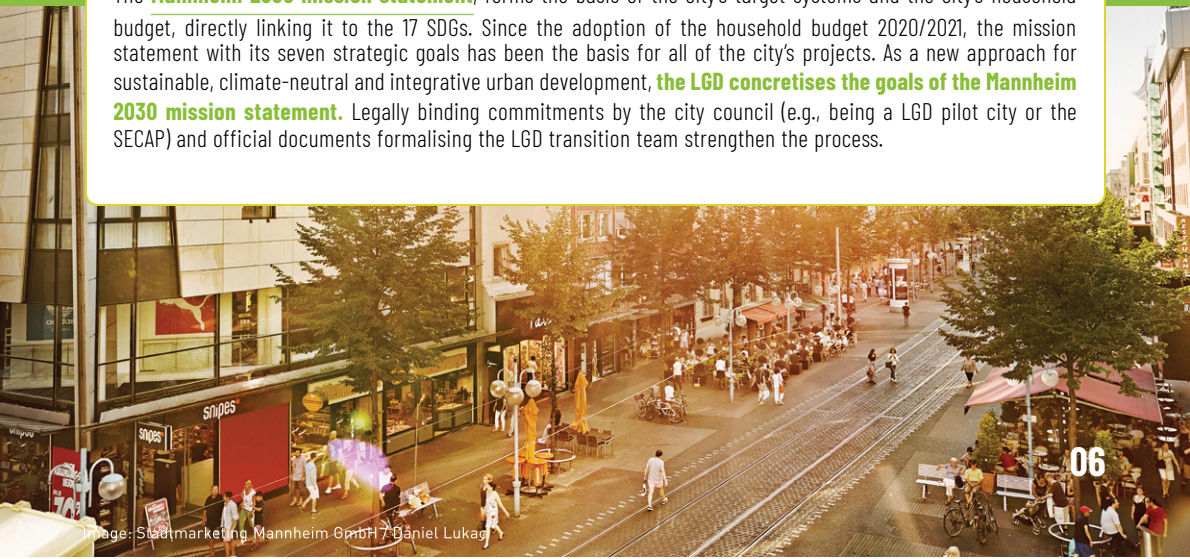
**The Local Green Deal work in Mannheim is managed by the “Transition Team”.** It has 14 members in the Local Green Deal office as the core team situated in different departments and a working group including all relevant administration departments. The Team operates between the municipality and the urban society, and cooperates with networks and local, regional, and national **structures**. 

### #3 Identify existing commitments, strategies and plans

Existing strategies and plans of the city were analysed to assess their potentials for future LGDs within 8 action fields, and to identify overlaps, synergies and gaps. Bringing plans and measures together and building a network of local partners to support implementation improved efficiency in leveraging existing resources and accelerate implementation. **It helped to integrate the thematic goals of the European Green Deal (EGD) and Mannheim’s mission statement 2030 to find concrete LGDs.** 

### #5 Assess legal and fiscal framework conditions

The **Mannheim 2030 mission statement**, forms the basis of the city’s target systems and the city’s household budget, directly linking it to the 17 SDGs. Since the adoption of the household budget 2020/2021, the mission statement with its seven strategic goals has been the basis for all of the city’s projects. As a new approach for sustainable, climate-neutral and integrative urban development, **the LGD concretises the goals of the Mannheim 2030 mission statement**. Legally binding commitments by the city council (e.g., being a LGD pilot city or the SECAP) and official documents formalising the LGD transition team strengthen the process.



## HOW HAVE THE MUNICIPALITY'S STAKEHOLDERS BEEN ACTIVATED?

### #4 Lay the ground for LGD partnerships

Mannheim is developing a Local Green Deal co-creation and inspiration platform - the **House of Change**. The aim is to establish strong partnerships with citizens, companies, and any other organisations in Mannheim (in the framework of the EU Mission's Pilot Cities Project [CoLAB](#)).


The "House of Change" contains different impact spaces: municipal co-creation room(s), the knowledge transfer and exchange room(s), the bottom-up matching ideas room(s), the smart challenges innovation room(s), the cultural change room(s) and the Local Success room(s). All these will help to develop future Deals. **In general, the LGD approach strengthens the EU Cities-Mission activities by bringing concrete commitments into the Climate City Contract.**

Hear more from  
**Agnes Schönfelder**,  
Spokesperson  
EU Green Deal,  
City of Mannheim



## WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES?

### #6 Make the deal

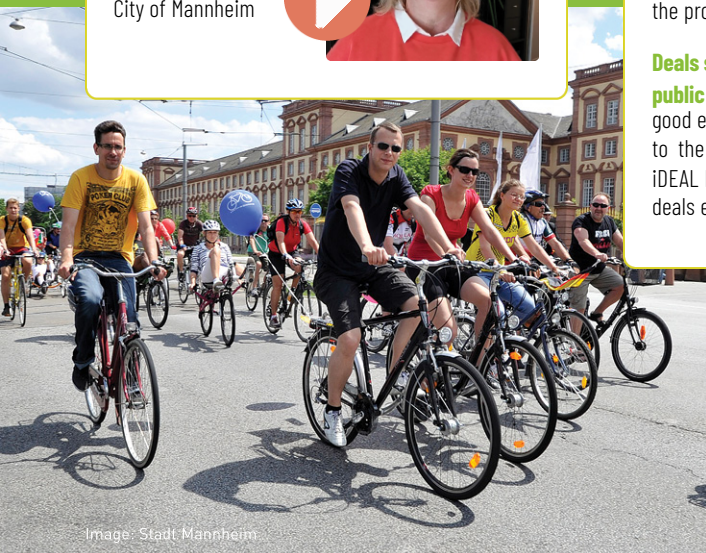
Wherever an actor in Mannheim contributes **(concrete action, measure, project, or self-commitment) to the implementation of a climate-neutral, sustainable and inclusive city within the framework of global responsibility, the city speaks of a Local Green Deal**. Actors can be the city administration, its companies and municipal operations, private companies, institutions, initiatives or individuals. The LGD managers act as door openers, advisors, networkers and, if necessary, also as mediators. **Full criteria for a deal:** 

When one or more actors are ready to enter negotiations for a deal, they are asked to register at the LGD office for a binding commitment via a standardised online agreement.

### #7 Monitor progress and promote results

To measure the success of a deal, the LGD manager describes indicators for each deal individually, discussed with the deal owner. A digitally stored template helps the LGD office to further develop the deal together with the actor, keep track and monitor the process.

**Deals should also be celebrated and visible to the public** - as a benefit for the stakeholder as well as a good example and inspiration for others. In addition to the deals presented on the LGD platform, the iDEAL Environmental Award recognises outstanding deals each year.




## HOW IS THE MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL GREEN DEALS ORGANISED?

### #1 Building the case

In The **“Umeå Climate Roadmap”** is Umeå’s LDG framework and a platform for governance, networking and cross-sectorial learning and cooperation.

**Organizations and businesses participating in Umeå’s Climate roadmap commit to actively engaging in shared learning experiences and dialogue, report annually on the progress of their climate actions, and reduce their emissions in accordance with set goals.**

The roadmap focuses on thematic fields of action such as mobility and transport, energy and built environment, consumption and circular economy, and food and agriculture. Participating organisations must commit to fields of their choice, which constitute thematic groups which organise meetings and workshops. Organisations can commit to take a leading role and help facilitate and define meaningful actions. **Within each action field, reproducible and scalable climate actions can become challenges that new organisations are then invited to join tackling.** 


### #2 Appoint a team to manage LGDs

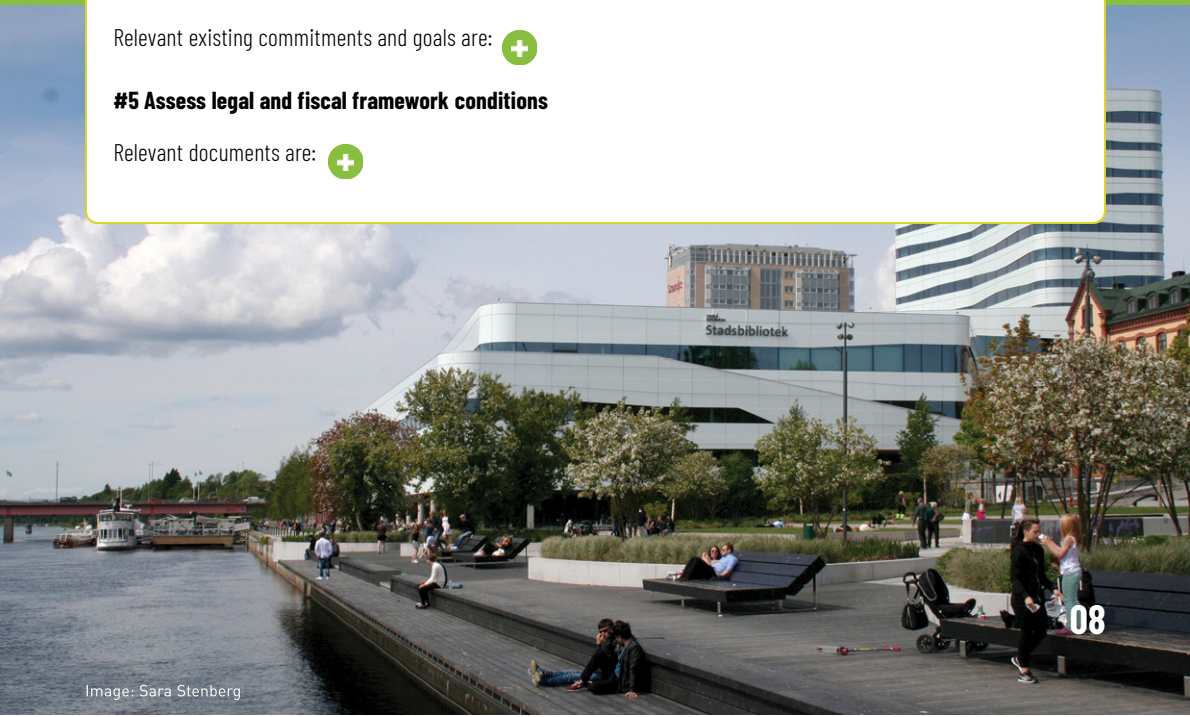
**Local Green Deals are managed by the strategic development department, with support of the Climate Transition Team, responsible for the EU Cities-Mission.** The department coordinates with the departments for business, environment, streets and parks, and economy as well as the Municipal Companies Group (energy, infrastructure, waste and water, parking and housing companies).

### #3 Identify existing commitments, strategies and plans

Relevant existing commitments and goals are: 

### #5 Assess legal and fiscal framework conditions

Relevant documents are: 





## HOW HAVE THE MUNICIPALITY'S STAKEHOLDERS BEEN ACTIVATED?

### #4 Lay the ground for LGD partnerships

The Climate Roadmap was signed in December 2022 by 40 stakeholders from academia, the public and private sector. By joining the LDG-platform, each stakeholder commits to general goals as well as fields of actions and challenges to reduce GHG emissions. To ensure a high impact and sectoral diversity, **the municipality has contacted a selection of stakeholders directly, but mostly, they take the initiative to join themselves.**

Signatories are then invited to be part of strategic lead groups for the respective thematic action field that they signed on to. This strengthens their involvement and impact on the LGD platform and really emphasises the collaborative LDG approach.

## WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES?

### #6 Make the deal

The city started with the establishment of a working group with key stakeholders to co-create a template for the LGD. The municipality's support to implement and monitor climate actions was identified as a key success factor, and therefore, all LGDs are co-developed with the municipality. Ultimately, it is responsible for setting up a platform for collaboration and collection of actions.

The Climate roadmap commitments are signed by the organisations for 2 years. Thereafter a renewal, and possible amendment, of the commitment is needed.

### #7 Monitor progress and promote results

The LDG process as well as the climate roadmap are promoted transparently on the **city's website**. The commitment includes an obligation to report annually.

**Good practice example - the Umeå Restaurant network.** 

Hear more from **Annika Myren**,  
Development  
Strategist,  
City of Umeå





## Project partners



## Contact

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