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## ICLEI Europe News, September 2025

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NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2025



**From Europe's town halls to COP30: how local leadership can empower EU climate ambitions**

Europe's climate ambition is alive and local: from energy, mobility and housing to circularity, local governments and their communities are already acting. Beginning with the Town Hall COPs to New York Climate Week - and on the road to COP30 - we look at how empowering local governments can positively impact the EU's climate ambitions and deliver the Paris Climate Agreement. [READ ON >>](#)



## Cities cut plastic waste while global treaty talks stall

Despite the global plastics treaty negotiations collapsing in Geneva, cities such as Freiburg and Quezon City are forging ahead with bold local measures - from reusable cup systems to reuse mandates. ICLEI urges local and subnational governments to lead the fight against plastic pollution, bridging the void left by stalled international talks. [READ ON >>](#)

## GET INSPIRED

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**Athens reshapes public spaces to reduce perceived temperature**

Athens is reshaping public spaces to fight extreme heat, by planting trees and redesigning squares to create cooler microclimates. Using tools like the Athens Heat Risk Index, the city shows how science, municipal action and citizen engagement can make urban life more resilient to climate change. [READ ON >>](#)



**Member in the spotlight:  
Burgas (Bulgaria)**



**What Hamburg's tiny island can  
teach cities about resilience**

## Jury reveals 2025 Procura+ Awards finalists

The 2025 Procura+ Awards finalists shine across three categories: Sustainable Procurement of the Year, Innovation Procurement of the Year and Global Initiative of the Year - spotlighting ground-breaking public procurement in sustainability, innovation and international impact. [READ ON >>](#)



## EXCHANGE AND LEARNING

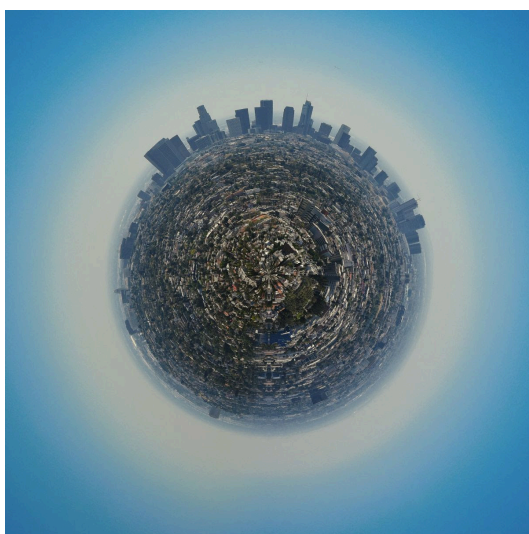
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### Civil society voices urge stronger EU action on food, climate and wellbeing in new geopolitical era

This week, the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (NAT) Section of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) hosted its end-of-mandate debate. Civil society networks united to demand stronger EU policies on sustainable food systems, climate resilience and public wellbeing - urging the Union to act decisively amid shifting geopolitical dynamics. [READ ON >>](#)

## Discover the 55-EU funded projects that will boost your just and inclusive green transition

Six of these fifty-five inspiring projects feature ICLEI Europe, proving how cities and communities are driving progress toward a fairer future. [LEARN MORE >>](#)



## Advance your city's circularity with free European Investment Bank advisory programme

Local governments can access free advisory services from the European Investment Bank (EIB) through the Circular City Advisors and Circula Project Advisors programmes. [LEARN MORE >>](#)

## Explore the largest citizen-generated dataset on sustainable living in Europe – and what it means for your city

Over 500,000 Europeans have shaped the largest citizen-generated dataset on sustainable living. Cities can now tailor policies to real habits, barriers, and opportunities - making sustainable choices easier, more inclusive and impactful for communities driving Europe's green transition. [READ ON >>](#)



## MULTIMEDIA

## ICLEI turns 35!



Born at a United Nations meeting in New York in 1990, ICLEI became one of the first global networks of local and regional governments committed to sustainability. Today, we with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development, in 125+ countries. Here's to the decades ahead! [WATCH HERE >>](#)



## OPPORTUNITIES

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### **Bidding to host the 12th Procura+ conference is now open!**

Host the 2027 edition of Europe's leading event on sustainable, circular, social and innovative procurement: [APPLY BY 31 OCTOBER >>](#)

### **Apply to become European Capital of Democracy 2027**

Gain an enhanced reputation as a centre of innovation, host impactful events and enjoy civic pride, joining previous winners including Barcelona, Vienna and Cascais: [APPLY BY NOVEMBER >>](#)

### **Applications open: Cohesion for Transition (C4T) GROUNDWORK call:**

Apply now for technical assistance to boost local sustainability investments under Cohesion Policy. The Call is open from 1 October - 17 November. [APPLY BY 17 NOVEMBER >>](#)



## EVENTS

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**Marmara Urban Forum:** 1-3 October, Istanbul (Turkey)

**ICLEI Europe Members meet and greet - Brussels office:** 14 October, Brussels (Belgium)

**European Week of Regions and Cities:** Join us at several ICLEI-informed sessions: 13-15 October, Brussels (Belgium)

**Cities and towns securing Europe's future: EU Covenant of Mayors Ceremony 2025:** 16 October, Brussels (Belgium)

**City-Industry-Dialogue Germany: exclusive kick-off event:** 16 October, Brussels (Belgium)

**Cities in Action - Shaping just, resilient & climate neutral urban planning:** 3 November, Barcelona (Spain)

**Housing and Food: Communities and local-governments driving fair sustainability transitions:** 6 November, Brussels (Belgium)

A banner with a dark teal background on the left and a photograph of a modern glass skyscraper on the right. The text is white and yellow. It reads: "WEBINAR series for ICLEI Members recurring monthly throughout 2025", "Next edition: 30 October, 11:00-12:00 CEST", and "Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030: support and lessons from the EU Cities Mission".

**WEBINAR series for ICLEI Members**  
recurring monthly throughout 2025

Next edition: 30 October, 11:00-12:00 CEST

**Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030: support and lessons from the EU Cities Mission**



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