



Subject: Call for Proposals: Call for Pilot Cities Cohort 3 (2024) (NZN-SGA-HE-202401)
Outcome: Stage 2 Assessment and Stage 3 Strategic Selection

Dear Applicant,

After the conclusion of the call for Pilot Cities Cohort 3 (2024) and the subsequent eligibility check (Stage 1), this communication provides the results of the (Stage 2) Assessment of your application, as well as the outcome of Stage 3 Strategic Selection, along with accompanying feedback from Stage 2 Assessment.

Application system ID: a1WP400000WZvV
Your application name: AMBITION
Lead organisation: Angers Loire Métropole

In line with the assessment criteria outlined in the NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme [Call Guidelines](#), we are pleased to inform you that **your application has met the assessment thresholds required to pass Stage 2 Assessment**. Additionally, we are pleased to inform you that, **your application has succeeded in passing the Stage 3 – Strategic Selection process**.

The Selection Committee has selected a portfolio of Pilot Cities for Cohort 3, thereby concluding the call process. This portfolio offers the opportunity for synergies, diverse and shared learning, replication across Mission and other cities, and impact. The portfolio of cities is diverse, consistent with the intent of the Mission (geographic diversity, a range of city sizes and typology) and covers a range of innovation approaches (i.e., combinations of levers and targeted emissions domains).

What does this mean?

Your application has been selected for inclusion in the portfolio. Congratulations! Please refer to Annex 1 of this letter for feedback on your proposal.

All eligible applications were reviewed by two independent, external experts. Experts then participated in a consolidation process to discuss their reviews of each application. The consolidation resulted in agreed scores across all grouped criteria and those criteria with specific threshold requirements.

For further insight into how your proposal was evaluated, please refer to Section 5.3, 'Stage 2 – Assessment,' of the Call Guidelines. To gain a deeper understanding of the Stage 3 strategic selection process, please consult Section 5.4 of the call guidelines, 'Stage 3 – Strategic Selection.'

Communications embargo

We kindly request that you **do not communicate publicly this outcome and your selection until 12.00 CEST, Monday, May 6th**. At that time, NetZeroCities will issue a press release and communicate the results on social media. Attached to this communication is a Pilot Cities Cohort 3 Communications toolkit designed to support you in communicating the outcome once the embargo is lifted.

If you wish to contribute a quote for inclusion in our press release regarding the outcome of Cohort 3, please respond to this email with the quote, along with the name and position of the person providing it before 6th May 11.00 CEST. Please note that quotes received after this deadline or those lacking complete information (name and position) will not be included.

Grant agreement preparation

You are invited to begin the process of grant preparation. Details of the procedure will be communicated shortly.

We anticipate all grant agreements to be finalised and signed in by 1 September 2024 (programme start date) at the latest, following the Pilot Cities Programme Boot Camp and formal grant-related processes. As a reminder, all lead cities awarded, as signatory and recipient of the awarded amount, are required to have an active PIC Number with the European Commission, ahead of the due diligence process. This last will be conducted on the lead city only, as recipient and signatory of the award agreement, and it is up to the lead city to ensure that the obligations and requirements are well acknowledge and compliant with the final co-recipients, prior to the signing of any grant agreement.

What next?

In the coming days you will receive a 'Pilot Cities Programme Welcome' pack containing at least the following information:

- Timeline for cohort 3
- Due diligence and Award Agreement preparation
- 'Boot Camp' introduction
- Twinning Learning Programme
- Communication toolkit
- Contacts

IMPORTANT: Boot Camp

The Boot Camp for Pilot Cities is a tailored, co-design process at the start of the Pilot Cities Programme, with the objective to help selected applicants increase the feasibility, ambition, and impact of their activities (and therefore proposals).

Boot camp online sessions.

- 16 May 2024, afternoon (a link will follow)
- June, tbc

Boot camp in presence session:

- (Optional) Arrivals & Pre-bootcamp 3 social: *Tuesday 21 May, evening*
- Bootcamp Day 1: *Wednesday 22 May (~ 9AM kick-off - all-day workshop)*
- Bootcamp Day 2: *Thursday 23 May (~16:00 closing)*

Details of financial support for attendees (travel, accommodation, subsistence) will be provided in the Pilot Cities Programme Welcome pack.

Complaints & Appeals

In case of official appeal or complaint, kindly refer to the following [complaint and appeal policy document](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to, and working with you in, the NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme!

All the best,
NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme Team



Annex 1: Feedback

Application system ID: a1WP400000WZvV
 Your application name: AMBITION
 Lead organisation: Angers Loire Métropole

Consolidated reviewer scoring and assessment thresholds:

	Mandate to Act (35 pts)	Mandate to act (15 pts)	Understanding the Problem(s) (10 pts)	Orienting to innovative and systemic solutions (10 pts)	Capacity to act (35 pts)	Collaboration and engagement (10 pts)	Cross-cutting considerations (5 pts)	Capacity and capability (10 pts)	Soundness of work plan (10 pts)	Impact (45 pts)	Pilot activities (learning /reflexive) governance (10 pts)	Pilot activities outcomes and direct/indirect impact (10 pts)	Pilot activities scalability, replication and risk management (10 pts)	Total Score
Stage 2 thresholds	21		6	6	21		3			27				
Post-consolidation Final score	28	12.5	8	7.5	28	8.0	3.5	7.5	9	37	7.5	18,50	12.0	94

Consolidated reviewer feedback for grouped criteria:

Mandate to Act
<p>The proposal has the necessary leadership to be applied, which implies the commitment to have the necessary resources. The city demonstrates a high level of political support and endorsement for the programme, continued support for the Covenant of Mayors and the EU Mission 100 climate-neutral and smart cities, confirmed by declaration of the climate emergency by the city Council. The pilot project fits well these strategic documents as well as plans to reduce GHG emission in key emission domains. The city has made reference to existing budgetary arrangements and the interconnected nature of their proposals. While the pilot activities align with the city's broader climate action strategy, additional information on the budgetary chapter and co-financing possibilities would enhance the application.</p>

Systemic intervention measures have been proposed around challenges that are relevant within the transition paths towards climate neutrality. The city demonstrates good understanding of its emission domains, which is also backed up by the relevant data and the project addresses the key GHG emission sources. The applicants identify various barriers to change, particularly in residential and mobility sectors and focus on more in-depth analysis in order to tackle them to be tackled in a collaborative approach.

The pilot activities are planned to exploit the levers of change, however, the mode of interaction between pilot activities and the entry points could be presented in more detail.

Capacity to Act

Multiple and relevant stakeholders were identified. Citizens engagement based on the previous ample experience with citizens' collaboration. Bottom-up co-operation lies at the heart of the project. However, the application would benefit from more detailed account on how to incentivise and mobilise citizens to engage in the activities related to the project.

The city indicates the inclusive approach, which will be taken, addressing gender issues, special needs of people with disabilities. In addition, measures have been proposed to ensure the participation and involvement of interest groups and citizens. Perhaps it would be necessary to anticipate the possible participation gaps that may occur in some groups to try to avoid them.

The content of the proposal is developed in a fairly complete way, especially in the work plan. The application provides details on how activities will be led, which city departments and other actors are going to be involved and which are their roles. The pilot outlines a learning plan addressing each of the stakeholders' group, however, more thorough explanation of the capability and capacity needs of the city administration would benefit the application.

The proposed work plan to implement wide array of pilot activities to analyse the challenge and propose pilot solutions is sound and allocated in terms of timeframe and budget. The budgetary figures are clearly outlined and explained.

Impact

Although the applicants outline the importance of learning and feedback loops based on the ongoing evaluation and engagement of various stakeholders in different project stages, the proposed model of governance could be described in more detail.

The proposal presents methodology for estimating GHG savings in key emission domains, emphasizing consumption of electricity, non-electricity company for thermal, waste management. Calculations of the emission reduction is provided. The proposal has described in a very coherent and complete manner the potential impacts generated, including their quantification and the potential that their scalability would generate.

Number of co-benefits were anticipated with description or attempts to assign reference values, which is commendable in the volatile environment. Selected indicators are relevant and well-balanced. The pilot activities are set to catalyse significant change towards climate neutrality, both directly within the city and

more broadly. By identifying behavioural barriers and levers, the program can tailor initiatives to effectively reach diverse audiences, thereby maximizing impact. The applicant underlines that project's findings and methods will be consolidated and shared widely—regionally and across Europe—through a dedicated toolbox and continuous engagement activities like training and networking. This approach not only supports sustainable practices locally but also fosters a broader adoption of green initiatives, accelerating the transition towards sustainability on a larger scale.

Project scalability is to be achieved thanks to combining individual and collective actions. Toolbox for replication in other cities will be provided. Various types of risks, political, operational, governance, anticipated and mostly adequate mitigation measures proposed.

Final Summary

The work plan is thoroughly outlined with clear roles for city departments and stakeholders, emphasizing a learning framework for all involved parties. Detailed budget figures and a method for estimating GHG savings demonstrate the proposal's depth, but aspects like governance and feedback mechanisms could be elaborated in more detail. The pilot activities are designed to foster substantial changes towards climate neutrality, with the potential for wide-reaching impact through a dedicated toolbox and continuous engagement strategies, ensuring scalability and the adoption of sustainable practices beyond the city's borders.

Recommendations

The proposal would benefit from more detailed explanations of budget co-financing options, citizen engagement strategies and the interaction between the pilot activities and their entry points. The plan for involving diverse stakeholders, including those with special needs and addressing gender issues, is comprehensive, yet, it could be improved by anticipating participation gaps.