NET ZERO CITIES

EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES

This project has received funding from the H2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement n°101036519.

This webinar…

Is for both Mission Cities and non-Mission Cities – the NZC Call for Pilot Cities is an **Open Call** under Horizon 2020 to which cities from the EU and the H2020 Associated Countries can apply.

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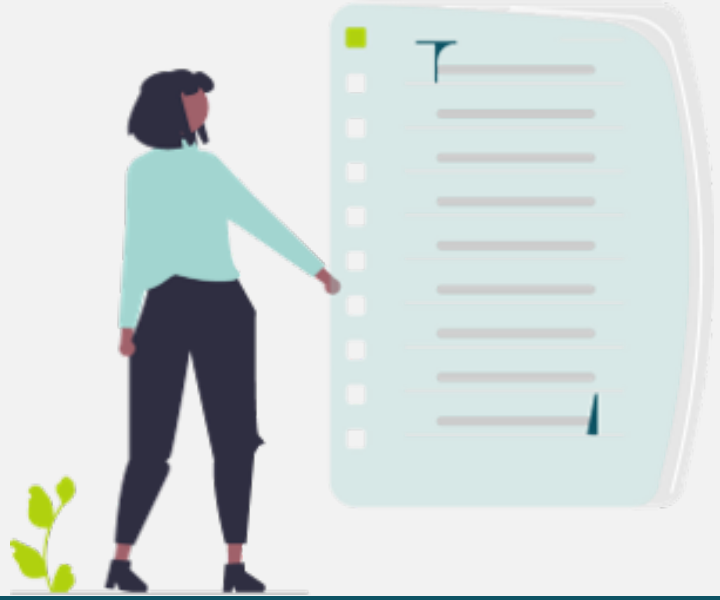
Housekeeping

- **Intro - 5 min**
- **Presentations – 40 min**
- **Q&A – 75 min**

This event is being recorded

Use the Q&A functionality to ask questions

Re/Name yourself and include your city and department



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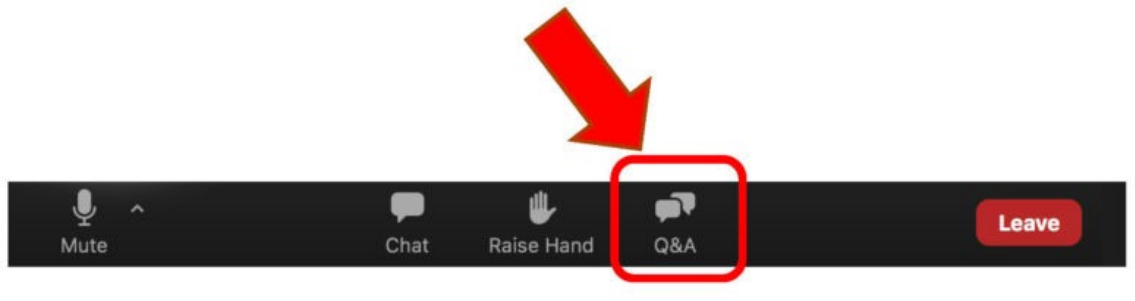
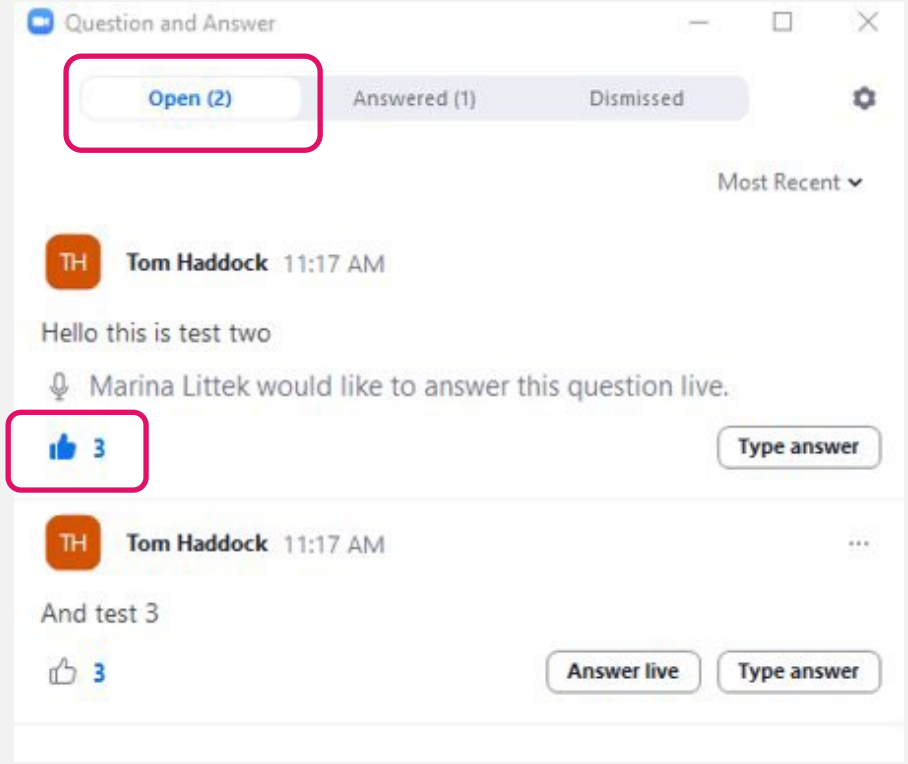
How to use the Q&A

1) Type down your questions



2) Vote up the questions



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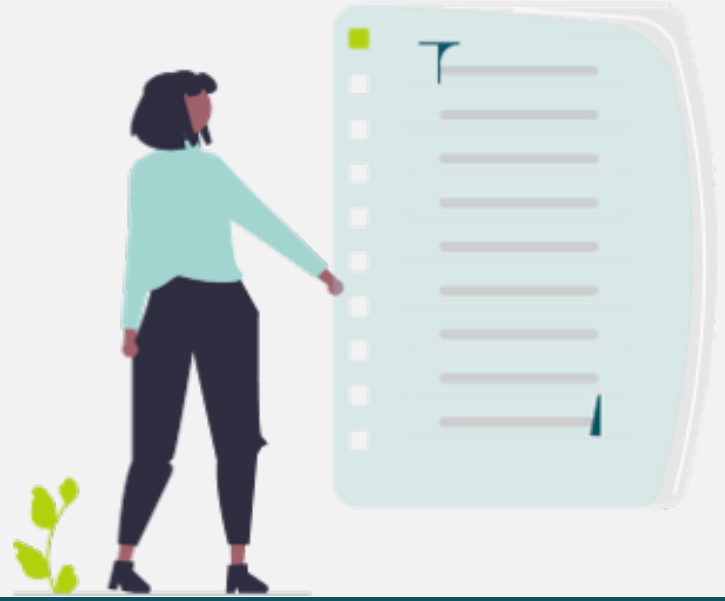
Content

We will cover

- **Background**
  - NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme
  - What we are calling for – Scope of Activities
  - Call Timeline
- **Funding and Budget Requirements**
- **Criteria, Review Mechanism & Selection**
  - Stage 1 – Eligibility
  - Stage 2 – Assessment
  - Stage 3 – Strategic Selection



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Disclaimer

- Detailed information regarding the Pilot Cities Programme and the Call as presented in this webinar is subject to approval and may vary from the official Call Guidelines published at the call opening on the 5th September 2022.
- Make sure you read the most up-to-date Call Guidelines available on our website including all associated documents before starting your application.
- The purpose of this webinar is to facilitate an early ideation process to develop the Pilot Cities proposals and to enable a timely collaboration with relevant city departments and potential partners.

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Speakers

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Designer & Producer, Innovation Grant-making

EIT Climate-KIC

Sigrid Ehrmann

EU Project Delivery Officer

EIT Urban Mobility

Joanna Kiernicka-Allavena

Cities Lead

EIT Climate-KIC

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NetZeroCities
Pilot Cities Programme

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How is this different?

Activities eligible for funding

- Deployment of innovative (new or improved) technology, product, process, service, solution, policy, or governance model at city level, explored in a cross-sectoral and systemic manner.
- Systemic, innovative initiatives that strengthen cities' use of scientific research and ensure translation into policy actions. These innovations shall account for co-benefits (e.g., health promotion) and the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle.
- Activities to support climate-neutrality to establish new knowledge and build capacity and capabilities of city government and associated local actors through training, workshops, etc.
- Activities aiming to build more collaborative communities, to advance new governance models at city level, and to engage citizens (including vulnerable/marginalised groups) and enable them to act on climate change in a systemic and cross-sectoral manner.

Please note: Pilot activities may cover several or all of these descriptions of eligible activities: this list is not intended to limit your proposed activities to any one alone.

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How is this different?

Key opportunities and key challenges

- The application is focused on understanding barriers and understanding your mandate, not (yet) to specify solutions. This gives you freedom to position the pilot to help you address core issues you face in achieving Mission and/or carbon-neutral goals – we are not prescriptive.
- There is space & time to co-create the process and figure out possible solutions in the early stage of the pilots.
- It's focused on shared learning, capacity, and capability building
- No TRL

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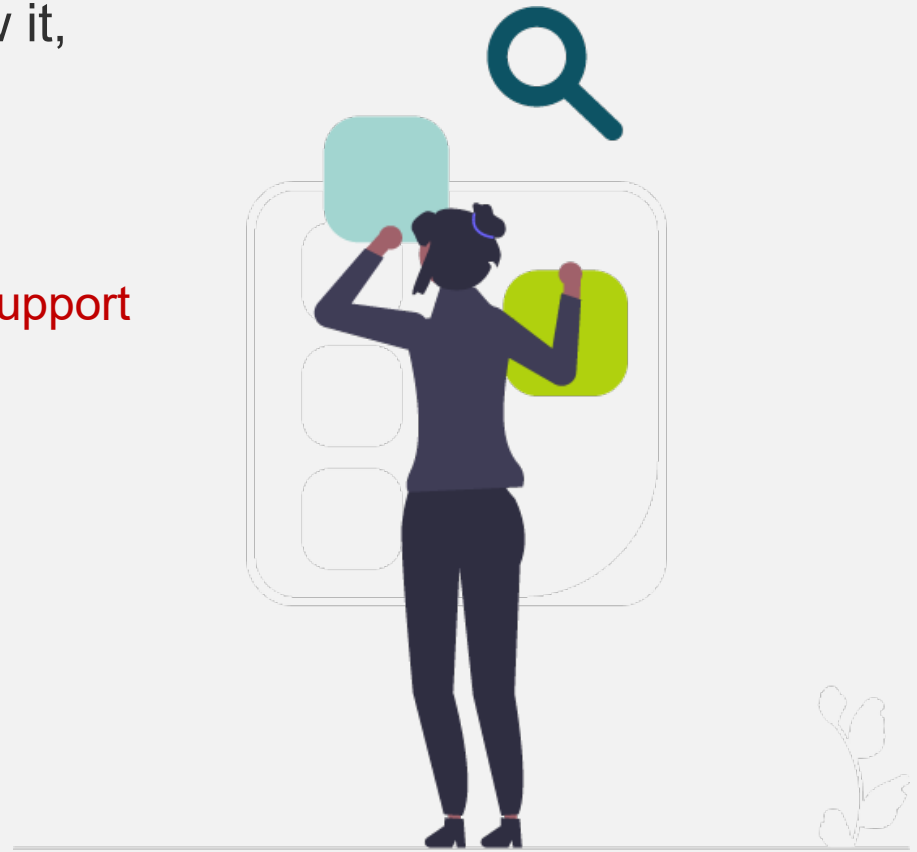
How is this different?

Key components

The PCP is not “just” a funding opportunity as you know it, it’s much more than that:

- Support:
  - ✓ Grants
  - ✓ Cities Advisors [NB: They will not be able to support your application to the PCP]
  - ✓ City Expert Support Facility
  - ✓ Monitoring and Evaluation
  - ✓ Building financial capabilities
- Learning:
  - ✓ Sensemaking
  - ✓ Cross-fertilisation
  - ✓ Peer learning



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Who can apply?

- EU Mission and non-Mission Cities
- EU and Horizon 2020 Associated Country cities
- Consortium partners may include local authorities or city administrations; other local partners (research institutions/universities, SMEs, NGOs/associations, citizen groups or other relevant stakeholders)
- Group of cities (national or trans-national) can apply together, with one city as designated consortium leader
- The logic behind a joint application will have to be explained in the introductory section of the application form, and addressed in the subsequent, relevant sections of the form, particularly the impact section.
- For more information see Eligibility

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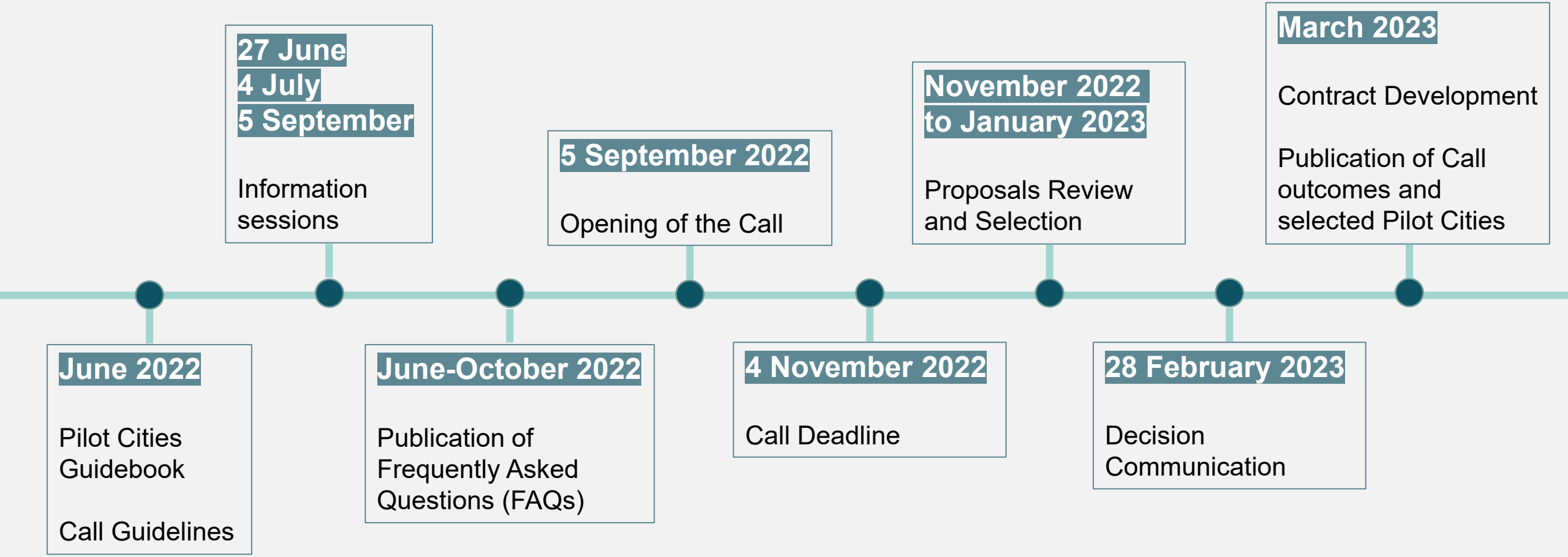
Pilot Cities Call Timeline



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The Call

Funding and Budget Requirements

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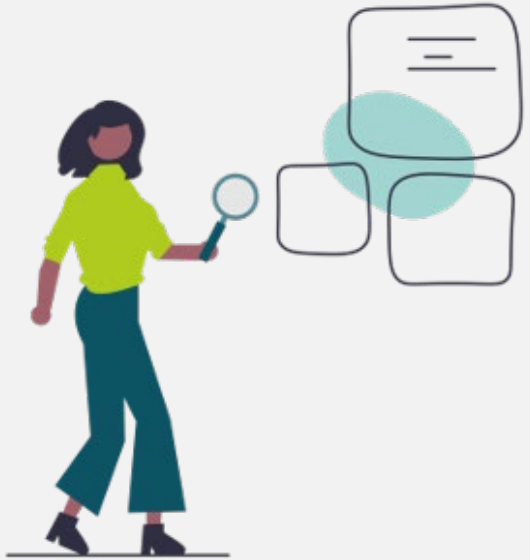
Funding

- **Grant budget available of max. €32M** for **approximately 30 grants**
- The anticipated ratio of awards is as follows:
  - **12 grants of 1.5 million EUR**
  - **10 grants at 1.0 million EUR**
  - **8 grants at 0.5 million EUR**

- A group of cities is allowed to apply together, however the max. funding limit is still €1.5 million
- Aim is to fund Pilot Cities of differing sizes and that reflect different starting points for cities
- Size and number of grants may change depending on the profile of proposals and ratio of grants requested by applicants



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Budget Requirements

Information on eligible cost categories for the NZC Pilot Cities Programme will be published by the opening of the Call on 5 September 2022

Anticipated eligible costs include the following two cost categories:

- **Direct costs:** Costs actually incurred, identifiable and verifiable, recorded in the accounts, etc. personnel, travel and subsistence, equipment, other goods and services (purchase costs); and subcontracting.
- **Indirect costs:** Costs based on a flat rate – 25% – calculated on the direct costs (personnel and purchase costs only; subcontracting costs do not attract overheads), no supporting evidence needed.
- Budgeted costs should align with national and institutional policies and practices.

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Special Budget Features

Considering the specificity of the NZC Pilot Programme, the following activities should be represented by person months/necessary resources in your application:

- **Sensemaking**
- **Learning Activities (Including the Cities Learning Programme)**
- **Future Financing / Financial Sustainability**
- **Communications and Media Activities**
- **Financial Management and Audit (threshold 430,000 EUR)**

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The Call

Criteria, Review Mechanism & Selection

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Overview

Three-stage process

- **Stage 1: Eligibility**

  Assessment of pass/fail requirements related to the conditions of the call. Proposals must pass all eligibility criteria.

- **Stage 2: Assessment of quality**

  Score against individual assessment criteria by at least two independent external reviewers.

  Specific threshold of points for **each** of the criteria groups (and some individual criteria)

- **Stage 3: Strategic selection**

  Selection committee selects appr. 30 Pilot Cities, based on a range of contextual selection criteria

Please note: The above Selection Process is subject to approval and may vary from the official Call Guidelines published on 5 September 2022.

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Stage 1 Eligibility

- ✓ One application per city/district (also in case of multi-city applications)
- ✓ Population size over 50,000 (For cities from countries with less than 5 cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants this population threshold is lowered to 10,000 inhabitants. However, each application should represent at least 50,000 inhabitants)*
- ✓ Cities/districts from EU Member states or approved H2020 Associated Countries
- ✓ Consortium of least two partnering organisations, the city/ city administration within the specified district, and a separate, independent (from the city) legal entity
- ✓ Application led by city administration / district administration
- ✓ Letter of support from mayor or city official mandated to sign on behalf of city/mayor/city council)
- ✓ Maximum allocation per partner is 2/3 of the total grant requested
- ✓ List of stakeholders engaged/to be engaged provided
  - ✓ **Please note: this eligibility criterion is currently awaiting formal confirmation and requisite representation in the amended NZC Grant Agreement H2020-LC-GD-2020 / H2020-LC-GD-2020-2. This will be finalised and confirmed by 5 September 2022 at the very latest.*

Please be mindful that applicants will be required to declare participation in the City Learning Programme ("Twinning" programme) at the point of submission.

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Stage 2 Assessment

Assessment Criteria

- Each criterion is scored, on a scale of **0 to 5**, by at least two independent external experts.
- The score across all categories is totalled to produce a ranked list of proposals. The maximum available score is **115 points**.
- **Minimum threshold score in each of the three areas** to proceed to Stage 3

Criteria grouping	Points available / number of criteria	Threshold required*
Mandate to Act	35pts / 7 criteria	21 (including at least 6 pts score against "Understanding the problem" and at least 3 pts score against "Orienting to solutions")
Capacity to Act	35pts / 7 criteria	21 (including at least 3 pts score against "Cross-cutting considerations")
Impact	45pts / 9 criteria	27

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Scoring Table

Score	Description
0	Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

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Mandate to Act

Criterion	Description
Net-zero carbon emissions ambition (5 points)	• The city is committed to climate neutrality by 2030 and has formalised evidence of this commitment (Mission City selected status, City Council Resolution, Strategy, or equivalent adopted by the City Council and/or) (5 points for demonstrated, formalised 2030 ambition; 2 points for formalised ambition 2031-2050; 0 points for non-formalised ambition beyond 2050)
Mandate to Act (15 points)	• The pilot activities are well connected to the city's overarching vision for climate neutrality and existing activities that will support this. (5 points) • The pilot activities have a high level of political support and endorsement from the city (5 points), with a strong mandate for continued support through political will, city budgeting, and city programming. (5 points)
Understanding the problem(s) (10 points)	• The pilot activities are focussed on relevant and important emissions domain(s) for the city, and the city's understanding of the emission domains' status quo is credible and - where available/applicable - backed up with data. (5 points) • The city has identified systemic barriers and/or opportunities relevant to the concerned emissions domains. (5 points)
Orienting to innovative and systemic solutions (5 points)	• The pilot activities identify multiple, connected levers of/for change relevant to the concerned emissions domain(s) considering and exploiting relevant R&I solutions (and where relevant, inspired by and building upon existing European best practices and available solutions) and the city's overarching carbon neutrality ambition. Relevant entry / intervention points for the pilot activities to exploit the levers of change are identified, and the proposal explains how their interaction will target a system change / transformation, towards climate-neutrality. (5 points)

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Capacity to Act

Criterion	Description
Collaboration and engagement (10 points)	• The pilot activities engage/aims to engage stakeholders that are relevant to these activities and emissions domain(s) concerned and representing a broad spectrum of expertise and experience. Roles of stakeholders are elaborated and an understanding of how the city will collaborate with them to implement pilot activities. (5 points) • Citizens are engaged at relevant stages of the pilot activities, and it is clear how their engagement will contribute to garner collective narrative and understanding of climate actions. Where relevant, the pilot activities describe how citizen engagement will contribute to the design and implementation of the pilot activities. (5 points)
Cross-cutting considerations (5 points)	• The Pilot City proposal demonstrates awareness of how its activities and/or outcomes relate to and cater for cross-cutting themes such as diversity, inclusion, gender dimension, accessibility, and a just transition. The pilot activities outline a practical and proportionate approach to how it will monitor and evaluate how such considerations are treated in the implementation of the pilot activities. (5 points)
Capacity and capability (10 points)	• The proposal details how the pilot activities will be led and coordinated by the city, with representation from relevant city departments, roles, and capabilities, as they relate to the pilot activities and their implementation. (5 points) • The proposal identifies, through a learning assessment plan, how it intends to address capability and capacity needs throughout implementation and retain these beyond the life of the Programme. (5 points)
Soundness of work plan (10 points)	• The proposed work plan to implement the pilot activities, within the allocated timeframe and budget, is sound and coherent with a systemic approach. Where a pilot cannot be fully implemented with the provided grant, a coherent plan is demonstrated for identifying and securing additional resources (by the city or co-financers) to fully implement the pilot within 24 months. (5 points) • The proposed budget is clearly outlined and justified, and reflects value for money. (5 points)

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Impact

Criterion	Description
Pilot activities' (learning / reflexive) governance (10 points)	• The proposed governance model fosters transparency and accountability, actively contributes to the implementation of the pilot activities, and engages a diverse range of relevant participants with appropriate roles. (5 points) • Governance activities support and promote learning and reflection, to drive development and improvement of pilot activities. (5 points)
Pilot activities' direct impact and scalability (20 points)	• Relevant indicators have been identified for the pilot activities for intended outcomes and impact, with appropriate monitoring of indicators (including how to measure). (5 points) • The proposal outlines substantive, direct impact it aims to have on city-level emissions, as a proportion of the city's overall emissions profile. (5 points) • The proposal outlines how the pilot activities could be scaled, and the impact scaling would have (at intervals/over time) upon city-wide carbon emissions. (5 points) • The proposal outlines how learning in and though the pilot activities will be captured and disseminated to support potential transferability and/or replication to other cities across the EU. (5 points)
Pilot activities' indirect impact (15 points)	• A wide range of co-benefits of the pilot activities is identified and the link demonstrated, beyond the scope of direct implementation. (5 points) • The city has a vision for how their pilot activities will unlock the city's pathway to decarbonisation, across all emissions domains. (5 points) • The pilot activities identify appropriate risks related to both the practical implementation of the activities and the potential indirect impacts and outcomes (such as related to co-benefit factors), with adequate proposed mitigation and contingency measures. (5 points)

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Stage 3 Strategic Selection

- Selection Committee composed of two members of the Executive Committee, the Coordinator, and the potential addition of (an) external independent observer(s) (EC staff or external)
- Contextual judgement that considers and prioritises a portfolio of Pilots Cities
- Strategic selection takes consideration of (in order):
  - Geographic diversity and the “EU Dimension”
  - Diversity of city size
  - Diversity of foci on emissions domains/barriers and of intended levers of/for change to be tested
  - Score in quality assessment

In the event of equal scoring in quality assessment and strategic/portfolio value-add, the following parameters will be decisive:

- Priority will be given to those scoring highest in the grouped **Impact** criteria; and
- Where assessment results in applications with equal overall scores and equal scoring on impact, priority will be given to those scoring highest on cross-cutting considerations, including gender dimension.

“EU Dimension” refers to the relevance and synergies of City Pilots for EU policy and directives implementation (such as the EGD, the Climate Pact, the New European Bauhaus and the Horizon Europe climate-neutral cities Mission) and geographic diversity to ensure a proper balance between EU Member States (and H2020 Associated Countries).

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Decision Communication

- EIT Climate-KIC will aim to communicate final outcomes to applicants by 28 February 2023
- Final communication will indicate the grant allocation and state the cost eligibility period.
- A list of selected projects with a description of the action, grant amounts and legal names of selected applicants and their country, date of the award and duration will be published on the NetZeroCities Platform.
- Contract development and signing processes are expected to continue into March 2023

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Q&A

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Thank you!

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