

NET ZERO CITIES



EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



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Call for Proposals: Leveraging Innovation & Financing Transformation (LIFT)

Info session for applicants

Thursday 6 August, 2026



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Overview

- Welcome & introduction
- Overview of the Call (10-15 mins)
- Call details (10-15 mins)
- Q&A (remaining time as required)



This event is being recorded



Use the Q&A functionality to ask questions



Re/Name yourself and include your city and department



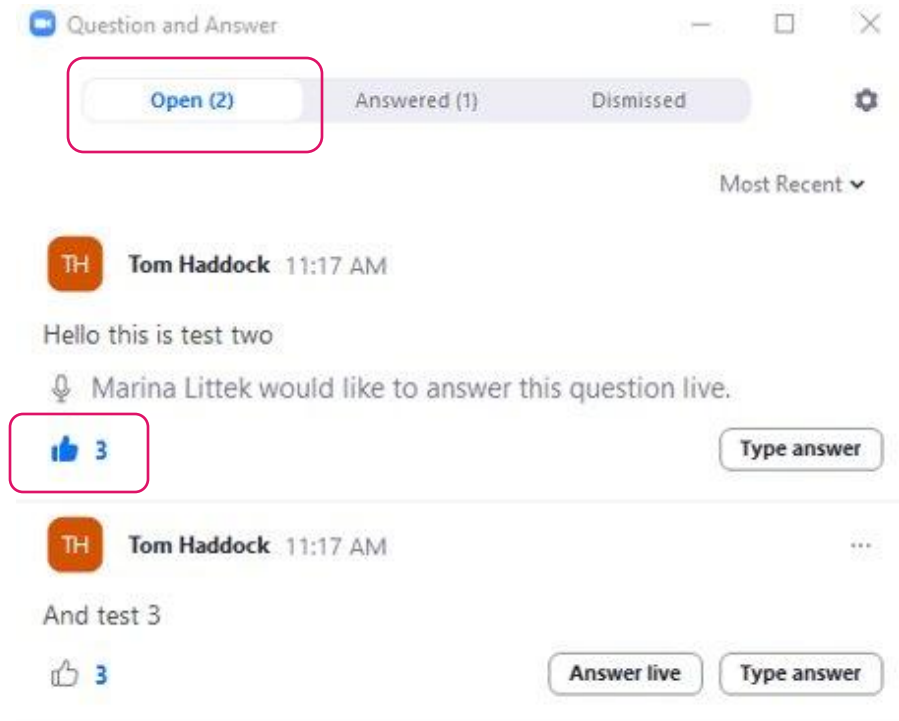


How to use the Q&A

1) Type down your questions



2) Vote up the questions





Key speakers



Thomas Osdoba

NetZeroCities Director

Climate KIC



Jessica Fonti

*NetZeroCities Funded
Innovation programmes*

Climate KIC





Leveraging Innovation & Financing Transformation (LIFT)

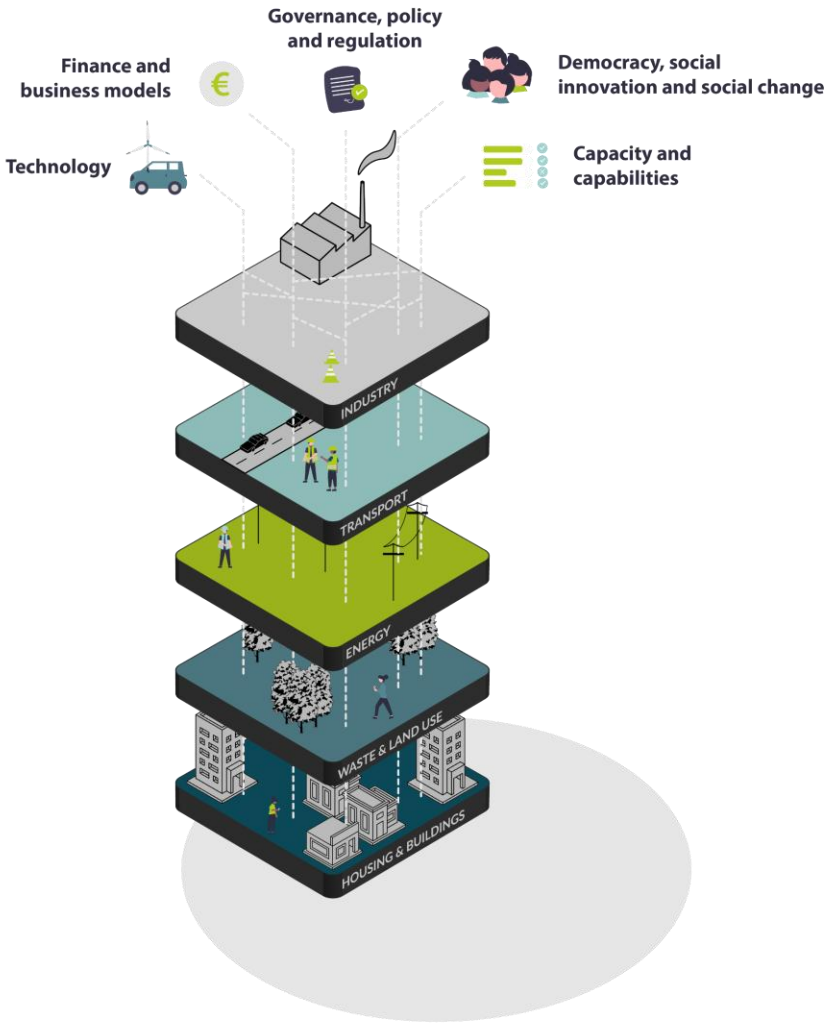
Ambition, Approach and Impact



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Scope and eligible activities



Enabling City Conditions

Developing systemic city-wide transformation and foundational conditions to embed the change and overcome institutional hurdles to climate neutrality.



Innovative Financing

Designing and testing novel blended financing models, capital structures, and investment strategies to mobilise public-private urban resources.



Replicable Pathways

Interventions focused on scalable, practical learning that can be directly applied and replicated by other European Mission cities.





What we're looking for

1. Impact & Scalability

- **High Replicability:** Actionable blueprints that other European cities can immediately adopt.
- **Systemic Transformation:** Clear contribution to the 2030 climate neutrality goals across key emission domains.
- **Measurable Outcomes:** Clear indicators showing a transformative shift in governance or financing.

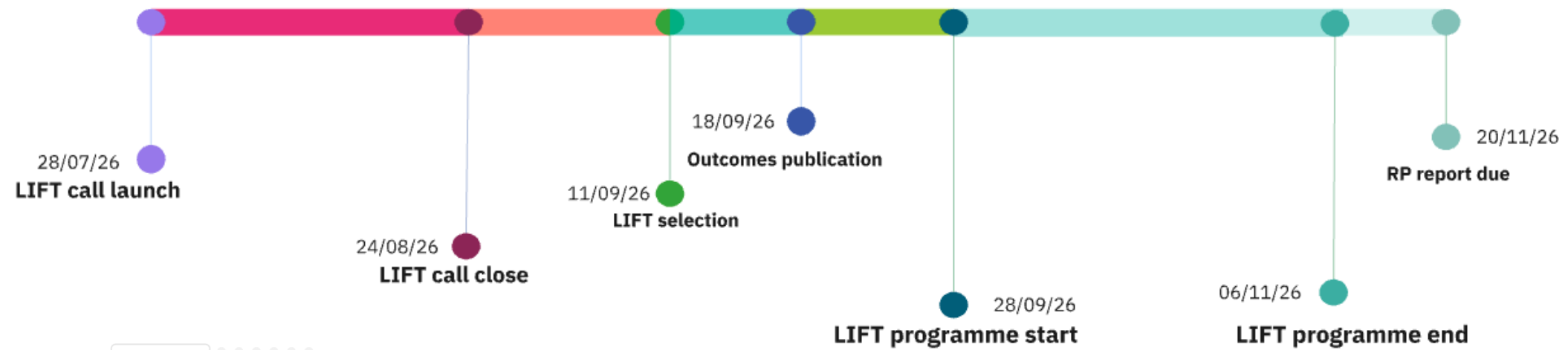
2. Capacity & Mandate to Act

- **Operational Readiness:** Demonstrated technical, financial, and organisational capacity for immediate launch.
- **Strong Consortium Setup:** Coordinated efforts with relevant local stakeholders, cross-sector partners, and entities with clear legal mandates.
- **Quality of Execution:** Robust work packaging, realistic timelines, and cost-efficient allocation of lump sum resources.





Timeline





Lump sum and budget rules



Grant Structure & Limits

- **Total Budget:** EUR 2 Million total allocation.
- **Grant Size:** EUR 500,000 to EUR 1,500,000 per successful proposal.
- **Grant form:** Action grant using lump sum work packages.
- **Detailed budget:** to build the lump sums



Consortium requirements

- **Lead Applicants:** Restricted strictly to designated EU Mission Cities.
- **Consortium:** Minimum of two legal entities required per proposal.
- **Disbursement:** 60% pre-financing upon grant signing, 40% balance post-completion.
- **Subgrant Cap:** Max two-thirds requested allocation per single legal entity.





Lump sum approval



Lump sum mechanism

Budget: Detailed costs provided in the proposal but no need to provide actuals at the end of the programme

Work packages: projects are broken down into pre-defined work packages, each assigned a fixed lump sum value

Content-Based: Payment depends on what was achieved, not how much was spent to do it.



Lump sum reporting

Financial statement: confirming the lump sum contributions indicated in the signed grant award agreement, for the work packages that were completed during the reporting period.

Technical report:

- Procurement & Resource summary
- Implementation and impact deliverable
- MEL reporting





Filling the Impact Framework template

**Section 1 (Direct Outcomes), Section 2 (GHG Impacts),
Section 3 (Co-benefits), Section 4 (Integrated MEL)**





7 Steps towards successful LIFT MEL





GHG/Co-benefit indicators

Quite often, **enabling actions do not have directly measurable or allocable impacts in short duration** on emissions or immediate co-benefits. To tackle this barrier, we have broadened the view on types of impact through a tiered system:

Direct emission reductions

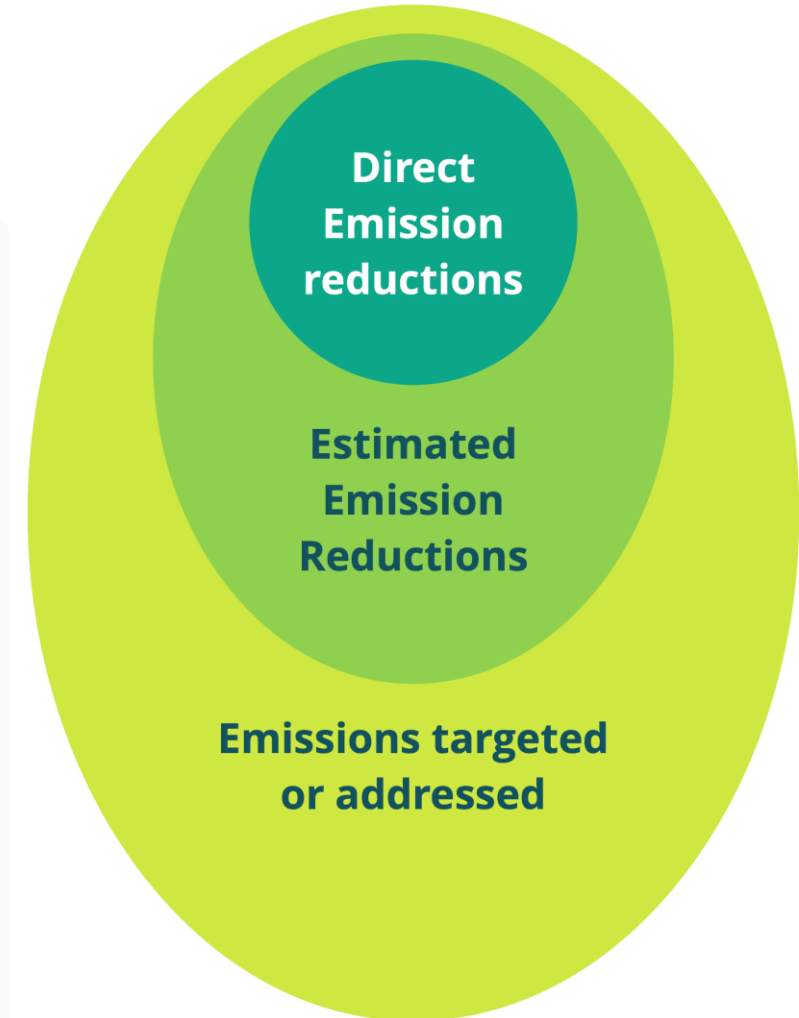
Exact and actual emission reductions achieved through specific ECT/LIFT activities within the project duration—such as retrofit, changes in energy systems, or change in transport modal share.

Estimated GHG emission reduction

Estimated approximate reductions in emissions expected from ECT/LIFT activities which may not happen within the project duration (e.g. setting up a new construction process, or creating a new waste-to-energy plant).

GHG emissions targeted / addressed

For actions focused on enabling conditions (governance structures, capacity building, ecosystem development, citizen engagement, policy/regulation), estimate the approximate emissions the action might target. This is the long-term ambition/potential of the proposal beyond the project duration.





Scoring and evaluation

Guidelines



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Three-stage evaluation process



Stage 1: Eligibility

Assessment of **5 pass/fail criterion** that must be all met:

- 1- Only 1 proposal/city
- 2- Consortium with at least 2 legal entities including the local authority
- 3- Proposal led by city administration of a Mission City
- 4- Letter of support from Mayor
- 5- List of stakeholders



Stage 2: Assessment

Assessment by at least two independent experts; individual criteria are scored:

- **Mandate to Act**
- **Capacity to Act**
- **Impact**

NB: Unlike Pilot Cities Programme, there are **no specific points threshold** for individual or grouped criteria



Stage 3: Award decision

Selection committee selects proposals as a portfolio of enabling transformation interventions, with a maximum value of 2M EUR, based on a range of contextual selection criteria.





Scores



Mandate to Act 25 pts

- **Articulating the challenge(s) 15 pts**
 - Enabling implementation challenge(s) 5 pts
 - Strategic connectivity to city vision 5 pts
 - Relevance & enabling innovation to other EU cities 5 pts
- **Mandate to act 5 pts**
 - Political support
- **Consortium & stakeholders 5 pts**



Capacity to Act 45 pts

- **Capacity and capability 25 pts**
 - Capability and capacity building 5 pts
 - Implementation readiness 5 pts
 - Operational readiness 5 pts
 - Delivery at pace 5 pts
 - Effective mobilisation 5 pts
- **Soundness of work plan 10 pts**
 - Sound work plan and budget
 - Risk management
- **Cross-cutting considerations 5 pts**
- **Citizen engagement and participation 5 pts**



Impact 30 pts

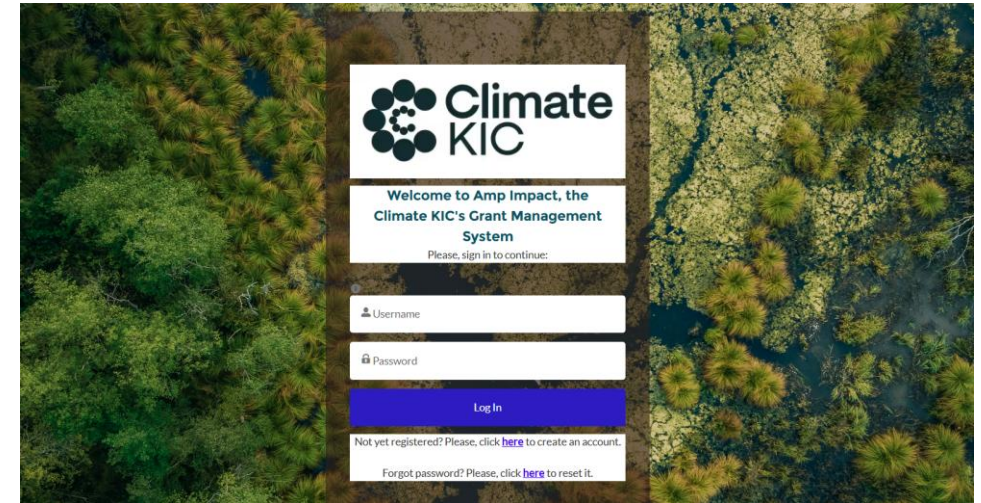
- **Impact 15 pts**
 - Direct outcomes of interventions 5 pts
 - Approach to integrated MEL 5 pts
 - Long-term targeted impacts 5 pts
- **Innovativeness & learning 5 pts**
- **Enabling innovation replication & transferability 10 pts**
 - Replication (speed) 5 pts
 - Transferability (scale) 5 pts





Grant management system:

- Log-in Page: [LINK](#)
- User Registration Instructions: [LINK](#)
- Grant Management System Instructions (general): [LINK](#)
- Proposal creation without a collaborator– [click here](#)
- Proposal creation with a collaborator– [click here](#)
- Technical Support Email: ampimpact@climate-kic.org





Call documentation

Guidelines, supporting templates, pro formas (for submission)



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Navigate to the 'LIFT' programme [web page](#)



A short-term implementation-focused programme for **accelerated impact**.

Leveraging Innovation and Financing Transformation Call

The Leveraging Innovation and Financing for Transformation (LIFT) call is now open with applications closing on 24 August 2026.

LIFT provides €2 million in funding for Mission cities to expand the Enabling City Transformation portfolio and address key barriers to climate neutrality through more innovative financing, governance, and systems-change interventions that can be scaled and replicated across Europe.

This is a short-term, implementation-focused programme that will run from 28 September to 6 November 2026. It represents a strategic reinvestment of unused resources from Pilot cities cohort 2 and 3 and Enabling City Transformation programmes to Mission cities that have technical and operational readiness for immediate implementation, allowing accelerated impact and potential for replicability.



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Call Guidelines

LIFT Call Guidelines – provides key information on the aim, scope, and approach of the **call**, budget requirements, and the evaluation and decision-making process

CALL DOCUMENTS

Call Guidelines

- ✓ LIFT Call Guidelines

Application Templates

- ✓ Call Application Template
- ✓ Budget Template
- ✓ Impact Framework Template
- ✓ Indicator Set
- ✓ Letter of Support Template
- ✓ Risk Template
- ✓ Work Plan Template



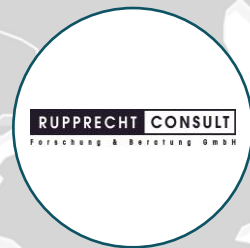
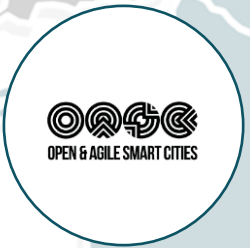
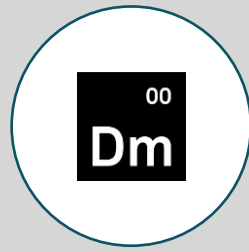


Q&A

The Call & System



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