



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 5th edition, 2024/2025

Application Form

Implemented by the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat as a Flagship Initiative of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award is financially supported by the Government of Turkey through a voluntary contribution to the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget.

City Introduction and Context

Local authority/City:

Country:

Date of submission:

Competent authority:
Contact person (name, position, email,
telephone, postal address):

The application should be signed by the
mayor (or legal representative) or be
accompanied with a mayoral declaration
(letter).

Overview of the application: motivation and vision for the future (max. 500 words)



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

Describe the main environmental problems faced by the city due to geographical, social and economic factors, and what actions have been taken to face them (max. 500 words).

Progress achieved in the city during the last 5-10 years in relation to environmental protection and sustainable development (please describe briefly the key achievements, max 500 words).

Please report on a success story/ies (best practice/s) that your city would like to highlight (max. 500 words)

Has an environmental award or other related distinction been received in the past (max. 200 words)?

In relation to the following thematic fields, please specify which responsibilities (management, regulations, plans, etc.) fall within the competence of the municipality and which ones into the competence of other governmental levels or public authorities/agencies:

Climate change (max 500 characters):

Ecosystems protection (max 500 characters):

Energy (max 500 characters):

Water (max 500 characters):

Solid waste (max 500 characters):

Mobility (max 500 characters):

Please complete the following table:

Indicator	Value	Year of data
Population (Inhabitants)		



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

Total area (Km ²)		
Distance from the coast (Km)		
Population density (Inhabitant/km ²)		
Coastline length (m)		
GDP (€/Capita)		



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

A. Nature and Biodiversity Protection

A.1 – Climate Change Mitigation

A.2 – Ecosystems protection

A.1 – Climate Change Mitigation

A.1.A – Approach to the issue

Question	Yes	No
Does the municipality have a climate change mitigation plan or strategy?		
Has the municipality implemented a monitoring system for greenhouse gas emissions to keep data regularly updated?		

If the city has a climate change mitigation action plan or strategy:

Question	Yes	No
Does the action plan/strategy include short and long-term mitigation objectives?		
Does the action plan/strategy include measures with timing to reach the emissions' reduction targets?		
Is the action plan/strategy linked with other policy fields, strategies, plans or projects, such as urban planning, energy, mobility, air quality?		

A.1.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1,000 characters

Provide information on the present situation concerning the level of greenhouse gases emissions. Mention the targets adopted by the municipality (e.g., carbon neutral municipality by 2030) and the actions in progress to reach them. Mention action plans and/or strategies in place and their level of implementation. Describe good practices and front runner projects to reduce the city's greenhouse gases emissions. Mention any relevant constraint resulting from historical, geographical, social and economic factors that is influencing this macro-indicator.

Please complete the following table providing the most recent data

Code	Criterion	Indicator	Value	Unit of measure	Year of data
A.1.1	Greenhouse gas emissions	Total amount of greenhouse gases in tonnes (equivalent carbon dioxide units) generated over a calendar year divided by the current city population		Tons CO ₂ eq/inhabitant	

A.1.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1,000 characters

Provide information on the measures implemented over the last five to ten years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the resources allocated to implement these measures. Comment on which measures have been most effective and how their impacts have been monitored. In particular, refer to:

- *mitigation strategies and/or action plans adopted and/or implemented*
- *climate protection measures implemented in key areas such as energy efficiency in buildings, mobility, and waste management*
- *policy instruments and initiatives adopted to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., funding programs and financing schemes, regulations, requirements in building codes, partnerships, awareness raising campaigns)*

Describe how the municipality collaborated with governmental bodies, service providers, enterprises and citizens.

A.1.D – Plans for the next period

Max. . 1,000 characters

Provide information about the future short and long-term mitigation objectives and proposed approaches to reach them. Describe planned actions and measures, including timescales and necessary resources. Indicate to what extent plans are supported by formal commitments, available budget, staff allocations, monitoring and performance evaluation schemes. Refer to any long-term strategy employed and how it is integrated with other environmental areas, in particular with biodiversity and climate adaptation.

A.1.E – Key references

Max. . 1,000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.

A2 – Ecosystems protection

A.2.A – Approach to the issue

Question	Yes	No
Does the municipality have access to background knowledge about the status of biodiversity in the city? (e.g., maps/studies on endangered species, protected and non-protected areas, habitats)		
Has the municipality defined objectives and actions to improve and increase its green infrastructures?		

Did the municipality recognize the concept of "ecosystem services", acknowledging the importance of urban ecosystems (such as parks, water bodies) for delivering societal benefits?		
Did the municipality organise awareness raising initiatives towards citizens and visitors about nature and biodiversity in the city?		
Does the municipality have a specific nature and biodiversity policy, strategy or action plan, with measurable objectives?		

If the municipality has a specific nature and biodiversity policy, strategy or action plan:

Question	Yes	No
Does the plan identify roles and responsibilities for city stakeholders?		
Is a specific budget set aside for the protection of nature and biodiversity?		
Does the plan include the concept of 'ecological corridors' or connected green areas for wildlife across the city?		
Does the plan include medium- or long- term targets for nature and biodiversity in the city?		
Did the city implement a system to monitor the progress of the plan and the results achieved?		

A.2.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information about how nature and biodiversity is protected and managed in the city.

Make reference to:

- *current strategies, plans and projects for the management of ecological networks, green areas, and endangered species*
- *monitoring programs to verify the status of nature and biodiversity in the city*
- *how the city's involves residents, visitors, and institutions in actions for nature*
- *examples of good practices and front runner projects implemented.*

Please complete the following table providing the most recent data (if available):

Code	Criterion	Indicator	Value	Unit of measure	Year of data
A.2.1	Connectivity measures for natural areas	Share of natural areas that are connected		%	

A.2.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max1000 characters

Provide information about the measures implemented by the municipality to protect and improve nature and biodiversity over the last five to ten years and the results achieved. Indicate changes in the extent of protected sites and ecological areas. Provide information about conservation actions to manage and restore sites and habitats, and redress species, including any measures introduced to control invasive/non-indigenous species. Describe communication and educational activities to promote awareness of nature and biodiversity among the citizens.

A3.D – Plans for the next period

Max1000 characters

Provide information about the city's short and long-term targets for nature and biodiversity and the proposed actions to reach them. Specify planned measures and indicate how these are supported by strategic and policy commitments, budget allocations, resource allocations. Describe participatory approaches, and monitoring and performance evaluation schemes.

A3.E – Key references

Max. 1000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

B. Built Environment

B.1 – Sustainable land use and green areas

B.2 – Air pollution

B.3 – Water

B1 - Sustainable land use and green areas

B1.A – Approach to the issue

Question	Yes	No
Does the municipality have a spatial planning policy specifically aimed at preserving and adapting open spaces and green areas to improve quality of life of citizens?		
Does the municipality have a detailed map of land-use types for the city?		
Does the municipality monitor changes of total area of green spaces in the city over time?		
Is the municipality promoting green areas?		
Has the municipality a specific policy aimed at restricting or minimizing urban sprawl and at optimizing population density?		
Does the municipality measure and monitor levels of urban sprawl in the city and the surrounding area?		
Does the municipality guarantee a free access of public to shores/beaches?		
Does the municipality promote and make accessible urban agricultural lands?		

B1.B – Present situation

Max.1000 characters

Provide information on how the use of land is managed and monitored in the city.

Make reference to:

- *strategies, plans and projects for the sustainable use of land*
- *examples of good practices and front runner projects implemented*
- *the level of accessibility to green urban areas and shores/beaches for all citizens*
- *availability and accessibility of urban agricultural lands for the production of local food*

Please complete the following table providing the most recent data (if available):

Code	Criterion	Indicator	Value	Unit of measure	Year of data
B.1.1	Population density	Population density in built-up areas (city area minus green and blue)		Inhabitants per km ²	
B.1.2	Green urban areas	Proportion of all vegetated areas within the city boundaries in relation to the total area		%	
B.1.3	Green areas in relation to the city population	Total area of green in the city divided by city's total population		m ² /inhabitant	
B.1.4	Green zones density	Density of green spaces within the area		%	
B.1.5	Shores/beaches	Proportion of shores/beaches in the city area that are freely accessible by public		%	
B.1.6	Urban agricultural	Total urban agricultural area used for		ha/1,000	

	land	food production located within city boundaries divided by one 1000th of the city's total population		inhabitants	
--	------	---	--	-------------	--

B1.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information on the measures undertaken to increase green infrastructure.

Make reference to:

- *the measures undertaken to increase the quantity and quality of green infrastructures*
- *the investments or policies for promoting the use of green infrastructures (e.g., incentives, tax reductions, building permits, funding schemes for green roofs).*
- *planning of green urban areas through the participation of the public*
- *the availability and free accessibility of green areas and beaches/shores by citizens and visitors.*

B1.D – Plans for the next period

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information about the city's short and long-term targets for sustainable land use. Specify planned measures and indicate how these are supported by strategic and policy commitments, budget allocations, resource allocations. Describe the use of participatory approaches. Provide information about monitoring and performance evaluation schemes that will be put in place to measure the progresses achieved.

B1.E – Key references

Max. 1000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.

B.2 - Air Pollution

B.2.A – Approach of the city

Question	Yes	No
Does the municipality have an active monitoring system in place to measure local air quality across the city?		
Does the municipality have an action plan to improve air quality?		

If the city has an action plan to improve air quality:

Question	Yes	No
Does the plan include an analysis of the main sources of air pollution?		
Does the plan include short- and long-term objectives for air quality?		
Does the plan include measures to achieve the air quality objectives?		
Does the plan foresee a budget and a timeframe to realize the measures?		

B.2.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1,000 characters

Provide information on the present situation in relation to ambient air quality. Describe the relative contribution of the different local sources (e.g., road traffic, heat generation, etc.) to air pollution. Provide information on air quality planning and measures, and how synergies have been achieved between objectives and measures on air quality and those in other areas (e.g., mobility, energy). Report any relevant disadvantages or constraints resulting from historical, geographical and/or socio-economic factors which may have influenced this indicator.

Please complete the following table providing the most recent data (if available):

Code	Criterion	Indicator	Value	Unit of measure	Year of data
B.2.1	Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration	Annual average fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration		µg/m ³ year	
B.2.2	Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) monitoring	Number of PM2.5 monitoring stations		Number	
B.2.3	Particulate matter (PM10) concentration	Annual average particulate matter (PM10) concentration		µg/m ³	
B.2.4	Particulate matter (PM10) monitoring	Number of PM10 monitoring stations		Number	

B3.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1,000 characters

Provide information on the plans and measures implemented over the last five to ten years for the improvement of ambient air quality and specify which measures have been most effective.

Make reference to:

- *existence and implementation status of an air quality management plan*
- *measures taken to improve air quality*
- *level of availability and accessibility of information on air quality levels (e.g., web pages, information screens) to increase public awareness and promote behavioural change*

B3.D – Plans for the next period

Max. 1,000 characters

Provide information about the city's short and long-term targets concerning the quality of ambient air quality. Describe planned measures and indicate how these are supported by strategic and policy commitments, budget allocations, resource allocations. Provide information about monitoring and performance evaluation schemes that will be put in place to measure the progresses achieved.

B3.E – Key references

Max. 1,000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.

B.3 - Water

B5.A – Approach of the city

Question	Yes	No
Does the municipality have access to data on city's water consumption?		
Does the municipality have an action plan for water management?		
Does the municipality have an action plan for wastewater management?		

If the municipality has implemented an action plan for water management:

Question	Yes	No
Does the plan include short- and long-term objectives concerning the water supply?		
Does the plan contain specific actions to reduce water consumption?		
Does the plan foresee specific actions for water saving?		
Are there actions implemented or foreseen to reduce losses in water networks?		
Are there actions to raise the awareness about water saving among citizens?		

If the municipality has a wastewater management plan or strategy (the plan could be set up for a city, a metropolitan area or include several municipalities):

Question	Yes	No
Does the plan set short- and long-term objectives on wastewater management?		
Are there actions implemented to improve the quality of surface waters in the municipality area?		
Does the plan foresee measures to prevent ground water pollution?		
Did the municipality organize actions to promote citizen participation?		
Is the municipality reusing wastewater?		

B.3.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information on water and wastewater management, Specify the current general features of wastewater treatment. In particular:

- *describe plans currently in place to reduce water consumption and to improve water status*
- *provide data about the quality of drinking water*
- *describe the situation concerning water loss in pipelines, leakage management and network rehabilitation*
- *describe the measure for storm water management and use of natural water retention measures and/or sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS)*
- *describe water recycling initiatives (rainwater use and grey water or wastewater reuse) in the city.*

Describe any relevant disadvantages or constraints resulting from historical, geographical and/or socio-economic factors which may have influenced this indicator.

Please complete the following table providing the most recent data (if available):

Code	Criterion	Indicator	Value	Unit of measure	Year of data
B.3.1	Availability of a public municipal water supply	Number of people within the city who are served by a municipal water supply divided by the city population		Number	
B.3.2	Availability of wastewater treatment systems	Number of people within the city who are served by wastewater collection divided by the city population		Number	
B.3.3	Efficiency in water use	Volume of water supplied minus the volume of utilized water divided by the total volume of water supplied		%	
B.3.4	Total water consumption	Total amount of the city's water consumption in liters per day divided by the total city population		Liters /day / inhabitant	
B.3.5	Sufficiency of water provision	Volume of the water supplied divided by the overall water demand		%	
B.3.6	Water treatment	Total volume of wastewater collected for at least secondary treatment in centralized wastewater treatment facilities divided by the total volume of wastewater produced in the area		Liters /day / inhabitant	
B.3.7	Household sanitation	Percentage of households with access to basic sanitation facilities		%	

B.3.C - Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information on the measures implemented over the last five to ten years for improving water management and wastewater management. Describe the baseline situation ten years ago and comment on which measures have been most effective and what progress has been achieved, such as:

- *re-opening of watercourses*
- *support for the installation of rainwater and/or greywater recovering systems*
- *new regulations (e.g., requirements in building codes, green roofing)*
- *provision of subsidies*
- *incentives for the installation of water saving devices*

B.3.D - Plans for the next period

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information on the short and long-term objectives for water management and wastewater treatment, the proposed approach for their achievement, and illustrate to what extent plans are supported by commitments, budget allocations, and monitoring and performance evaluation schemes.

B.3.E – Key references

Max. 1000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.

C. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

C1 – Green Economy and Eco-Innovation

C.1.A – Approach of the city

Question	Yes	No
Has the municipality implemented “circular economy” approaches?		
Does the municipality have an action plan aimed at supporting eco-innovation, the circular economy and/or green growth?		
Has the municipality taken initiatives to encourage the use of environmentally friendly technologies?		
Has the municipality defined and carried out projects or actions to increase green skills or jobs?		
Has the municipality dedicated budgets for future plans and strategies to promote and encourage eco-innovation and green jobs?		
Does the municipality promote access of local producers to (local) markets?		
Has the municipality taken initiatives to promote selling arts and handcrafts?		

C.1.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1,000 characters

Provide information on the present situation in relation to green economy and eco-innovation. Make reference to:

- *innovations that address material/resource use and reduce environmental impacts, e.g., measures to improve resource efficiency*
- *status of digital transformation, such as which processes are turned into electronic, e-services, paperless office management, etc.*
- *awareness raising and training to encourage the development and up-take of environmentally friendly technologies*
- *efforts to promote green skills or green jobs*
- *efforts to promote Green Public Procurement (GPP) and other green policy measures*
- *social innovation/stakeholder participation, including for example community programs, that shows entrepreneurship and new ways of organization that promote sustainable development and protect the local environment*
- *efforts to promote local producers and local markets, including selling arts and handcrafts*

Please complete the following table providing the most recent data (if available):

Code	Criterion	Indicator	Value	Unit of measure	Year of data
C.1.1	New jobs in green and circular economy	Number of jobs created in green and circular economy activities		Number	
C.1.2	Digital processes	Share of digital processes operated by the municipality (as a percentage of all processes operated by the municipality)		%	
C.1.3	Green public procurement	Percentage of all procurement contracts that include green criteria (GPP)		%	

C.1.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information on the measures implemented over the last five to ten years concerning green economy and eco-innovation. Please comment on which measures have been most effective.

Make reference to:

- *initiatives aimed at increasing green economy and eco-innovation, e.g., Green Public Procurement (GPP)*
- *actions the city took to develop the urban tissue/infrastructures in an innovative/sustainable way, including actions inspired by circular economy*
- *actions to promote new green jobs*
- *initiatives to promote local markets and local producers*

C.1.D – Plans for the next period

Max. 1000 characters

Describe the future short- and long-term objectives to promote green economy and eco-innovation and the proposed approach (strategy) for their achievement. Specify to what extent plans are supported by commitments, budget allocations, and monitoring and performance evaluation schemes. Make reference to:

- *plans to establish eco-innovation clusters, strategies and initiatives to attract public-private partnerships (PPP) for further developing eco-innovation and sustainable employment*
- *future targets of how eco-innovations can be applied by/in the city (e.g., digital transformation, use of sustainable products, low-emission technologies, share of hybrid or electric cars in total stock of the public fleet)*
- *participation in green business networks or partnerships, and co-operation with knowledge institutions (e.g., universities)*
- *programs to reach the population promoting green economy thinking, e.g., targeting the change of citizens' consumption patterns.*

C.1.E – Key references

Max. 1000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

D. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

D1 – Environmental governance

D2 – Planning, monitoring and evaluation

D3 – Communication and outreach

D1 – Environmental Governance

D1.A – Approach of the city

Question	Yes	No
Does the municipality have an integrated environmental policy framework, vision, management plan or local strategy on sustainable development?		
Does the municipality have a dedicated budget for the implementation of its environmental vision?		
Is the municipality's environmental vision reflected in different strategies and action plans?		
Have city departments (other than the environmental department) adopted the municipality's environmental/sustainability vision or elements of it?		
Did the municipality set a team or an administrative sector which is devoted to the integration of environmental or sustainability strategies?		
Does the municipality setting up co-creation processes and involving citizens or external stakeholders?		
Does the municipality use an environmental management system to track progress, monitor and set targets?		
Does the municipality cooperate with other authorities and organizations on environmental topics?		

D1.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information on the environmental vision for the city and specify if it is part of a broader commitment to urban sustainability (e.g., local strategy for sustainable development). Describe the short- and long-term objectives of the integrated environmental vision. Specify how this vision is reflected in different sectorial strategies and plans. Describe the most important strategies, plans and measures and indicate their relationship to the overall vision.

D1.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1000 characters

Describe the measures implemented over the last five to ten years concerning the environmental governance. Please comment on which measures have been most effective.

D1.D – Plans for the next period



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

Max. 1000 characters

Describe the future short- and long-term objectives to further improve the environmental governance of the city. Specify to what extent plans are supported by commitments, budget allocations, and monitoring and performance evaluation schemes.

D1.E – Key references

Max 1000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.

D2 – Planning and management

D2.A – Approach of the city

Question	Yes	No
Is the municipality developing and implementing overall strategies supported by sectorial plans to improve the sustainability of the city? (e.g., air pollution, mobility, waste management, water management, adaptation to climate change, etc.)		
Are the sectorial plans (e.g., air pollution, mobility, waste management, water management, adaptation to climate change etc.) integrated and well-coordinated?		
Does the municipality allow the participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes (empowered society) also through the setup of partnerships? (e.g., with NGOs/the civil society)		
Has the city implemented a monitoring system to measure the progress achieved? (e.g., Key Performance Indicators, dashboard of sustainability, urban observatory of the environment and sustainable development).		
Has the municipality implemented an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) practice?		

D2.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1000 characters

Provide information on the level of coordination and synergy among the different sectorial plans in the city (e.g., urban, adaptation to climate change, mobility, air, waste, water) in relation to the municipality's overall strategies and sustainability targets. Describe the participatory processes adopted to allow the participation of stakeholders in planning activities and decision-making processes. Illustrate, if present, the monitoring system used by the city to follow the results achieved through the implementation of strategies and plans. Describe the ICZM practices implemented by the city.

D2.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1.000 characters

Describe the evolution of the planning processes as instruments to improve the sustainability of the city. Describe how the participation of stakeholders in planning activities and decision-making has been improved. Illustrate the evolution of the monitoring system used to follow the progress towards more sustainability. Illustrate what are the sets of indicators used. Please comment on which measures have been most effective.



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

D2.D – Plans for the next period

Max. 1000 characters

Describe the future short- and long-term objectives to further improve the planning, management and monitoring/evaluation processes. Specify to what extent plans are supported by commitments, budget allocations, and monitoring and performance evaluation schemes.

D2.E – Key references

Max. 1000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.

D3 – Communication and outreach

D3.A – Approach of the city

Question	Yes	No
Does the municipality organize communication activities/campaigns to raise the public awareness on sustainability issues?		
Is the city organizing or supporting education and training programs targeted to adults and children on sustainability, including Education on Sustainable Development (ESD)?		
Is the city actively involved in cooperation projects on sustainability?		
Did the city join transnational organizations and networks dealing with sustainable development?		

D3.B – Description of the present situation

Max. 1000 characters

Describe the actual activities implemented by the city to raise the awareness of citizens about sustainability issues. In particular refer to:

- *communication activities (e.g., advertising, festivals, expositions, local fora, etc.)*
- *training and educational activities (e.g., campaigns in schools, education for sustainable development).*

Describe actual cooperation programs with other public authorities, universities, etc. to raise the capacity to act of the municipality on sustainable development.

D3.C – Measures/progress achieved in the last 5-10 years

Max. 1000 characters

Describe the measures undertaken in the last 5-10 years to:

- *improve the awareness of citizens with regards to sustainable issues*
- *organize training and educational initiatives, including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)*
- *foster the transnational cooperation.*

D3.D – Plans for the next period

Max. 1000 characters

Describe the future short and long-term objectives to further improve the communication approach/policy of the city. Emphasize to what extent plans are supported by commitments, budget allocations, and monitoring and performance evaluation schemes.



Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025

D3.E – Key references

Max. 1000 characters

List supporting documentation, adding links where possible.