

Smart Sustainable Districts – Call for New Districts in the Nordics

About us

Climate-KIC is the EU's largest public private partnership addressing climate change through innovation to build a zero carbon economy.

We run programmes for students, start-ups and innovators across Europe via centres in major cities. Our approach starts with improving the way people live in cities. Our focus on industry creates the products required for a better living environment, and we look to optimise land use to produce the food people need.

Climate-KIC is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

What is the Smart Sustainable Districts programme?

Smart Sustainable Districts (SSD) brings together leaders and practitioners from some of the highest profile and aspirational district developments in Europe to boost resource efficiency reduce energy consumption and address climate change challenges.

Cities account for 60%-80% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With two thirds of the world's population projected to be living in urban areas by 2050, cities are experiencing increasing pressures on their infrastructure, services and resources.

Our experience of supporting and stimulating urban innovation has revealed that working at a district scale offers some of the best opportunities for delivering significant and replicable benefits in urban areas world-wide. The work includes identifying solutions to urban sustainability and climate change challenges, contributing towards the European Union's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050.

We believe that a holistic approach has the potential to simultaneously reduce costs, improve quality of life and make an important contribution to developing smart, sustainable districts of the future.

Central to the programme's vision is a commitment to 'factor four' impacts, or four-fold increases in resource productivity brought about by doubling wealth gains while halving resource use.

Please visit the SSD website to see examples of smart sustainable solutions described in the words of the districts themselves:
<http://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/smart-sustainable-districts/>

Scope for the Smart Sustainable Districts Call

The purpose of this call is to expand the SSD programme to additional districts and partners thus increasing our impact and strengthening the position of Europe's cities as leading the climate change adaptation and mitigation agenda.

The call is looking for ambitious city districts to join a pan-European programme of systemic innovation across infrastructure such as transport, utilities, and the built environment. Together with world-class partners we are addressing district-wide energy efficiency, resource consumption, and optimising the benefits of new products, technologies and services.

This call is targeting districts in the Nordic region.

Selection criteria:

For the purpose of the SSD programme a district is defined as an area of the city that has the following characteristics:

- Already has a planned or live multi-partner programme for either new build or refurbishment projects, involving infrastructure as well as buildings
- Contains a significant number of buildings, preferably a mix of residential and commercial
- Some form of cohesive governance structure or ownership representation, preferably one that has a long term vested interest and the autonomy to make decisions on behalf of the district
- Active support from this governance body on involvement in the SSD programme, and proposed co-funding support as set out below

Selections will be made on the basis of districts looking most likely to achieve Factor 4¹ integrated solutions within the next two years. Each application will need to explain how the project delivers climate benefit and impact in the following areas:

- Integration
- Factor 4 thinking
- Replicability
- Scalability
- Measurement via KPIs
- Solution orientation toward commercialisation
- Committed governance

Submission format:

The call for project is a simple standard two stage approach:

- 1) Engage with the SSD Steering Committee to vet potential project ideas, via contact: peter@climate-kic-nordic.org
- 2) For those where a green light is given, city partners are requested to submit a full proposal that includes: (max. 6 pages):

- A general description/overview of the district, the partners, and the governance structure
- Confirmation of which partner will lead the consortium and details of personnel
- A summary of the district characteristics, including commentary on population, climate, amenities and economy
- An outline of the current ambitions of the district in relation to climate change and innovation
- An indication of where the SSD programme might create added value, for example including potential integrated systems/Factor 4 opportunities, and the suitability of the anticipated partners to lead these interventions
- Evidence of governance commitment and potential co-funding opportunities
- A timeline for the project duration such as description of activities in the different phases and the partner roles and responsibilities

¹ Factor 4, (L. Hunter Lovins, Amory Lovins, Ernst von Weizsäcker, 1998) refers to a four-fold increases in resource productivity brought about by doubling wealth gains while halving resource use.

We are looking for several new districts in the Nordic region. Funding is available depending on the scale and ambition of your submission. One District is sought for an in-depth 'deep dive' assessment, for which up to Euro 400K of partner support will be available.

Timeline and process

- A. Call open: 28 April 2016.
- B. Proposal deadline: 10 June 2016.
- C. Two week period by SSD Steering Committee and engagement round to request modification (if any) and exchanges
- D. Final decision: early July 2016.

For questions related to this call, please contact Nordic Business Developer Peter Vangsbo: peter@climate-kic-nordic.org

Please submit proposal (max 6 pages) to peter@climate-kic-nordic.org

Benefits

Join us to demonstrate the climate benefit, the commercial value, and market opportunities of innovative solutions in your city.

You will benefit from:

- Sharing deep knowledge from existing city projects running across Europe on integrating data, green infrastructure, and systemic connections across energy, waste, and transport systems
- Gaining valuable insights and lessons learned from a close network of experienced practitioners with first-hand knowledge of what works and what to avoid
- Identifying shared priorities and projects that can be supported with resources and funding from Climate-KIC and others
- Receiving comprehensive support to define project goals, convene partners, and funding actions on the ground
- Selected districts will benefit from our proven 'deep dive' methodology for delivering and managing district systems in a collective approach
- Access to our international communications and marketing channels for communication and promotion of your achievements internationally

Several European cities are currently benefitting from this programme such as Berlin, Gothenburg, London, Paris, Rotterdam, and Utrecht.

We invite you to submit an application to join our network.

FAQ

Accessibility and Education - The Project should be designed in a transparent way to accommodate accessibility and enhance education

Climate Friendly Pull - How can the project create forces that pull investors into the project.

Deep Dive - Deep dive assessment provides an assessment of the robustness of project concept

Excellence in Design - Smart Sustainable District should be designed to last long and still create inspiration

Related links

Links:

<https://eu-smartcities.eu/content/sustainable-districts-and-built-environment>

Climate KIC SSD projects:

<http://ssd-utrecht.nl/about-smart-sustainable-districts/the-ssd-project/>

<http://docks-saintouen.fr/>

<http://ssd-moabit.org/>

<http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/transforming-east-london/sustainability/smart-sustainable-districts>