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Foundations' actions for the EU Mission Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities.

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Introduction

The EU Mission “Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities” is one of five missions under the Horizon Europe program, designed to address one of Europe’s most pressing challenges: achieving climate neutrality in cities by 2030. A total of 112 cities – known as Mission Cities – have been selected to participate, including 100 cities from all 27 EU member states and 12 from Horizon Europe-associated countries. These cities are taking the lead in showcasing how urban areas can make a transformation towards climate neutrality. To formalize their commitment, participating cities are required to sign the Climate City Contract (hereinafter: CCC), a strategic roadmap outlining their actions and investments. Being a living document, the CCC is built around three key components: the Commitment, the Action Plan and the Investment Plan. Once submitted, the EU Commission assesses the quality of each CCC and may award the city the **EU Mission Label** - a certification that helps unlock synergies with other EU funding opportunities and other financial resources.

As of today, 92 cities have earned the EU Mission Label, as part of the EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. This recognition has been awarded in several phases:



Against this background, this booklet provides a snapshot of the current involvement of European foundations within the EU Mission Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. The quantitative and qualitative analysis of the 91 CCCs available at the [Net zero Cities portal](#) – the city of Marseille has not yet published its CCC – reveals that a total of **95 foundations** are referenced across **43 cities in 15 EU member states and 3 non-EU states (Turkey, Norway, UK)**. Of the two sections here presented: **the first** explores the wide range of actions and commitment of the foundations involved in the CCCs, while **the second** broadens the investigative scope to identify and analyze additional philanthropic actors whose initiatives, though not formally acknowledged in the contracts, significantly advance urban climate neutrality objectives.



Philanthropy's engagement through the Climate City Contracts

The analysis of Table 1 highlights the diverse and evolving role of foundations in supporting European cities on their path to climate neutrality. Foundations engage with Climate City Contracts (CCCs) at varying levels, both as formal signatories and as external partners, contributing expertise, financial resources, and project implementation.

TABLE 1: FOUNDATIONS CITED IN CLIMATE CITY CONTRACTS AND THEIR ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES RELEVANT FOR EU MISSION GOALS

All foundations listed are signatory foundations, except for those marked with a green background. Capital letters in brackets in column 3 refer to the greenhouse gas emission domains that the action is relevant for, also known as Field of Action within the NetZeroCities *Impact Pathway framework* and include: **(A)** energy systems, **(B)** mobility and transport, **(C)** waste and circular economy, **(D)** built infrastructure and **(E)** nature-based solutions. In addition, the **(T)** transversal tag was used when the action is relevant for multiple domains.

| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Gabrovo, Bulgaria | Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation | The Foundation is a non-signatory party. However, it is mentioned in the CCC for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its significant level of influence, capacity building, community engagement, nature-based climate solutions (T) • And for its high level of interest in educational campaigns and awareness, data sharing, ability to organize collaborative events, leverage national and EU funding, support biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation, sustainable land use, track ecosystem health and climate impact, promote eco-tourism and practices (Gabrovo's CCC, p. 80) (E) | Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) was established in 1997 as the successor of the established in 1994 Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme (BSBCP). BBF has been working to conserve biodiversity in Bulgaria and neighbouring countries supports the participation of citizens and local communities in managing natural resources and protected areas and raises public awareness on the issues of biodiversity and nature protection (source) . |
| Aarhus, Denmark | Climate Forest Foundation | The Climate Forest Foundation is partnering with local companies and city authorities to help establish up to 1,000 hectares of municipal forests within Water and Nature Parks. Their role focuses on designing and managing climate-resilient, mixed-species forests that enhance biodiversity and store carbon long-term. By applying near-natural forest management and advanced carbon measurement techniques, the foundation supports the city's climate neutrality and ecological restoration goals. (E) | |
| Sønderborg, Denmark | ProjectZero Foundation | The foundation is committed to developing an Energy/Masterplan up to 2029 (source pp. 19, 22) . (A) | ProjectZero is a public-private partnership established in 2007 with the goal of making Sønderborg Municipality's energy system carbon-neutral by 2029. |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|--------------------|--|--|---|
| Tampere, Finland | Tampereen Vuokratalosäätiö (VTS) | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | Tampereen Vuokratalosäätiö is part of the Tampere Region Climate Partnership, a partnership that encourages organisations to focus on areas such as energy efficiency, sustainable procurement and staff engagement in environmental initiatives (source). |
| | Tammenlehväsäätiö Foundation | Involved in these planned actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting sustainable travel to work [...]. Enabling the charging of electric cars. Introducing the electric car in work-related travel (source p. 129). (B) Investigation of the potential to introduce a solar power system to serve as the energy source for Tammenlehvakeskus (source p. 141). (A) Minimising the use of disposable tableware and disposable packaging. Replacing the disposable packaging and tableware in use with biodegradable packaging (source p. 144). (C) The compilation and introduction of environmental induction material. The launch of the Ekotsemppari activity and training of Ekotsemppari experts. Annual sustainable development campaigns [...] (source p. 151). (C) | Tammenlehväsäätiö sr was established in 1983. As a non-profit organization, the foundation acquires, equips, and operates residential, care, and rehabilitation facilities primarily for war invalids and other veterans of Finland's wars. Once this need diminishes, its services are extended to other elderly and disabled individuals. The foundation's mission is to support and promote the health, functional capacity, and overall well-being of these target groups (source). |
| Turku, Finland | TYS (Turku Student Village Foundation) | Involved in Carbon-Neutral Energy System: intervention aimed to produce heat, cooling, steam and electricity in a carbon-neutral manner in Turku region by 2029 (source p. 32). (A) | TYS is part of the Climate Changemakers Campaign which aims to highlight the day-to-day climate work done in companies and organisations in the Turku region (source). |
| | Forum Marinum Säätiö | Forum Marinum Säätiö (source) is a Finnish organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing maritime heritage, with a strong focus on the history of Finnish seafaring. In addition to signing the climate pledge, Forum Marinum Säätiö is implementing environmental initiatives to contribute to this goal. The organization is adopting the Ekokompassi environmental management system, which provides a clear process and tools for organizations to enhance their environmental efforts. This system aims to promote and verify the environmental work undertaken by Forum Marinum Säätiö. | |
| Dunquerque, France | Coca-Cola Foundation | The Coca-Cola Foundation is a financial partner but not involved in any actions within the scope of the CCC. | The Coca-Cola Foundation is the philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company, established in 1984. It supports community programs worldwide, focusing on water stewardship, environmental sustainability, education, and women's empowerment. The foundation aims to make a lasting impact through strategic grants and partnerships (source). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| Dunkerque, France | Fondation du Dunkerquois Solidaire (Solidarity Foundation of Dunkirk) | <p>As part of Dunkirk's Climate City Contract, the foundation ensures the climate transition is also socially inclusive. Through programs like "Dunkerquois Solidaire pour l'Emploi" and "Dunkerquois Solidaire pour la Jeunesse," it supports access to employment for the long-term unemployed and helps young people through early childhood support, school retention, and pathways to first jobs. Over 3,000 young people and dozens of job seekers are set to benefit.</p> <p>By combining social innovation with territorial solidarity, the foundation makes sure no one is left behind in the path to climate neutrality (CCC's p. 202-203).</p> <p>The signing process for the Climate City Contract (CCC) is currently underway. It should be noted that <u>all stakeholders who have proposed actions will be signatories</u>.</p> | The Fondation du Dunkerquois Solidaire was created in 2016 by local businesses, associations, and the Greater Dunkirk community to promote social and human development in the region. Its mission is to fight exclusion, poverty, and inequality by encouraging cooperation between public and private actors (source). |
| | Fondation Good Planet | <p>In Dunkirk's CCC, the Good Planet Foundation is mentioned as part of the climate neutrality portfolio design, as part of the field of action culture/citizens, "Making popular education a new frame of reference for action: a reinvented palace of the universe and sciences". Specifically, it is appointed as a partner in the realization of a new immersive artistic film on the resilience and transformation of the territory in a renovated planetarium.</p> <p>The signing process for the Climate City Contract (CCC) is currently underway. It should be noted that <u>all stakeholders who have proposed actions will be signatories</u>.</p> | Established in 2005 by environmental photographer and filmmaker Yann Arthus-Bertrand, the foundation has been officially recognized as a public-interest foundation since 2009. GoodPlanet combines public awareness with hands-on action to foster environmental and social sustainability. It supports grassroots projects, provides educational resources and workshops, and helps individuals and institutions assess and reduce their carbon footprint through tools like Action Carbone Solidaire (source). |
| Grenoble Alpes, France | Fondation Université Grenoble Alpes | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC. | The Fondation Université Grenoble Alpes (FUGA), established in September 2014, is a partnership foundation hosted by the University Grenoble Alpes and backed by stakeholders like Grenoble-Alpes Métropole, Air Liquide, and bioMérieux designfactory. Its mission is to support outstanding scientific research, student initiatives, and educational innovation – particularly in areas critical to societal and ecological transitions, including climate, environment, and sustainability (source). |
| | Solar Impulse Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC. | The Solar Impulse Foundation is a Swiss nonprofit focused on identifying and promoting clean technologies that are both ecologically impactful and economically viable. Through its flagship World Alliance for Efficient Solutions, launched officially in November 2017, the Foundation connects innovators, experts, governments, and investors to accelerate uptake of climate solutions in cities – positioning urban areas as key platforms for achieving carbon neutrality (source). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|---------------------|---|---|--|
| Paris, France | Institut Pasteur | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | Institut Pasteur is a non-profit foundation that help prevent and treat diseases, mainly those of infectious origin, through research, teaching, and public health initiatives. |
| Dresden, Germany | Forest Foundation | The Foundation is partner of Elbe Flugzeugwerke GmbH which is a signatory of Dresden's CC, but it is not directly a signatory party. Since 2021, the Foundation has supported Elbe Flugzeugwerke GmbH in planting around 2,500 young trees in Saxon Forests (source Dresden CC, p.62). (E) | |
| Heidelberg, Germany | Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (DKFZ) | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory (source p. 18). | DKFZ is a leading research institution dedicated to cancer research. |
| | Pfälzer Katholische Kirchenschaffnei | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory (source p. 18). | The Pfälzer Katholische Kirchenschaffnei is a Catholic church managing ecclesiastical affairs and properties. |
| | The Stiftung Mercator | In 2023, the foundation helped initiate a cooperation in Heidelberg at the district level to analyse the effects of the Rational Use of Energy funding programme on low-income households. The Framework is the ICLEI-project INCLUDE, which is financed by the Mercator Foundation. For example, the programme identified opportunities for improvement in the promotion of solar balcony modules for low-income households (source p. 84). (D) | The Stiftung Mercator is a German foundation committed to fostering climate action and supporting the transition to a climate-neutral society. Its strategy focuses on making Germany greenhouse gas-neutral by 2050 and assisting the European Union in assuming a global leadership role in climate action. |
| Athens, Greece | Norman Foster Foundation | The Norman Foster Foundation, through its Norman Foster Institute (NFI), is actively contributing to Athens' efforts toward carbon neutrality as part of the city's participation in the EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. In 2023, NFI scholars visited Athens to collaborate with city officials, including the Chief Heat Officer and Head of the Resilience & Sustainability Department, to develop localized strategies for sustainable urban development. Their research was subsequently integrated into Athens' 2030 Climate City Contract. (T) | |
| Kozani, Greece | Life Terra Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC. | The Life Terra Foundation is a European environmental initiative dedicated to combating climate change by facilitating large-scale tree planting and fostering environmental education. Its primary goal is to plant 500 million trees across Europe, engaging citizens, businesses and governments in reforestation efforts to sequester carbon and restore ecosystems. The Life Terra Foundation is indirectly involved in Kozani CCC through the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), a member of Life Terra and of the Project Management Office responsible for developing and carrying out the CCC (source). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| Budapest, Hungary | Green Budapest Foundation | The Green Budapest Foundation is one of the key financial instruments established to support the city's sustainability efforts. Its role, along with the Environmental Protection Fund, is to secure and allocate funding for environmental and climate-related initiatives across Budapest. While the Departments for Climate and Environmental Affairs and Landscape Architecture are responsible for planning, coordination, and oversight, the Green Budapest Foundation plays a supportive but crucial role in enabling these projects to be implemented by providing the necessary financial backing. In essence, it helps ensure that the city's environmental goals, as outlined in its Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, can move from policy to practice through sustained investment (source, Budapest CC, p. 86). (T) | |
| | MiskolcÉrt Community Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | In 2023, the Foundation announced the winners of its first " <i>Belvárosi Alap</i> " (<i>City Center Fund</i>) competition (source), which included projects aimed at revitalising urban spaces and promoting sustainable practices. The initiative aligns with the broader effort to support climate-neutral objectives. |
| | Compass for Sustainability Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Compass for Sustainability Foundation aims to be a driver of socio-economic transformation necessary for sustainable development in Hungary (source). |
| | Miskolc Women Have a Chance Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | |
| Dublin, Ireland | Next Generation Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | |
| | Science Foundation Ireland | As part of the activities under the CCC, the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) is funding Terrain AI, a multidisciplinary research initiative that leverages artificial intelligence and advanced computational tools to better understand the impact of human activity on land use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Through this collaboration with Microsoft, SFI supports the development of innovative data workflows, machine learning models, and standardized methodologies for measuring and monitoring carbon stocks across diverse environments such as farms, forests, peatlands, and urban areas. The project aims to produce scalable, cloud-based solutions that inform evidence-based climate policies, both in Ireland and globally (source Dublin Climate City contract, p. 165). (T) | Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) is the Irish government's primary agency for funding and promoting scientific and engineering research. It supports research in areas that have strategic economic and societal importance to Ireland, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) (source). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Dublin, Ireland | Irish Heart | <p>Irish Heart is identified as a key stakeholder under the “health” category, alongside other organisations responsible for delivering healthcare services, training medical professionals, and implementing health-related initiatives across Dublin. These bodies, including Irish Heart, play a dual role in the city’s climate neutrality ambitions: first, by addressing the environmental impact of their own facilities and operations, and second, by actively contributing to public engagement on climate-related health solutions.</p> <p>Irish Heart, in particular, focuses on cardiovascular health, prevention, and public education – areas closely tied to the social determinants of health such as air quality, access to green spaces, and active transport. Its work supports the shift toward preventative healthcare, helping to reduce long-term healthcare demand while also improving overall wellbeing in urban populations. In doing so, Irish Heart contributes not only to better health outcomes but also to more sustainable, climate-resilient urban environments.</p> <p>This approach aligns with broader efforts outlined in the HSE Climate Action Strategy 2023-2050, which acknowledges the health risks posed by climate change and outlines a roadmap for reducing operational emissions through building retrofits, low-emission transport, and greener models of care. Through their initiatives and community engagement, organisations like Irish Heart exemplify how health-focused bodies are recognising and acting on the interdependencies between healthy people and healthy environments (source Dublin Climate City contract, p. 81-82). (T)</p> | The Irish Heart Foundation supports and campaigns for people who have been affected by heart and strokes throughout their lives. |
| | Fondazione Casa Amica | Planned action for CCC: Educational actions regarding energy consumption, aimed at families living in houses with rent control and managed by the foundation (source p. 57). (A) | Fondazione Casa Amica is a participatory foundation based in the province of Bergamo, active for over twenty years in the field of social housing. It promotes access to affordable housing as a public service integrated into the local welfare system, working in partnership with public institutions, non-profits, trade unions, and volunteers (source). |
| Bergamo, Italy | Fondazione della Comunità Bergamasca | Planned action for CCC: “Aver Cura della Casa Comune” project: awareness initiatives and calls for tenders dedicated to protecting the environment (source p. 58). (E) | Fondazione della Comunità Bergamasca is one of the community foundations established in Bergamo in 2000, inspired by the Italian network launched by Fondazione Cariplo. Based in the province of Bergamo, its mission is to enhance quality of life locally by channelling philanthropic gifts into social welfare, culture, and environmental initiatives (source). |
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| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| Bologna, Italy | Fondazione Golinelli | Planned actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle replacement for company transport (source p. 277) (A) • Young Digital Entrepreneurship Camp project, a free training course oriented towards entrepreneurship in the “digital” innovation sector (source p. 278) (T) • Purchase of green energy to cover consumption of the entire Golinelli factory (source p. 278) (T) • Climate Change Teacher Academy project, Partner in Erasmus+ project aimed at educating teachers on climate change (source p. 278) (T) • Big Data & Climate Change School Program Project, free student workshops on big data and climate change, fostering future skills (source p. 278) (T) | Fondazione Golinelli is a private philanthropic organization based in Bologna, Italy, founded in 1988 by entrepreneur and philanthropist Marino Golinelli. The foundation is dedicated to fostering education, scientific culture, and the ethical and intellectual development of young people. It focuses on promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural growth, aiming to equip the younger generations with the tools needed to understand and navigate the future (source). |
| | Fondazione per l’Innovazione Urbana, Rusconi, Villa Ghigi | Dedicated to promoting urban innovation, citizen engagement, and environmental sustainability in Bologna. As part of the city’s CCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages the Citizens’ Assembly for Climate, facilitating public participation in shaping policies related to energy transition, sustainable mobility, and climate adaptation. Through its expertise in governance and participatory processes, it provides tools and analysis to enhance stakeholder engagement in climate initiatives. (T) • Contributes to urban greening and environmental education, particularly through Villa Ghigi Park, where it promotes biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions to support Bologna’s sustainability goals. (E) • Organised “Bologna Innovation Ecosystem” event, a social innovation annual event aimed to activate an innovation ecosystem for climate neutrality. (T) • Develops and manages Bologna Missione Clima (formerly chiara.eco project), aimed at disseminating the city’s climate-neutrality mission and empowering citizens to collaborate. (T) | The foundation, established in 2024, operates through various initiatives, including the management of green spaces like Villa Ghigi Park and Prati di Mugnano, and the development of educational programs focused on environmental sustainability. It also fosters civic participation and collaborative urban planning to enhance community engagement and urban resilience (source). |
| | Fondazione Carisbo | Fondazione Carisbo is a philanthropic organisation that has provided financial support for the Big Data & Climate Change School Program, a CCC initiative in collaboration with Fondazione Golinelli aimed at organising workshops on big data and climate change for students. (T) | |
| Firenze, Italy | Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze | Provides financial support to the Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità. | Fondazione CR Firenze is involved in various projects aimed at urban regeneration and sustainability, including supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities (CER). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Milan, Italy | Fondazione Cariplo | <p>Offers technical and financial support on a variety of projects listed in the CCC, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territori Virtuosi, aimed at improving energy efficiency of public buildings (source p. 109) (A) • ClimaMi, a climate monitoring initiative aimed at informing local policies and actions (source p. 110) (A) • Metropoli Agricole, an annual conference focused on agriculture and the climate crisis (source p. 113) (E) <p>Further actions within the CCC are: Supporting the “Click Bergamo” project through technical assistance in the drafting of the Climate Transition Strategy (STC) and in designing new renewable energy communities (CER); economic contribution for the implementation of certain actions within the STC, and CER management (source p. 88). (A)</p> | <p>Based in Milan, Fondazione Cariplo supports projects in the fields of art and culture, scientific research, social welfare, and environmental sustainability in the Italian region of Lombardia and the province Verbano-Cusio-Ossola. The Foundation aims to foster innovation and social cohesion through strategic grantmaking and partnerships (also see “Milan” for a detailed description of its main activities linked to sustainability and carbon neutrality goals).</p> <p>Cariplo’s thematic branch “Area Ambiente” is involved in multiple interventions beyond those mentioned in the CCC, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ForestaMi</i>: an urban forestry project aimed at planting 3 million trees by 2030 (source) • <i>Sinergie in Azione</i>: initiative aimed at strengthening sustainability and impact of environmental non-profits in local territories (source) • Supporting other cities (e.g. Bergamo), joining Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission |
| | FAI - Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano | FAI supports CCC by providing feedback on climate policies, mobilising citizens, collecting data and aiding decision-making. Actions listed in the CCC include Feasibility Study for a Renewable Energy Community, aimed at installing solar panels on FAI hq to generate and share energy (source p. 101) (A, D) | FAI is involved in various initiatives of advocacy, public sensibilisation, fundraising and restoration aimed at promoting and protecting the Italian landscape and cultural heritage. |
| | Fondazione Social Venture Giordano Dell'Amore | <p>The foundation is committed to the development of impact investing and social innovation, and supports initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by providing expertise and patient capital for entrepreneurial projects, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “bella Dentro” (C) • Agrobiotica (E) • REVO (B) • Vesti Solidale (C) • EcoMill, a crowd-investing platform focused on energy transition and sustainability (source p. 111) (A) | |
| | Fondazione Assolombarda, Milano Smart City Alliance | <p>This initiative aims to co-design the city of the future by leveraging the opportunities and challenges of the present through the development and experimentation of shared and innovative initiatives between public and private sectors.</p> <p>Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited.</p> | |
| Padova, Italy | Immaculate Conception Opera Foundation | <p>The foundation provides help and support to marginalized and disadvantaged people and owns and manages residential units. Involved in specific actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency improvement work on S. Chiara residence (A, D) • Installation of PV solar systems on rooftops and car parks (A, D) • Develop Low-enthalpy ground-source systems, e.g. geothermal heat pump (A) | |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| Padova, Italy | Teatro Stabile del Veneto Carlo Goldoni Foundation | <p>The foundation manages various theatres and is committed to improving their efficiency and sharing their commitment. Planned actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade technical stage equipment (D) • “Stageo” project: Improving the efficiency of costume inventory storage and management practices for two important regional theatres (T) • Theatre Green Book: committed to building a network of net-zero theatres by sharing behavioural guidelines (T) | |
| | Fondazione Fenice | The foundation has participated in the carbon neutrality process and is a member of the Council of Innovation. | Fondazione Fenice is a non-profit organization based in Padua, Italy, dedicated to promoting sustainability, innovation, and education. Established in 2005, it operates the Fenice Green Energy Park – a 5-hectare green space that serves as Italy’s first park focused on renewable energy and environmental education (source). |
| Parma, Italy | Fondazione Cariparma | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited. | <p>Fondazione Cariparma is an Italian philanthropic organisation established in 1991, dedicated to supporting social, cultural and environmental development in the Parma region. It funds initiatives in areas such as education, healthcare, arts, scientific research and sustainability.</p> <p>As part of its environmental commitment, Fondazione Cariparma opened Bando Ambiente 2023, a €2 million tender to support projects focused on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and public awareness on climate and energy issues, promoting best practices for environmental protection and responsible resource use (source).</p> |
| Prato, Italy | Fondazione Ami Prato | <p>Provides economic-financial support to the ecological transition in the city-region (source pp. 13, 88).</p> <p>Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory.</p> | <p>The foundation is involved in the project <i>Prato Forest City</i> (source), an innovative urban planning strategy developed by the municipality to enhance urban green spaces through a digital platform which facilitates the participation of citizens in the green transition of their city. The Ami Foundation is particularly involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising funds for the project “Prato Green Hospital” with the aim of creating green spaces that benefit patients, visitors and medical staff, • Supporting the Municipality of Prato and the Tuscany Health Authority to support urban forestation efforts as part of the project Prato Forest City, • Promoting collective well-being by educating families on the role of a healthy environment for healthy lifestyles. |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| Prato, Italy | Fondazione Opera Santa Rita | Provides economic-financial support to the ecological transition in the city-region (source pp. 13, 88). Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | Since 2017, the foundation has promoted “The Blue Trail” (source), a yearly event and trekking route through Tuscany which engages local communities in breaking down barriers around autism. |
| | Metastasio Theatre Foundation of Prato | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Fondazione Teatro Metastasio di Prato is a cultural institution in Tuscany, Italy, dedicated to the promotion and production of theatrical arts. Established in 1994, it operates four venues: the historic Teatro Metastasio, the Fabbicone, the Fabbichino, and the Magnolfi Theatre (source). |
| | Prato Textile Museum Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Prato Textile Museum Foundation (Fondazione Museo del Tessuto di Prato) is Italy’s largest cultural institution dedicated to the preservation and promotion of both historical and contemporary textile arts. Established in November 2003, it manages the Museo del Tessuto, housed in the historic Campolmi textile mill in Prato, Tuscany (source). |
| | Politeama Theatre Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Fondazione Politeama Pratese is a historic cultural institution located in Prato, Italy. Established in 1925, the foundation manages the Teatro Politeama Pratese, a landmark venue renowned for its architectural beauty and rich cultural history (source). |
| Turin, Italy | Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo | The “CLICC” project, a collaboration between the City of Turin, Compagnia di San Paolo, and the Energy Center of the Polytechnic University of Turin, aims to develop an HW and SW infrastructure platform for urban modelling and mirroring, focusing on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, enabling “what if?” scenario analysis for policy impact evaluation. (A) As part of the “Torino 2030” strategy and recognising the importance of mobility for achieving carbon-neutrality targets, Compagnia di San Paolo supported the creation of the “TPL Carbon Free” Innovation Center. This joint initiative involves GTT, the local public transport company, and the LINKS Foundation. The centre focuses on three main themes: energy and ecological transition; service innovation; and operational model innovation. Eleven projects have been launched, including six operational ones and five collaborative research projects. Operational projects involve support for GTT in areas like photovoltaic energy production, digital upgrades for the metro system, and compliance with safety regulations. Collaborative research aims to explore scenarios for achieving climate neutrality, accessibility, equity and service efficiency, including a study to develop alternative paths toward a net-zero emissions energy system. (T) | To be more effective and better serve the local community, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo was the first Italian foundation of banking origin to promote a strategic and operational alignment with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following the European approach to the global environmental challenges, in 2020 the foundation launched a specific goal addressing the overarching challenges facing the future of the planet and future generations through effective action to cope with environmental protection, sustainable economy (local) and carbon reduction strategies. Planet Goal and its key dimensions (Support to Research, Fostering Innovation, Healthcare & Well-being, Environment) led to a series of actions, including calls for proposals aimed at selecting projects that contribute to achieving carbon-neutrality by 2030. Among these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls to support projects on environmental restoration, such as <i>Restauro Ambientale Sostenibile</i>, <i>Mutamenti</i>, and <i>Simbiosi</i>, • <i>Re:azioni</i>, a call for NGOs to promote more sustainable lifestyles in their communities, • <i>Sinergie</i> or the development of Renewable Energy Communities (CER) with a social impact, through a multi-tool approach, |

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| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
| Turin, Italy | Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo (CONTINUES) | In addition, in 2025 the foundation started a process of evaluation and reduction of its own ecological footprint. (D) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Next Generation We</i> aiming at offering a dedicated support to cities (located in the northwest of Italy) involved in the PNRR (Italian recovery and resiliency plan), specifically in relation to the mission “Green revolution and ecological transition”, • <i>Techstars Torino</i> initiative supporting companies that are shaping the future of mobility and urban living, while creating a lasting change in the world of tomorrow, • The foundation is involved in a series of strategic custom projects led by the City of Torino. One worth mentioning is the restoration of a large portion of a public park for the valorisation of the Po River. |
| | Fondazione CRT | <p>Fondazione CRT (Cassa di Risparmio di Torino Foundation) is a private non-profit organisation, established in 1991.</p> <p>Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory.</p> | <p>Fondazione CRT is actively engaged in promoting climate-neutrality in the city of Turin and the Piedmont Region through various initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fondazione CRT collaborates with <i>Techstars</i> to run the “Torino Cities of the Future Accelerator” programme. This initiative supports start-ups developing innovative solutions for smart cities, including in areas like sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, and urban infrastructure (source). • The Lagrange Prize recognises outstanding contributions to the study of complex systems and data science. The prize is awarded annually to scientists who have made innovative advancements in applying complexity science and data science principles at the highest levels. In 2024 the prize was won by Marta C. Gonzalez whose research focuses on analysing digital traces to improve urban liveability, particularly in the energy and mobility sectors. |
| | Fondazione Collegio Einaudi | These foundations are not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but are cited. | |
| | Fondazione della Comunità di Mirafiori ONLUS | | |
| | Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini | | |
| | Fondazione Links | | |
| | Fondazione Piemonte Innova | | |
| Oslo, Norway | Stiftelsen Miljøfyrtårn (Eco-Lighthouse Foundation) | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The foundation promotes sustainable practices and certifies businesses and public enterprises in Norway for environmental responsibility by assigning the Eco-Lighthouse Certification) (source). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Oslo, Norway | Diakonhjemmet | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | Diakonhjemmet is an independent foundation within the Church of Norway, established in 1890. with a long history of providing healthcare, education, and social services. It operates various institutions including a hospital and a university, implementing systematic energy-saving measures and developing long-term plans for energy monitoring and reduction (source). |
| | Grønn By | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory foundation that assists the construction industry and helps bringing a green agenda. | The foundation contributes to competence building and professional development within area development, construction, infrastructure, mobility, energy, social sustainability and circular economy by organizing professional seminars, breakfast meetings and study tours for partners and stakeholders. |
| Trondheim, Norway | Offshore Northern Seas Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited. | Every other year the Offshore Northern Seas Foundation hosts a large conference and exhibition for national and global players within the energy sector. |
| | Climate Strategies Poland Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Climate&Strategy Foundation is focused on advancing climate literacy, carbon footprint reduction, and decarbonization strategies among businesses, municipalities, and various stakeholders. Its actions varies from organizing conferences such as the “cities for climate” conference, to developing useful resources such as a free Carbon Footprint Calculator to help small and medium-sized enterprises measure and reduce their emissions. |
| Łódź, Poland | Veolia Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Foundation supports projects in humanitarian aid, social inclusion, and environmental protection. For example, it supports Tara Expeditions, voyages to study and understand the impact of climate change and the ecological crisis facing the world’s oceans. |
| | Omenaa Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited. | It focuses on education, tolerance, and social inclusion, supporting children in Poland and Africa access to education and digital tools. It has supported the the “One Degree Less is More” campaign, launched in partnership with the City of Łódź, an educational campaign to encourage citizens to reduce indoor heating by one degree Celsius to lower energy consumption and carbon emissions. |
| Krakow, Poland | Carbon Footprint Foundation | <p>In Krakow's climate city contract, it is included in the “Systems and stakeholder mapping” table as one of the NGOs identified as moderate pro-climate.</p> <p>Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC.</p> | The Carbon Footprint Foundation (CFF), founded in 2019, is one of the first NGOs in Central Europe to raise public awareness of the carbon footprint through educational, social, and corporate projects. An independent, transparent, and effectively managed organization, the CFF focuses on raising climate awareness and initiating positive change in society (source). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Krakow, Poland | Aeris Futuro | <p>In Krakow's climate city contract, it is included in the "Systems and stakeholder mapping" table as one of the NGOs identified as moderate pro-climate.</p> <p>Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC.</p> | <p>The Aeris Futuro Foundation, established in 2005, is a Polish non-governmental organization committed to promoting sustainable development and combating climate change. Its mission is to create a safe and livable world for future generations by raising climate awareness, calculating and offsetting carbon footprints, and supporting social investment in renewable energy. The foundation launched its first major initiative, "Time for Forest," in October 2005. In 2015, Aeris Futuro introduced its flagship program, Social Carbon Offset (SCO). SCO focuses on calculating greenhouse gas emissions and offsetting them through renewable energy installations in socially important institutions, such as schools, care homes, and housing cooperatives, especially those facing energy poverty. Beyond SCO, the foundation runs a variety of educational and ecological programs (source).</p> |
| | Krakow City of Startups Foundation | <p>The foundation is not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited.</p> | <p>The Kraków City of Startups Foundation plays a vital role in nurturing innovation and supporting early-stage ventures, particularly in the climate-tech and clean-tech sectors. Since at least 2023, the Foundation has been running the <i>KrK InnoTech Starter (KITS)</i> pre-acceleration program, which attracts and develops startups focused on green technology and sustainable solutions (source).</p> |
| | Open Plan Foundation (Otwarty Plan) | <p>The foundation is not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited.</p> | <p>The Open Plan Foundation (<i>Fundacja Otwarty Plan</i>), based in Kraków, emerged as an active force in the field of environmental education and air quality advocacy by 2024. Its mission is to improve urban air quality and empower socially marginalized groups – particularly youth – through accessible, engaging climate and energy literacy programs (source).</p> |
| Warsaw, Poland | Sendzimir Foundation | <p>The foundation supports local authorities in implementing pilot, innovative, and demonstration projects, e.g. in the fields of construction, blue-green infrastructure, lighting, and water management. It has a wide cooperation network. (T)</p> | <p>Sendzimir Foundation supports urban climate action, participatory and educational projects such as "Commit to Green", in collaboration with other EU cities, focusing on community-led transformation of housing estate courtyards into rainwater retention and biodiverse green spaces in Warsaw, and "Green Leader", to encourage citizens to engage candidates in environmental issues.</p> |
| | Energy Forum Foundation | <p>Provides know-how and data analysis, as well as tools and solutions to help with diagnoses and planning of pro-climate measures, among other things.</p> <p>Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC.</p> | <p>Energy Forum Foundation supports cities in creating so called Energy transition maps as well as provides knowledge and helps to analyze the situation of cities on the basis of reliable data, using external funding without overburdening the budget.</p> |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Warsaw, Poland | Foundation for Climate Education (Nauka o Klimacie Portal) | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but it contributes to raising awareness among the public and spheres of government. | An institution that disseminates reliable knowledge concerning the climate and the phenomena associated with its change. It disseminates, for example, IPCC reports in Polish, fights climate disinformation, and seeks to enter into dialogue with government, local government, and the private sector. |
| Wroclaw, Poland | FOTA4Climate | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | FOTA4Climate is a grassroots NGO engaged in environmental advocacy and public awareness in Poland. It organises public campaigns, educational events and mobilisations focused on forest protection, climate adaptation and sustainable urban development. Although not operationally active in the CCC, it represents a civic voice for stronger climate ambition at the local level. |
| Porto, Portugal | Fundação António Cupertino de Miranda | These foundations are not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but are signatories. | |
| | Fundação Casa da Música | | |
| | Fundação Ilídio Pinho | | |
| | Fundação Manuel António da Mota | | |
| | Fundação de Serralves | | |
| Bucharest, Romania | Bucharest Community Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The foundation supports the Platforma de Mediu pentru Bucuresti (Environment Platform for Bucharest), a comprehensive environmental initiative aimed at fostering participatory development for a sustainable vision of Bucharest, identifying the city's environmental challenges, and proposing solutions from civil society (source). |
| Kranj, Slovenia | Vincenc Draksler Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Vincenc Draksler Foundation (source) primarily focuses on the reintegration of former drug addicts into society. One of their notable initiatives, however, is the establishment of a social enterprise that operates reuse centres at two locations. In these centres, participants engage in collecting, cleaning, repairing and refurbishing used items such as furniture, lighting and technical equipment. These activities provide work therapy and skill development for former addicts but also contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing waste and promoting the reuse of materials. |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| Barcelona, Spain | BIT Habitat Foundation | <p>BIT Habitat Foundation is the urban innovation agency of the Barcelona City Council. In the CCC, the foundation is responsible for the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Boosting urban innovation”: The strategy for boosting innovation in the city so that it becomes a lever for transformation and acceleration at the service of improving people’s quality of life, combating the climate emergency and fostering urban resilience. The measure organises the instruments available to Barcelona City Council to accelerate this change; innovate services, processes and governance; and accelerate innovation in the city and with the city, (source p. 180) (T) • Barcelona Urban Innovation Platform, a space for dialogue, reflection and consensus that brings together the players in the innovative ecosystem of the city (T) • “The Proactive City”, a call for proposals for urban innovation projects (T) | In 2023, the foundation awarded grants to seven innovative projects aimed at improving coexistence in public spaces, contributing to the city’s sustainability objectives. Additionally, in 2024, the foundation presented six winning projects in the fifth edition of the “La ciutat proactiva” grants, dedicated to tackling drought, further demonstrating its commitment to urban innovation and climate resilience. |
| | BCN Vocational and Education Training Foundation | <p>Promoted by the City Council of Barcelona with the aim of providing vocational training and supporting students’ transition to business. Involved as an actor in the following planned actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Neutral Economic Opportunities and Adaptation programme to foster a sustainable economy through green jobs, circular economy, and sector transformation (T) • Industrial decarbonisation programme of the metropolitan area through sustainable production cycles and resource optimisation (C) | |
| Madrid, Spain | Laudes Foundation | <p>The Laudes Foundation is dedicated to fostering a green, fair and inclusive economy by supporting innovative initiatives that address climate change and inequality. In 2021, the foundation collaborated with EIT Climate-KIC and other partners to advance sustainable urban development in European cities, focusing on reducing embodied carbon in construction. This collaboration highlighted best practices from urban regeneration projects in Madrid, aiming to inspire positive climate action across Europe.</p> <p>Additionally, Laudes Foundation launched the “Built by Nature” initiative, a multi-million-euro grantmaking fund and network designed to accelerate the transition to sustainable construction in cities. This initiative promotes the use of timber in building projects, aiming to decarbonise the built environment by working with nature. In the CCC, the foundation is mentioned as a funder of the action Healthy, Clean Cities: European Cities for Climate-Neutral Construction which works towards research and prototype solutions that reduce emissions in the construction sector.</p> <p>(CONTINUES)</p> | |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Madrid, Spain | Laudes Foundation (CONTINUES) | In particular, the project focuses on promoting circularity and the use of natural and low-carbon materials (source p. 78) (D) Laudes Foundation also organises “Madrid Zero Emissions” open events every year, aimed at involving citizens. (C) | |
| València, Spain | València Clima i Energia | Municipal foundation pertaining to Ayuntamiento de València, working on information and education on climate change and boosting the energy transition. Actions planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Municipal Sustainable Energy Company, a public-private energy company to boost renewables, efficiency, and energy equity (A) • Implementation of the Neighbourhood Energy Community to produce, share and manage local renewable energy (A) • Energy Offices: one-stop shops to give citizens guidance on efficiency, renewables and energy rights (T) • Energy Culture: Empowering citizens through awareness, action and engagement for a fair, renewable energy transition (T) • València City Council, Las NAVES Foundation (local innovation agency), and València Climate and Energy Foundation (local Climate and Energy agency) have created their own Mission Teams that have been working since 2021 in the Mission Community (source p 44). • Involved in the action Carbon-neutral district (source p 244) | València is involved in citiES 2030, a platform which promotes the decarbonisation of Spanish cities within the framework of the EU Cities Mission. |
| | Las Naves Foundation | A municipal foundation operating as a Centre for Social and Urban Innovation. Planned actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missions València 2030: to promote innovation-driven policies for health, sustainability and urban well-being (T) | |
| | Oceanogràfic Foundation València | Foundation created to support the Oceanogràfic València aquarium in its goal to protect the marine environment. Planned actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and quality food, aimed at strengthening the local agri-food system through sustainable production, fair value chains, etc. (E) | |
| Valladolid, Spain | Castilla y León Natural Heritage Foundation | The Foundation works together with the City Council of Valladolid on the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop circular economy ecosystems and zero-waste solutions in Valladolid. (C) • Strengthen European Mission collaboration for climate neutrality and adaptation. (T) • Implement urban renaturalization in Valladolid's public schools. (D) • Enhance the Environmental Resources Centreas (PRAE) as a hub for biodiversity and climate resilience. (E) | |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Valladolid, Spain | CARTIF Foundation | Involved in the following actions: Electrification and decarbonisation of public transport. (B) | The CARTIF Foundation is dedicated to reaserch, development and innovation of technologies and solutions related to energy efficiency, circular economy and waste management, food and natural resources (source). |
| | Inea Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The Inea Foundation manages urban and ecological gardens as a part of its community engagement and educational environmental programme (source). |
| | The EXECyL Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory. | The EXECyL Foundation is focused on empowering young leaders and professionals by providing educational opportunities, resources and a platform for growth (source). |
| | INTRAS Foundation | Not involved in specific action or commitment within the CCC. | |
| | Fundación Secretariado Gitano | Not involved in specific action or commitment within the CCC. | Fundación Secretariado Gitano advocates for inclusive policies that ensure marginalized communities are included into climate actions and programs. |
| Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain | Hazi Foundation | Not involved in specific action or commitment within the CCC. | HAZI Foundation performs the functions of technical secretariat for the Basque Bioeconomy Alliances, an initiative arose in response to the need to diversify the economy towards a model based on the use of biological resource. |
| Helsingborg, Sweden | Open Mobility Foundation | The Open Mobility Foundation is a non-signatory, but mentioned in the city's CCC as a key stakeholder for the implementation of the plan. | The Open Mobility Foundation (OMF) is an open-source foundation that creates a governance structure around open-source mobility tools, beginning with a focus on the Mobility Data Specification (MDS). By creating an open source foundation, OMF is able to offer a safe, efficient environment for stakeholders including municipalities, companies, technical, privacy, and policy experts, and the public to shape urban mobility management tools that help public agencies accomplish their mobility policy goals (source). |
| Lund, Sweden | Axfood Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited within the stakeholder mapping in relation to the land-use and agriculture and food industry. | Axfoundation is a foundation that develops practical and sustainable solutions in the field of food systems, circular materials, and inclusive communities. For example, it operates the Torsåker Farm, a testbed for regenerative agriculture and low-emission food production (source). |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| Umea, Sweden | Ellen MacArthur Foundation | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited. | The Ellen MacArthur Foundation is a non-profit organisation that conducts evidence-based original research on the benefits of a circular economy and how it can contribute to solving global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss. While located in the UK, the foundation's efforts align with broader EU strategies, such as climate-neutrality and sustainable growth. Through programmes like the Circular Economy 100 (CE100, source), the foundation collaborates with various EU companies and organisations to scale up circular practices, ultimately contributing to the EU's long-term climate-neutrality targets. The foundation is also indirectly involved in Umeå CCC, as the city has been appointed by the OECD as leader in driving the transition to a circular economy. |
| Istanbul, Turkey | The Turkish Foundation for Combating Erosion Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats | Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited. | The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion (TEMA), founded in 1992, works to restore forests and protect natural habitats across Turkey. In Istanbul, it contributes to carbon neutrality through reforestation projects like the "Oak Project" and "Memory Forests." TEMA also supports local climate action planning and advocates for fossil fuel phase-out policies. It collaborates with municipalities to align urban strategies with carbon reduction goals. As part of EU environmental networks, TEMA amplifies climate resilience and net-zero efforts at the city level (source). |
| Bristol, United Kingdom | Weston NHS Foundation Trust | <p>Weston NHS Foundation Trust and North Bristol NHS Trust and play a foundational and supportive role in the Bristol One City Approach. As co-funders of the Bristol City Office, they help sustain the central hub that facilitates collaboration across sectors – public, private, voluntary, and third sector – working toward shared goals for a fairer, healthier, and more sustainable city.</p> <p>Their involvement signals the importance of health institutions not only in providing healthcare services but also in shaping broader urban well-being and sustainability agendas. By supporting the City Office, these NHS Trusts contribute to cross-sector planning and ensure that health priorities are integrated into the city's long-term strategies, particularly those relating to equity, climate, and community resilience (source Bristol CC, p. 25). (T)</p> | |



| City | Foundation | Climate actions in CCC | Climate actions beyond CCC |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Bristol, United Kingdom | Quartet Community Foundation | The Quartet Community Foundation is cited in the system and stakeholder mapping, but not involved in any specific actions or commitments within the CCC. | The Quartet Community Foundation is a charitable organisation that connects local donors with grassroots groups to support communities across the West of England. It provides funding for a wide range of initiatives, including health, education, environment, and social equity, helping to build stronger, more resilient and inclusive communities in Bristol and beyond (source). |
| | North Bristol NHS Trust | <p>The North Bristol NHS Trust and the Weston NHS Foundation Trust play a foundational and supportive role in the Bristol One City Approach. As co-funders of the Bristol City Office, they help sustain the central hub that facilitates collaboration across sectors – public, private, voluntary, and third sector – working toward shared goals for a fairer, healthier, and more sustainable city.</p> <p>Their involvement signals the importance of health institutions not only in providing healthcare services but also in shaping broader urban well-being and sustainability agendas. By supporting the City Office, these NHS Trusts contribute to cross-sector planning and ensure that health priorities are integrated into the city's long-term strategies, particularly those relating to equity, climate, and community resilience (source Bristol CCC, p. 25). (T)</p> | |
| Glasgow, United Kingdom | Ellen MacArthur Foundation | <p>The Foundation is mentioned as a partner to accelerate the transition of Glasgow's economy from linear to circular, making it more inclusive and sustainable (Glasgow's CCC, p. 59).</p> <p>Glasgow has published a Circular Economy Routemap. The Council is currently undertaking a review of the Circular Economy Routemap with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and intends to establish a working group to explore the recommendations of the review.</p> | |

Firstly, foundations' **formal involvement** varies considerably. **A total of 48 foundations have signed CCCs (in 22 cities of 11 EU states and 1 in non-EU state)**, demonstrating their commitment to the climate neutrality mission, while 47 other foundations (in 25 cities of 12 EU states and 3 non-EU states) are not signatories but are mentioned as key actors, partners, or project leads within the CCC framework. This distinction reflects different modes of engagement, where some foundations make explicit contractual commitments, while others operate as strategic enablers of urban climate action.



Secondly, foundations' **practical engagement** within CCCs differs significantly. Some provide institutional support without specific operational commitments – for example, Fondazione CRT (Torino, Italy) is included for its potential role in relevant actions, while Fondazione Cariparma (Parma, Italy) is recognised for both its institutional position and broader climate-related activities. Others, like Life Terra (Kozani, Greece), are not CCC signatories but actively contribute to nature-based solutions beyond the CCC framework. At the other end of the spectrum, some foundations take a highly operational role, committing to multiple actions within CCCs. Fondazione Golinelli (Bologna, Italy), Fondazione Cariplo (Milan, Italy), and Valencia Clima i Energia Foundation (Valencia, Spain) stand out for their hands-on contributions, often spanning different thematic areas, from education and innovation to energy efficiency and urban greening.

This range of foundations' engagement reflects the independence of the field as well as its **diversity**: foundations can run their own programmes, provide grants or technical assistance and mobilise their resources and expertise depending on their mission, relations and needs of civil society. This diversity is also captured in the different types of **support schemes and actions** that they engage in. **Financial support** remains a defining characteristic of many philanthropic organisations, particularly Laudes Foundation (Madrid, Spain), Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo (Turin, Italy), Fondazione Cariplo (Milan and Bergamo, Italy), and Fondazione Social Venture Giordano dell'Amore (Milan, Italy), which allocate funding to energy transition, sustainability projects, and impact-driven investments. **Citizen and community engagement** is another major focus, with organisations like Valencia Clima i Energia (Valencia, Spain), Bucharest Community Foundation (Bucharest, Romania), and Fondazione per l'Innovazione Urbana, Rusconi, Villa Ghigi (Bologna, Italy) leading public participation efforts in urban sustainability projects. Other contributions include **education initiatives** (e.g., Fondazione Golinelli in Bologna, Italy; BCN Vocational and Education Training Foundation in Barcelona, Spain; Excecyl Foundation in Valladolid, Spain), **energy efficiency in housing and industry** (e.g., TYS in Turku, Finland; Fondazione Casa Amica in Bergamo, Italy; Stiftung Mercator in Heidelberg, Germany and Tammenlehväsäätiö in Tampere, Finland), **green area management** (e.g., Inea Foundation in Valladolid, Spain), and **urban innovation** (e.g., Las Naves in Valencia, Spain and BIT Habitat in Barcelona, Spain). This breadth of involvement confirms that foundations are not merely financial backers but active contributors shaping the transition to climate-neutral cities.

Another key finding from Table 1 is the alignment of foundations' work with the **emissions field of actions** outlined in CCC impact pathways. Foundations are most engaged in the **energy system transformation** (such as Fondazione Casa Amica, Bergamo, Italy, Valencia Clima i Energia, Valencia, Spain, TYS, Turku, Finland), with dedicated actions focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and decentralized energy models. Other actions are focussed on **waste and circular economy** projects (such as BCN Vocational and Education Training Foundation, Barcelona, Spain, Tammenlehväsäätiö foundation, Tampere, Finland) **nature-based** solutions (such as Castilla y León Natural Heritage Foundation, Valladolid, Spain, Fondazione per l'Innovazione Urbana Rusconi Villa Ghigi, Bologna, Italy), **built environment** improvements (such as The Stiftung Mercator, Heidelberg, Germany, Laudes Foundation, Madrid, Italy), and **transport and mobility** (such as Cartif Foundation, Valladolid, Spain, Fondazione Social Venture Giordano dell'Amore, Milano, Italy, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Torino, Italy). Additionally, **transversal actions** – such as Fondazione Golinelli's Young Digital Entrepreneurship Camp in Bologna, Italy, BIT Habitat Foundation, Barcelona, Spain – impact multiple fields, bridging sustainability, education, and business innovation. While some actions may not fall neatly into a single category, this overview broadly highlights a focus on energy-related projects, possibly reflecting both philanthropic funding trends and the complexity of financing infrastructure-heavy sectors like mobility and the built environment, which require larger-scale public-private collaboration.



Funding is a crucial aspect in the achievement of Climate Neutrality goals. Funding information is included in the Investment Plan, one of the 3 key documents (along with the Action Plan and Commitments) of the CCCs. The Investment Plan describes sources of investment to support the actions planned to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. However, this section is not currently included within the publicly available CCC documents. As such, the economic effort of Foundations towards climate neutrality actions within the CCCs is currently unavailable. Publicly available funding information is limited to an overview of the costs of planned actions in various sectors (e.g. energy, waste, transport, buildings) and their impact. For example, operational costs estimated in Valencia's CCC total 4.2billion€, with an estimated impact reduction of 1035 kt CO₂e.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that foundations are essential players in the climate neutrality transition. Their contributions extend beyond traditional grantmaking to include technical expertise, citizen engagement, urban experimentation, and policy innovation. Going forward, it remains important to describe economic efforts of Foundations towards climate neutrality actions.





Philanthropy's contribution to climate-neutrality

This second part explores other foundations active for climate neutrality goals that contribute – either directly or indirectly – to the mission of climate neutral and smart cities. Their contributions include actions and programs that align with and complement the objectives and long-term goals of the CCCs. As a dynamic network, they help shape a unified trajectory and vision, aligning diverse stakeholders toward achieving the 2030 goals.

TABLE 2: LIST OF OTHER FOUNDATIONS ACTIVE FOR CLIMATE NEUTRALITY GOALS AND THEIR KEY INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

| City | Foundation | Actions relevant to achieve climate-neutrality goals |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Helsinki, Finland | Kone Foundation | The Kone Foundation is a Finnish private foundation established in 1995, with the goal of supporting scientific research, culture and education. The foundation funds research and projects that promote environmental sustainability and paradigmatic changes through art and culture; and that address global challenges such as climate change. It supports initiatives related to the development of sustainable technologies, green innovation and climate action, in line with its commitment to improving the world for future generations (source). |
| Paris, France | Fondation de France | Fondation de France is one of France's largest philanthropic organisations, established in 1969 to support projects that address pressing social, environmental and cultural issues. It serves as an umbrella foundation, managing funds and endowments for various charitable initiatives while also financing its own programmes. Through its Environment sector (source), it supports projects that focus on energy transition, environmental conservation and the development of low-carbon technologies. To this end it joined the European AI Fund in 2020. In the realm of smart cities, Fondation de France has collaborated with organisations like the <i>Palladio Foundation</i> and Agorize to launch challenges encouraging innovative projects in urban development. For example, the "Make the City" challenge invited students to propose ideas in categories such as human and inclusive cities, low-carbon and sustainable cities, and smart and connected cities (source). |
| Stuttgart, Germany | Robert Bosch Stiftung | <p>The Robert Bosch Stiftung, one of Europe's largest foundations linked to a private company, is dedicated to driving progress in health, education and global challenges (source). In the realm of smart cities, the foundation has put in place a people-first approach, supporting initiatives in 2019 that placed residents at the heart of urban development. By funding research that fosters community-driven planning, it has helped shape smart city solutions that reflect the daily lives, needs and aspirations of local populations (source).</p> <p>Beyond urban innovation, the foundation is deeply committed to sustainability. With a bold vision to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, it actively works to shrink its own carbon footprint (source). Since 2020, it has made Climate Change a core funding priority and strengthened its impact by joining the European AI Fund, reinforcing its dedication to tackling the world's most pressing challenges (source).</p> |
| Bologna, Italy | Fondazione Unipolis | Fondazione Unipolis is the corporate foundation of the Unipol Group, dedicated to supporting innovative ideas and projects that foster the growth of individuals and communities (source). Through initiatives like the Città 2030 campaign, in partnership with Legambiente, the foundation is driving conversations around zero-emission mobility and urban sustainability in Italy (source). Additionally, the 2023 event Cities Never Sleep celebrated grass-roots projects that enhance the liveability of cities, fostering a more sustainable and inclusive future (source). With its <i>Bando ACT</i> initiative, Fondazione Unipolis is further supporting projects that focus on sustainable mobility, social inclusion and improving welfare (source). The <i>MOB</i> initiative (source) aims to involve the youngest generation in contributing to sustainable mobility in their city through creative solutions. |



| City | Foundation | Actions relevant to achieve climate-neutrality goals |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Firenze, Italy | Fondazione Capellino | The Fondazione Capellino promotes innovative solutions to address climate change and improve urban biodiversity. Against this backdrop, the foundation launched an experimental project called "Firenze Climate Change" in January 2023. This project aims to design, implement and monitor nature-based solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change in the city, promote urban biodiversity and improve citizens' health. Additionally, Fondazione Capellino has invested €4.5 million for the period 2023-2032 in a project that transforms 10 areas of the city into open-air laboratories. The goal is to study the impacts of climate change, such as heat islands, air quality, biodiversity and CO ₂ emissions, to develop effective solutions to counter these effects. |
| Firenze, Italy | Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità | The Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità (FCS) promotes scientific research programmes in various sectors, including climatology, agronomy, forestry, renewable energy production, environmental monitoring and natural resource protection. In 2023, FCS joined the Firenze per il Clima initiative, a participatory process promoted by the Municipality of Florence to involve the entire city in the goal of achieving climate-neutrality by 2030. In this initiative, FCS chose to participate as a "teller", meaning an entity engaged in promoting awareness and training activities on climate change issues. |
| Padova, Italy | Fondazione Cariparo | Fondazione Cariparo is a non-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and promoting sustainable development in the provinces of Padua and Rovigo (source). In its commitment to climate neutrality, and through its Quality-of-life area of intervention, Fondazione Cariparo has launched several initiatives. With the <i>Bando CER (Comunità Energetiche Rinnovabili)</i> (source), it aims to assist local entities in the creation of renewable energy communities and other self-consumption configurations, in line with the objectives set by the EU. The Bando GreenUp! aims to promote environmental protection and foster active citizenship by supporting initiatives which safeguard ecosystems, promote soft mobility (such as walking and cycling), and improve urban environmental quality (i.e. creating urban gardens and farms). |
| Amsterdam, The Netherlands | Porticus | Porticus is a philanthropic organisation committed to fostering a just and sustainable future, with a significant focus on climate-neutrality. Through the "Caring for the Earth" sector (source), among other actions, it supports cities in transitioning to regenerative post-carbon economies, with positive impacts on marginalised communities. In this context, the Clean Energy initiative was born, which focuses on providing renewable electricity to communities that are most affected by climate change but are least responsible for it. Porticus is also a European AI Fund member, and has been researching innovative technologies, financial tools and business models to benefit communities in energy poverty. |
| The Hague, The Netherlands | European Climate Foundation | The European Climate Foundation (ECF) is a leading philanthropic organisation committed to tackling climate change by driving the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable economy (source). With a clear focus on fossil-free energy and clean transport, ECF is shaping the future towards a greener world. In the energy sector, it's spearheading initiatives like ReNew2030, a collaborative platform that unites experts, civil society and fellow philanthropies to turbocharge the shift to wind and solar power (source, p. 23). On the transport front, ECF is accelerating the transition to clean mobility through campaigns like Drive Electric and advocating for the widespread implementation of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) across Europe (source, p. 33). These efforts are helping pave the way for a cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable future. |
| Reeuwijk, The Netherlands | Adessium Foundation | The Adessium Foundation (source) is a private, independent grantmaking organisation based in the Netherlands, established in 2005. Adessium supports initiatives and organisations in the Netherlands and Europe that are committed to an open and just society, healthy ecosystems and equal opportunities for everyone. The Adessium Foundation joined the <i>European AI & Society Fund</i> as funding partner in June 2023, to support public-interest AI policies in Europe (source). The Adessium Foundation supports climate-neutrality through its <i>People & Nature programme</i> (source), supporting initiatives like <i>Rewilding Europe</i> (source) to restore ecosystems and enhance carbon sequestration. |



| City | Foundation | Actions relevant to achieve climate-neutrality goals |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Guimaraes, Portugal | The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) | The FCT is Portugal's primary agency for funding and evaluating scientific and technological research. Its mission is to advance knowledge in science and technology, fostering innovation and contributing to societal well-being. FCT is actively involved in the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP), a European initiative under Horizon Europe aimed at accelerating the transition to clean energy and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Through the CETP, FCT supports transnational research and innovation projects across various energy technologies and system solutions. |
| Cluj-Napoca, Romania | The M100 Hub | The M100 Hub is a national initiative in Romania, coordinated at the interministerial level, aimed at supporting Romanian cities in their green transition. It serves as a platform to disseminate knowledge relevant to achieving climate-neutrality across various cities in Romania and to identify funding sources to support both the European Mission and the Mirror Mission. In December 2023, the M100 Hub was launched in Cluj-Napoca, bringing together representatives from the European Commission, national and regional authorities, cities, academia, NGOs and urban communities from Romania and Europe. The event focused on discussing the progress of implementing the Horizon Europe Mission for 100 smart and climate-neutral cities by 2030 at the national level. The M100 Hub aims to support the implementation of the "100 Climate-Neutral Smart Cities by 2030" mission by facilitating access to European funding sources for climate change mitigation and accelerating efforts to limit global warming. It also seeks to replicate European policies at the national level and assist other Romanian cities in achieving the carbon reduction targets set by the European Green Deal. |
| Geneva, Switzerland | Oak Foundation | The Oak Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 1983, dedicated to addressing pressing social and environmental issues worldwide (source). Its mission is to support innovative solutions that promote social change and environmental sustainability. Through its <i>Environment programme</i> (source) it employs a global-system transformation approach with a focus on energy, food and nature. Actions in support of reaching climate-neutrality in 2030 include: supporting a rights-based clean energy transition, scaling clean energy technologies, promoting universal access to renewable energy, reducing plastic pollution, advancing circular economies, and transforming financial systems to support clean energy over fossil fuels. The Oak Foundation joined the European AI Fund in 2020, to address the discriminatory impacts of AI on vulnerable communities. |
| Flint, Michigan, US | Charles Stewart Mott Foundation | The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926, is a private philanthropic organisation based in Flint, Michigan with the mission to support non-profit organisations that strengthen communities worldwide. The foundation joined the <i>European Artificial Intelligence & Society Fund</i> (European AI Fund) in 2020. Through its Environment programme it has been advancing climate change solutions such as increasing the use of renewable energy in developing countries, particularly in regions like the Amazon and sub-Saharan Africa (source). |
| Menlo Park, California, US | William and Flora Hewlett Foundation | Founded in 1966, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation committed to addressing climate change and to accelerating climate-neutrality (source). Through its <i>Environment programme</i> , the foundation funds initiatives that work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving natural resources, and accelerating the transition to clean, renewable energy sources (source). One of the foundation's core strategies for achieving climate neutrality is its focus on policy advocacy, working with governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to implement ambitious climate policies at both national and global levels. |



| City | Foundation | Actions relevant to achieve climate-neutrality goals |
|--------------|-----------------|--|
| New York, US | Ford Foundation | Founded in 1936 by Edsel Ford and Henry Ford, Ford Foundation is a major philanthropic organisation committed to social justice and human rights worldwide. Through the <i>Natural Resources and Climate Justice Program</i> (source) the foundation works to recognise and dismantle the unjust system deriving from the extraction of natural resources and promote energy transition processes that are fair and inclusive and that prioritise the needs of historically disadvantaged communities and land-connected peoples from the Global South. In 2010, the Ford Foundation co-founded the <i>Climate and Land Use Alliance</i> (CLUA, source) alongside the ClimateWorks Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. This alliance coordinates grantmaking activities to promote sustainable land use as an essential part of the global response to climate change. In 2019 the foundation established the Natural Resources and Climate Change International Strategy (NRCC-I) which supports efforts to ensure that natural resource governance and climate change actions serve the public interest. The foundation has been a partner of the European AI Fund since 2020, integrating AI-powered environmental monitoring tools to track deforestation, biodiversity loss, environmental changes and carbon emissions also in support of its programmes. |

The analysis of Table 2 reveals that **structured commitment** to environmental sustainability and climate action defines the strategic approach of many foundations, with 8 out of 19 having developed dedicated programs or missions explicitly addressing these issues. The *People & Nature program* of Adessium Foundation, the *Natural Resources and Climate Justice Program* of Ford Foundation (New York, USA), the *Caring for the Earth* sector of Porticus, and the *Quality-of-life* area of intervention of Fondazione Cariparo exemplify this deep engagement. This long-term commitment to sustainability is reflected in a wide array of short-term actions.

Among the **fields of activity** covered by these foundations, the recurring ones are **Research and Innovation** (e.g Kone Foundation in Helsinki, Finland), **Citizen and community engagement** (e.g Fondazione Capellino in Genoa, Italy, Fondazione per il clima e la sostenibilità in Florence, Italy), **Ecosystem restoration through Nature-based solutions** (Fondation de France in Paris, France), **Energy transition** (e.g The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) in Guimares, Portugal; Oak Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland; European Climate Foundation in The Hague, The Netherlands), and **Advocacy** (e.g William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, California and Fondazione Cariparo in Padova, Italy). A recurring emphasis across these initiatives is a **holistic approach to climate justice**, one that integrates social and environmental concerns while empowering local communities to become active agents in the pursuit of climate neutrality and the broader decarbonization process in their cities. Rather than addressing climate action as a purely technical challenge, many of these foundations adopt an inclusive framework that recognises the disproportionate impacts of climate change and seek to promote equitable and socially responsible transitions. An illustrative example is the *FCS Firenze per il Clima* initiative, a participatory process which involves citizens, businesses, and institutions in collective decision-making to make climate neutrality in the Municipality of Firenze a shared civic mission. Another example is the *Bando ACT* initiative by Fondazione Unipolis (Bologna, Italy) which stimulates the search for innovative solutions, ensuring people-centred mobility and promoting virtuous behaviors that contribute to improving urban life and environmental sustainability.

In addition to the mentioned foundations, Table 2 also highlights the [M100 Hub](#), a Romanian initiative that stands out as a pivotal force in shaping the future of climate-neutral and smart cities. Serving as a dynamic platform for collaboration, the M100 Hub catalyses innovation by uniting thought leaders, tech pioneers, and urban visionaries to reimagine sustainable urban landscapes. Its relevance lies in its ability to bridge thematic areas such as green technology, circular economies, and social equity, creating a comprehensive approach to urban sustainability, making it an exemplary practice for cities and city-regions aiming to achieve climate neutrality and build resilient, inclusive communities.



It's also worth mentioning a Spanish initiative, called [citiES 2030](#), a multi-stakeholder space for collaboration and innovation aimed at supporting the transition of 17 Spanish cities towards climate neutrality, within the framework of the European Missions. The platform develops activities and offers services to facilitate the transformation towards healthier and more sustainable cities. The members of the citiES2030 include cities, academic institutions, representatives of the private sector and civil society organisations, among which some Foundations (Porticus Foundation in Amsterdam, Netherlands - mentioned above, Fundaciones por el clima, Oxfam Intemón...).

A final observation regarding Table 2 pertains to the ongoing **digital transition** and the expanding role of technology in addressing climate change. Notably, as the intersection of artificial intelligence and climate governance emerges as a critical strategic domain, it is worth highlighting that many of these organisations, including the M100 Hub, are actively involved in the [EU AI Fund \(EAI SF\)](#). This initiative seeks to empower civil society to influence AI policies, ensuring that AI serves the public good with a strong focus on environmental sustainability and climate neutrality. AI-driven technologies have the potential to optimize energy efficiency, enhance urban mobility, improve climate modeling, and support more informed decision-making processes through early-warning systems and predictive models. By committing to ethical, transparent, and socially responsible technological development, philanthropic foundations contribute to the fair use of AI, ensuring that it fosters inclusive and sustainable progress. Their involvement highlights how technology, when leveraged effectively, can drive systemic change, making cities more efficient, resilient, and climate neutral.

Overall, the strategic engagement of philanthropic foundations in climate action underscores a multidimensional approach to climate neutrality – one that merges mitigation, adaptation, and systemic transformation through specific funding programs and targeted actions. Their investments in participatory governance, technological innovation, and multi-stakeholder ecosystems exemplify a paradigm shift where philanthropy catalyses just, science-based, and scalable pathways toward net-zero emissions.

BOX: PHILANTHROPY AND MISSION CITIES: ZOOMING IN ON THE ITALIAN CLUSTER

There are nine Mission Cities in Italy. Seven of them have already obtained the Mission Cities label, while one – Rome – have yet to achieve this. The Italian context is unique, as each of these cities hosts one or more philanthropic institutions (bank-origin Foundations), potential ideal partners for cities striving to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

Although the involvement of foundations has been limited in terms of numbers – only four cities have foundations as signatories (Turin who has two, Milan, Bergamo, and Florence) – their impact has been critical. In Turin, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo is considered a main partner due to the financial support it has provided to some of the most significant action plans of the CCC, as well as its contribution of knowledge and expertise. In Bergamo, the Climate Transition Strategy funded by Fondazione Cariplo, is a core and highly valued element of the city's CCC. Florence has also greatly benefited from the substantial support of Fondazione Capellino, which backed the Firenze Climate Change project, and from the expertise and network of Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità, which receives regular funding from Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze.

In these cases, it can be said that the role of foundations and philanthropy has been crucial in enabling the drafting and approval of the CCCs. However, for the other cities, there is no available information. In Parma, Prato, Bologna, philanthropic foundations do not appear among the signatories and do not have an official or formal role. Nevertheless, the commitment of these institutions – particularly in Parma – toward addressing the climate crisis makes them important stakeholders who should not be excluded from the process. It is possible to envision actions aimed at encouraging their involvement.



Conclusions

In conclusion, the study reveals a partial view of the current situation, still incomplete as it is limited to a restricted number of experiences – 92 European labeled cities out of target of 112. Moreover, not all 92 cases have been considered, as not all CCCs have included a comprehensive list of signatories. However, the emerging picture illustrates that no-profit foundations are present and play a significant role, albeit in different forms and modalities. Foundations are numerous and diverse: some operate through grant-making, while others offer a non-financial support (expertise, time, human resources, knowledge, experience, network...) to the city's projects. Their initiatives contribute to enhance the six key levers outlined in the [*NetZeroCities Theory of Change*](#) – technological innovation and infrastructure, finance and funding, social innovation, democracy and participation, governance innovation, and learning, capacity, and capability building – acting as critical entry points for broader, interconnected urban transformations.

The main driving force behind the involvement of foundations, and philanthropy in general, in CCCs lies within the municipality. It is the local government that acts as a catalyst, activating foundations within its territory with varying intensity and approaches depending on specific circumstances and priority and, above all, the willingness to share and design a common path. Foundations participate as signatories, take responsibility for key CCC projects, or operate in parallel, creating an enabling environment for the development of climate neutral initiatives.

The study distinguishes foundations in relation to their involvement with CCCs: those that are signatories, those involved in specific projects, and those that, while not playing a central role, are part of the broader ecosystem and could interact (or potentially do so in the future) with the CCC project. This suggests a large and diverse potential that remains to be fully activated.

Some notable cases stand out due to their operational maturity or the significant impact they have generated. These examples provide valuable lessons and insights on how to further engage foundations in climate neutrality projects and enhance their contribution to achieving European climate goals.



Methodology

The methodology employed to examine the foundations (including both philanthropic foundations and no-profit entities registered as foundations) and their activities and commitments in relation to the EU Mission Climate Neutral and Smart City involved an extensive mapping process, beginning with an analysis of the 52 Climate City Contracts. At the end of July 2025, the CCCs were 91. From these contracts, Foundations were identified based on their inclusion as signatory parties of the CCC Commitment. In addition, the study incorporated Foundations that were either explicitly mentioned or listed as partners within the framework of the CCCs and proceeded by scouting other relevant Foundations through the EU AI Fund. This choice allowed to expand the scope of the analysis to include also non-European Foundations that nonetheless contribute to the achievement of the European carbon neutrality goals. These organizations, indeed, provide support either through their direct actions or through specific funding initiatives aimed at advancing these objectives. Additional foundations were identified through the EAISF fund network, a collaborative platform that brings together foundations dedicated to ensuring that AI aligns with societal and public interests. This network plays a pivotal role in advancing climate neutrality by fostering the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies to support sustainable, equitable, and informed climate actions.

The results of this mapping process are shown in **TABLE 1** and **TABLE 2**.

TABLE 1 lists all foundations that result from the analysis of the 91 CCC. For each foundation, a summary of the actions is included in column 3, as extracted from the CCC (when present). For each action, the Field of Action was also reported. This refers to the main domain of greenhouse gas emissions as reported in the **impact pathway** and includes 5 domains: energy systems, mobility and transport, waste and circular economy, built infrastructure and nature-based solutions, plus an additional “transveral” domain (see main text for description). The classification of each action into a field of action was present in the CCC or was or deduced from the action description otherwise. Additional activities relevant for climate-neutrality goals but not mentioned in the CCC were obtained through web search on Foundations webpage and social media and are included in column 4.

While the categorization was straightforward for the foundations directly involved in CCCs, it proved more nuanced for the organizations in **TABLE 2**. To address this, the organizations were grouped into five overarching categories: Research and Innovation, Citizen and Community Engagement, Ecosystem Restoration, Energy Transition, and Advocacy. These categories echo the framework outlined in the Climate City Contracts, aligning with its broader rationalization. Foundations are organized according to their city and country of origin, while column 3 provides an overview of their programs and activities and, where applicable, their participation in the EU AI Fund.



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