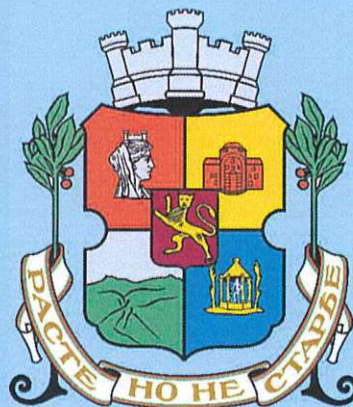


## Climate City Contract

# 2030 Climate Neutrality Commitments

## Climate Neutrality Commitments of Sofia City



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# 1 Introduction

## Introduction

Sofia is an old European city rich in history and cultural heritage, with historical artefacts, green parks, and beautiful natural surroundings with diverse flora and fauna that make up the city's rich biodiversity, as well as modern buildings. A significant part of the territory is occupied by post-socialist residential areas, characterized by massive residential blocks.

It's a challenge and a mission of the local government to transform the city into a modern, innovative, resilient and sustainable one.

Based on Sofia's consistent policy of becoming a cleaner, greener, and more livable city, the Mayor of Sofia decided in 2022 to participate in the European Commission's invitation to become one of the 100 European cities committed to achieving climate neutrality and becoming smart cities by 2030. This decision is the result of continuous work in various sectors in collaboration with academic institutions, private companies, and local stakeholders.

Our motivation for participating in the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" is based on our ambition to improve the urban environment and achieve our goal of climate neutrality for the sustainable well-being of our community. Our participation in the Cities Mission also provides broad access to good practices and innovations in dealing with the adverse effects of climate change and better adaptation to its impact. This is an ambition we deserve.

The municipality's commitment to climate neutrality is not a new development. As early as 2011, the mayor signed the Covenant of Mayors (CoM), setting a target to reduce emissions by 22% by 2020, in line with EU policies at the time. In 2015, a letter of commitment was also signed with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM).

In 2022, the final GHG inventory for year 2020 reported according to the requirements of the CoM following the SEAP 2012-2020 of Sofia, showed that Sofia had even exceeded the set target and achieved a 24,7% reduction in GHG compared to the levels of the base year 2007. This was the reason for setting a new ambitious target for reducing emissions by at least 40% up to 2030 and committing to climate neutrality by 2050.

Sofia has a full library of strategic documents setting goals and plans in various sectors having great impact on climate neutrality and green transition, major of them being:

- **The Vision for Sofia** – a comprehensive urban sustainable development strategy covering all sectors of life
- **The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan** setting the vision and goals in the sector of transport and mobility
- **The Waste Management Program** defining the goals and ways of achieving a better waste management system and reducing the waste.
- **The General Urban Planning Master Plan of Sofia**, setting the requirements on urban planning and land use
- **The Environmental Management Program** defining the sustainable solution to environmental problems and improving the state of the environment in order to ensure a good quality of life for the residents of the municipality and minimize the risks to human health.

The outstanding strategic document of Sofia bringing forth the commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 40,6%; to reduce energy consumption and to increase the share of RES in final consumption up



to 2030 is the **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)** that is complemented by all above mentioned strategic documents.

In recent years, the importance of environmental efforts has gradually become an important priority for Sofia Municipality, and today the strategic documents related to the development of the city of Sofia also include the implementation of specific measures to ensure sustainable development of the city, including waste management, improving the quality of ambient air, water, forests and planned afforestation, turning parks and open urban spaces into desirable recreation areas, preserving the city's green system, etc.

On the road to climate neutrality Sofia had implemented quite a number of initiatives and projects funded mainly by European and own funds. All projects and solutions for climate neutrality actions are science-based and supported by the academic society in Sofia via two scientific councils established within the municipality – a Scientific Council on Ambient Air Quality Improvement and a Scientific Council on Climate and Climate Change.

Thanks to the collaboration with scientific and academic communities, several important research documents have been created in Sofia Municipality, which have been developed with scientifically based solutions to issues related to climate neutrality.

- A research on the good practices to tackle the effects of the Urban Heat Island developed in cooperation with Sofia University in 2019
- An investigation of the solar potential of the rooftops of municipal buildings made in 2020 by the Sofia University using innovative technologies installed on drones
- A strategic model to reduce the effect of the UHI and a Master plan for the planting and protection of street trees developed in 2021 by the University of Forestry

However, by joining the Mission, we see an opportunity to draw new ideas and benefit from the best practices of participating cities, as well as to have unlimited access to knowledge and expertise at the European and global levels. In this way, Sofia will rank among the leading cities in applying opportunities to tackle the challenges of climate change and transferring the accumulated knowledge to other cities in Bulgaria and around the world.

Additionally, the financial opportunities and expertise that the Mission provides through the established Capital Hub will help Sofia to better utilize available resources and secure additional funding on its path to climate neutrality.

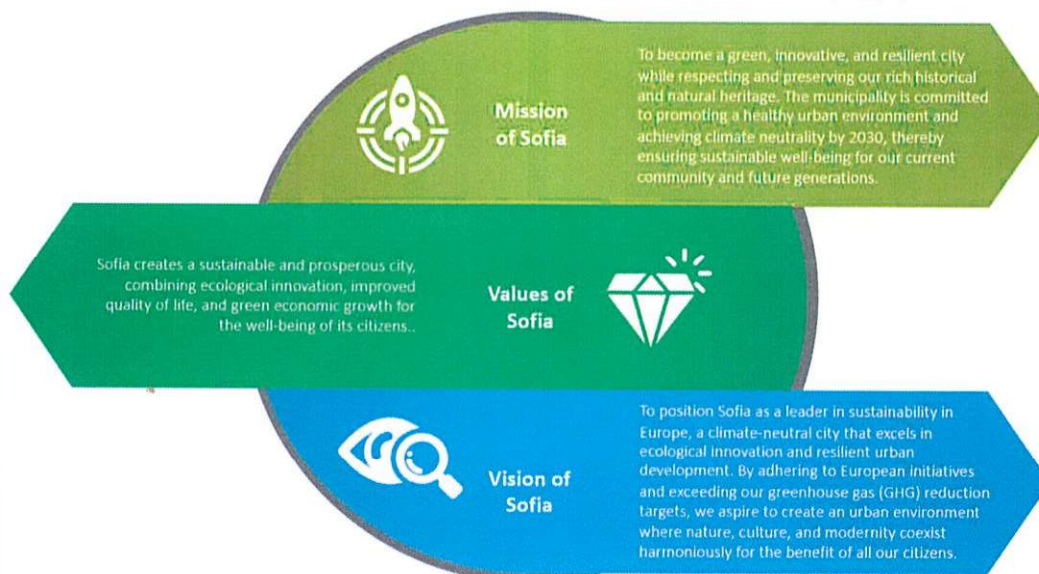
## 2 Goal: Climate neutrality by 2030

### Goal

SM has sought to strike a balance by enacting policies to allow the city to catch up to the European and global economic and industrial leaders while retaining its identity as a millennial historical and green city. This strategic vision has been put forward and championed by the local government. The continued priorities have been transport and mobility, waste treatment, ambient air quality, open green spaces, and digitalization and innovation.



Sofia, a city committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2030, within the framework of the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030"



As mentioned above, in 2015, becoming a member of the GCoM and complying with the policy requirements of the initiative, Sofia had developed and adopted a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the period 2012-2020, under which four inventories of the GHG emissions had been made – in 2011, in 2015, and in 2018. The final inventory for reporting the implementation of the SEAP 2012-2020 was prepared in 2022 for the year 2020. In 2021, the preparation of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan of Sofia Municipality 2021-2030 (SECAP 2021-2030) started with a baseline inventory for year 2018. The plan was adopted in December 2021, setting the target of min. 40,6% GHG emissions reduction by 2030 (target year), compared to the levels in 2007 (base year). This target was set for the entire administrative territory of the municipality and was in full compliance with the EU targets. The target covers all sectors considered by the Mission Cities and Scope 1 and Scope 2 as per the Global Protocol. Gases for which the inventory had been prepared include CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O and the emissions had been calculated in tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

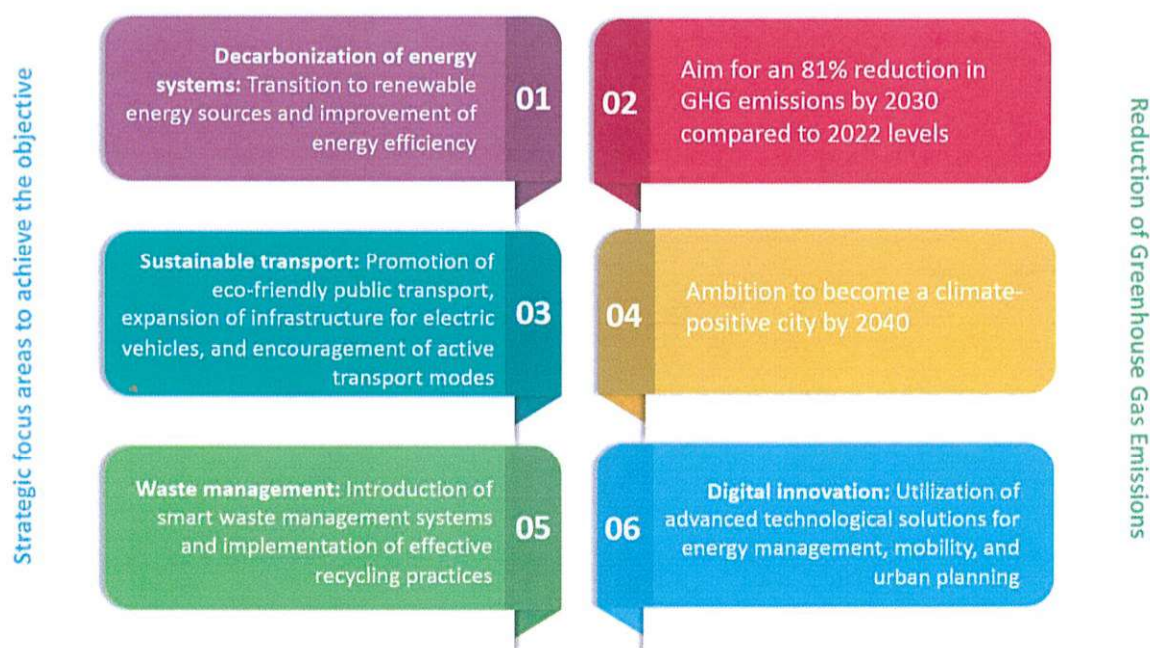
Inventories of GHG in Sofia Municipality exclude the ETS facilities within the city, except for the district heating that is the major source of heat energy in the city.

The Municipality of Sofia, considers the ambitious goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2030 not only as a response to the global climate crisis and European policy requirements and restrictions but also as a chance to foster a sustainable, healthier, greener, and equitable city for all its residents.

Our commitment to climate neutrality by 2030 is expressed in our declared participation in the EU Mission for "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" and encompasses the entire territory of Sofia Municipality. Sofia Municipality is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 81% from the baseline level and, considering that 52% of the city's territory is green, we believe that the city can achieve its high ambitions.



## SOFIA OBJECTIVE : CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2030



The main areas to focus on in Sofia Municipality are the transport, stationary energy (buildings), and waste. However, we are well aware that the emissions from some sectors cannot be fully addressed by 2030. For these areas, we plan to develop a strategy, outlining the strategic actions to tackle these sectors by 2050.

Our commitment extends beyond the simple reduction of GHG. Our vision for Sofia Municipality in 2030 is for the city to be a green, innovative & digital hub; a centre of pure & renewable energy and sustainability; a preferred destination for investment of high added-value in high tech sectors; an attractive destination to live & work, promoting diversity & inclusion, with a preserved, sustainable urban environment; a strong partner, with a long-term consistent policy of commitment to global efforts for sustainability and against climate change. Our main goals are to transform the city of Sofia into:

- A climate neutral city - by implementing the highest standards in terms of energy efficiency and transforming the energy mix towards the use of energy from renewable sources with an emphasis on shared energy production and consumption at the local level
- A resource-efficient city – development in compliance with the principles of the circular economy with an emphasis on the protection of the environment and biodiversity and the creation of comfortable and healthy environment for the citizens
- An adaptive city - increasing the adaptation capacity to deal with the negative impacts caused by climate change, by developing the regulatory framework and institutional capacity, attracting the attention of the public and business, implementing environmentally friendly solutions for adaptation and increasing the possibilities for prevention and improvement of preparedness and response to extreme climate events

The co-benefits of our actions for climate-neutrality will also influence the equitable distribution of the results and ensure the future generations will inherit a healthy and sustainable city on a green, resilient and sustainable planet. The improvement of energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy will help the households and businesses in reducing their energy costs.



Furthermore, reducing fossil fuels will also benefit the air quality in the city, providing a healthier environment for people, which has direct social and economic benefits.

In addition, we are dedicated to transforming Sofia into a smart city by using innovative technologies and ensuring reliable data and digitalization to improve the quality of life, sustainability, and efficiency of urban activities and services.

Our commitment to climate neutrality by 2030 is a proof of our decisiveness to tackle climate change and ensure a safer and brighter future for the city community.

Together with the local stakeholders, we see the ambitious goal to reach at least 80% reduction of GHG emissions by preparing the Climate Action Plan as the basis for finding solutions and competencies for building a greener, low-carbon future.

On our journey we are led by several key principles such as **integrity, innovation, accountability, transparency, and partnership**. We believe co-creation is a must for achieving our goals as well as engaging multiple actors and citizens, and implementing systemic and demand-driven actions. We consider the monitoring and joint learning will guarantee measurable results from our actions and will make our progress transparent.

In the field of governance, on the road towards climate neutrality, we are considering the role of the transition team to grow into constant monitoring body focusing on planning, managing and monitoring actions for climate neutrality. This unit, under the supervision of the Mayor, will target the implementation and improvement of the Climate Neutrality Action Plan of the city of Sofia. We are considering to create a new tool for monitoring and reporting as well as closer relation of the team with the local community via digital media like dedicated platforms and sub-sites. This innovative approach will ensure that our city is ready to tackle the challenges ahead and to seize the opportunities that come with the transition to a climate-neutral future.

Due to the turbulent political events in the country characterised by several subsequent national elections campaigns and considering the fact that just before submission of the CCC of Sofia Municipality new elections will be held, most probably the national government commitment will be attached to Sofia's contract after submission, but before the end of the year 2024.

We believe the national government elected will embrace the opportunity to commit to Sofia's CCC since the actions of the biggest city in the country are of vital importance for achieving the national goals in view of climate neutrality, energy efficiency and circular economy.

### 3 Strategic priorities

#### Strategic priorities

Our strategic priorities include (1) promoting sustainable transport and mobility, (2) energy renovation of buildings, as well as stimulating digital innovations in energy management in buildings and street lighting, (3) improving waste management and the efficient use of resources. These priorities are in line with and complement our Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, Waste Management Plan, and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan.

These ambitious goals will lead to real, measurable changes in the energy system and buildings, the transport and mobility system, and the waste management system. They will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions with 41% to cover the established shortfall to 81%.

In achieving this goal, Sofia Municipality needs support, coordination, and joint efforts with all stakeholders. Each plays a key role in this ambitious project by bringing unique perspectives and



essential resources to ensure the success of this transition. Therefore, we will identify additional stakeholders to be involved in fulfilling the commitments to achieve climate neutrality.

National authorities play an important role in advancing climate neutrality by providing the necessary funding, establishing favorable regulations, and coordinating national initiatives with local efforts. At the same time, with a decision of the Council of Ministers in November 2023, Bulgaria joined the Net-Zero Government Initiative – Leading by Example. Ensuring joint actions between local and national authorities will guarantee synergy of efforts and achievement of goals.

The private sector is a driver of innovation and investment in green technologies. By adopting sustainable business practices and collaborating with the municipality, these actors can develop and implement environmentally friendly solutions, stimulating the local economy and contributing to carbon neutrality.

Academic and research institutions provide the scientific knowledge and technological innovations needed to address climate challenges. Their research and development activities are crucial for identifying new solutions, improving existing technologies, and training the next generation of climate leaders.

An important partner for achieving the goals by 2030 are municipal organizations, including public enterprises and municipal management services, as they are responsible for implementing waste management, water supply, and public transport programs. Their participation ensures the sustainable functioning of the city's basic services and contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, citizens and non-governmental organizations play a fundamental role in ensuring strong community support and raising awareness of climate issues. Their active participation through civic initiatives, environmental advocacy groups, and community projects is essential for establishing sustainable behavior and strengthening society's resilience to climate change.

In summary, the success of Sofia's climate neutrality project depends on a comprehensive and inclusive approach where each stakeholder contributes significantly. Their collaboration and commitment create a robust and resilient ecosystem capable of leading the capital towards a sustainable and prosperous future.

The main interventions will cover, but not limit to:

## **1. Promoting Sustainable Transport & Mobility**

### ***1.1 Invest in public transport***

To enhance sustainable mobility and reduce emissions from the transport sector, Sofia city has adopted a broad investment program with priority to:

- **Electrification and renovation of public transport:** We will invest in a comprehensive electrification program, introducing new electric buses, trams, trolley buses and expand the metro lines that provide clean and efficient transportation options.
- **Diversification and expansion of infrastructure:** We will work to create infrastructure that supports and encourages cycling and walking.

### ***1.2 Electrify municipal and private vehicles***

Sofia will

- Promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in municipal structures, organizations, and companies;



- Expanding the city's EV charging infrastructure to facilitate the transition to electric transport;
- Discussing incentives and institutional support to encourage residents and businesses to adopt electric vehicles, contributing to the reduction of emissions and improvement of air quality.

## **2. Enhancing Building Energy Efficiency**

### **2.1 Phased energy renovation of municipal buildings**

Reduce energy consumption in existing buildings, by the introduction of:

- Energy-Efficient Technologies: insulation, efficient lighting, smart heating and cooling systems in existing buildings;
- Energy Audits: to identify areas for improvement and guide retrofit efforts effectively.
- Energy Management Systems: installation of smart metering devices and automated control systems

### **2.2 Net-Zero Building Standards**

Sofia is committed to working together with stakeholders to create regulations that ensure new projects meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and promote the construction of carbon-neutral buildings.

## **3. Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption**

### **3.1. Waste Management**

Sofia recognizes the importance of waste reduction and the principles of the circular economy and continuously works to improve its sustainable waste management practices in accordance with national and European regulations.

- Waste Reduction and Recycling

We will continue to make efforts to reduce waste generation at the source and promote recycling throughout Sofia Municipality by applying the "polluter pays" principle. We are ready to implement recycling programs to encourage residents and businesses to effectively separate recyclable materials.

We will conduct extensive educational campaigns to raise awareness about waste reduction, recycling, and responsible consumption practices.

### **3.2 Green Procurements**

To further enhance the sustainability of processes, Sofia Municipality will develop, in collaboration with stakeholders, practices for organizing so-called "Green Public Procurement" and will work towards their effective implementation.

The attached Climate Neutrality Action Plan until 2030 provides detailed information on the implementation of the priorities and interventions described above, including timelines, funding sources, and collaboration with stakeholders.

We are collectively dedicated to making Sofia greener, healthier, more resilient, and more sustainable for the benefit of the entire local community and the global environment.



## 4 Process and principles

### Process and principles

#### 1. Process

The systematic process followed strictly the basic framework for effective action planning set out in the Info Kit for Cities, the Climate Transition Map and the Theory of Change Model.

The process of outlining the city's commitments to achieving climate neutrality began back in 2017 when a specialized structure was established in Sofia Municipality—the "Climate, Energy, and Air" Directorate. This directorate is responsible for matters related to policies addressing climate change and air quality.

The municipality's efforts are also supported by: the Coordination Unit, which monitors the progress of SECAP 2024-2030 and the implementation of the "Energy Efficiency First" principle; the Scientific Council on Climate and Climate Change, which participates in project discussions and policy development; and the newly established innovative structure. To support the process of developing the Climate Neutrality Contract, a Unit for Transition to Climate Neutrality was formed.

The inclusion of stakeholders is an important step in the process of outlining commitments to increasing climate neutrality. In this direction, a Communication Strategy for SECAP 2021-2030 has been developed and implemented. A one-stop shop has also been created, providing advice and support to citizens regarding energy consumption and savings, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources (RES). Additionally, the platform "Sofia Chooses" allows citizens to propose and co-design projects and participate in their implementation.

Within the framework of the Climate Neutrality Contract implementation, existing cooperation with various stakeholders will be further expanded, and new partnerships will be created to achieve the ambitious goals.

The process of development and implementation is detailed in Section 1.5 of the attached Climate Neutrality Action Plan. It follows the Transition Map and the Theory of Change of NZC and is based on four pillars:

#### IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



In the process of co-creation we organised several meetings with stakeholders and the most important one was the meeting with business representatives where the objectives and targets were discussed broadly and in detail. The result of this meeting was the readiness for engagement in the co-design process and the start of continuous communication. Due to the great delay of starting the activities for developing



the CCC, private stakeholders could not prepare their actions to be included in this first version of the CCC and only few private partners confirmed their commitment by provided a list of actions, which implementation will support the achieving reduction in the carbon footprint of the city – the operator of Sofia Airport (fully within the territory of Sofia City), the operator of the Water Utility in the municipality and CleanTech – a business network that focuses on clean technology, innovation and sustainable development.

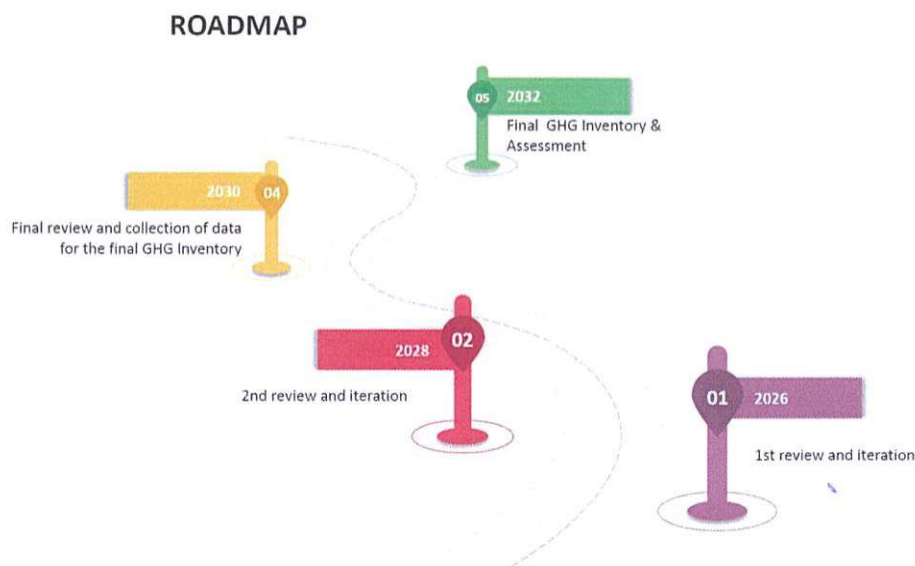
## 2. Monitoring and Management of the Climate Neutrality Contract (CCC)

The monitoring of the Contract's implementation will be based firstly on clear data collection procedures and secondly on procedures for tracking progress in the implementation of the established indicators (detailed in Section 3.3 of the attached Climate Neutrality Action Plan).

The collected information will be analysed to anticipate potential implementation problems and outline possible approaches to overcome them.

The monitoring process will include:

- a. Annual review of action progress and informing the community – An annual review will be conducted to determine the need for updates, depending on the development of the local context, as well as local, national, and European legislation in relation to climate neutrality.
- b. Periodic evaluation and review of the results of implemented projects and activities – At least twice a year, or more frequently, monitoring sessions will be organized for the Transition to Climate Neutrality Unit to address any arising issues as quickly and effectively as possible.
- c. Regular review of Sofia's Climate City Contract (CCC) by specialized structures and organizing joint sessions between the Transition Unit and the Scientific Council on Climate and Climate Change to address gaps, discrepancies, or incompatibilities with policies and/or regulations, if applicable. The timeline for the periodic review of the CCC is presented in the roadmap below:



The Climate Contract has a horizon until 2050, which is a long-term effort encompassing actions and initiatives across various sectors and with different stakeholders. For this reason, we envision the management of the contract to be organized as follows:



- a. The "Climate, Energy, and Air" Directorate in the Sofia Municipality Administration will conduct regular monitoring of the Contract's implementation, maintain continuous communication with stakeholders, and support the work of the "Transition to Climate Neutrality Unit";
- b. The existing "Transition to Climate Neutrality Unit" will become a permanent entity with its composition updated to include representatives from the stakeholders who signed the contract. The main responsibilities of the Unit will be to strategically monitor the progress in implementing the planned measures, provide guidance, and propose solutions to any challenges that arise. The Unit will meet regularly, but not less than once every six months;
- c. Enhancing the role of the "Scientific Council on Climate and Climate Neutrality" by involving it at the earliest stage in discussions of potential measures for achieving climate neutrality.

### 3. Principles

Sofia Municipality follows several guiding principles that form the roadmap to the city's climate neutrality and strengthen its role as a model for innovation and pioneering:

**Accountability:** Conducting periodic reporting to the structures responsible for monitoring and managing the Contract and to the public. We remain open to external evaluation and feedback.

**Co-Design/Co-Creation:** Engaging stakeholders, including citizens and businesses, in the development and implementation of the Climate Neutrality Contract (CCC) to ensure it meets their needs and priorities. Citizens participate in proposing and selecting specific projects. They are regularly involved in public discussions on actions proposed by the municipality, and businesses are encouraged to take measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Innovation:** Utilizing innovative ideas and approaches that can support our path to climate neutrality.

**Social Participation:** Considering social impact in the planning and implementation of the Contract. This will allow for the identification of barriers to the participation of vulnerable social groups in CCC actions, and our intention is to ensure a just transition for all.

**Systematic and Demand-Driven Approach:** All proposed actions are integrated systematically and are driven by the needs and priorities of the citizens for their well-being. Our strategy includes integrated interventions.

**Monitoring and Joint Learning:** Continuous monitoring of implementation, and revision and enhancement of the Contract. It is a "living document" and must be continually reviewed, refined, supplemented, and adapted. Through constant monitoring of the reliability and relevance of the measures, we share what we've learned with other cities and assimilate their lessons, using the opportunity to apply different, better, and more efficient measures if necessary. Therefore, we will continue to improve the established processes and structures that allow for flexible actions and responses.

The purpose of this document is to unite our commitments and provide a roadmap for Sofia Municipality to improve its climate neutrality. In this document, we reaffirm our determination to combat climate change, and it serves as a guide for our ongoing efforts.

We are guided by several key principles such as transparency, accountability, and innovation. We believe in the co-creation of systematic and demand-driven actions. With this, we commit to comprehensive monitoring and joint efforts that ensure our actions will be effective and our progress measurable.

We are fully aware that the Climate-Neutral City Contract is a living document that will be continuously reviewed and periodically updated in view of its effectiveness, accountability to commitments, and the engagement of new stakeholders in accordance with financial and monitoring cycles.



## 2030 Climate-Neutrality Commitments

Being fully aware that Sofia Municipality could not achieve all above depicted goals alone, we have engaged few private partners – SOF CONNECT, the operator of Sofia Airport, VEOLIA Sofiyska Voda AD, the WWW utility company in Sofia Municipality region and CleanTech OOD – a business network focused on clean technology, innovation and sustainable development. Their commitments to support our efforts along climate neutrality path are presented in detail in the Climate Neutrality Action Plan of Sofia annexed herewith.

Our commitments are the result of a co-creation process with local, regional, and national stakeholders, establishing new ways of thinking and working together to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

Our overall goal is to achieve systemic change in the city, including in the sectors with the highest emissions in the city.

We believe that our commitments will lead to significant change, which will have a positive impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the city of Sofia.

We, the undersigned, commit to joining our efforts to make Sofia Municipality climate neutral by 2030.

We agree with the shared vision and commitments formulated in this document and will contribute to achieving our common goals.

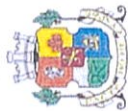
This commitment document and its annexes, which are an integral part of it, have been developed through an iterative process as a dynamic and flexible document that will be subject to monitoring, updating, and modification to review and adjust the commitments, actions, and/or investments necessary to achieve the city's climate neutrality goals. It represents a manifestation of our collective will, shared vision, and firm commitment to a sustainable and climate-neutral future.



## 5 Signatories

Name of the signatory (organisation)	Sector / Domain / Level of operation <sup>1</sup>	Legal form	Name of the responsible person	Position of the responsible person	Signature
Sofia Municipality	Governance, local level	Municipality - Local government	Mr. Vasil Terziev	Mayor of Sofia Municipality	
Association of commercial building owners in Bulgaria	Built environment, national level	Non-profit organization	Mrs. Tanya Koseva	Chairman of the Board of Directors	
Bulgarian construction chamber	Building and construction, national level	Non-profit organization	eng. Iliyan Terziev	Chairman of the Management Board	
VEOLIA Bulgaria/Sofiyiska Voda AD	Water Supply and Wastewater treatment, regional level	Private company/Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Utility	Mr. Francois Debergh	Country Director Bulgaria & Greece	
SOF CONNECT AD – Airport operator of SOFIA AIRPORT	Transport / Airport Airborne transport, regional level	Private company/Airport	Mr. Jesus Caballero Pinto	Chief Executive Officer	
University of Architecture, Construction and Geodesy	Science & education, national level	University	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Gichka Kutova-Kamenova	Rector	

<sup>1</sup> Please mention if the organisation is active at local, regional, national, or international level.



# 2030 Climate-Neutrality Commitments



University of National and World Economy	Science & education, national level	University	Prof. Dr. Dimitar Dimitrov	Rector	
University of Forestry	Science & education, national level	University	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Mihaylov	Rector	
Todor Kableskov University of transport	Science & education, national level	University	Prof. Daniela Todorova, PhD	Rector	
Clean Tech Bulgaria	Innovation & Sustainable development, national level	Private organisation/Business network	Mrs. Mariyana Hamanova	Executive director	
Bulgarian Green Building Council	Science & education for transforming the built environment, national level	Non-profit organization	Ms. Adina Welsh	Chairperson	



## Appendix 1: Individual Commitments

Currently only the Association of Commercial Buildings has provided its signed commitment in the form of supporting letter attached below.

The individual commitments of other stakeholders who have signed the Climate Neutrality Contract will be additionally provided.



## **Association of commercial buildings owners in Bulgaria**

Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia  
22 San Stefano str., San Stefano plaza

### **2030 CLIMATE-NEUTRALITY COMMITMENTS**

The Association of commercial building owners in Bulgaria (ACBO) is a voluntarily, non-political, and non-governmental organization. Founded in 2013, it incorporates around 50 companies, owners of commercial buildings and associated members (companies involved in the real estate business) with total built-up area of more than 1,000,000 square meters, located in the Republic of Bulgaria, as the majority of the buildings are located in the city of Sofia.

Sofia's climate neutrality ambition by 2030 is a bold yet necessary commitment to ensuring the city's long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

ACBO is committed to contributing to this city-wide goal by focusing on two critical areas: energy savings and waste reduction within commercial buildings in Sofia. ACBO's goal is to promote among its members actions and activities which lead to significant reductions in energy consumption and waste production by 2030, aligning with the city's broader climate neutrality targets. While some areas, such as heritage buildings, may present challenges in achieving full climate neutrality by 2030 due to preservation constraints, ACBO is willing to address these areas beyond 2030, implementing gradual improvements and integrating new technologies as they become viable.

ACBO's commitment is further bolstered by its member organizations, which collectively manage a significant portion of the city's commercial real estate. The Association's efforts aim not only to contribute to reduced GHG emissions but will also promote co-benefits such as improved air quality, enhanced well-being for building occupants, and long-term financial savings through increased energy efficiency.

In order to proactively participate in the achievement of the climate neutrality of city of Sofia by 2030, the ACBO has identified several systemic strategic priorities that will have a profound impact on reducing GHG emissions within Sofia's commercial building sector:

#### *a) Energy Efficiency Improvements*

- **Building Retrofitting:** ACBO will spearhead amongst its member an initiative to retrofit existing commercial buildings with energy-efficient technologies, such as LED lighting, smart thermostats, and HVAC systems with higher energy efficiency.
- The association will promote the adoption of advanced energy management systems (EMS) across its member buildings. These systems will optimize energy use, reduce waste, and provide real-time data to track progress towards energy reduction goals.

#### *b) Renewable Energy Integration*

- **On-Site Renewable Energy:** ACBO will encourage amongst its members the installation of solar panels and other renewable energy sources on commercial building rooftops. This will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and contribute directly to the city's renewable energy targets.
- **Green Energy Procurement:** The association will explore opportunities for bulk purchasing agreements with green energy providers, enabling members to transition to 100% renewable energy sources more cost-effectively.

#### *c) Waste Reduction*

- **Waste Audits and Reduction Plans:** ACBO will promote amongst its members the need of minimizing waste generation at the source and increasing recycling rates.
- **Circular Economy Initiatives:** The association will promote the adoption of circular economy practices, such as using recycled materials in construction, the use of materials produced in the vicinity of the construction site etc.

#### *d) Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building*

- **Education and Training:** The ACBO will encourage its members to participate in training programs for building owners, managers, and tenants which raise awareness about energy efficiency and waste reduction strategies. Work meetings, presentations and other events in this regard shall be held.
- **Collaboration with Government and NGOs:** The association will actively collaborate with Sofia's municipal government, NGOs, and other stakeholders to ensure that its efforts are aligned with the city's overall climate action plan. This includes participating in policy discussions, sharing best practices, and contributing to city-wide sustainability initiatives.

#### *d) Conclusion*

The ACBO is fully committed to supporting Sofia's ambition to become a climate-neutral city by 2030. Being a voluntary organization, the Association can only encourage and support its

members to carry out these activities, and is not able to commit to achieving or reporting specific results in these areas. However, it believes that by continuing to implement the above-mentioned initiatives in this field, in accordance with the Association's capabilities and program, it will have a positive impact and contribute to achieving these goals.

Tanya Kosseva-Boshova,

Chairperson of the Association of commercial building owners in Bulgaria



## Appendix 2: Decision of Sofia City Council



### СТОЛИЧНА ОБЩИНА СТОЛИЧЕН ОБЩИНСКИ СЪВЕТ

1000 София, ул. Московска № 33, Тел. 02/93 77 591, <https://council.sofia.bg>

#### РЕШЕНИЕ № 484

на Столичния общински съвет

от 12.09.2024 година

За подписване на Договор за климатична неутралност на град София като един от 100-те климатично неутрални и интелигентни града.

На основание чл.21, ал.1, т.12, т.13 и ал.2 от Закона за местното самоуправление и местната администрация, във връзка с изпълнението на проект „Нет зиро ситис“ (Net Zero Cities)“

#### СТОЛИЧНИЯТ ОБЩИНСКИ СЪВЕТ РЕШИ:

1. Упълномощава кмета на Столична община да подпише Договор за климатична неутралност.

2. Дава съгласие Столична община да представи Договора за климатична неутралност на Мисията на Европейската комисия - „100 климатично неутрални и интелигентни града на бъдещето до 2030 г.“, в рамките на проект „Нет зиро ситис“ (Net Zero Cities)“.

Настоящото решение е прието на заседание на Столичния общински съвет, проведено на 12.09.2024 г., Протокол № 18, точка 9 от дневния ред, по доклад № СОА24-ВК66-7735/05.09.2024 година и е подпечатано с официалния печат на Столичния общински съвет.

Председател на Столичния  
общински съвет:

(п)

Цветомир Петров