

# LEUVEN 2030

TOWARDS A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL FUTURE

Leuven is ready to leap.  
Are you?



Leuven 2030 strives for a climate-neutral future for Leuven. Our non-profit organisation was founded by 60 founding members, including the city of Leuven, KU Leuven, Voka - Chamber of Commerce Flemish Brabant, KBC, imec, Eandis, ... and committed Leuven citizens. We have now grown into a solid organisation of more than 600 members.

Leuven 2030 represents inhabitants, companies, civil society organisations, knowledge institutions and public authorities. This unique partnership is our strength. After all, cooperation is crucial to evolve into a healthy, livable and climate-neutral city.

We have the knowledge, the network and the plan to achieve a climate-neutral city by 2050. Leuven is ready to make the future our present and be the climate-neutral city of tomorrow.

We are looking for a number of strong partners who want to significantly increase our effectiveness. Partners who are determined to make our ambition come true.

## The challenge

Climate action is about more than averting environmental disaster. Viewed through a wider lens, climate action is about seizing social and economic opportunities. It's about strengthening the knowledge economy, spurring technological innovation, creating jobs, improving public health, expanding green spaces, increasing our energy and materials independence, and inspiring other cities to follow our lead. All of which will help build resilience, and equip Leuven to cope with the effects of climate change when they hit.

## Our approach

Leuven 2030 works to reduce carbon emissions in a targeted and result-driven manner. We do this by combining science (scientific framework), social power (bringing people together around projects) and storytelling (inspiring stories about the steps taken).

*Join us in making  
the difference.*

# SELECTED REALIZED PROJECTS



## **L.E.U.V.E.N. (Lower Energy Use Via an Extraordinary Network)**

Under the name L.E.U.V.E.N., 23 large and small partners collaborate to make their large buildings more sustainable. These are offices, schools, retirement homes, cultural centres, etc. Together, the partners invest around 50 million euros in energy-saving measures and share their knowledge and experience. Leuven 2030 brought the network together and obtained a grant of more than 1.5 million euro from the ELENA fund of the European Investment Bank, which finances the studies of the partners involved.

## **LEUVEN FOOD STRATEGY**

Within the project 'Leuven Food Strategy' a strategy was designed for a more sustainable agricultural and food system in Leuven. The food strategy focuses on all aspects of the food chain, such as production, consumption, processing and distribution. Moreover, in Leuven the explicit choice was made not to have the food strategy written by a small group of experts, but together with all stakeholders (consumers, traders, retail chains, the catering industry and caterers, producers, advocates and local policy makers). Leuven 2030 brought the network together and guided the entire process.



## **STRATEN VOL LEUVEN**

Straten Vol Leuven, which originated from one of the climate projects of Leuven 2030, advocates giving public transport, cyclists and pedestrians more space in order to ensure an optimal flow of traffic and to keep Leuven accessible. For this reason, the city of Leuven collaborated with the citizens' platform Straten Vol Leuven in 2016 on the implementation of a traffic circulation plan. This is a crucial part of a healthy, livable future for Leuven. A city that does not clog up, but instead becomes more accessible and offers space. Since 2016, Leuven 2030 and Straten Vol Leuven have organized three black-carbon measurements to see what the effect of the circulation plan is on the air quality in the city. The 2019 measurement shows that the air quality in Leuven Centre and Kessel-Lo is predominantly good and that the traffic circulation plan contributes to a healthy environment.

# INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

## European Green Leaf & iCapital 2018

That our approach pays off is clear from the European awards that we have won together with the city of Leuven. Leuven was named European Green Leaf 2018 by the European Commission. This is a reward for cities that work together with their inhabitants to create a livable city. In addition, in collaboration with the city of Leuven and Leuven MindGate, we placed as a finalist for the European Capital of Innovation Award in November 2018. Each year, the European Commission awards this prize to the city that makes the best use of innovation to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants.



## EIT CLIMATE-KIC

In 2019, Leuven started a longterm partnership with the European Climate Innovation Community EIT Climate-KIC as one of ten lighthouse cities, alongside Copenhagen, Madrid, Amsterdam, Vienna and others. As a lighthouse city, Leuven, together with EIT Climate-KIC, will draw up a strategic plan for its climate approach for the upcoming years. In addition to knowledge sharing and expertise, Leuven 2030 and the city of Leuven can count on meaningful financial support.

## TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION AWARD

Leuven 2030 was named finalist of the Transformative Action Award 2019 by a jury of experts. This European sustainability prize is awarded to a city, region or social organisation that implements plans to realize sociocultural, socioeconomic and technological change in their community. Leuven 2030 was chosen as a finalist because of its unique model of cooperation, succeeding in ensuring that all local stakeholders, such as the local government, Leuven residents, businesses and educational institutions, take equal responsibility for the evolution towards a climate-neutral future. Moreover, the jury was very impressed by Leuven's comprehensive Roadmap 2025 · 2035 · 2050.



## United Nations documentary

► [bit.ly/reuters-leuven](https://bit.ly/reuters-leuven)

In November 2018, on behalf of the United Nations and in collaboration with Reuters, a documentary about Leuven was filmed, which is part of an international series on the Sustainable Development Goals. The documentary shows the contributions to a sustainable future of a number of core partners of Leuven 2030 and has been broadcasted worldwide.

# ROADMAP 2025 - 2035 - 2050

## TO A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL FUTURE



### MOVING UP A GEAR

In recent years, Leuven 2030 has organized or supported various projects and initiatives that contribute to a sustainable future with a substantial reduction of emissions. Despite these and other efforts, our monitoring shows that carbon emissions in Leuven are not falling fast enough. High time to move up a gear! Therefore Leuven 2030, alongside a large group of experts from various disciplines, has drawn up a Roadmap. This Roadmap 2025 · 2035 · 2050 shows the major challenges we face and contains a timeline with the steps we need to take between now and 2025, 2035 and 2050 to reach carbon neutrality. The Roadmap assigns a crucial role to every inhabitant, every company, every knowledge institution and every government. Their commitment, both individually and in collaboration, is crucial to evolve towards a healthy, livable and climate-neutral Leuven by 2050.

### HIGH AMBITION

The Roadmap is ambitious, and leaves no stone unturned. It spans nearly 200 pages and covers everything from energy, mobility and land use to governance, financing and monitoring. It is structured into 13 programs, which in turn are broken down into 80 project clusters. The Roadmap takes into account not only the emissions produced directly on Leuven's territory and the emissions linked to the city's energy supply, but also those embedded in consumption. Despite this high ambition, 15 key local stakeholders agreed to endorse the Roadmap.



*Want to know more about this unique action plan? Take a look on [www.leuven2030.be/roadmap](http://www.leuven2030.be/roadmap) (website in Dutch)*



### STRONG PARTNERSHIP

In order to put an ambitious plan like the Roadmap into practice, nothing can be left to chance and the commitment of many partners is essential. That is why, to implement the Roadmap, Leuven 2030 turned to its network. For each of the Roadmap's programs, it appointed one or two program coordinators. These program coordinators, 18 in all, are a diverse set of people, including city and university staff, as well as people from the private sector. This model of implementation reinforces the notion that pursuing climate neutrality is a shared project, to which every member of the Leuven community can contribute.

### THE ROADMAP'S 13 PROGRAMS

1. Retrofitting residential buildings
2. Retrofitting non-residential buildings
3. Climate-neutral new buildings
4. Vibrant centers and smart location policy
5. Sustainable modal shift
6. Greening the vehicle fleet
7. Generating green energy
8. Sustainable and healthy eating
9. Circular city
10. Green and resilient spaces
11. Governance and financing
12. Involving everybody in the transition
13. Learning and monitoring

# LEUVEN 2030 PARTNERSHIPS

Together with our members and our dedicated network, we are working towards a shared and ambitious goal: a healthy, livable and climate-neutral Leuven by 2050. In doing so, we take into account the diversity in our society and strive to achieve this change in a socially just way.



Leuven is ready to leap. Are you?

[info@leuven2030.be](mailto:info@leuven2030.be) +32 (0)16 27 25 31

Prof. Roger Van Overstraetenplein 1

3000 Leuven

