



Joint Declaration of the Founding Members of the Western Balkans Green Mayors Alliance

Preamble

We, the undersigned Mayors and municipal delegates of the Western Balkans, unite in the belief that the green transition is not a burden, but our generation's greatest opportunity to lead, develop and to prosper locally and regionally.

Recognizing the urgent need to respond to the climate crisis, environmental degradation, and energy instability. We affirm the role of municipalities as the heartbeat of democratic transformation, based on people's trust, responsiveness, and the most direct contact to citizens and communities. We celebrate the success of community-led efforts such as the Sunny Schools Initiative, which has proven that inclusive, citizen-driven action is not only possible, but powerful.

Determined to ensure that the green transition in our cities is not only fast, but also fair. A transition that prioritizes economic justice for underdeveloped areas, coal-dependent communities, and vulnerable groups. A transition that restores citizens trust, builds local economies, and strengthens the social fabric of our towns and cities.

Acknowledging that the new era opening before us, with the EU Green Deal, EU Clean Industrial Deal, the Green Agenda and the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, place municipalities at the forefront of investment and reform.

It is with this shared sense of responsibility and belief that we hereby declare our collective commitment to launch the Green Mayors Alliance, a regional platform for stronger municipal leadership in the just and democratic green transition.

Our Vision

A thriving Western Balkans where municipalities are the driving force of a just and inclusive net-zero future, leading locally, collaborating regionally, and empowering citizens to shape clean, democratic, and resilient green economy and energy systems for generations to come.

Our Core Aspirations

As founding members of the Green Mayors Alliance, we aspire to:

Advance Energy Democracy & Community Power

- Support citizen-driven models such as Sunny Schools to build decentralized energy systems rooted in trust and local ownership.
- Foster energy communities, cooperatives, and inclusive public-private partnerships that empower residents and municipalities alike.

Act Boldly for Net Zero

- Design and implement local climate action plans aligned with the 2050 climate neutrality goal.
- Build people-centred green infrastructure and services improving living conditions and social cohesion in our territories.
- Reduce municipal emissions across key sectors such as energy, mobility and waste management, through transparent, evidence-based approaches.

Unlock Green Finance for Local Change

- Identify, prepare, and launch municipal projects aligned with national and EU funding programs (such as WBIF, IPA III, Growth Plan), as well as other relevant financing opportunities.
- Build internal capacity for accessing green finance for local change.

Champion Justice Across All Communities

- Ensure that no one is left behind in the green transition, taking special care of underserved communities.
- Advocate for inclusive support mechanisms that promote social equity and territorial cohesion.

How We Will Work

- We will build a locally rooted and regionally coordinated Mayors Alliance open to all municipalities who share our vision and our core aspirations.
- We will contribute to development of a lean and flexible governance model that honours our diversity while ensuring effective collaboration and accountability.
- We will work together to learn, exchange, and co-design joint initiatives that deliver tangible outcomes for our communities.
- We will partner with governments, EU, donors, civil society, and regional institutions but remain firmly led by our shared municipal voice.
- We will advocate for supportive national and regional policies, and for improved access to EU and international funding for municipalities.

This Declaration expresses our shared aspirations. It is a statement of intent and cooperation and does not create legally binding obligations.

We welcome national governments, civil society, the EU, and international partners to stand with us as we turn local ambition into regional transformation.

Signed on 22 of September 2025, in Durres, Albania

Founding Members of the Green Mayors Alliance

Mr. Arif Tafani – Municipality of Belsh

Signature: _____

Mr. Toni Konjanovski – Municipality of Bitola

Signature: _____

Ms. Festime Mjeshtri - Municipality of Bulqizë

Signature: _____

Mr. Jusuf Shaini – Municipality of Brvenica

Signature: _____

Ms. Alketa Binjaku – Municipality of Cërrik

Signature: _____

Mr. Gledian Llatja – Municipality of Elbasan

Signature: _____

Mr. Besnik Osmani – Municipality of Fushë Kosova

Signature: _____

Ms. Eranda Kumnova Baçi – Municipality of Gjakova

Signature: _____

Mr. Stefan Nikezić – City of Kragujevac

Signature: _____

Mr. Željko Kerović – Municipality of Lopare

Signature: _____

Ms. Fitore Hashani – Municipality of Obiliq

Signature: _____

Ms. Milica Golubović – City of Pirot

Signature: _____

Mr. Pali Kolefski - Municipality of Pustec

Signature: _____

Mr. Rudin Beka – Municipality of Shkoder

Signature: _____

Ms. Vishna Shorova – Municipality of Štip

Signature: _____

Mr. Bilal Kasami – Municipality of Tetovo

Signature: _____

Ms. Anuela Ristani – Municipality of Tirana

Signature: _____

Mr. Đorđe Milanović – City of Valjevo

Signature: _____

Mr. Asmir Nišić – City of Živinice

Signature: _____