



Climate City Contract

2030 Climate Neutrality Commitments

Climate Neutrality Commitments of the City of Velenje



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1 Introduction

Introduction

The City of Velenje formally stated its green ambitions back in 2010 when joining the Covenant of Mayors. Its efforts and achievements related to climate change mitigation have been recognised by the 2024 Green Leaf award. The vision of the city to become climate neutral by 2030 coincides with the exit from coal and just transition of the Savinjsko-Šaleška (SAŠA) sub-region.

The modern city of Velenje was planned and built in 1950s. Its development was stimulated by the increasing energy needs. The city has grown into an important economic, employment, educational, administrative and cultural centre of the SAŠA sub-region. Today, the Velenje coal mine is the only one left operating in Slovenia and supplies lignite to a thermal power plant (TPP) Šoštanj in the neighbouring municipality, which produces around one third of electricity in Slovenia. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a Strategy for the exit from coal stating that the Velenje coal mine is to close mining operation by 2033 at the latest. Ceasing the use of lignite for production of electricity and for heating is a turning point in history for the City of Velenje, being both a challenge and an opportunity to ambitiously step on a climate neutral path. Becoming a member of the Mission 100 climate-neutral and smart cities is a logical and right step for the city's aspirations.

Over years, the City of Velenje has already initiated several climate actions, both at strategic and implementation level. The first Sustainable energy action plan (SEAP) was elaborated in 2011 and the first Local Energy Concept in 2012 with the objective of reducing GHG emissions by 23.1 % until 2020. Climate and environment actions were integrated in the Sustainable urban strategy of the city in 2016. The Sustainable urban mobility plan was prepared in 2017. The next generation of these strategic documents strengthens climate actions and ambitions even more. In 2022, the City of Velenje also adopted a Digital development strategy of the smart city and community Velenje 2022-2030 to improve the governance and implementation of public services.

The implementation of strategies and actions resulted in several actions and initiatives, among them:

- Public passenger transport is available free of charge in Velenje already since 2008.
- The city's urban cycling network, which safely and comfortably connects residential areas with workplaces, schools, employment and service centres, has been extended from 13 km in 2018 to 30 km in 2023.
- A bike rental system BICY has been introduced and is gradually being extended.
- Municipal waste separation was introduced already in 1992, and efforts were made to decrease the quantities of landfilled waste over years.
- The Public utility company has in recent years already invested in renewable energy generation to increase self-sufficiency for the operation of water supply and waste-water treatment networks and appliances.
- Public lighting has been modernised by substituting the old lamps with more energy efficient ones.
- The process of energy renovation of the multi-dwelling building stock is progressing.
- The energy efficiency of the district heating system has improved.
- Several soft measures were recently initiated to increase awareness of citizens regarding sustainable climate and energy practices and for sustainable organisation of public events.

Climate neutrality by 2030 can only be achieved in cooperation of the City Administration, strong and committed Transition Team and key city stakeholders. To monitor and steer the CCC implementation, a Strategic Council will be appointed by the mayor and the CCC documents will be presented to the City Council.

Being aware of a challenging process ahead, the Mission provides an encouraging learning environment and an opportunity for exchange and transfer of good and innovative practices among



cities across Europe. The City of Velenje is committed to work in synergy with and to disseminate learnings to other municipalities in the region and wider.

2 Goal: Climate neutrality by 2030

Goal

The 2030 climate neutrality target of the City of Velenje is to reduce GHG emissions by 80 % compared to the 2018 baseline. This will be achieved by engaging the City's key stakeholders in climate neutral pathways.

GHG emissions of the City of Velenje in 2018 were 171 276 t CO₂eq. The calculation was made for the entire administrative territory with no exclusion of any areas. By 2030, GHG emissions within the city administrative boundary will be reduced by 80 % (amounting to 137 443 t CO₂eq), what is in line with the Net Zero Cities methodological approach.

Increasing and accelerating the climate actions, which will be implemented in different systemic levers, ranging from technology and infrastructure, finance and funding, governance and policy, democracy and participation, will also create several co-benefits for the city.

Actions in the energy systems will primarily contribute to increased energy self-sufficiency as well as to building capacities to source and manage public and private funds. Actions in mobility and transport will help reduce noise pollution and contribute to better air quality and less congestions. Several soft actions in different systems will contribute to behavioural change of citizens towards low carbon lifestyle. By maintaining and improving the green infrastructure, liveability, attractiveness and aesthetics of built environment is expected to improve, including preservation of the urban biodiversity and social wellbeing. A range of actions will contribute to cost savings; digital solutions will also help improve public services. Implementation of new approaches and technologies related to energy and circular economy are expected to create more green jobs. Through implementation of the processes, overall contributions to increased quality of life will be achieved.

3 Strategic priorities

Strategic priorities

In designing the impact pathways towards climate neutrality, all fields of action and most relevant system levers were observed, potential early changes and late outcomes were identified in view of contributions to reducing emissions or generating carbon sinks and co-benefits.

In defining the strategy, the primary focus is on fields of actions and systemic levers with highest emission gaps and highest potential for reducing GHG emissions, while also observing the feasibility and potential for engagement of relevant stakeholders.

The most relevant strategic systemic priorities comprise energy systems and built environment, which must be addressed in synergy and for which the highest priority is set also in line with the process of just transition. The third most relevant priority is mobility and transport. The other two sectors (waste and circular economy, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions) are expected to add to climate neutrality through piloting new innovative solutions and maintaining or improving the existing ones.

A range of infrastructure and technology measures will be complemented with different soft activities, such as awareness raising and participation, social innovation and governance, aiming at impacting the behavioural change and improved quality of services.

- **Energy systems:** Actions within the energy systems represent **74%** of the city emission reductions targets, in total 95 959 t CO₂eq. Transformation and decarbonisation of the 2nd



largest district heating system in the country is at the heart of the city's green and just transition. The city must ensure reliable, stable and energy efficient service to citizens and industry based on combination of different local renewable energy sources. In a short-term perspective, transforming and achieving the energy efficiency of the system itself is a priority, while renewable energy targets are to be met by 2030. In this context, it is critically to address potential for reducing energy use both in industrial processes, public sector and households. Energy efficiency and renewable energy activities will be complemented with improved energy management. Critical stakeholders include the City Administration, the public utility company, local energy agency, thermal power plant and electricity distribution operator as well as expert community. Besides technology and infrastructure, social innovation can also make a significant impact in terms of capacity building and behavioural change. The Climate and energy office is a collective step of the city's key actors to upgrade awareness raising, information, capacity building and advisory services for citizens at one place. The services will primarily cover all three strategic priorities presented in this section.

- **Built environment:** Actions of the built environment system will contribute **14%** to the city emission reduction targets, in total 18 592 t CO₂eq. Energy renovation of buildings complements actions of the energy system, most relevant being an accelerated renovation of multi-dwelling building stock and individual residential building, while potential also exist in public buildings. The city recently formed a working group comprising the City Administration, public utility company, local energy agency and managers of multi-dwelling apartments to analyse the state of renovation, priority needs and plan of investments. Energy renovation actions will be gradually implemented until 2030. An important contribution in engaging and supporting individual house owners in energy renovation procedures as well energy efficient practices is expected from the Climate and energy office.
- **Transport and mobility:** Actions in transport and mobility are expected to contribute **12%** to the emission reduction targets (15 610 t CO₂eq). The City Administration will continue improving the walking and cycling infrastructure and extending the bike rental system. The most important contributions are expected from decarbonisation of the public transport as well as increased share of clean vehicles. The construction of the 3rd development axis will help reduce transit through the city. Sustainable mobility planning and promotion activities are important in view of changing citizens' modal shift and better mobility services. Critical stakeholders comprise the City Administration, public utility company, Climate and energy office, concessioners for public transportation, local enterprises and citizens. Investor in the 3rd development axis is the Ministry of infrastructure, DARS Motorway Company in the Republic of Slovenia.

4 Process and principles

Process and principles

The CCC and its Action Plan and Investment plan are a result of collective stakeholder engagement and co-creation process following the main steps of the Climate Transition Map.

The **Transition Team (TT)** is the main operational body. Its key role is to become a change agent - a mobiliser and activator - within the City Administration and an intermediary for engagement of stakeholders at local level.

The composition of TT is structured around key fields of actions: energy systems, buildings, transport and mobility, green infrastructure & nature-based solutions. It also includes representatives covering horizontal fields, such as finance, digitalisation, spatial plan, communication, community engagement and just transition (coordination with the process of the region's exit from coal). The members are appointed from the employees of the City Administration and external stakeholders (see Figure 1).



The City of Velenje is committed to continue working with key stakeholders in the implementation of the CCC by applying effective collaboration methods and principles (see below). The organisational structure for the CCC implementation will be strengthened:

- The CCC documents will be approved by the **City Council**. The Council will be informed annually on the CCC implementation process and progress. The Council will also approve key strategic projects and investments of the City Administration using its standard procedures.
- The **Transition Team** will continue to promote the shared vision, nurture collaboration, create synergies and expand the ecosystem of actors involved in the implementation of the action portfolio. Besides being responsible for operational aspects, the TT will track progress and reflect on learning and review the CCC Action Plan.
- To further ensure a wide consensus on the implementation of key actions, to steer CCC implementation and to decide on any strategic level challenges, the mayor will appoint a **CCC Strategic Council**. The Strategic Council will comprise representatives of key stakeholders from the local, regional and national level: representatives of the city's main economic operators, educational institutions, chamber of economy, trade union, civil society, and social activities, representative of the ministry responsible for just transition and cohesion policy and the City Administration. All members will bring their expertise and experience as well as their influence to support the CCC process. They will provide guidance and strategic support in the CCC implementation, monitoring and possible amendments. The CCC Strategic Council will be chaired by the mayor.

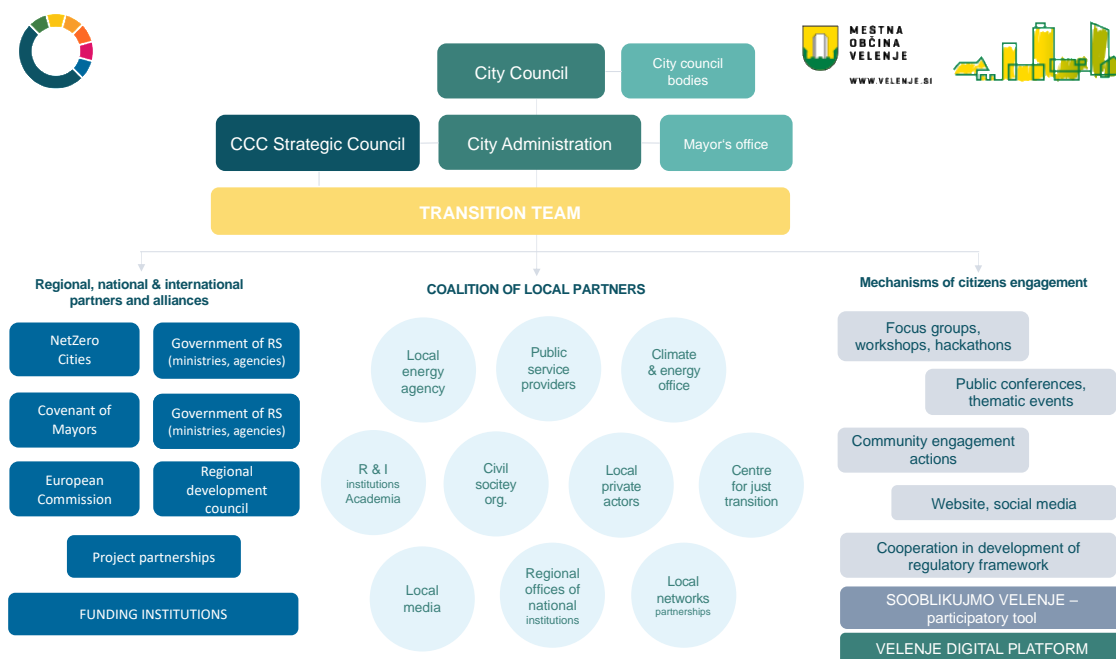


Figure 3: Participatory governance model

The CCC Action Plan is understood as a live document. The system of monitoring will be set up and supported by the city digital platform. The progress will be assessed in the mid-term review in 2026/2027, including the update of the GHG inventory. The CCC Action plan will be adjusted on a need basis.

Key principles and collaborative methods guiding the implementation of CCC include:

- **Climate justice:** ensuring that the transition to climate neutral city is fair and just, with benefits and opportunities shared among all residents. The situation of the marginalised and vulnerable groups will be carefully observed.



Methods: The Transition Team will build capacity of the city administration and external stakeholders regarding the challenges and solutions related to climate justice. This will help the actors better observe and integrate possible solutions in the design and implementation of CCC actions. Teams responsible for the implementation of actions will be interdisciplinary and will be supported by the relevant Transition Team members and other stakeholders.

- Stakeholder and citizen engagement:** This principle is crucial for achieving climate neutrality. The implementation of the CCC will ensure engagement of different actors from relevant sectors. For this purpose, an engagement strategy will be developed.
Methods: The Transition Team will be responsible for the preparation of the engagement strategy, which will be aligned with the needs of specific sectors and actions. The City Administration and other key stakeholders' communication channels will be activated to ensure regular information on the specific engagement opportunities.
- Co-creation and innovation:** The collaborative process will involve actors from different sectors and levels to bring in diverse perspectives and expertise. The development of new technologies, processes, organisational and governance solutions will be encouraged and supported to help overcome barriers and challenges. By fostering the culture of innovation, better and more efficient results in reducing GHG emissions are expected.
 Methods: The Transition Team will prepare short term plans of activities and will accordingly identify and invite key stakeholders and actors to build capacity, co-design projects, and manage communication activities according to identified needs. These may include specific thematic workshops for design of projects or creation of concepts, solutions, hackathons, etc.
- Transparency, accountability, ownership:** The involved partners will strive for competent, committed and responsible contributions. Open and constructive communication will be encouraged. CCC implementation progress and plans will be shared openly among stakeholders and public to build trust and support for climate action.
 Methods: The Transition Team supported by the City Administration employees and external stakeholders will regularly inform on the CCC implementation process and achievements using its most effective communication channels and tools. Annual updates will be prepared for the City Council and the CCC Strategic Council.
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL):** Regular monitoring and evaluation of the CCC implementation will help identify progress, factors of success and failure and facilitate reflecting and learning for future actions and CCC iterations.
 Methods: Based on key indicators, a system of collection and monitoring of indicator within the city administration and from external data providers, gradual integration of data into the newly emerging digital platform.

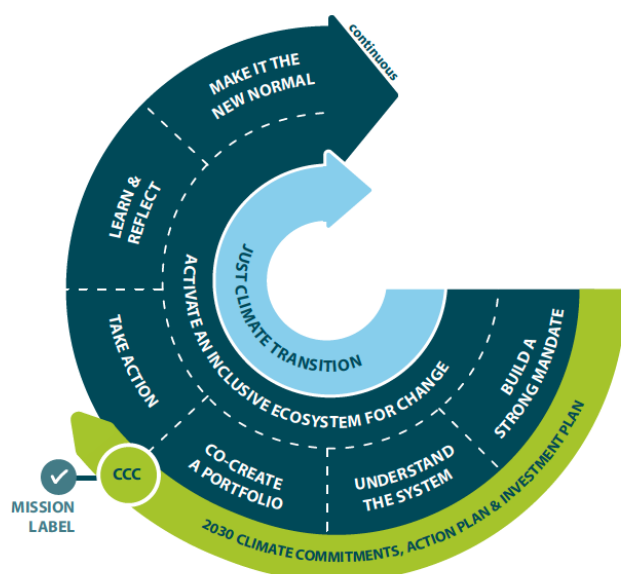


Figure 4: Climate Transition Map (NetZeroCities)



5 Signatories

The table below enlists the signatories¹ who are committing to this CCC, and thereby to help the city achieve its goal to reach climate neutrality by 2030. Specific agreements that articulate the details of the climate action(s) between the municipality and signatories are added to the individual contracts in Appendix 1 (see sample in section 6). The number and relevance of signatories' commitments is likely to increase over time.

Name of the signatory (organisation)	Sector / Domain / Level of operation ²	Legal form	Name of the responsible person	Position of the responsible person
The City of Velenje	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions/ Built environment/ Governance & policy / Social innovation local level	Local Authority	Peter Dermol	Mayor
KOMUNALNO PODJETJE VELENJE, d.o.o. Utility Company Velenje, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport/ Built environment/ sub-regional level	Limited liability company - public utility company	Gašper Škarja	CEO
KSSENA, Energy Agency	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport/ Built environment/ Social innovation	Public institute - Local energy agency	Boštjan Krajnc	CEO

¹ Climate City Contract signatories may be individuals or organisations. They ideally include national and/or regional governments, for example concrete agreements/ commitments made through the multi-level governance engagement processes supported by NetZeroCities, CapaCities, and other emerging national level initiatives.

² Please mention if the organisation is active at local, regional, national, or international level.



	local level			
LINEA SP, d.o.o.	Built environment local level	Limited liability company	Peter Konečnik	Director
PUP SAUBERMACHER, d.o.o.	Waste and circular economy local level	Limited liability company, concessioner for waste collection	Janez Herodež	CEO
MINISTRY OF HEALTH	Mobility and transport/ governance & policy national level	Ministry of Health	Dr. Valentina Prevolnik Rupel	Minister
MINISTRY OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	Energy systems/ built environment/ governance & policy national level	Ministry of Digital Transformation	Dr. Emilija Stojmenova Duh	Minister
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, Local Self-Government, Non- Governmental Organisations and Political System Directorate	Waste and circular economy/ Green infrastructure and nature- based solutions/ Governance & policy national level	Ministry of Public Administration	Mateja Prešern	Acting Director-General
GORENJE, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Waste and circular economy national level	Limited liability company	Tomaž Korošec	Executive Vice President
MEGA M, d.o.o.	Mobility and transport	Limited liability company	Matej Meža	CEO



	local level			
TIKI HVAC, d.o.o.	Energy systems local level	Limited liability company	Peter Šilc	CEO
VONPHARMA SI, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy local level	Limited liability company	Tadej von Horvath	CEO
ESOTECH, d.d.	Energy systems local level	Joint stock company Company for Development and Implementation of Environmental Solutions and Power Technologies	Marko Škoberne	Chairman of the Board
VEPLAS, d.d.	Waste and circular economy local level	Joint Stock company	Gregor Vedenik Helena Šumah Zaluberšek	Executive Director Executive Director
ELPA, d.o.o.	Energy systems local level	Limited liability company	Darja Goltnik	Director
APS, Avtoprevoznništvo in servisi, d.d.	Mobility and transport local level	Joint stock company road and services	Zoran Zager	CEO
CORE, d.o.o.	Governance & polic local level	Limited liability company	Rok Urbanc	CEO



SAŠA INKUBATOR, d.o.o., Company for Entrepreneurial and Business Consulting	Waste and circular economy/ Social innovatio local level	Limited liability company	Ana Anžej	Director
RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA SAVINJSKO-ŠALEŠKE REGIJE, d.o.o. Development Agency of SAŠA Region	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport sub-regional level	Limited liability company	Biljana Škarja	CEO
SIMBIO, d.o.o.	Waste and circular economy sub-regional level	Limited liability company	Mag. Marko Zidanšek	Director
IPoP-Institute for Spatial Policies,	Mobility and transport national level	NGO	Marko Peterlin	Director
ŠOLSKI CENTER VELENJE	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Social innovation local level	Educational, research and development centre	Janko Pogorelčnik	Director
PRIMARY SCHOOL GORICA, VELENJE	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Built Environment local level	Educational, research and development centre	Barbara Trebižan	Headmaster
CVIU- Center for behaviour, education and training Velenje	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Built Environment	Educational, research and development centre	Aleksander Vališer	The principal



	local level			
ANDRAGOŠKI ZAVOD LJUDSKA UNIVERZA VELENJE Adult education institution	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy local level	Public institution	Brigita Gorjup	CEO
UNIVERSITY MARIBOR, FACULTY OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGY	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport national level	Faculty – energy technology	Sebestjan Seme	Dean
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy local level	Faculty – environmental protection	Gašper Gantar	CEO
TIE d.o.o.	Energy systems local level	Limited liability company	Matej Meža	CEO
T-2, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport national level	Limited liability company	Jože Zrimšek	Member of Management
FOCUS, Association for Sustainable Development	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy national level	NGO	Živa Kavka Gobbo	Representative
PNF d.o.o.	Waste and circular economy/ Social innovation	Limited liability company	Maja Ferme	CEO



	local level			
EKOLOGI BREZ MEJA Ecologists Without Borders	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy national level	NGO	Katja Sreš	President
CER, Sustainable Business Network	Waste and circular economy national level	Association	Ana Struna Bregar	Executive Director
SŠGZ, Chamber of Commerce for SAŠA Region	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy sub-regional level	Association	Rok Plankelj	Director
KGZS, Kmetijsko gozdarski zavod Celje	Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions sub-regional level	Public institution	Irena Friškovec	Representative
ŠALEŠKA VALLEY TOURIST BOARD	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy sub-regional level	Public institution	Alenka Kikec	CEO
VELENJE FESTIVAL	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy local level	Public institution	Barbara Pokorny	Director
VELENJE LIBRARY	Waste and circular economy local level	Public institution	Drago Martinšek	Director



VELENJE MUSEUM	Waste and circular economy local level	Public institution	Tanja Verboten	Director
RED HALL- sports and recreation institute	Energy systems/ Waste and circular economy local level	Public institution	Dimitrij Amon	Director
VELENJE MEDICAL CENTER	Built Environment local level	Public institution	Janez Kramar	CEO
PHARMACY VELENJE	Waste and circular economy local level	Public institution	Sabina Grm	Director
CARE HOME FOR ADULTS VELENJE	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Built Environment local level	Public institution	Violeta Potočnik Krajnc	Director
YOUTH CENTER VELENJE	Waste and circular economy local level	Public institution	Janko Urbanc	Director
CONSTRUCTION CLUSTER OF SLOVENIA	Built Environment national level	Economic Interest Group	Vladimir Gumilar	Director
SPAR SLOVENIJA, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Waste and circular economy national level	Limited liability company	David Kovačič	General Director



ENVIRODUAL, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ international level	Limited liability company	Katarina Pogačnik	CEO
MERCATOR, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Waste and circular economy national level	Limited liability company	Tomislav Kramarič	CEO
SRIP, Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership- Networks for the Transition to a Circular Economy	Waste and circular economy National level	NGO	Nina Meglič	Coordinator
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE OF SLOVENIA	Green infrastructure and NBS national level	Public research institute Agricultural Institute of Slovenia	Andrej Simončič	Director
JOŽEF STEFAN INSTITUTE	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Built environment national level	Public research institute Slovenian scientific research institute	Boštjan Zalar	Director
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY	Energy systems national level	Public research institute National Institute of Chemistry	Gregor Anderluh	Director
STUDIO MF, d.o.o.	Waste and circular economy/ Social innovation local level	Limited liability company	Maja Ferme	CEO



ELES, d.o.o.	Energy systems national level	Limited liability company	Aleksander Mervar	CEO
ZMOS Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia	Governance & policy / Social innovation national level	Association	Miran Košpenda	Secretary General
SOS Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia	Governance & policy / Social innovation national level	Association	Jasmina Vidmar	Secretary General
PRIMARY SCHOOL MIHA PINTAR TOLEDO VELENJE	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Built Environment local level	Primary school Miha Pintar Toledo, Velenje	Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Built Environment local level	Primary school Miha Pintar Toledo, Velenje
LIDL, d.o.o. k.d.	Energy systems/ Waste and circular economy national level	Limited liability company	Ivan Udiljak Metka Šiljak Šturm	Director Procurator
VIMOSA, d.o.o.	Energy systems national level	Limited liability company	Andrej Fajmut	CEO
LUCI, d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Waste and circular economy local level	Limited liability company	Martina Meke	CEO



PROSTOROŽ, Urban design studio	Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions national level	NGO	Maša Cvetko	Representative
Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy	Energy systems/ mobility and transport/ built environment/ governance & policy national level	Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy	Bojan Kumer	Minister
Eurofins Erico SI d.o.o.	Energy systems/ Waste and circular economy local level	Limited liability company	Matej Šuštaršič	Managing Director
MARLES HIŠE MARIBOR d.o.o.	Waste and circular economy national level	Limited liability company	Tadej Gosak	Director
Administrative Unit Velenje	Built Environment local level	Public institution	Franja Tevž	Head
The City of Šoštanj	Energy systems/ Mobility and transport/ Waste and circular economy/ Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions/ Built environment/ Governance & policy / Social innovation local level	Local Authority	Boris Goličnik	Mayor



Premogovnik Velenje d.o.o. (<i>Velenje Coal Mine</i>)	Energy systems national level	Limited liability company	Marko Mavec	General Manager
Turistična zveza Velenje Velenje Turist Association	Green infrastructure and nature- based solutions/ Social innovation local level	NGO	Marija Brložnik	President

