



Non-Haz City Building Award: Future Policies for the Baltic Sea Region

Call for Nominations

Deadline: 1st of June 2024

BACKGROUND

Celebrating Laws and Policies for non-Hazardous Buildings

The NonHazCity Building Award is the first policy prize recognizing best policies in construction in the Baltic Sea Region at national, regional or local level. It aims to highlight policies protecting people and the environment from hazardous chemicals in buildings, integrating circularity, toxic-free & climate neutrality. The aim of the award is to inspire citizens, decision-makers and business and to showcase innovative solutions. The World Future Council co-ordinates and bestows the award.

Tackling the challenge of chemicals in the construction sector impacting our environment and health

Around 40,000–60,000 chemicals are in commerce worldwide. Many hazardous chemicals are found in the construction sector. Particularly problematic are chemicals that end up in our environment, in buildings, contributing to air and water pollution and accumulating in our bodies including heavy metals and phthalates. These can cause irreversible harm to the health of humans, fauna, flora, marine life and to the planet. There are enormous costs

associated with unsound management of chemicals and waste. The World Health Organization estimated the burden of disease from exposure to selected chemicals at 1.6 million lives in 2016. Costs from neurobehavioral deficits caused by certain exposure to chemicals were estimated to be more than 170 billion USD per year in the European Union alone.

Despite significant actions already taken for decades, the [Global Chemicals Outlook II](#) indicates that the global goal to minimize adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2030. Whilst solutions exist, more ambitious worldwide actions by all stakeholders are urgently required. The size of the global chemical industry exceeded 5 trillion USD in 2017 and it is projected to double by 2030 (UNEP 2019).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development incorporates chemicals and waste as key factors for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While chemicals and waste are cross-cutting issues across the 2030 Agenda, they are also clearly embedded into SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 12 related to responsible consumption and production and SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation.

Sustainable construction will contribute to SDG 11 which is about sustainable cities and communities, while helping the construction sector to improve its performance in terms of chemical emissions thereby protecting life below water (SDG 14). It is intertwined with SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy since in northern Europe at least one third of our energy-consumption is related to the housing sector, making it very relevant also for SDG 13 which is about climate action. Since the construction sector is today still the biggest source of waste mass-wise it is relevant for SDG 12 which is about responsible consumption and production, SDG 12 holds several key-targets such as target 12.4 about achieving the sound chemicals management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle to minimize adverse effects on human-health and the environment. Because SDG 12 is a prerequisite, it should be reached by 2030.

While there are innovative and scalable solutions in the construction sector, these are competing with traditional options which have previously been chosen. The central role of government entities is reflected in target 12.7. about sustainable public procurement and must be applied to construction projects.

In moving forward, it is absolutely critical that the sound management of chemicals and waste is strengthened in the construction sector through inclusive, effective, inspiring and innovative laws and policies to protect future generations and contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- **Policies, laws and legal frameworks that help create a tox-free, circular and climate neutral building environment encompassing existing and new buildings, refurbishments and extensions.**

Laws, policies, frameworks, standards, guidelines and action plans for buildings can be either national, **subnational, regional or local** in nature and can:

- The Gold Award is for policies that proof identifiable improvements.
- The Silver Award for policies showing policy progress.
- All candidates should *be replicable under similar circumstances*.

Non-toxic: Is there full knowledge about chemicals/composition of construction materials, is smart procurement used or other policies/standards protecting humans and environment from toxic substances?

Circularity – Is there a policy incentivising a smart use of existing structures as much as possible, flexibility for a long lifetime, creating the feedstock material for future circularity?

Climate change: Construction material: Is carbon positive material from the region used?

PROCESS

Step 1. Call for Nominations

To facilitate the nomination process, we have developed a template that you will find in the Annex). We kindly request you to send your nomination(s) to Mecki Neschke, mecki.neschke@worldfuturecouncil.org Anyone may nominate acts, laws, policies, national action plans, programmes, decrees or ordinances of a state, region or municipality.

Step 2. The Selection Process

The research team from the World Future Council will evaluate the nominated policies and prepare a report for the jury with candidates. A regional jury of experts will select the winner(s).

Step 3. The Award Ceremony

The winner(s) of the Non Haz City Building Award will be celebrated at a high-level award ceremony in 2025 in **Riga** hosted by Riga City Council. The award ceremony will be convened by the WFC in partnership with the City Council of Tallin and Riga and Baltic Environment Forum (Germany, Estonia and Latvia).

COORDINATING PARTNER

The **World Future Council** brings the interests of future generations to the centre of law and policy making. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and identifies and

promotes effective legislative and policy solutions among decision makers.
www.worldfuturecouncil.org



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SUPPORTING PARTNERS



Tallinn



The NonHazCity 3 project focuses on the building sector and involves architects, construction companies, consultants, municipalities, and private individuals in the project.

The **NonHazCity 3** project addresses the link between circular economy, climate neutrality and smart procurement in building materials. More than 20 partner entities from eight different countries across the Baltic Sea Region are learning from collaboration with each other to raise awareness of hazardous substances in construction material. The project is led jointly by **Riga City Council** and the NGO Baltic Environmental Forum **BEF**.



This project is financially supported by the EU's Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme



Co-funded by
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SUSTAINABLE WATERS

NonHazCity 3

Who can nominate?

We welcome nominations from representatives of academia, non-governmental organizations, parliaments, governments, government agencies, business and others.

NOMINATION FORM

The official deadline for nominations is 1 June 2024. Please submit your nomination as follows:

- in the enclosed nomination form by email to Ms Mecki Naschke at award@worldfuturecouncil.org. For further information, please visit: (website will be finalized by mid-September 2023)

Nomination Form – Non Haz City Award

Full Name:

Organisation:

Email:

Address:

Tel./Skype:

Briefly describe your involvement with the nominated law or policy:

Official title of the nominated law or policy:

Provide the full name of the nominated law, policy or standard. Include a link to the legal text or enclose the text as attachment to your email.

Your answer

City / country where it is implemented:

Indicate state, region or municipality.

Your answer

Year of adoption:

Indicate the year when the policy was adopted.

Your answer

Stakeholders and beneficiaries

Indicate who has introduced the law or policy. Indicate which ministries / departments are now responsible for its implementation. Provide, if possible, full contact details of the people in charge. Indicate also other organizations involved in its implementation and beneficiaries.

Entity / Ministry / Department that introduced the law or policy: Your answer

Ministries / Departments responsible for the policy / overseeing implementation: Your answer

Full Name: Your answer

Position: Your answer

Email: Your answer

Phone: Your answer

Other organizations key/contributing to implementation: Your answer

Beneficiaries: Your answer

Context in which the law or policy was enacted

Indicate what is the problem this policy is tackling and how was the policy formulated and adopted (which processes led to the policy's formulation and adoption, who were the main stakeholders, who was consulted on the policy and how? Was there public participation/civil society, etc.). Provide also information if the policy has since then been evaluated, reviewed and/or amended.

1. **Problem(s) tackled:** Your answer

2. **Processes that led to the policy's formulation and adoption:** Your answer

3. **Evaluation / review / amendment since the policy's adoption:** Your answer

Purpose and objectives

What are the aims/goals stated by the policy itself?

Your answer

Methods and modalities

Provide answers to the questions below.

1. What are the policy's key features?
2. Does it feature 1) toxic free 2) carbon neutral and 3) circular features?
3. Have stakeholders implemented these measures? To what extent? Are there any problems?: Your answer
4. Who is monitoring and evaluating the implementation? Your answer
5. Is the policy being regularly reviewed? Has there been continuous consultation and involvement of the various stakeholders/beneficiaries?: Your answer
6. Is the law or policy enforced, e.g. through mandatory compliance, legally enforceable standards, inspections, audits, review, sanctions for non-compliance? Who is responsible for enforcement?: Your answer
7. What are the costs of implementation? Who is covering these costs? Is there a sustainable budget provision (or are there potential budget cuts, change of political situation, etc.): Your answer
8. Future development: Will the policy continue to be implemented within the next two years (2025–2026) or are there any potential threats (budget cuts, change of political situation, etc.): Your answer
9. Is the policy due to be reviewed, evaluated, amended, etc. soon, are there additional policies being formulated to enhance implementation, etc. Which elements still need improvement?: Your answer

Results, impact and influence

A. Three measurable outputs

Indicate, for example, the policy's annual budget, the number of people protected against chemicals, of trainings organized, of services provided, of toolkits produced, etc.

1. Your answer
2. Your answer
3. Your answer

B. Impacts that the law or policy has so far achieved

How have the outputs of the law or policy transformed the reality? How has the policy impacted the health of people and the environment? For example, the policy led to a decrease of the percentage of cancer in a certain region, etc.

1. Your answer
2. Your answer
3. Your answer

Transferability: Do you know if this law/policy has been replicated by other cities, regions or countries? If so, where?

If this is not yet the case, describe to what extent it is transferable and applicable to other countries.

Your answer

Please explain the reasons why this law/policy should be seen as a ‘best law/policy’.

Please provide up to three reasons outlining why the policy should win a Future Policy Award. Why it stands out? What makes it unique? What is particularly innovative? It could also be that it is under threat, etc.

1. Your answer
2. Your answer
3. Your answer

Experts of the policy or law that we can contact or interview for further information:

If possible, indicate an expert for each category (policymaker, civil society and academia). Provide the experts’ full contact details.

Policymaker informant:

Full Name: Your answer

Position, Organization: Your answer

Email: Your answer

Phone: Your answer

Civil society informant:

Full Name: Your answer

Position, Organization: Your answer

Email: Your answer

Phone: Your answer

Academic informant:

Full Name: Your answer

Position, Organization: Your answer

Email: Your answer

Phone: Your answer

Sources of information on this law/policy:

Indicate all relevant information that is available online. Enclose all other relevant information as attachments to your email. We are particularly interested in receiving evaluation reports and annual reports of implementation about the law or policy.

Your answer

Thank you for taking the time to submit this nomination.