



Borgarráð

Reykjavík, 5. janúar 2026
MSS25120117

Tré í borgum - Áskorun UNECE

Lögð er fram til kynningar áskorun UNECE – Tré í borgum (Trees in Cities Challenge) sem hófst árið 2019 þar sem borgarstjórar eru hvattir til að skrifa undir viljayfirlýsingu þess efnis að gróðursetja tiltekinn fjölda trjáa innan sinna borgarkerfa á einu ári. Borgarstjórinn í Reykjavík mun skrifa undir viljayfirlýsinguna.

Með þessu verkefni hafa 135 borgir í 57 löndum gefið vilyrði um að gróðursetja samtals yfir 16,5 milljón trjáa. Að byggja upp viðnám gegn loftlafsbreytingum verður ein stærsta áskorunin sem sveitarfélög standa frammi fyrir á þessari öld. Náttúrulegar lausnir eru ein leið til að takast á við þessa áskorun. Tré og skógar í þéttbýli og nágrenni eru ein slík lausn. Af þessum sökum hleypti Efnahagsnefnd Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir Evrópu (UNECE) af stokkunum „Tré í borgum áskoruninni“ árið 2019. Þetta frumkvæði býður borgarstjórum og sveitarfélögum um allan heim að skuldbinda sig til trjágróðursetningar og setja sér markmið um að gera borgir sínar grænni, viðnámsþolnari og sjálfbærari.

Viljayfirlýsingin er í takt við loftslagsáætlanir Reykjavíkurborgar og fylgir enginn aukakostnaður yfirlýsingunni. Verkefnið er unnið á umhverfis – og skipulagssviði.

Heiða Björg Hilmsdóttir
borgarstjóri

Hjálagt:

Erindi UNECE til Reykjavíkurborgar vegna UNECE Trees in Cities áskorunar, dags. 14.nóvember 2025
Bréf borgarstjóra til UNECE vegna UNECE Trees in Cities áskorunar, dags. 21. nóvember 2025.

From: ECE-TREESINCITIES-FAORESTS <treesincities.ece-faoforests@un.org>
Sent: föstudagur, 14. nóvember 2025 19:26
To: Borgartjóriinn í Reykjavík <borgartjori@reykjavik.is>
Subject: Follow-up on Reykjavík's Participation in the Trees in Cities Challenge – Forum of Mayors

You don't often get email from treesincities.ece-faoforests@un.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Hilmaðóttir,

Following the UN Forum of Mayors on 6-7 October, we would like to warmly thank you for joining the UNECE's [Trees in Cities Challenge](#) in the name of Reykjavík, by hanging the pledge card on the tree during the event.

As a next step, we kindly invite you to complete and sign the attached pledge letter addressed to Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary of the UNECE. We would be grateful if you can send it back to us by **21 November**.

We would also be pleased to know if you are interested in developing a collaborative project through the *Trees in Dry Cities Coalition*. If you or a colleague would be available to take part in working meetings to help shape the project concept, we would be glad to include you.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any further questions.

Best regards,

Forest and Bioeconomy Section

Forests, Land and Housing Division

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



Reykjavík, 21. nóvember 2025

MSS25090095

Ms. Tatiana Molcean
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Executive Secretary of the UNECE

UNECE Trees in Cities Challange

Dear Ms. Molcean,

Reykjavík is committed to the sustainable management of urban forests and green spaces to advance sustainable development, improve public health and wellbeing, and strengthen climate resilience.

In the context of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Trees in Cities Challenge, I am pleased to inform you the following.

Reykjavík has planted 54 thousand trees and shrubs including 6.300 trees since 2020 and commits to plant 10 thousand trees and shrubs by the end of 2026.

Reykjavík has developed a strategic plan for a green network in Reykjavík along with an action plan and has already completed many of the planned initiatives. Reykjavík commits to share its experience with peers to promote replication, scaling and mutual learning.

With this pledge, Reykjavík aims to achieve the following urban green action objectives:

Reykjavík confirmed a policy for biodiversity 2016 with an action plan 2019. Reykjavík is now going to make a new action plan and as a part of that participating in Berlin urban nature pact.

Increase the percentage of uncut areas to increase natural areas.

To strengthen sustainable management of urban forests, Reykjavík also commits to the following sustainable urban forestry:

Complete a strategy for forestry within the city and in the city's peripheral areas and prepare a development plan for individual areas.

Accomplish a zoning plan for Heidmork which is a recreational forest area in the outskirts of Reykjavík. It is also a water conservation area which has much impact on public use.

Ulfarsfell is another recreational area in the outskirts with forest. The target is to make a development plan and plant more forest in the area.



I confirm that Reykjavík will keep the UNECE up to date on the progress as requested, as well as provide data required for measuring the result of our pledge. I designate Mr. Thorolfur Jonsson, Head of Parks and Nature as the focal point for the Trees in Cities Challenge thorolfur.jonsson@reykjavik.is, +354 6932328 and confirm Reykjavík will advise UNECE of any changes in the focal point in a timely manner.

I look forward to the outcome of the Challenge.

Your sincerely,



Heiða Björg Hilmisdóttir
Mayor of Reykjavík