

Dear Green Cities Community

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all of us. Recognising that Cities are key players in responding to this crisis, I would like to take this opportunity to stress that the EBRD is standing by and will continue to support all its Cities, including its EBRD Green Cities during these extremely challenging times.

The EBRD recently approved its first Solidarity Package of EUR 1 billion as a direct response to the COVID-19 crisis to ensure needed liquidity for existing clients. While this support benefits existing municipal clients, the EBRD is developing more targeted instruments as part of the second phase of its Solidarity package. We know that falling budgets and increased spending pressures are affecting the ability of cities to provide municipal services. To ensure and strengthen the delivery of these vital services, EBRD will focus on providing liquidity support and finance for new investment ranging from O&M to needed capex. The EBRD will structure these loans to meet the its clients' needs and will look to provide financing at both the sovereign and sub-sovereign level. Where relevant, the Bank will also consider extending finance to private sector providers of municipal services.

We will be holding an EBRD Green Cities Webinar on 27 April which will cover in more detail the EBRD's crisis response and seek insight from you, 'our cities', on challenges and needs. We remain committed to ensuring that EBRD Green Cities continues to advance, with immediate measures being rolled out to promote-remote working and greater use of local consultants for both GCAP delivery, policy advice and project preparation and new procurement guidance for clients and tenderers. We are also reviewing and, where appropriate, amending the scope of EBRD Green Cities to ensure that we maximise the programme's ability to support you in response to the COVID-19 and any future crises.

I wish you all the best and again reiterate my full support.



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