

Ninna Hedeager Olsen – Deputy Mayor of Copenhagen



Ninna Hedeager Olsen is Mayor of Technical and Environmental Affairs at the City of Copenhagen and is Head of the Technical and Environmental Committee.

The Technical and Environmental Administration governs subject matters in Copenhagen Municipality such as infrastructure i.e. roads, bike lanes and pedestrian walks, upkeep of green urban spaces, pollution, maintenance, construction projects, disadvantaged areas, and social housing projects.

Ninna has represented the Municipal Council for The Red-Green Alliance since January 2014. From January 2014 to August 2017 she was a member of the Employment and Integration Committee. Ninna has since August 2017 been a member of the Technical and Environmental Committee and the financial Committee. On 1 January 2018 she assumed the role of Mayor of Technical and Environmental Affairs and herein the role of Head of the Technical and Environmental Committee.

In addition, Ninna is Chairman of the Board at the Metropolitan Copenhagen Heating Transmission Company and The Green Council as well as Member of the Board at Metroselskabet, R98 and the Greater Copenhagen Fire Department.

Ninna has a Master's degree in Health and Safety at Work from 2010 and has from 2010 to 2017 been employed as Lecturer and subsequently Senior Lecturer at the Metropolitan University College, where she was also Trade Union Representative. Ninna has also held the position of Trade Union Representative at various other organisations.

Ninna has been active in the International Solidarity Movement for many years. An organisation which, among other things, supports the development of a Palestinian state through peaceful action.

Ninna has a red and green political profile. Her fundamental political issues are to strengthen Copenhagen's disadvantaged areas, increase availability of high-quality and affordable housing for people of average income, improve sustainable and public transportation, as well as create attractive, democratic and accessible urban open spaces.

Gregory Doucet – Mayor of Lyon



Grégory Doucet was born in Paris on 22 August 1973 and raised in the Paris region.

After graduating from the ESC Rouen business school, he dedicated over 18 years of his career to international solidarity and humanitarian work. In 2009, he joined the Lyon office of the NGO Humanity & Inclusion as Director of Operations West Africa, where he led a team of over 500 people serving vulnerable populations in some ten countries, particularly in the Sahel region.

Doucet was profoundly moved by reading about the life of Gandhi, becoming an environmental activist at age 16.

Later, as a university student, he served as the President of GENEPI, a French student organisation that works to break down barriers between prisoners and society and supports social reintegration for former prisoners.

After over a decade as an active member of Europe Écologie Les Verts (EELV, French Green Party), Doucet took his commitment a step further when he was appointed party secretary for Lyon in 2017 and co-organised the Lyon Climate March. He then ran in the 2019 European elections as the 27th candidate on the list headed by Yannick Jadot, campaigning in the Lyon district.

In April 2019, inspired by the Greens' success, he issued a call to unite all of Lyon's environmentalists to "Change Lyon" in 2020, garnering over 800 signatures.

In September of the same year, he won the EELV primary to head the "Maintenant Lyon" (Now Lyon) list in the 2020 Lyon municipal elections.

Despite the fact that most voters had never heard of him before, Doucet achieved a surprise victory with 28.46% of the vote citywide in the first round. Before the run-off, he formed an alliance with the two left-leaning lists headed by Sandrine Runel and Nathalie Perrin-Gilbert and was endorsed by Members of the National Parliament

In June 2020, a three-way run-off against the lists led by Yann Cucherat and Georges Képénékian, the "Les Ecologistes pour Lyon" (Greens for Lyon) list won with 52.4% of the vote.

Grégory Doucet is also the vice-president and founder of the NGO Planète Enfant & Développement, which has been protecting vulnerable children and supporting their development since 1984, with a focus on building childcare centres and nursery schools in Nepal and Burkina Faso.

Peter Kurz – Mayor of Mannheim



Dr. Peter Kurz has served as the mayor of Mannheim, Germany since 2007. Mayor Kurz became active in public service during his law studies and clerkship in Mannheim, Speyer, Heidelberg, and San Diego (USA). He went on to work in a law firm, as a researcher at the University of Mannheim, and as a judge at the Administrative Court of Karlsruhe. From 1999 to 2007, Dr. Kurz served as Mannheim's deputy mayor for education, culture, sports, and city marketing.

Since becoming mayor in 2007, Dr. Kurz has worked to realign municipal policy to ensure that the city administration relies on the participation of its citizens in implementing change and driving the social, cultural, scientific, and economic development of the city. In 2019, Mayor Kurz led a process to localize the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the city's mission statement, Mannheim 2030. The city developed Mannheim 2030 with the active participation and input of over 2,500 citizens. After successfully developing the mission statement, Mannheim became the first German city to carry out a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to measure progress toward its implementation. Mayor Kurz presented the city's VLR at the UN's High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Mayor Kurz has also overseen an economic and entrepreneurial transformation in the city. He has championed the city's start-up agency in their development of seven start-up centers. These centers now offer 28,000 square meters of office space, along with mentoring and accelerator programs in the fields of health, environment, and culture. The city's investments have made Mannheim a leading startup hub in Germany that promotes economic, technological, and cultural innovation.

When the U.S. military released land in Mannheim, Mayor Kurz spearheaded the rapid and innovative development of new urban neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are intentionally designed, with an emphasis on sustainability and social cohesion. A green corridor is being developed, which connects these new neighborhoods with the city center and provides the entire city with fresh air. These developments serve as positive examples of urban transformation with supra-regional impact.

Under Mayor Kurz's leadership, Mannheim has become a Local Green Deal (LGD) pilot city. Mannheim's LGD is not simply the implementation of the European Green Deal. It identifies existing gaps in the city's work and brings together ideas, projects, and stakeholders from across Mannheim to accelerate the city's green transformation.

Mayor Kurz is active in a variety of European and international organizations, including United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). Dr. Kurz was also one of the founding members of the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) in 2016. He has served as chair of the organization since 2019. In recognition of his commitment to international cooperation between cities, Mayor Kurz received the 2021 World Mayor International Award from the City Mayors Foundation.

Janine O'Keeffe – Fridays for Future



Janine O'Keeffe (she/her) is an Australian Swede, living in Stockholm. She did a Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering and has a Master's degree in Business Administration. Janine O'Keeffe is active in Fridays For Future, Klimataktion, Extinction Rebellion, Klimatalliansen, politics and more, while aspiring to be an intersectional feminist, who sees civil disobedience as a key part of our democratic systems. According to Janine O'Keeffe, our democratic systems effectively need an upgrade to create real space for long term Climate and Ecocide issues, for example Citizens Assemblies.