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## Sister Cities, Sustainability Initiatives

This document highlights the sustainability initiatives of Salisbury, MD's sister cities. Salisbury, England, Tartu, Estonia, and Salinas, Ecuador. Dalian, China, is also included as a friendship city.

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**Salisbury, England** - Salisbury, England, promotes sustainability through council initiatives, community action, and regional partnerships. The city council has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and supports projects like renewable energy adoption, LED street lighting, and improved recycling services. Sustainable transport is encouraged through enhanced walking and cycling infrastructure, park-and-ride services, and the installation of electric vehicle charging points.



Salisbury also prioritizes biodiversity by planting wildflowers, maintaining pollinator-friendly green spaces, and increasing tree cover. Community groups like Salisbury Transition City play a key role by organizing repair cafés, recycling events, and local food projects, while some schools participate in the international Eco-Schools program to educate students on environmental issues. Together, these efforts reflect Salisbury's ongoing commitment to a greener and more sustainable future.

**Tartu, Estonia** - Tartu, Estonia, is actively advancing sustainability through various initiatives and collaborations. The city has been selected for the European Commission's "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" mission, aiming to accelerate its journey toward climate neutrality. Tartu's commitment is further recognized by achieving Platinum status in the Green Destinations program, highlighting its dedication to sustainable tourism and development.

The city is implementing the urbanLIFecircles project to enhance biodiversity by creating interconnected green spaces and corridors. Additionally, Tartu participates in the SmartEnCity project, focusing on transforming the city center into a smart, energy-efficient district through building renovations, smart street lighting, and sustainable transport solutions. The University of

Tartu contributes by fostering interdisciplinary research and education on sustainable development. Collectively, these efforts underscore Tartu's holistic approach to creating an environmentally responsible and livable city.

**Salinas, Ecuador** - Salinas, Ecuador, supports sustainability through a mix of environmental conservation, social entrepreneurship, and community initiatives. Local cooperatives, supported by the Gruppo Salinas Corporation, promote fair trade and rural development by producing cheese, chocolate, and textiles.



The city also hosts beach cleanups and environmental education efforts to combat marine pollution. Natural sites like La Chocollera and La Lobería are protected for wildlife observation, reflecting Salinas's commitment to eco-tourism and biodiversity. Additionally, the municipal company AGUAPEN EP ensures clean water and wastewater management, supporting environmental health across the region.

**Dalian, China** - Dalian, China, has implemented various sustainability initiatives focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, environmental conservation, and community engagement. The city is installing photovoltaic panels on public buildings to reduce carbon emissions, with systems at the Communist Party of China Dalian Committee and city government offices generating approximately 400 megawatt-hours annually, equivalent to saving 160 metric tons of standard coal.

The Low-Carbon Park in Dalian's High-Tech Zone integrates green technologies such as solar street lamps, wind turbines, and rainwater recycling, operating entirely on renewable energy. The Dayou Tianyuan community exemplifies energy efficiency and water recycling, with solar water heaters and wastewater treatment systems saving over \$50,000 annually. Additionally, the Dalian Environmental Protection Volunteers Association engages the public in environmental initiatives, including coastal litter prevention and tree planting projects. These collective efforts underscore Dalian's commitment to sustainable urban development.



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