Magiczny Kraków

Kraków tops the metropolitan category in the Water City Index 2026

2026-10-27

Kraków has secured first place among metropolitan cities in the Water City Index 2026, a ranking that evaluates water resource management in Polish cities. Bydgoszcz and Łódź took second and third place respectively in the metropolitan category.

Water is becoming increasingly important for the safety, development, and quality of life of urban residents. Effective water management requires not only investment but also reliable data that help assess current measures and plan future actions.

This is the purpose of the Water City Index, an annual ranking that evaluates how Polish local governments manage water resources. Successive editions make it possible to track progress, identify best practices, and highlight areas that require further improvement.

In this year’s ranking, Kraków emerged as the leading metropolitan city, ahead of Bydgoszcz and Łódź.

In the category of county-level cities, the top three positions were awarded to:

- Gdynia
- Słupsk
- Jaworzno

Among medium-sized cities, the highest-ranking municipalities were:

- Mrągowo
- Czeladź
- Wieliczka

The Water City Index also serves as a starting point for broader discussions about the role of water in the long-term development of cities. Comparing results helps illustrate different approaches to water resource management and highlights the impact that today’s decisions can have on the future of local governments and urban communities.

The full ranking results and detailed data are available in the publication “Water City Index 2026.”