

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Borlänge municipality, the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Viable Cities.

VERSION 2023



Climate City Contract 2030

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Climate City Contract 2030

Major changes are needed throughout society in order to meet climate goals and save our planet. Doing things the way we have always done them is no longer possible, we have to work in entirely new ways. Together, we are building a movement involving many societal stakeholders in order to achieve our mission: Climate neutral cities by 2030, offering a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet.

Climate City Contract 2030 is a tool that will help us to achieve this. This is a long-term commitment ensuring a developed cooperation between cities and the government level. The starting point for the work is that an increasing number of Swedish municipalities and communities are bringing together a wide range of stakeholders and mobilising at many levels – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally – to pave the way for a faster transition to climate neutrality and sustainability in Sweden, Europe and the world. The cities and agencies working on Climate City Contract 2030 with Viable Cities are pioneers, and thus their ambition is to pave the way for a broader transition involving many more people.

Climate City Contract 2030 is a tool for collaboration in respect of governance and is used to work together beyond the direct control of stakeholders in order to realise a common goal, and it represents a systemic shift towards a holistic approach in public administration

Climate City Contract 2030 provides a context as a catalyst for new, innovative forms of cooperation between cities, the business sector, the academic community, research institutes and civil society. This strengthens the conditions for mobilising and driving joint development in a present and a society that are becoming increasingly complex. Climate City Contract 2030 meets a need for developed governance, a governance process (mobilising on multiple levels) for the climate transition. Climate City Contract 2030 is a way of working to enable stakeholders at different levels of governance to go beyond what they are directly able to control as individual stakeholders in order to realise goals and missions that involve systemic shifts. In particular, it involves moving from piecemeal operations to a holistic approach.

Together, we are building capacity step by step so that we can speed up the transition.



1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030

The purpose of this Climate City Contract is to accelerate the climate transition in cities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda while also contributing to the continued recovery and evolution of the Swedish economy at a time shaped by a number of several interlinked crises.

The Climate City Contract expresses the parties' intention to raise the level of ambition in the field of sustainable urban development and climate transition. The Climate City Contract also places Sweden and Swedish cities in a favourable position to act as international pioneers in the urban climate transition. This is to be achieved by means of mutual, long-term commitments to initiatives by the signatory national agencies, the Viable Cities innovation programme and the municipality.

2. Parties

Parties to the Climate City Contract 2030 are:

- Bolänge municipality.
- The agencies: Swedish Energy Agency, Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas), Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Swedish Transport Administration and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.
- The Viable Cities strategic innovation programme¹.

3. Municipal commitments

3.1. Municipal climate goals

Borlänge municipality is committed to achieving the Paris Agreement. That is why Borlänge municipality has produced a carbon budget that shows how much we can emit as a municipality in order to comply with the agreement, and the rate of emission reduction required to stay within the carbon budget. Our calculations show that we can emit a maximum of 1,328 kilotonnes of CO₂ between 2020 and 2040, which means reducing our emissions by 16 per cent per year. If we emit more carbon dioxide than our carbon budget allows, we will need to offset those emissions by

¹ Viable Cities is a strategic innovation program funded by the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova and Formas. The program runs until 2030 and has approximately 130 member organisations. Host organisation is KTH.



increasing our emission reduction rates still further going forward, or ending up with large negative emissions.

Borlänge municipality's environmental strategy for 2021–2030 clarifies our climate ambitions. The municipal group must help to ensure:

- a climate-neutral Borlänge by 2030
- that carbon emissions in Borlänge remain within the carbon budget of 1,328 kilotonnes of carbon emissions between 2020 and 2040
- that carbon emissions covered by the budget are reduced by 16 per cent per year in Borlänge, achieving near zero by 2045
- that the emissions we cause in terms of consumption should also be reduced at a similar pace. Greenhouse gas emissions should be below 1 tonne CO₂e per capita by 2045.

3.1.1 Target scenario for Climate-Neutral Borlänge 2030

Borlänge municipality and the 12 other parties responsible for Climate-Neutral Borlänge 2030 have formulated a joint target scenario.

“A Borlänge where climate emissions are reduced to almost zero and where we take our share of responsibility for compliance with the Paris Agreement. This means staying within our carbon budget and reducing emissions in relation to it. It also means that the emissions we cause outside the borders of the municipality should be reduced at a similar rate, and to a minimum level. We need to develop carbon sinks as well as reducing emissions. The transition to a circular economy is a prerequisite, as are healthy ecosystems that have the ability to sequester carbon.

Borlänge is a pioneer and an inspiration for others regionally, nationally and globally, demonstrating how the transition to a climate-neutral municipality can take place, working on the basis of a good life for everyone within the boundaries of the planet.”

3.1.2 Impact goals for Climate-Neutral Borlänge 2030

Climate-Neutral Borlänge 2030 must help to reduce Borlänge's climate impact. Borlänge municipality's environmental strategy for 2021–2030 clarifies our climate ambitions.

1. Reduced climate impact in line with the carbon budget and the emission reduction rate linked to it.
2. Reduced climate impact on the basis of consumption-based emissions

Besides the carbon budget and the consumption-based emissions, there are emissions from major industry (SSAB), emissions that occur locally but are recognised



nationally. These emissions also need to be reduced, of course, but are addressed outside the two impact goals. SSAB is playing an active role in Borlänge's climate transition and is part of the project consortium.

3.1.3 Specific goal for efforts until 30 September 2024

- Accelerate the pace of the climate transition through new forms of collaboration, new processes and methods to enable transformative societal changes.

3.2. Strategy

The document entitled Goals & Budget is the municipal council's most important tool for managing and controlling the activities of the committees and municipal companies. The document entitled Goals & Budget sets out the municipality's vision, vision fields, governance model, ownership directives for municipal companies, goals for good financial management and financial frameworks. Borlänge municipality's environmental strategy for 2021–2030 is a tool for concretising the environmental ambitions in the document entitled Goals & Budget. The purpose of the environmental strategy is for the municipal group as a whole to work together towards the goals defined. The vision field entitled An ecologically sustainable Borlänge: a Borlänge that takes responsibility for the environment both now and in the future provides the basic starting point.

The Borlänge municipal group can make an important difference to the climate, but does not own this evolution alone. We can achieve even more if we work together with the people of Borlänge and the business sector. The environmental strategy for 2021–2030 clarifies three approaches to how the municipal group should work to bring about change. These approaches aim to encourage more people to get involved so that even greater impact can be achieved.

- Approach 1: The municipality as a pioneer
- Approach 2: Borlänge in collaboration
- Approach 3: Participation, information and training

3.3. Organisation and management

3.3.1 Project consortium

The project consortium is responsible for the application in Viable Cities call for proposals 8 Climate-Neutral Borlänge 2030 from April 2021. All 13 organisations in the consortium have committed to contribute to the project. The project consortium is involved in the project as a whole but contributes to the various groups in different ways, with different roles and tasks within the project.



3.3.2 Employer

The municipal board is the employer. The environment and urban development committee, which is tasked with coordinating the municipality's strategic environmental work, and the board at Borlänge Energi have also been involved in the process of shaping the missing and have important parts to play.

3.3.3 Political reference group

The political reference group comprises the chairman of the municipal board, the chairman of the environment and urban development committee and the chairman of the board at Borlänge Energi.

3.3.4 Steering committee

The project's steering committee is the group management team and is made up of people who support the project client. The municipal director is the project client.

The steering committee supports and relieves the pressure on the project client, but does not take over overall responsibility for the project. The client is able to authorise the client agent to make decisions and conduct day-to-day management. The steering committee also includes the client agent and the head of the urban development sector.

3.3.5 Operational steering committee

The operational steering committee includes the client agent and constitutes the link between the two steering committees. If necessary, the client authorises the client agent to make decisions on behalf of the client. In the same way, the client representative also highlights issues to be decided by the client and raised in the steering committee, if necessary.

The role of the operational steering committee is to support the client agent. The operational steering committee has a similar role to the steering committee, but at a more operational level.

3.3.6 Project manager

The project manager leads the work and is responsible for ensuring that the project goals are met. One of the project manager's key tasks is to create a foundation and eliminate obstacles so that everyone involved in the project can work, interact and communicate with ease.

3.3.7 Project team

The project team includes project managers, subproject managers and innovation managers. Working groups are formed on the basis of needs linked to the attainment



of goals for each work package. Subproject managers are engaged for individual projects.

3.3.8 Innovation team

The innovation team is made up of selected representatives from the organisations participating in the project consortium and works across boundaries between municipal administrations and companies, as well as with research, corporate and civil society stakeholders. The team has an important part to play in identifying challenges, devising solutions and bridging the gaps in terms of responsibility, for example, in order to achieve a climate-neutral Borlänge by 2030.

3.4. Collaboration with the business sector, civil society, the academic community and citizens

3.4.1 Quadruple helix organisation – the innovation team

A quadruple helix organisation has been established in order to reinforce collaboration in Borlänge around the mission of achieving a climate-neutral Borlänge by 2030. This organisation is known as the “innovation team” and is made up of selected representatives from the organisations participating in the project consortium and works across boundaries between municipal administrations and companies, as well as with stakeholders from the academic community, the business sector and civil society. The innovation team has a mandate and ability to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral city by 2030 on the basis of the specific challenges faced by Borlänge.

3.4.2 Mobilisation of the business sector

To further increase the pace of change and mobilise companies in Borlänge, the project has developed a local climate contract that companies are able to sign and thus join in with efforts to achieve a climate-neutral Borlänge by 2030. The local climate contract is called “Climate City Contract Borlänge”, and this contract involves a commitment to the project’s target scenario. Companies that choose to join are expected to contribute through their own transition work, but also to share the information they have acquired and the lessons they have learned and be involved in the overall effort to create a climate-neutral city.

3.4.3 New forms of citizen engagement

Achieving system innovation and transformative change in the city requires new forms of citizen engagement. Everyone living and working in Borlänge needs to be more involved in efforts to achieve climate neutrality. Dialogue and ways to get people involved and stimulate engagement need to be created.



3.4.4 Sustainable Arena

Sustainable Arena is all about distributing information on our efforts towards a more sustainable society. IK Brage and Borlänge Energi want to use a sustainable arena to create collaborations with companies, associations and the municipality where the emphasis is on how we can work together to create a better society and long-term social, economic and ecological sustainability in many different activities.

3.4.5 2047 Science Centre engages young people

The 2047 Science Centre will give upper secondary school students the opportunity to really sink their teeth into the challenge of ensuring climate neutrality for Borlänge by 2030 and find solutions that assist with Borlänge's creation of a portfolio of actions aimed at achieving climate neutrality.

3.5. Climate investment plan

Climate Investment Plans are a new way of developing roadmaps for cities that include a social and economic perspective on measures and investments. Climate benefits and added value are clarified in order to create decision data that enables the necessary priorities to be defined.

The Climate Investment Plan involves providing a comprehensive picture of the municipal, regional, state and private measures and investments needed in order to achieve the defined goals. That said, they must also show how new or emerging markets will be created for companies that are capable of delivering sustainable buildings, energy systems, mobility solutions, recycling systems and supporting digital systems, etc.

The municipal group's transition function will work on the basis of the Climate Investment Plan to manage the measures and investments over which the municipal group has control. The innovation team and the broader collaboration platforms being built will be important for the implementation of the other elements of the Climate Investment Plan.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

Digital tools to support the climate transition are an integral part of the municipality's climate efforts. The innovation team is staffed with experts who specialise in digitalisation. The municipality must analyse how digitalisation can be a tool for transition and use relevant tools. Digital tools for visualising data in priority areas with particular potential for the transition must be used.



3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

3.7.1 Quadruple helix organisation – the innovation team

A quadruple helix organisation has been established in order to reinforce collaboration in Borlänge around the mission of achieving a climate-neutral Borlänge by 2030. This organisation is known as the “innovation team” and is made up of selected representatives from the organisations participating in the project consortium and works across boundaries between municipal administrations and companies, as well as with stakeholders from the academic community, the business sector and civil society. The innovation team is mandated by each organisation and has the ability to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral city by 2030 on the basis of the specific challenges faced by Borlänge.

The innovation team works together in order to deliver solutions that will assist with Borlänge’s climate neutrality. The core idea with the innovation team is to employ collaboration between different sectors, allowing new solutions to emerge and be brought to fruition at a faster pace. Bringing together key stakeholders from different sectors in the same space will also allow us to bridge the responsibility gap in respect of climate change.

The *Green Transition Leap* is a national initiative that ran throughout 2023 with a view to facilitating business-driven climate transition for small and medium-sized enterprises. This project was a joint initiative involving the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, RISE, SISF, Energikontoren Sverige (Energy Agencies Sweden), IUC, IVL and SuPr. The project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

One of the work packages was “The city as a hub for green and digital transition”, and the objective there was to take a closer look at how cutting-edge, innovative startups can help to resolve cities’ climate challenges. To test this, a city was needed that had concretised its climate challenges, had the conditions in place for working with startups and had the resources required to participate in the project. The fact that the Climate-Neutral Borlänge project existed as a facilitator, along with the fact that we had concretised the city’s climate challenges and had an established innovation team, was crucial to Borlänge’s selection.

To address Borlänge’s mobility challenges, the Green Transition Leap launched an innovation programme in which startups worked together to devise proposals that would reduce climate impact associated with commuting. A number of major private employers (such as SSAB and IKEA) and several other municipalities from all over Sweden who share the same challenges as Borlänge all participated, in addition to the municipality itself. These municipalities were given the opportunity to follow the work and the process, but also to access the proposed solutions that were presented. Säter, Avesta, Falun and Mora all participated from the county of Dalarna.



3.7.2 Cooperation in Dalarna

In 2024, we will be exploring how we could establish Borlänge as an innovation hub for the entire region. The ambition of Climate-Neutral Borlänge is in line with the regional development strategy for Dalarna, Energiintelligent Dalarna, the County Administrative Board's roadmaps, ByggDialog Dalarna, Visit Dalarna's roadmap for Dalarna as a sustainable destination, and a number of stakeholders working on regional assignments.

Stakeholders from other Dalarna municipalities want to sign Borlänge's local climate contract, as there is no similar collaboration platform promoting innovation in the municipalities in which these companies operate. This demonstrates the need for the collaboration platform, along with the fact that there is a demand from the business sector in Dalarna.

3.8. Climate change adaptation

The municipality is working with climate change adaptation in respect of spatial planning and through the Climate Change subprogramme linked to the action programme under the Civil Protection Act.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

Transport accounts for the largest share of carbon emissions in Borlänge, according to Borlänge's carbon budget. There is major potential for reducing emissions in the transport sector by increasing the percentage of sustainable travel (walking, cycling and public transport) and transforming the vehicle fleet. The municipality has adopted goals and approaches in respect of climate-smart mobility in its Environmental Strategy 2021–2030 and the Traffic Strategy for Borlänge municipality. The municipality will be accelerating its work on climate-smart mobility in line with both strategies. The projects Commuting with Digital Support and Urban Bike Flow (both started in 2023) will be ongoing in 2024.

3.9.1 Climate-neutral transport model

Within the framework of Climate-Neutral Borlänge, we have appointed a project manager who runs the Model for Climate-Neutral Travel preparatory project, which is funded by Formas. This project will develop a model in respect of how a city like Borlänge can take on the challenge of transforming travel so that the city as a whole can achieve climate neutrality by 2030. This model should help to raise awareness in different parts of the municipality and the municipal group about what needs to be done to make the transition to sustainable travel in a socially sustainable city, and why this is important. The model is to be used as a basis for applying for new project funds and resources to enable investments to be made in further initiatives that will contribute to an active and vibrant cityscape in which walking, cycling and public transport have a key role to play. The project will continue until June 2024.



3.10. Reporting and monitoring

The municipality's climate goals are monitored in the environmental accounts every calendar year.

Impact goal 1 (Reduced climate impact in line with the carbon budget and the emission reduction rate linked to it) is followed up annually in Borlänge municipality's carbon budget. Monitoring is based on nationally coordinated data and lags two years behind. This means that there are no definitive values available for recent years: it will only be possible to view these later. However, forecasts for the next two years are made in time, which provides a good indication.

Impact goal 2 (Reduced climate impact on the basis of consumption-based emissions) is monitored via the Stockholm Environment Institute's Konsumtionskompassen (Consumption Compass) tool and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's statistics. There is uncertainty in respect of precisely how these emissions will be monitored nationally, and so the project's monitoring will remain abreast of developments.

The specific goal for efforts until 30 September 2024 (Accelerate the pace of the climate transition through new forms of collaboration, new processes and methods to enable transformative societal changes) is followed up in the Climate-Neutral Borlänge annual report.

4. Viable Cities' commitments

The Viable Cities innovation programme is being conducted in broad collaboration in order to contribute to the transition to climate neutral cities by 2030 as part of the Swedish commitment to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. This includes acting as international pioneers in the transition for cities.

Viable Cities is working with a wide range of stakeholders across academic disciplines, industries and sectors of society. It links outstanding research environments with enterprises of all sizes across a range of sectors, as well as public and civil society organisations.

Viable Cities will promote the following as part of its role as a strategic innovation programme:

4.1. Coordination of Climate City Contract 2030

Accelerated mobilisation in respect of the transition on a local, national and international level is now taking place using Climate City Contracts as a tool. This



requires more of an ability to coordinate the efforts and go on developing the contracts in order to achieve upscaling, broadening, replicability, prioritisation and more effective coordination of meetings and dialogues between stakeholders.

That is why the Viable Cities programme office is developing a coordination function for Climate City Contract 2030 in Sweden so as to further support the Climate City Contract process, the commitments of agencies, municipalities and other relevant stakeholders being developed and refined step by step. This is being done in parallel with implementation and scaling to drive the transition more effectively. The coordination function will support the building of stakeholders' collective capacity for transition from knowledge to implementation and develop the Climate City Contract to the next level – in a local, national and international context.

The coordination function aims to create better opportunities for municipalities and stakeholders to benefit from and manage at a local level the comprehensive policy packages at EU level that result from the European Green Deal (such as Fit for 55 and the Taxonomy Regulation for sustainable investments).

4.2. Smart policy development

Viable Cities intends to create expertise support in respect of policy and regulations with related initiatives in respect of smart policy development. This will involve providing the municipality with more of an overview of current and future Swedish and European legislation, rules and standards of relevance to the climate transition of cities (such as the Fit for 55 policy package). It will also include process support for amending regulations and standards to facilitate climate transition in practice. This will link to agencies' commitments (section 5.1) and development work on system demonstrators (see section 6).

4.3. Innovation

Viable Cities intends to develop its role as a pioneer and intermediary (linker of systems, manager of gaps, crosser of boundaries) in order to reinforce the coordinating, mobilising and facilitating efforts in the emerging ecosystem for the Climate Neutral Cities mission, offering a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet.

Viable Cities will contribute competence networks and process support to make it easier for the municipality to implement innovation that accelerates climate transition. This will include engaging other strategic innovation programmes in the further development of Climate City Contract 2030. This is particularly applicable to mobility, energy, the built environment, circular economy, health and digitalisation. Working on the basis of the partnership agreement with the Drive Sweden strategic innovation programme on climate smart mobility, collaboration will be developed



further with both cities and agencies in this respect, not least with the Swedish Transport Administration.

4.4. Coordinated funding

Viable Cities will be supporting the municipality's need for climate transition funding and promoting cooperation and synergy between agencies and other stakeholders funding climate transition and sustainable urban development in the following ways.

- Viable Cities will go on working with the 23 cities and six agencies involved in Climate City Contract 2030 on developing forms of funding linked with this.
- Viable Cities will cooperate with the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth as the managing authority for the European Regional Development Fund in Sweden and the initiatives earmarked for sustainable urban development with a view to creating synergy with Climate City Contract 2030.
- Viable Cities will be working together with the agencies to develop work on coordinated funding by means of various ongoing initiatives in respect of sustainable urban development: see 5.3 Coordinated funding.
- Viable Cities will be continuing to develop forms of climate investment plans for cities with a view to supporting all cities as part of the Climate Neutral Cities 2030 initiative.

4.5. Interaction with the EU's Climate Neutral Cities mission

Viable Cities is working in close cooperation with the support structures that are being built around the EU Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission – both a platform for implementation of the EU mission, NetZeroCities, and CapaCITIES, a network of national nodes such as the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) partnership programme. At EU level, closer interaction and synergies with the sister mission “Adaptation to Climate Change”, as well as with the proposed “New European Bauhaus” mission, are also being discussed.

5. The agencies' commitments

The agencies are committed to working together within the scope of Climate City Contract 2030. In this way, the agencies will contribute to the purpose of the mission-driven effort to make the transition to climate neutral cities by 2030 with a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet.

In 2024, the agencies will go on developing supporting structures and new ways of working for a more coherent, strategic and learning development process. The Sustainable Cities Council (Rådet för hållbara städer) acts as a framework



and strategic forum for collaboration between agencies, the Swedish Model for Sustainable Development (Svensk modell för Hållbar utveckling) as an operational platform for collaboration between agencies, and Climate City Contract 2030 as a joint innovation and test lab for the 23 cities and agencies.

As part of this, the innovation teams at the Climate City Contract agencies will hold joint responsibility for driving the following innovation processes: Policy labs (5.1), System demonstrators (5.2) and Local portfolio analysis (5.3). This work also involves participation in the Transition Lab facilitated by Viable Cities. In 2024, the agencies intend to focus in particular on the development of Climate City Contract 2030 as an innovation in governance for the Climate City Contract Arena, the meeting place for dialogue workshops between municipalities and agencies (see 6.1).

The agencies commit to continue their joint efforts in respect of the following developments in 2024 in order to support municipalities' climate transition:

5.1. Smart policy development

The agencies are working together with the municipalities to identify and contribute to development towards more appropriate regulations and other policy instruments for sustainable urban development and climate transition, and also to increase understanding and knowledge of existing regulations. The process will continue to be based on proactive dialogue and mutual learning, focusing on the development needs of municipalities in an accelerated climate transition.

In 2024, work will continue with policy labs in one or more of the challenge areas identified: inclusive mobility that promotes health, land use and land allocation, energy planning and energy streamlining, and circular resource and material flows. Joint development and planning efforts are ongoing through collaboration and dialogue in order to clarify policy challenges and identify key stakeholders, as well as ensuring the transition potential of policy labs.

5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development

The agencies are funding research, innovation, development and system innovation activities that support more rapid climate transition. The agencies' support is aimed at various types of research, innovation, application and demonstration and, to some extent, investment funding. Funding is provided through open calls for proposals and other forms such as, for example, client networks, stakeholder networks and innovation procurement².

² See [pressannouncement from the Swedish Internet Foundation](#) (Swedish)



In 2024, the agencies are committing to go on developing and funding new types of initiatives, such as: System Demonstrators for Climate Neutral Cities (see 6.2 for more information) and the Urban Twin Transition Center for the digitalisation of cities.

5.3. Coordinated funding

The agencies are constantly developing coordination in respect of ongoing initiatives in the field of sustainable urban development and climate transition so as to create better advance planning and comprehensive information.

In 2024, the agencies are intending to deliver aggregated output data from some of the agencies' funding to all 23 municipalities, based on the innovation process on methodology development for local portfolio analyses that was conducted in 2023. The innovation work will also continue in 2024 with a view to improving the quality and coverage of data supplied, and by means of one or more in-depth projects in collaboration with certain interested municipalities in order to streamline the process and increase the benefits for recipients. The long-term goal of the portfolio analyses is to assist in efforts relating to cities' climate investment plans.

Hållbarstad.se is the joint website of the Sustainable Cities Council. Here, the agencies have undertaken to regularly publish information on funding opportunities and calls for proposals, as well as collective knowledge support from all participating agencies involved in the Sustainable Cities Council³.

5.4. Participation in European sustainable cities initiatives

The agencies are part of and working with a number of European initiatives to support the development of sustainable cities and communities.

Efforts to support Swedish participation in the Horizon Europe 2021–2027 research programme include contributing to the formulation of activities and calls for proposals and providing information and advice to stakeholders who are planning to participate in applications regarding various European initiatives. The agencies are also cooperating on the implementation of the EU Regional Development Fund 2021–2027 with initiatives for sustainable urban development.

The agencies are continuing to participate in the Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future partnership, where calls for proposals and other activities in respect of sustainable urban development will be of relevance in the next few years,

³ The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Public Health Agency, Formas, the county boards, the Swedish Agency for Participation, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish National Heritage Board, ArkDes (the Sweden's national museum for architecture and design) the Public Art Agency Sweden, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration och Vinnova.



as well as the European Commission's "New European Bauhaus" initiative,⁴ European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁵ and Urbact⁶.

The agencies are also helping to develop support functions for the cities selected for the 100 Climate Neutral Cities mission. One example is the "CapaCITIES" programme⁷. CapaCITIES is being used to initiate and reinforce national change processes in order to establish national networks and governance structures.

6. Strategic development projects for 2024

The strategic development projects are key accelerators for the emergence of an ecosystem relating to the Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission and provide a common platform and arena for collaboration and learning.

The following strategic development projects will be conducted in 2024 within the Viable Cities Transition Lab in collaboration with other municipalities, with a view to further developing the content of Climate City Contract 2030 during the upcoming revision of the contract.

6.1. Governance

Developments in climate transition governance, both at local level and between local, national and even EU level, are fundamental to broader mobilisation and more effective systemic changes. This involves coordinating and leading different stakeholders at different levels with a view to accelerating the climate transition and slowing climate change so that a sustainable future can be built. Governance refers to the process and structure of governing, managing and regulating an organisation, society or system. It considers how decisions are made, how authority and responsibilities are allocated, and how rules and guidelines are maintained and followed. This is a complex process involving political, economic, technical and social aspects, which in turn requires cooperation and commitment from a wide range of societal stakeholders.

Mobilisation through Climate City Contract 2030 has proven to be successful and will go on being developed in order to further reinforce, scale up, broaden and accelerate the transition work. Clearer needs orientation/prioritisation and stricter commitments

⁴ New European Bauhaus highlights the importance of aesthetic, social and cultural assets in the green transition.

⁵ The European Urban Initiative is a hub for sustainable urban development at EU level. The EUI aims to offer support to cities to improve and increase their capacity when it comes to formulating sustainable urban development strategies, policies and projects. (urban-initiative.eu)

⁶ Urbact is a European cooperation programme for exchange and learning in the field of sustainable urban development, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

⁷ The Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are participating.



are required from several quarters: from the national agencies and the municipalities, and also linked to the Viable Cities role/commitments.

The Climate City Contract is a new and innovative governance tool that is building a long-term strategic process from local to international level on the basis of the collective mission of achieving sustainable and climate neutral cities by 2030. Commitments from cities, agencies and other stakeholders are revised and refined every year, and implementation takes place in interaction between the public sector, the business sector, the academic community and civil society stakeholders. The whole process is building ever stronger mobilisation of ecosystems of stakeholders and initiatives and constantly reinforcing the collective capacity for faster transition. This is a multi-level governance perspective that has also acted as an international role model when it comes to mobilising cities in a broad partnership between enterprises, the academic community, the public sector and civil society, implementing the EU's "Climate Neutral and Smart Cities" mission, which is aiming to achieve 100 climate neutral cities (municipalities) in Europe by 2030. Being the first to set up Climate City Contracts makes Sweden a pioneer, leading the way for other European countries and the European Commission. This, in turn, will strengthen the Swedish business sector's ability to take its place and contribute to the global transition.

In the run-up to 2024, there is still a major need to develop a more in-depth understanding of what transformative governance involves and how municipalities and cities can work with it in practice. Collective analysis support for Climate City Contracts will be developed further using experience and insights from the initial steps. This work has to be done in close cooperation between Viable Cities, agencies and municipalities. This work will be coordinated by the programme office, which will ensure stronger emphasis on analysis and monitoring in the Climate City Contract Arena in 2024.

6.2. Climate investment plans

A basic tenet of mission-driven innovation is that the state and public organisations at different levels of society play an active role in co-creating and reshaping markets in interaction with the business sector and other societal stakeholders such as the academic community and civil society.

Climate investment planning is a crucial part of the transition in a municipality or from a broader perspective. Such planning makes it possible to understand what measures the various stakeholders in the city – the municipality and other stakeholders – need to implement, how these measures can be implemented in a manner that is economically viable, and which financial instruments can be used to raise the capital necessary for the transition. On average, the municipality itself is estimated to have control over about 15 per cent of the investments needed. That



is why a series of stakeholders need to be involved, including citizens, civil society, enterprises (including the financial sector), the academic community and public organisations.

Climate investment plans as a key part of the work on developed governance for the mission, and in 2024 we will be focusing on climate investment plans in a number of areas; analyses and tests on how climate investment plans can be linked to regular decision-making processes, including roadmaps for climate neutrality at city level, analyses of necessary climate investments in areas with a major impact on climate emissions, such as heating/cooling, mobility, food, etc., economic analyses of multiple benefits of climate transition, such as where climate transition can both help to save money and provide quantified benefits such as better health, more jobs, security, etc., how sustainability indicators can be incorporated more systematically into commercial management and contract management

In 2024, the Viable Cities financial dashboard will undergo further development and incorporate the investment plan page, financial indicators and funding flows provided by different national agencies (see section 5.3). The functions of various financial instruments will be mapped, and a number of learning cases will be launched in areas where financial roadmaps are being developed. There will also be a developed collaboration with investors in order to discuss how to mobilise private funding for climate neutral cities.

The work on climate investment plans in Sweden is closely linked to what is happening within NetZeroCities, the platform for implementing the climate neutral cities mission at European level.

6.3. Competitiveness through transition

Strong mobilisation for the transition to climate neutrality may provide the conditions for enterprises in Sweden to develop new business strategies and entirely new markets, which in turn will provide competitiveness by driving a transition to a climate neutral, sustainable society. This is crucial for Sweden's ambition to be the world's first fossil-free welfare state and our climate policy framework. Enterprises play a key role in the climate transition; as major emitters of greenhouse gases, but also as providers of solutions for climate transition and climate change adaptation.

In 2024, Viable Cities is joining forces with the Climate Competitiveness initiative to explore – together with a range of other stakeholders – what systemic changes can accelerate collaboration between municipalities and the business sector in order to achieve the Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission with a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet. Collaboration with the agencies signing the Climate City Contract is a key aspect of this work so that policy change can be driven. The initiative is targeted primarily at the 23 cities signing Climate City Contracts



for 2030, with the objective of creating knowledge that can be used in all Swedish municipalities.

The aim is to focus jointly on key areas of activity linked to the cities' transition journeys, where enterprises are mobilised and systematically engaged. One important element in this work is to reinforce one another in handling the opportunities and challenges presented by the EU's "Fit for 55" programme. Examples of areas of activity include procurement, skills supply, business development and establishment. The work includes reviewing the chances of using municipal policy documents such as procurement policy, business programmes and ownership directives for municipal companies in order to drive development. In its work, Viable Cities also engages with business-oriented organisations and initiatives at international, national and regional level where fair and inclusive transition is a key aspect.

6.4. Citizen engagement

Current societal challenges mean that a number of crises coincide with the climate crisis: the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, crises in respect of energy, food, raw materials and critical minerals, biodiversity and demography. These challenges are exacerbated by the fact that we are also experiencing a democratic development where a growing proportion of the population feels excluded.

This increases the need for initiatives aimed at inclusion and putting citizens at the centre of the transition to a climate neutral, sustainable society through initiatives such as new forms of citizen involvement (such as citizens' councils) and the development of attractive living environments (such as New European Bauhaus) and policies for the designed living environment. It is necessary to make the most of citizens' knowledge and expertise with regard to the decisions that affect their lives, and these decisions must be supported by the vast majority so that action and change can be implemented at the pace and to the extent required.

There will be further development of cooperation between cities, agencies and other stakeholders in 2024 in order to pave the way for citizen engagement in the climate transition; not least by developing new forms of citizen involvement in local Climate City Contracts and interaction with European initiatives in this respect.

A number of learning cases, tests and initiatives in respect of citizen participation will be mobilised in 2024 with a view to building on empowering citizens so as to accelerate the climate transition.

6.5. System demonstrators

System Demonstrators for Climate Neutral Cities is a strategic development project under Climate City Contract 2030. The system demonstrators are expected to play an



essential role in the ability of cities to accelerate the transition, raise awareness and create plenty of engagement on a local, regional, national and international level.

The initiative focuses clearly on mission-oriented innovation, and clearly emphasises the importance of a systems perspective in the transition process. A portfolio approach, where a number of actions, initiatives and experiments combine to form a larger whole, is an important element in this form of intervention. The system demonstrators are based on key areas of Climate City Contract 2030 and are intended to assist with the development of the contract on the basis of insights from the work.

Viable Cities and the agencies undertake to help raise the profile of the system demonstrators in key contexts at national and international level, and to capitalise on the insights from the system demonstrators with a view to facilitating upscaling. All Climate City Contract 2030 municipalities undertake to capitalise on the insights from the system demonstrators with a view to facilitating upscaling.

6.6. Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission on an international level

In October 2021, the EU launched five missions for a new and innovative way of working together and improving people's lives in Europe and beyond. These five missions aim to tackle major societal challenges such as health, climate and the environment, and set ambitious goals with deadlines to be achieved by 2030. One of these is 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 (known as the Cities Mission), which is a key element in delivering the European Green Deal with a view to making the continent climate neutral by 2050. This will involve significant reinforcement of Swedish efforts on the mission of achieving climate neutral cities by 2030 and using Climate City Contract 2030 as a tool for this.

There will be continued mobilisation and development in 2024 in order to reinforce the link between Swedish and European efforts on the Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission. This is taking place by means of a series of initiatives involving cities, agencies and Viable Cities programmes. Examples include NetZeroCities (a platform for implementing the Cities Mission, with development work on aspects such as Climate City Contracts and Climate Investment Plans), the Driving Urban Transitions partnership (with research and innovation projects focusing on 15-minute cities, energy-positive districts and the circular urban economy) and CapaCITIES (which is developing national support platforms similar to Viable Cities in a number of countries in Europe).

At EU level, closer interaction and synergies between the Cities Mission and its sister mission "Adaptation to Climate Change", as well as with the "New European Bauhaus" initiative, are also being discussed.



Launched by the European Commission in January 2021, the New European Bauhaus initiative links the European Green Deal with our built environment. In the Cities Mission implementation plan, the European Commission points out that EU Climate City Contracts will enable participating cities to integrate the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus initiative in their climate neutrality plans and reinforce them. Work on the New European Bauhaus is taking place in collaboration with the government assignment awarded to the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Sustainable Cities Council, Rådet för hållbara städer) aimed at coordinating Sweden's participation in the New European Bauhaus.

7. Joint efforts on monitoring, evaluation and updating

Viable Cities and the municipality have agreed to conduct annual monitoring of the municipality's performance within the framework of Climate City Contract 2030. Viable Cities will provide documentation annual monitoring at municipal and national level.

7.1. Key updates for the municipality

During the year, Borlänge municipality continued to strengthen a quadruple helix collaboration through the innovation team, which worked on the challenges faced by Borlänge in achieving climate neutrality. However, the Green Transition Leap has docked to the Borlänge process in order to contribute to even more solutions and methodologies from a system innovation perspective, as well as providing greater opportunities for upscaling.

Around 40 companies had signed local climate contracts by November 2023, including the 13 partners involved in the project consortium. There is also interest outside Borlänge, as we have a number of companies from other municipalities.

Work on the Climate Investment Plan began in 2023 with an initial gap analysis and efforts to broaden understanding of the approach. Work on garnering support, developing and implementing the Borlänge Climate Investment Plan will continue in 2024.

Borlänge municipality has enjoyed good cooperation and exchanges of experience with the other 22 cities involved in Viable Cities and the programme office, both in connection with the Transition Lab and in between. Borlänge, Gävle and Eskilstuna have collaborated on our cities' challenges and common links to the academic community, and our cities' higher education institutions.



7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

For Borlänge municipality, the past year has meant new working methods and collaboration platforms that have made the municipality and its partners more agile, which bodes well for the future.

The cooperation and exchanges of experience with the other cities involved in Viable Cities and the programme office has reinforced the municipality's efforts.

Borlänge municipality has identified many new links to other organisations, companies and government agencies at local, regional, national and international level, which demonstrates how important it is to work together on climate transition and not in isolation.

The government agencies' efforts to coordinate funding are very valuable for our ability to accelerate the pace of the work.

7.3. Key updates for Viable Cities

The work done by Viable Cities on facilitating the Climate City Contract process has undergone development in 2023. The Viable Cities programme has also prepared a new multi-year phase of the programme. Moreover, significant development work on climate investment plans has taken place and the new system demonstrator intervention has taken new steps. An EU-level process on Climate City Contracts has been established in the international cooperation on the mission and a number of Swedish cities have been successful in becoming involved in the work of the mission regarding climate-neutral cities with funding from Horizon Europe.

7.3.1 The Climate City Contract process

Work has continued in 2023 on developing the role of Viable Cities as a facilitator of the Climate City Contract process in interaction with the 23 cities and 6 government agencies that are signatories to date. The accelerated learning platform has been further developed through the Viable Cities Transition Lab Forum, City Labs, Climate Breakfasts and a series of different formats for meetings between cities and government agencies and other stakeholders. Interaction with the signing government agencies has also been developed in order to further extend the Climate City Contract 2030 process. In parallel, work has continued in the 23 cities on developing different forms of local climate contracts as part of mobilising local transition arenas with companies, the public sector, the academic community and research institutes and civil society. Mobilisation at EU level with the 112 cities that are pioneers in the Climate-Neutral Cities 2030 mission has also involved a process of establishing Climate City Contracts with the participation of Viable Cities. Viable Cities perceives an increased need to create synergies and work on developing support for learning between cities and further developing interfaces between local, national



and international levels. The aim of all this is to reinforce the collective capacity for transition.

7.3.2 Strategic efforts prior to new programme phase

Scaling up relevant initiatives in various ways for greater impact and to increase the pace of transition is a crucial element in Viable Cities' work going forward. It is also clear that further work needs to be done in a situation in which multiple crises coincide with the climate crisis. Extensive strategy work took place during the year in preparation for the next multi-year phase of the programme. In October, Viable Cities submitted an application to become one of the programmes under the new, mission-oriented Impact Innovation programme. In parallel, documentation is being submitted for the next phase as a strategic innovation programme in which an evaluation of the first six years of the programme has been completed. In various ways, Viable Cities has also provided input for the Government's forthcoming climate policy action plan and the forthcoming research and innovation bill and contributed to SALAR's planning⁸ of how municipalities and regions can improve and intensify their efforts on climate change adaptation and reduced climate impact.

7.3.3 Strategic upscaling and acceleration initiatives

Continued development work on climate investments for the transition for cities has taken place both in Sweden and in European cooperation as part of the work on Climate City Contracts. Dialogue with relevant financial stakeholders has also been developed in this regard. Digitalisation efforts were also intensified during the year, and November saw the establishment of the Urban Twin Transition Centre in collaboration with Viable Cities. Work has also begun on preparing processes for enhanced citizen engagement/participation in order to create methods and insights that can be used by many cities. A Just Transitions graduate school was launched at Linköping University during the year, in cooperation with Viable Cities. Lund University, in collaboration with Viable Cities, has also launched a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC): Cities, Climate and Change: Pathways and Opportunities. Work on storytelling and communication for transition has also undergone further development. The next step in developing a new form of intervention known as System Demonstrators has been taken with funding from Vinnova and Viable Cities for two system demonstrators: CoAct in Lund, which is focusing on both sustainable mobility and energy-positive districts, and SnabbSam in Stockholm, which is focusing on a fossil-free city centre. Other cities are keen to join in with these collective learning efforts. Fifteen feasibility studies have been funded as part of Viable Cities in order to explore how we can further energise the transition of cities in three respects: citizen engagement, climate investments and regional collaboration.

⁸ Fair and sustainable transition for the climate – Proposal from SKR's program preparation for sustainable transition, SALAR, September 2023 (Swedish)



7.3.4 International alliances in respect of the mission

Efforts to mobilise cities and countries in respect of the mission, in which Viable Cities is involved in a number of ways (e.g. NetZeroCities, Driving Urban Transitions, CapaCITIES, Urban Transitions Mission), are continuing. An evaluation commissioned by the European Commission of the EU's work on the five missions⁹ was published during the year. This concludes that the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities 2030 mission (Cities Mission) has already achieved significant mobilisation to step up the pace of climate transition in cities. The evaluators highlight the fact that establishment of the Cities Mission was an important and timely initiative in order to address the "implementation gap" and the systemic challenges that individual cities' climate efforts could never handle alone.

Viable Cities has continued its efforts as one of many international NetZeroCities partners in order to facilitate the transition in the 112 cities (seven of which are Swedish). NetZeroCities, in dialogue with the European Commission, has formulated a Climate City Contract for cities throughout the EU as a tool to accelerate climate transition. Climate investments are a key element in this regard. As with everything else Viable Cities does, the ambition is for methods, tools and lessons learned to benefit many more cities as they make their transitions. Swedish cities have achieved success within the framework of NetZeroCities and been granted funding for a number of initiatives in order to reinforce their climate transition initiatives. Malmö, Uppsala and Umeå, for instance, have received funding as part of the Pilot Cities initiative (totalling around SEK 45 million); and Luleå (matched with Umeå) and Lund are just two of the cities that have been selected and matched with pilot cities under the Twinning initiative, which focuses on learning partners for transition.

New steps are being taken as part of the work that has been conducted at global level within the Climate Smart Cities Challenge for a number of years, and which involves a number of Swedish stakeholders, with a view to further developing the work. This includes linking the four system demonstrators as part of the initiative with the two Swedish ones, and also working to mobilise capital. The partnership with UN-Habitat is key to this, and a dialogue is being conducted regarding broader cooperation with UN-Habitat on the basis of climate transition for cities. Similarly, a dialogue has been initiated regarding broader cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) regarding climate transition for cities in Sweden and internationally.

7.4. Key updates for the government agencies

The agencies have worked jointly on four innovation processes in 2023 as part of Climate City Contract 2030. Four challenges have been identified for policy labs as part of Smart Policy Development. System demonstrators for climate neutral cities

⁹ Alasdair Reid et al. Study supporting the assessment of EU Missions and the review of mission areas – Mission areas review report. 10.2777/61143, European Commission, 2023



are being trialled in two cities. A local portfolio analysis method has been trialled and scaled up. Climate City Contracts as a model for developed governance have been analysed in depth.

7.4.1 Smart policy development

In 2023, a number of joint workshops with Climate City Contract municipalities and Climate City Contract agencies were organised so that development of more appropriate regulatory frameworks and other instruments could begin. Four challenge areas were identified, and these were mapped and investigated further with a view to making decisions to launch a number of “policy labs” in one or more of the areas identified. Representatives from the agencies continued working between the workshops, processing the data that emerged and planning for future work. All the work involved forms of exploration and learning, with everyone involved.

7.4.2 System demonstrators

The emphasis on system demonstrators for climate neutral cities has continued in 2023. The call for proposals for System Demonstrators for Climate Neutral Cities – Planning Phase took place, and two cities were awarded funding. This call for proposals will be seamlessly followed in 2024 by the call for proposals for System Demonstrators for Climate Neutral Cities – Implementation Phase, which will be open only to the same two cities that were awarded funding for System Demonstrators for Climate Neutral Cities – Planning Phase.

7.4.3 Local portfolio analyses

In 2023, the agencies have carried on developing a methodology for portfolio analysis of the agencies’ overall funding to cities. The methodology was trialled in discussion with five of the municipalities during the year. The aim during the year has been to investigate applications in the municipalities and enable all 23 municipalities to scale up. The year’s work and completed tests were presented and further developed jointly during the Transition Lab Forum in Kristianstad in the autumn.

7.4.4 Greater collaboration between agencies

In 2023, the agencies forming the Sustainable Cities Council have been granted funding from the European Regional Development Fund’s National Programme to develop a more operational inter-authority collaboration platform. This collaboration platform has been named Svensk modell för hållbar urban utveckling, the Swedish Model for Sustainable Urban Development. The aim of this is to focus on the more operational efforts of the agencies and develop a coordinated and joint initiative to reinforce the municipalities’ capacity for innovation. The Sustainable Cities Council decided to review in 2023 how the Council can be strengthened in its role as a strategic forum and provide a framework for the operational collaboration platform Swedish Model for Urban Sustainable Development and Climate City Contract 2030



as a joint innovation and test lab for the 23 cities and agencies, as well as other related initiatives identified. The aim of this was to increase synergies and learning between several of the agencies' related assignments and initiatives.

7.4.5 Climate City Contracts as a governance model

Developments in climate transition governance, both at local level and between local, national and even EU level, are fundamental criteria for broader mobilisation and more effective systemic changes. In 2023, collaboration between agencies – with analytical support by Vinnova – focused on governance issues in particular. A strategic analysis project entitled “Klimatomställning av städer – en svensk modell för att öka takten i omställning” (Climate transition of cities – a Swedish model to increase the pace of transition) was conducted in close cooperation with Viable Cities, and with the active participation of both the agencies and the cities. From an operational perspective, it has been possible to devise the term “governance” for climate transition on the basis of practical experience from the last two decades. Governance is used when an authority needs to go beyond what it can directly control in order to realise a goal, which also involves systemic shifts from piecemeal operations to a holistic approach to public administration. In governance, the authority collaborates with the business sector, civil society and the academic community.

9. The contract

The Parties agree that these joint commitments, as formulated above, shall apply for 2024. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020, the second in 2021 and the third in 2022. The Climate City Contract is to be updated and renewed for each new year.

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Borlänge municipality, the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Viable Cities.

Stockholm 2023-12-08 The Parties agree that these joint commitments, as formulated above, shall apply for 2024. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020, the second in 2021 and the third in 2022. The Climate City Contract is to be updated and renewed for each new year.

Erik Nises

Mayor,
Borlänge municipality

Olga Kordas

Programme Director,
Viable Cities

Robert Andrén

Director General,
the Swedish Energy Agency

Darja Isaksson

Director General,
Vinnova

Johan Kuylenstierna

Director General,
Formas

Elisabeth Backteman

Director General,
the Swedish Agency for
Economic and Regional Growth

Roberto Maiorana

Director General,
the Swedish Transport
Administration

Björn Risinger

Director General,
the Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency



Appendix 1 – Links to documents

Below are the links to the most relevant documents in relation to Climate City Contract 2030 for Borlänge municipality (may be in Swedish).

- [Climate City Contract 2030 Borlänge version 2022](#)
- [Environmental strategy 2021 - 2030](#)
- [Action plan for the environmental strategy \(2023\)](#)
- [Goals and Budget 2024 - 2027 \(2023\)](#)