

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Gävle 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:

- Gävle 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

Gävle municipality aims to be a sustainable municipality from a social, ecological and economic perspective. Gävle aims to reduce the ecological footprint of its activities and the people of Gävle so as not to deplete the Earth's finite resources. In 2023, Gävle has changed its climate neutrality target from 2035 to 2030 to come into line with Viable Cities and Net Zero Cities. The target year of 2035 still applies to consumption-based emissions, i.e. emissions caused by Gävle municipality through our consumption from citizens, the general public and companies wherever in the world they are generated, and Gävle as a geographical location must be

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.



climate-positive by 2040. These goals can be found in the Strategic Environment Programme 2.0 of 2020. The target orientation for the climate-neutral municipality field is as follows:

- *Gävle as a geographical location is a climate-neutral municipality* in which the uptake of greenhouse gases is equal to or greater than the amounts emitted.
- *Cycling, walking and public transport are the most common modes of transport, and Gävle is to be one of Sweden's best cycling cities.* Transport using motor vehicles is powered by electricity or renewable fuels, and smart mobility solutions such as car sharing are in place.
- *The energy used comes from renewable sources* and is largely produced locally. People who live and work in Gävle conserve the energy they use, be it electricity, heat or energy use for transport and production.
- *All construction in Gävle municipality uses sustainable materials and provides conditions for residents and business operators to live in an environmentally sustainable way,* and materials for construction projects within the municipality are selected on the basis of life cycle analysis. Conditions that allow residents and business operators to live in an environmentally sustainable manner are created in order to minimise water and energy use, create optimal recycling, contribute to sustainable travel, etc.
- *A significant proportion of food is produced locally, plant-based and grown in the immediate vicinity,* and consumption is largely plant-based.
- *Society is based on circular resource management* and is optimised for efficient reuse of all kinds of resources.

3.2. Strategy

The climate roadmap forms part of the work on Strategic Environment Programme 2.0, the roadmap indicating how the goals adopted are to be achieved. One success factor for achieving results in the roadmap work is the fact that the municipality is prepared to plan for the long term, focus its priorities and allocate resources. Knowledge, education and the ability to explain and create understanding are another important element.

As a major purchaser, a major employer, a responsible municipality and an organisation responsible for land and development, Gävle municipality has an important job to do: to reduce emissions from its own activities and influence others in the right direction, but also make it easier for companies, citizens and others to make the best environmental and climate choices. How the municipality behaves is of major importance with every aspect of emissions that is reduced, but also to demonstrate show that transition is possible.



The climate roadmap shows that two areas in particular need to be prioritised going forward:

- Emissions from the transport sector must be reduced drastically, primarily by means of a rapid transition to sustainable travel such as public transport, cycling and walking and fossil-free vehicles. Public transport and cycling infrastructure will go on being expanded, and more charging points and renewable refuelling stations will be created in the municipality.
- We need to accelerate the pace of transition in the construction sector, where steel, cement and transport account for the majority of emissions. The municipality aims to introduce spoil management and building materials logistics and define more stringent requirements for fuel, materials and recycling in the construction process.

Most emissions in Gävle municipality come from the transport sector. That is why the climate roadmap focuses on measures in this area. We need to plan for a society that reduces the need for transport and makes travel more efficient, and we need to make it possible for residents and businesses to fill up with fossil-free fuel or charge their electric vehicles.

The construction and property sector is responsible for emissions in almost the same order of magnitude as the transport sector, but most of these emissions are not generated within the municipality's geographical boundaries. Spoil management, construction work and building materials, primarily steel and cement, are major sources of emissions that have only begun to be recognised recently. A large proportion of these emissions can be influenced by the municipality in the planning process, but some, such as fossil-free steel, need to be resolved by means of technological development. The municipality must also work actively to increase recycling in the construction sector in order to reduce the need for virgin materials. In 2023 and 2024, the municipality will be developing a strategy for sustainable development that sets out objectives and procedures to ensure the sustainability of the planning and development process. These range from sustainability requirements in relation to land sales to municipal procurement and investments. This work also includes using portfolio management to assess and prioritise development projects on the basis of reduced climate impact and overall sustainability.

Since the Climate-Neutral Gävle Roadmap was adopted in 2021, the municipality's strategy has been to scale up the work in order to get the resources and knowledge required to meet those ambitious goals. We have prioritised involvement in initiatives such as Viable Cities and Net Zero Cities. In 2022, our participation in Viable Cities meant we had more human resources for driving climate action and amassing valuable information. In 2023, funds via FPX have allowed us to progress our work on climate investment plans. This is something that we want to continue together with Borlänge, Luleå and Gothenburg in 2024 through the application submitted to the



Swedish Energy Agency. We will also be submitting a major application to Net Zero Cities in which we want to join forces by developing a transport portfolio in our local climate contract in 2024.

3.3. Organisation and management

The Strategic Environment Programme is one of four strategic programmes: the Gävle Comprehensive Plan, the Business Programme, the Strategic Environment Programme and the Social Sustainability Programme. All these programmes govern the municipal group at a general level.

The municipal board is responsible for the schedule for the Strategic Environment Programme and for disseminating, revising and monitoring the programme. Managers within the Gävle municipal group are responsible for implementation, and for ensuring that actions assist with achieving the goals. The annual operational plans must include a description of how the organisation intends to work to achieve the overall goal, "An ecologically sustainable and climate-neutral municipality", and other goals in the Strategic Environment Programme. Committees and boards must implement measures on their own initiative using the funds provided in the framework. Every committee, company and organisation must manage and monitor its own activities in its regular process and budget so that the goals are achieved. Both investments and operation-specific decisions must support the journey towards the goal of becoming a climate-neutral place. This is a good model in theory, but in practice it has been difficult to make it work.

In 2023, the municipal board was tasked with developing a new governance model that includes looking at how the strategic programmes become a more obvious part of governance. This means that the above model is being explored. Furthermore, an environmental portfolio will be set up in 2024 to ensure that our work assists with policy direction and goal achievement.

One general problem that all municipalities are struggling with is the lack of decision-making models that take into account aspects other than finance. This is something we have witnessed in our work on climate investment plans. This is partly why the governance model above does not work. We have started working together with Anthesis to develop a methodology for how climate aspects can be integrated into the investment process.

Collaboration with other organisations, government agencies and the business sector is essential if the municipality is to achieve these goals. National and regional initiatives that benefit the municipality are also key resources for implementation.



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

Gävle launched a network called Sustainable Business (Hållbart Näringsliv) in 2017, inspired by Uppsala's climate protocol. More than 40 local companies took part in the activities and challenges devised as part of the initiative. In 2023, Gävle municipality has been working actively to create what we refer to as the "Gävle Climate Agreement", which will be launched on 7 November 2023. The Gävle Climate Agreement aims to act as a collaborative arena that brings together the public sector, the academic community, associations and businesses, allowing them to join forces and contribute to an attractive, competitive and climate-neutral Gävle. This arena will be based on members' commitment and willingness to work towards a climate-neutral society, with a project management team providing impetus and acting as administrators. The practical work will be done in focus areas, with working groups building expertise and working through a series of challenges, all aimed at reducing members' climate impact. The goal and purpose of the climate agreement and the collaboration arena is to address and resolve difficult, complex societal challenges and together create an attractive, competitive and climate-neutral Gävle.

Gävle's application included a campaign aimed at citizens in order to raise awareness of consumption-based emissions. We teamed up with Svalna AB and their app for this. The campaign has been launched in 2023 under the name Sustainable Living (Hållbart Vardag). 32 households will be participating in various activities over the course of a year. The campaign is divided into themed areas: Cars, Meat, Home, Shops and Stock Market. This campaign is a huge step up in ambition compared to the idea we had in Viable Cities, where we were only going to promote the app. There has been much more participation and media coverage than we dared to hope.

3.5. Climate investment plan

To realise the municipality's climate goals, an initial project on investments and funding was launched in 2022 and completed in September 2023. Gävle began working on systematically identifying the need for investments in order to achieve the climate goals, as well as how climate aspects and added value can be highlighted more effectively in current planning and budget processes. A comprehensive gap analysis has been performed in order to assist with understanding and consolidation of climate aspects in different policies and action plans, and also to identify key stakeholders and the need for institutional capacity in order to develop joint roadmaps and climate investment plans. A workshop on this issue was held with a large number of economists and other officials in the municipality in 2023. An initial sample calculation involved a bus stop. Anthesis also developed an Excel model in which we can input all investments to help us understand the total net climate benefit of our investments. However, calculating the net climate benefit for each specific investment using this method would be too much effort. We need to find a



way forward that is manageable. We would need standardised values for different types of investments, which we do not have at present.

We are also continuing to work on integrating climate aspects into the investment process, and in this regard we have to figure out how and when this can be done. All major investments in Gävle municipality are funded with what are known as green loans. One proposal we are working on involves introducing a requirement to report that green loan standards are being achieved when generally requesting money for investments internally with us.

Gävle municipality intends to submit its Climate Investment Plan to Net Zero Cities in March 2024. This means that work is in full swing within the municipality on mobilising how we should deal with their template versus what we want to get out of it in order to derive the most benefit from our work. We have also submitted an application to the Swedish Energy Agency on climate investment plans together with Gothenburg, Borlänge and Luleå so that we can go on developing the methodology we developed in our first project in 2023, and also so that we can continue integrating climate aspects into our decision-making processes.

Gävle does not issue bonds of its own but goes through Kommuninvest instead. As things stand at present, we will not be issuing our own bonds in the immediate future. That said, we will try to increase the proportion of green and red (social) loans with a view to making all new loans green or red.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

Gävle uses Climate IOS, and our ambition is for this to function as an agile, digital version of the municipality's climate roadmap. Climate IOS makes it easier for us to visualise our transition and work on goals and actions for the transition. In September 2023, Gävle municipality launched Climate IOS to the general public at an event held at the University of Gävle. The university is the organisation that has the most questions about our climate work, and we hope that the insight provided by Climate IOS into our emissions and actions will lead to new collaborations with the university, not least to assist us with research in various fields.

Gävle has entered into a collaboration with Svalna AB within the framework of the Viable Cities project, and the aim of this is to create awareness among citizens about their own emissions. The Sustainable Living campaign was launched in 2023 as part of this collaboration. Svalna has been used as a tool in the project to gauge participants' individual emissions.

As part of the "Innovation in the 11th Hour" initiative (see the next section), we will be focusing closely on digitalisation during the autumn in order to enhance



understanding of which digital tools we use or could use in our work related to smart and sustainable cities.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

In 2022, Gävle worked together with the University of Gävle and FPX on building up an innovation team in the Governance and Support sector. We arranged two municipal group-wide workshops to define the current situation and a situation going forward. FPX was discontinued in 2023. FPX was very much a driving force in our innovation team, and we have struggled to keep things together and keep the momentum going without them.

In autumn 2023, we launched an initiative known as “Innovation in the 11th hour” which takes place once a month. This focuses on smart and sustainable cities, and its aim is to create more of an understanding between all departments and companies involved in urban development. How is development work structured at each department and company in connection with achieving our climate goals? What skills and tools do we need? Do we need to run joint projects? An evaluation will be taking place in late 2024 to determine whether the initiative needs to continue, and if so, what form it needs to take.

Plans to develop the Gävle Innovation Hub into a science park for sustainable and smart cities where the academic community, the business sector and the public sector meet have not taken off due to lack of funding. The Gävle Innovation Hub regularly conducts activities aimed at reducing the gap between the academic community, the business sector and the public sector, but this work needs to be scaled up.

There is a lack of a clear division of roles and assignments in respect of how our innovation work should be run; the work that is done is run partly through the Viable Cities team and partly through the business department and the digitalisation unit. None of these has an official mandate or resources specifically for this purpose.

3.8. Climate change adaptation

In 2021, Gävle municipality was hit by a cloudburst that set a number of Swedish records in terms of intensity, and generated 6,830 claims to insurance companies worth a total of SEK 1.85 billion in compensation paid in the County of Gävleborg. The extensive work required to restore damaged buildings, infrastructure and land after the cloudburst in 2021, and also Storm Hans in 2023, has cost a lot of money and taken up a lot of time among the municipality’s staff over the past two years.

Gävle municipality was already working on climate change adaptation before the cloudburst, compiling policy documents such as a stormwater policy and an environmental strategy programme, but the cloudburst has accelerated this initiative



significantly. Two of the pillars on which the work rests at present are the municipal planning assignments for working with an in-depth theme relating to development of the city's green and blue areas, and development of a climate change adaptation strategy for the municipal group as a whole with an associated action plan. This action plan should propose both long-term and short-term actions.

An investment framework of SEK 100 million was added in the first phase, linked to climate change adaptation. The municipality's work on new buildings will go on developing, not least because of the enhanced knowledge and improved modelling tools that came about due to the 2021 cloudburst. The existing built environment presents a major challenge in the work ahead, and new models, tools, processes and forms of cooperation are being developed.

The Gävle municipal group is now working on more risk analyses and proposed measures so that climate change adaptation measures can be prioritised and implemented in the coming years. Initially, the emphasis will be on reducing flood risks in the urban community, before later prioritising measures throughout the municipality's geographical region, as well as more climate-related risks such as heat-related risks, drought, forest fires, rockfalls, landslides and erosion.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

Like many other municipalities, transport accounts for a large proportion of carbon emissions in the municipality, about 70 per cent. That is why many of the measures in the Climate-Neutral Gävle Roadmap are aimed at the transport sector. This roadmap addresses the transport sector from three different perspectives: *Sustainable Transport Development*, *Efficiency* and *Switching Fuels*. The municipality has to adopt a holistic approach to sustainable mobility and plan for a transport system that is efficient (in terms of space), carbon neutral, equitable and safe. The development of Näringen, a new station at Gävle West and the Tolvfors Logistics Park are creating new opportunities for working with sustainable mobility and logistics that can be integrated into this work. That said, this does create challenges in the construction phase related to spoil management, construction logistics and emissions from machinery that we need to address. A study looking at how Gävle municipality can manage spoil has been conducted in 2023. The construction logistics centre is not operational at the moment due to the economic downturn, as almost all unstarted projects have been put on hold.

Gävle has been at the cutting edge of the expansion of charging infrastructure for a long time, and four charging stations for heavy vehicles will be constructed in 2023.

In 2022, the municipality adopted charging infrastructure guidelines aimed at managing development on public land. Development at these sites has not started in 2023, and one of the stakeholders has put its development work on hold because the



existing charging infrastructure is underused. In 2023, the issue of power in connection with charging infrastructure has been up for discussion after Gävle Energi rejected establishment of a major fast charging station along one of our main routes. The energy company estimates that there will be sufficient power in the local grid to cope with home charging and, to a great extent, fast charging for cars as well. Problems will only arise with major expansion of charging infrastructure for lorries, where the power will quickly exceed the capacity of the local grid: this will need to be connected to the regional grid, which in turn is awaiting reinforcement of its capacity from the core network in 2032. That is why Gävle municipality needs to investigate what type of fuel mix is possible in our area. Gävle municipality will be submitting an application to Pilot City call II to conduct a feasibility study on future power requirements for heavy vehicles on a route linked to the Port of Gävle.

A new cycling plan for Gävle municipality was adopted in 2020. The ambition is to double the number of journeys made by bike by 2025. The baseline value, which has been calculated at measurement points in the city of Gävle, is 5,735 cyclists (in 2018). The goal is for one-third of all journeys to be made by (a) bicycle, (b) car and (c) walking and public transport. Gävle will be one of Sweden's best cycling cities by 2025 in the ranking made between the municipalities in the Kommunvelometer and Cyklistvelometer initiatives run by Cykelfrämjandet, the Swedish national cycling advocacy organisation. In 2024, Gävle municipality will conduct a major cycling campaign by the name of "Årshjulare": the municipality has received external funding for this. Another project, Cycle4climate, has been submitted to the Central Baltic Programme and will commence in 2024, if approved. This project also aims to persuade more people to cycle, but involves testing different physical interventions in the various participating cities.

A new public transport strategy, which also formed part of our Viable cities project, was completed in 2023. This strategy will be adopted before the end of 2024. An action plan is being developed in parallel. Gävle's goal is to double the market share for public transport in Gävle municipality's geographical region by 2030 (compared to 2006), in relation to other motorised travel. Travel is on the increase again after COVID, but public transport needs to be made more attractive. This requires investments from both the municipality and the region if we are to achieve this goal.

Gävle municipality has devised a template for mobility studies that should help to highlight mobility issues. This is in line with the municipality's ambitions in terms of development orders. This was implemented in 2021. The mobility issue also needs to be addressed even earlier in order to avoid developments in locations where sustainable mobility is difficult to achieve. A decision has already been made to develop the site when a mobility study is carried out, and so this needs to be supplemented with guidelines for even earlier stages. Work on these guidelines will commence in the autumn of 2023.



3.10. Reporting and monitoring

The Strategic Environment Programme's indicators and actions are to be followed up annually in what is known as an environmental statement. The municipal board is responsible for annual overall monitoring. There are one or more indicators for Climate-Neutral Municipality, Robust Ecosystems and Clean and Toxin-Free Living that indicate whether the goal is being met.

The committees and boards responsible for goals and/or monitoring of indicators programme have been designated as part of the programme. Each committee and board reports to the municipal board on the goals for which they are responsible.

This monitoring has to be presented both orally and digitally by the responsible committees and boards. The monitoring will be presented annually on the website.

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.

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.

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



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

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.

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.



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 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,

⁷ The Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are participating.



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

The Gävle Climate Agreement has finally been launched, and there is a great deal of interest from the business sector; all events to date have been fully booked. The climate agreement is important as the municipality has limited control over many of the emissions; in particular transport, which is the biggest source of emissions. Going forward, it will be important to ensure that the collaboration arena comes across as current and relevant so as to encourage lots of people to get involved in the working groups. An application has been submitted for funding to develop the transport portfolio, where a lot of work remains to be done in respect of freight.

Gävle implemented its first Climate Investment Plan project with Anthesis. This has created new forms of collaboration within the municipality that will be important now that Gävle will be submitting its climate roadmap and Climate Investment Plan to the EU in March 2024. The project mobilised many financial managers in the municipality, whose knowledge is being enhanced, and there is a desire to develop the decision data for investments in order to integrate climate aspects and other social benefits.

The portfolio management being developed in Gävle for expansion and development is a key instrument for managing climate aspects at all stages of the process. The climate issue has taken on a completely different magnitude in this process during the year, and there has been strong methodological development in order to integrate climate in the early stages. This must be viewed in the light of the situation a few years ago, when no climate requirements were defined at all or were included at early stages. This development has partly been made possible by Gävle's appointment of a strategist who focuses solely on climate in the planning process. A strategy for sustainable development is now being developed and should be completed in the first quarter of 2024.

Gävle municipality has had an environmental strategy unit, and hence an environmental manager as well, since March 2023. This brings with it a number of



improvements, not least the fact that there is now greater emphasis on the climate issue at management level now that someone is representing the issue in that regard.

7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

Tackling climate change requires a clear organisation, responsibilities and resources. Gävle has had relatively good resources, but its division of responsibilities in respect of a number of aspects in relation to the environment has been rather unclear. The arrival of an environmental manager creates new opportunities to resolve the internal deadlocks linked to the division of roles.

Human resources are absolutely crucial in order to drive the work forward. The fact that Gävle has been able to appoint an environmental strategist to drive the climate agreement through Viable Cities and has appointed a strategist for sustainable development is driving development exponentially. This is all important experience, not least when considering all the smaller municipalities in Sweden that need to make the same journey. Although they can use experience from Viable Cities, resources are needed for implementation.

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

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



explore how we can further energise the transition of cities in three respects: citizen engagement, climate investments and regional collaboration.

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.

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



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 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 Gävle 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.

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Appendix 1 – Links to documents

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

- [Environmental strategic program – Gävle municipality \(gavle.se\)](#)
- [Environmental accounts Gävle municipality 2022 – Gävle municipality \(gavle.se\)](#)
- [Gävle - Climate Change 2030 \(climateview.global\)](#)
- [Gävle climate agreement – Gävle municipality \(gavle.se\)](#)