

# Climate City Contract 2030

Between the City of Helsingborg, 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:

- The City of Helsingborg.
- 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 programme<sup>1</sup>.

## 3. Municipal commitments

### 3.1. Municipal climate goals

The City of Helsingborg's objective is for the municipality's entire geographical region to be climate-neutral by 2030. This means that emissions have to be reduced by at least 85 per cent within Scope 1 and 2, compared to 1990 emission levels. The remaining emissions (no more than 15 per cent) may be offset means of biological or technical carbon sinks.

The city's climate action is clarified in a number of policy documents, including the Helsingborg Quality of Life Programme, Climate and Energy Plan and Electricity Plan.

<sup>1</sup> 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. Hostorganisation is KTH.



The Helsingborg Quality of Life Programme describes how the city will help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The city's ambition for sustainable development is for all residents to experience high quality of life, but with low environmental impact so that people and companies achieve their full potential in long-term sustainable growth, and so that future generations can also experience good quality of life. Minimising climate impact is a designated focus area in the Quality of Life Programme.

The Climate and Energy Plan comes under the Quality of Life Programme and defines the framework for climate action for the 2018 to 2024 period. Additionally, the City of Helsingborg has also adopted an Electricity Plan for 2022 to 2026 that will help to ensure sustainable, safe and efficient utilisation of electricity going forward.

A new Climate and Energy Plan is being produced and is to be adopted in the autumn of 2024. This new plan will include the major movements required to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions within the Helsingborg geographical region by 2030.

The current Climate and Energy Plan includes long-term ambitions to reduce consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions to 1–2 tonnes per capita per year, and to reduce the ecological footprint to a sustainable level by 2045 at the latest. Although the target year for climate neutrality within the geographical region has been brought forward to 2030, it is very important to also carry on working on reducing emissions outside the municipal boundaries that are caused by long-distance travel and the import of goods.

As a starting point, the new Climate and Energy Plan will address climate emissions in the sectors responsible for the highest emissions. Transport accounts for the highest emissions in Helsingborg and will continue to be a priority area in the new Climate and Energy Plan. The construction sector will be another priority area. Helsingborg is growing, and new homes and workplaces need to be built with the lowest possible climate and environmental impact. The work will focus on the city as an enabler for reducing emissions that the group is not solely able to control, reinforcing collaboration with civil society and companies and working on behavioural change.

For the current mandate period, the Helsingborg municipal council has established four key directions that will serve as a guideline and are prioritised over the entire administration and the group. The goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030 and reinforcing our ability to collaborate with residents, the business sector, the academic community and other cities, as well as public stakeholders, is a particular priority for Helsingborg's political leadership.



## 3.2. Strategy

The city's Climate and Energy Plan identifies six priority areas in which the municipal group should primarily act in its climate transition work.

These areas are:

- Climate emissions and resource use in balance.
- Transport and travel: Breaking dependence on fossil fuels in the transport sector and increasing the percentage of sustainable travel and transport.
- Consumption: Creating alternatives to the consumption of resource-intensive food, goods and services.
- Energy: Using energy efficiently and wisely; both renewable energy (solar and wind) and recycled energy should be developed as far as possible.
- Financial management: Promote a sustainable municipal finance market.
- Carbon sequestration: Increase carbon sequestration in soil and vegetation.

The six priority areas are being reviewed as the City of Helsingborg is developing a new Climate and Energy Plan. The most effective ways to reduce the climate footprint need to be prioritised for Helsingborg to achieve its goal of climate neutrality.

## 3.3. Organisation and management

The City of Helsingborg's ambition is to be a leader in climate action, which provides the starting point for the city's Climate and Energy Plan. This plan has been developed jointly within the municipal group and indicates the direction for how climate action should be conducted. This plan is aiming to bring about change and development.

A strong political and public mandate is required if we are to create lasting change. Helsingborg can go even further in its climate action by adopting new forms of governance that emphasise collaboration, participation and innovation. The goal of climate neutrality by 2030 has broad political support in Helsingborg.

Responsibility for and implementation of climate transition action is a joint commitment that is based on decisions by the municipal council and implemented by the group with the support of regulations and ownership directives. As of 2024 onwards, the transition work will be reinforced by the introduction of a city governance under the city director and director of environment, with emphasis on climate neutrality by 2030. New resources are being added to the coordination of the group-wide transition team.

The environment committee is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the Climate and Energy Plan. Besides the Climate and Energy Plan, there are a number of



other policy documents that indicate city-wide directions and objectives in various ways, contributing to efforts towards a climate-neutral Helsingborg. Building strong horizontal teams with allocated time, a mandate to act and access to a budget creates additional success factors in the city's continued climate action.

The following are needed in order to achieve a climate-neutral Helsingborg by 2030:

- Officials in senior positions need to actively promote the issue of climate neutrality in various decision-making forums with a view to ensuring strong support and implementation.
- There is a need to clarify the link to sustainable development in all budget decisions within the municipal group.
- There is a need to improve the assessment of the actual impact of various climate actions so that we can more clearly prioritise actions needed to achieve climate neutrality.
- There is a need to assess the risks inherent in investing in climate actions or actions with a positive climate impact.
- There is a need to extend cooperation with the business sector, civil society and the academic community.
- There is a need to go on communicating the status and challenges of climate action.

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

The city's new target scenario is: Together, we are turning Helsingborg into one of the best cities in which to live and work in 2027. We will achieve this goal by means of interaction and innovation. A number of initiatives are in progress in the city in which the municipality is collaborating with businesses, the academic community and civil society in order to resolve the complex societal challenges facing Helsingborg.

In Helsingborg, the new Climate and Energy Plan for the 2025–2030 period will cover the entire geographical region and will therefore become a plan for the entire municipality. Companies and organisations have been invited to participate in the process of developing a foundation new goals and actions.

The Helsingborg Declaration and the Helsingborg Climate Agreement are key strategic platforms for following up on actions and initiating collaborations in order to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

- The Helsingborg Declaration is an initiative facilitated by the city, which means that the Helsingborg region, together with around 50 stakeholders from the entire





logistics chain, is aiming to become Europe's most agile and sustainable logistics hub, with its sights set on achieving climate neutrality by 2030. The Helsingborg region has one of Sweden's best logistics locations, and a significant part of the business sector is linked to the logistics chain.

- The Helsingborg Climate Agreement is a platform where companies, organisations and residents are working to achieve a climate-smart and sustainable society. Companies and associations are coordinated by the City of Helsingborg, while the Helsingborg Climate Agreement, a residents' initiative, deals with agreements for residents. Signing the agreement means that companies and organisations commit to reducing their carbon emissions during the year and become part of a network of like-minded people. They are also offered lectures, networking events and support for their climate action. The number of companies and organisations signing the agreement has doubled in 2023, and we are planning to step up our efforts to monitor and further develop the commitments made by companies and organisations. The Helsingborg Climate Agreement is a citizens' initiative aimed at adults and children. Signing this means choosing to live a more sustainable life yourself, while also urging the city's politicians to take climate issues seriously.

The city has reinforced the link between climate action and research in 2023, and this work is also undergoing strategic development. This includes establishing standardised research support when new projects are initiated. Lectures, research papers and MOOCs (online courses) are provided as required by the organisation.

The knowledge platform "Climate-Neutral Cities 2030 – Open Academy" has been initiated in collaboration with Lund University, Malmö University, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Alnarp), the City of Malmö, the City of Helsingborg, the Lund municipality, as well as local businesses and other organisations. The aim of this is to create a mutual exchange of knowledge between researchers, cities, businesses and other societal stakeholders in order to accelerate the pace of climate transition. Cooperation on specific issues has also been developed. Researchers have given lectures on the climate justice perspective, we have held workshops together and researchers have contributed by means of peer review.

The city's research coordinator regularly arranges Climate Talks where researchers are invited to learn, challenge and inspire in the transition work. We are also bringing the climate perspective into other contexts in the city. For instance, the city's Democracy Talks, where researchers are invited to lecture on democracy and citizen involvement, will have a climate perspective in autumn 2023.

There is a desire to explore ways forward in order to actively promote participation and increase opportunities for residents to get involved in the development of Helsingborg. As the City of Helsingborg is now working on a new Climate and Energy Plan, at least 25 dialogue sessions on climate issues will be held with residents in



2024. At the same time, we are endeavouring to create meeting venues for collective learning and exchange of ideas between various stakeholders who are working to involve Helsingborg residents in the climate transition.

The City of Helsingborg's vision fund focuses clearly on the political priorities, climate neutrality by 2030 being one of four political directions for the mandate period, and calls for proposals are linked to factors such as the climate transition. More and more organisations are joining the Helsingborg Climate Agreement, and specially targeted calls for proposals linked to climate transition for popular education/study associations have taken place in 2023.

The environment committee is tasked with establishing a climate neutrality fund in 2024 that aims to recognise and welcome good ideas and initiatives from civil society that will help to bring about a climate-neutral Helsingborg by 2030.

### **3.5. Climate investment plan**

The new Climate and Energy Plan compiles measures in each sector of emissions in order to achieve the city's goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030. These measures are being costed and undergoing impact assessment with the help of external consultants in order to assess whether the plan will suffice in order to achieve the climate neutrality goal and assess the anticipated benefits in relation to costs. It is important to link effects and costs to actions so that the city can prioritise and focus on what gives the most impact for the money.

The city of Helsingborg made a second submission of its Climate City Contract to NetZeroCities in September 2023. The group's Climate Positive Investment Plan for 2024–2030 was updated prior to submission. The plan includes everything from investments adopted and commenced to identified needs and visions for investments. According to the plan, the investments must be funded by own resources, EU grants, grants from Swedish government agencies, the region, private companies and private individuals. It is important for the state and regions to offer co-funding for infrastructure projects so that the city can implement planned sustainable mobility initiatives.

The urban environment agreements have provided an important funding opportunity for the City of Helsingborg, but these will now be phased out from next year according to the budget proposal dated 20 September. The reduction already announced in the reduction obligation for diesel and petrol will significantly impede efforts to achieve the emission goal in the transport sector by 2030.

All investments in the seven-year investment plan must be highlighted, described and categorised from a sustainability perspective in the city's budget process. This



recognises the investments that contribute to social and environmental sustainability. Companies have their own budget processes. The companies are governed on the basis of the Articles of Association and the ownership directive. The ownership directives of the wholly-owned companies were updated during the spring, and the city's direction, "Helsingborg will be a city offering a high quality of life and aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2030", has been incorporated into the ownership directives.

The City of Helsingborg has two frameworks for sustainable bonds. These have enabled SEK 1.5 billion to be borrowed to date, which is equivalent to about one-fifth of total borrowings. The aim is for all bond borrowing to take place through sustainable bonds.

### **3.6. Digital support for implementation**

The City of Helsingborg uses a digital tool to visualise and communicate the city's emission sources and actions. This tool supports the quantification of the impact of actions, which will be very useful when the municipal group devises a new Climate and Energy Plan. This shows where Helsingborg has gaps in its work on actions and may serve as a basis for discussion in instances where there are different options for achieving the same reduction in emissions. The tool addresses the link between various action mechanisms in society. It shows whether the sum of various efforts at local and national level will allow the City of Helsingborg to achieve its goals. The tool is undergoing continuous development so that it can be used increasingly to support the development of Climate Investment Plans.

There is also an ambition to develop the use of digital tools to indicate how the group, together with external stakeholders in Helsingborg, is contributing collectively to achieving net zero emissions in Helsingborg by 2030. It is hoped that it will also be possible to visualise the commitments of various stakeholders within the local climate agreement.

Digital tools assist with informing companies, organisations and residents about the climate situation in Helsingborg in an easy-to-understand way and provide these groups with the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the climate action.

There are also major opportunities to use digital tools in dialogue with residents, including Dialog Helsingborg. This platform can be used to involve city residents or co-create with them.

### **3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities**

Technology and digitalisation are often the first things that spring to mind when we refer to innovation. But this term covers so much more. Essentially, it involves having



the courage to challenge our existing ways of working, looking for new and improved ways of meeting needs, and actually implementing these innovative solutions in all elements of city operations. This means we have to be prepared to experiment and try out ideas that have not been tried before, even if it means failing on a number of occasions before finding the right way to go about it.

Over the last three years, the City of Helsingborg has placed particular emphasis on reinforcing the culture, structure and capacity for innovation. Every administration has strategic development and innovation management functions, and administrations have also earmarked their own resources in order to promote innovation.

The city aims its innovation work at 15 shared challenges, with a view to creating a smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive Helsingborg. The four challenges most directly linked to the city's climate action are:

- Reducing the city's carbon footprint and promote the transition to a circular society.
- Capitalising on business interests in the green transition.
- Engaging and involving citizens in the creation of a more sustainable city.
- Utilising data to improve services and quality of life.

Having the courage to challenge current working methods means that new and improved solutions can be implemented in all the city's organisations. The city needs to run its own initiatives/programmes and also act as a test bed for the outside world.

The newly established Innovation and Transformation Department is focusing its efforts on the city's priority challenges, climate neutrality by 2030 being one of them. The ambition is to create long-term capacity for innovation and transformation so that we can lead, support and drive the transition process. This work includes both support and a platform for cooperation within the city, but also with other cities, businesses, residents, the academic community and other partners.

Examples of department functions include:

- Methodology, process management and evaluation
- Portfolio management support for administrations
- Support for priority initiatives and scaling up
- Coordination of strategic networks and innovation programmes (regional/national/European)
- Funding
- Collaboration with research



- Test bed coordination
- Portfolio management linked to Smart Sustainable City (climate and digitalisation)

The Helsingborg Innovation District (HEIDI) will be launched in November 2023, initiated by Campus Helsingborg/Lund University, Region Skåne and the City of Helsingborg. This district will provide a physical location where the city, universities, various support organisations, incubators and companies of all sizes can come together to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. The thematic focus is defined by stakeholders active in the district and is clearly linked to smart and sustainable growth and social development.

### **3.8. Climate change adaptation**

The City of Helsingborg aims to be resilient to climate change. This involves minimising the risk of serious impact on society and includes protection of human life and health, reduced or no impact on essential functions and facilities, and minimising major damage caused by extreme weather events. To achieve this goal, climate change adaptation is integrated into the processes that regulate urban planning and is described in policy documents and tools providing guidance on issues relating to climate change adaptation. These are the memorandum on climate change adaptation, the municipality's comprehensive plan 2021, the stormwater policy and the action plan for climate change adaptation. These highlight planning strategies, guidelines and support for climate change adaptation for new buildings and development areas. The heatwaves, droughts and long-term changes in average temperature and precipitation over the last few years mean that all planning is increasingly incorporating blue-green multifunctional solutions. One example is the Drottninghög Million Programme area where all existing stormwater management was altered from traditional use of piping to surface treatment in connection with redevelopment and population concentration. The water is led to a new stormwater pond that is combined with recreational assets. There are guidelines in place for buildings in high-risk areas that provide guidance on how new residential development has to take into account rising sea levels and the rules applicable in the area marked as a coastal respect zone. Moreover, detailed development plans are always formulated on the basis of the notion that the plan should be able to cope with a 100-year rainfall event.

Policy documents adopted have been concretised in 2023 in a planning tool (storymap) that focuses on coastal protection, cloudburst management and coastal erosion in specially prioritised areas. The two most vulnerable locations are the centre of Helsingborg, which has essential functions that are at major risk of flooding when water levels are high, and Råå, a low-lying community south of Helsingborg. Coastal protection is planned for both areas. As an additional protective measure to safeguard functions that are under threat at present, the municipality is working



with the Swedish Transport Administration to devise a contingency plan for how to manage temporary protection.

Collaboration with government agencies, coastal municipalities, researchers and the city's water and sanitation company is a key to complex issues such as climate change adaptation. The City of Helsingborg cooperates with them all, and is also participating in EU projects such as Life Coast Adapt with a view to countering coastal erosion by means of nature-based solutions. This work is being monitored and will be evaluated at the end of the project to see whether any of the solutions are suitable for scaling up. Evaluating and learning from successful and less successful solutions is a vital aspect of strategising and planning initiatives. Such work has been done in Mariastaden, where open stormwater systems were constructed back in the 1990s and which now stands out as a successful example of planning where design, vegetation and open stormwater management interact and help to provide a more resilient environment with recreational and biological assets.

One important aspect and challenge when it comes to meeting climate goals is to enable climate change adaptation for natural environments. Resilient ecological systems sequester carbon, retain water, regulate land temperature and contribute to public health. A challenge is presented in that different conservation assets are at odds with one another, and that there are no strategies at present that guide how municipalities should proceed so as make space for nature. As sea levels rise, we need to consider where coastal ecosystems should be allowed to creep up onto land, where the shallow bottoms and beaches of the future will be, and whether there are biotopes on land that are at risk of vanishing due to drought or flooding. Assets at risk of disappearing need to be mapped, and then a strategy and planning work need to be developed that will enable natural environments to adapt to climate change.

### **3.9. Climate smart mobility**

Transport is the biggest emissions sector, accounting for 37 per cent of climate emissions in the city of Helsingborg. Structural change will be needed if we are to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, which is why the city is focusing on measures relating to mobility and transport with high climate impact.

A traffic and mobility plan that meets the requirements of a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) will be developed over the next few years. The SUMP requirements are a consequence of the accepted designation of Helsingborg as what is known as a major urban node in the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T). The plan will be based on the emission goals set out in the city's Climate and Energy Plan and the goal of climate neutrality by 2030, and will be completed by 2025 at the latest.



The sustainable mobility of the future will not be achieved by the city working alone, but in collaboration with others. The Helsingborg Declaration, an arena for co-creation, is allowing the city to increase the pace towards climate neutrality together with the local business sector, the academic community and public stakeholders, who have stakes in the logistics chain.

Mobility and transport are carriers of social structures in society. Sustainable mobility with good availability and accessibility is a prerequisite if the city is to achieve social and economic sustainability. That is why Helsingborg is developing walking, cycling and public transport into the most competitive transport option for everyone. The city is inviting co-creation and encourages initiatives underpinning a sustainable lifestyle. Planning processes aim to facilitate sustainable behaviours for residents and businesses alike.

Helsingborg is focusing on building cycling infrastructure, but also on changing behaviours. No fewer than 85 per cent of participants in the Vinnova-funded 300 Test Cyclists project indicate that they want to carry on commuting by bike when the project has ended. Helsingborg has been named Cycling Promotion City of the Year in 2022 and 2023.

The City of Helsingborg's ambition is to work more with systemic changes and is looking forward to calls for proposals that aim to achieve this.

### **3.10. Reporting and monitoring**

Information on the impact of the city's overall efforts on the basis of the Quality of Life Programme is compiled into a monitoring report every two years. Responsibility for the report and presentation of the results to the municipal council rests with the Strategic Social Development Department at the City Management Administration.

The environment committee is responsible for monitoring ambitions and measures in the Helsingborg Climate and Energy Plan. Monitoring takes place every two years and the information is reported to politicians on the Quality of Life Committee, which includes representatives of the parties that sit on the municipal council. The city's emissions statistics and climate action are also reported every two years to the Covenant of Mayors 2030 and the WWF One Planet City Challenge through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). The City of Helsingborg will also be updating its Climate City Contract with the EU each year on account of its participation in the EU's 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities 2030 initiative. The Climate City Contract includes commitments, a climate action plan and a Climate Investment Plan.

The city uses emissions statistics from the national emissions database for reporting Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, with data from SMED (Swedish Environmental Emissions Data) and energy statistics from Statistics Sweden (SCB). Going forward,



the city will be using the Stockholm Environment Institute's Consumption Compass for monitoring Scope 3 emissions. There has previously been no access to consumption-based emissions statistics at municipal level, and so there is a need for support for municipalities when it comes to monitoring the evolution of the statistics and selecting relevant and comparable indicators.

The City of Helsingborg has launched two frameworks for sustainable bonds: what is known as a sustainability-linked framework linked to the city's strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Helsingborg, as well as a sustainable framework that focuses on individual green and social projects. Emission reductions and sustainability impacts linked to these frameworks will be reported on an annual basis.

It is clear from reporting and monitoring that many relevant projects are ongoing at pilot level. For these to have the potential to make a "genuine" contribution to the climate transition, Helsingborg perceives a need for systems to distribute successful pilots and upscaling initiatives in areas where the state is involved and provides support.

## 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 procurement<sup>2</sup>.

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.

<sup>2</sup> See [pressannouncement from the Swedish Internet Foundation](#) (Swedish)



### **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 Council<sup>3</sup>.

### **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,

<sup>3</sup> 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,<sup>4</sup> European Urban Initiative (EUI)<sup>5</sup> and Urbact<sup>6</sup>.

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" programme<sup>7</sup>. 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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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](https://urban-initiative.eu))

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

<sup>7</sup> 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

In 2023, the City of Helsingborg focused its efforts on developing a new Climate and Energy Plan that is to be adopted in 2024. This plan runs from 2025 to 2030, and its ambition is to show how Helsingborg, as a geographical region, will be climate-neutral as early as 2030.

### 7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

The Helsingborg group has been working on a variety of actions during the year. The following are just a few of them:

- Commissioning of heavy charging together with Volvo and others.
- Extended networking with the business sector in respect of green logistics and construction via the Climate Agreement and the Helsingborg Declaration.
- Commissioning of a biochar plant at NSR AB.
- Testing and evaluation of a CCS pilot plant via Öresundskraft.
- Climate-Neutral Cities 2030 – Open Academy has been working for a year on knowledge exchange between cities in Skåne, southern Sweden, that form part of the EU 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 mission and the Academy.



- New research projects in the Recolab (NSVA) field. (Separation of wastewater into three fractions to make it possible to increase biogas production and nutrient recovery).
- Monitoring of construction projects in order to minimise CO2 emissions during construction and renovation. Helsingborghem.

### **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 planning<sup>8</sup> 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.

### **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 missions<sup>9</sup> 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

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

<sup>9</sup> 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



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 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 the City of Helsingborg, 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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**Christian Orsing**

Mayor,  
City of Helsingborg

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**Olga Kordas**

Programme Director,  
Viable Cities

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**Robert Andrén**

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**Darja Isaksson**

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**Elisabeth Backteman**

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Economic and Regional Growth

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**Roberto Maiorana**

Director General,  
the Swedish Transport  
Administration

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**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 the City of Helsingborg (may be in Swedish).

- [Quality of life program 2016 – 2024 \(updated 2021\)](#)
- [Overview plan for the City of Helsingborg 2021 \(2021\)](#)
- [Climate and energy plan for Helsingborg 2018 – 2024 \(2018\)](#)
- [Electricity plan 2022 – 2026 \(2022\)](#)



## Appendix 2 – Letter of service



Miljönämnden

Sammanträdesdatum 23 november 2023

## Godkännande av förslag till Klimatkontrakt 2030 Viable Cities 2023, dnr 00163/2022

### Sammanfattning

Helsingborgs stad har som ambition att vara ledande i klimatarbetet och medverkar sedan oktober 2021 i den nationella satsningen Klimatneutrala städer 2030, ledd av det strategiska innovationsprogrammet Viable Cities. Den 8 december 2022 skrev Helsingborgs stad tillsammans med 22 andra svenska städer under Klimatkontrakt 2030 Viable Cities för 2022.

Kontraktet ska årligen revideras på lokal och nationell nivå. Detta innebär att innehåll och utformning uppdateras i takt med nya identifierade behov och arbetssätt.

Innehållet i förslag till Klimatkontrakt 2030 har arbetats fram under 2023. Kontraktet kommer undertecknas den 8 december 2023, av Viable Cities, kommunstyrelsens ordförande och myndigheterna: Energimyndigheten, Vinnova, Formas, Tillväxtverket, Trafikverket och Naturvårdsverket. Alla parter tar på sig att konkret bidra till att öka takten i klimatomställningen. Kontraktet är ett långsiktigt åtagande som säkrar samarbetet mellan samtliga 23 kommuner i satsningen Klimatneutrala städer 2030, samt de myndigheter som skriver under kontraktet.

I kontraktet beskrivs Helsingborgs klimatarbete såväl som utmaningar i arbetet mot klimatneutralitet 2030. Kontraktet samlar befintliga åtaganden och målsättningar från klimat- och energiplanen. Kontraktet föreslår inga nya åtaganden eller målsättningar, utan ger istället uttryck för hur staden arbetar idag och vilka möjligheter som finns att utveckla arbetet.

### Beredning

Ärendet har beretts av avdelningen för miljöstrategi och uppföljning, i dialog med tjänstepersoner från statsledningsförvaltningen och stadsbyggnadsförvaltningen.

### I ärendet finns följande handlingar

- Viable Cities klimatkontrakt 2030 för 2023

### Förslag till beslut

Miljöförvaltningens förslag till miljönämnden är

**att** föreslå kommunstyrelsen att godkänna förslag till Klimatkontrakt 2030, i enlighet med upprättat förslag;

**att** föreslå kommunstyrelsen att genom kommunstyrelsens ordförande underteckna Klimatkontrakt 2030;

**att** förklara paragrafen omedelbart justerad.

Henrik Frindberg  
Miljödirektör

Jens Gille  
Avdelningschef  
Avdelningen för miljöstrategi och  
uppföljning

**Beslutet ska skickas till**  
Handläggaren  
Kommunstyrelsen