

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Järfälla 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

Contents

Climate City Contract 2030	4
1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030	5
2. Parties	5
3. Municipal commitments	5
3.1. Municipal climate goals.....	5
3.2. Strategy.....	8
3.3. Organisation and management.....	9
3.4. Collaboration with the business sector, civil society, the academic community and citizens.....	10
3.5. Climate investment plan.....	11
3.6. Digital support for implementation.....	12
3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities.....	12
3.8. Climate change adaptation.....	13
3.9. Climate smart mobility.....	14
3.10. Reporting and monitoring.....	15
4.1. Coordination of Climate City Contract 2030.....	15
4.2. Smart policy development.....	16
4.3. Innovation.....	16
4.4. Coordinated funding.....	17
4.5. Interaction with the EU's Climate Neutral Cities mission.....	17
5. The agencies' commitments	17
5.1. Smart policy development.....	18
5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development.....	18
5.3. Coordinated funding.....	19



5.4. Participation in European sustainable cities initiatives.....	19
6. Strategic development projects for 2024.....	20
6.1. Governance.....	20
6.2. Climate investment plans.....	21
6.3. Competitiveness through transition.....	22
6.4. Citizen engagement.....	23
6.5. System demonstrators.....	23
6.6. Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission on an international level.....	24
7. Joint efforts on monitoring, evaluation and updating.....	25
7.1. Key updates for the municipality.....	25
7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share.....	26
7.3. Key updates for Viable Cities.....	27
7.4. Key updates for the government agencies.....	29
9. The contract.....	31
Climate City Contract 2030.....	32
Appendix 1 – Links to documents.....	33



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:

- Järfälla 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

The comprehensive plan and the environmental plan are Järfälla's comprehensive policy documents in the field of sustainability. These documents include a number of goals, measures and key performance indicators aimed at promoting sustainable development in line with both national and global climate goals. The main objective of the comprehensive plan is to offer the best possible conditions for sustainable development for people who live and work in the municipality.

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.



Work began in 2021 on revising and digitising Järfälla's comprehensive plan. The goal of a climate-neutral municipality will be integrated into the new comprehensive plan, and the 2030 Agenda goals will be taken into account throughout the process. Fifteen principles for sustainable development have been developed, all of which form the basis for the forthcoming sustainability assessment of the new comprehensive plan. Four target scenarios have been developed in order to provide guidance for further development of the comprehensive plan:

- A climate-positive and innovative society
- Equipped for the future with reinforced natural and aquatic environments
- An attractive city centre and districts with a clear identity
- Inclusive and vibrant living environments

To summarise, the target scenarios aim to promote sustainable development in Järfälla with a view to 2050. Climate, green structure, safety, equality and health are all key building blocks for the Järfälla of the future, and the objectives are closely linked to the Viable Cities vision.

Besides the comprehensive plan, a large number of environment-related objectives are included in Järfälla's environmental plan. The environmental plan addresses the ecological dimension and is based on the environmental goals prioritised for the region. Järfälla's new environmental plan was adopted in February 2023, with new and more stringent targets in respect of reduced climate impact, fresh air, a good built environment, toxin-free living, rich plant and animal life, sustainable consumption and high environmental awareness. Järfälla's climate neutrality objective has been integrated into the environmental plan in order to create a common theme in the municipality's climate-related commitments.

The environmental plan's targeting objective for reducing climate impact is worded as follows:

Järfälla aims to be climate-neutral by 2030 and climate-positive by 2050, and will always strive to improve energy efficiency. Järfälla will accept its responsibility for contributing to the global climate goal, in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

Besides the targeting objective, the environmental plan also includes a number of impact goals linked to climate transition, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by at least 15 per cent per year in Järfälla as a geographical region, in accordance with the carbon budget.

Järfälla's climate and energy plan will be revised in the autumn of 2023. The climate and energy plan affects all municipal operations and identifies the areas where the municipality and its companies have to work in order to reduce their climate impact. The municipal organisation's share of emissions is relatively small in relation to total



emissions in the municipality, which is why the climate and energy plan also affects and includes residents and companies in the municipality. Measures and costs are integrated into the new climate and energy plan in order to clarify the measures required to achieve the goal of climate neutrality and the costs and savings associated with the climate transition.

Goals and measures with an impact on climate can also be found in a number of other sector-specific policy documents. A selection is listed below:

- Waste plan – produced together with nine other municipalities in the northern suburbs of Stockholm and their collective waste company (SÖRAB). The waste plan includes specific goals and key performance indicators that are followed up annually. One of the main purposes of the waste plan is to minimise negative environmental and climate impact associated with waste management.
- Cycling plan – aims to support the design of new urban environments that promote cycling as a mode of transport. Includes a general target to increase cycling as a percentage of total travel from around 5 per cent to 20 per cent by 2030.
- Walking plan – aims to standardise a pedestrian-friendly urban environment in order to help bring about an attractive, safe and sustainable city. The goal of the walking plan is to make Järfälla one of the most walking-friendly municipalities in the Stockholm region by 2030.
- Action Plan for Climate-Neutral Barkarbystaden 2030 – developed within the framework of Climate-Neutral Cities 2030. Includes around forty measures in the fields of energy, sustainable mobility, climate-neutral construction, innovation and collaboration, and climate change adaptation and carbon sinks with a view to ensuring Barkarbystaden’s continued development towards the goal of a climate-neutral city. The Action Plan for Climate-Neutral Barkarbystaden was adopted by the municipal board in December 2021.
- Climate change adaptation plan – aims to increase preparedness for the adverse impacts of a changing climate. Includes priority measures to reduce the municipality’s vulnerability to flooding, cloudbursts and heatwaves. Adopted by the municipal council in 2022.
- Carbon budget – describes Järfälla’s territorial carbon emissions and outlines the emission reductions required for the municipality to contribute to the Paris Agreement’s 2-degree goal. Transport and construction are Järfälla’s biggest sources of climate-related emissions, and emissions must be reduced by about 13 per cent per year.
- Quality programme for Barkarbystaden – shows how the design of Barkarbystaden can contribute to a resource-efficient, innovative and sustainable society. The



quality programme for Barkarbystaden III includes five different strategies with associated quality and sustainability goals.

- Timber building strategy – aims to show how timber building construction in Järfälla can be increased, promoting sustainable urban development and contributing to the fulfilment of Järfälla's climate goals.

Signing Climate City Contract 2030 again gives the municipality additional opportunities to accelerate the transition process.

3.2. Strategy

Working on the basis of Järfälla's goals, budget and policy documents, the municipality wishes to be at the forefront of smart, innovative and sustainable urban development. The policy platform for 2022–2026 refers to green growth and sustainable development as one of 16 focus areas, prioritising items such as solar energy, carbon budget, the 2030 Agenda and sustainability requirements in land allocation.

The environmental management system is the municipality's most important strategic tool for concretising the goals of the environmental plan and working with sustainability issues across the administration. All of the municipality's administrations hold environmental certification according to the Swedish Environmental Base standard. All staff have to have undergone basic environmental training, and the management system is audited each year. Environmental labelling allows the municipality to work cross-sectorally with environmental and climate goals, and coordinators from each administration meet regularly in order to discuss challenges and opportunities in the various operations. The municipality also has an environmental strategy team that regularly brings together various experts in a forum for dialogue and development of the municipality's environmental work. This also provides a useful basis for work across the administration and helps to avoid silos.

Vehicles and passenger transport account for the majority of emissions in Järfälla municipality as a geographical region. The municipality has signed up to the development of an underground railway to Barkarby in order to reduce emissions from transport. Regional rail services will make Järfälla a hub and facilitate a transition change in the transport system, and a number of initiatives in respect of mobility, walking and cycling are being implemented on an ongoing basis.

Various types of support are needed from both the government and the EU if Järfälla is to be able to pursue its work towards climate neutrality. Regulations, legislation, policy instruments and government funding need to support the municipalities' climate transition, and the municipality needs to go on bring able to apply for funding for climate-related initiatives.



3.3. Organisation and management

The municipal board, with the support of the municipal administrations, is responsible for overall urban planning, development and monitoring of defined goals. The municipality's environmental management system makes it possible to work across the administration on environmental and climate issues and consolidate these throughout the organisation.

An organisational change was made in 2023, and Järfälla's former environmental strategy unit was expanded to form a sustainability unit. The sustainable development unit deals with strategic issues relating to both ecological and social sustainability and ensures that the work is consolidated in all administrations. The unit is organisationally subordinate to the municipal board administration, which provides good opportunities to contribute as a support function and integrate the climate issue into planning processes, procurement procedures and urban development projects requiring sustainability expertise.

The company Barkarby Science, a platform for collaboration between the public sector, the academic community and the business sector, has been formed through an initiative from the municipality. The board is made up of the chairman of the municipal board, as well as stakeholders from the business sector and the municipality's property company. Moreover, a letter of intent has been drawn up with Södertörn University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Barkarby Science leads and participates in a number of innovative projects, and its activities focus on four programme areas: the attractive city, the circular city, the climate-smart city and the mobility of the future. Barkarby Science offers a unique arena for cooperation, innovation, testing and collaboration on sustainable solutions, and a new project is currently paving the way for Barkarbystaden to be used as a test bed.

The municipality worked across sectors in 2023 to implement Järfälla's carbon budget in order to accelerate the transition work and avoid silos. Besides regional cooperation as part of Climate Arena Stockholm and other cooperation forums, an internal climate organisation has been set up with a view to highlighting the importance of integrating a number of different operations in climate transition work. Järfälla is a rapidly growing municipality, which is creating opportunities to plan for a city that is sustainable in the long term; but this requires resources and collective cooperation to promote synergies and avoid conflicting goals. The internal climate organisation can go on being developed in order to establish a local transition function with relevant expertise to accelerate the implementation of the carbon budget.



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

The municipality cooperates with the business community and civil society through a number of functions, such as the energy and climate advisory service, CERO analyses, housing trade fairs, the municipal business company and Barkarby Science.

2023 saw the building-up of *Climate Arena*, a Stockholm regional network, where Järfälla participates in a number of working groups in respect of climate transition in building and construction. Together with a number of other municipalities and companies, Järfälla has signed a *climate pledge*, with the goal of ensuring that all building and construction projects in the county of Stockholm will be built and renovated in a climate-neutral way and managed with resource efficiency in mind by 2030. The goal here is to accelerate the climate transition for the county's construction sector together with Region Stockholm, the Stockholm County Administrative Board and active stakeholders in the construction sector.

Järfälla has also held its own dialogue meetings with construction companies operating in Barkarbystaden in order to discuss opportunities and challenges when building the climate-neutral city. These dialogue meetings have been rewarding and can be developed further in years to come.

A number of the work packages as part of Climate-Neutral Järfälla 2030 involve broad collaboration between different stakeholders. Besides the municipality, the project group is made up of representatives from various companies, the academic community and civil society. A collaborative network for housing associations in Järfälla has been set up as part of the project, with the aim of raising awareness in respect of energy efficiency and renewable energy, while also allowing the associations to inspire one another to save both money and emissions by utilising the full potential of their properties. Moreover, the municipality perceives a need to increase the energy efficiency of older properties, a collaboration platform potentially helping to promote inspiration and the exchange of knowledge.

The option of face-to-face meetings and housing trade fairs was limited during the years of the pandemic, but this has been addressed again in 2023. The municipality has arranged the Järfälla Festival and Barkarbystaden Day with a view to meeting residents, providing information and collaborating on various issues. These are important meeting venues and provide a forum for dialogue and engagement among residents, particularly in respect of sustainability issues and the continued development of Järfälla.

The municipality's democracy work particularly highlights children's right to influence, and active efforts have been made to listen to children's voices when preparing the new waste plan. Furthermore, the municipality has recently decided to introduce



e-suggestions under the name Järfällaförslag (Järfälla suggestions), which means that citizens can submit suggestions directly and collect signatures to raise their suggestions on a political level.

Järfälla's business work since 2023 has been integrated into the municipality's regular activities under the municipal board. Collaboration between municipalities and the business sector is important if further steps are to be taken in the climate transition, as well as creating opportunities for new collaborations in fields such as mobility, charging infrastructure, energy efficiency and other climate-related issues. The municipality's energy and climate advisory service is also establishing good contacts with local businesses, associations and residents. The energy and climate advisors provide free, impartial energy advice which promotes energy-efficient homes, more charging points and solar panels and gives people more information on renewable energy.

Järfälla is also participating in a large number of national networks in respect of sustainable community development. These collaboration areas are allowing Järfälla to share its experiences, take advantage of results in other municipalities and create new forms of cooperation across municipal boundaries. The networks in which Järfälla participates that have an influence on sustainability include Climate Arena Stockholm, the County Administrative Board's environmental and built environment council, Fossil Free Sweden, ResSMART, the Energy Agency for Greater Stockholm, the climate and energy advisory service, Stockholm FLEX electricity markets and Vattensamverkan. Järfälla is also a member of the Klimatkommunerna association.

3.5. Climate investment plan

A climate calculation study was conducted in autumn 2022, with cost and emission calculations linked to the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030. The purpose of these calculations was to provide an updated view of the current situation in respect of emissions and a clear estimate of the overall economics of the transition. These analyses focused on producing estimates of investment needs, energy savings and health benefits related to the transport system, buildings, heating and works machinery. Järfälla has also used the Futureproofed tool to calculate costs and potential savings from specific climate measures.

These calculations form the basis for the preparation of Järfälla's new *climate and energy plan*, which will include a number of climate measures with associated emission savings, costs and estimated break-even period at a community level. Hence the climate and energy plan corresponds to Järfälla's Climate Investment Plan. The climate and energy plan is out for consultation in autumn 2023 and is expected to be adopted in 2024.



Applications for funds for environmental and climate-related measures are regularly submitted as part of various calls for proposals. Examples include the Swedish Transport Administration's project concerning stormwater solutions, construction of pedestrian and cycle paths and other measures that promote a sustainable transport system. These funds are essential if the municipality is to be able to pursue the actions needed to accelerate the climate transition.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

Digital monitoring support is a key aspect of Järfälla's climate transition. The municipality's currently uses the Environmental Barometer for monitoring the environmental goals: this allows the development of each indicator to be monitored over time. Open digital tools create transparency and facilitate citizen engagement and participation, which is a positive aspect from a climate transition perspective. The municipality is also investigating the option of implementing a tool for visualising sustainable transport and welcomes the development taking place in digitalisation.

Besides the Environmental Barometer, Järfälla municipality is using a number of other digital tools to support the planning, monitoring and implementation of climate-related goals and measures. Järfälla has been participating in the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) since 2021 and reports statistics and climate data to a standardised data platform led by CDP and ICLEI. A collective, standardised data platform permits long-term monitoring and comparison.

Extensive efforts began last year on digitising Järfälla's comprehensive plan. The purpose of this measure is to create accessibility and interaction, and to ensure that the plan is updated and current in a rapidly growing municipality. The municipality's administrations are working on continuous improvements in respect of digital urban planning tools, and there is a desire to develop a digital twin similar to the one in the City of Gothenburg. Highlighting the city in ways resembling computer games makes it possible to reach out to a broader target group and engage younger people in consultation for a new detailed development plan, for example.

One future area for development involves gathering and synchronising the digital tools where possible so as to avoid similar information appearing on a number of platforms, and to create clarity both internally and externally.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

Being involved in both regional and national networks, taking advantage of innovation and disseminating knowledge and results is a prerequisite if climate neutrality is to be achieved by 2030.

As stated previously, the municipality is a partner in Barkarby Science, and the municipality perceives this company as providing an important innovation platform



for sustainable, innovative solutions. Barkarby Science is part of a network of other innovation nodes in the county of Stockholm, which is known as NOD. Järfälla municipality perceives opportunities to jointly pursue innovative solutions for climate transition at a regional level within the framework of this network and other innovation nodes in the county, such as digital demo and Electricity. Södertälje Science Park, Flemingsberg Science Park, Kista Science City, Stockholm Science Park, Barkarby Science and Stockholm Business Region all form part of NOD. The municipality also participates in a regional innovation network that is under construction, and this includes the county's municipalities. The emphasis in this network is on leadership, cultural change and sustainable structures for change.

Through Viable Cities, Järfälla municipality has been given the opportunity to participate in development project Accelerera's innovation management training programmes. The municipality has conducted a situation analysis in order to gauge digital maturity and innovation management skills, and a number of people in Järfälla with relevant skills have been selected to participate in Accelerera's innovation training programmes in order to streamline their ability to collaborate and manage complex projects.

3.8. Climate change adaptation

Ecosystem services and green-blue assets have been given high priority in Järfälla municipality, and more than 30 per cent of the area covered by the municipality is protected by nature reserve status. An analysis of green-blue assets with emphasis on ecosystem services has been produced so that these assets can be integrated into the urban development process at an early stage. The analysis and its associated maps should serve as planning documentation highlighting the ecosystem services that need to be prioritised in order to ensure sustainable land use in the municipality.

A green-blue structure integrates green areas and stormwater management with the urban settlement and will lead to better conditions for dealing with future climate change. A multifunctional park, Kyrkparken, has been developed in order to manage stormwater in Barkarbystaden. The stormwater system in Kyrkparken is made up of a number of ponds where the water is treated, delayed and stored while being diverted from the park area. Kyrkparken was designed to fulfil a number of functions, partly from a climate change adaptation perspective; but also to promote recreation and social interaction.

Järfälla's new climate change adaptation plan was adopted in 2022. This plan is based on a climate and vulnerability analysis conducted previously, with an associated list of measures, and its aim is to highlight the climate change adaptation measures that should be prioritised in order to ensure that the municipality is resilient.



A number of measures have been implemented, such as heat stress mapping in order to examine which places in the municipality are particularly vulnerable to heat during heatwaves. The municipality has also sent out an information leaflet to property owners to raise awareness of climate change and how property owners can increase their preparedness and undertake preventive measures. Järfälla is also running the Vinnova-funded project SVIKT, Smarta Växter i Klimatets Tjänst (Smart Plants Serving the Climate). This project will be testing and developing new, cost-effective and scalable methods for carbon capture and remediation of contaminated soil.

The climate change adaptation perspective needs to be emphasised and integrated even more clearly into the urban planning process in order to cope with future climate change. New stormwater management and carbon sequestration technologies can be tested while preserving natural ecosystem services and existing green spaces.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

Järfälla is a pioneering municipality when it comes to smart mobility and innovation. A unique collaboration between the municipality, SL, Nobina, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Barkarby Science has resulted in the development and integration of new technology, public transport and infrastructure. In Järfälla, Sweden's first electric BRT line will be operating services between Akalla and Barkarbystaden until construction of the underground railway is completed. Additionally, the Travis application has been implemented in Barkarbystaden. This is a MaaS solution that brings together multiple transport options in a single app.

The municipality has signed up to the development of an underground railway to Barkarby in order to reduce emissions from transport. Regional rail services will make Järfälla a hub and facilitate a transition change in the transport system. The municipality has also procured a logistics solution to reduce the number of construction transport operations travelling into Barkarbystaden. This logistics solution coordinates construction transport operations and ensures there is a sufficiently high fill level, resulting in fewer heavy lorries accessing the site and reduced emissions and noise. The objective is for the logistics solution to have a positive impact on residents, businesses and construction companies.

A work package is being implemented within the framework of Climate-Neutral Järfälla 2030 to trial a new way of conducting travel behaviour surveys. Analysing mobile phone movements in the transport system may allow a more complete picture to be defined of overall transport movements to selected destinations. This data forms a basis for the development of a new visualisation tool that shows the travel time ratio between various modes of transport to specific locations in Järfälla.



It is important – from a communication perspective, but also in planning – to analyse which places are in need of enhanced, sustainable mobility solutions.

Transport is the single biggest source of emissions in Järfälla municipality, and so initiatives in respect of sustainable urban planning, electrification, walking and cycling need to be continuously implemented and developed.

3.10. Reporting and monitoring

The goals and indicators linked to the municipality's environment-related policy documents are followed up annually in connection with the directors' report and the annual report. All statistics are reported at Miljöbarometern² in order to promote transparency and enable residents and other stakeholders to follow Järfälla's development in respect of the environment.

Järfälla is participating in the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) and reports statistics and climate data to an international data platform led by CDP and ICLEI. Reporting climate data allows the municipality to receive feedback and suggestions for improvement. Having a common, standardised data platform also facilitates long-term monitoring and comparison, and the municipality's ambition is to continue this reporting. The municipality's carbon budget has also been digitalised and updated in order to further highlight and simplify its monitoring.

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

² <https://jarfalla.miljobarometern.se/> (Swedish)



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 procurement³.

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.

³ 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 Council⁴.

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,

⁴ 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,⁵ European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁶ and Urbact⁷.

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" programme⁸. 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

⁵ New European Bauhaus highlights the importance of aesthetic, social and cultural assets in the green transition.

⁶ 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)

⁷ Urbact is a European cooperation programme for exchange and learning in the field of sustainable urban development, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

⁸ 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

Järfälla's Climate City Contract follows the same structure as previous versions in terms of structure, consolidation and how the contract relates to adopted policy documents. Work on consolidation and implementing the climate neutrality goal has intensified since the first version of the Climate City Contract was signed in December 2020. Järfälla has started preparing a new comprehensive plan in which the climate neutrality goal permeates a number of the elements. Fifteen principles for sustainable development and four target scenarios have been formulated in order to provide a foundation for the comprehensive plan. Moreover, the alternatives set out in the comprehensive plan will undergo climate calculation in order to visualise the climate impact of various planning alternatives and experiment with different options to reduce climate impact as far as possible. A sustainability assessment of the new comprehensive plan will be carried out in 2023–2024 to ensure the continued sustainable development of Järfälla with a view to 2050.

Järfälla's environmental plan has been revised with new goals in respect of climate in order to consolidate the municipality's ambition of becoming a climate-neutral municipality by 2030. The targeting objective for reduced climate impact states that Järfälla should be climate-neutral by 2030 and climate-positive by 2050, and will always strive to improve energy efficiency. Järfälla will accept its responsibility for contributing to the global climate goal, in accordance with the Paris Agreement. Besides the targeting objective, the new environmental plan has also been updated to include a number of impact goals linked to climate transition, including reduction



of greenhouse gas emissions by at least 15 per cent per year in Järfälla as a geographical region, in accordance with the carbon budget.

Intensive efforts are progress on implementing Järfälla's carbon budget, and an internal climate organisation was launched with a view to highlighting the importance of integrating a number of different operations in climate transition work. Järfälla has also expanded its regional cooperation by participating in Climate Arena Stockholm and signing the Climate Pledge.

A number of the municipality's new climate-related policy documents are being monitored in order to ensure progress. The action plan for a climate-neutral Barkarbystaden, which was adopted by the municipal board in late 2021, has started to be implemented and a number of the proposed measures have been initiated or completed, including the establishment of an energy network for housing associations and ZeroCO2 certification of new municipal buildings.

Going forward, the municipality perceives a need to coordinate the management of the spoil created during construction work. This is why a local spoil management strategy will be decided upon in the autumn of 2023. The spoil management strategy aims to visualise the spoil management process and help to devise a collective approach and monitoring of spoil management.

7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

Over the past year, Järfälla has extended its participation in Climate Arena Stockholm⁹, a regional collaboration platform for climate-neutral construction in the Stockholm region. Together with many other stakeholders, Järfälla has signed a climate pledge. This means that these stakeholders support the goal of ensuring that all building and construction projects in the county of Stockholm are implemented in a climate-neutral way and managed with resource efficiency in mind by 2030. Linked to Climate Arena Stockholm, a number of working groups have been set up in order to share experiences and overcome barriers to accelerating climate-neutral building and construction projects, such as reuse, circular planning and climate calculations. Climate Arena Stockholm's work can provide inspiration and be shared with other regions in order to achieve large-scale climate transition in the building and construction sector.

Järfälla has also launched an intensive initiative with Positive Energy Districts (PED) and Positive Energy Process (PEP) in order to examine how areas in Järfälla can achieve a positive energy balance and thereby contribute to a surplus production of renewable energy. There is major emphasis on sharing energy between properties and producing and storing renewable electricity. Again, future lessons learned can be shared in order to implement a robust and sustainable energy system.

⁹ <https://klimatarenastockholm.se/> (Swedish)



Järfälla municipality is also running the CERO project, which involves a number of major employers in Järfälla working together to reduce emissions from commuting and business travel among their employees. The project's partners have increased from seven to nine on 2023, paving the way for further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Establishing contact and good cooperation with the business sector in the municipality is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and working together towards both local and global climate goals.

Järfälla municipality attaches great importance to monitoring adopted goals and policy documents so to ensure that we are moving in the right direction. The Environmental Barometer¹⁰ allows residents, municipalities and other stakeholders to monitor the progress of the work and access valuable statistics and monitoring of sustainability actions. This also includes monitoring the measures developed in the implemented project Climate-Neutral Barkarbystaden 2030.

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

¹⁰ <https://jarfalla.miljobarometern.se/> (Swedish)



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 planning¹¹ 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.

¹¹ Fair and sustainable transition for the climate – Proposal from SKR's program preparation for sustainable transition, SALAR, September 2023 (Swedish)



7.3.4 International alliances in respect of the mission

Efforts to mobilise cities and countries in respect of the mission, in which Viable Cities is involved in a number of ways (e.g. NetZeroCities, Driving Urban Transitions, CapaCITIES, Urban Transitions Mission), are continuing. An evaluation commissioned by the European Commission of the EU's work on the five missions¹² was published during the year. This concludes that the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities 2030 mission (Cities Mission) has already achieved significant mobilisation to step up the pace of climate transition in cities. The evaluators highlight the fact that establishment of the Cities Mission was an important and timely initiative in order to address the "implementation gap" and the systemic challenges that individual cities' climate efforts could never handle alone.

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

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

7.4. Key updates for the government agencies

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

¹² Alasdair Reid et al. Study supporting the assessment of EU Missions and the review of mission areas - Mission areas review report. 10.2777/61143, European Commission, 2023



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

7.4.1 Smart policy development

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

7.4.2 System demonstrators

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

7.4.3 Local portfolio analyses

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

7.4.4 Greater collaboration between agencies

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



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

7.4.5 Climate City Contracts as a governance model

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

9. The contract

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

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Järfälla 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 Järfälla municipality (may be in Swedish).

- [Climate City Contract 2030 Järfälla ver 2020](#)
- [Climate City Contract 2030 Järfälla ver 2021](#)
- [Climate City Contract 2030 Järfälla ver 2022](#)
- [Overview plan for Järfälla municipality](#)
- [Environmental plan 2023–2030](#)
- [Action plan for Climate Neutral Barkarbystaden](#)
- [Climate and energy plan](#)