

Climate City Contract 2030

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

VERSION 2023



Climate City Contract 2030

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Climate City Contract 2030

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

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

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

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

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



1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030

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

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

2. Parties

Parties to the Climate City Contract 2030 are:

- Kristianstad 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

Kristianstad municipality's environment, climate and energy initiatives must assist with international, national and regional commitments, and the municipality must continue to remain at the cutting edge of ecological sustainability efforts. Kristianstad municipality must lead by example and steer development towards a climate-smart society with rich, healthy nature. Kristianstad municipality's climate and environment plan 2023–2027 is key to the municipality's work on ecological sustainability and establishes the following goals with regard to the municipality as a geographical region:

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.



- Kristianstad municipality must be fossil fuel-free by 2034
- Consumption-based emissions must not exceed 5 tonnes per capita by 2030
- Renewable electricity production must reach at least 500 GWh by 2030
- 100 GWh of solar electricity per year must be produced in the municipality by 2030
- Energy use per capita in Kristianstad must be reduced by 40 per cent by 2030 (compared to 2008)
- At least half of all journeys in the municipality must be made by walking, cycling or public transport by 2030
- The following goals for the municipal organisation are also included:
- The municipality's own vehicles must run on fossil-free fuel by 2025
- The municipality's own works machinery, work vehicles and work tools must be powered by fossil-free fuel by 2028
- The total output from municipal solar energy facilities must be at least 5 MW by 2025
- From the time the plan is adopted, energy use in the organisation's own operations (electricity and heat) must be reduced by at least 1.5 per cent per floor area per year

The goals in the climate and environment plan with the associated description of measures and monitoring constitute a key policy document for reducing climate impact in Kristianstad municipality and efforts to achieve climate neutrality. The transport and agriculture sectors are the two biggest emission sectors in Kristianstad municipality, each accounting for one-third of Kristianstad's territorial greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the soil carbon sequestration capability needs to increase in order to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. More information on how Kristianstad is working on the transition in these two sectors is provided later on in this document.

Ten companies have signed local climate contracts with Kristianstad municipality in 2023. The goal for 2024 is for a further 15 companies and organisations to sign local climate contracts and become active participants in the local transition arena.

For 2024, Kristianstad municipality will undertake the following action to accelerate the climate transition locally and ensure it is heading towards climate neutrality in 2030 in accordance with the mission:

- Study whether there is any land owned by the municipality that can be earmarked for innovation and testing of carbon sequestration methods in agricultural soil, construction of wetlands or other measures to increase the amount of carbon in the soil. This study will also look at the option of financial compensation to landowners.



- The municipality must join forces with relevant stakeholders in the municipality gather to devise a concept for a sustainable, resilient and climate-neutral food system in Kristianstad. The aim is to achieve consensus on a common concept and identify obstacles, opportunities, resources, actions and responsibilities in order to achieve this. Part of this concept involves developing a common view of the different roles of the municipal organisation that affect the food system and a common direction for how the municipality's operations can facilitate, stimulate and support a sustainable, resilient and climate-neutral food system.
- Implement a major initiative aimed at citizens in the municipality in order to achieve the goal adopted in the climate and environment plan: *Half of all journeys in the municipality must be made by walking, cycling or public transport by 2030.* This initiative includes collective external communication and activities relating to sustainable travel habits, with emphasis on behavioural change. This initiative must involve major efforts to give a significant number of residents the opportunity to try out new travel habits. The initiative is to be run together with companies and organisations that have signed local climate contracts.

3.2. Strategy

Kristianstad municipality is working towards Vision 2030, "We grow and develop together". This vision is specified in the strategic roadmap, which prioritises initiatives. The Strategic Roadmap 2021–2024 enhances sustainability ambitions, wording the goal as follows: "Kristianstad must be an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable municipality, with rich, healthy nature and climate-smart communities characterised by reduced segregation and high levels of civic participation." The goal area includes three ecological performance indicators relating to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport, enhancing biodiversity and reducing waste. Work is in progress on developing a new strategic roadmap for the 2025–2028 period.

A sustainable development strategy which aims to establish how the municipal group's various operations are to work with sustainable development is being developed in Kristianstad municipality. This strategy does not include any new goals, but focuses on organisation, governance, processes, learning and collaboration. The strategy was devised in 2023 by the group-wide sustainability group, a key element being a face-to-face workshop in August where managers, officials and politicians from the various municipal departments and companies worked together.

There are a number of other policy documents influencing the climate transition and sustainability work in Kristianstad municipality, such as the comprehensive plan, the traffic strategy, the plan for adaptation to a changing climate and the green strategy.



3.3. Organisation and management

Kristianstad municipality's climate strategy efforts are based on the newly established sustainability unit at the department for growth and sustainable development at the municipal management office. This unit bears municipality-wide strategic responsibility for leading and developing the municipality's sustainability work in line with the 2030 Agenda. The unit includes strategists working with climate, environment and social sustainability, international cooperations, climate and energy advisors and project managers for a series of group-wide sustainability projects. The unit heads the sustainability group with representation from all municipal administrations and companies working on sustainable development strategy in Kristianstad municipality.

The Climate-Neutral Kristianstad 2030 process is being led by the sustainability unit under the management of a steering committee. Project partners are Kristianstad municipality, Krinova Incubator & Science Park, Kristianstad University, Hushållningssällskapet Skåne and Region Skåne. The non-profit organisation Naturskyddsföreningen i Kristianstad Bromölla (the Kristianstad Bromölla Nature Conservation Association) is also a project stakeholder. Representatives of these organisations form a project group and are divided into two transition teams for transport and agriculture respectively, the two sectors with the greatest climate impact in Kristianstad's geographical region.

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

Kristianstad is a food municipality, the green industries are an important hub in the development of the municipality, and there is already a great deal of innovation taking place in the food segment. The producers in the municipality play an important part in Sweden's level of self-sufficiency when it comes to food, and this position must be reinforced. Good partnerships, innovation, new approaches and courage could allow the agricultural sector to become an enabler and help achieve the mission. The ambition is to work together – with municipalities, the business sector, the academic community, consumers, farmers and partners – to make the switch to an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable food chain with minimal climate impact across sectors. A number of major food companies are signing local climate contracts with Kristianstad municipality, and this will constitute an important arena and platform.

Transition Lab Forum 13 on the topic of "A sustainable food system for resilient and climate-neutral cities" took place in Kristianstad and provided the work ahead with an important boost. Kristianstad municipality as a geographical region provides a good starting point for highlighting the changes needed in the food system in order to secure future food production, and to highlight the municipality's various roles and opportunities for influence in the food system as a whole.



While the food sector is strong in Kristianstad and is helping to bring about many positive assets as well as enhancing the attractiveness, growth and development of the municipality, the sector has a significant negative climate and environmental impact in the municipality. Territorial emissions from the agricultural sector are mainly made up of methane emissions from animal digestion, the use of artificial fertilisers and other types of fertiliser such as cow manure and crop residues as fertiliser. Additionally, there is constant leakage of greenhouse gases from drained wetlands. These emissions from the land use sector are reported only at a national level, but a bachelor's project indicates that they represent an estimated 23 per cent of territorial emissions in Kristianstad municipality.

Together with leading stakeholders on a national, regional and local level, Kristianstad municipality has begun exploring in 2023 how the amount of carbon in agricultural land can be increased on the basis of the municipality's farming leases and through food companies' value chains. Obstacles, challenges, actions and potential have been identified and summarised in a methodology that is shared publicly. In parallel with this, wetlands and rewetting of drained peat soils are being explored in practice, and this information is also being compiled in an open knowledge bank. Efforts to increase the amount of carbon in agricultural soil has highlighted the links between soil, production, resilience and self-sufficiency both now and in the future and provided vital insights for the work going forward. Development of carbon sequestration and rewetting methods will continue in 2024.

Local climate contracts have been developed in 2023 in order to provide a common platform and create local transition arenas in Kristianstad. Ten or so companies will be signing local climate contracts with Kristianstad municipality in 2023 by establishing their own commitments in order to accelerate the climate transition. Each signatory will specify three commitments of their own, which should either generate a direct reduction in emissions or provide a clear contribution to our local transition arena. Kristianstad municipality's commitment is the same in all contracts, and is based on the applicable climate and environmental plan. More companies, associations and organisations will be signing local climate contracts in 2024. Kristianstad municipality's commitment in the local climate contracts is as follows:

- Climate and sustainability issues must permeate the entire municipal organisation; from vision and strategy to operations and monitoring
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enable more circular flows, increase energy efficiency and increase the production of renewable energy in the municipality
- Increase the proportion of journeys in the municipality made by walking, cycling or public transport and reduce the number of journeys made by car
- Promote new solutions and innovations by demanding climate-smart and sustainable products and services in procurement procedures



There is collaboration with citizens through the non-profit sector in a number of ways, including a climate consultation group which involves politicians, officials and representatives of organisations discussing climate transition and sustainable development. An annual dialogue conference and various theme meetings are organised within the framework of the agreement on cooperation between Kristianstad municipality and the non-profit sector. Urban Development Näsby includes regular dialogue sessions, target group-specific co-creation activities and a successful citizens' board of judges in connection with procurement of public art. There are a number of projects in the startup phase that relate to cycling infrastructure, and citizens will be involved in these at an early stage in order to provide consolidation, opinions and end results that are more in line with the needs of the people of Kristianstad. In 2023, school students have been able to use a digital tool to identify unsafe places along their routes to school. Action has largely been taken by the technical administration to remedy unsafe locations that they have identified. The tool and methodology are being evaluated and developed with a view to making this an annual activity. A cycling council will be launched for 2024 as a forum for dialogue between municipal officials and cyclists in the municipality in order to improve conditions for cycling.

Kristianstad University is an important partner in many development areas and projects. An accompanying researcher from Kristianstad University working in the field of public governance is participating in Climate-Neutral Kristianstad 2030 and work on the sustainability strategy. A number of dialogues related to innovation, student collaboration, public health, FOHRK (Centre for Food, Health and Retail), design and citizen participation are also ongoing. Students on the Environmental Strategist programme are conducting an Imagine event with a challenge from Climate-Neutral Kristianstad 2030. The latest challenge requiring innovation by the students was: "What forgotten resources are there in the food chain, and how can these forgotten resources be managed, refined, developed, streamlined or circulated?". Dialogue is ongoing in respect of a new KTP project using the Climate-Neutral Cities mission as a platform. Kristianstad, Lund, Malmö and Helsingborg all perceive needs and opportunities in this regard. All universities in Skåne in southern Sweden are involved in the discussion for which IUC is leading the conceptualisation.

3.5. Climate investment plan

Extensive investments need to be made in Kristianstad municipality's geographical region in the coming years if we are to be able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, meet the need for a rapid climate transition and adapt society to a changing climate and its effects. The climate investment plan is an important tool for highlighting the gap between the current situation and climate goals adopted, but also for highlighting added value, cost savings and the opportunity of receiving external funding for development in Kristianstad municipality. The aim of the climate investment plan is to clarify the link between climate transition, financial



processes and economic governance. The climate investment plan must provide a comprehensive view of the investments that need to be made by both public and private stakeholders in order to achieve the climate goals.

The work done by Kristianstad municipality on the climate investment plan takes place at different levels and is made up of different processes. The Viable Cities Finance Dashboard is used at a general level, an initial step being to visualise anticipated future emissions based on adopted goals, policy instruments and measures at EU, national and local level. The process aims to illustrate the investments needed, distributed among societal stakeholders, in order to close the gap between projected and necessary emission reductions. This work forms part of the EU-funded AT LAST project, which aims to accelerate the transition by means of different types of support structures for planning, implementation and execution.

The aim of the sustainable development strategy being developed at present is to accelerate sustainable transition in the municipality by integrating ecological, social and economic sustainability into the municipality's governance and support processes. This strategy must ensure that both the basic mission and strategic development work are implemented, taking into account all three dimensions of sustainability. This work will link climate transition to regular processes such as governance and management and budget and decision-making processes.

In parallel, work has begun on climate investment plans from a bottom-up perspective in order to examine how climate investment plans can emerge out of a more operation-specific scale that is then gradually scaled up and increases in extent. Initially, we will be investigating how a climate investment plan for a municipal administration and a municipal company could clarify the link between climate transition, investment needs, operating costs and financial governance in order to achieve the goals set out in the climate and environmental plan. Consolidation, learning and involvement will be ensured by starting on a smaller scale and building up, step by step, to a more comprehensive climate investment plan. The purpose and benefits will become clearer to more people and enable more people, organisations and stakeholders to perceive the need for climate investment plans.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

We have been working in 2023 on evaluating different options and reviewing the programmes and digital services for monitoring climate action to which we have access in the municipality. Work is in progress across the administration as part of the municipality's quality work in order to set up a goal management system that can bring together plans, goals and measures within the municipality in order to make it easier to monitor the level of goal achievement among various initiatives.



In 2024, Kristianstad municipality intends to further develop its work on the ongoing gathering of climate data and investigate the opportunities that will be available going forward to create a platform showing the development, the gaps that exist in relation to adopted objectives, and that highlight local initiatives from private individuals, companies and organisations that contribute to the climate transition. The Viable Cities financial dashboard is currently being used to visualise what needs to be done on a local level, what the forecast is and what gaps exist between adopted measures and goals.

The opportunities to go on gathering detailed and high-resolution travel data are to be investigated in order to provide a coherent view of travel habits in the municipality. This provides an important foundation for understanding how people travel, between which origins and destinations and how they choose to travel, and for planning infrastructure measures and measures that influence behaviour.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

Krinova Incubator & Science Park is a hub for collaboration, and its mission is to enhance the growth of Kristianstad and north-eastern Skåne and make them more attractive. Krinova is Sweden's first and largest incubator with food as a profile area. Krinova is a significant stakeholder for innovation work on a local level in Kristianstad and Skåne. Krinova has four focus areas within the framework of Climate-Neutral Kristianstad 2030. These aim to create a series of collaborative activities combining the commercial driving forces in the business sector with the public challenges facing society:

- Primary production support
- Green professionalism
- Mission-based events
- Sustainable meeting venue

Kristianstad University is another important stakeholder in the local innovation arena through concepts such as Imagine and innovation programmes for the university's teaching staff. Kristianstad University is endeavouring to educate Sweden's most innovative students. Regardless of whether the university's students will end up running companies or working in the welfare sector or for a company, they should maintain an innovative approach.

The needs and challenges of the business sector will be highlighted by means of local climate contracts and form a basis for strong local innovation work in order to build bridges and identify new solutions for and between companies, organisations and the public sector.



3.8. Climate change adaptation

Kristianstad municipality has been selected as a pilot area in Europe as part of the EU's climate change adaptation mission. The aim of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change is to support regions and municipalities in their development of climate-friendly and resilient communities by 2030. Kristianstad has many years of experience of working with climate change adaptation, and is one of Sweden's municipalities that usually ends up high in the rankings in this regard. The ever-present threat of flooding has raised awareness and means that the municipality is constantly working to adapt to future climate change. The city's flood defences and coastal protection and management initiatives are examples of ongoing efforts. By joining the mission, the municipality is becoming part of the European network and gaining access to a common platform providing tools, good examples and support on various forms of funding opportunities. There are a number of links between the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the Viable Cities mission on climate-neutral cities.

According to Kristianstad municipality's plan for adaptation to a changing climate, the vision is to develop the municipality so that the adverse impact of climate change on people, nature and the economy is managed and opportunities are utilised. This means that the municipality will take rising sea levels and groundwater protection into account in all relevant decisions.

Kristianstad municipality has been designated by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) as an area presenting a significant flood risk from both the sea and the River Helgeå, which flows through the city of Kristianstad. The city's low-lying location, high flows in the River Helgeå, cloudbursts and the ongoing rising sea levels because of climate change pose a serious threat. The municipality has adopted a development plan for complete flood defences which will protect Kristianstad from flooding for more than a century. This plan takes extreme levels into account with regard to flows in the River Helgeå and rising sea levels. One aim of the plan is to pave the way for continued development of the city in accordance with the municipality's comprehensive planning.

The municipality's coastal and marine plan sets out strategies and guidelines on how the coast and sea can be used and how rising sea levels along the coast and inland can be handled. Several studies have identified a number of areas along the municipality's coastline that are particularly vulnerable to erosion. As sea levels rise, we will see an increase in erosion problems along most of the municipality's coastline. A cross-administrative coastal group has been working intensively on coastal protection and management measures since 2019. The municipality is in the final stages of the surveys and investigations needed to apply for a licence to perform beach nourishment on the beaches most prone to erosion. The municipality



also intends to construct nature-based stone reefs in order to limit beach erosion by damping wave energy while also promoting biodiversity.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

A number of initiatives have been implemented in 2023 in order to reinforce the conditions for climate-smart mobility in Kristianstad municipality. In the transport sector, emissions need to be reduced by using more energy-efficient vehicles and renewable fuels and maintaining a more transport-efficient society in which transport by car and lorry is reduced. To achieve this, travel and transport need to be transferred from cars and lorries to more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. In parallel, fossil fuels in the transport sector need to be phased out, charging infrastructure developed and action taken to reduce the need for transport. A mobility management plan is being produced in order to address measures to influence behaviour, as well as communication on sustainable travel. A number of initiatives are being implemented within the framework of ongoing development and construction projects, such as a review of parking space utilisation rates, sustainable mobility in detailed development plans and city densification projects, as well as communication and measures to influence behaviour ahead of major infrastructure projects. Moreover, certain potential has been identified for work going forward, and a few examples are provided below.

A project being funded by Formas is in progress within the framework of the call for proposals named “climate-neutral and inclusive cities”. In this co-creative methods are being explored to help aid understanding of the underlying causes of the modal split for travel from Näsby and Åhus. Dialogue with citizens is key to this project, which is being run in collaboration with Kristianstad municipality and Kristianstad University.

Region Skåne (Skånetrafiken) is conducting a mobility study that focuses on the physical criteria for public transport and micromobility for travelling between Åhus and Kristianstad. This study is being conducted in close cooperation with Kristianstad municipality in order to provide a holistic perspective on challenges and opportunities for increasing sustainable travel in the town of Åhus and between Åhus and Kristianstad.

Ängamöllan is a newly established business park in Kristianstad which, together with the Härlöv Trading Estate, is home to many different companies, businesses and production facilities. These are two areas that generate a lot of passenger travel and transportation of goods and materials. There is a great deal of potential for industrial symbiosis in these two areas and collaboration between private companies and public organisations on the development of sustainable transport systems, as well as energy solutions.



Kristianstad municipality is a large municipality in terms of area, and a significant percentage of travel cannot be replaced by public transport or cycling as things stand at present. Many residents are reliant on cars in their day-to-day lives as no reasonable alternatives are available. Carpooling has the potential to become a genuine option for commuting, leisure travel and travelling to events and places of interest. This potential will be explored further with stakeholders, events and owners of needs in 2024.

Kristianstad municipality has spent a number of years leading extensive efforts on “Vibrant City Centre” together with businesses, property owners and stakeholders in the city centre. Issues related to traffic, mobility, transport and trade are fundamental elements of this work and will be addressed in 2024 and beyond.

3.10. Reporting and monitoring

Kristianstad municipality follows up its climate work in an annual climate report. Furthermore, work is being done on a summary that aims to indicate the development of climate action to date, how much progress we have made with measures already adopted, and highlight the gaps in respect of achieving the defined goals.

The municipal board bears general responsibility for monitoring the overall climate action. Committees and corporate boards are responsible for scheduling and following up their own actions and reporting this to the municipal board. The municipality is working to develop comprehensive reporting and monitoring of its sustainability work and to integrate this into the regular annual report.

The pace of transition and progress made towards achieving the mission is monitored by means of interim reports to the Swedish Energy Agency, and otherwise within the framework established by Viable Cities.

4. Viable Cities’ commitments

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

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



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

4.1. Coordination of Climate City Contract 2030

Accelerated mobilisation in respect of the transition on a local, national and international level is now taking place using Climate City Contracts as a tool. This requires more of an ability to coordinate the efforts and go on developing the contracts in order to achieve upscaling, broadening, replicability, prioritisation and more effective coordination of meetings and dialogues between stakeholders.

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

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

4.2. Smart policy development

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

4.3. Innovation

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



Viable Cities will contribute competence networks and process support to make it easier for the municipality to implement innovation that accelerates climate transition. This will include engaging other strategic innovation programmes in the further development of Climate City Contract 2030. This is particularly applicable to mobility, energy, the built environment, circular economy, health and digitalisation. Working on the basis of the partnership agreement with the Drive Sweden strategic innovation programme on climate smart mobility, collaboration will be developed further with both cities and agencies in this respect, not least with the Swedish Transport Administration.

4.4. Coordinated funding

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

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

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

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



5. The agencies' commitments

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

In 2024, the agencies will go on developing supporting structures and new ways of working for a more coherent, strategic and learning development process. The Sustainable Cities Council (Rådet för hållbara städer) acts as a framework and strategic forum for collaboration between agencies, the Swedish Model for Sustainable Development (Svensk modell för Hållbar utveckling) as an operational platform for collaboration between agencies, and Climate City Contract 2030 as a joint innovation and test lab for the 23 cities and agencies.

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

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

5.1. Smart policy development

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

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



5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development

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

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

5.3. Coordinated funding

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

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

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

5.4. Participation in European sustainable cities initiatives

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

Efforts to support Swedish participation in the Horizon Europe 2021–2027 research programme include contributing to the formulation of activities and calls for

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

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



proposals and providing information and advice to stakeholders who are planning to participate in applications regarding various European initiatives. The agencies are also cooperating on the implementation of the EU Regional Development Fund 2021–2027 with initiatives for sustainable urban development.

The agencies are continuing to participate in the Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future partnership, where calls for proposals and other activities in respect of sustainable urban development will be of relevance in the next few years, as well as the European Commission’s “New European Bauhaus” initiative,⁴ European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁵ and Urbact⁶.

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

6. Strategic development projects for 2024

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

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

6.1. Governance

Developments in climate transition governance, both at local level and between local, national and even EU level, are fundamental to broader mobilisation and more effective systemic changes. This involves coordinating and leading different stakeholders at different levels with a view to accelerating the climate transition and slowing climate change so that a sustainable future can be built. Governance refers to the process and structure of governing, managing and regulating an organisation, society or system. It considers how decisions are made, how authority

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

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

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

⁷ The Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are participating.



and responsibilities are allocated, and how rules and guidelines are maintained and followed. This is a complex process involving political, economic, technical and social aspects, which in turn requires cooperation and commitment from a wide range of societal stakeholders.

Mobilisation through Climate City Contract 2030 has proven to be successful and will go on being developed in order to further reinforce, scale up, broaden and accelerate the transition work. Clearer needs orientation/prioritisation and stricter commitments are required from several quarters: from the national agencies and the municipalities, and also linked to the Viable Cities role/commitments.

The Climate City Contract is a new and innovative governance tool that is building a long-term strategic process from local to international level on the basis of the collective mission of achieving sustainable and climate neutral cities by 2030. Commitments from cities, agencies and other stakeholders are revised and refined every year, and implementation takes place in interaction between the public sector, 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, it was made clear that Kristianstad municipality will work together with our partners to accept special responsibility for transition of the food system in order to bring about resilient and climate-neutral cities. The food sector is important to Kristianstad: it has been important in the past, and will remain important going forward. There are a lot of stakeholders here who are driving development forward. That said, it is clear that the food system has to change at all levels in order to secure future food supply. Kristianstad municipality has everything it needs to become a model area for a sustainable, resilient and climate-neutral food system.

Kristianstad municipality has launched local climate contracts in 2023. These have been met with a great deal of interest and backing from the business sector. Ten or so local climate contracts were signed in 2023, and more companies and organisations will be joining in 2024. The aim of local climate contracts is to reduce



greenhouse gas emissions, to highlight the challenges and barriers to achieving this, and to join forces on opportunities and partnerships in order to bring about a rapid and sustainable climate transition.

7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

Climate strategy work in Kristianstad municipality is combined with biodiversity and climate change adaptation. A climate transition is being conducted that is good for nature and humans and aims to create a sustainable and resilient future. The Kristianstad Vattenriket Biosphere Reserve is working successfully on measures combining social and ecological sustainability: favouring biodiversity, reducing climate impact, making nature accessible to people and passing on learning and knowledge. Vattenriket is a model area for sustainable development and an important arena for the work being done on Climate-Neutral Kristianstad 2030.

Joining forces in respect of the food system is important if we are to reduce climate and environmental impact on a local level. This is another profile area for the municipality, and an important starting point for development and growth. Focusing on this area will allow us to create the local transition arena that we need on the basis of issues that affect many people and form part of the culture in Kristianstad.

In 2023, we have started to explore how we can communicate the climate transition in a way that engages, involves and mobilises people and stakeholders. We have worked on the basis of the Viable Cities storytelling methodology to create a story that moves people. Now we are continuing our efforts to distribute the method to more contexts and explore how we can involve residents, particularly young people, in co-creating tales about what it is like to live in Climate-Neutral Kristianstad 2030, with a high quality of life for more people within the boundaries of our planet.

7.3. Key updates for Viable Cities

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

7.3.1 The Climate City Contract process

Work has continued in 2023 on developing the role of Viable Cities as a facilitator of the Climate City Contract process in interaction with the 23 cities and 6 government agencies that are signatories to date. The accelerated learning platform has



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

7.3.2 Strategic efforts prior to new programme phase

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

7.3.3 Strategic upscaling and acceleration initiatives

Continued development work on climate investments for the transition for cities has taken place both in Sweden and in European cooperation as part of the work on Climate City Contracts. Dialogue with relevant financial stakeholders has also been developed in this regard. Digitalisation efforts were also intensified during the year, and November saw the establishment of the Urban Twin Transition Centre in collaboration with Viable Cities. Work has also begun on preparing processes for enhanced citizen engagement/participation in order to create methods and insights that can be used by many cities. A Just Transitions graduate school was launched at Linköping University during the year, in cooperation with Viable Cities.

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



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 missions⁹ was published during the year. This concludes that the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities 2030 mission (Cities Mission) has already achieved significant mobilisation to step up the pace of climate transition in cities. The evaluators highlight the fact that establishment of the Cities Mission was an important and timely initiative in order to address the "implementation gap" and the systemic challenges that individual cities' climate efforts could never handle alone.

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

New steps are being taken as part of the work that has been conducted at global level within the Climate Smart Cities Challenge for a number of years, and which involves a number of Swedish stakeholders, with a view to further developing the

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



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 Kristianstad 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 Kristianstad municipality (may be in Swedish).

- [Climate City Contract 2030, Kristianstad, version 2022](#)
- [Climate and environmental plan, Kristianstad municipality \(2023\)](#)
- [Strategic roadmap, Kristianstad municipality \(2021\)](#)
- [Climate reporting \(2022\)](#)
- [Strategic roadmap \(2021-2024\)](#)
- [Drained wetlands and their greenhouse gas emissions. A survey of organic soils in Kristianstad municipality \(2023\)](#)
- [Knowledge bank for rewetting \(2023\)](#)
- [Local Climate Contracts in Kristianstad \(2023\)](#)