

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Lund 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:

- Lund 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

Lund municipality's sustainability policy, which was adopted on 27 August 2020, clarifies Lund municipality's approach to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and defines principles for sustainable development. This policy is a guide to the realisation of the municipality's vision: "Lund is creating the future – with knowledge, innovation and openness". Lund's sustainable development policy states that:

- Lund municipality is a leader in terms of sustainable development.

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.



- The municipal group is constantly making improvements and developing sustainability efforts with a high level of knowledge.
- The municipal group is working innovatively, purposefully and systematically to achieve sustainable development.
- The municipal group is actively cooperating with other public stakeholders, higher education institutions, the business sector and civil society to develop a sustainable society.
- The municipal group is working transparently and communicates both in-house and externally in order to engage citizens and employees in Lund municipality.

This policy is concretised in the municipality's programmes and plans, such as the social sustainability programme, the programme for ecologically sustainable development and the energy plan.

Lund's programme for ecologically sustainable development 2021–2030, LundaEko, was adopted by the municipal council on 22 June 2021. This programme includes the overall objective for the municipality's climate and environmental work and is based on the National Environmental Quality Objectives, the 2030 Agenda, Lund's vision and the municipality's management process. The overall climate goal is: For Lund to be a climate-neutral, fossil fuel-free municipality by 2030, adapted to a changing climate².

The programme also includes targets that make direct or indirect contributions to the overall climate goal:

- a decline in annual consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions per Lund resident. The municipal committees may account for no more than 0.3 tonne of emissions.
- Compared to 2010, greenhouse gas emissions in Lund municipality should be reduced by at least 65 per cent by 2025 and at least 80 per cent by 2030. By 2045, the municipality should be climate-positive and emissions should be close to zero.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector should be reduced by at least 90 per cent between 2010 and 2030.
- Carbon sequestration in Lund municipality should increase between 2021 and 2030. The municipal group should promote carbon capture.
- By 2030, Lund municipality should have established itself as a pioneer in circular and climate-neutral building and construction work. Emissions from the construction sector should be halved by 2025 and achieve net zero by 2030.

² In terms of climate neutrality, our starting point is the geographical area of Lund municipality. Territorial emissions of greenhouse gases must be minimised. Fossil fuels will be phased out, and other emissions will be minimised. Remaining emissions will be managed by means of carbon sinks within the boundaries of the municipality. Lund municipality does not use offsets outside its boundaries.



Lund municipality has also signed the new Covenant of Mayors 2050 for climate and energy (7 October 2021). In this, the municipality commits to ambitious climate goals, emission reduction and climate change adaptation strategies, and to report its progress against a global standard.

3.2. Strategy

To achieve the goals, Lund municipality is ensuring efficient implementation of the programme through the LundaEko process. Group-wide action plans such as the energy plan, waste plan and the strategy for an eco-friendly transport system (LundaMaTs) are helping with attainment of the adopted climate goals. The comprehensive plan includes clear sustainability and climate strategies that are assisting with the sustainable planning of the city. Moreover, Lund municipality has a green bond framework that serves as a guideline for the funding of sustainable investments.

The municipality is working actively with external stakeholders through collaboration, networks and external funding to involve all parts of our community in efforts to achieve the climate goals.

3.3. Organisation and management

Through its various roles – as a local democratic representative, planning authority, supervisory authority, owner of land and property, the authority responsible for schools, etc. – the municipality has an important job to do in leading the climate transition. Since December 2019, Lund municipality's wholly owned companies have been formed a group of companies under parent company Lunds Rådhus AB. This facilitates clearer governance and a consistent approach to environmental and climate efforts.

In 2018, Lund municipality was the first municipality in Sweden to establish a local climate policy council. This council is made up of representatives from Lund University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and its job is to scrutinise the municipality's efforts to reduce climate impact and adapt to climate change. The council must also use an annual report submitted to the municipal board to propose improvements that will help the municipality to achieve its climate goals.

Dialogue and collaboration are a natural element in Lund municipality's governance. Examples include Lund's youth policy with youth representatives and a youth parliament, which provide young people with the opportunity to make their voices heard and influence decisions. The municipal student council is another key forum for dialogue between municipal politicians and students at Lund University.

Lund municipality maintains a leading role in engaging the entire city and all key stakeholders in the climate transition. The ongoing Climate-Neutral Lund 2030 Step 2



project is analysing which new working methods may be required in order to reach new levels in this work.

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

Lund municipality has broad backing from the above stakeholders when it comes to taking the climate challenge seriously and collaborates through networks and projects. A few examples are given below:

- Very active collaboration with property owners, employers and other stakeholders forms part of the work on a large-scale system demonstrator, CoAction Lund, in Lund's innovation district. This focuses on jointly developing innovative solutions for a more sustainable energy and mobility system.
- Lund municipality collaborates with the business sector by means of initiatives such as the Future by Lund innovation platform, which has a large number of members from universities, organisations and the business sector.
- The Lund Climate Alliance brings together companies working actively on climate issues as part of a close collaboration with Lund University and Lund municipality. Some 20 companies have committed to help achieve Lund's climate goals through the Climate Alliance.
- Lund municipality is working in close collaboration with Lund University to turn Lund into a vibrant, prominent and attractive knowledge centre. The partnership agreement states that the municipality and the university will work together to drive development in the fields of urban development, the business sector and innovation systems, as well as student collaboration. The local climate policy council, the joint Sustainability Week and a number of joint research projects are all examples of well-developed cooperation.
- Lund municipality has an agreement with the non-profit sector. This agreement is helping to increase the involvement and participation of associations, organisations and individual Lund residents in democratic processes and discussions.

The municipality is developing forms of collaboration with citizens, the business sector and the academic community within the framework of the Climate City Contract and the Climate-Neutral Lund 2030 project.

3.5. Climate investment plan

Lund municipality perceives the climate transition as an opportunity for society to undergo a green transition and will be continuing to work on the process of developing a Climate Investment Plan, visualising the costs of the transition and where our resources will have the best impact. When it comes to sustainable funding,



the municipal group is developing its work on green bonds and sustainable forms of funding. Lund municipality has received funding from the European City Facility in order to develop investment concepts for energy and climate investments. The investment concept includes energy streamlining in municipal buildings, innovative district heating systems, biochar, bio-CCS and electric roads.

The municipality will be using the project entitled “Increasing the pace of transition through climate benefit analysis of investments” to integrate practical climate benefit analysis methods into Lund’s investment planning and transfer lessons learned to the business sector.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

Lund has a well-developed network of sensors facilitating IoT solutions in the smart city. Development work is progress on developing a digital twin for the city and reinforcing efforts on GIS analysis in spatial planning. Lund’s business sector includes a number of leading companies working with smart cities and digitalisation.

Lund municipality will be using digital tools to accelerate its evolution towards becoming a climate-neutral city by 2030 together with business stakeholders. Development areas include visualisation of goals, actions and data, and support for dialogue and citizen engagement.

Lund has started using the Futureproofed platform, which is under development. The aim of Futureproofed is to visualise a significant part of geographical emissions and link them to goals and initiatives to reduce them. This will be achieved by presenting the goals and important measures defined by the municipality and the municipal group, but also by inviting companies and citizens to contribute and so positively influence development.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

Lund has unique assets, with Sweden’s largest research facilities – the European Spallation Source (ESS) and MAX IV – that will contribute to world-leading research in materials, energy and environmental sciences. These facilities are also contributing to the urban development taking place in north-east Lund with the Science Village and the Brunnshög district, where innovative and cutting-edge solutions are undergoing full-scale testing. One example is “research is heating the city”, where the residual heat from the research facilities is being utilised in the world’s biggest low-temperature district heating network.

Lund has an international business sector that is strongly research-oriented. There is a long tradition of strong and innovation networks between universities, the public sector, the business sector and society in general. Strong innovation environments in Lund, such as Ideon Science Park, Medicon Village and a number of incubators, are



helping research outcomes to create growth and new businesses. By offering the city's infrastructure and activities as a test bed, the municipality is contributing to the development of new and innovative solutions in energy technology, IoT and transport and mobility solutions.

On a regional level, Lund – together with Malmö and Helsingborg – is an important partner in innovation initiatives. FIRS – the Research and Innovation Council in Skåne – is bringing together the business sector, the academic community and the public sector to coordinate efforts in fields such as smart sustainable cities. The Green Charter plan has been developed as part of the Greater Copenhagen cross-border cooperation, where regions and municipalities on the Swedish and Danish sides of the border are cooperating in order to jointly develop the region towards sustainable growth.

Lund is an international city with well-developed partnerships with other cities through networks and projects. The EU 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities mission is helping to strengthen Lund's role as an innovation hub at a European level as well. As part of the NetZeroCities Twinning programme, Lund will be developing a plan to distribute innovations between the pilot city of Leuven and the City of Westminster in London.

3.8. Climate change adaptation

LundaEko includes goals for preventive climate change adaptation. According to the goal, the physical environment in Lund municipality will be designed to reduce vulnerability to risks associated with ongoing climate change between 2021 and 2030. Climate change adaptation is a complex issue that is interwoven into a number of the municipality's plans and processes, such as how to manage heat waves or how to prevent flooding through stormwater management, for example. The district of Brunnsbölg is being used as a test bed for stormwater management and how cloudbursts can be managed by means of nature-based solutions.

A cloudburst survey, heat survey and canopy cover survey have been carried out in order to reduce vulnerability and address future challenges.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

Lund has been working actively and purposefully on the issue of mobility and sustainable transport for a long time through the strategy for an eco-friendly transport system (LundaMaTs). The municipality is also actively supporting companies' efforts to promote sustainable travel. Moreover, the municipal organisation's vehicle fleet has been fossil-free since 2020, and the electric road of the future is being demonstrated in Lund, which will enable buses and cars to charge their batteries while driving. In Lund, the Base project is also exploring the conditions for autonomous cars in the Brunnsbölg development area.



Lund has also had a new sustainable mode of transport since 2020 in the form of the tramway from the central station to the ESS and Max IV research facilities. This tramway is an example of urban development linking the university, the hospital, Ideon and Faculty of Engineering at Lund University with the sustainable new district of Brunnskög.

3.10. Reporting and monitoring

The LundaEko climate goals are monitored by means of an annual sustainability report to the municipal council. The municipality's greenhouse gas budget is used to ensure that the territorial emission reductions are taking place quickly enough to reach the set targets.

Lund municipality monitors and reports on its work as part of the Covenant of Mayors 2050 initiative to the CDP and ICLEI global reporting platform for cities. The municipality has received the highest grade (A-listed) for its reporting for both 2022 and 2023, confirming that Lund is an international leader when it comes to its climate work. The same reporting is used by WWF in their One Planet City Challenge. Lund, together with Bogotá, was named Global Climate City of the Year in 2022 on the basis of this reporting.

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 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

WWF named Lund its Global Climate City of the Year for 2022 in the *One Planet City Challenge*. Lund's climate action came out on top in the face of competition from 280 participating cities all over the world. Lund stands out, according to the judges, thanks to its clear and ambitious climate goals, political leadership and a broad and transparent programme of actions.

Aktuell Hållbarhet magazine has been selecting the best environmental municipality of the year since 2009, based on a survey and statistics on the work and performance of municipalities in respect of environment and climate change. Lund was placed first in 2023. The municipality was also named Mobility City of the Year by Dagens Industri.

Lund was selected to become one of the EU's 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. The designated cities will be leading the way for climate neutrality in other European cities by 2050. Lund has been twinned with the pilot city of Leuven in Belgium and the City of Westminster in London as part of the NetZeroCities Twinning programme. This programme will be developing a plan for replication and knowledge transfer between cities.

Lund municipality has received funding to help it plan a system demonstrator, CoAction Lund, in the north-east part of the city. The district around Brunnshög, Ideon and Medicon Village is one of Sweden's most densely populated areas, with a lot of traffic. The municipality will be working there together with a range of stakeholders



on creating a mobility system that reduces emissions while also maintaining accessibility. This mobility system will also be linked to a climate-neutral energy system in the area.

Lund municipality is collaborating with researchers from Lund University on a project entitled Capacity Building for Eco-Social Integration, to help improve and reinforce the development of climate transition strategies by taking into account social perspectives. As part of this project, the municipality – working in collaboration with officials and researchers – is mapping initiatives that combine ecological and social sustainability or the need for such initiatives to a greater extent, and is also looking at how the capacity for integrated working can be developed and supported. The project will culminate in recommendations and a project plan/project plans meeting the need to increase Lund's capacity for actively working with greater integration with social and environmental sustainability issues, in planning and policy, to recognise and manage potential conflicts and to identify and exploit synergies.

Following the 2021 decision to adopt the new LundaEko, Lund's 2021–2030 programme for ecologically sustainable development, efforts to support the programme's goal fulfilment have intensified. This programme contains stricter climate ambitions and the overall objective for Lund to be a climate-neutral and fossil fuel-free municipality by 2030, adapted to a changing climate. The programme will be updated in 2024 to become a more effective instrument in the municipality's environmental and climate efforts. That is why an evaluation of the programme's milestones has begun in 2023.

A plan for climate-neutral building and construction was adopted in spring 2023: this plan was developed as part of a collaboration involving multiple departments and enterprises. The plan will assist with achieving the goals of LundaEko, Lund's programme for ecological sustainability. By 2030, the goal is for Lund municipality to have established itself as a pioneer in circular and climate-neutral building and construction work. Emissions from what is being built and constructed by the municipality's administrations and wholly owned companies will be halved by 2025 and be net zero by 2030. All new municipal buildings, major renovations and conversions, as well as construction works, need to be based on more recycled materials and materials with a lower climate impact than before, such as recycled bricks, biomaterials, climate-improved concrete and bioasphalt. Lund municipality is using the LFM30 framework for calculations, which is more comprehensive than the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning's climate declaration requirements.

7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

By setting an international example as winner of WWF's One Planet City Challenge, and as one of the EU's 100 climate-neutral cities, Lund now has the opportunity to lead the way and set a clear example. The WWF award and the EU award are



important when it comes to highlighting Lund municipality's work, and for motivating future work and initiatives, but they also highlight how much remains to be done at a local, regional, national and international level. The municipality is proud of its achievements, but also humbled by the major challenges it faces.

Lund municipality also wants to share its experience of forming a climate policy council to scrutinise the municipality's climate action. In 2018, Lund municipality was the first municipality in Sweden to set up a local climate policy council. The Council's mission is to scrutinise the municipality's efforts to reduce climate impact and adapt to climate change. The council must also use an annual report submitted to the municipal board to propose improvements that will help the municipality to achieve its climate goals. The council is made up of experts from Lund University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp who specialise in various sciences. The municipality's aim in establishing the council is to capitalise on the knowledge available at the universities. This is being done in order to develop successful and innovative climate action, which may also help to improve quality of life in Lund. The municipality also wants the council to help to step up discussion on climate issues among Lund residents.

Lund municipality also wants to share its experiences and successes in becoming a fossil fuel-free municipality. A 99 per cent level was achieved for this in 2020 – which was also the target year for the initiative – thanks to strong emphasis on its own vehicle fleet. This has been done in an innovative way by focusing on optimising the vehicle fleet and introducing new business models, steering towards more resource-efficient use of vehicles; and all in parallel with replacement of the fleet with fossil-free vehicles. This is a solution that many other municipalities may be interested in looking at and being inspired by, or simply copying. It is also a concept that can be applied to a number of other areas.

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 planning⁹ 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.

⁹ 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 missions¹⁰ 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

¹⁰ 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 *Svensk Modell 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 Lund 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 Lund municipality (may be in Swedish).

- [Link to LundaEko](#)
- [Link to the Sustainability policy](#)
- [Link to Energy plan](#)
- [Link to the Waste plan](#)
- [Link to LundaMaTs](#)
- [Link to Plan for climate-neutral construction](#)
- [More strategic plans, e.g. overview plan, you can find in Lund's constitution collection](#)