

Climate City Contract 2030

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

VERSION 2023



Climate City Contract 2030

Contents

Climate City Contract 2030	4
1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030	5
2. Parties	5
3. Municipal commitments	5
3.1. Municipal climate goals.....	5
3.2. Strategy.....	6
3.3. Organisation and management.....	7
3.4. Collaboration with the business sector, civil society, the academic community and citizens.....	9
3.5. Climate investment plan.....	11
3.6. Digital support for implementation.....	12
3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities.....	12
3.8. Climate change adaptation.....	13
3.9. Climate smart mobility.....	13
3.10. Reporting and monitoring.....	14
4. Viable Cities' commitments	15
4.1. Coordination of Climate City Contract 2030.....	15
4.2. Smart policy development.....	16
4.3. Innovation.....	16
4.4. Coordinated funding.....	16
4.5. Interaction with the EU's Climate Neutral Cities mission.....	17
5. The agencies' commitments	17
5.1. Smart policy development.....	18
5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development.....	18



5.3. Coordinated funding.....	18
5.4. Participation in European sustainable cities initiatives.....	19
6. Strategic development projects for 2024.....	20
6.1. Governance.....	20
6.2. Climate investment plans.....	21
6.3. Competitiveness through transition.....	22
6.4. Citizen engagement.....	23
6.5. System demonstrators.....	23
6.6. Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission on an international level.....	24
7. Joint efforts on monitoring, evaluation and updating.....	25
7.1. Key updates for the municipality.....	25
7.3. Key updates for Viable Cities.....	26
7.4. Key updates for the government agencies.....	28
9. The contract.....	30
Climate City Contract 2030.....	31
Appendix 1 – Links to documents.....	32



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:

- Örebro 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

Örebro municipal council adopted a sustainable development programme in 2020 that was based on the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. This programme establishes the political willingness to engage and sets out core values and desirable social development in Örebro municipality up to 2050. The programme includes a goal structure with six goal areas, three general goals by 2050 and 51 targets by 2030 (with certain exceptions in respect of target years). Goal area 5 A climate-positive Örebro with healthy ecosystems and good biodiversity has

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 following targets for the Örebro municipal group and Örebro municipality as a geographical region:

- By 2030, the Örebro municipal group will be climate-neutral.
- By 2040, the Örebro municipal group will be climate-positive.
- By 2045, Örebro municipality as a geographical region will be climate-neutral.
- In 2050, Örebro municipality as a geographical region will be climate-positive.

These climate goals include consumption-based emissions, i.e. emissions that occur throughout the value chain. This means that the municipality needs to take into account all climate emissions from the municipal group, municipal residents and organisations within Örebro municipality's geographical region, regardless of whether they occur within or outside the borders of the municipality and Sweden. The climate goals include all climate-related emissions: renewable, fossil-free and fossil emission sources.

3.2. Strategy

Climate strategy for Örebro municipality was adopted by the municipal council in 2016 and is the central policy document for achieving the municipality's long-term climate goals. However, there are also many other municipal policy documents that all assist with achieving the climate goals, including the comprehensive plan, vehicle guidelines, travel guidelines, charging infrastructure guidelines, traffic programmes and sustainable procurement guidelines. At the time of writing, the climate strategy is being revised and is planned to be adopted by the municipal council in May 2024, but a number of the other policy documents referred to are also being revised. The purpose of the climate strategy is to provide general guidance, a standardised approach and concretisation of the long-term climate goals in the sustainable development programme.

Intensive work was carried out in the spring of 2023 on developing and shaping the content of the climate strategy. This process involved many resources from the municipal group as a whole and, to an extent, external stakeholders as well. The ambition of the climate strategy is to provide an general picture of the municipality's climate challenges within the municipal group and the geographical region. The primary emphasis is on the municipal group and municipal initiatives in the geographical region which pave the way for transition. The initiatives aimed at achieving the goals in the geographical region require collaboration with the business sector, the academic community, civil society, local residents and other public stakeholders. There is a great deal of force for transition and a lot of experience among a number of stakeholders that can be utilised in efforts to implement initiatives in accordance with the climate strategy. This collaboration requires collaboration platforms and networks in order to create arenas where challenges can



be highlighted and resolved collectively. The proposal for a revised climate strategy identifies six focus areas with goals, standpoints and initiatives. The initiatives relate to both the municipal group and the geographical region. The strategy also places major emphasis on describing approaches for the transition. The pace of transition needs to be significantly faster than it has been to date, and we need to do things differently to what we have done in the past. Developing working methods is an important parameter if we are to make things happen.

Five of the six focus areas proposed in the climate strategy account for major climate emissions in the municipal group and the geographical region. These are transport and mobility, energy, construction, food and agriculture, and consumption and waste. The sixth focus area, carbon sequestration, represents the capture of greenhouse gases. Besides these focus areas, there are many functions and tools, such as procurement and urban planning, that facilitate the transition and involve all the focus areas. Not only is the climate transition important as a way of achieving the climate goals, it can also help bring about major societal benefits in terms of ecological, social and economic sustainability. Examples include cleaner air by reducing road traffic and making a switch to electric vehicles, improved public health thanks to active travel, and greater biodiversity thanks to more green spaces.

The ambition of the climate strategy is to provide guidance for the municipality's committees, boards, administrations and companies to implement measures that assist with achieving the climate goals, but it does not describe in detail what is to be done and how. It is up to the responsible committees and boards, or administrations and companies to formulate measures on the basis of their own missions and the municipality's goals. However, an annual activity plan is proposed in order to achieve more coherent governance of joint actions. This aims to capture the group-wide activities that require joint action linked to the strategy.

The municipal administration of Örebro's general strategies and budget (ÖSB) for 2024 with a plan for 2025–2026 includes political priorities and goals for the mandate period, and explicitly states that Örebro municipality must take responsibility for the climate issue and work with priority measures to reduce climate impact. One designated task for 2024 is to work on monitoring and compliance with the climate strategy and its activity plan.

3.3. Organisation and management

The municipal board holds political responsibility for the climate issue in Örebro municipality and is responsible for ensuring that the decisions made are implemented, followed up and evaluated. This task is delegated to the municipal board's sustainability committee, which deals with other ecological sustainability issues and procurement in addition to the climate issue. According to the proposal for a new climate strategy, the municipal board's sustainability committee has to



stand responsible for annual reviews of the timeliness of the climate strategy so as to ensure it remains as sharp and as up-to-date as possible.

Some of the new approaches suggested in the proposal for a new climate strategy include the introduction of a climate steering committee involving senior officials in the Örebro municipal group, working groups in all six focus areas and a climate transition team. The climate steering committee should take part in annual climate monitoring, analyse the results in relation to defined goals, prioritise activities in the group-wide activity plan and assess which activities in the plan can be implemented using existing resources and what needs to be brought to the attention of politicians and the following year's budget process. This has to be decided upon by the Municipal Director's management team in order to achieve broad consolidation and joint prioritisation of the activities indicated in the group-wide activity plan.

The proposed working groups are based on the climate strategy focus areas and the municipal group's need for consensus in various areas. The working groups and the composition of resources in these groups are not permanent but could change over time, depending on what is needed. The nature of external participation will be developed according to the needs of different working groups. The tasks of the working groups include proposing activities for the group-wide activity plan, revising priority areas in the strategy and identifying and highlighting complex challenges and needs to the climate transition team or external collaboration platforms and networks. The objective of the climate transition team is to create a broader perspective on climate transition within the municipal group. The functions proposed for the climate transition team are bearers of more cross-cutting perspectives in relation to the focus areas and could, for example, include innovation, digitalisation, communication, social sustainability and procurement. The group must address needs that arise in the various working groups and work together to identify how these can be resolved by means of multiple perspectives. The transition team can also channel the needs on to ongoing initiatives and forums, both internally within the municipal group and externally.

Climate-Neutral Örebro 2030 is one of many projects and initiatives that aim to assist with fulfilment of the goals in the climate strategy. The project's overall goal is to create a platform for collaboration which paves the way for social stakeholders to take collective action to promote a climate-neutral and sustainable Örebro. To make this possible, Örebro municipality is collaborating with the three municipal property companies (ÖrebroBostäder, Futurum Fastigheter and Örebroporten), Örebro University, E.ON/Navirum Energi and Örebro Föreningsråd on a number of designated work packages. These work packages are closely linked to the proposed focus areas in respect of climate strategy and are contributing to initiatives and achievement of goals within their framework. The work packages are:

- Energy communities



- Climate-neutral district heating
- Climate-neutral building and construction
- Local transition opportunities
- Assembly of citizens
- Sustainable mobility
- A connected Örebro

Work on some of the work packages has already begun, while others have developed work already in progress. The long-term ambition is to join forces with a number of stakeholders. Collaboration must continue to be developed in the first instance and new needs must be highlighted within the framework of existing collaboration platforms and networks, but there may also be a need to develop new forms of collaboration. The region's energy and climate council, with stakeholders from the business sector, the academic community and the public sector, is one example of an existing collaboration platform where work can go on being developed in collaboration with others.

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

A strong partnership between various stakeholders in society is key to achieving the climate goals and other goals in Örebro municipality's sustainable development programme. No one has sole control over the societal transition that we are facing. We must all join forces and drive the transition together: the public sector and the business sector, the academic community, civil society and individual citizens. Examples of development work in progress as part of the Climate-Neutral Örebro 2030 work packages will be highlighted in this section.

3.4.1 Climate-neutral district heating

The municipal property companies are working together with the local district heating provider on power and energy optimisation on both the property and the production side of things. A study is currently in progress to identify the potential for scaling up CESO, the previous power management project. It is hoped that these properties will develop the ability to interact with the production plant, thereby providing with an additional tool for optimising production along sustainable lines. Focusing on both energy and power efficiency adds value for the local energy system as a whole. An in-depth study of how we should relate to emissions from waste incineration in Sweden will need to be carried out within the framework of the collaboration, and we will need to identify what we can do both as individual stakeholders and collectively in order to reduce emissions. The local district heating provider is continuing to work on investigating the conditions for implementation of large-scale carbon capture



linked to district heating operations. The biggest challenge at the moment involves how the market for negative emissions should be built up in order to create credibility in terms of both economic and climate reporting, but there are also challenges related to logistics and storage. These issues need to be resolved and long-term rules implemented in order to realise the potential for negative emissions.

Continuing the collaboration on developing the combined heat and power system in Örebro will allow more people to benefit from a sustainable form of heating utilising energy that would otherwise be wasted, relieves the pressure on the electricity grid and will be able to contribute to negative emissions in the future.

3.4.2 Climate-neutral building and construction

There is ongoing cooperation between administrations and companies within the municipal group, as well as external stakeholders, in order to reduce the climate impact of construction. Up to now, we have focused on increasing the level of knowledge through discussions with external speakers such as Skanska, White Arkitekter and RISE. However, this work has also resulted in an increase in internal cooperation within the municipal group and an expanded external network of partners. During the spring, the stakeholders for the work package have also been involved in shaping the content of the construction focus area in the proposal for a new climate strategy. The next step in the development work is to run a training programme on climate calculations so as to increase knowledge still further.

One challenge identified for the continued development work is the fact that the current wordings of the planning provisions and the law against special technical requirements imposes restrictions when it comes to maintaining clear focus on climate-smart construction and making aggressive land allocations in the early stages. We are looking forward to working together to promote and develop smart wordings that create opportunities to drive the transition initiative.

3.4.3 Local transition opportunities

To encourage more sustainable consumption patterns, a collaboration between Örebro municipality, Örebro University and Örebro Föreningsråd (civil society) is in progress with a view to exploring how the sharing economy and reuse can become an integral part of life in different residential areas and residents' day-to-day lives. This includes infrastructure and other physical criteria, as well as the awareness, norms and choices of individuals and groups. This work is based on a number of questions that include identifying driving forces and barriers to sustainable consumption.

A number of focus group interviews with residents from different districts have been conducted in 2023 in order to highlight their attitudes towards sharing resources. The Civil Society for a Sustainable Örebro network has also been launched and focuses



on the climate challenge and what civil society stakeholders can do to assist with sustainable development by reducing/altering consumption, as well as how civil society stakeholders can inspire behavioural change on a broad front throughout society on account of their networks and the trust people have in them. The first network meeting began with inspiration from the latest research and was presented by Örebro University.

In 2024, the emphasis is on presenting relevant approaches for how various stakeholders can promote sustainable consumption, including how the municipality can support and reinforce transition among civil society and residents. Lessons learned and approaches need to be assimilated and integrated into climate strategy work.

3.4.4 Assembly of citizens

An assembly of citizens will take place in spring 2024 in collaboration with Örebro University and Örebro municipality. The assembly of citizens is based on the concept of deliberative discussions among a representative selection of residents, providing good opportunities for constructive dialogue on challenges related to sustainable societal development. The assembly of citizens aims to consolidate efforts as part of Climate-Neutral Örebro 2030 (that is, work done as part of the project's work packages) among the municipality's residents, reinforce residents' opportunities to exercise influence over the climate transition work in Örebro and reinforce knowledge within the work packages of residents' interests and skills. Evaluating the approach to implementation of the assembly of citizens will provide valuable insights into the methodology and whether it can be used in further dialogue with local residents to create participation, inclusion and commitment in the transition process.

3.5. Climate investment plan

For many years, finance operations in Örebro municipality have been working with sustainable investment of assets and the issuance of green bonds in order to fund climate-smart and sustainable investments within the municipal group. However, knowledge of climate investments as a tool for realising climate transition needs to be increased and the work developed if the climate goals are to be achieved. This work needs to be developed both internally within the Örebro municipal group and together with other stakeholders in order to create an overall view of the investments required for a transition to a climate-neutral and also climate-positive municipality.

Developing a method and approach for integrating the economic perspective into the climate transition is a priority area in the proposed new climate strategy. This is necessary in order to prioritise and invest in a direction that steps up the pace of climate transition. To invest wisely, measures and investments need to be analysed in terms of cost-effectiveness, potential for emission reduction and other parallel benefits (societal benefits), temporal perspectives and feasibility.



3.6. Digital support for implementation

Digitalisation and digital tools are enablers for a transition to a climate-neutral and sustainable municipality, and are identified in the proposal for a new climate strategy as one of a number of important perspectives for the climate transition. The availability of climate data and smart technologies can fundamentally change people's needs and behaviours, but smart technologies can also create opportunities to manage energy in buildings in entirely new ways, for example.

In the *A connected Örebro* network, which is also part of Climate-Neutral Örebro 2030, Örebro municipality together with its companies, Örebro University and AI Sweden are maintaining a continuous dialogue on how digitalisation/smart city technology can assist with the climate transition.

A good example to highlight is the collaboration of municipal property companies to drive and develop efforts to create a structured method, a framework and technical solutions for managing the production, storage and sharing of energy on a larger scale. Processes, procedures and specific tools are being developed, the smart city concept being built and developed under the leadership of the municipal group's property company. The long-term goal is to shift the system boundary from the individual property to the city as a whole.

There is a need to develop approaches in order to integrate digitalisation and digital tools into the climate transition to a greater extent, and we perceive digitalisation as a key function and an important perspective in the climate transition team suggested in the proposal for a new climate strategy.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

The Municipal Management Administration in Örebro municipality has an innovation team offering comprehensive strategic and operational support for innovative development within the municipality. This team is made up of trained innovation managers, one of whom holds RISE certification, and the team offers training programmes for management teams and working groups, support for innovative collaboration across borders (internally and externally) and other forms of coaching. Besides this overall support, the municipality also has a number of initiatives for more innovative development linked to test beds, for example.

With the assistance of the internal innovation team, collaboration can be developed both internally and with other external stakeholders. Örebro University, for example, has ORU Innovation Arena, an arena in which students and researchers work together with the business sector and the public sector for sustainable societal development; and Region Örebro County has a network of stakeholders who share an ambition to reinforce innovation work in the region. Different skills and tools are used to



lay the foundation for enhanced competitiveness from public, private and social perspectives.

Örebro municipality is intending to go on developing its innovative development initiatives in order to drive the climate transition as well as other societal development, both internally within the municipal group and together with other stakeholders. One important arena will be the climate transition team, as suggested in the proposal for a new climate strategy.

3.8. Climate change adaptation

Örebro municipality has had a climate change adaptation plan since 2020 in which flooding/cloudbursts and heatwaves take top priority. The measures in the plan are primarily exploratory in nature, as the greatest needs still involve gaining more precise knowledge of the consequences of climate change and how we can respond to them. Monitoring of the plan is taking place in 2023 and will indicate that there is still a great need for knowledge and that efforts to provide more in-depth knowledge of various extreme events and how they can be countered need to continue in a systematic manner. The municipality also needs to find organisational forms for managing and integrating all adaptation needs in respect of green structure and adaptation in the provision of premises, for example. Work is continuing on quality assurance and supplementation of the results of the flood models that have been used to identify relevant physical actions. The map data, from the heat mapping initiative conducted in 2021, is included as planning documentation in Örebro municipality's internal map. Important factors for reducing problems with heat include building location, the extent of surfaced areas, the amount of vegetation and the area of open stormwater solutions. This mapping has resulted in increased awareness of the problems. The flood models will need to carry on being developed in 2024, while development needs identified and highlighted in the monitoring of the climate change adaptation plan need to be addressed.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

There are two general approaches in the municipality's climate-smart mobility initiative. The first focuses on reducing the need for physical movement. This includes ensuring that people are close to destinations, focusing on existing centres and avoiding urban sprawl and providing good digital infrastructure. There is plenty of support for this development in the municipality's comprehensive plan. The second involves creating incentives that will ensure we choose walking, cycling, public transport or other sharing services over private cars when we need to get around. This involves a combination of carrot and stick, the objective being to make it easy to do the right thing.



A consolidated parliamentary initiative began in the spring of 2021 with a view to developing a new transport efficiency strategy (traffic strategy). This initiative has primarily been conducted within the municipal organisation, but it has been consolidated in a series of forums, including a member meeting with City Örebro and a workshop with neighbouring municipalities, the region and the Swedish Transport Administration. Work on the strategy, which involved senior politicians on the relevant committees, has been an important initiative for assimilating knowledge. The strategy is likely to be sent out for consultation by the end of 2023.

Besides developing a new transport efficiency strategy, another important point of focus has been to call attention to the fact that car parking is largely paid for by people other than the owners of cars. This involved conducting a questionnaire survey aimed at property owners and compiling a report that was presented to the relevant committees and at a national webinar.

The following initiatives are planned for 2024 in order to develop the work still further.

- Complete the transport efficiency strategy and supplement it with an implementation programme, which will include developing forms of cooperation with other stakeholders.
- Cooperation with property owners and housing associations in respect of parking issues. Knowledge exchanges will take place during the year, and ideally a pilot project as well.
- Influence major employers to encourage their staff to travel more sustainably. The idea and ambition is for the municipality and the region to challenge other employers to take action that influences employees' travel to and from work.
- ÖrebroBostäder is continuing to work on its new mobility strategy with a view to developing ways of persuading tenants to travel more sustainably.

3.10. Reporting and monitoring

At the time of writing, Örebro municipality is working on a new monitoring model that aims to highlight climate emissions from the Örebro municipal group and the geographical region, as well as reporting relevant indicators. This model is to be used for annual climate reporting. The purpose of the monitoring initiative is to present the extent of the emissions in broad terms so that we can understand what the main sources of emissions are and where the challenges lie. The content and structure of the monitoring model will change and be updated over time as there is a lot happening in the field and new knowledge is being developed as time goes by. Another ambition is to make the climate emissions from the municipal group and the geographical region more visual and accessible to the general public. As suggested in the proposal for a new climate strategy, the climate steering committee



is responsible for analysing the results of the annual climate monitoring initiative and taking action that will result in goals being achieved.

Besides what is stated above, internal climate action will also be followed up in situation analyses, interim reports and annual reports as part of the regular monitoring process in the municipality.

Every work package as part of Climate-Neutral Örebro 2030 will also be followed up by means of regular reviews and reporting to the project's steering committee.

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

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



and increase the benefits for recipients. The long-term goal of the portfolio analyses is to assist in efforts relating to cities' climate investment plans.

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

5.4. Participation in European sustainable cities initiatives

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

Efforts to support Swedish participation in the Horizon Europe 2021–2027 research programme include contributing to the formulation of activities and calls for proposals and providing information and advice to stakeholders who are planning to participate in applications regarding various European initiatives. The agencies are also cooperating on the implementation of the EU Regional Development Fund 2021–2027 with initiatives for sustainable urban development.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

⁷ The Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are participating.



6. Strategic development projects for 2024

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

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

6.1. Governance

Developments in climate transition governance, both at local level and between local, national and even EU level, are fundamental to broader mobilisation and more effective systemic changes. This involves coordinating and leading different stakeholders at different levels with a view to accelerating the climate transition and slowing climate change so that a sustainable future can be built. Governance refers to the process and structure of governing, managing and regulating an organisation, society or system. It considers how decisions are made, how authority and responsibilities are allocated, and how rules and guidelines are maintained and followed. This is a complex process involving political, economic, technical and social aspects, which in turn requires cooperation and commitment from a wide range of societal stakeholders.

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

The Climate City Contract is a new and innovative governance tool that is building a long-term strategic process from local to international level on the basis of the collective mission of achieving sustainable and climate neutral cities by 2030. Commitments from cities, agencies and other stakeholders are revised and refined every year, and implementation takes place in interaction between the public sector, 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

Since Örebro municipality signed the Climate City Contract 2030 in December 2022, extensive efforts have been made to revise and produce a new proposal for a *Climate Strategy for Örebro municipality*. The decision to send the proposal out for consultation will be made in October 2023, and the ambition is to make it possible for the climate strategy to be adopted by the municipal council in May 2024. The ambition of the climate strategy is to provide an general picture of the municipality's climate challenges within both the municipal group and the geographical region. There has been major emphasis on developing new approaches in order to create more action and energy in the transition process. Some of the new approaches suggested for implementation of the climate strategy include the introduction of a climate steering committee involving senior officials in the Örebro municipal group, working groups in six priority focus areas and a climate transition team.

7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

Construction of Örebro's new Tamarinden residential district is currently taking place. Tamarinden will be a sustainable and smart district characterised by new approaches and innovation. The area is to be designed to lay the foundation for a vibrant urban living space where people can meet up, and where green environments interact with buildings, movement and activity. Green courtyards free of car parking will create added value for residents, and the range of sustainable mobility solutions on offer should make cycling the most obvious choice for getting around. Tamarinden is also aiming to be an energy-smart district, the goal being to make it possible for the area to be able to reduce, produce, share and store energy in two local energy systems: one for electricity, one for heat. The purpose of this is to contribute more locally produced and renewable energy, to reduce power peaks and relieve pressure on the national grid, increase flexibility and save large amounts of energy. The energy system in Tamarinden can be viewed as a model of how to accelerate the energy transition in new building projects by being smart together. According to feasibility studies, Tamarinden's energy solutions could provide energy savings of 30 per cent and reduce the demand for power by 50 per cent. However, if Tamarinden is to be implemented with the highest aspirations, there are a number of challenges related to tax legislation and interpretation of regulations on networks



with exemption from network concessions. One key element of the climate transition in Örebro will be to scale up the Tamarinden concept and the opportunities following on from such an approach, the aim being to shift the system boundary from the individual property, to the residential district and on to the city as a whole.

7.3. Key updates for Viable Cities

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

7.3.1 The Climate City Contract process

Work has continued in 2023 on developing the role of Viable Cities as a facilitator of the Climate City Contract process in interaction with the 23 cities and 6 government agencies that are signatories to date. The accelerated learning platform has been further developed through the Viable Cities Transition Lab Forum, City Labs, Climate Breakfasts and a series of different formats for meetings between cities and government agencies and other stakeholders. Interaction with the signing government agencies has also been developed in order to further extend the Climate City Contract 2030 process. In parallel, work has continued in the 23 cities on developing different forms of local climate contracts as part of mobilising local transition arenas with companies, the public sector, the academic community and research institutes and civil society. Mobilisation at EU level with the 112 cities that are pioneers in the Climate-Neutral Cities 2030 mission has also involved a process of establishing Climate City Contracts with the participation of Viable Cities. Viable Cities perceives an increased need to create synergies and work on developing support for learning between cities and further developing interfaces between local, national and international levels. The aim of all this is to reinforce the collective capacity for transition.

7.3.2 Strategic efforts prior to new programme phase

Scaling up relevant initiatives in various ways for greater impact and to increase the pace of transition is a crucial element in Viable Cities' work going forward. It is also clear that further work needs to be done in a situation in which multiple crises coincide with the climate crisis. Extensive strategy work took place during the year in preparation for the next multi-year phase of the programme. In October, Viable Cities submitted an application to become one of the programmes under the new, mission-oriented Impact Innovation programme. In parallel, documentation is being



submitted for the next phase as a strategic innovation programme in which an evaluation of the first six years of the programme has been completed. In various ways, Viable Cities has also provided input for the Government's forthcoming climate policy action plan and the forthcoming research and innovation bill and contributed to SALAR's planning⁸ of how municipalities and regions can improve and intensify their efforts on climate change adaptation and reduced climate impact.

7.3.3 Strategic upscaling and acceleration initiatives

Continued development work on climate investments for the transition for cities has taken place both in Sweden and in European cooperation as part of the work on Climate City Contracts. Dialogue with relevant financial stakeholders has also been developed in this regard. Digitalisation efforts were also intensified during the year, and November saw the establishment of the Urban Twin Transition Centre in collaboration with Viable Cities. Work has also begun on preparing processes for enhanced citizen engagement/participation in order to create methods and insights that can be used by many cities. A Just Transitions graduate school was launched at Linköping University during the year, in cooperation with Viable Cities. Lund University, in collaboration with Viable Cities, has also launched a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC): Cities, Climate and Change: Pathways and Opportunities. Work on storytelling and communication for transition has also undergone further development. The next step in developing a new form of intervention known as System Demonstrators has been taken with funding from Vinnova and Viable Cities for two system demonstrators: CoAct in Lund, which is focusing on both sustainable mobility and energy-positive districts, and SnabbSam in Stockholm, which is focusing on a fossil-free city centre. Other cities are keen to join in with these collective learning efforts. Fifteen feasibility studies have been funded as part of Viable Cities in order to 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

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

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



address the “implementation gap” and the systemic challenges that individual cities’ climate efforts could never handle alone.

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

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

7.4. Key updates for the government agencies

The agencies have worked jointly on four innovation processes in 2023 as part of Climate City Contract 2030. Four challenges have been identified for policy labs as part of Smart Policy Development. System demonstrators for climate neutral cities are being trialled in two cities. A local portfolio analysis method has been trialled and scaled up. Climate City Contracts as a model for developed governance have been analysed in depth.

7.4.1 Smart policy development

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



the workshops, processing the data that emerged and planning for future work. All the work involved forms of exploration and learning, with everyone involved.

7.4.2 System demonstrators

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

7.4.3 Local portfolio analyses

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

7.4.4 Greater collaboration between agencies

In 2023, the agencies forming the Sustainable Cities Council have been granted funding from the European Regional Development Fund's National Programme to develop a more operational inter-authority collaboration platform. This collaboration platform has been named Svensk modell för hållbar urban utveckling, the Swedish Model for Sustainable Urban Development. The aim of this is to focus on the more operational efforts of the agencies and develop a coordinated and joint initiative to reinforce the municipalities' capacity for innovation. The Sustainable Cities Council decided to review in 2023 how the Council can be strengthened in its role as a strategic forum and provide a framework for the operational collaboration platform Swedish Model for Urban Sustainable Development and Climate City Contract 2030 as a joint innovation and test lab for the 23 cities and agencies, as well as other related initiatives identified. The aim of this was to increase synergies and learning between several of the agencies' related assignments and initiatives.

7.4.5 Climate City Contracts as a governance model

Developments in climate transition governance, both at local level and between local, national and even EU level, are fundamental criteria for broader mobilisation and more effective systemic changes. In 2023, collaboration between agencies – with analytical support by Vinnova – focused on governance issues in particular A strategic analysis project entitled "Klimatomställning av städer – en svensk modell för att öka takten i omställning" (Climate transition of cities – a Swedish model to



increase the pace of transition) was conducted in close cooperation with Viable Cities, and with the active participation of both the agencies and the cities. From an operational perspective, it has been possible to devise the term “governance” for climate transition on the basis of practical experience from the last two decades. Governance is used when an authority needs to go beyond what it can directly control in order to realise a goal, which also involves systemic shifts from piecemeal operations to a holistic approach to public administration. In governance, the authority collaborates with the business sector, civil society and the academic community.

9. The contract

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

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Örebro 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.

John Johansson

Mayor,
Örebro municipality

Olga Kordas

Programme Director,
Viable Cities

Robert Andrén

Director General,
the Swedish Energy Agency

Darja Isaksson

Director General,
Vinnova

Johan Kuylenstierna

Director General,
Formas

Elisabeth Backteman

Director General,
the Swedish Agency for
Economic and Regional Growth

Roberto Maiorana

Director General,
the Swedish Transport
Administration

Björn Risinger

Director General,
the Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency



Appendix 1 – Links to documents

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

- [Climate City Contract 2030 Örebro version 2022](#)
- [Our sustainable Örebro – Development agenda with goals for 2050 and sub-goals for 2030](#)
- [Our future Örebro – Overview plan for Örebro municipality](#)
- [Shared responsibility for the future of Örebro – The municipal leadership in Örebro's overall strategies and budget for 2024 with plans for 2025–2027](#)
- [Climate strategy for Örebro municipality](#)
- [Climate adaptation plan Örebro municipality](#)
- [Traffic program for Örebro municipality](#)