

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Gävle Municipality and the government agencies 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.

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1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030

The purpose of this Climate City Contract is to accelerate the pace of the climate transition in cities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, while contributing to the recovery of the Swedish economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The Climate City Contract expresses the partners' intention to raise the level of ambition in sustainable urban development and climate transition. The Climate City Contract also provides Sweden and Swedish cities with a good foundation to be international role models for climate transition in cities. This will be achieved through mutual, long-term commitment to efforts on the part of the undersigned government agencies, the Viable Cities innovation programme, and the city/municipal authority as set out below.

2. Parties

Parties in the Climate City Contract 2030 are:

- Gävle Municipality.
- The government agencies: The Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.
- The Viable Cities strategic innovation programme.¹

3. Municipal commitments

3.1 Municipal climate goals

Gävle Municipality shall be a sustainable municipality from a social, ecological and economic perspective. Gävle shall reduce the ecological footprint of its operations and of its population, so as not to burden the planet's finite resources. Gävle as a geographical location is climate-neutral by 2035 and climate-positive by 2040. Gävle has also decided that the goal should include consumption-based emissions, i.e. emissions that Gävle Municipality gives rise to through consumption by citizens, the public and private sectors, wherever in the world they occur. The goal was adopted in *Miljöstrategiska programmet/Strategic Environmental Programme 2.0* from 2020. The general goals for a climate-neutral municipality are as follows:

¹ Viable Cities is a strategic innovation programme funded jointly by the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova and Formas. The programme runs 2017–2030 and has approximately 130 members. The host organization is KTH Royal Institute of Technology.



Gävle as a geographical location is a climate-neutral municipality, where absorption of greenhouse gases (GHGs) is equal to or greater than emissions.

Cycling, walking and public transport are the most common modes of transport, and Gävle is one of Sweden's best cities for cycling. Transport undertaken by motorized vehicles takes place with electrically powered vehicles or is fuelled by renewable fuels, as well as smart mobility solutions such as car pools.

The energy used comes from renewable sources and is largely produced locally. The people who live and work in Gävle are economical with the energy that is used, whether electricity, heating, or energy use for transport and production.

All construction in Gävle Municipality uses sustainable materials, and lays the foundation for residents and businesses to live and operate in an environmentally sustainable way, and materials used for building projects in the municipality are chosen based on life cycle assessments. Residents and businesses are provided with the right conditions to live and operate in an environmentally sustainable way so as to minimize water and energy use, ensure optimal recycling, contribute to sustainable travel, and more.

A significant proportion of the food is plant-based and farmed and produced locally, and consumption is mainly plant-based.

Society is based on circular resource management, and is optimized to allow effective reuse of all types of resources.

3.2 Strategy

Färdplan klimatneutralt Gävle 2035/Roadmap for a Climate Neutral Gävle by 2035 is part of Strategic Environmental Programme 2.0, and aims to describe how the decided goals should be achieved. One success factor for achieving results in work on the roadmap is that the Municipality is prepared to work long-term, set clear priorities, and add resources. Another important aspect relates to knowledge, education, and the ability to explain and create understanding.

As a major purchaser and employer, and as a responsible municipality that oversees land and land development, Gävle Municipality has an important job to do in reducing emissions from its own operations, influencing others in the right direction, and also making it easier for businesses, citizens and others to make the best choices for the climate and environment. The Municipality's actions are extremely important, not only in achieving ongoing emission reductions, but in showing that a transition is possible.

The Climate Roadmap shows that two areas in particular need to be prioritized in the work ahead:



The transport sector's emissions must decrease dramatically, primarily through a rapid transition to sustainable means of travel such as public transport, cycling, walking and fossil-free vehicles. Public transport and the cycling infrastructure will continue to be extended, and more charging points and renewable-fuel stations will be added in the municipality.

We must increase the rate of transition in the construction industry, where steel, cement and transport account for the majority of emissions. The Municipality will introduce spoil management and building material logistics, and place higher demands on fuel, materials and recycling in the construction process.

The majority of emissions in Gävle Municipality come from the transport sector. This is why the Climate Roadmap focuses on actions in this area. We need to plan for a society that reduces the need for transport and streamlines travel, and we need to lay the foundation for inhabitants and businesses to refuel fossil-free or charge their electric vehicle.

The construction and real estate sector is responsible for emissions on almost the same scale as the transport sector, but the majority of the emissions do not occur within the Municipality's boundaries. Spoil management, civil engineering work and building materials, primarily steel and cement, are major sources of emissions that have only come to light quite recently.

The Municipality can influence a lot of these emissions in the planning process, but some must be dealt with via technical development, such as fossil-free steel. The Municipality will also work actively to increase recycling in the construction sector, in order to reduce the need for virgin material.

Since the Roadmap for a Climate Neutral Gävle was adopted in 2021, the strategy has been to scale up efforts to gain resources and knowledge in order to meet the ambitious goals. We have prioritized joining initiatives such as Viable Cities and Net Zero Cities. During 2022, we have gained both more human resources to drive the climate issue and also valuable knowledge through our participation in Viable Cities.

3.3 Organization and management

The Strategic Environmental Programme is one of four strategic programmes: *Översiktsplan Gävle/Gävle Comprehensive Plan, Näringslivsprogram/Business & Commercial Programme*, the Strategic Environmental Programme, and *Socialt hållbarhetsprogram/Social Sustainability Programme*. All of the programmes are governing documents for the municipal group at an overall level.

The Municipal Executive Board is responsible for the Strategic Environmental Programme's timetable, and for disseminating, revising and monitoring the programme. Within the Gävle municipal group, it is the managers who have responsibility for



implementation, and for ensuring that the actions contribute to achieving the goals. The annual operational plans should contain a description of how the operation intends to work in order to meet the overall goal – An ecologically sustainable and climate-neutral municipality – and other goals in the Strategic Environmental Programme. Committees and boards shall implement actions with the funds provided within the framework and with their own funds. As part of their ordinary process and budget, each committee, company and operation shall govern and monitor its operation to ensure the goals are achieved. Both investments and operations-related decisions should underpin the journey towards being a climate-neutral place.

Collaboration with other organizations, government agencies and business is crucial if the goals are to be achieved. National and regional investments that benefit the Municipality are other important resources.

3.4 Collaboration with business, academia and citizens

In 2017, Gävle started a network called *Hållbart Näringsliv/Sustainable Business*, inspired by Uppsala's Climate Protocol. More than 40 local companies took part in the activities and the challenges issued as part of the initiative. The process was put on hold during the pandemic, but will be resumed under new forms in 2023, when commitments relating to collaboration on Climate City Contracts on a local level from Net Zero Cities and Viable Cities will be more central. The initiative will also take on a more regional focus to capture the 'belt' of industries between the Port of Gävle and Borlänge; these companies form a kind of joint labour market and therefore face the same challenges linked to mobility, logistics and energy. The initiative has been named *Gästrikland klimatavtal/Gästrikland Climate City Contract* (Gästrikland being Gävle's home province), and is intended not only for trade and industry but also the municipalities, academia and civil society.

Gävle's application included a citizen-oriented campaign to raise awareness of consumption-based emissions, in which we are working alongside the company Svalna and its app, which we will use in outreach campaign work in 2023.

3.5 Climate Investment Plan

In order to achieve the Municipality's climate goals, work on investments and financing has been intensified during 2022. Gävle has begun the process of systematically identifying the need for investment to achieve the climate goals, and how climate aspects and added values can better be highlighted in current planning and budget processes. An overarching gap analysis has begun in order to better understand and anchor climate aspects into different policies and action plans, and to identify key players and the need for institutional capacity to develop shared roadmaps and climate investment plans.



The purpose is both to put an economic value on the climate benefits of the transition, and to clarify how these contribute to other sustainability goals. This involves gradually implementing socioeconomic effects of climate investments.

The Municipality has built on the work begun in the Viable Cities joint development project focusing on climate investment plans. The focus is on portfolio management, the land development process, and on transport and mobility, and we have drafted proposals on interventions in the planning and budget process in order to steer towards set climate goals.

In Gävle Municipality, all major investments over the past 18 months have been financed using 'green loans'.

Gävle Municipality intends to intensify efforts to prepare joint climate investment plans during 2023 for our prioritized areas.

We will also look into how a framework for green bonds might work for financing future investments in a more sustainable way, and with a clear structure for reporting the climate performance of the investments.

3.6 Digital support for implementation

Future Position X and the University of Gävle have developed an app called MyGävle, part of the BIG research project focusing on individual, social and ecological health. Users with the app can register good and bad experiences in Gävle, and the researchers can see how places in Gävle relate to the participants' health and well-being. The results can then be used in urban planning to improve people's living environments.

Gävle has begun collaborating with the company Svalna AB within the framework of the Viable Cities project, the aim being to raise awareness among citizens of emissions linked to them individually. During 2023, a campaign on sustainable lifestyles will be launched as part of this collaboration.

Gävle uses Climate IOS, with the ambition of using it as a digital climate roadmap. Climate IOS makes it easier for us to visualize the transition, and to work on goals and actions for the transition. Climate IOS can provide support in efforts to prepare climate investment plans.

Interest in digitalization in Gävle is growing, and will be an important aspect of efforts at Gävle Innovation Hub.



3.7 Innovation hub for climate-neutral municipalities

During its first year as part of Viable Cities, Gävle has focused heavily on building an Innovation Team in the Governance & Support sector. We have arranged two municipal group-wide workshops to define the current situation and a future vision. In the second workshop we focused on the urban transformation project in the Näringen district, to see how we might work innovatively across the municipal organization.

Gävle Innovation Hub is in the process of developing into a kind of science park for smart, sustainable cities where the academic, commercial and public sectors come together. The aim is to reduce the gap between academia, business and the public sector. The hub will focus on two areas:

- What needs does the Municipality have that can be met through research or innovation in the academic or commercial sector?
- How can research more quickly be translated into products or services?

3.8 Climate adaptation

In 2021, Gävle Municipality was hit by torrential rain that broke several Swedish records and is commonly referred to as a once-in-a-millennium downpour. Even before the downpour, Gävle Municipality was working on climate adaptation through steering documents such as a Storm Water Policy and Strategic Environmental Programme, but the downpour has of course added an extra element of urgency. Two of the cornerstones the efforts rest on today are the municipal planning tasks of focusing more in-depth on the city's green and blue spaces, and formulating a Climate Adaptation Plan with the entire municipal group. The plan will propose actions for both the long and short term.

In another move linked to climate adaptation, the investment budget was raised by SEK 100 million. The Municipality's work on new construction will continue to be evolved, especially bearing in mind the enhanced knowledge and improved modelling tools brought about by the torrential downpour of 2021. Existing buildings and infrastructure are a major challenge in the ongoing process; new models, tools, processes and forms of collaboration need to be invented as they do not currently exist in Sweden.

Gävle Municipality is also taking part in a project to find broader solutions. For example it is part of a research project involving the banking and finance industry to look at the potential for climate declarations for buildings. Another research project focuses more specifically on solutions for properties. Jointly, these projects have shown how important it is not to forget to work with actual buildings when it comes to climate adaptation; the approach could be both cheaper and more resilient than the



larger-scale plans used by many municipalities. It is hoped that the research projects can be reported in 2023 and that new ones can begin.

3.9 Climate-smart mobility

As in many other municipalities, transport accounts for a high proportion of carbon dioxide emissions in Gävle Municipality, around 70%. Many of the actions in the Roadmap for a Climate Neutral Gävle therefore focus on the transport sector. The roadmap looks at the transport sector from three different perspectives: Sustainable Transport Development, Streamlining, and Changing Fuel. The Municipality aims to take a holistic approach to sustainable mobility and is planning for a transport system that is (space) efficient, carbon neutral, equal, and safe. A new Transport Strategy that addresses these challenges will be produced. The development of Näringen, a new train station – Gävle Västra, and the Tolvfors logistics park, present new opportunities for working with sustainable mobility and logistics, which can be integrated with this work. It does, however, also present challenges in the construction phase linked to spoil management, building logistics and emissions from heavy machinery, which we need to address.

Gävle has long been at the forefront when it comes to extending the charging infrastructure, and four charging stations for heavy vehicles will be built during 2023. In 2022 the Municipality adopted guidelines for extending the charging infrastructure in public spaces and there is great interest from the business sector to make this happen as soon as possible. Also in 2022, we drafted a land strategy for charging and refuelling infrastructure, in which we defined where these locations need to be in the future, based on what land is available.

A new cycle plan for Gävle Municipality was adopted in 2020. The ambition is to double the number of journeys by bicycle by 2025. The base value is 5,735 cyclists (2018) measured at specific points around Gävle. The aim is that one-third of all journeys should be by (a) bicycle, (b) car, and (c) walking and public transport. Gävle shall be one of Sweden's Best Cycling Cities 2025 in the ranking carried out by Cykelfrämjandet, Sweden's national cycling advocacy organization.

Gävle Municipality has produced a template for mobility investigations, the purpose being that mobility issues are highlighted and are in line with the Municipality's ambitions in land development contracts. It was implemented during 2021. The question of mobility also needs to be highlighted at an even earlier stage, to avoid development in locations where it will be hard to achieve sustainable mobility. When a mobility investigation is conducted, it has already been decided the site is to be developed, so additional guidelines are therefore needed to introduce this at an even earlier stage. This will be part of Gävle Municipality's new portfolio management for urban development, which is being gradually introduced in 2023.



A new mobility norm for Gävle was adopted in 2021. It is a guiding document for all parties in the planning and building permission process. The aim is to clarify the need for mobility and parking, and to show what alternatives to parking can be deployed to reduce the requirement to own a car and with it the need for parking.

Evolution of the mobility concept in the Municipality's 'mobility buildings' and future mobility hubs lays a good foundation for reducing car traffic in favour of alternative modes of transport or fossil-free transport. There is often very little incentive for private contractors to erect 'mobility buildings' in residential areas. The Municipality's parking company, Gävle Parkeringsservice AB, has therefore developed the concept of 'green mobility procurement' as a form of funding when building new facilities, enabling the buildings to be operated at a profit. The first mobility building, Pralinen, which is coming into use in December 2022, includes a car and bicycle pool, a drone landing site, delivery lockers and mini recycling centre.

Further actions covered in the Climate Roadmap which are likely to be begun in 2023 are updating the Transport Strategy and updating parking charges. Work will also continue on preparing a new Public Transport Strategy, a process begun as part of Viable Cities.

3.10 Reporting and follow-up

The indicators and actions in the Strategic Environmental Programme will be followed up annually in an 'environmental audit'. The Municipal Executive Board is responsible for the collective annual follow-up. Climate Neutral municipality, Robust Ecosystems, and Clean, Toxin-Free Everyday have one or more indicators which show if the goal is going to be achieved.

Within the programme, responsible committees and boards have been appointed for goals and/or follow-up of indicators. Each committee and board reports to the Municipal Executive Board regarding the goals for which they are responsible.

Follow-up will be presented both verbally and digitally by the responsible committees and boards. Follow-up is presented annually online.

4. Viable Cities' commitments

The innovation programme Viable Cities is implemented in a broad collaboration in order to contribute to the transition to climate-neutral cities by 2030 as part of Sweden's commitment to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and the aims of the Paris Agreement. This includes being international role models for climate transition in cities.



Viable Cities works with a wide range of stakeholders across disciplinary boundaries, industries and societal sectors. The programme connects centres of research excellence with large, small and medium-sized enterprises in a range of industries, as well as with public sector and civil society organizations.

Within the framework of Viable Cities' strategic innovation role, the programme shall strive to achieve the following:

4.1. Better regulation

Viable Cities intends to create competence support with policy labs to provide the municipality with a better overview of current and proposed Swedish and European legislation, regulation and standards of relevance to the cities' climate transition. This includes process support for changing regulations and standards to facilitate the climate transition in practice. In the initial phase, this will be linked to work to develop system demonstrators (see Section 6).

4.2. Innovation

In order to make it easier for the municipality to implement innovations that can accelerate the pace of climate transition, Viable Cities will provide a competence network and process support, including by engaging other strategic innovation programmes in the ongoing development of Climate City Contract 2030, particularly in the areas of mobility, energy, built environment, the circular economy, health and digitalization. Based on the collaboration agreement on climate-smart mobility signed with the strategic innovation programme Drive Sweden, this area of collaboration will be further developed with both cities and government agencies, not least the Swedish Transport Administration.

4.3. Coordinated funding

Viable Cities will work in the following ways to support the municipality's funding needs for the climate transition and to promote collaboration and synergies between government agencies and other stakeholders that fund climate transition and sustainable urban development.

- Viable Cities shall continue to work with Climate City Contract 2030 with the 23 cities and five government agencies involved in the programme.
- Through the Council for Sustainable Cities, Viable Cities has launched a collaboration to create synergies between urban climate transition grants from government agencies and Climate City Contract 2030. The agencies are currently working to coordinate the various initiatives under way in the field of sustainable urban development, see Section 5.3 Coordinated funding.



- Viable Cities collaborates with Kommuninvest and the European Investment Bank (EIB) among others in order to develop forms for strengthening the long-term funding of municipal climate investment plans.

Viable Cities continues to develop forms for climate investment plans for cities, the aim being to support all cities in their efforts towards climate neutrality by 2030.

4.4. Cooperation with the EU Cities Mission

Viable Cities cooperates closely with the support structures built up around the EU's Cities Mission – including the NetZeroCities platform (an EU mission platform), CapaCITIES (a network of national nodes), and the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership programme.

5. Commitments by the government agencies

The government agencies commit to collaborating within the strategic innovation programme Viable Cities. The agencies thereby contribute to the purpose of the mission-led work to transition to climate-neutral cities by 2030 with a good life for all within planetary boundaries.

Climate City Contract 2030 means that new working methods need to be developed, both between different actors and organizations, and between different levels of governance.

During 2023, the agencies will continue to develop work in the interagency innovation team. Continued dialogue with cities and regions is important in order to capture needs and contribute to systems transition. This work entails active participation in the Transition Lab Forum facilitated by Viable Cities, in which joint workshops, reflective discussions and teaching seminars are important aspects. New working methods may also entail that government agencies initiate experiments and pilot projects.

The agencies undertake to continue joint efforts to support the municipalities' climate transition in the following areas in 2023:

5.1. A learning approach in policy development

The government agencies work together to create the conditions for proactive dialogue and learning regarding policy development, and existing and proposed regulations on sustainable urban development and climate transition.



During 2023, the agencies will explore and test forms, such as policy labs, for identifying obstacles and challenges in policy and regulations for sustainable urban development and climate transition.

The authorities will continue to contribute to activities that promote the development of climate investment plans, digitalization and data sharing, system demonstrators and collaboration processes that relate to multi-level governance.

During Sweden's EU Presidency in the first half of 2023, the government agencies will be involved in several of the 150 or so EU meetings to be held in Sweden. The meetings are forums for learning and policy development, and cities and regions are important participants. Planned discussions include the EU's urban agenda on sustainable urban development and a conference on Green Cities.

5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development

The government agencies fund initiatives for research, innovation, development and systems innovation that support accelerated climate transition.

The agencies' funding focuses on different types of research, innovation, application and demonstration, and to some extent investment support. Funding is provided through open calls and other forms, such as client networks, needs-owner networks and innovation procurement.

As part of the transition process, the agencies² and Viable Cities have launched an initiative on urban system demonstrators. During autumn 2022, an initial 'design phase' was carried out as part of the initiative. A follow-up call will be made in 2023. The purpose of the effort is to create a form of initiative that takes a clearer systems perspective to the transition process.

5.3. Coordinated funding

To create better foresight and centralized information, the government agencies continuously develop coordination of the various efforts under way in the field of sustainable urban development and climate transition. Development takes place within the framework of several of the agencies' existing tasks and assignments, such as the Council for Sustainable Cities, strategic innovation programmes, the national research programmes for climate and sustainable community building, as well as the European Regional Development Fund.

During 2022, the agencies have begun initial tests with some of the cities, in order to develop, in dialogue, a method for portfolio analysis of the agencies' collective funding for cities. The innovation work is planned to continue in 2023. The long-term goal is for the work to contribute to work on cities' climate investment plans.

² Vinnova



Hallbarstad.se is the Council for Sustainable Cities central website. Development work on the website will continue in 2023, partly to publicize upcoming funding opportunities, and partly to make it clearer and more user-friendly.

5.4. Participation in European initiatives for sustainable cities

The government agencies are involved in and work with several different European initiatives to support the development of sustainable cities and communities.

Work to support Swedish participation in the Horizon Europe 2021–2027 research programme includes contributing to the design of calls and activities, and informing and advising actors planning to take part in applications for different European efforts. The government agencies also collaborate in the execution of the EU's Regional Development Fund 2021–2027 with efforts for sustainable urban development.

The agencies will continue to collaborate in the Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future Partnership³, where there will be calls and other activities in the field of sustainable urban development in the years to come, as well as the European Commission's New European Bauhaus⁴ initiative, the European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁵ and URBACT⁶.

The agencies will also contribute to develop support functions for the cities selected to participate in the Cities Mission. One example is the CapaCITIES⁷ programme. Through CapaCITIES, national change processes are initiated and strengthened to establish national networks and governance structures.

6. Strategic development projects 2023

The following strategic development projects will be conducted during 2023 within the framework of Viable Cities Transition Lab in collaboration with other municipalities, with the aim of further developing the content of the Climate City Contract 2030 during its upcoming revision.

³ The Swedish Energy Agency, Formas and Vinnova

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

⁵ The European Urban Initiative is a hub for sustainable urban development on an EU level. The EUI will offer funding for cities to improve and increase their capacity in designing strategies, policies and projects for sustainable urban development (urban-initiative.eu).

⁶ URBACT is a European collaboration programme for exchange and learning in sustainable urban development, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth,

⁷ the Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are taking part.



6.1. System demonstrations

In collaboration with the involved government agencies, Viable Cities is developing a new form of initiative to drive systems innovation for transformation in line with the Cities Mission. A system demonstrator will be conducted to demonstrate the transition of entire social systems in a real-life environment. An important part of this kind of approach is a portfolio of efforts where new solutions, models, initiatives and experiments are linked to a greater whole. Many actors from different sectors are being mobilized in order to learn how to scale up. The system demonstrators start from central areas in the Climate City Contract 2030 and are intended to contribute to revisions of the contract based on insights arising from the work.

During 2022, Vinnova and Viable Cities have jointly begun a design phase to explore how system demonstrators can be a powerful tool in the transition to climate-neutral cities. In collaboration with a number of cities, six consortiums began the design phase in autumn 2022. A call is planned during 2023 for the establishment phase, with the ambition of enabling a number of system demonstrators in Sweden. In tandem, four system demonstrators are being planned Bogotá (Colombia), Bristol (UK), Curitiba (Brazil) and Makindye Ssabgabo (Uganda) within the Climate Smart Cities Challenge alongside UN-Habitat. The aim is to strengthen the exchange of experiences between system demonstrators both nationally and internationally in 2023.

6.2. Competitiveness and funding

One of the foundations of mission-oriented innovation is that the state and public organizations at different levels of society play an active role in co-creating and redesigning markets in collaboration with business and other players in society, such as academia and civil society. Concerted mobilization for the transition to climate neutrality can lay the foundation for companies in Sweden to develop new business strategies that enhance competitiveness by driving a transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral society. This is crucial to Sweden's ambition of being the world's first fossil-free welfare nation, and to our climate policy framework. During 2023, Viable Cities will further strengthen its collaboration with business in order to muster forces for transition. This will take place on several levels, particularly through collaboration in initiatives such as Fossil Free Sweden and The Green Transition Leap. In addition, there will be development to strengthen the local mobilization of companies in the Climate City Contract 2030.

A central aspect of the Climate City Contract 2030 is to create a Climate Investment Plan with a broad perspective on what investments need to be made to achieve climate transition in a city by 2030 (with broad referring to a wide range of stakeholders such as citizens, civil society, companies, academia and public organizations). The municipality is believed to have control over about 15% of the required investments on average. One crucial task is to bring together the right actors from business



(including the financial sector), public bodies and civil society to bring about the necessary investment and redirect financial flows to transition to climate neutrality, while also securing auxiliary benefits from the climate transition such as jobs, improved health, inclusivity and attractive living environments. Procurement is also a pivotal issue here. Viable Cities' work will continue in 2023 in order to secure the mobilization of investments and develop methods for climate investment plans.

6.3. Citizen engagement

Various societal challenges currently exist, adding further crises to the climate crisis. For example the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, crises relating to energy, food, raw materials and critical minerals, biodiversity and demographics. This also presents a demographic challenge where a growing percentage of the population feels excluded.

This increases the need for efforts aiming at inclusivity, and at putting citizens front and centre for the transition to climate neutrality and a sustainable society, for instance through new forms for citizen involvement (e.g. citizens' councils) and the development of attractive living environments (e.g. New European Bauhaus). During 2023, Viable Cities will further develop collaboration with cities, government agencies and other actors in order to create conditions for citizen engagement in the climate transition. This will be done primarily by developing new forms for citizen involvement in local climate city contracts and collaboration with European efforts in the area.

6.4. International Cities Mission 2030

In October 2021, the EU launched five missions as a new and innovative approach to working together to improve the lives of people in Europe and beyond. The five missions are intended to tackle major societal challenges such as health, climate and the environment and to formulate ambitious goals and deliver solutions by 2030. One of these missions is 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 – by and for the citizens (known as the Cities Mission), an important element of the delivery of the European Green Deal and a climate-neutral continent by 2050. This will considerably strengthen Swedish efforts to achieve climate-neutral cities by 2030 and to utilize the Climate City Contract 2030 as a tool to do so.

During 2023, work will be done to further strengthen links between Swedish and joint European efforts to achieve climate-neutral cities by 2030. This will take place within a range of initiatives involving cities, government agencies and the Viable Cities programme; for example, NetZeroCities (a platform for the implementation of the Cities Mission which will be developing e.g. an EU Climate City Contract and climate investment plans), the Driving Urban Transition Partnership, CapaCITIES, New European Bauhaus and others. Launched by the European Commission in January 2021, the New European Bauhaus initiative connects the European Green Deal to our



built environment. In the implementation plan for the Cities Mission, the European Commission highlights that the EU Climate City Contract will also enable participating cities to integrate and promote the values and the principles of the New European Bauhaus initiative in their plans for climate neutrality. The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (through the Council for Sustainable Cities) has been tasked by the Government with coordinating Swedish participation in New European Bauhaus.

Work on achieving climate-neutral cities by 2030 will continue to be developed globally. This will primarily be based on several already ongoing projects, e.g. linked to Sweden's EU Presidency in the first half of 2023, and the continuation of the Climate Smart Cities Challenge in the four cities outside of the EU in association with UN-Habitat.

7. Joint monitoring, evaluation and updating

Viable Cities and the municipality agree to conduct an annual review of the municipality's results within the framework of Climate City Contract 2030. Viable Cities shall prepare documentation for annual follow-up at municipal and national levels

7.1. Most important updates for the municipality

During 2022, the Transition Team has been reinforced with a new strategist who will develop the Gästrikland Climate City Contract, and a strategist who will focus on sustainability assurance of the planning process. This increases the reach of our team and our ability to fulfil our commitments. Being part of Viable Cities enables us to drive the climate transition on a whole new level. Joint Viable Cities activities, awareness of how far the other municipalities have come, how they have implemented different initiatives and the ability to work jointly on various challenges – all of this increases our understanding and capacity.

Gävle was also one of the 100 cities to become part of the EU's Net Zero Cities initiative. We look forward to even closer collaboration with them during 2023. Along with Borlänge, we have submitted an application to Call for Pilot Cities. The cooperation with Borlänge, which has intensified during 2022 thanks to Viable Cities, is a valuable addition on which we want to build in 2023.

Gävle has begun work on climate investment plans with Anthesis sustainability consultants. This is difficult, far-reaching work, but we have been well supported by the CFO.



Continued work on the planning process is a priority for us, and during 2023 we will focus on:

- Improving the demand specification with updated guidelines for land allocation
- An accompanying checklist for sustainable construction, and
- More coherent governance in line with our strategic goals, including Climate Neutral Gävle 2035 by applying portfolio management

We would like to see this being done jointly among the various Viable Cities, as no single municipality seems yet to have this fully in place.

7.2. Most urgent experiences to share for the municipality

There is a lot that Gävle can share, since we have long experience of strategic environmental work. These are some of the areas we have been working on more recently. Gävle has formulated a mobility norm which replaces the parking norm. It has garnered a lot of attention nationally, since we shift the focus from parking to mobility and lay the foundation for very low parking figures. Linked to this, Gävle Parkeringservice AB has developed a concept known as 'green mobility procurement', whereby building contractors can buy themselves out of building car parks. Instead, Gävle Parkeringservice assumes responsibility for this and builds what are known as 'mobility buildings'.

In 2022 we adopted guidelines for charging infrastructure in order to accelerate the extension of charging infrastructure in the city. We have also procured a 'micromobility' service, whereby a company is able to offer scooters and electric bikes at specific locations in the city.

We would also like to mention the Port of Gävle's ambitious action plan entitled Energy Optimized Port Cluster 2030, a ten-year programme with the main goal of achieving national and county requirements on CO2 reduction and energy efficiency, in line with the Paris Agreement and the 1.5°C target.

7.3. Most important updates regarding Viable Cities

During 2022, far-reaching efforts have been made to lay a good foundation for all 23 signatory cities to deepen their work on the Cities Mission, as 14 cities were added in October 2021. The platform for faster learning has been evolved through the Viable Cities Transition Lab Forum, City Labs, Climate Breakfasts and a range of other formats for meetings between cities, government agencies and other actors. The collaboration with the signatory government agencies has been enhanced so as to further hone the Climate City Contract 2030 process. Viable Cities has also provided documentation for the government's task relating to local and regional climate



transition, which is one of the foundations for the government's upcoming climate policy action plan.

During the year, efforts to develop practical, research-based tools and methods for climate investment plans have intensified. An initial prototype of a calculation tool has been available to all 23 signatory cities since October. Development of the system demonstrator concept also continued during the year, and in the autumn a design phase for a brand new effort was launched in a partnership between Vinnova and Viable Cities, which involves several cities.

During 2022, Viable Cities has had responsibility for a government assignment, Thriving North (support for innovation work for sustainable urban and community development in Norrbotten and Västerbotten). An initial prototype of a regional climate contract has been developed with a working group of representatives from the regions and county administrative boards in Västerbotten and Norrbotten. Moreover, a platform for regional societal transition has been initiated in northern Sweden. The platform is called Thriving North, and is now being carried forward by several players in Sweden's four northern regions.

The EU's work on the Cities Mission has been intensified during the year. September 2021 saw the launch of the Cities Mission, one of five EU missions. Cities across Europe were invited to register their interest in becoming forerunners in the transition to climate neutrality. As many as 377 cities applied. In June 2022, 112 cities were chosen to be pioneers in the climate transition, 100 in the EU and 12 in associated nations. These 112 include seven of the Swedish cities that are among the 23 signatories of the Climate City Contract 2030.

Over the past year, the European platform NetZeroCities has begun efforts to support implementation of the Cities Mission within the EU, primarily to facilitate the transition in the 112 cities. Viable Cities is also involved in this work. NetZeroCities is currently designing a Climate City Contract for cities throughout the EU as a tool for accelerated climate transition. Climate investments are an important aspect of this.

Two new complementary initiatives were begun during 2022 to support the Cities Mission in the EU. The first is the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, in which Viable Cities is taking part together with Swedish organizations Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and Formas. The partnership is a collaboration between national bodies from a large number of nations. The focus is on funding international efforts in three sectors that can help accelerate the climate transition: Positive Energy Districts, Circular Urban Economies and 15-minute City. The other is the CapaCITIES initiative. This EU collaboration aims to facilitate the establishment of national structures to enable climate transition in cities similar to Viable Cities in Sweden and CitiES2030 in Spain.



The Climate Smart Cities Challenge, a global innovation competition, has entered a new phase during the year, and teams of companies and organizations are now working in the four cities outside the EU in association with UN-Habitat.

7.4. Most important updates regarding government agencies

Work in the interagency innovation team

During 2022, the government agencies in the Climate City Contract have continued to develop work in their interagency innovation team. For instance, the team has compiled a summary of the government agencies' various forms of funding and financing instruments, and helped in ensuring that calls related to climate transition and sustainable cities are continually published on the hallbarstad.se website.

The innovation team has participated in Viable Cities Transition Labs, as well as workshops and meetings, in order to learn more about cities' climate investment plans and the agencies' role in the process. Alongside some of the cities, the innovation team has tested developing support and forms for analysing the government agencies' joint funding (including various research and innovation (R&I) programmes, city environment contracts) over the past five years. The aim in the longer term is that this work should contribute to commitments regarding coordinated funding and the cities' work on planning climate investments.

The government agencies' ongoing work includes many measures and initiatives that are of significance to the cities' work on climate transition. Compiling and providing information about these are important tasks for the government agencies. Below is a selection that relate to the cities in some way.

Funding for research, innovation and development

During the year, the government agencies have announced several calls aiming to facilitate the transition in cities.

Vinnova has worked with Viable Cities to publish a call for a design phase for urban system demonstrators, for instance. A follow-up call will be published in spring 2023. Other examples from Vinnova include Sustainable accessibility across Sweden, on mobility in sparsely populated areas, in association with Drive Sweden and Viable Cities, Civil society's solutions for climate transition, and Innovations to reduce electricity consumption in cooperation with the Swedish Energy Agency.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has had calls from the European Regional Development Fund: Produce a local strategy for sustainable urban development and Drive a platform for collaboration and experience exchange. The city as a hub for green and digital transition is an initiative within The Green Transition Leap which is also financed by the Regional Development Fund.



The initiative aims to develop practical new working methods for working with system innovation for local green transition.

Formas has published the call Climate-neutral and inclusive municipalities to increase the capacity and ability of municipalities to accelerate transition work towards climate neutrality which is characterized by social inclusion and equal living conditions. Within the national research programme for sustainable community building, Formas has published a call for Research schools for sustainable community building. The aim of the research schools is to bolster skills and knowledge development, and they are all distinctly interdisciplinary, practically oriented and challenge driven. Several municipalities are included in the research schools. Formas also funds many R&I projects every year in the fields of environment, community building and areal industries in many national and international calls.

In the Swedish Transport Administration's calls for City Environment Contracts, municipalities and regions can apply for funding that leads to a higher proportion of passenger transit by public transport or cycling and sustainable freight solutions.

The Swedish Energy Agency has published calls in the following programmes that are relevant to sustainable cities and communities: Humans, Energy Systems and Society (MESAM), Energy efficiency in cultural heritage buildings, Design for Everyday Energy Efficiency, Transport-Efficient Society and E2B2 (energy-efficient building and living), Graduate School in Energy Systems, and Bio+ (biobased society).

For many years, the Energy Agency has funded client groups and networks to create a platform for close collaboration between business operators and the state, with the aim of reducing energy use in buildings. The Energy Agency also finances the municipal and energy/climate advice service intended for households and private players.

Impact Innovation is the name of the next-generation strategic innovation programme. A call for preparatory projects was opened during the year. One of the three focus areas is Attractive, functioning communities, with cities being a particularly important target group.

On an international level, Formas, the Swedish Energy Agency and Vinnova jointly announce funds enabling bodies active in Sweden to take part in international R&I projects tackling urban challenges in the European Driving Urban Transition (DUT) Partnership. The first call includes 27 nations. On a general level, the partnership addresses issues relating to energy, mobility and use of resources in an urban context.



Government agency work and special government assignments

The Swedish Energy Agency has worked alongside the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis, Transport Analysis and the Uppsala County Administrative Board to draft supporting documentation for the government's next Climate Action Plan. The assignment regarding local and regional climate transition involved a great many dialogues with municipalities, regions, government agencies, research bodies, business and other relevant players, which form the basis for the barrier analysis, and the proposed means of control or suggested actions that were presented. Many assignments are under way at the Energy Agency related to the electrification strategy, energy efficiency and secure energy supply, as well as the establishment of a national centre for carbon capture and storage (CCS).

The Climate City Contract agencies are also five of the 14 members on the government's Council for Sustainable Cities. In March 2022, the council was given an extended and modified remit, with more of a focus on working towards the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities. Several of the agencies have been involved in the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning's coordination assignment as part of New European Bauhaus (NEB). One example is the call Ideas for future habitats in Kiruna, Gällivare, Boden, Luleå, Skellefteå and Umeå – idea sketches ready in the project *Visioner: i norr – Hållbar Stad* (hallbarstad.se).

The Swedish Transport Agency's knowledge forum – Arena for Transport-Efficient Urban Environment – is part of a government assignment (2019–2022) to carry out communication and knowledge-enhancing measures for the transport sector's transition to fossil freedom. An R&I programme for geofencing, financed by the Swedish Transport Administration and run by Closer at Lindholmen, brings together the necessary players in society, business and academia to jointly develop solutions to promote the use of geofencing in controlling the transport system.

Some of the projects related to the development of systems innovation are Evolved working methods and processes for greater synergies between regional, national and international innovation efforts, Systems innovation in cities (Vinnova), Strengthening the regional work on sustainable development (various government agencies), Contributing to upcoming discussions on the EU's urban agenda (Formas), and Vinnova's initiative to support cities' ability to lead and organize innovation, for instance through the companion researcher network which for nearly ten years has been following the development of the Innovation Platforms for Sustainable Cities initiative, and the *Accelerera* project, which is developing and offering funding for innovation management in municipalities to ISO standard.



New signatory agency

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency decided to sign the Climate City Contract 2030 in December 2022, and will therefore participate in the process moving forward.

8. The contract

The parties agree that their joint commitments as formulated above shall apply for 2022. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020. The Climate City Contract shall be updated and renewed prior to each new year.

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Gävle Municipality, the government agencies 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, 8 December 2022. The parties agree that their joint commitments as formulated above shall apply for 2023. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020. The Climate City Contract shall be updated and renewed prior to each new year.

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Appendix 1 – document links

Below are links to the most relevant documents in relation to Climate City Contract 2030 for Gävle Municipality

Links to relevant documents

[Environmental Work – Gävle Municipality \(gavle.se, in Swedish\)](#)

[Energy Optimized Port Cluster – Port of Gävle \(gavlehamn.se/en/projects/\)](#)

[Gävle Municipality Comprehensive Plan \(in Swedish\) – ÖP Gävle kommun_bok_2018_WEB.pdf \(gavle.se\)](#)