

Climate City Contract 2030

Between the City of Helsingborg 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:

- The City of Helsingborg.
- 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

Helsingborg's Quality of Life Programme describes how the City contributes to achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. The City's ambition for sustainable development is that all inhabitants should have a high perceived quality of life, but with low environmental impact, so that people and businesses achieve their full potential in long-term sustainable growth, and so that future generations also can experience a good quality of life. Minimized climate impact is a specific focus area in the Quality of Life Programme.

The Climate and Energy Plan falls under the Quality of Life Programme and sets the framework for climate work for the period 2018 to 2024. In addition, the City of

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.



Helsingborg has also adopted an Electrical Power Plan for 2022 to 2026, which helps to assure sustainable, safe and efficient use of electrical energy in the future.

A new Climate and Energy Plan will be prepared starting in 2023 and will include, among other things, the major shifts required to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) within the geographical area of Helsingborg by 2030. While preparing the new plan, the concept of climate neutrality needs to be defined, i.e. how large a proportion of the emissions can be compensated and what kind of compensatory measures are allowed.

The current Climate and Energy Plan contains long-term ambitions for consumption-based GHG emissions to fall to 1–2 tonnes per inhabitant per year, and for the ecological footprint to fall to a sustainable level by 2045. Although the target year for climate neutrality within the geographical area has been set at 2030, it is vital to also continue striving to reduce the emissions that arise beyond municipal boundaries due to goods import and long-distance journeys.

The point of departure is that the new Climate and Energy Plan should address climate emissions in the sectors that account for the most emissions. Transport accounts for the highest emissions in Helsingborg and will remain a priority area in the new Climate and Energy Plan. The construction sector will be another prioritized area. Helsingborg is growing, and new homes and workplaces need to be built with the lowest possible climate and environmental impact. When it comes to emissions which the group does not have sole control over reducing, work will focus on the City as an enabler, strengthening collaboration with civil society and businesses, and taking measures to influence behaviour.

3.2. Strategy

The City's Climate and Energy Plan highlights six priority areas in which the municipal group will primarily take action in its climate transition work.

The six areas are:

- Balanced climate emissions and use of resources.
- Transport and travel: Break dependency on fossil fuels in the transport sector, and increase the proportion of sustainable travel and transport.
- Consumption Create alternatives to consumption of resource-intensive foods, goods and services.
- Energy: Use energy efficiently and wisely; both renewable (solar and wind) energy and recovered energy will be developed as far as possible.
- Financial management: Promote a sustainable municipal finance market.



- Carbon storage: Increase carbon dioxide storage in land and vegetation.

Since the City of Helsingborg will be preparing a new Climate and Energy Plan in 2023, the six priority areas are to be reviewed. If Helsingborg is to achieve the objective of climate neutrality, the most effective means of reducing climate impact must be prioritized.

3.3. Organization and management

The City of Helsingborg has an ambition to be a leader in climate work, and this is the point of departure in the City's Climate and Energy Plan. The plan has been produced in collaboration within the municipal group, and stakes out the general direction for how climate work will be carried out. The plan aims to bring about change and development.

The Environmental Committee is responsible for coordinating the plan and following it up. It is, however, up to each committee and municipally owned company to ensure that the plan is implemented in accordance with the City's trust-based governance model. In addition to the Climate and Energy Plan, there are several other steering documents which in various ways indicate city-wide pathways and objectives which contribute to efforts towards a climate-neutral Helsingborg.

Achieving a climate-neutral Helsingborg by 2030 requires the following, among other things:

- Senior civil servants need to work actively to drive the question of climate neutrality in different decision-making forums in order to ensure strong support and execution.
- The connection with sustainable development needs to be clarified in all budget decisions within the municipal group.
- Improved assessment of the actual effects of climate actions, the aim being to prioritise actions that are needed to achieve climate neutrality.
- Risk assessment of investments in climate actions or actions with positive climate impacts.

Bringing about lasting change calls for a strong political and public mandate. By adopting new forms of governance that emphasize cooperation, participation and innovation, Helsingborg can advance even further in its climate work. Collaboration within and between the City's various administrations and companies is crucial. Responsibility for and execution of climate transition efforts should be a shared undertaking, under the clear coordination of the City based on regulations and owner directives. Building strong horizontal teams with specially earmarked time,



a mandate to take action and access to funding will create further success factors in the City's ongoing climate work.

3.4. Collaboration with business, academia and citizens

Collaboration is crucial if the City of Helsingborg's climate goals and commitments are to be achieved. Various initiatives are under way in the City, whereby the municipality is working with the business sector, academia and civil society to solve the complex societal challenges Helsingborg is facing.

Klimatavtal i Helsingborg/Climate Contracts in Helsingborg is a platform for companies, associations and citizens who want to work for a sustainable, climate-smart society. Climate Contracts for companies and associations are coordinated by the City of Helsingborg, and those for citizens by a citizen initiative called *Helsingborgarnas klimatavtal/Climate Contract for the People of Helsingborg*. Companies and associations that sign the contract agree to commitments which they themselves choose, aiming to reduce their CO2 emissions over the year ahead. By signing the Climate Contract, signatories also become part of a network of other companies and associations with an interest in the climate, and can access lectures, network gatherings and support in their climate efforts. To date around 40 companies and associations have signed. There is an official political target to have at least 100 signed Climate Contracts by the end of 2023.

The Climate Contract for the People of Helsingborg is intended for adults and children. Signing denotes a decision to lead a more sustainable life, and is also a call to the city's politicians that the climate issue needs to be taken seriously.

The Helsingborg Declaration is an initiative where the City works together with stakeholders from the entire logistics chain to develop the Helsingborg region into Europe's most sustainable and agile logistics hub. Around 50 stakeholders in the logistics chain are involved, alongside the City, in a network and a platform which aim to accelerate the green transition towards climate neutrality by 2030.

The City of Helsingborg wants to take the initiative for developing an Innovation District. The district is a physical place where the City, universities, different supporting players, incubators and businesses of all sizes can come together for entrepreneurialism and innovation. The aim is to create opportunities to promote innovation collaborations and research in Helsingborg by coming together in a close and informal way on different issues – such as sustainability and climate challenges – and to stimulate the development and entrepreneurialism required to solve the problems.

A project called *Den (ut)forskande staden/City of Exploration & Research* was conducted in 2020–2022, in which the City of Helsingborg and R&D Helsingborg organised test beds, where administrations, academia and citizens had opportunities to create



and test new solutions to old problems. The aim of the project was to enable administrations and companies to undergo a research-based learning process, and to test new, interdisciplinary working methods to identify, formulate and tackle the City's challenges linked to quality of life.

3.5. Climate Investment Plan

Work to prepare a Climate Investment Plan began in autumn 2022. A steering committee and a work group have been formed in order to guide and develop the content, structure and scope of the plan.

Helsingborg has already begun linking efforts towards net zero emissions with finance. October 2021 saw the launch of the City of Helsingborg's framework for sustainability-related bonds. This links the rate of GHG emission reduction to the terms of interest on the City's bonds.

In September 2022, the City of Helsingborg also launched its new sustainable framework, which enables the issue of both green and social bonds either separately or together, as a single sustainable bond. This kind of sustainable framework previously only existed in Paris, Barcelona and Hanover. Whichever of the sustainable frameworks are used, there is a requirement to report what the money is used for, thus giving the City of Helsingborg an overall picture of all the municipal group's sustainable investments.

Having an impact on Helsingborg's main sources of emissions will require major investments, both for the City and for businesses. Despite its own investments, Helsingborg relies on national funding and external financing in the form of grants and subsidies if it is to become a climate-neutral city. There is also a need for clear economic incentives combined with behaviour-promoting measures to reduce emissions from the transport sector.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

The City of Helsingborg uses a digital tool to visualize and communicate its emission sources and remedial measures. The tool aids in quantifying the effect of actions taken, which will be very useful as the municipal group prepares a new Climate and Energy Plan. It reveals where Helsingborg is leaving gaps in the measures it takes, and can serve as a basis for discussion should there be different paths open to achieve the same reduction in emissions. The tool manages the link between different action mechanisms in society. It shows whether the sum of different efforts at the local and national level is enabling the City of Helsingborg to achieve its goals.

Work is also under way to see how the City of Helsingborg can use digital tools to follow up the framework for sustainable bonds, and how they can be used to support the preparation of a Climate Investment Plan.



There is also an ambition to develop the use of digital tools to show what other players in Helsingborg are doing to help jointly achieve net zero emissions in Helsingborg by 2030. Digital tools can enable visualization of the different parties' commitments in the local Climate Contract. Digital tools are also useful in informing businesses, associations and citizens about Helsingborg's climate status in a clear way, and enabling these groups to ask questions and submit comments about climate efforts.

There are also many opportunities to use digital tools in dialogue with citizens, such as *Dialog Helsingborg*. The platform can be used to involve or co-create with people living in the city.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate-neutral municipalities

Helsingborg has been named one of Europe's most innovative cities by iCapital. The City works systematically with innovation, in collaboration with the wider world, to meet the complex welfare challenges of the future. The aim is that the whole city should be an enabler and test bed for new, more effective and more climate-friendly solutions that contribute to higher growth and a high quality of life. The City focuses its innovation efforts on 15 city-wide challenges, the aim being to achieve a smarter, more sustainable and more caring Helsingborg. The four challenges with the strongest link to the City's climate efforts are:

- How can we reduce our climate impact and bring about a more circular society?
- How can we make use of the business sector's desire for green transition?
- How can we involve the citizens more and make them co-creators?
- How can we use data to achieve better services and higher quality of life?

By daring to challenge current working methods, new and better solutions can be implemented in all the City's operations. The City needs both to run its own initiatives/programmes, and to act as a test bed for other stakeholders. Helsingborg is currently looking at an Innovation Centre that will support the City's innovation efforts.

The Innovation Centre will be both a meeting place and a platform that cooperates in flexible partnerships with other cities, business and academic environments, and other parties, based on specific challenges/missions in an innovation ecosystem. The centre will establish organizational capacity to identify opportunities for initiatives where cities are one of the driving forces – this is important particularly bearing in mind the City's goal of climate neutrality by 2030. The Innovation Centre is intended to be a natural part of a wider Innovation District.

3.8. Climate adaptation

The City of Helsingborg has long worked with climate adaptation. One example is Mariastaden, a district built just over 20 years ago and with a fully integrated,



above-ground storm water system. Climate adaptation is integrated into the processes that regulate physical planning. For example the City of Helsingborg has guidelines for new development in risk areas, and has in its Comprehensive Plan adjusted the density of new residential areas to the topographical and geological conditions for managing storm water and torrential rain. At the same time, there is a need for climate adaptation to deal with the future climate also in existing development.

Helsingborg's goal for its climate adaptation efforts is that the city should be robust in the face of future climate change. Since the future is uncertain, the City must assume a flexible approach. Helsingborg strives to work with nature-based climate adaptation solutions wherever possible, and to minimize emissions where the City builds defences out of concrete, for example. Achieving a city robust in the face of future challenges calls for broad collaboration between government agencies, universities, real estate owners and different organizations. There is also a need to review both regulations and financing opportunities.

The City works on an action plan for climate adaptation, which will be adopted in 2023. The plan highlights priority areas for investment over the next few years. In addition, Helsingborg is trying to establish a collaboration between the City's companies and administrations, which all work on the issue under their respective areas of responsibility. The major gain of a broader collaboration is the opportunity for joint use of resources and multifunctional spaces, thus reducing climate impact and also paving the way for innovative solutions.

3.9. Climate-smart mobility

Transport is the largest sector in terms of emissions, representing 37% of climate emissions in the City of Helsingborg. Structural transformation will be required to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, and the city is therefore focusing on measures in mobility and transport that have a big impact on the climate.

A Transport and Mobility Plan that meets the requirements of a SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan) will be produced in the next few years. The plan will start from emission goals in the city's Climate and Energy Plan, as well as goals towards climate neutrality by 2030.

The sustainable mobility of the future will not be achieved by the City on its own, but in collaboration with others. Through the Helsingborg Declaration, an arena for co-creation, the city is raising the pace towards climate neutrality alongside local business, academia and the public sector, all of which are involved in the logistics chain. The Helsingborg Declaration is a political initiative which aims to make Helsingborg Europe's most sustainable and fast-moving logistics hub by 2030. The declaration was launched in summer 2022 during H22 City Expo.



Mobility and transport are bearers of social structures in society. Sustainable mobility with good accessibility and availability is fundamental to social and economic sustainability. Helsingborg is therefore developing walking, cycling and public transport into the most competitive choice of transport for all. The city welcomes co-creation, and encourages initiatives that lay the foundation for a sustainable lifestyle. Planning processes should enable sustainable behaviours for citizens and business/public services alike.

The City of Helsingborg has the ambition to work more on systems changes, and looks forward to calls striving for this.

3.10. Reporting and follow-up

The Department for Strategic City Development at the City Management Office is responsible for compiling and reporting the effects of the City's overall efforts based on the Quality of Life Programme to the City Council. This is done every two years via a follow-up report.

The Environmental Committee is responsible for following up ambitions and actions in Helsingborg's Climate and Energy Plan. The follow-up is conducted every other year and is reported, among others, to the Quality of Life Committee, which includes representatives of the parties in the City Council. Also every other year, the City's emission statistics and climate work are reported to the Covenant of Mayors 2030 and WWF One Planet City Challenge through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). For reporting of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, the City uses emission statistics from Swedish Environmental Emissions Data (SMED) and energy statistics from Statistics Sweden (SCB). As for Scope 3 emissions, moving forward the City will use the Consumption Compass from the Stockholm Environment Institute.

During 2022, Helsingborg has issued sustainability-linked bonds and green bonds, which will be reported annually.

Since Helsingborg has not previously had access to consumption-based emission statistics at municipality level, there is a need for municipalities to be supported in monitoring development of statistics and select relevant and comparable indicators.

Helsingborg can also see a need for systems that disseminate successful pilot projects and scaling-up initiatives, supported by the government.

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 agencies 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

At the end of April, the City of Helsingborg was selected as one of 100 European cities to be part of the EU Mission: 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities by 2030. As a result of that, the City raised its level of ambition for climate work, and is now aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, rather than 2035 as stated in the current Climate and Energy Plan.

During autumn 2022, the City and companies are following up the Climate and Energy plan. This is the second time the plan is being followed up, something which happens every two years. The ambitions in the plan are followed up with open data, combined with statistics provided by municipal enterprises and administrations. In addition, all administrations and companies report which activities they have carried out linked to the actions in the plan.

The follow-up of the Climate and Energy Plan shows how the City is progressing relative to the ambitions set in the plan. The results therefore provide an important basis in efforts to prepare a new Climate and Energy Plan, a process that will begin in 2023.

7.2. Most urgent experiences to share for the municipality

Helsingborg, like many other cities, is facing some huge challenges. To meet these challenges, we must find new working methods, collaborations and solutions.



H22 is the City of Helsingborg's major welfare initiative for developing the solutions of tomorrow to ensure higher quality of life in a smarter, more sustainable city. Between 30 May and 3 July 2022, Helsingborg opened its doors to the world with the H22 City Expo, an international event focusing on the welfare and urban development solutions of the future. By offering the city as a test bed, Helsingborg was able both to share its own experiences, and invite other stakeholders to showcase their ideas and solutions.

In working on H22, new ways of cooperating and working with companies, to meet shared challenges together, have been an important component. Lessons have already been incorporated into Helsingborg's ongoing efforts on Helsingborg's Climate Contract for local businesses, and also the Helsingborg Declaration.

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 publish calls for 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 a future 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 the City of Helsingborg, 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 the City of Helsingborg.

Links to relevant documents

[Quality of Life Programme 2016–2024 \(in Swedish, actualized 2021\)](#)

[Climate and Energy Plan for Helsingborg, 2018–2024 \(2018, in Swedish\)](#)

[Electrical Power Plan 2022–2026 \(2022, in Swedish\)](#)