

Climate City Contract 2030

Between Skellefteå 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.

VERSION 2022



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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:

- Skellefteå 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

Skellefteå Municipality's vision is to be *A sustainable place for a better everyday life*. Our approach for achieving this vision is summed up with the words co-creation, collaboration and adaptability.

Skellefteå Municipality's climate efforts are an important part of our path to becoming a sustainable location. Skellefteå is an industrial city with many businesses, and they are all an important part of the city's development. Skellefteå is growing with new skills, companies and industries that secure jobs and welfare for the future. With this comes a responsibility to minimize the municipality's climate impact.

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.



3.1. Municipal climate goals

There are currently no specific climate goals for Skellefteå Municipality. The Climate City Contract version 2022 presents the goals from Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030 that will be submitted as a proposal within the municipal group and political sphere. Official goals are expected to be presented in the next Climate City Contract.

Suggestions for the next version of the Climate City Contract:

Skellefteå Municipality's overall goals start partly from the municipal group's perspective where full authority is held, but also from the municipality as a geographical location where both urban and rural development are important foundations, and from collaboration with the business and research spheres and development centres.

- Skellefteå municipal group shall have zero actual carbon dioxide emissions in its own operations by 2030².
- Skellefteå Municipality shall be climate neutral by 2040³.

The climate goals for a climate-neutral Skellefteå support and contribute to the 2030 Agenda and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Paris Agreement and Sweden's national environmental goals.

The approach for achieving the goals encompasses a wide range of areas including energy, transport, construction, mobility and innovation. How this work will be carried out is described in the Municipality's various strategies.

3.2. Strategy

During 2022, Skellefteå Municipality has updated the Development Strategy from 2015. The strategy applies up to 2030 and has been adapted to meet the rapid rate of development currently evident in Skellefteå. The transformation of Skellefteå is part of a broader movement which is taking place in our

region and being driven by global megatrends. These include the effects of climate change, digitalization, electrification and the connected society.

There are four overall areas that describe priorities and directions for the development work ahead. These are:

² This is the same goal as set by Skellefteå Kraft. Although not all energy sources have yet been replaced, alternative, renewable fuels are available. It is also possible to exclude via contracts if needed should the goal not be met. This applies to direct emissions corresponding to Scope 1 and 2 of the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative).

³ The same goal as Umeå Municipality has set. The key here is to keep a check on carbon sinks, which need to be analysed within the municipality to see how much they capture. Skellefteå Kraft will probably do this for its operation, which can be seen as a preliminary measure. This will be monitored by ordering a carbon footprint report for Skellefteå Municipality, which also includes the business sector. Once capture via forest and wetland is known, a net figure can be calculated.



- A place to thrive
- Knowledge and creativity throughout life
- An incubator for sustainable global impacts
- Closeness to the everyday and the world

A focus on climate and the environment runs through the entire strategy, and certain sections have more in-depth programmes with interim goals and action plans, all of which support and contribute to the overall climate work which aims to eliminate our fossil CO₂ emissions. The Development Strategy will act as an umbrella for the holistic mindset, but there are some underlying, more subject-specific strategies and programmes that look at climate efforts in greater depth. These are and will be an important part of efforts to achieve a climate-neutral Skellefteå.

Wooden Building Strategy

Wood is an important part of Skellefteå's sustainable built environment. Skellefteå is a modern wooden city that drives technical progress in wood. Combined with research and development on wood-based construction at Campus Skellefteå, visions of sustainable construction and the creation of healthy, attractive living environments that benefit the whole of Sweden are realized. The wood industry in the region is a leader in this paradigm shift in the construction sector.

Skellefteå's Wooden Building Strategy is based on the aim of continuing to increase our wood-based construction, whether it is visible or the bearing framework. Since sustainable construction presupposes an ambition to choose building materials that cause as low CO₂ emissions as possible, we shall consider wood as a material in all our projects.

Energy Plan

The Energy Plan has been prepared but not officially adopted. It will be an important aspect of climate efforts moving forward for the Municipality and the business sector.

The Energy Plan aims to inspire and motivate citizens and businesses to emulate the municipal group and work continuously on energy issues. The aim of the Energy Plan is to clarify important energy-related areas to focus on in the municipal group to succeed with the energy transition, and to present concrete actions that need to be taken. The Energy Plan contains four focus areas that are particularly important to Skellefteå Municipality's development and responsibility. These are:

- 100% renewable energy
- Building and living for the future
- Sustainable fuels



- New generation business, trade and industry.

The main target group for the Energy Plan as a whole comprises everyone who lives and works in Skellefteå Municipality's geographical area, i.e. the municipal group as well as the municipality's citizens, businesses, and other public bodies. Objectives and proposed actions in the Energy Plan primarily target Skellefteå municipal group and its field of influence.

Environmental and Climate Strategy

The Environmental and Climate Strategy has been prepared but not officially adopted. It will be an important aspect of the municipal group's climate efforts and the work that needs to be done moving forward.

The Environmental and Climate Strategy primarily targets the Municipality's committees and administrations, as well as municipal enterprises, and encompasses the Municipality's entire geographic area. It is also intended to be used to engage other parts of society such as business, citizens and associations.

The objectives in the Environmental and Climate Strategy encompass four areas that all have a significant effect in climate transition.

- Energy efficiency
- Transport
- Construction
- Natural environment

Being able to show and work according to an Environmental and Climate Strategy makes it clear that the operations should move in the same direction, and demonstrate the work being done by us in the municipal group. The Environmental and Climate Strategy shall serve as a document of support for Skellefteå Municipality's various committees and boards in their overall work on sustainability.

3.3. Organization and management

For Skellefteå to become a climate-neutral city by 2030, management and governance need to be firmly established so that the activities needed to achieve climate transition can be directed, monitored and prioritized.

The Municipal Board has overall strategic responsibility for environmental and climate issues in Skellefteå Municipality, but it is the Municipal Council that ultimately sets the levels of the Municipality's goals and ambitions. The Municipal Board is also responsible for the overall internal governance and control for the entire municipal group,



which includes the Municipality's quality management system and environmental management system.

During autumn 2022, Skellefteå Municipality is filling new roles in the areas of sustainability and climate to continuously work to ensure that sustainability permeates the Municipality's administrations, and be responsible for environmental, climate and energy issues. These new recruits will work to ensure that all parts of the municipal group strive for sustainability in all areas, including environmental, climate, economic and social aspects. The use of resources, long-term thinking, a lifecycle perspective and circular economy will be bearing elements of this process. The role of sustainability strategist in particular will be crucial, and the organization and management will need to develop as the sustainability strategist progresses in their role.

The new climate and sustainability roles will be responsible for follow-up and feedback of results to decision-makers, employees and citizens.

Skellefteå Municipality works through Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030 within Viable Cities to drive the transition to a climate-neutral city by 2030. This project will contribute to this transition by, in collaboration with an established innovation team, formulating this Climate City Contract, a Climate Investment Plan and a roadmap towards a Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030, and sub-projects in sustainable energy, sector coupling, and local sharing and circularity are cornerstones of this societal transformation.

3.4. Collaboration with business, academia and citizens

If Skellefteå is to succeed with the climate transition, the public sector, business, academia and citizens must work together on sustainability issues, which is why Sustainable Skellefteå 2020 was launched. Collaboration and exchange is also under way with other organizations such as Coompanion, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, and Umeå University to build knowledge together and achieve success in climate efforts.

Sustainable Skellefteå is a collaboration platform for leading-edge sustainable societal development. It is run within Skellefteå municipal group, and local stakeholders and external partners are invited to take part.

The platform aims to promote an exchange of experiences, cooperation and engagement for projects focusing on sustainability, and also promote external collaborations with other platforms, initiatives and projects for sustainable societal development.

The focus of Sustainable Skellefteå is on initiating collaboration, creating new opportunities and putting Skellefteå on the map in the following three areas: sustainable construction, sustainable mobility and sustainable industry.



All projects linked to Sustainable Skellefteå have certain aspects in common:

- They have a clear impact on economic, ecological and social sustainability.
- They strengthen the interplay between different systems and sectors.
- They enable long-term development towards a sustainable society.
- They use resources efficiently.

Skellefteå Municipality's collaboration with civil society will take place on several levels, the aim being to establish a cross-sectoral organization, buy-in and implementation capacity.

Civil society organization Coompanion will, as required, serve as an expert consultant on climate transition for Skellefteå Municipality, on matters relating to civil society organization and citizen engagement.

Coompanion is also part of the innovation team formed during the Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030 project. In addition, working groups linked to the project's activities will be formed, the aim being to achieve broad representation according to the quadruple helix model, and thus create a long-term establishment of methods and impacts from the project activities.

Coompanion has primary responsibility for planning, organizing and implementing citizen dialogues within the framework of Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030. This will take place in cooperation with other parties in the project, so as to draw benefit from specialist expertise in different subject areas, citizen dialogue being one of the tools.

Skellefteå Municipality has also entered into a strategic partnership with Umeå University in order to more quickly transition to a climate-neutral society backed by research.

RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, one of the project parties in Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030, has far-reaching expertise in research and innovation. RISE will help Skellefteå Municipality to drive issues in the fields of sustainable mobility and sustainable construction.

3.5. Climate Investment Plan

With the support of Viable Cities, Skellefteå Municipality will prepare a Climate Investment Plan during 2023 in order to plan, prioritize and follow up on the concrete investments that need to be made for Skellefteå to successfully manage a climate transition. This Climate Investment Plan will show the climate benefits and climate impacts these measures generate. It also fosters understanding and consensus on what concrete actions are needed to achieve the Municipality's set climate and environmental goals.



3.6. Digital support for implementation

Skellefteå must have working digital support and systems if it is to successfully implement and monitor the Climate City Contract. Skellefteå Municipality is therefore comparing different systems for calculating, monitoring and otherwise measuring Skellefteå's climate emissions. No system has yet been procured, but the following examples will be considered more closely:

- Skellefteå Municipality is a member of Klimatkommunerna, which has provided a new system called Sustainable Advantage for calculating emission data. The system could aid Skellefteå Municipality in monitoring Skellefteå's emissions using national data available from Statistics Sweden (energy data) and RUS (climate data). It could also help Klimatkommunerna see members' total emissions, for example.
- Skellefteå Municipality will also explore the potential of procuring climate monitoring systems such as Climateview and Panorama during 2023, in order to further reinforce reporting and monitoring of the Municipality's climate emissions.

Skellefteå Municipality needs to raise its level of digital expertise and learn more about how digitalization can assist in the climate transition, and in what ways digital systems can facilitate and enable behavioural changes. Through digital support, the people of Skellefteå can more easily be included and influence the journey towards a climate-neutral city.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate-neutral municipalities

One of Skellefteå's aims is that by taking part in Climate Neutral Cities 2030, more municipalities in northern Sweden will be inspired in their climate transition work. A close collaboration with Umeå Municipality especially is being planned, as our closest neighbour among the Climate Neutral Cities municipalities. Skellefteå enjoys well-established cooperation with several other municipalities nearby. Interfaces for collaboration are developing as society changes, enabling different partnership formats depending on the particular focus required. Skellefteå Municipality, like Umeå Municipality, has long been a member of BioFuel Region. Skellefteå is planning to review this involvement moving forward to ensure it generates even greater benefit and leverage. In addition, civil society enjoys solid collaboration nationwide, via different networks that drive issues relating to social sustainability and strategic collaboration for the development of regions.

Skellefteå is also a member of Klimatkommunerna, whose overall aim it is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Sweden through exchanging experiences, advocacy and the dissemination of good examples. Through its membership in Klimatkommunerna, Skellefteå is a driving force in national climate work by



highlighting the opportunities, obstacles and drivers that are of significance to the work's results.

Yet another innovation hub is Skellefteå Municipality's partnership in North Sweden Cleantech, a regional innovation and export platform for green tech, clean energy and sustainable solutions from Västerbotten province and the city of Örnsköldsvik.

We have also begun working in a 'lighthouse-follower' collaboration between Skellefteå and Kiruna, Gällivare, Boden and Luleå (initially), where the aim is to invite the 'follower municipalities' to selected activities within the framework of Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030.

3.8. Climate adaptation

Skellefteå Municipality has begun the process of adapting society to a changed climate. Even so, the Municipality needs to further incorporate climate adaptation into e.g. comprehensive plans, specializations, development strategies, energy plans, and environmental and climate programmes. Skellefteå Municipality also needs to plan and link measures for climate adaptation and climate transition to the strategic goals that have been set. The Municipality therefore needs to formulate a Climate Adaptation Plan to bring together its efforts to adapt the city and the community to climate change. According to the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities⁴, which also covers Skellefteå Municipality, a study needs to be conducted as to where the risks are and how these can best be approached based on an action plan, as well as implementation. This is a suitable first step as a basis for a Climate Adaptation Plan.

3.9. Climate-smart mobility

A great many projects in the field of mobility (transportation of people and goods) are under way in tandem throughout Skellefteå municipal group, such as electric aviation and a drone platform. These projects can contribute to the green transition, and have the potential to ease the pressure on the transport and traffic system.

There will be a mustering of forces in autumn 2022 in the field of sustainable mobility (within the framework of Sustainable Skellefteå) to achieve greater leverage and create synergies between the different mobility projects being planned and under way in Skellefteå, and to increase the municipal group's transition ability in the area of mobility. *Kraftsamling Hållbar Mobilitet* is a scheme to create and establish a shared roadmap within the municipal group for sustainable mobility in Skellefteå by 2030. It also entails coordinating ongoing projects for greater leverage, and facilitating

⁴ Extracts from the Taxonomy:

1. The economic activity has implemented physical and non-physical solutions ('adaptation solutions') that substantially reduce the most important physical climate risks that are material to that activity.

2. The physical climate risks that are material to the activity have been identified from those listed in Appendix A to this Annex by performing a robust climate risk and vulnerability assessment.



increased information and experience exchanges between the various projects and organizations that focus on sustainable mobility in the municipal group. The scheme will also include private players in the wider shared process of developing infrastructure and services for the mobility solutions of tomorrow. Another aspect is to contribute to the planned Homes exhibition/Expo planned to kick off in Skellefteå in 2026.

It involves working closely with many organizations in Skellefteå including *Trafikgruppen* transport group, the *Näringslivskontoret* enterprise office and its Streets & Parks department (including parking) at Skellefteå Municipality, E-Mobility at Skellefteå Kraft, Skellefteå Buss, and others.

3.10. Reporting and follow-up

Skellefteå Municipality is comparing different systems for calculating and monitoring the Skellefteå's climate emissions. No system has yet been procured, but the following examples will be considered more closely:

- Skellefteå Municipality is a member of Klimatkommunerna, which has provided a new system called Sustainable Advantage for calculating emission data. The system could aid Skellefteå Municipality in monitoring Skellefteå's emissions using national data available from Statistics Sweden (energy data) and RUS (climate data). It could also help Klimatkommunerna see members' total emissions, for example.
- Skellefteå Municipality will also explore the potential of procuring climate monitoring systems such as Climateview and Panorama during 2023, in order to further reinforce reporting and monitoring of the Municipality's climate emissions.

Skellefteå Municipality does, however, need to further develop processes, methods and tools to measure and monitor climate emissions, and this will be a priority over the next year.

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 agencies⁵ 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.

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 Vinnova



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 Partnership⁶, 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 Bauhaus⁷ initiative, the European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁸ and URBACT⁹.

The agencies will also contribute to develop support functions for the cities selected to participate in the Cities Mission. One example is the CapaCITIES¹⁰ 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.

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

⁶ The Swedish Energy Agency, Formas and Vinnova

⁷ New European Bauhaus highlights the significance of aesthetic, social and cultural values in the green transition.

⁸ 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).

⁹ URBACT is a European collaboration programme for exchange and learning in sustainable urban development, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth,

¹⁰ the Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are taking part.



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

In future versions of the Climate City Contract, Skellefteå Municipality will further concretize the climate transition once the climate roadmap has become clearer. This process is closely linked to the building of a new organization for sustainability work, which began in autumn 2022.

7.2. Most urgent experiences to share for the municipality

- The journey towards climate neutrality by 2030 must establish buy-in from the municipal management and downwards through the organization. Without leadership and governance, it will be hard to succeed with such a major change as that entailed by climate transition, particularly for a city and municipality. Skellefteå Municipality will therefore make this a priority and ensure that it is done in the next year.
- To measure is to know; processes, methods and tools for measuring climate emissions are fundamental in monitoring the climate transition. Skellefteå Municipality will therefore make this a priority and make sure it is possible to measure Skellefteå's/the Municipality's emissions in the next year.

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 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 Skellefteå 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 Skellefteå.

Links to relevant documents

[Skellefteå's Environmental Goals – Skellefteå Municipality \(skelleftea.se, in Swedish\)](#)

[Skellefteå Municipality's Sustainability Programme \(in Swedish\)](#)

New Energy Plan (not yet adopted, in Swedish)