



Press release Dec 11, 2020:

The first Climate City Contracts in Europe signed in Sweden today

Sweden is taking the lead in the climate transition of cities

Today, 11th of December 2020, is a big day for the climate transition in cities. The first Climate City Contracts in Europe have been signed by the Mayors of nine Swedish cities, the Director Generals of four government agencies as well as by Viable Cities.

– Swedish cities are now taking the lead in Europe and through Climate City Contracts they are showing the way for the transition all cities must make. Klimatkontrakt 2030 is the beginning of a long term collaboration between nine municipalities, Swedish government agencies and – soon also – the EU, says Allan Larsson, Chairman of the Board for Viable Cities.

Cities have a key role in the climate transition and to engage citizens, industry, academia and civil society. Cities cover only 3 percent of the land surface on earth, but represent more than 70 percent of climate gas emission. In addition, cities are growing fast. In 2050, about 85 percent of the EU population will live in cities.

Through Klimatkontrakt 2030, which was signed at European Viable Cities Day, cities are committing to accelerate the transition to climate neutrality and sustainability. Viable Cities and the Government Agencies – The Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas and The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth – are committing to support and facilitate the work of the cities.

– Energy is a cornerstone of sustainable urban development. Therefore, the Swedish Energy Agency's work with innovative energy and climate solutions is crucial for achieving the goal of a modern fossil-free welfare state. We look forward to increased collaboration with other agencies and ambitious municipalities, says Robert Andrén, Director General of The Swedish Energy Agency.

In the contract, Viable Cities commit to continue driving the climate transition in collaboration with government agencies, the nine cities and other stakeholders from e. g. industry, academia and civil society. In order to achieve climate-neutral cities, all parts of society need to be involved.

– There are several areas where our community needs to reduce its climate emissions, which are beyond the control of the municipal organization. Uppsala needs collaborations like this in order to achieve our climate goals. We have an ambitious climate policy, but we cannot do everything ourselves, says Erik Pelling (S), Mayor of Uppsala.

Klimatkontrakt 2030 is in line with upcoming calls for proposals within the EU regarding climate neutral cities providing opportunities for further developing Europe. The ambition is for Sweden to be a forerunner and inspire a European Climate City Contract which can accelerate the transition.

– The nine cities that today have signed the Climate City Contract are a source of inspiration for all European cities aiming at becoming climate neutral. For 2021-2027, EU research programme "Horizon Europe" will assist EU cities in their green transition and we hope for many European Climate City



Contracts to come, says Christian Danielsson, Head of the European Commission Representation in Sweden.

The nine cities – Enköping, Järfälla, Gothenburg, Lund, Malmö, Stockholm, Umeå, Uppsala and Växjö – are testing new solutions and learning from these in order to make it easier and faster for other cities to make the transition.

– Klimatkontrakt 2030 means that we mobilise to “fix the climate” and at the same time steer towards sustainable cities with a good life for all within planetary boundaries, says Olga Kordas, Programme Director for Viable Cities. Concretely, this is about people in the city having daily lives where both human beings and the planet are well. For example, climate transition can contribute to greener cities, better air quality, improved mental and physical health and safer cities where children and adults can live, play and be well.

During next year Viable Cities are planning to expand the initiative Climate Neutral Cities 2030 to include an additional 10 Swedish cities.

Please find below more quotes from signing parties and an FAQ about Klimatkontrakt 2030.

For more information, please contact

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Quotes from signing parties

Enköping Municipality

– Enköping represents all of Sweden's smaller municipalities and we must take the lead and show that change is a priority when we build and develop a growing municipality. We will involve our young people, develop a climate investment plan and develop digital tools to take greater steps in the green transition in the coming years, says Ingvar Smedlund, Mayor of Enköping.

City of Gothenburg

– The intentions in the Climate City Contract, Klimatkontrakt 2030, are in line with the City of Gothenburg's new Environment and Climate Programme, focusing on implementation, financing strategies, governance and management. During 2021, we intend to introduce an office of climate transition, with the ambition to stimulate the development of plans for climate investments as well as further engaging the citizens in the climate transition, says Axel Josefson, Mayor of Gothenburg.

Lund Municipality

– The Climate City Contract shows that Lund municipality is determined to continue to be a forerunner regarding the climate through innovation and enhanced collaboration with more actors in society. This challenge demands new ways of working, and Lund wants to be a test-bed for climate solutions of the future, says Philip Sandberg (L), Mayor of Lund.

City of Malmö

– All over the world cities are pioneering the green transition. Through the Climate City Contract we work shoulder to shoulder with national government agencies to step up several decades of successful local work on



climate and the environment, while also aiming to create an inclusive and equitable Malmö. By embracing the local forces and the willingness and ability of cities to drive change, we enable reaching the long term goals of the Paris agreement and the Green Deal for Europe, says Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh (S), Mayor of Malmö.

City of Stockholm

– We need new cooperations as well as new innovations, in order to achieve our goal of a fossil free and climate positive Stockholm in 2040. Stockholm will be the testbed for climate smart solutions – solutions that can be scaled up to become a natural part of Stockholmers’ everyday life. With the Climate City Contract, one of the things we undertake to ensure, is the development of digital support for climate transition. The contract becomes an important part in the implementation of Stockholm’s new Climate Action Plan, says Anna König Jerlmyr, Mayor of Stockholm.

City of Uppsala

– There are several areas where our community needs to reduce its climate emissions, which are beyond the control of the municipal organization. Uppsala needs collaborations like this in order to achieve our climate goals. We have an ambitious climate policy, but we cannot do everything ourselves, says Erik Pelling (S), Mayor of Uppsala.

Växjö Municipality

– Växjö municipality has been, is and will continue to be, an important forerunner and player in the global climate work. By now being one of the first nine cities in Sweden to sign a Climate City Contract, we take leadership, both nationally and within the EU, and point out important strategic areas for a faster transition to an attractive, climate-neutral Växjö 2030.

- I see this Climate City Contract as a starting point and basis for the dialogue and collaboration with business, civil society, academia and citizens in Växjö that is now necessary for us to be successful in our work, says Anna Tenje, Mayor of Växjö.

The Swedish Energy Agency

– Energy is a cornerstone of sustainable urban development. Therefore, the Swedish Energy Agency’s work with innovative energy and climate solutions is crucial for achieving the goal of a modern fossil-free welfare state. I look forward to an increased collaboration with other agencies and ambitious municipalities, says Robert Andrén, Director General of The Swedish Energy Agency.

Vinnova (The Swedish Innovation Agency)

– In order to drive a transition to climate neutral cities by 2030, we need to mobilize towards common goals. As an innovation Agency, Vinnova finances long-term initiatives in the area, and works to link regulatory pilot activities with innovation as well as investments in infrastructure. We see that the Climate Contracts contribute to a level of collaboration that can make a difference, says Darja Baksson, Director General of Vinnova.

Formas (The Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development)

– Formas contributes to green transition for cities and regions through our national programs for climate and sustainable spatial planning. When we coordinate with other government agencies through the Climate City Contract, we increase the pace, says Ingrid Petersson, Director General of Formas.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth



- We all need to contribute in the transition towards sustainable cities and communities. Innovation, digital solutions play a major role in making our cities attractive. That some cities now can be pioneers, will benefit all Swedish cities in the long term. Our cities and communities face similar challenges and with new knowledge and new innovative ways of working, we can accelerate the development towards more sustainable cities throughout Sweden, says the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth's Director General Gunilla Nordlöf.

Viable Cities

- Swedish cities are now taking the lead in Europe and through Climate City Contracts they are showing the way for the transition all cities must make. Klimatkontrakt 2030 is the beginning of a long term collaboration between nine municipalities, Swedish government agencies and – soon also – the EU, says Allan Larsson, Chairman of the Board for Viable Cities.

- Klimatkontrakt 2030 means that we mobilise to “fix the climate” and at the same time steer towards sustainable cities with a good life for all within planetary boundaries, says Olga Kordas, Programme Director for Viable Cities. Concretely, this is about people in the city having daily lives where both human beings and the planet are well. For example, climate transition can contribute to greener cities, better air quality, improved mental and physical health and safer cities where children and adults can live, play and be well.

The European Commission Representation in Sweden (see above)

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FAQ Klimatkontrakt 2030

Question	Answer
What is Klimatkontrakt 2030 (Climate City Contract 2030)	The Swedish Climate City Contract 2030 is a mobilisation from Swedish cities and the national level to accelerate efforts to reach climate-neutral cities. It is a mutual agreement between nine Swedish cities, four government agencies and Viable Cities where all parties commit to concretely contribute to increasing the pace of climate transition in cities. The contract will be revised annually.
Which cities / municipalities will sign the contract on 11 December?	Enköping, Järfälla, Göteborg, Stockholm, Malmö, Lund, Umeå, Uppsala and Växjö.
Who signs the contract from the cities?	The political leaders from the municipalities. Ingvar Smedlund, Mayor of Enköping



	<p>Axel Josefson, Mayor of Gothenburg Emma Feldman, Mayor of Järfälla Philip Sandberg, Mayor of Lund Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö Anna König Jerlmyr, Mayor of Stockholm Hans Lindberg, Mayor of Umeå Erik Pelling, Mayor of Uppsala Anna Tenje, Mayor of Växjö</p>
Who signs the contract from the governmental level?	<p>Robert Andrén, Director General, The Swedish Energy Agency Darja Ćaksson, Director General, Vinnova Ingrid Petersson, Director General, Formas Gunilla Nordlöf, Director General, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth</p>
Why is a Climate City Contract needed?	<p>Climate change is putting the democratic system to the test. To cope with the radical transition that we need in a short time, cooperation between citizens, politicians, companies and officials is required, at a level that has never happened before.</p> <p>National, regional and local levels must work in the same direction and together to achieve the goal: climate-neutral cities 2030.</p> <p>The contract concretizes the parties' commitments and clarifies the way forward, to be further developed step by step.</p> <p>The Swedish Climate City Contract 2030 is the first in Europe and also has the ambition to inspire the EU's future investments in climate-neutral cities and a European Climate City Contract.</p>
What commitment do the cities make by signing the contract?	<p>The nine contracts are locally adapted based on the cities' different contexts. Among other things, the cities commit to work to reduce climate emissions, to increase their innovation capacity and to involve citizens in the climate transition. The contract is a long-term document that ensures cooperation between cities and the governmental level and will be developed further over time on a yearly basis.</p>
What commitment does the national level make by signing the contract?	<p>The signing governmental agencies commit, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to work with regulations and policy to make it easier for municipalities to take the lead in climate transition; to coordinate funding and financing initiatives to facilitate investment in the climate transition of cities; to support the municipalities applying for funding in EU's forthcoming call for climate-neutral cities by 2030.
What commitment does Viable Cities make to the contract?	<p>The innovation programme will support urban climate transition in several ways, for example by process support for better regulations and policies, facilitating long-term and systematic innovation efforts, coordinating funding opportunities and supporting applications for EU calls.</p>
How will the contract be followed up?	<p>The contract will be reviewed every year, both at the local level and at the national level.</p>
What should the contract lead to?	<p>It is only together that we can achieve the mission of climate-neutral cities by 2030. Through the contract, the efforts of the cities and the national level are concretized to enable an acceleration of the climate transition.</p>



<p>What does EU's upcoming call for climate-neutral cities imply for Sweden?</p>	<p>It provides an opportunity for European coordination for climate transition in cities, as well as financial support. It is also an opportunity to cooperate with European cities that are leading the way towards a climate-neutral continent, which is the overall goal of the EU's Green Deal.</p>
<p>What is the connection between the Swedish Climate City Contract 2030 and EU's upcoming call for climate-neutral cities 2030?</p>	<p>Through the Swedish Climate City Contract 2030, the nine cities are well prepared to apply for support from the EU and contribute to European efforts to enable other cities' climate transition in a global context.</p>
<p>How is the Corona pandemic affecting the work for climate-neutral cities in 2030 and the Climate City Contract 2030?</p>	<p>Climate change is an ongoing challenge that does not take a break. It is gratifying that the cities are continuing their climate transition work despite the strained situation. The pandemic and its consequences show that society can change quickly when needed. We are striving to make the recovery after the pandemic a climate-smart restart, to build back better. We continue our mission with undiminished strength, we only have one planet.</p>