

Climate City Contract 2030

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

VERSION 2023



Climate City Contract 2030

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Climate City Contract 2030

Major changes are needed throughout society in order to meet climate goals and save our planet. Doing things the way we have always done them is no longer possible, we have to work in entirely new ways. Together, we are building a movement involving many societal stakeholders in order to achieve our mission: Climate neutral cities by 2030, offering a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet.

Climate City Contract 2030 is a tool that will help us to achieve this. This is a long-term commitment ensuring a developed cooperation between cities and the government level. The starting point for the work is that an increasing number of Swedish municipalities and communities are bringing together a wide range of stakeholders and mobilising at many levels – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally – to pave the way for a faster transition to climate neutrality and sustainability in Sweden, Europe and the world. The cities and agencies working on Climate City Contract 2030 with Viable Cities are pioneers, and thus their ambition is to pave the way for a broader transition involving many more people.

Climate City Contract 2030 is a tool for collaboration in respect of governance and is used to work together beyond the direct control of stakeholders in order to realise a common goal, and it represents a systemic shift towards a holistic approach in public administration

Climate City Contract 2030 provides a context as a catalyst for new, innovative forms of cooperation between cities, the business sector, the academic community, research institutes and civil society. This strengthens the conditions for mobilising and driving joint development in a present and a society that are becoming increasingly complex. Climate City Contract 2030 meets a need for developed governance, a governance process (mobilising on multiple levels) for the climate transition. Climate City Contract 2030 is a way of working to enable stakeholders at different levels of governance to go beyond what they are directly able to control as individual stakeholders in order to realise goals and missions that involve systemic shifts. In particular, it involves moving from piecemeal operations to a holistic approach.

Together, we are building capacity step by step so that we can speed up the transition.



1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030

The purpose of this Climate City Contract is to accelerate the climate transition in cities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda while also contributing to the continued recovery and evolution of the Swedish economy at a time shaped by a number of several interlinked crises.

The Climate City Contract expresses the parties' intention to raise the level of ambition in the field of sustainable urban development and climate transition. The Climate City Contract also places Sweden and Swedish cities in a favourable position to act as international pioneers in the urban climate transition. This is to be achieved by means of mutual, long-term commitments to initiatives by the signatory national agencies, the Viable Cities innovation programme and the municipality.

2. Parties

Parties to the Climate City Contract 2030 are:

- The City of Borås.
- The agencies: Swedish Energy Agency, Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas), Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Swedish Transport Administration and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.
- The Viable Cities strategic innovation programme¹.

3. Municipal commitments

3.1. Municipal climate goals

The vision for the future of Borås (2022) describes the common vision of a sustainable city. This picture has been shaped on the basis of the collective wishes of citizens, civil society, the business sector, the academic community and the City of Borås. The vision begins with the sentences: "In Borås, we take responsibility by treating one another and our environment with care. We live in harmony with rich nature, our environment and other people. Social, economic and ecological sustainability forms the basis for our choices and decisions."

¹ Viable Cities is a strategic innovation program funded by the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova and Formas. The program runs until 2030 and has approximately 130 member organisations. Host organisation is KTH.



In line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, the City of Borås has established a clear and comprehensive climate action plan based on the greenhouse gas emissions reduction rate required to limit global warming to 1.5–2 degrees. The City of Borås, like a number of other cities, has devised a carbon budget.

Besides its own ambition, the City of Borås has joined in with Region Västra Götaland's objective of being a fossil-independent region by 2030. This means reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030. Moreover, greenhouse gas emissions from consumption by residents in Western Sweden, regardless of where in the world such consumption takes place, must be reduced by 30 per cent compared to 2010.

The municipal council adopted an energy and climate strategy in 2020 to ensure a systematic approach in which each municipal entity within the City of Borås is responsible for playing its part in achieving the sustainability goals. The energy and climate strategy for the City of Borås includes both emission reductions and adaptations that aim to make it easier to cope with the impact of ongoing climate change.

The inventory of the municipal group's carbon emissions shows that construction of buildings and infrastructure and purchasing of food and other goods and services primarily constitute major areas of emissions. The distribution in Borås as a geographical area is slightly different. Journeys by air and road are major sources of emissions, as is the consumption of food and other goods. Electronics and clothing are just some of the goods with a significant climate impact.

The City of Borås Environment Programme was adopted in 2023. This environment programme aims to create consensus and a structured approach throughout the municipal group by providing a platform that coordinates and develops work on ecological sustainability in the City of Borås.

3.2. Strategy

The City of Borås Energy and Climate Strategy aims to reduce carbon emissions and adapt society to a changing climate. This strategy includes four key cornerstones:

3.2.1 Shared responsibility

All administrations and corporate boards operating in the City of Borås must include the strategy in their respective budgets and activities, in terms of both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.

3.2.2 Organisational support

A political climate council and a climate committee were established to ensure progress for the energy and climate strategy and support the city's activities. The



climate council is made up of politicians and operates under the municipal board in the municipality's organisational hierarchy. The climate committee is made up of strategists, coordinators for climate-related issues and the municipality's chief financial officer. The committee supports action plans and coordinates and drives their implementation. It is also responsible for providing a wide range of practical tools for their implementation and monitoring their use.

3.2.3 Systematic approach

Municipal administrations and companies are responsible for conducting systematic climate analyses of their activities, proposing measures for improvement and prioritising, implementing and evaluating the measures proposed.

3.2.4 Priority areas

The strategy also identifies priority areas with a great deal of potential to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change. This includes transport and construction sectors, energy supply and consumption, and resource-efficient consumption and production.

The strategy establishes nine priority focus areas that each operation within the municipal group has to use as a basis for its work; five relate to reduced climate impact and four relate to climate change adaptation. Every council and board is responsible for devising an action plan based on the strategy. Support and guidance for this initiative is provided by a team of experts and coordinators within the City of Borås. The five strategies for reducing climate impact are presented below. See section 3.8. for climate change adaptation.

Fossil-free road traffic

Emissions from road traffic are the biggest source of local emissions and are decreasing too slowly, despite tried and tested solutions and decisions. Efforts to reduce the City of Borås's own emissions from passenger transport, work vehicles and procured transport are a high priority. The City of Borås must also lay the foundation for private individuals and businesses to reduce driving distances, create more efficient freight transport, be able to choose sustainable fuels and electricity and be able to choose walking, cycling and public transport as a mode of transport.

Resource-efficient consumption and production

The purchase of resource-intensive goods, services and food accounts for a large proportion of individual emissions among Borås residents and the climate impact of the City of Borås. Efforts to reduce these emissions are progressing slowly, and there is a great deal of potential to take action using relatively simple methods. The City of Borås's efforts will focus on five areas:



- Reduced climate impact and sustainable use of resources, circular use models and reduced waste must take higher priority when purchasing goods, food and services. Increased prioritisation requires careful balancing against other quality and sustainability requirements.
- Increase efforts to pass on knowledge and inspiration and create structural conditions for more sustainable and circular consumption among citizens. The sustainable choice should be obvious and easy.
- Support the local business sector in a climate transition by offering advice, coordination, etc.
- Reinforce its role as a sustainable employer by encouraging employees to reduce their carbon footprint and making it easier for them to do so.
- Educate children and young people so that they become climate-smart citizens of Borås. Climate considerations and sustainable lifestyles must become a natural part of day-to-day life for the next generation of Borås residents.

Resource-efficient energy use and supply

The process of phasing out fossil oil as a basic fuel in heating systems has been going on for a long time. While the positive initiatives in respect of district heating and cogeneration are continuing, new challenges are emerging. The City of Borås has to reduce power peaks in the use of heat and electricity, which often involves dependence on fossil fuels. The municipal group for the City of Borås needs to investigate opportunities to store energy in the short and long term in order to promote increased production of sustainable electricity. Besides these two challenges, we also need to focus on energy management. Sustainable, renewable fuels and solar cells also have an environmental and climate impact. That is why reducing use of energy and resources is always a priority.

Climate-smart construction

Construction materials such as traditional concrete, asphalt and steel and construction processes are major sources of emissions. These emissions are currently not measured or addressed systematically, or on a large scale. The City of Borås must become better at selecting and ordering construction contracts, construction materials and construction processes that are optimised from a life cycle perspective. Construction should result in low emissions during the construction phase, require low energy use during operation and lead to greater opportunities for reuse and recycling when buildings are demolished.

Increased sequestration and uptake of CO₂

Reducing emissions is not enough. The municipal group for the City of Borås must also review the opportunities for creating what are known as negative emissions, i.e. carbon capture. Land and forests owned and managed by the City of Borås have the potential to capture more carbon dioxide. Greater knowledge exchange between the



City of Borås and other stakeholders will allow all parties can develop their efforts to optimise land use and forestry from a climate perspective. Technical measures for carbon capture and sequestration must also be investigated and implemented.

3.3. Organisation and management

The organisational structure for realising the City of Borås's ambitions to achieve a reduction in emissions in accordance with the politically adopted targets and adapt Borås to a changing climate comprises a number of elements.

3.3.1 Climate Council

The Climate Council is a political committee subordinate to the municipal board. All parties represented on the municipal council have a representative on the Climate Council. The Climate Council prepares climate-related matters and is a forum for knowledge development and dialogue.

3.3.2 Climate Committee

This committee, which is made up of officials with environmental and climate strategy responsibilities, coordinates and monitors work on the City of Borås's adopted climate goals and ensures that the energy and climate strategy is implemented. The Climate Committee provides support to administrations and companies for their climate work and provides relevant information to the Climate Council, including an annual climate report.

3.3.3 Climate report

The Climate Committee produces a climate report every year. This climate report describes the City of Borås's current climate action and possible measures and recommendations for the city's continued work. The Climate Committee's recommendations and proposed measures are based on monitoring of the City of Borås's environmental goals, the internal climate shift system and the energy and climate strategy.

3.3.4 Climate Talk

Climate Talk (Klimatprat) is a continuous dialogue between the people of Borås, elected representatives and officials from the City of Borås. The effects of climate change and the necessary transition to a fossil-free society require major efforts and the cooperation of society as a whole. This discussion takes place in various forms, with regular activities for collective driving of the climate transition in Borås.

3.3.5 Climate-neutral Borås 2030

The City of Borås has been part of the Viable Cities initiative Climate-Neutral Cities 2030 since October 2021, and Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 must act as a driving force for climate action. Climate action in the City of Borås is reinforced and expanded by



developing, in particular, innovative working methods and forms of collaboration with people who live and work in Borås. The City of Borås, Navet Science Center, Science Park Borås, Borås Energi och Miljö AB and Fristadbostäder AB are all working together as part of Climate-neutral Borås 2030 in order to bring about an ambitious and just climate transition, where they want to engage Borås residents in the climate issue.

3.3.6 The Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 innovation team

What is known as the Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 innovation team acts as a steering committee for the initiative and is made up of officials from the collaborating organisations. The City of Borås coordinates the cross-sectoral team, which both designs and implements the initiative. The team provides a unique and valuable interface between the participating organisations.

3.3.7 The link between economy and climate

The City of Borås has worked actively for a number of years to link economic and climate action. Part of this work has involved mapping of the municipal group's green projects by the climate and finance functions. The working group has reviewed the investment budget to indicate which investments are green. This joint effort has resulted in the City of Borås publishing its own framework for green bonds. The City of Borås wishes to continue its efforts to increase the green share of the total loan portfolio.

3.3.8 Climate shift

The City of Borås has been working on climate shift since 2013 in order to reduce carbon emissions and create a fossil fuel-free organisation. This means that municipal administrations and companies have to offset their carbon emissions from business travel by road and air. Offsetting carbon emissions means that each organisation pays SEK 1.50 per kilogram of fossil carbon dioxide. This fee will be used primarily to reduce carbon emissions in their own operations. Fees that are not spent within one year will be charged to the shared carbon offset fund. Administrations within the City of Borås wishing to implement more extensive measures with a view to reducing the City of Borås's climate impact can apply for funding from the Climate Compensation Fund.

3.3.9 Organisational and management development

A minor reorganisation took place within the municipal group in spring 2023 that affects strategic environmental and climate issues. A new term of office for the new political leadership began at the same time. These organisational changes have provided a good opportunity to evaluate and develop both the organisation and working practices.



The City of Borås has adopted two policy documents during the year that are directly linked to the energy and climate strategy: the City of Borås Environment Programme and the Traffic Programme. The environment programme aims to serve as a unifying platform for driving and defining the framework for strategic and systematic efforts on ecological sustainability. The traffic programme describes the main street structure in Borås in terms of modes of transport and proposes improvements. One of the proposals involves reinforcing and evolving mobility management efforts.

The Urban Planning Administration will be working in 2023 and 2024 to produce new guidelines for sustainable construction, and these will replace the City of Borås's timber construction strategy. These guidelines are primarily intended to provide support to building administrations and companies and aim to reduce emissions linked to construction.

See section 7.1 for more updates.

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

Collaboration and dialogue are two key elements that appear in a number of comprehensive strategies on how we will achieve our goals. If we are to achieve a large-scale and gender-equal climate transition, it is important to ensure that as many people as possible are on board with us as we head towards a climate-neutral Borås. Climate transition concerns and affects both social and economic sustainability; all dimensions of sustainability are closely interlinked and should be understood in context. This is why we need interaction and dialogue with people of different ages and backgrounds regarding the climate challenges we all face, and to base these interactions on scientific facts. The City of Borås must work actively to promote collaboration on a local level by means of initiatives such as inviting dialogue with other stakeholders from the business sector, the academic community and civil society.

3.4.1 Cooperation with the business sector

The City of Borås's business department is supporting and strengthening the local business sector in respect of sustainability issues thanks to a broad industry network and various business clusters. The business department is also running a number of projects that will help accelerate the transition to a more sustainable Borås in fields such as IT, e-commerce and logistics. One example from the latter area is the Autofreight II project, which is being conducted together with Volvo Technology and the Swedish Transport Administration. This project involves testing HCT (High Capacity Transport) vehicles to transport goods between the Port of Gothenburg and Borås/Ulricehamn with a view to reducing the number of transport operations, and hence emissions as well, while maintaining existing freight volumes. The project also aims to



establish a dry port for storing goods, where ancillary services such as transshipment and customs warehousing will be tested.

The Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 initiative is driving the development of the City of Borås's guidelines for sustainable construction by arranging innovative, cross-sectoral workshops in autumn 2023 and spring 2024. Construction and demolition contractors will meet property owners, architects, politicians, academics and officials in order to discuss sustainable construction. Science Park Borås, which is part of the Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 innovation team, has for a number of years been conducting innovation projects linked to both sustainable construction and circular districts. One expected outcome of the workshops is that the guidelines will become more relevant and the issue of sustainable construction will gain momentum in Borås.

3.4.2 Academic community

Collaboration between the public sector and the academic community is a key factor for success in system transformation. The City of Borås has been working for a number of years with accompanying researchers in its efforts on innovation in the public sector (see section 1.7).

The University of Borås is a hub in the regional innovation system, and the only university in Sweden where Science Park Borås forms part of the organisation. The City of Borås is participating in a number of research projects for which increased climate benefits are the primary objective. Two of these relate to circular and climate-reduced concrete elements in new construction and persuading Vård- och äldreförvaltningen (the Administration for Care and the Elderly) in the City of Borås to reduce the amount of waste from disposable plastic materials and food waste.

The City of Borås regularly receives requests to be a collaborative or project partner in various research projects, which is of course gratifying and means that the academy community recognises that there is potential in collaboration.

The City of Borås is collaborating with both the University of Borås and Science Park Borås on the Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 initiative. An established model of collaboration between the public sector, the academic community and the business sector is one expected outcome of the cooperation.

3.4.3 Dialogue and engagement with citizens

Since its inception, the Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 initiative has trialled various forms of dialogue methods with residents from civil society and the business sector. This initiative has also explored opportunities for collaboration with these stakeholders, and this work has intensified in 2023. One recurring dialogue method involves open panel discussions, where the audience is actively invited to take part in the discussion. This recurring public event, which takes place in different locations and with different



themes and guests, is known as Climate Talk. The aim of Climate Talk is to create participation around the climate issue and to bring different people together. The Navet Science Center has played an active part in the design and implementation of Climate Talk. Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 will be trialling more dialogue methods in 2024, including a hackathon.

An extensive questionnaire survey with associated workshops has formed the basis for the City of Borås's efforts on developing strategies for the development of the municipality's four service centres: Dalsjöfors, Fristad, Sandared and Viskafors. More than 2,000 residents have actively participated in this work, which involved clarifying how the intentions of the City of Borås's climate-smart comprehensive plan can be achieved. Residents' input for the work has been invaluable, and the large turnout indicates that the dialogue was communicated in a representative manner.

3.5. Climate investment plan

In 2024, the City of Borås will carry on working on a Climate Investment Plan based on the guidelines and knowledge made available through Viable Cities. The Climate Investment Plan will describe the investments by various stakeholders that are expected to be needed in different sectors up to 2030, and also estimate social costs and benefits for these. The Climate Investment Plan may be a tool for prioritising measures and a way of reducing our emissions in line with our goals.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

We need to learn more about how digitalisation can facilitate the climate transition and the contexts in which digital tools can help to bring about behavioural change. As much of the transition involves making it easier for residents to live without negative climate impact, the emphasis on digital support needs to be linked to this.

3.6.1 Development

The City of Borås will continue to develop digital methods with a view to raising awareness of the climate issue and passing on scientific facts to our residents. Climate-Neutral Borås 2030, with the support of a communications agency, has produced a number of commercials with a humorous undertone in 2023. Moreover, a new graphic profile and an increased presence on the Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn social media channels have helped more citizens to take part in the climate action than before. One expected result is that it has reached some target groups, but not all: that is why target group analysis, business intelligence and continuous monitoring are important tools for gradually scaling up the work. Work on developing this digital platform further will continue in 2024.



3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

3.7.1 Innovations in the public sector

Since 2013, the City of Borås has been part of a national public sector innovation startup together with five other cities. This work, which is funded by the innovation agency Vinnova, has involved testing and developing what are known as innovation platforms. The participating cities are Kiruna, Umeå, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Lund and Borås. The project in Borås has constituted a partnership between RISE, the University of Borås and the City of Borås for sustainable urban development.

To assist with implementation, all six platform cities have received funding for initiating the topic of innovation management (ISO 56002). In Borås, the municipal board and group management have been initiated on the subject, and three different interdisciplinary groups have received innovation management training. Borås has worked actively with Kiruna on this initiative.

Each of the six cities had an accompanying researcher from RISE Research Institutes of Sweden from early 2013 to December 2023. The accompanying researcher for Borås has written a number of reports during the project period which have attracted attention on a national level (see the appendix for a selection).

3.7.2 Regional and national innovation hub

Major emphasis is placed on the exchange of experience with municipalities and other stakeholders in Region Västra Götaland and nationally throughout Sweden. The City of Borås is part of the networks Fossil Free Sweden, the National Association of Swedish Eco-municipalities, the Energy Agency for West Sweden, Climate 2030 and the Klimatkommunerna association. The Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 initiative involves regular dialogue with other cities in the Climate-Neutral Cities 2030 programme, including Helsingborg, Borlänge and Växjö.

In 2023, the regional exchange has intensified between the City of Borås, the City of Gothenburg, the Mariestad municipality and the City of Trollhättan: all of these are members of Viable Cities. The cooperation is expected to lead to joint events and projects in 2024.

3.8. Climate change adaptation

Climate change adaptation is combined with emission reduction in the City of Borås Energy and Climate Strategy. Work on climate change adaptation has accelerated over the last few years, with new human resources, action plans and cloudburst mapping. The elements relating to climate change adaptation in the City of Borås Energy and Climate Strategy are presented below.



3.8.1 Integration of climate change adaptation in the municipal group's activities

The City of Borås needs to integrate adaptation into the relevant municipal group activities. Municipality-wide coordination relating to climate change adaptation must go on being developed, with structural knowledge sharing and consolidation in the municipal group.

3.8.2 Climate change adaptation in spatial planning and existing buildings

The City of Borås aims to use spatial planning to increase society's ability to cope with climate change. The municipal group has to develop its property portfolio, with both new and existing homes and workplaces, in order to cope with a warmer, wetter climate. The City of Borås will actively assist with climate change adaptation of the private property portfolio.

3.8.3 Safe and secure technical infrastructure in a changing climate

Our infrastructure will face challenges in a changing climate. The functioning of facilities and structures that safeguard the basic functions of society needs to be ensured so that they work regardless of the weather and climate.

3.8.4 Safe, robust management in a crisis caused by climate change

The City of Borås is the unifying force in the municipality for dealing with crisis situations, even in a changing climate. The municipality's risk and vulnerability analysis must include climate change adaptation aspects in order to analyse how society can be protected against extreme weather events.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

3.9.1 Policy documents

The City of Borås Energy and Climate Strategy highlights the importance of accelerating the reduction of the City of Borås's own emissions from passenger transport, work vehicles and procured transport. The City of Borås must also lay the foundation for private individuals and businesses to reduce driving distances, create more efficient freight transport, be able to choose sustainable fuels and electricity and be able to choose walking, cycling and public transport as a mode of transport. Some of the areas of work prioritised at present are described below.

The municipality adopted its current comprehensive plan in April 2018. This plan assumes that the municipality will grow by about 30,000 inhabitants by 2040. This may mean that travel and traffic will increase to a corresponding extent. The comprehensive plan sets out a number of strategies relating to traffic and transport. Accessibility and safety must be ensured in the road network, for instance, buses must be given high priority in urban development and facilities for pedestrians and



cyclists must be designed with high quality. The comprehensive plan proposes compilation of a transport plan.

Instead of a traffic plan, the City of Borås has produced a traffic programme that was adopted in 2023. The traffic programme describes the main street structure in Borås in terms of modes of transport and proposes improvements. It analyses what the road system is capable of handling and how we can create new road access points to facilitate sustainable urban development with room for more pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

3.9.2 Public Transport Council

The City of Borås has a new council, known as the Public Transport Council. This Council, like the Climate Council, is a political committee subordinate to the municipal board. All parties represented on the municipal council have a representative on the Climate Council. The Council deals with matters related to public transport and sustainable travel and is a forum for knowledge development and dialogue.

3.9.3 Cycling

The municipal council adopted the city's Cycling Strategy in early 2021. This is a comprehensive document that forms the basis for the municipality's efforts to develop cycling. The Cycling Strategy states that the City of Borås's goal for cycling is to increase the proportion of trips by bike to 12 per cent by 2040.

This strategy identifies the municipality's focus for cycling in four priority areas:

- Cycling infrastructure, including parking
- Operation and maintenance
- Communication and Mobility Management (MM)
- Support and services

The Technical Administration produces a Cycling Plan every two years. This plan determines which cycling measures will be implemented in the next few years. A new Cycling Plan will be completed in 2024. The technical administration also runs a Mobility Management programme which focuses on cycling, including outreach activities. This work needs to be broadened and developed further. Mobility Management work is expected to accelerate with a new Traffic Programme in place.

3.9.4 Electrification

Work is ongoing on coordinating the issue of charging infrastructure within the municipal group. The aim is to investigate what is required for the municipal group's own transport and what role the municipality should play in the electrification of the transport sector.



3.10. Reporting and monitoring

Every year, the City of Borås monitors energy and climate data in its work on the climate report. Committees and corporate boards have to work with the strategy in their respective organisations and are responsible for monitoring the respective measures. The results of this work are also reported in the annual climate report. The overall progress of the work on the strategies is monitored in connection with the monitoring of the City of Borås's environmental goals, or equivalent goals for which the Environment and Consumer Committee is responsible.

There is a need to distribute the information from monitoring and reporting and make it available. The target group is limited at the moment; the City of Borås is not reaching out to residents to the extent and scope necessary to increase the pace of the transition.

The Climate City Contract will be monitored in accordance with the guidelines defined by Viable Cities.

4. Viable Cities' commitments

The Viable Cities innovation programme is being conducted in broad collaboration in order to contribute to the transition to climate neutral cities by 2030 as part of the Swedish commitment to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. This includes acting as international pioneers in the transition for cities.

Viable Cities is working with a wide range of stakeholders across academic disciplines, industries and sectors of society. It links outstanding research environments with enterprises of all sizes across a range of sectors, as well as public and civil society organisations.

Viable Cities will promote the following as part of its role as a strategic innovation programme:

4.1. Coordination of Climate City Contract 2030

Accelerated mobilisation in respect of the transition on a local, national and international level is now taking place using Climate City Contracts as a tool. This requires more of an ability to coordinate the efforts and go on developing the contracts in order to achieve upscaling, broadening, replicability, prioritisation and more effective coordination of meetings and dialogues between stakeholders.

That is why the Viable Cities programme office is developing a coordination function for Climate City Contract 2030 in Sweden so as to further support the Climate City



Contract process, the commitments of agencies, municipalities and other relevant stakeholders being developed and refined step by step. This is being done in parallel with implementation and scaling to drive the transition more effectively. The coordination function will support the building of stakeholders' collective capacity for transition from knowledge to implementation and develop the Climate City Contract to the next level – in a local, national and international context.

The coordination function aims to create better opportunities for municipalities and stakeholders to benefit from and manage at a local level the comprehensive policy packages at EU level that result from the European Green Deal (such as Fit for 55 and the Taxonomy Regulation for sustainable investments).

4.2. Smart policy development

Viable Cities intends to create expertise support in respect of policy and regulations with related initiatives in respect of smart policy development. This will involve providing the municipality with more of an overview of current and future Swedish and European legislation, rules and standards of relevance to the climate transition of cities (such as the Fit for 55 policy package). It will also include process support for amending regulations and standards to facilitate climate transition in practice. This will link to agencies' commitments (section 5.1) and development work on system demonstrators (see section 6).

4.3. Innovation

Viable Cities intends to develop its role as a pioneer and intermediary (linker of systems, manager of gaps, crosser of boundaries) in order to reinforce the coordinating, mobilising and facilitating efforts in the emerging ecosystem for the Climate Neutral Cities mission, offering a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet.

Viable Cities will contribute competence networks and process support to make it easier for the municipality to implement innovation that accelerates climate transition. This will include engaging other strategic innovation programmes in the further development of Climate City Contract 2030. This is particularly applicable to mobility, energy, the built environment, circular economy, health and digitalisation. Working on the basis of the partnership agreement with the Drive Sweden strategic innovation programme on climate smart mobility, collaboration will be developed further with both cities and agencies in this respect, not least with the Swedish Transport Administration.



4.4. Coordinated funding

Viable Cities will be supporting the municipality's need for climate transition funding and promoting cooperation and synergy between agencies and other stakeholders funding climate transition and sustainable urban development in the following ways.

- Viable Cities will go on working with the 23 cities and six agencies involved in Climate City Contract 2030 on developing forms of funding linked with this.
- Viable Cities will cooperate with the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth as the managing authority for the European Regional Development Fund in Sweden and the initiatives earmarked for sustainable urban development with a view to creating synergy with Climate City Contract 2030.
- Viable Cities will be working together with the agencies to develop work on coordinated funding by means of various ongoing initiatives in respect of sustainable urban development: see 5.3 Coordinated funding.
- Viable Cities will be continuing to develop forms of climate investment plans for cities with a view to supporting all cities as part of the Climate Neutral Cities 2030 initiative.

4.5. Interaction with the EU's Climate Neutral Cities mission

Viable Cities is working in close cooperation with the support structures that are being built around the EU Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission – both a platform for implementation of the EU mission, NetZeroCities, and CapaCITIES, a network of national nodes such as the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) partnership programme. At EU level, closer interaction and synergies with the sister mission “Adaptation to Climate Change”, as well as with the proposed “New European Bauhaus” mission, are also being discussed.

5. The agencies' commitments

The agencies are committed to working together within the scope of Climate City Contract 2030. In this way, the agencies will contribute to the purpose of the mission-driven effort to make the transition to climate neutral cities by 2030 with a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet.

In 2024, the agencies will go on developing supporting structures and new ways of working for a more coherent, strategic and learning development process. The Sustainable Cities Council (Rådet för hållbara städer) acts as a framework and strategic forum for collaboration between agencies, the Swedish Model for Sustainable Development (Svensk modell för Hållbar utveckling) as an operational



platform for collaboration between agencies, and Climate City Contract 2030 as a joint innovation and test lab for the 23 cities and agencies.

As part of this, the innovation teams at the Climate City Contract agencies will hold joint responsibility for driving the following innovation processes: Policy labs (5.1), System demonstrators (5.2) and Local portfolio analysis (5.3). This work also involves participation in the Transition Lab facilitated by Viable Cities. In 2024, the agencies intend to focus in particular on the development of Climate City Contract 2030 as an innovation in governance for the Climate City Contract Arena, the meeting place for dialogue workshops between municipalities and agencies (see 6.1).

The agencies commit to continue their joint efforts in respect of the following developments in 2024 in order to support municipalities' climate transition:

5.1. Smart policy development

The agencies are working together with the municipalities to identify and contribute to development towards more appropriate regulations and other policy instruments for sustainable urban development and climate transition, and also to increase understanding and knowledge of existing regulations. The process will continue to be based on proactive dialogue and mutual learning, focusing on the development needs of municipalities in an accelerated climate transition.

In 2024, work will continue with policy labs in one or more of the challenge areas identified: inclusive mobility that promotes health, land use and land allocation, energy planning and energy streamlining, and circular resource and material flows. Joint development and planning efforts are ongoing through collaboration and dialogue in order to clarify policy challenges and identify key stakeholders, as well as ensuring the transition potential of policy labs.

5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development

The agencies are funding research, innovation, development and system innovation activities that support more rapid climate transition. The agencies' support is aimed at various types of research, innovation, application and demonstration and, to some extent, investment funding. Funding is provided through open calls for proposals and other forms such as, for example, client networks, stakeholder networks and innovation procurement².

In 2024, the agencies are committing to go on developing and funding new types of initiatives, such as: System Demonstrators for Climate Neutral Cities (see 6.2 for more information) and the Urban Twin Transition Center for the digitalisation of cities.

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



5.3. Coordinated funding

The agencies are constantly developing coordination in respect of ongoing initiatives in the field of sustainable urban development and climate transition so as to create better advance planning and comprehensive information.

In 2024, the agencies are intending to deliver aggregated output data from some of the agencies' funding to all 23 municipalities, based on the innovation process on methodology development for local portfolio analyses that was conducted in 2023. The innovation work will also continue in 2024 with a view to improving the quality and coverage of data supplied, and by means of one or more in-depth projects in collaboration with certain interested municipalities in order to streamline the process and increase the benefits for recipients. The long-term goal of the portfolio analyses is to assist in efforts relating to cities' climate investment plans.

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

5.4. Participation in European sustainable cities initiatives

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

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

The agencies are continuing to participate in the Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future partnership, where calls for proposals and other activities in respect of sustainable urban development will be of relevance in the next few years,

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



as well as the European Commission's "New European Bauhaus" initiative,⁴ European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁵ and Urbact⁶.

The agencies are also helping to develop support functions for the cities selected for the 100 Climate Neutral Cities mission. One example is the "CapaCITIES" programme⁷. CapaCITIES is being used to initiate and reinforce national change processes in order to establish national networks and governance structures.

6. Strategic development projects for 2024

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

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

6.1. Governance

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

Mobilisation through Climate City Contract 2030 has proven to be successful and will go on being developed in order to further reinforce, scale up, broaden and accelerate the transition work. Clearer needs orientation/prioritisation and stricter commitments

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

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

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

⁷ The Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are participating.



are required from several quarters: from the national agencies and the municipalities, and also linked to the Viable Cities role/commitments.

The Climate City Contract is a new and innovative governance tool that is building a long-term strategic process from local to international level on the basis of the collective mission of achieving sustainable and climate neutral cities by 2030. Commitments from cities, agencies and other stakeholders are revised and refined every year, and implementation takes place in interaction between the public sector, the business sector, the academic community and civil society stakeholders. The whole process is building ever stronger mobilisation of ecosystems of stakeholders and initiatives and constantly reinforcing the collective capacity for faster transition. This is a multi-level governance perspective that has also acted as an international role model when it comes to mobilising cities in a broad partnership between enterprises, the academic community, the public sector and civil society, implementing the EU's "Climate Neutral and Smart Cities" mission, which is aiming to achieve 100 climate neutral cities (municipalities) in Europe by 2030. Being the first to set up Climate City Contracts makes Sweden a pioneer, leading the way for other European countries and the European Commission. This, in turn, will strengthen the Swedish business sector's ability to take its place and contribute to the global transition.

In the run-up to 2024, there is still a major need to develop a more in-depth understanding of what transformative governance involves and how municipalities and cities can work with it in practice. Collective analysis support for Climate City Contracts will be developed further using experience and insights from the initial steps. This work has to be done in close cooperation between Viable Cities, agencies and municipalities. This work will be coordinated by the programme office, which will ensure stronger emphasis on analysis and monitoring in the Climate City Contract Arena in 2024.

6.2. Climate investment plans

A basic tenet of mission-driven innovation is that the state and public organisations at different levels of society play an active role in co-creating and reshaping markets in interaction with the business sector and other societal stakeholders such as the academic community and civil society.

Climate investment planning is a crucial part of the transition in a municipality or from a broader perspective. Such planning makes it possible to understand what measures the various stakeholders in the city – the municipality and other stakeholders – need to implement, how these measures can be implemented in a manner that is economically viable, and which financial instruments can be used to raise the capital necessary for the transition. On average, the municipality itself is estimated to have control over about 15 per cent of the investments needed. That



is why a series of stakeholders need to be involved, including citizens, civil society, enterprises (including the financial sector), the academic community and public organisations.

Climate investment plans as a key part of the work on developed governance for the mission, and in 2024 we will be focusing on climate investment plans in a number of areas; analyses and tests on how climate investment plans can be linked to regular decision-making processes, including roadmaps for climate neutrality at city level, analyses of necessary climate investments in areas with a major impact on climate emissions, such as heating/cooling, mobility, food, etc., economic analyses of multiple benefits of climate transition, such as where climate transition can both help to save money and provide quantified benefits such as better health, more jobs, security, etc., how sustainability indicators can be incorporated more systematically into commercial management and contract management

In 2024, the Viable Cities financial dashboard will undergo further development and incorporate the investment plan page, financial indicators and funding flows provided by different national agencies (see section 5.3). The functions of various financial instruments will be mapped, and a number of learning cases will be launched in areas where financial roadmaps are being developed. There will also be a developed collaboration with investors in order to discuss how to mobilise private funding for climate neutral cities.

The work on climate investment plans in Sweden is closely linked to what is happening within NetZeroCities, the platform for implementing the climate neutral cities mission at European level.

6.3. Competitiveness through transition

Strong mobilisation for the transition to climate neutrality may provide the conditions for enterprises in Sweden to develop new business strategies and entirely new markets, which in turn will provide competitiveness by driving a transition to a climate neutral, sustainable society. This is crucial for Sweden's ambition to be the world's first fossil-free welfare state and our climate policy framework. Enterprises play a key role in the climate transition; as major emitters of greenhouse gases, but also as providers of solutions for climate transition and climate change adaptation.

In 2024, Viable Cities is joining forces with the Climate Competitiveness initiative to explore – together with a range of other stakeholders – what systemic changes can accelerate collaboration between municipalities and the business sector in order to achieve the Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission with a good life for all within the boundaries of our planet. Collaboration with the agencies signing the Climate City Contract is a key aspect of this work so that policy change can be driven. The initiative is targeted primarily at the 23 cities signing Climate City Contracts



for 2030, with the objective of creating knowledge that can be used in all Swedish municipalities.

The aim is to focus jointly on key areas of activity linked to the cities' transition journeys, where enterprises are mobilised and systematically engaged. One important element in this work is to reinforce one another in handling the opportunities and challenges presented by the EU's "Fit for 55" programme. Examples of areas of activity include procurement, skills supply, business development and establishment. The work includes reviewing the chances of using municipal policy documents such as procurement policy, business programmes and ownership directives for municipal companies in order to drive development. In its work, Viable Cities also engages with business-oriented organisations and initiatives at international, national and regional level where fair and inclusive transition is a key aspect.

6.4. Citizen engagement

Current societal challenges mean that a number of crises coincide with the climate crisis: the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, crises in respect of energy, food, raw materials and critical minerals, biodiversity and demography. These challenges are exacerbated by the fact that we are also experiencing a democratic development where a growing proportion of the population feels excluded.

This increases the need for initiatives aimed at inclusion and putting citizens at the centre of the transition to a climate neutral, sustainable society through initiatives such as new forms of citizen involvement (such as citizens' councils) and the development of attractive living environments (such as New European Bauhaus) and policies for the designed living environment. It is necessary to make the most of citizens' knowledge and expertise with regard to the decisions that affect their lives, and these decisions must be supported by the vast majority so that action and change can be implemented at the pace and to the extent required.

There will be further development of cooperation between cities, agencies and other stakeholders in 2024 in order to pave the way for citizen engagement in the climate transition; not least by developing new forms of citizen involvement in local Climate City Contracts and interaction with European initiatives in this respect.

A number of learning cases, tests and initiatives in respect of citizen participation will be mobilised in 2024 with a view to building on empowering citizens so as to accelerate the climate transition.

6.5. System demonstrators

System Demonstrators for Climate Neutral Cities is a strategic development project under Climate City Contract 2030. The system demonstrators are expected to play an



essential role in the ability of cities to accelerate the transition, raise awareness and create plenty of engagement on a local, regional, national and international level.

The initiative focuses clearly on mission-oriented innovation, and clearly emphasises the importance of a systems perspective in the transition process. A portfolio approach, where a number of actions, initiatives and experiments combine to form a larger whole, is an important element in this form of intervention. The system demonstrators are based on key areas of Climate City Contract 2030 and are intended to assist with the development of the contract on the basis of insights from the work.

Viable Cities and the agencies undertake to help raise the profile of the system demonstrators in key contexts at national and international level, and to capitalise on the insights from the system demonstrators with a view to facilitating upscaling. All Climate City Contract 2030 municipalities undertake to capitalise on the insights from the system demonstrators with a view to facilitating upscaling.

6.6. Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission on an international level

In October 2021, the EU launched five missions for a new and innovative way of working together and improving people's lives in Europe and beyond. These five missions aim to tackle major societal challenges such as health, climate and the environment, and set ambitious goals with deadlines to be achieved by 2030. One of these is 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 (known as the Cities Mission), which is a key element in delivering the European Green Deal with a view to making the continent climate neutral by 2050. This will involve significant reinforcement of Swedish efforts on the mission of achieving climate neutral cities by 2030 and using Climate City Contract 2030 as a tool for this.

There will be continued mobilisation and development in 2024 in order to reinforce the link between Swedish and European efforts on the Climate Neutral Cities 2030 mission. This is taking place by means of a series of initiatives involving cities, agencies and Viable Cities programmes. Examples include NetZeroCities (a platform for implementing the Cities Mission, with development work on aspects such as Climate City Contracts and Climate Investment Plans), the Driving Urban Transitions partnership (with research and innovation projects focusing on 15-minute cities, energy-positive districts and the circular urban economy) and CapaCITIES (which is developing national support platforms similar to Viable Cities in a number of countries in Europe).

At EU level, closer interaction and synergies between the Cities Mission and its sister mission "Adaptation to Climate Change", as well as with the "New European Bauhaus" initiative, are also being discussed.



Launched by the European Commission in January 2021, the New European Bauhaus initiative links the European Green Deal with our built environment. In the Cities Mission implementation plan, the European Commission points out that EU Climate City Contracts will enable participating cities to integrate the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus initiative in their climate neutrality plans and reinforce them. Work on the New European Bauhaus is taking place in collaboration with the government assignment awarded to the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Sustainable Cities Council, Rådet för hållbara städer) aimed at coordinating Sweden's participation in the New European Bauhaus.

7. Joint efforts on monitoring, evaluation and updating

Viable Cities and the municipality have agreed to conduct annual monitoring of the municipality's performance within the framework of Climate City Contract 2030. Viable Cities will provide documentation annual monitoring at municipal and national level.

7.1. Key updates for the municipality

7.1.1 A framework for green bonds

The City of Borås has published its own framework for green bonds in 2023, and a green funding committee has been established. In particular, this committee will be seeking out and approving investment projects that are compliant with the framework, but will also be proactive in ensuring that the investments made meet the requirements necessary in order to fulfil the criteria. This work involves close cooperation between climate experts and economic experts to ensure that all new investment projects that have the potential to be green are actually green. The City of Borås wishes to go on increasing the green share of the total loan portfolio.

7.1.2 New Environment Programme in place

The City of Borås Environment Programme was adopted in 2023. This environment programme aims to create consensus and a structured approach throughout the municipal group by providing a platform that coordinates and develops work on ecological sustainability in the City of Borås. With this programme in place, the City of Borås will be able to develop its climate action still further.

7.1.3 New guidelines for sustainable construction

The Urban Planning Administration will be working in 2023 and 2024 to produce new guidelines for sustainable construction, and these will replace the City of Borås's timber construction strategy. These guidelines are primarily intended to provide



support to building administrations and companies and aim to reduce emissions linked to construction.

7.1.4 Strategic development of Viskafors, Sandared, Fristad and Dalsjöfors

The comprehensive plan for the City of Borås states that the municipality should have a five-core structure. The aim is to ensure that people living in towns and rural areas are close to everyday services, public transport, meeting venues and other necessary functions that make day-to-day life work. A multi-core structure also means that the municipality's social structure will become more robust and relieve the pressure on central parts of Borås. This work has been characterised by digital surveys, workshops and discussions with residents. More than 2,000 people have participated in the initiative, providing input or information. Some of the material received relates to transport, particularly public transport and cycling. There is a major need for people to be able to cycle safely between and within places. This insight is key to innovation, where national government agencies – primarily the Swedish Transport Administration – could be of major benefit to our residents.

7.1.5 Reorganisation and a new position

A reorganisation took place within the municipal group in the spring of 2023, and municipality-wide strategic environmental and climate work is now being coordinated from the Urban Planning Administration. The urban planning and land and development functions now also form part of the same administration, and this is expected to help to bring about a more coherent urban development process.

This reorganisation resulted in the creation of a completely new environmental strategy service focusing on the circular economy. This service aims to focus on the implementation of the waste plan.

7.1.6 City logistics

MoLo Hubs is a new city logistics project funded by the EU and VGR and run by the City of Borås business department. It is based on creating flexible hubs offering services that the city's businesses and residents need and demand. This project builds on the lessons learned from Good Goods, a previous collaborative project, which explored silent and climate-smart logistics and waste solutions in the city centre.

7.1.7 Energy cooperation

GRITH is a new energy cooperation project funded by the EU and VGR and run by the City of Borås business department. The Viared Industrial Estate has been selected as a starting point. Solar energy panels will be installed with the help of sector-specific experts and in cooperation with entrepreneurs and property owners. The project also aims to identify sustainable and profitable long-term solutions for property owners



and entrepreneurs. The goal is to create different scalable and implementable collaboration models that can be applied to other areas in and around the city.

7.1.8 Borås Energi och Miljö driving development towards more biofuels

Borås Energi och Miljö AB is one of the municipally owned energy companies in the City of Borås. The company's goal is to replace all fossil fuels with renewables in line with international and national climate and environmental goals. The company produces biogas in a biogas plant as part of its work. Some of the vehicle fuel produced, which in 2022 contained 33.7 per cent biogas and the rest fossil gas (natural gas), is used for the internal vehicle fleet, while the rest is sent to two public filling stations.

The production of biogas increased in 2022 and the company entered into a partnership agreement with St1 which meant that St1, starting from late 2022/early 2023, would take over both the refinement of raw gas (biogas) to produce vehicle gas quality and its subsequent sale to consumers. Syl also took over the company's two public filling stations in Åhaga and Hulta.

7.1.9 FRIBO takes the lead

Trygghetsboendet Prästhöjden is an investment for FRIBO (Fristadbostäder, one of the City of Borås's housing companies) that corresponds to two years of annual sales and uses timber for construction throughout. This is the company's second major solid timber project. The frame and the interior and exterior of the building is made of the renewable building material. Materials and technical solutions have been selected to minimise climate impact from a life cycle perspective. Prästhöjden is a construction project that has focused on long-term aspects all the way along the line, and all design work is done on the basis of a 100-year perspective. FRIBO has been doing its best for a number of years to become fossil-free in its own operations, and it finally achieved this in autumn 2022. The long-term idea is to be self-sufficient when it comes to electricity.

7.1.10 Municipal rankings for 2023

The City of Borås came in 7th place in Cykelfrämjandet's annual Kommunvelometer cycling initiative. Historically, this is best ranking ever achieved by the municipality. The City of Borås came last in Dagens Industri's major survey of Sweden's best mobility cities.

7.1.11 Climate-neutral Borås 2030 – the City of Borås's outreach climate action

The Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 innovation team has continued to develop the initiative over the past year and recruited more stakeholders for the various elements. The collaborating organisations involved in Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 have all



contributed to the success of the initiative. The key updates on the initiative are presented below in bullet points:

- A construction network focusing on sustainable construction issues has been launched.
- A collaboration with Science Park, the Swedish Construction Federation and Fastighetsägarna has been established in connection with the City of Borås's work on the new sustainable construction guidelines. Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 has invited industry, the academic community and politicians to two dialogue events in 2023. The cooperation is expected to lead to more events in 2024.
- Navet Science Center and Science Park Borås have developed sustainability programmes for the City of Borås Primary School Administration, aimed at educators and managers. Navet Science Center has also developed a half-day skills enhancement programme for staff at the Urban Planning Administration, which took place in autumn 2023. The cooperation is expected to lead to more training initiatives in 2024.
- In 2023, Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 conducted a municipal survey of the Mobility Management initiative and implemented a regional pilot project together with the City of Trollhättan and others. This project examined residents' motivations in respect of cycling. The Traffic Programme adopted by the City of Borås now facilitates municipality-wide consolidation of Mobility Management work in which the lessons learned from the survey and the project can be taken further.
- Six Climate Talk sessions have been organised since the initiative began. Other types of events have also been organised, including shows, inspirational talks and toy swapping.
- A sustainable events plan is being developed together with Borås TME, the City of Borås's destination company. Planning for the Swedish Championships week in Borås in 2025 is being used as leverage in this initiative.
- Climate-Neutral Borås 2030 is taking the initiative for regional collaboration together with the City of Gothenburg, the Mariestad municipality and the City of Trollhättan.
- This initiative is now reaching out to more people through social media and a new graphic profile.

7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

Companies, citizens, academics and politicians have the will and courage to change. The role of the municipality is both to create participation in the sustainability issue and to contribute to climate-smart societal solutions, but the municipality can only go so far unless it cooperates with other stakeholders. That is why cross-sectoral dialogue and collaboration are necessary as a way of increasing climate benefits.



7.3. Key updates for Viable Cities

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

7.3.1 The Climate City Contract process

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

7.3.2 Strategic efforts prior to new programme phase

Scaling up relevant initiatives in various ways for greater impact and to increase the pace of transition is a crucial element in Viable Cities' work going forward. It is also clear that further work needs to be done in a situation in which multiple crises coincide with the climate crisis. Extensive strategy work took place during the year in preparation for the next multi-year phase of the programme. In October, Viable Cities submitted an application to become one of the programmes under the new, mission-oriented Impact Innovation programme. In parallel, documentation is being submitted for the next phase as a strategic innovation programme in which an evaluation of the first six years of the programme has been completed. In various ways, Viable Cities has also provided input for the Government's forthcoming climate policy action plan and the forthcoming research and innovation bill and contributed



to SALAR's planning⁸ of how municipalities and regions can improve and intensify their efforts on climate change adaptation and reduced climate impact.

7.3.3 Strategic upscaling and acceleration initiatives

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

7.3.4 International alliances in respect of the mission

Efforts to mobilise cities and countries in respect of the mission, in which Viable Cities is involved in a number of ways (e.g. NetZeroCities, Driving Urban Transitions, CapaCITIES, Urban Transitions Mission), are continuing. An evaluation commissioned by the European Commission of the EU's work on the five missions⁹ was published during the year. This concludes that the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities 2030 mission (Cities Mission) has already achieved significant mobilisation to step up the pace of climate transition in cities. The evaluators highlight the fact that establishment of the Cities Mission was an important and timely initiative in order to address the "implementation gap" and the systemic challenges that individual cities' climate efforts could never handle alone.

Viable Cities has continued its efforts as one of many international NetZeroCities partners in order to facilitate the transition in the 112 cities (seven of which are

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

⁹ Alasdair Reid et al. Study supporting the assessment of EU Missions and the review of mission areas – Mission areas review report. 10.2777/61143, European Commission, 2023



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

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

7.4. Key updates for the government agencies

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

7.4.1 Smart policy development

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



7.4.2 System demonstrators

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

7.4.3 Local portfolio analyses

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

7.4.4 Greater collaboration between agencies

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

7.4.5 Climate City Contracts as a governance model

Developments in climate transition governance, both at local level and between local, national and even EU level, are fundamental criteria for broader mobilisation and more effective systemic changes. In 2023, collaboration between agencies – with analytical support by Vinnova – focused on governance issues in particular A strategic analysis project entitled "Klimatomställning av städer – en svensk modell för att öka takten i omställning" (Climate transition of cities – a Swedish model to increase the pace of transition) was conducted in close cooperation with Viable Cities, and with the active participation of both the agencies and the cities. From an operational perspective, it has been possible to devise the term "governance" for



climate transition on the basis of practical experience from the last two decades. Governance is used when an authority needs to go beyond what it can directly control in order to realise a goal, which also involves systemic shifts from piecemeal operations to a holistic approach to public administration. In governance, the authority collaborates with the business sector, civil society and the academic community.

9. The contract

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

Climate City Contract 2030

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

Stockholm 2023-12-08 The Parties agree that these joint commitments, as formulated above, shall apply for 2024. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020, the second in 2021 and the third in 2022. The Climate City Contract is to be updated and renewed for each new year.

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Appendix 1 – Links to documents

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

- [The vision of the Borås of the future - City of Borås \(boras.se\)](#)
- [Environmental program - program \(boras.se\)](#)
- [Traffic program -program \(boras.se\)](#)
- [Energy and climate strategy \(boras.se\)](#)
- [City of Borås' cycle plan - plan \(boras.se\)](#)
- [City of Borås' Climate Report 2023 \(boras.se\)](#)
- [Climate-neutral Borås 2030 - City of Borås \(boras.se\)](#)
- [Surrounded-by-border-walkers.pdf \(reglab.se\)](#)
- [Leadership in the gaps - case study of border walkers and border practitioners in a complex collaborative environment \(diva-portal.org\)](#)