

Climate City Contract 2030

Between the City of Malmö, 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



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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 Malmö.
- 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 Environmental Programme for the City of Malmö 2021–2030 was adopted by the municipal council and is a strategic document that defines the direction for the City of Malmö's long-term work on environmental and climate issues. The environmental programme guides the city's committees and companies and is also intended to provide support and inspiration to Malmö residents and stakeholders in the private and public sectors.

The environmental programme comprises twelve goals divided into three goal areas:

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.



- A Malmö with minimal climate impact
- A Malmö with a good living environment
- A Malmö with rich and healthy nature

The overall goal area in respect of climate includes the following goals:

- Greenhouse gas emissions in Malmö as a geographical area have been reduced by 70 per cent.
- The City of Malmö's organisation has net zero emissions.
- Malmö's consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions will be well on their way to a sustainable level by 2030.
- Malmö is powered by 100 per cent renewable and recycled energy.

A further two climate-related goals are included in the other goal areas:

- Malmö has a sustainable mobility system
- Increased resource efficiency.

The municipal council's goals in the 2024 budget for Malmö indicate that the City of Malmö will be a green city that leads the climate transition. Malmö is a pioneer in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will be a climate neutral city by 2030. Based on the ambitions of The Malmö Commitment², the transition process must be inclusive and fair.

3.2. Strategy

Malmö will go on being a pioneer in respect of the environment and climate. The entire City of Malmö organisation bears collective responsibility for achieving the goals of the environmental programme. Every committee and company board must integrate the content of the environmental programme into their planning of activities on the basis of their respective basic assignments and criteria. This means that every committee and company board is responsible for identifying the goals to which its activities can contribute and making decisions on the actions that will have the greatest environmental impact and benefit to society. The job of the environmental committee is to manage, support and coordinate the municipality's environmental work, and its duty is to support committees and enterprises with the implementation of the environmental programme.

The City of Malmö's organisation does not have sole control over environmental issues and cannot achieve the goals of the environmental programme on its own. As with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, partnerships and collaboration will

² <https://malmo-commitment.org/>



be a factor for success with efforts relating to the City of Malmö's environmental programme. All administrations and enterprises need to undergo a transition so that they can work with civil society, the academic community and the business sector to come up with innovative ways of working and solutions to common challenges.

Exchanging knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources are key components in attainment of these goals. If done correctly, this environmental and climate transition can lead to more green jobs, better health, enhanced welfare and increased competitiveness. Changes to Swedish and European regulations and policies will also be required, and this work is already in progress. The city is involved in this work.

3.3. Organisation and management

To increase the pace of Malmö's climate transition, the City of Malmö has initiated Klimatomställning Malmö, Climate Transition Malmö, in an attempt to mobilise Malmö's stakeholders to deliver on the municipal council's goal of ensuring that Malmö is a pioneer in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will be a climate neutral city by 2030. To support this transition, the City of Malmö will be a green city that leads the climate transition.

In terms of organisation, Climate Transition Malmö comprises:

- a client group that stands responsible for managing the overall progress of the process.
- a process management team that focuses primarily on management, coordination and preparation.
- identified transition areas that independently facilitate the implementation of measures. As things stand at present, seven priority transition areas have been identified.

Everyone needs to understand one another's roles and be capable of viewing the cooperation from the standpoints of others. Mobility, collaboration and transparency are some of the organisational characteristics that are key to achieving full success. Frequent contact with the key individuals involved, both externally and internally at different levels, distributes information within the organisation and so that the people who should view it are reached more quickly. Speedy communication and information flow allow decisions to be made more quickly. The ambition is to create agile supportive and complementary structures that can motivate and further reinforce the culture of cooperation.

The preparation and decision-making process within the framework of Climate Transition Malmö should, as far as possible, be linked to the line organisation's communication channels that are already established and organised. There are



already a number of established arenas for dialogue and collaboration with external stakeholders in this respect. Moreover, the City of Malmö's line organisation has financial and human resources and a formal decision-making mandate that must not be overlooked.

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

Since 2020, Malmö has had Sweden's first local Climate City Contract – Klimatkontrakt Malmö – aimed at companies, organisations and the academic community. As things stand at present, the City of Malmö has concluded Climate City Contracts and formed working groups with major stakeholders in the business sector and other stakeholders and research institutes in areas such as energy, transport and construction. More than 200 enterprises are affiliated at present.

A concept that will involve including and meeting the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises in the field of climate transition is being developed. Through these contracts, stakeholders undertake to contribute their own formulated climate commitments. This may involve a roadmap for their own organisations, or individual climate initiatives. Everyone who signs the Malmö Climate City Contract becomes part of Climate Transition Malmö and has the opportunity to collaborate with affiliated stakeholders in the priority transition areas.

The involvement and commitment of Malmö residents is crucial if the transition to a sustainable society is to succeed. It is important for Malmö residents to be given the opportunity to influence transition processes and outcomes, as it will be difficult to gain acceptance for important transition decisions without broad participation. The City of Malmö also needs to inspire and support Malmö residents' own initiatives in order to help them achieve sustainable lifestyles, behavioural change and patterns of action in the places where they live and work. That is why the City of Malmö has developed skills-enhancing products and digital support tools such as climate initiatives³ and investigated the conditions for various forms of advice and cooperation.

To facilitate a fair and inclusive transition, the City of Malmö is working to meet Malmö residents in their day-to-day lives, working on the basis of local driving forces and needs. The City of Malmö has worked together with Malmö residents to evaluate the conditions for sustainable lifestyles in different geographical areas and social groups. In-depth collaborations with other organisations have been established in order to jointly create forums for meeting Malmö residents of all ages and involving them in the climate transition process. One important partner in this initiative is the Cultural Administration/Libraries in Malmö, which have arenas and meeting places

³ <https://malmo.se/Miljo-och-klimat/Klimatomstallning-Malmo/Klimatinsatser.html> (Swedish)



for discussion, education and lifelong learning. The organisation is an enabler and manager of democratic values such as knowledge and free formation of opinion.

3.5. Climate investment plan

Malmö has conducted a scenario analysis in order to understand how Malmö can achieve its climate goals. Three different scenarios have been trialled on the basis of a combination of measures involving both technical and behavioural changes. Climate measures analysed also take into account the socio-economic perspective.

As roadmaps are drawn up in the seven priority transition areas, climate investment plans will be compiled for each, and these will then be aggregated for Climate Transition Malmö as a whole.

Malmö has also considered residents' climate transition from an economic perspective. What they should invest in, what adopting a more climate smart lifestyle will cost, and more.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

Digital tools enable people to work together on climate transition in new ways. The City of Malmö is working with a company known as ClimateView to jointly develop smart digital solutions to support Malmö's climate transition efforts. ClimateView will help us to obtain a clear, comprehensive and fact-based overview of the transition. A collaborative space where we can all see and strive for the same goals, and pick up the pace together.

The City of Malmö will be able to use the tool to gather together the climate benefits of various measures, but also their investment costs, savings for various stakeholders in society and other societal benefits created. The tool will also help the City of Malmö to easily identify sectors in which more action is needed and who has control over them. The tool will help politicians in the City of Malmö to make informed decisions to facilitate a climate transition in Malmö. It will also be possible to use the tool to communicate the city's climate transition to relevant target groups in an educational manner.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate neutral municipalities

Malmö is part of the world, and the world is part of Malmö. The challenges facing Malmö are not unique. A number of European cities face similar challenges. Working together and sharing experiences will allow us to accelerate the transition and add value for the people of Malmö and the business sector. In 2023, Malmö has regularly shared its experiences with national agencies and Swedish and European cities in areas such as climate investment plans, climate transition organisation, roadmaps, citizen engagement and involvement, and digitalisation.



The City of Malmö has access to exchanges of knowledge and experience with other cities in Europe through a number of international networks. NetZeroCities is the central arena for knowledge and experience exchange at EU level, but Malmö also participates in the following networks, for example: EIT Climate-KIC, Viable Cities, Eurocities, KIMO, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Klimatkommunerna, Covenant of Mayors, Resilient Regions Association and United Cities and Local Governments.

Together with other European cities and municipalities, Malmö is also able to influence national and international issues that are of central value to Malmö. The networks and organisations are also used to generate project ideas and identify partners.

3.8. Climate change adaptation

The need for climate change adaptation has recently become apparent to the world, and also to Malmö. To prepare Malmö for climate change, the city has decided that all physical planning must be adapted on the basis of the worst climate scenario our expert authority SMHI is able to deliver, RCP 8.5, which predicts global warming of 4.3°C by 2100.

In 2023, the City of Malmö conducted national advocacy work that is planned to continue in the future. The aim of this is to bring about changes and clarifications in Swedish legislation in order to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation in Sweden's cities and communities.

The City of Malmö is part of the UN global campaign Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR 2030), and will organise at least one international conference on climate change adaptation within the network every year. The City of Malmö focuses in particular on nature-based solutions within the network and has worked on these extensively in recent years. This includes the Vinnova-funded Blue Green City Lab project, where the lessons learned will now be taken forward in implementation projects in 2024. The City of Malmö and the Copenhagen municipality extended their cooperation and knowledge exchange in 2023, resulting in the Malmö area becoming what is known as a "Mission Region" in the EU's initiative for 150 climate-resilient cities and communities. The City of Malmö has adopted a coastal protection strategy in 2023.

At the same time, work is in progress on bringing together previous work done in the city and shaping new collaborations in respect of climate change adaptation within the City of Malmö's organisation by addressing the issue of climate risk impact in their risk and vulnerability analyses, for example. There has also been a great deal of emphasis on investigating exposure to different climate risks in the various geographical areas of Malmö and conducting social vulnerability analyses specifically for heat waves. One ambition in 2023 has been to bring together various



climate change adaptation policy documents under a common climate change adaptation strategy.

3.9. Climate smart mobility

Malmö, like other cities, is facing a major transition in how we get around and transport ourselves and goods. Development is playing a crucial role in the climate transition.

Walking, cycling and public transport should be the obvious choice in Malmö. In combination with efficient and eco-friendly freight transport and motor vehicle traffic, we can create a sustainable transport system. A transport system adapted to people, for the city.

In Malmö, we are now running trials and exploring the possibilities for increasing the availability of shared vehicles through mobility hubs and mobility houses. Hubs will be used to link existing and new modes of transport, creating an ecosystem of mobility.

The City of Malmö's traffic and mobility plan, which was revised during the year, describes how progressive and holistic traffic planning can help improve quality of life for more Malmö residents, visitors and workers. Malmö is growing, and the city's challenges require new methods to complement the traditional ones.

3.10. Reporting and monitoring

The climate goals are monitored by means of indicators, which are adopted by the municipal council. Fulfilment of the goals of the environmental programme is monitored in an environmental report published regularly. The environmental committee is responsible for this arrangement, which also forms the basis for the ecological dimension of the City of Malmö's sustainability reporting. Environmental and climate work forms part of the basic assignment, and so committees and company boards are responsible for the fulfilment of their organisations' goals by 2030. For the environmental committee to be able to make an overall analysis of the environmental situation in Malmö, each committee and company board has to monitor its own measures and report the results to the environmental committee every year. In turn, the environmental committee reports on the environmental situation to the municipal council.

The City of Malmö monitors and reports on its work as part of the Covenant of Mayors 2030 initiative to the CDP and ICLEI global reporting platform for cities. Malmö received the highest grade (A-listed) for its reporting for both 2022 and 2023, confirming that Malmö is an international leader when it comes to its climate work.



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 procurement⁴.

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.

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

⁴ See [pressannouncement from the Swedish Internet Foundation](#) (Swedish)



for proposals, as well as collective knowledge support from all participating agencies involved in the Sustainable Cities Council⁵.

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, as well as the European Commission’s “New European Bauhaus” initiative,⁶ European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁷ and Urbact⁸.

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” programme⁹. 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ New European Bauhaus highlights the importance of aesthetic, social and cultural assets in the green transition.

⁷ 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)

⁸ Urbact is a European cooperation programme for exchange and learning in the field of sustainable urban development, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

⁹ The Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are participating.



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 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

Malmö is involved in the EU mission to achieve 100 climate neutral cities by 2030. This confirms that the climate work already being done by Malmö is on the right track, as well as providing new opportunities for Malmö to step up the pace of its climate work still further. During the year, the City of Malmö – together with 51 other European cities – was selected as one of Europas Pilot Cities¹⁰. Special financial support is paving the way for efforts aimed at reinforcing processes already ongoing as part of Malmö's climate transition, contributing directly to climate change mitigation initiatives and collaborating with other Pilot Cities, as well as contributing to European distribution as part of the NetZeroCities Twinning Programme¹¹.

The City of Malmö has applied for the EU Mission Label for climate neutral and smart cities in 2023. The City of Malmö uses a Climate City Contract comprising a commitment (involving multiple stakeholders), an action plan and an investment plan to describe how it plans to fulfil its ambitions to become climate neutral by 2030. The European Commission will submit its response in the first quarter of 2024.

7.2. Most urgent experiences for the municipality to share

Obtaining a general picture of the situation and a common understanding of Malmö's biggest sources of emissions, the measures that could reduce emissions most effectively and the estimated costs and benefits of these measures form an important part of Climate Transition Malmö.

The completed situation analysis and socio-economic impact analysis of potential climate measures in Malmö have attracted a great deal of attention and helped to provide decision-makers and officials in the City of Malmö with a knowledge base on potential climate measures in Malmö up to 2030, as well as setting out the estimated costs and benefits of these measures. This work has helped to enhance understanding of what we need to analyse further and areas where our climate work needs to be focused.

¹⁰ <https://netzerocities.eu/malmo-pilot-city-activity-net-zero-malmo-pilot/>

¹¹ <https://netzerocities.eu/twinning-programme/>



The transition to 2030 is possible, but it will require courage, perseverance and structure.

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 planning¹² 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 missions¹³ 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.

¹² Fair and sustainable transition for the climate - Proposal from SKR's program preparation for sustainable transition, SALAR, September 2023 (Swedish)

¹³ 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



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 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 Malmö, 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 Malmö (may be in Swedish).

- [Climate City Contract 2030, Malmö 2022](#)
- [Environmental program for the City of Malmö 2021 - 2030](#)
- [Overview plan Malmö](#)
- [Traffic and mobility plan](#)
- [Rainfall plan](#)
- [Circuit diagram 2021-2030](#)
- [Climate transition Malmö](#)
- [The Malmö Commitment](#)