

Climate City Contract 2030

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

VERSION 2022



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030 | 4 |
| 2. Parties | 4 |
| 3. Municipal commitments | 4 |
| 3.1. Municipal climate goals | 4 |
| 3.2. Strategy | 4 |
| 3.3. Organization and management | 5 |
| 3.4. Collaboration with business, academia and citizens | 6 |
| 3.5. Climate Investment Plan | 7 |
| 3.6. Digital support for implementation | 7 |
| 3.7. Innovation hub for climate-neutral municipalities | 8 |
| 3.8. Climate adaptation | 8 |
| 3.9. Climate-smart mobility | 8 |
| 3.10. Reporting and follow-up | 8 |
| 4. Viable Cities' commitments | 9 |
| 4.1. Better regulation | 9 |
| 4.2. Innovation | 9 |
| 4.3. Coordinated funding | 10 |
| 4.4. Cooperation with the EU Cities Mission | 10 |
| 5. Commitments by the government agencies | 10 |
| 5.1. A learning approach in policy development | 11 |
| 5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development | 11 |
| 5.3. Coordinated funding | 12 |
| 5.4. Participation in European initiatives for sustainable cities | 12 |
| 6. Strategic development projects 2023 | 13 |
| 6.1. System demonstrations | 13 |



| | |
|---|-----------|
| 6.2. Competitiveness and funding..... | 13 |
| 6.3. Citizen engagement..... | 14 |
| 6.4. International Cities Mission 2030..... | 14 |
| 7. Joint monitoring, evaluation and updating..... | 15 |
| 7.1. Most important updates for the municipality..... | 15 |
| 7.2. Most urgent experiences to share for the municipality..... | 16 |
| 7.3. Most important updates regarding Viable Cities..... | 16 |
| 7.4. Most important updates regarding government agencies..... | 18 |
| 8. The contract..... | 21 |
| Climate City Contract 2030..... | 22 |
| Appendix 1 – document links..... | 23 |



1. Purpose of the Climate City Contract 2030

The purpose of this Climate City Contract is to accelerate the pace of the climate transition in cities by 2030 within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, while contributing to the recovery of the Swedish economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The Climate City Contract expresses the partners' intention to raise the level of ambition in sustainable urban development and climate transition. The Climate City Contract also provides Sweden and Swedish cities with a good foundation to be international role models for climate transition in cities. This will be achieved through mutual, long-term commitment to efforts on the part of the undersigned government agencies, the Viable Cities innovation programme, and the city/municipal authority as set out below.

2. Parties

Parties in the Climate City Contract 2030 are:

- The City of Gothenburg
- The government agencies: The Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.
- The Viable Cities strategic innovation programme.¹

3. Municipal commitments

3.1. Municipal climate goals

In the Environmental and Climate Programme for the City of Gothenburg 2021–2030, the City of Gothenburg aims to have reduced its climate impact to close to zero by 2030. This means that Gothenburg will reduce emissions in its geographical area by at least 10.3% per year and consumption-based emissions by at least 7.6% per year.

3.2. Strategy

The City's climate work is based on the Environmental and Climate Programme, which has two parts: a common environmental management system for the City and seven cross-sectoral strategies. Work on the strategies has been bolstered by the climate

¹ Viable Cities is a strategic innovation programme funded jointly by the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova and Formas. The programme runs 2017–2030 and has approximately 130 members. The host organization is KTH Royal Institute of Technology.



transition function that has been developed under the direction of the City since early 2021. The parts form the basis for the City's work to achieve its climate goal of reducing its climate impact to close to zero by 2030.

Cross-sectoral implementation to achieve the City's environmental and climate objectives is, as mentioned above, concretized in seven implementation strategies. Responsibility for running and coordinating the strategies is assigned to a coordinating committee or board, under the overall leadership of the Environment and Climate Committee. All strategies are based on the fact that collaboration, innovation, digitalization and communication are key enablers for success.

The aim of the climate transition function is to further strengthen the progress of environmental and climate work at the overall level by directly addressing challenges that are of a more systemic nature and which are therefore more difficult to manage for individual companies or administrations.

As a result of the work carried out within the climate transition function in 2021 and 2022, three complementary focus areas have crystallized as being central:

- The first is to prepare a strategic discussion at the CEO and director level in the City about its overall transition strategy, that is, the various choices and priorities that are important to make in the City's transition efforts. This transition strategy shall be based on a thorough analysis of the transition risks faced by the City and shall form the basis for the City Council's overall choices and priorities.
- The second focus area consists of translating the City's transition strategy into more specific strategies at company and administration level.
- The third is to formulate a number of ambitious strategic initiatives, or system demonstrators, which will realize the company and committee strategies and give concrete form to the City's overall strategy of transition. In order to succeed, these strategic initiatives will need to operate in the gap between the City's administrations and companies but also between the City, the region and government agencies, which may require new collaboration spaces.

3.3. Organization and management

The City of Gothenburg's broad environmental and climate work is based on an ambitious Environmental and Climate Programme.

In early 2021, a climate transition function was set up as a pilot, initially linked to the Climate City Contract. This function is now established and is continuously evolving.

The climate transition function regularly reports to a group of directors in the City with participation from central administrations and companies. The group is chaired by



the Director of the Environment Administration. Separate agreements exist between the participating companies and the administrations, which means that the work of the climate transition function also links into the formal management of these units.

The work of the climate transition function is conducted in close dialogue with strategists at the City's various companies and administrations to ensure continuous support from existing organizations and assignments. The ambition is also to have a continuous close dialogue in this work with both the region and participating government agencies.

A central focus for the climate transition function is the Climate Investment Plan (see 3.5) that will be continuously developed and updated. The Climate Investment Plan serves as a cohesive steering document for the work of the climate transition function.

3.4. Collaboration with business, academia and citizens

The starting point for cooperation with business, academia and citizens is that climate transition is best achieved through Gothenburg's success in enabling and utilizing the collective knowledge and commitment of players in all sectors of the city. If this does not succeed, there is a risk that the power of innovation will diminish and that political support will be eroded.

The City's efforts to accelerate climate transition therefore place significant new demands on a close and more responsive interaction between the different parts of the City and citizens/civil society, business and academia. It is therefore important for the City to develop new methods and ways of working for close dialogue and co-creation with these groups around the actions that will be required. The City of Gothenburg's experiences and knowledge from dialogue with the citizens have largely been shaped in the now discontinued districts, not least through the large urban development projects in the city. These experiences and knowledge will now be utilized in the City's new infrastructure for democracy, an infrastructure that will also address climate-related issues. The City recently received recognition for its involvement of citizens through an award from The International Organization of Participatory Democracy, IOPD, for its inclusive work with citizen budgets.

The City also has long, in-depth experience of collaborating with academia, primarily through the ten-year national research and knowledge centre for sustainable urban development, Mistra Urban Futures (now Urban Futures). This centre has shifted the knowledge frontier in Sweden and internationally around co-creation and transdisciplinary work linked to sustainable urban development. The City of Gothenburg is also a leader in Sweden in developing test arenas to drive innovation in close collaboration with the business community.



The Climate Neutral Gothenburg 2.0 project has an established structure to build on these experiences and develop new relationships and tools that will strengthen the City in its ambition to ensure an ever deeper interaction with citizens, business and academia in the work to manage the climate transition. The project has two work packages, where the first is run by the Environment and Climate Committee and aims to support the work of the climate transition function, and the second is run by the Committee for Democracy and Citizen Services and aims to develop the method for citizens to co-create climate-related solutions with the City and other players.

3.5. Climate Investment Plan

The Climate Investment Plan is intended to serve as a coherent guide document for the City's climate transition and below that for the work of the climate transition function. It aims to clarify how the basic economic interests of the City support accelerated climate transition.

Part 1 of the work has involved conducting an in-depth analysis of the 'transition risks' faced by Gothenburg. The analysis clarifies the more fundamental global pressure for change that may affect the City, and indicates the strategic and economic interests the City may have in managing the transition in a proactive manner.

Part 2 of the work focuses on helping to formulate the overall scenario-based strategies at board and committee level. The aim of these strategies is to reduce the City's exposure to 'transition risks'.

Part 3 of the work focuses on helping to formulate and shape the development and investment portfolios required in the respective companies and administrations, and in the gap between them, for the strategies to be realized.

The work on a Climate Investment Plan directly links the City's strategic climate transition initiatives to the City's most fundamental risk management and financial control. The aim here is to ensure organizational and legal stability in work on the climate transition, including securing democratic support.

3.6. Digital support for implementation

The City of Gothenburg and Chalmers are leading nationally and internationally in the development of a digital twin of the city, Virtual Gothenburg. The City is also at the forefront of developing a digitalized planning process. Several outstanding research initiatives are currently in progress to link these emerging digital models and analytical tools with long established research into the city's energy system and built environment.



At the same time Gothenburg, through close collaboration with academia, has built a deep knowledge of management and governance challenges linked to climate transition.

The City of Gothenburg now intends to combine these initiatives relating to digitalization and to management and governance challenges in order to offer practical, useful management and control tools for the climate transition.

3.7. Innovation hub for climate-neutral municipalities

Through Climate Neutral Gothenburg 2.0, a collaboration with academia and business is now being developed, with support from the City's innovation programme, to ensure joint learning about capacity development for transition, which is a prerequisite for succeeding in achieving the climate goal. This is done in close cooperation with "Climate 2030", which is Region Västra Götaland Region and the County Administrative Board's initiative to drive development in key areas such as transport, energy transition, chemicals, consumption and so on. Further developed cooperation also increases the focus on governance challenges that are so important to a successful climate transition.

3.8. Climate adaptation

The City of Gothenburg has been working for many years with climate adaptation both centrally and through individual companies and administrations. A coherent action plan for climate adaptation work in the city is being developed and has clear links to the Climate City Contract.

3.9. Climate-smart mobility

A significant focus for the City of Gothenburg's climate work is on developing new sustainable transport solutions and transport systems. In this work, the City's administrations and companies work closely with business, for example through projects such as the Gothenburg Green City Zone and Transzero. There is also a close collaboration with Region Västra Götaland on new public transport solutions.

3.10. Reporting and follow-up

The work is regularly reported to the group of directors for the City's climate transition function and to the Environment and Climate Board. The City Executive Board is also notified where necessary.



The City would also like to see regular reporting to the government agencies' strategic coordination group, both on strategic challenges and opportunities for coordinated action.

4. Viable Cities' commitments

The innovation programme Viable Cities is implemented in a broad collaboration in order to contribute to the transition to climate-neutral cities by 2030 as part of Sweden's commitment to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and the aims of the Paris Agreement. This includes being international role models for climate transition in cities.

Viable Cities works with a wide range of stakeholders across disciplinary boundaries, industries and societal sectors. The programme connects centres of research excellence with large, small and medium-sized enterprises in a range of industries, as well as with public sector and civil society organizations.

Within the framework of Viable Cities' strategic innovation role, the programme shall strive to achieve the following:

4.1. Better regulation

Viable Cities intends to create competence support with policy labs to provide the municipality with a better overview of current and proposed Swedish and European legislation, regulation and standards of relevance to the cities' climate transition. This includes process support for changing regulations and standards to facilitate the climate transition in practice. In the initial phase, this will be linked to work to develop system demonstrators (see Section 6).

4.2. Innovation

In order to make it easier for the municipality to implement innovations that can accelerate the pace of climate transition, Viable Cities will provide a competence network and process support, including by engaging other strategic innovation programmes in the ongoing development of Climate City Contract 2030, particularly in the areas of mobility, energy, built environment, the circular economy, health and digitalization. Based on the collaboration agreement on climate-smart mobility signed with the strategic innovation programme Drive Sweden, this area of collaboration will be further developed with both cities and government agencies, not least the Swedish Transport Administration.



4.3. Coordinated funding

Viable Cities will work in the following ways to support the municipality's funding needs for the climate transition and to promote collaboration and synergies between government agencies and other stakeholders that fund climate transition and sustainable urban development.

- Viable Cities shall continue to work with Climate City Contract 2030 with the 23 cities and five government agencies involved in the programme.
- Through the Council for Sustainable Cities, Viable Cities has launched a collaboration to create synergies between urban climate transition grants from government agencies and Climate City Contract 2030. The agencies are currently working to coordinate the various initiatives under way in the field of sustainable urban development, see Section 5.3 Coordinated funding.
- Viable Cities collaborates with Kommuninvest and the European Investment Bank (EIB) among others in order to develop forms for strengthening the long-term funding of municipal climate investment plans.

Viable Cities continues to develop forms for climate investment plans for cities, the aim being to support all cities in their efforts towards climate neutrality by 2030.

4.4. Cooperation with the EU Cities Mission

Viable Cities cooperates closely with the support structures built up around the EU's Cities Mission – including the NetZeroCities platform (an EU mission platform), CapaCITIES (a network of national nodes), and the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership programme.

5. Commitments by the government agencies

The government agencies commit to collaborating within the strategic innovation programme Viable Cities. The agencies thereby contribute to the purpose of the mission-led work to transition to climate-neutral cities by 2030 with a good life for all within planetary boundaries.

Climate City Contract 2030 means that new working methods need to be developed, both between different actors and organizations, and between different levels of governance.

During 2023, the agencies will continue to develop work in the interagency innovation team. Continued dialogue with cities and regions is important in order to capture



needs and contribute to systems transition. This work entails active participation in the Transition Lab Forum facilitated by Viable Cities, in which joint workshops, reflective discussions and teaching seminars are important aspects. New working methods may also entail that government agencies initiate experiments and pilot projects.

The agencies undertake to continue joint efforts to support the municipalities' climate transition in the following areas in 2023:

5.1. A learning approach in policy development

The government agencies work together to create the conditions for proactive dialogue and learning regarding policy development, and existing and proposed regulations on sustainable urban development and climate transition.

During 2023, the agencies will explore and test forms, such as policy labs, for identifying obstacles and challenges in policy and regulations for sustainable urban development and climate transition.

The authorities will continue to contribute to activities that promote the development of climate investment plans, digitalization and data sharing, system demonstrators and collaboration processes that relate to multi-level governance.

During Sweden's EU Presidency in the first half of 2023, the government agencies will be involved in several of the 150 or so EU meetings to be held in Sweden. The meetings are forums for learning and policy development, and cities and regions are important participants. Planned discussions include the EU's urban agenda on sustainable urban development and a conference on Green Cities.

5.2. Funding for research, innovation and development

The government agencies fund initiatives for research, innovation, development and systems innovation that support accelerated climate transition.

The agencies' funding focuses on different types of research, innovation, application and demonstration, and to some extent investment support. Funding is provided through open calls and other forms, such as client networks, needs-owner networks and innovation procurement.

As part of the transition process, the agencies² and Viable Cities have launched an initiative on urban system demonstrators. During autumn 2022, an initial 'design phase' was carried out as part of the initiative. A follow-up call will be made in 2023. The purpose of the effort is to create a form of initiative that takes a clearer systems perspective to the transition process.

² Vinnova



5.3. Coordinated funding

To create better foresight and centralized information, the government agencies continuously develop coordination of the various efforts under way in the field of sustainable urban development and climate transition. Development takes place within the framework of several of the agencies' existing tasks and assignments, such as the Council for Sustainable Cities, strategic innovation programmes, the national research programmes for climate and sustainable community building, as well as the European Regional Development Fund.

During 2022, the agencies have begun initial tests with some of the cities, in order to develop, in dialogue, a method for portfolio analysis of the agencies' collective funding for cities. The innovation work is planned to continue in 2023. The long-term goal is for the work to contribute to work on cities' climate investment plans.

Hallbarstad.se is the Council for Sustainable Cities central website. Development work on the website will continue in 2023, partly to publicize upcoming funding opportunities, and partly to make it clearer and more user-friendly.

5.4. Participation in European initiatives for sustainable cities

The government agencies are involved in and work with several different European initiatives to support the development of sustainable cities and communities.

Work to support Swedish participation in the Horizon Europe 2021–2027 research programme includes contributing to the design of calls and activities, and informing and advising actors planning to take part in applications for different European efforts. The government agencies also collaborate in the execution of the EU's Regional Development Fund 2021–2027 with efforts for sustainable urban development.

The agencies will continue to collaborate in the Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future Partnership³, where there will be calls and other activities in the field of sustainable urban development in the years to come, as well as the European Commission's New European Bauhaus⁴ initiative, the European Urban Initiative (EUI)⁵ and URBACT⁶.

³ The Swedish Energy Agency, Formas and Vinnova

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

⁵ The European Urban Initiative is a hub for sustainable urban development on an EU level. The EUI will offer funding for cities to improve and increase their capacity in designing strategies, policies and projects for sustainable urban development (urban-initiative.eu).

⁶ URBACT is a European collaboration programme for exchange and learning in sustainable urban development, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth,



The agencies will also contribute to develop support functions for the cities selected to participate in the Cities Mission. One example is the CapaCITIES⁷ programme. Through CapaCITIES, national change processes are initiated and strengthened to establish national networks and governance structures.

6. Strategic development projects 2023

The following strategic development projects will be conducted within the framework of Viable Cities Transition Lab during 2023 in collaboration with municipalities, with the aim of further developing the content of the Climate City Contract 2030 during its upcoming revision.

6.1. System demonstrations

In collaboration with the involved government agencies, Viable Cities is developing a new form of initiative to drive systems innovation for transformation in line with the Cities Mission. A system demonstrator will be conducted to demonstrate the transition of entire social systems in a real-life environment. An important part of this kind of approach is a portfolio of efforts where new solutions, models, initiatives and experiments are linked to a greater whole. Many actors from different sectors are being mobilized in order to learn how to scale up. The system demonstrators start from central areas in the Climate City Contract 2030 and are intended to contribute to revisions of the contract based on insights arising from the work.

During 2022, Vinnova and Viable Cities have jointly begun a design phase to explore how system demonstrators can be a powerful tool in the transition to climate-neutral cities. In collaboration with a number of cities, six consortiums began the design phase in autumn 2022. A call is planned during 2023 for the establishment phase, with the ambition of enabling a number of system demonstrators in Sweden. In tandem, four system demonstrators are being planned Bogotá (Colombia), Bristol (UK), Curitiba (Brazil) and Makindye Ssabgabo (Uganda) within the Climate Smart Cities Challenge alongside UN-Habitat. The aim is to strengthen the exchange of experiences between system demonstrators both nationally and internationally in 2023.

6.2. Competitiveness and funding

One of the foundations of mission-oriented innovation is that the state and public organizations at different levels of society play an active role in co-creating and redesigning markets in collaboration with business and other players in society, such as academia and civil society. Concerted mobilization for the transition to climate neutrality can lay the foundation for companies in Sweden to develop new business strategies that enhance competitiveness by driving a transition to a sustainable,

⁷ the Swedish Energy Agency and Viable Cities are taking part.



climate-neutral society. This is crucial to Sweden's ambition of being the world's first fossil-free welfare nation, and to our climate policy framework. During 2023, Viable Cities will further strengthen its collaboration with business in order to muster forces for transition. This will take place on several levels, particularly through collaboration in initiatives such as Fossil Free Sweden and **The Green Transition Leap**. In addition, there will be development to strengthen the local mobilization of companies in the Climate City Contract 2030.

A central aspect of the Climate City Contract 2030 is to create a Climate Investment Plan with a broad perspective on what investments need to be made to achieve climate transition in a city by 2030 (with broad referring to a wide range of stakeholders such as citizens, civil society, companies, academia and public organizations). The municipality is believed to have control over about 15% of the required investments on average. One crucial task is to bring together the right actors from business (including the financial sector), public bodies and civil society to bring about the necessary investment and redirect financial flows to transition to climate neutrality, while also securing auxiliary benefits from the climate transition such as jobs, improved health, inclusivity and attractive living environments. Procurement is also a pivotal issue here. Viable Cities' work will continue in 2023 in order to secure the mobilization of investments and develop methods for climate investment plans.

6.3. Citizen engagement

Various societal challenges currently exist, adding further crises to the climate crisis. For example the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, crises relating to energy, food, raw materials and critical minerals, biodiversity and demographics. This also presents a demographic challenge where a growing percentage of the population feels excluded.

This increases the need for efforts aiming at inclusivity, and at putting citizens front and centre for the transition to climate neutrality and a sustainable society, for instance through new forms for citizen involvement (e.g. citizens' councils) and the development of attractive living environments (e.g. New European Bauhaus). During 2023, Viable Cities will further develop collaboration with cities, government agencies and other actors in order to create conditions for citizen engagement in the climate transition. This will be done primarily by developing new forms for citizen involvement in local climate city contracts and collaboration with European efforts in the area.

6.4. International Cities Mission 2030

In October 2021, the EU launched five missions as a new and innovative approach to working together to improve the lives of people in Europe and beyond. The five missions are intended to tackle major societal challenges such as health, climate and the environment and to formulate ambitious goals and deliver solutions by 2030.



One of these missions is 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 – by and for the citizens (known as the Cities Mission), an important element of the delivery of the European Green Deal and a climate-neutral continent by 2050. This will considerably strengthen Swedish efforts to achieve climate-neutral cities by 2030 and to utilize the Climate City Contract 2030 as a tool to do so.

During 2023, work will be done to further strengthen links between Swedish and joint European efforts to achieve climate-neutral cities by 2030. This will take place within a range of initiatives involving cities, government agencies and the Viable Cities programme; for example, NetZeroCities (a platform for the implementation of the Cities Mission which will be developing e.g. an EU Climate City Contract and climate investment plans), the Driving Urban Transition Partnership, CapaCITIES, New European Bauhaus and others. Launched by the European Commission in January 2021, the New European Bauhaus initiative connects the European Green Deal to our built environment. In the implementation plan for the Cities Mission, the European Commission highlights that the EU Climate City Contract will also enable participating cities to integrate and promote the values and the principles of the New European Bauhaus initiative in their plans for climate neutrality. The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (through the Council for Sustainable Cities) has been tasked by the government with coordinating Swedish work on New European Bauhaus.

Work on achieving climate-neutral cities by 2030 will continue to be developed globally. This will primarily be based on several already ongoing projects, e.g. linked to Sweden's EU Presidency in the first half of 2023, and the continuation of the Climate Smart Cities Challenge in the four cities outside of the EU in association with UN-Habitat.

7. Joint monitoring, evaluation and updating

Viable Cities and the municipality agree to conduct an annual review of the municipality's results within the framework of Climate City Contract 2030. Viable Cities shall prepare documentation for annual follow-up at municipal and national levels.

7.1. Most important updates for the municipality

During the year, the City of Gothenburg has further developed a climate transition function and through the function it has established ongoing city-wide work on climate transition.

The group of directors linked to the function has been expanded. The group now includes directors or CEOs from the Environment Administration, Business Region



Göteborg, Göteborg Energi, Port of Gothenburg, Renova, Förvaltnings AB Framtiden, Gryab AB, Stadshus AB, the Eco-cycle and Water Administration, and the City Planning Authority. The intention has been to adapt the group of directors so that its composition reflects the need for a mandate to lead and control the change that is most relevant at a given time. A working methodology has been developed and close relationships have been established with strategists at the companies and administrations that participate in the climate transition function's work.

The direct result of the first year's work is that

- an analysis of the City's transition risks has been conducted;
- an overall transition strategy has been formulated based on this analysis;
- discussions have been held into central strategic choices at company and committee level, and on how they can be developed further;
- a number of important strategic investments have been identified, which link to the transition of the fuel industry in the city, to a large-scale and sustainable expansion and renovation of the city, and to the broader transition of the energy system.
- Based on this work, a scenario-based Climate Investment Plan has been developed, which has also explained the need for new collaboration spaces with government agencies.

In addition to work on establishing a climate transition function, work on developing and implementing strategies in the Environmental and Climate Programme has progressed. The Climate Neutral Gothenburg 1.0 project has also been completed and the conclusions of this work have been drawn and packaged in Climate Neutral Gothenburg 2.0, which is continuing further.

7.2. Most urgent experiences to share for the municipality

Through the work conducted during the year, it has become clear that the climate transition in Gothenburg will probably require great flexibility to local conditions, as well as significant risk-taking, in terms of both fundamental choices and more operative initiatives. This highlights an important need for close dialogue and co-creation between the City and participating agencies on the best way to manage this risk-taking. The work has also shown that the documentation that must continuously be developed places major demands on underlying capacity and, therefore, the need for capacity development, including new collaborations with government agencies, academia and business.

7.3. Most important updates regarding Viable Cities

During 2022, far-reaching efforts have been made to lay a good foundation for all 23 signatory cities to deepen their work on the Cities Mission, as 14 cities were added in October 2021. The platform for faster learning has been evolved through



the Viable Cities Transition Lab Forum, City Labs, Climate Breakfasts and a range of other formats for meetings between cities, government agencies and other actors. The collaboration with the signatory government agencies has been enhanced so as to further hone the Climate City Contract 2030 process. Viable Cities has also provided documentation for the government's task relating to local and regional climate transition, which is one of the foundations for the government's upcoming climate policy action plan.

During the year, efforts to develop practical, research-based tools and methods for climate investment plans have intensified. An initial prototype of a calculation tool has been available to all 23 signatory cities since October. Development of the system demonstrator concept also continued during the year, and in the autumn a design phase for a brand new effort was launched in a partnership between Vinnova and Viable Cities, which involves several cities.

During 2022, Viable Cities has had responsibility for a government assignment, Thriving North (support for innovation work for sustainable urban and community development in Norrbotten and Västerbotten). An initial prototype of a regional climate contract has been developed with a working group of representatives from the regions and county administrative boards in Västerbotten and Norrbotten. Moreover, a platform for regional societal transition has been initiated in northern Sweden. The platform is called Thriving North, and is now being carried forward by several players in Sweden's four northern regions,

The EU's work on the Cities Mission has been intensified during the year. September 2021 saw the launch of the Cities Mission, one of five EU missions. Cities across Europe were invited to register their interest in becoming forerunners in the transition to climate neutrality. As many as 377 cities applied. In June 2022, 112 cities were chosen to be pioneers in the climate transition, 100 in the EU and 12 in associated nations. These 112 include seven of the Swedish cities that are among the 23 signatories of the Climate City Contract 2030.

Over the past year, the European platform NetZeroCities has begun efforts to support implementation of the Cities Mission within the EU, primarily to facilitate the transition in the 112 cities. Viable Cities is also involved in this work. NetZeroCities is currently designing a Climate City Contract for cities throughout the EU as a tool for accelerated climate transition. Climate investments are an important aspect of this.

Two new complementary initiatives were begun during 2022 to support the Cities Mission in the EU. The first is the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, in which Viable Cities is taking part together with Swedish organizations Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and Formas. The partnership is a collaboration between national bodies from a large number of nations. The focus is on funding international efforts in three sectors that can help accelerate the climate transition: Positive Energy Districts, Circular Urban



Economies and 15-minute City. The other is the CapaCITIES initiative. This EU collaboration aims to facilitate the establishment of national structures to enable climate transition in cities similar to Viable Cities in Sweden and CitiES2030 in Spain.

The Climate Smart Cities Challenge, a global innovation competition, has entered a new phase during the year, and teams of companies and organizations are now working in the four cities outside the EU in association with UN-Habitat.

7.4. Most important updates regarding government agencies

Work in the interagency innovation team

During 2022, the government agencies in the Climate City Contract have continued to develop work in their interagency innovation team. For instance, the team has compiled a summary of the government agencies' various forms of funding and financing instruments, and helped in ensuring that calls related to climate transition and sustainable cities are continually published on the hallbarstad.se website.

The innovation team has participated in Viable Cities Transition Labs, as well as workshops and meetings, in order to learn more about cities' climate investment plans and the agencies' role in the process. Alongside some of the cities, the innovation team has tested developing support and forms for analysing the government agencies' joint funding (including various research and innovation (R&I) programmes, city environment contracts) over the past five years. The aim in the longer term is that this work should contribute to commitments regarding coordinated funding and the cities' work on planning climate investments.

The government agencies' ongoing work includes many measures and initiatives that are of significance to the cities' work on climate transition. Compiling and providing information about these are important tasks for the government agencies. Below is a selection that relate to the cities in some way.

Funding for research, innovation and development

During the year, the government agencies have announced several calls aiming to facilitate the transition in cities.

Vinnova has worked with Viable Cities to publish a call for a design phase for urban system demonstrators, for instance. A follow-up call will be published in spring 2023. Other examples from Vinnova include Sustainable accessibility across Sweden, on mobility in sparsely populated areas, in association with Drive Sweden and Viable Cities, Civil society's solutions for climate transition, and Innovations to reduce electricity consumption in cooperation with the Swedish Energy Agency.



The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has had calls from the European Regional Development Fund: Produce a local strategy for sustainable urban development and Drive a platform for collaboration and experience exchange. The city as a hub for green and digital transition is an initiative within **The Green Transition Leap** which is also financed by the Regional Development Fund. The initiative aims to develop practical new working methods for working with system innovation for local green transition.

Formas has published the call Climate-neutral and inclusive municipalities to increase the capacity and ability of municipalities to accelerate transition work towards climate neutrality which is characterized by social inclusion and equal living conditions. Within the national research programme for sustainable community building, Formas has published a call for Research schools for sustainable community building. The aim of the research schools is to bolster skills and knowledge development, and they are all distinctly interdisciplinary, practically oriented and challenge driven. Several municipalities are included in the research schools. Formas also funds many R&I projects every year in the fields of environment, community building and areal industries in many national and international calls.

In the Swedish Transport Administration's calls for City Environment Contracts, municipalities and regions can apply for funding that leads to a higher proportion of passenger transit by public transport or cycling and sustainable freight solutions.

The Swedish Energy Agency has published calls in the following programmes that are relevant to sustainable cities and communities: Humans, Energy Systems and Society (MESAM), Energy efficiency in cultural heritage buildings, Design for Everyday Energy Efficiency, Transport-Efficient Society and E2B2 (energy-efficient building and living), Graduate School in Energy Systems, and Bio+ (biobased society).

For many years, the Energy Agency has funded client groups and networks to create a platform for close collaboration between business operators and the state, with the aim of reducing energy use in buildings. The Energy Agency also finances the municipal and energy/climate advice service intended for households and private players.

Impact Innovation is the name of the next-generation strategic innovation programme. A call for preparatory projects was opened during the year. One of the three focus areas is Attractive, functioning communities, with cities being a particularly important target group.

On an international level, Formas, the Swedish Energy Agency and Vinnova jointly publish calls for funds enabling bodies active in Sweden to take part in international R&I projects tackling urban challenges in the European Driving Urban Transition (DUT) Partnership. The first call includes 27 nations.



On a general level, the partnership addresses issues relating to energy, mobility and use of resources in an urban context.

Government agency work and special government assignments

The Swedish Energy Agency has worked alongside the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis, Transport Analysis and the Uppsala County Administrative Board to draft supporting documentation for the government's next Climate Action Plan. The assignment regarding local and regional climate transition involved a great many dialogues with municipalities, regions, government agencies, research bodies, business and other relevant players, which form the basis for the barrier analysis, and the proposed means of control or suggested actions that were presented. Many assignments are under way at the Energy Agency related to the electrification strategy, energy efficiency and secure energy supply, as well as the establishment of a national centre for carbon capture and storage (CCS).

The Climate City Contract agencies are also five of the 14 members on the government's Council for Sustainable Cities. In March 2022, the council was given an extended and modified remit, with more of a focus on working towards the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities. Several of the agencies have been involved in the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning's coordination assignment as part of New European Bauhaus (NEB). One example is the call Ideas for future habitats in Kiruna, Gällivare, Boden, Luleå, Skellefteå and Umeå – idea sketches ready in the project *Visioner: i norr – Hållbar Stad* (hallbarstad.se).

The Swedish Transport Agency's knowledge forum – Arena for Transport-Efficient Urban Environment – is part of a government assignment (2019–2022) to carry out communication and knowledge-enhancing measures for the transport sector's transition to fossil freedom. An R&I programme for geofencing, financed by the Swedish Transport Administration and run by Closer at Lindholmen, brings together the necessary players in society, business and academia to jointly develop solutions to promote the use of geofencing in controlling the transport system.

Some of the projects related to the development of systems innovation are Evolved working methods and processes for greater synergies between regional, national and international innovation efforts, Systems innovation in cities (Vinnova), Strengthening the regional work on sustainable development (various government agencies), Contributing to upcoming discussions on the EU's urban agenda (Formas), and Vinnova's initiative to support cities' ability to lead and organize innovation, for instance through the companion researcher network which for nearly ten years has been following the development of the Innovation Platforms for Sustainable Cities initiative, and the *Accelerera* project, which is developing and offering funding for innovation management in municipalities to ISO standard.



New signatory agency

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency decided to sign the Climate City Contract 2030 in December 2022, and will therefore participate in the process moving forward.

8. The contract

The parties agree that their joint commitments as formulated above shall apply for 2023. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020, and the second in 2021. The Climate City Contract shall be updated and renewed prior to each new year.

Climate City Contract 2030

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

Stockholm, 8 December 2022. The parties agree that their joint commitments as formulated above shall apply for 2023. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020. The Climate City Contract shall be updated and renewed prior to each new year.

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Appendix 1 – document links

Below are links to the most relevant documents in relation to Climate City Contract 2030 for the City of Gothenburg.

Links to relevant documents

[City of Gothenburg Environmental and Climate Programme 2020](#)

[City of Gothenburg Energy Plan \(referral version\) 2022–2030 \(in Swedish\)](#)

[City of Gothenburg Electrification Plan 2021–2030 \(in Swedish\)](#)

[City of Gothenburg Enterprise Strategy Programme 2018–2035 \(in Swedish\)](#)

[City of Gothenburg programme for an equal city 2018–2026 \(in Swedish\)](#)

[City of Gothenburg Comprehensive Plan \(review document, in Swedish\)](#)

[City of Gothenburg Innovation Programme 2018–2023](#)