

The Road to Climate-Neutrality by 2030



Photo: Vinnova

Achieving climate-neutral cities is crucial. Although cities cover just 3% of the Earth's surface, they generate 72% of global emissions and consume over 65% of the world's energy, making them central to effective climate action.

In Europe, bold efforts are underway to achieve the EU mission of 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030, with the Swedish program Viable Cities at the forefront.



From Vikings to Visionaries

Accelerate innovation with Sweden's expertise

Viable Cities has developed the Climate City Contract as a framework for how local and national governments can lead the way in accelerating the transition to climate-neutral cities, both in Sweden and internationally. It is signed annually by mayors and national government agencies and each year more ambitious targets are set to achieve climate and sustainability goals faster. Local governments commit to reducing emissions in the city, which means engaging and cooperating with citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Each city commits to a Climate Action Plan and a Climate Investment Plan, driving local and national alignment towards climate-neutrality. The Climate City Contract reflects Sweden's unwavering commitment to achieving environmental sustainability and technological advancements in urban planning.

Viable Cities pioneered the Climate City Contract in Sweden and has strongly influenced the development of the now implemented European Climate City Contract. Global collaboration is key to amplifying impact and accelerating the green transition. Viable Cities and the Sweden-US Green Transition Initiative invite local, national, and international partners to further build on important lessons learned within the Climate City Contract by exploring game-changing initiatives. Such collaboration would be directed towards innovative governance models including system pilots and demonstrators to reduce the risk of investments, and scaling by aggregated commitments to purchase for the climate transition in cities.

Why is governance innovation a game-changer for U.S. cities?

The Climate City Contract offers a proven framework to mobilize and align stakeholders and steer cities toward net-zero emissions and sustainability goals. Such an approach allows cities to better align locally, with state-level and international collaboration. By participating in the development of innovative governance models, U.S. cities can better address underlying challenges and create the “new normal” in critical areas. This accelerates the transition to climate neutrality, by utilizing the content of the Climate City Contract in practice – and inspiring other cities globally to do the same.

We Swedes do not usually brag, but here’s some proof

48 Swedish cities are working with the Climate City Contract. These agreements represent **50%** of Sweden’s population.

Focus areas include sustainable urban development, energy efficiency, and mobility.

Just a little Swedish humblebrag

- Aiming to be the world’s first fossil-free welfare nation **by 2045**.
- Ranked among the top three most innovative countries globally.
- A robust industrial sector driving sustainability forward.
- **98%** of electricity production is fossil-free with **60%** of energy coming from renewable sources.

Sweden is a key U.S. export partner and global sustainability advocate, directly supporting more than **379,000** jobs in the U.S. There are **638** Swedish-affiliated companies in the U.S., creating **331,847** jobs in the country. Export of services from the U.S. to Sweden supports **30,478** jobs, and export of goods from the U.S. to Sweden supports **17,557** jobs—creating **379,882** jobs in total.

For more information:
swedencreatesusjobs.com

Photo: Ahmet Kurt / Unsplash



Photo: Mauro Mora / Unsplash



Photo: Stockholms Stad



Learn more about Sweden's innovations and partnerships

Viable Cities is a strategic innovation program with the mission of achieving climate neutrality in cities by 2030, with a good life for all within the planetary boundaries. The program is funded by multiple government agencies and is hosted by KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

For more information on the Climate City Contract and related initiatives:
viablecities.se

The Sweden-U.S. Green Transition Initiative strengthens R&D, innovation, trade, and investment ties between Sweden and the U.S., serving as a hub for companies, agencies, and partners.

For more information:
gti-sweden.se

