

SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPALITY

What is Sustainable Municipality?

Sustainable Municipality is the Swedish Energy Agency's programme for sustainable development at a local level. It offers various forms of expert support to develop and strengthen local efforts concerning energy issues.

A unique programme

Sustainable Municipality began as a project involving five municipalities. It is now entering its third programme period and a total of 38 municipalities are involved. The municipalities of Sweden ("kommun" in Swedish) are the local government entities of Sweden. There are currently 290 municipalities are organized into 21 counties.

The Swedish Energy Agency's programme is unique for two reasons: firstly it is based on distinct cooperation between local and government levels, and secondly the support from central government takes the form of expertise and network building, not funding.

A well-known success factor for local energy and climate work is that it is well-rooted and prioritised among leading politicians and public officials at the municipal level. Accordingly, Sustainable Municipality includes efforts that focus on and involve both of these groups.

Focus on work methods

The overall objective of Sustainable Municipality is to develop the

municipalities' work methods and find cooperation models to integrate energy and climate issues into political work.

Sustainable Municipality's goals may be summarised in the following three points:

- Develop a local energy and climate effort based on broad political support.
- Develop new and existing work methods and cooperation models, locally and regionally, in the areas of urban planning and industrial policy.
- Develop and distribute methods, manuals, indicators and cutting-edge examples involving urban planning and industrial policy.





Cutting-edge examples

Work to prepare cutting-edge examples from the municipalities occurs in nine different project areas, which were selected by the participating municipalities and the Swedish Energy Agency. Approximately five to ten municipalities cooperate with the Swedish Energy Agency in the project areas to prepare new innovative ways to solve municipal challenges in the energy field.

The nine project areas are:

- Energy-efficient planning in small and medium-size municipalities
- Mobility management opportunities in connection with planning
- New roles for energy companies
- Energy-efficient restructuring of the “million apartment” residential development programme
- Vehicle-efficient planning in a vibrant small town
- Energy management system for local development
- Energy-driven business development

- Renewable energy as a local generator of added value
- Innovative lighting solutions

Mobility management in connection with planning

Umeå municipality is focusing on finding methods for what it calls green parking procurement. Green parking procurement entails that if the property owner assumes greater responsibility for changing travel behaviour among employees, fewer personnel parking spaces will need to be constructed. The objective is to increase the proportion of public, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, including among those living and working in the property. Fuel consumption will be reduced and thus also the climate impact of the transport system.

The project will promote changed and more climate-smart travel behaviour in the development of one of central Umeå’s most attractive commercial blocks.

Energy-driven business development

Örnsköldsvik municipality will be profiled as the “Ecostry City – the sustainable industrial city.” The Ecostry City concept entails that sustainability efforts will be conducted systematically, across industries and with a base in the manufacturing industry.

The municipality will select several different industrial companies from various sectors, which will work individually on sustainable development. Based on a joint framework, the companies will specify what sustainable development entails for them and how their companies act in terms of sustainable development.

The municipality supports companies through this process and the resulting collective change in behaviour constitutes the “Ecostry City” concept.

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