



HELSINGBORG

2018-10-24  
PLAN  
DNR: 2017-421

# Helsingborg Climate and Energy Plan

2018 – 2024

## City of Helsingborg governing documents

### Activating

aims at change and development

PROGRAMME – specifies long-term ambitions and intentions

PLAN – specifies concrete actions, time frames, and responsibility

### Normative

regulates existing agencies and our approach to a given situation

POLICY – specifies principles and guidance

GUIDELINES – specifies definite boundaries and requirements

**Decision taken by:** City council

**Date:** 11/12/2018

**Revised by:** City council

**Period of validity:** 2018-2024

**Document valid for:** E.g. all boards, committees, and companies\*

**Responsible administrator:** Department of strategic development at the City Office

[\* If the document is valid for all of the fully or partially municipally owned companies, check with the Law and Administration Department.]



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## 1 Introduction

In 2035, Helsingborg should be a creative, pulsating, global, community-centered, and balanced city, for both people and businesses. The city should be exciting, attractive, and sustainable. In order to realise the city's vision, we need innovative thinking and responsible action, with ecological, social, and financial aspects all taken into account.

Together we – the residents, the business community, the City of Helsingborg and the municipally owned companies – can make a difference. Through wise choices and resolutions, we can take part in turning the climate trend and creating a sustainable future. Helsingborg wants to be a driving force in the climate change mitigation. Not only do we want to take responsibility locally, we also want to set an example globally. In accordance with the Paris Agreement, we will work to limit the global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels, while simultaneously adapting the use of the planet's resources.

The actions of the Helsingborg City group are important, but our success is also highly affected by the behavior of the residents, visitors, and businesses in the city – something the Helsingborg City group cannot control. However, the departments and companies have an important task in creating the prerequisites for making sustainable choices and to promote sustainable behaviors. Everyone's contribution is important.

According to one of the prioritized goals on the city's balanced scorecard, Helsingborg should take a lead in environmental and climate questions, which means that we sometimes choose to aim higher than the politically settled national targets. In 2017, Helsingborg was appointed Sweden's most environmentally friendly municipality; a position we are proud of and would like to keep.

With existing legislation, as well as national and international resolutions, Helsingborg's climate and energy plan shows how the Helsingborg City group should work with relevant areas during the projection period. The plan has been jointly developed within the group. Our foremost challenges in Helsingborg have been identified, ambitions have been set, and actions have been put into words. The work has resulted in six prioritized areas, within which we primarily are to act:

- *Greenhouse gas emissions and resources:* Long-term ambitions for a sustainable future.
- *Transports and travel:* Break the reliance on fossil fuels within the transportation sector and increase both sustainable transports and travel.
- *Consumption:* Create alternatives to consumption of resource-heavy food, goods, and services.
- *Energy:* Use energy efficiently and wisely. Renewable energy (sun and wind power) as well as recycled energy should be developed as far as possible.
- *Financial management:* Facilitate a sustainable municipal finance market.
- *Carbon sinks:* Increase the amount of carbon stored in the ground and vegetation.

In the plan, "Helsingborg" is used for the geographical area, "City of Helsingborg" refers to the municipal departments, and "the Helsingborg City group" is the whole concern including municipally owned companies.



For several reasons, we have chosen to develop a plan with comprehensive ambitions and actions. The development within the field of climate and energy is moving fast forward, and we do not want to risk the plan becoming outdated shortly. Additionally, in Helsingborg our work is trust-based; each organisation can decide what activities from among the concrete actions that best will help us fulfill our ambitions. There are many who should be able to choose and contribute to each action, and therefore we have opted not to put a specific person in charge. What is important is that Helsingborg is moving in the right direction with its climate and energy efforts.

The plan is to act as a guide for decisions that impact the climate, but also as an inspiration for everyone in the city. Collaboration, participation, and communication – within the Helsingborg City group as well as between the city, the city residents, and the business owners – will be the key to our success. To fulfill the ambitions we have set for Helsingborg, courage, involvement, and initiative are required.

*The plan is structured as a main document, containing an introduction, our areas of focus – along with ambitions and actions – as well as responsibility and follow-up. 12 appendices, in Swedish, are attached to this document.*



## 2 Greenhouse gas emissions and resources

### Ambitions

#### *Helsingborg*

- Net zero greenhouse gas emissions at the latest by 2035<sup>1</sup>. Complementary actions taken to reach net zero emissions may be taken into account<sup>2</sup>. (Between 1990 and 2015, emissions have decreased by 45%)
- The total of the consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions must have decreased to a sustainable level of 1-2 metric tons per capita per year at latest by 2045<sup>3</sup> (circa 11 metric tons per capita and year in 2015).
- The ecological footprint has decreased to a sustainable level by 2045<sup>4</sup> at the latest.

### Actions 2018–2024

To fulfill these comprehensive ambitions, emissions and resource use within all sectors of society need to be vigorously decreased. Helsingborg's success in this undertaking will be a result of the joint efforts from private persons and businesses as well as from the city departments and companies. The objective of the Helsingborg City group is to facilitate residents and business owners contributing to the climate change mitigation, while simultaneously decreasing its own climate impact. The following general actions are applicable to all parts of the plan:

- Encourage and facilitate the residents' and businesses' adaption to a climate- and resource friendly lifestyle.
- Inform and educate regarding what aid the city can provide to help make climate and resource conscious choices.
- Be a pioneer in the work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lead by example to inspire others to act.
- Cooperate with external actors, for example universities, the business community, and associations to find new solutions and ways forward.

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<sup>1</sup> At latest by 2035, the greenhouse gas emissions should be at least 85% lower than in 1990. Follows the national environmental objectives' definition (The Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> The complementary actions are absorption of carbon dioxide by forests and soil as a result of additional actions, emission reductions performed outside of the municipality borders, and separating and storing carbon dioxide caused by biofuel combustion.

<sup>3</sup> Required in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). Statistics only exist on a national level. 2 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents roughly corresponds to a round trip flight from Sweden to Thailand.

<sup>4</sup> A sustainable ecological footprint was estimated to be 1.7 global hectare in 2016 (the biological surface area of Earth/number of inhabitants) (WWF, 2016). The surface should be enough to produce all raw material we need and to handle all waste. The sustainable surface decreases as the number of inhabitants on Earth increases. In 2016, Helsingborg's ecological footprint was 5.2 global hectare.



- Work for a shift to a circular and collaborative economy within Helsingborg and within the Helsingborg City group.
- Use lifecycle analysis to visualize how our use of resources and contribution to climate change can decrease, and to make the right choices among several alternatives.
- Use purchasing and procurement as a tool for decreasing the climate impact.
- Use digitalization as a tool for decreasing the climate impact and the use of resources.
- Work for stricter climate actions, nationally and internationally.



### 3 Transports and travel:

#### Ambitions

##### *Helsingborg*

- The carbon dioxide emissions from road traffic should be decreased by 80% by 2030, compared to 2010<sup>5</sup>.
- The total share of sustainable travels within Helsingborg has grown, according to Region Skåne's mode of transportation distribution (Fig. 1)<sup>6</sup>.

##### *The Helsingborg City group*

- All vehicles are fossil fuel-free by 2020. This is also a requirement for any entrepreneurs we hire<sup>7</sup>.
- All vehicles belonging to the Helsingborg City group are fossil fuel-free by 2024. 2024, at the latest, we demand that the entrepreneurs we work with use fossil fuel-free working machines<sup>8</sup>.
- Emissions from flights to Stockholm have been cut in half during the 2016–2024 period.
- Emissions from all other flights have decreased by a third during the 2016–2024 period.

#### Actions 2018–2024

The ambitions will be fulfilled by the following actions:

##### *City of Helsingborg*

- The investments and the spatial planning of the city should aim to increase sustainable travel within Helsingborg, according to Region Skåne's mode of transportation distribution (Fig. 1).

##### *The Helsingborg City group*

- Promote conducts, methods, and services that lead to sustainable travel or a decrease in travelling.
- Keep a specific focus on the travel patterns of children and youth.

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<sup>5</sup> On a national level, emissions from the transport sector should decrease by 70% compared to 2010. According to the inquiry Swedish Commission on Fossil-Free Road Transport (SOU2013:84, 2013), there is potential for a decrease of at least 80% by 2030.

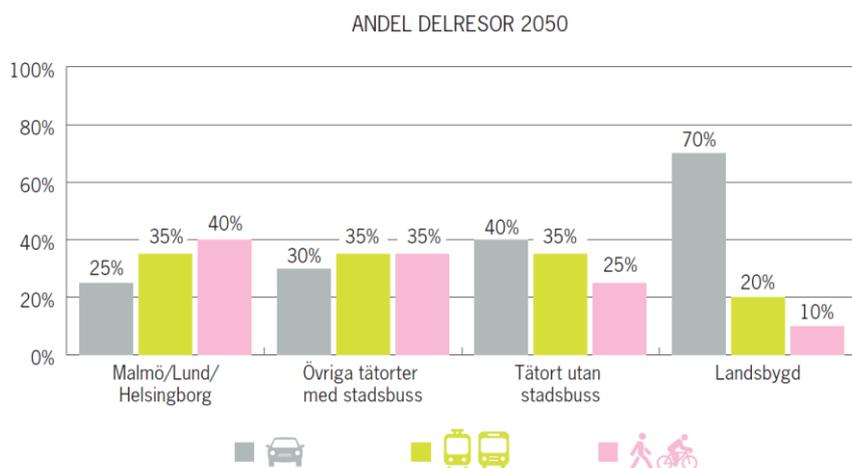
<sup>6</sup> From Region Skåne's Strategy for a Sustainable Transport System 2050. (Region Skåne, 2017)

<sup>7</sup> The City of Helsingborg has joined the challenge "Skåne – Fossil fuel-free by 2020". Private cars, light trucks, heavy goods vehicles, and buses are considered vehicles. This applies to new contracts; already existing contracts will run their course. Demands are placed on entrepreneurs when possible in accordance with the proportionality law. Biogas vehicles that require fossil start-up fuels are permitted.

<sup>8</sup> To working machines are counted all mobile machines that are not intended for road transport. Demands are places on entrepreneurs when it is possible according to the proportionality law.



- Together with interested parties suggest and test actions that promote climate conscious transports.
- Plan building and construction projects so the need to move masses is minimized.
- Maintain a dialogue with suppliers and entrepreneurs about becoming fossil fuel-free.



Källa: Trivector

Figure 1. Region Skåne's mode of transportation distribution by 2050 (Region Skåne, 2017) (Trivector). The chart shows the percentual distribution of travels in Skåne by means of transportation.



## 4 Consumption

### Ambitions

#### *Helsingborg:*

- The climate impact from food consumption should be decreased to 1 metric ton CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per inhabitant and year, by 2035<sup>9</sup> (circa 2 metric tons per year at a national level in 2015 (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, 2017)).
- All plastics made from fossil fuels are gone from Helsingborg's residual waste at latest by 2035<sup>10</sup>.

#### *The Helsingborg City group:*

- The climate impact from food consumption has been cut in half during the 2018–2024 period.
- The climate impact from consumption of other goods and services has decreased during the 2018–2024 period. The current climate impact will be calculated and thereafter a specific ambition level for 2035 will be established<sup>11</sup>.

#### *City of Helsingborg:*

- By 2020, at the latest, the city of Helsingborg has a blanket order for commonly occurring disposables where products that are fossil free and degradable are the first choice<sup>12</sup>. This means that products made from fossil fuel plastics will be phased out.

### Actions 2018–2024

To fulfill the ambitions, the Helsingborg City group will take the following actions:

- Encourage, educate, and provide tools for residents and businesses to help them decrease their climate impact from consumption of foodstuffs and other goods.
  - o Sustainable alternatives should be offered by all canteens in the group at latest by 2020.

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<sup>9</sup> The climate impact from foodstuffs can be decreased from circa 2 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per person and year to 1 metric ton CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per person and year, if dietary habits recommended by the Swedish Food Agency are followed combined with a climate adapted menu (The Swedish Board of Agriculture, 2013).

<sup>10</sup> Residual waste refers to waste from both households and businesses.

<sup>11</sup> Provided that national statistics become locally available.

<sup>12</sup> This applies to new contracts; already existing contracts will run their course.



- Use purchases and cooperation with external actors as a tool for decreasing the group's climate impact and use of resources originating from consumption of foodstuffs and other goods.
- Work for a change to a circular and collaborative economy within Helsingborg as well as within the group.
- Opening up for a comparison between alternatives by using lifetime analysis to visualize how we can decrease our climate impact and use of resources with regards to consumption of foodstuffs and other goods, by opening up for a comparison between alternatives.



## 5 Energy

### Ambitions

#### Helsingborg:

- The energy usage is 50% more effective by 2030 compared to 2005<sup>13</sup>.
- The primary energy usage for electricity and heating has decreased by 30% by 2035 (16.5 MWh per capita and year in 2016).
- Local production of solar power is equivalent to 10% of the electricity need in 2035 (0.3% in 2016)<sup>14</sup>.
- Disposition of locally produced biogas has increased by 15% before 2024 (7140 metric tons in 2016).
- Helsingborg's district heating consists of 100% recycled or renewable energy by 2024 (99.6% in 2016).

### Actions 2018–2024

To fulfill the ambitions of the energy sector, the Helsingborg City group is to work for a more effective resource management and for a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions. The following four step principle formulates how we should consider and value energy in order to reduce our use of resources and our climate impact (figure 2).

1. Effective energy usage.
2. Minimize the loss of energy and resources across all stages.
3. Take advantage of rest products and recycle energy.
4. Supply renewable energy.

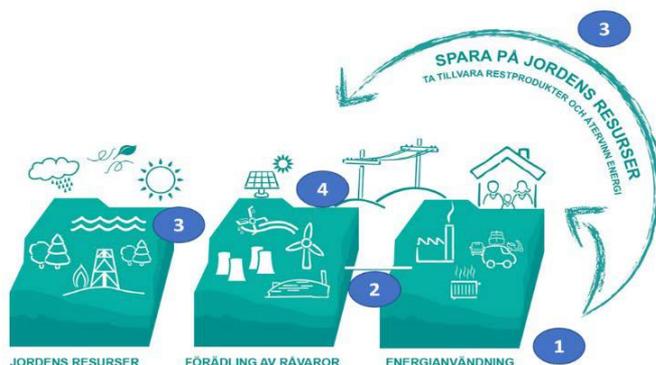


Figure 2. Illustration of the four-step energy principle. Source: Öresundskraft AB

<sup>13</sup> The goal is stated in terms of energy input (total energy input) in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP). The goal exists on a national level (Energikommissionen, 2017).

<sup>14</sup> According to the Swedish Energy Agency, solar-based electricity can make up 5 to 10% of the total electricity usage in Sweden by 2040 (Swedish Energy Agency, 2016).



These actions will be the basis for the work:

- Apply the same energy demands to premises that are rented as to the Helsingborg City group's own premises.
- Reduce the climate impact and the usage of energy and resources when building own real estate, when demolishing buildings, and in construction materials.
- Encourage property owners to use less energy in already existing residences and premises with poor energy performance.
- Encourage businesses and households to use less energy.
- Promote research and development of sustainable electricity and heat production, including storage solutions for electricity and heat.
- Encourage choosing the most climate- and resource effective heating option when densifying and developing.
- Increase the energy recycling from Helsingborg's businesses, waste, and industry processes, for use in the district heating or nearby businesses.
- Encourage and facilitate the production of renewable energy, including small-scale production.
- Work on a national level to improve the market conditions for renewable energy production.
- Inquire into how we can ensure a robust energy supply, because the energy system is facing a conversion to a completely renewable energy production, a large share of which is weather-dependent.
- Find alternative options for disposition of locally produced biogas.



## 6 Financial management

The main task of the city's financial management today is to finance the city's and the municipally owned companies' activities. A joint pooling structure manages temporary liquidity fluctuations, optimizes the capital flow, and minimizes borrowing. Any possible excess will primarily be lent to the Swedish state. The city of Helsingborg is tasked with managing roughly 100 foundations, these are a separate part of the finance management with its own investment regulations.

### Ambitions

*The Helsingborg City group*

- Facilitate the development of a sustainable municipal finance market during the planned period.

### Actions 2018–2024

To fulfill the ambition, the following actions will be taken:

*City of Helsingborg:*

- A prospect for emitting green bonds will be produced during 2018.
- The market's interest in placing capital in life-quality bonds will be surveyed during the year. The founding idea for this type of bonds is to supplement a wider and more life affirmative alternative to the traditional green bonds.
- Direct investments should not be made in companies who engage in prospecting, exploitation, extraction, or production of fossil energy.
- For investments with a purchase value above 15 million SEK (VAT exclusive), a consequence assessment should be performed from a sustainability perspective. An aggregation of social, economical, and environmental aspects should be produced before a decision is taken.

*The Helsingborg City group:*

- Set an example for other actors and share our experiences and methods.



## 7 Carbon Sinks

A large amount of carbon is contained in the ground. The carbon pool is connected to the atmospheric carbon (carbon dioxide) and is in constant transformation. Increasing the amount of carbon stored in the ground, vegetation, and building materials, can decrease the carbon dioxide levels in the air.

### **Ambitions**

*Helsingborg:*

Carbon uptake per unit area has increased from 2018 to 2024. The theoretical potential will be investigated by 2020 and a specific ambition level for 2035 will be established.

### **Actions 2018–2024**

To fulfill the ambition, the Helsingborg City group will take the following actions:

- Work for a change in land use, aiming for more vegetation and slower decomposition rates in order to store more carbon in the ground.
- Encourage a climate adapted agriculture that leads to an increase of the farmland organic matter levels.
- Work to improve and develop the carbon cycle between city and countryside.



## 8 Responsibility and follow-up

The city's boards and companies are responsible for running effective operations with respect to the city's governance arrangements. To reach the goals, the Helsingborg City group will collaborate through boards, departments, and companies, taking the various plans and programmes of the city into consideration when establishing its own plans as well as when following up on goals and results.

The section for environmental strategy at the Environmental Department is the responsible administrator for the climate and energy plan. As the responsible administrator, the section is responsible for a time plan as well as for revising and following up on the plan. A follow-up will take place every second year, starting with 2019. Selected indicators will be followed up each year. The results will be communicated internally and externally.

To facilitate the implementation of the climate and energy plan, collaboration in thematic workgroups will occur within some areas where there is an initial need for investigating, mapping, or follow-up methods.

A steering group will track the implementation of the climate and energy plan.

The actions of the plan invite agencies within the Helsingborg City group to take decisions themselves regarding which activities should be conducted, wherefore the follow-up is important. Because long-term efforts will yield result only after several years, it is necessary to establish an overview of the agencies' plans for the coming years during the follow-up. The purpose is primarily to analyze how Helsingborg and the Helsingborg City group have progressed overall in relation to the set ambitions.

For most of the climate and energy plan-ambitions there are established routines within the Helsingborg City group for how we conduct follow-ups on status, based on statistics from national databases and our own compilations. Methods for following up on consumption-based emissions and carbon storage need to be established.



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