



# Environmental Programme

for the City of Växjö

Approved by the Municipal Council 2014-06-17

# New targets for a greener Vaxjö

Vaxjö is pulling out all the stops in its efforts to become a leading green municipality, sport and culture municipality, asylum municipality, diversity municipality and education municipality. Vaxjö can be likened to a heptathlete in the way we take on one challenge after the other; in our case to achieve sustainable development. Green thinking is now permanently engraved in our brand pledge, something we can all be very proud of. Vaxjö will continue its eco-sustainable growth and reduce its carbon footprint even further. We have seen that anything is possible if we are willing to learn and progress.

City of Vaxjö has long reached cross-party consensus over ambitious green targets in an all-out effort to make Vaxjö fossil fuel free. A long-term perspective with continuous improvements and combined efforts will enable us to fulfil our goals and bring about real change.

Vaxjö Municipal Council has drawn up a set of new, sharper targets for the Environmental Programme. The greatest challenges in the coming years look to be in the areas of sustainable transport, lake purification and energy efficiency. We have added chemicals to the mix in this revised edition of the Environmental Programme with the aim of providing the people of Vaxjö with a toxin-free environment in which to live and work.

To achieve our environmental targets we need residents, authorities, companies, organisations and associations to all pull together in the same direction. National and global consensus on environmental issues is crucial and is the reason why the City of Vaxjö is a member of Climate Municipalities, ICLEI and Energy Cities. We have also signed the Covenant of Mayors, in which we undertake to work progressively and adopt a targeted approach to the climate issue. This revised edition of the Environmental Programme will enable Vaxjö to step up a gear in its environmental work, but will mean nothing if our actions do not speak louder than the words it contains. If we are to make the Greenest City in Europe even greener we must all pull together and do our bit.

Read more about Vaxjö's environmental work at

[www.vaxjo.se/miljo](http://www.vaxjo.se/miljo) and

[www.vaxjo.se/sustainable](http://www.vaxjo.se/sustainable).

You can also follow us on Facebook and other social media.

Anna Tenje, Moderate Party  
and Åsa Karlsson Björkmarker,  
Social Democratic Party









**The Environmental Programme shall:**

- Be well-established among the employees and politicians on the committees and boards.
- Apply to the entire municipal operations, including contractors.
- Be taken into account when making decisions and taking actions, and will apply to employees and politicians alike.
- Inspire residents, companies, organisations and authorities to conduct their own environmental activities

# About the Environmental Programme

The Environmental Programme is a steering document of environmental targets that will take Växjö even further than that required by national legislation as well as the Swedish national and regional Environmental Quality Objectives. This revised edition of the Environmental Programme replaces the previous programme from 2010. The Environmental Programme is approved by Växjö Municipal Council and is revised for each mandate period. The targets are divided into three categories: Living Life, Our Nature and Fossil Fuel Free Växjö.

## Relationship with other documents

- The Environmental Programme and the Master Plan set out the overall planning goals for the City of Växjö and highlight the aims and aspirations.
- The measures required to achieve the goals are laid out in the Waste Disposal Plan, Green Structure Programme, Water and Wastewater Plan, Energy Plan, Transport Plan, Rural Programme, Detailed Development Plans, etc.
- The municipal council's annual budget and internal budgets determine when the measures will be implemented.

## Responsibilities and monitoring

The Municipal Executive Board has the overall responsibility for the Environmental Programme, which is a key part of the strategic environmental and climate work. This responsibility involves coordination, support to the municipal organisation and evaluation.

The Municipality of Växjö's committees and company boards, over which the municipal council has jurisdiction over, are all responsible for their own environmental work as well as for parts of the Environmental Programme. Each target clearly shows who has the main responsibility for achieving it. The committees and boards are responsible through their heads of administration and managing directors for the implementation and target fulfilment of the Environmental Programme, and for compiling statistics.

The measurable targets of the Environmental Programme are planned and monitored through the municipal control system in the annual reports.

## Environmental Policy for City of Växjö

*The Environmental Policy is part of the Environmental Programme and outlines the guiding principles and aspirations for the municipal operations, in the municipal committees and company boards.*

We will continue to be a leading green municipality. All aspects of our operation will be run with due consideration taken to the environment and local and global natural resources so as to secure a healthy environment now and for generations to come.

This we will achieve by:

- Our elected representatives and employees acquiring and maintaining the knowledge and skills required to conduct our operations.
- Utilising land, water and the physical environment in a resource-saving and eco-sustainable manner in

our town planning.

- Acting as good role models and, when making decisions in which there is a conflict of interest, taking a sustainable stance by putting extra focus on issues relating to the environment and natural resources.
- Using our influential position to help authorities, companies, organisations and residents to reduce their negative environmental impacts.
- Involving authorities, companies, organisations and residents in creating a sustainable community by means of information and consultation.





## Vision 2030

In the Greenest City in Europe 2030 the residents live a sustainable life in a community where resource-efficient production and consumption form a natural part of their daily lives. Växjö is so free from hazardous chemicals that the environmental impact is almost non-existent. The Municipal Council and residents are well-versed on the issue of chemicals and the municipality works strategically with special focus on the quality of life among children.

The municipal kitchens cook wholesome and nutritional organic food with next to no negative environmental

impact from the field to the table. The ingredients are seasonal and of good quality.

We have succeeded in severing the link between economic growth and waste mountains. Any waste that is generated becomes a resource in our ecocycle society. Over the years Växjö has climbed higher and higher up the Waste Hierarchy steps. We have steered waste management towards increased reuse, material recycling and cleaner fractions.



Figure: The Waste Hierarchy steps point us in the right direction. Source: The Swedish Waste Management Association (Avfall Sverige).

## Measurable targets for Living Life

### Consumption

Targets 1-5 – a toxin-free society

1. The proportion of certified organic and/or locally produced food in the municipal kitchens will reach a minimum of 80 per cent of the food purchased by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board.*
2. Växjö's residents will increase their proportion of organic and/or locally produced food purchases to a minimum of 25 per cent by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board.*
3. The municipal organisation will not procure or purchase products and services containing chemicals that are subject to authorisation and restrictions (REACH, appendixes XIV and XVII). Due for completion by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board.*
4. The municipal organisation will draw up a chemical action plan by 2016.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board.*
5. The municipal organisation will remove all toys and equipment containing hazardous chemicals from day nurseries and preschools by 2016.  
*Main responsibility: School and Childcare Services Board.*

### Waste

Targets 6-9 – turning waste into a resource

6. At least 90 per cent of households and businesses in the City of Växjö will be recycling their food waste by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Technical Services Board*
7. Household waste sent for combustion will be reduced to 180 kg/per person a year by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Technical Services Board*
8. The waste from recycling plants sent for combustion will be reduced to 85 kg per person a year by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Technical Services Board*
9. Construction and demolition contracts signed by the municipal organisation will require all waste to be fractioned on site in compliance with the guidelines provided by the Swedish Construction Federation for basic level plus one waste fraction.  
*Main responsibility: Växjö kommunföretag AB*

### Environmental inspections

Target 10 – to reduce the risk of negative environmental impact by carrying out inspections on all environmentally hazardous activities.

10. Environmental inspections will be carried out on all activities where there is a need for supervision under the Environmental Code by 2020. *Main responsibility: Environmental and Public Health Board*



## Vision 2030

In the Greenest City in Europe 2030 the green and blue structures are the greatest assets. Parks, areas of natural beauty and local lakes offer an abundance of things to see and do and are easy to get to on foot or by bike. The local lakes have a good standing with regard to water quality and are bathable. The air quality is not a risk to public health thanks to the urban green spaces and surrounding countryside, and unhealthy noise levels no longer pose a threat.

Organic growing is a noticeable feature everywhere: at day nurseries and preschools, on housing estates, in allotments and fields in urban and suburban areas as well as the surrounding countryside. Biodiversity is high on the list of priorities. Biologically important core areas and corridors are protected and preserved through good planning and management. Urban trees are of great value to biodiversity, climate equalisation and the feel good factor. Especially valuable trees and urban woodlands are

preserved and nurtured. Key natural and cultural elements are protected and developed through the regulation of lakes and watercourses.

In the Greenest City in Europe, planning and construction focuses on preserving and bolstering existing eco systems and eco system services. We now have a greener municipality with less hard surfacing and a hardy green structure that contributes to climate equalisation and adaptation. The proportion of hard surfacing has reduced appreciably in commercial areas. We take care of storm water locally to ensure a good level of purification and to avoid flooding, both locally and downstream.

All private sewers have an approved cleansing system installed to reduce the eutrophication of lakes and watercourses. Farming has become more sustainable with a balanced phosphate level thanks to the use of farmyard manure.



## Measurable targets for Our Nature

### Water

Targets 11-15 – the reduction in phosphates for good water quality and bathable lakes

11. The River Mörrumsån's mainstream, lakes Väckjösjön, Trummen, Södra Bergundasjön and Norra Bergundasjön, and the Aggaå watercourse will all have a well-balanced phosphate content by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Technical Services Board*
12. The hard surfacing in the Västra Mark industrial estate will be reduced by a minimum of 600 square metres between 2013 and 2020. *Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board, Technical Services Board, Town and Country Planning Board*
13. The purification of rainwater from phosphates in Väckjö will be improved to bring it in line with the good ecological status in lakes Trummen, Väckjösjön and Södra Bergundasjön by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Technical Services Board*
14. The municipal organisation will provide guidelines in sustainable manure management to all its activities involving farm animals and horses by 2016. *Main responsibility: Environmental and Public Health Board*
15. A minimum of 5,000 private sewage systems will have an acceptable level of cleansing by 2020. *Main responsibility: Environmental and Public Health Board*

Target 16 – towards biodiversity in all the watercourses.

16. The ecological status of the river Skyeån will be improved with fish migration by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Technical Services Board*

### Nature

Targets 17-19 – good access to parks and nature areas for the residents, especially children

17. The proportion of Väckjö residents with a maximum of 300 metres to a public park or nature area larger than one hectare will increase to 95 per cent by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board, Technical Services Board, Town and Country Planning Board*
18. The municipal organisation will draw up guidelines for the green local environment of all day nurseries, preschools and schools by the year 2016.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board*
19. There will be linked trails around lakes Trummen, Väckjösjön, Södra Bergundasjön, Norra Bergundasjön and Toftasjön by 2020. *Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board, Technical Services Board, Town and Country Planning Board*

Target 20 – to preserve the open cultural landscape, use it as a resource and develop the qualities associated with it

20. Municipal open land that is grazed, mown or cultivated will be increased to 400 hectares by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board, Technical Services Board*

### Air and noise

Target 21 – clean air throughout the municipality

21. The mean annual rate of nitrogen dioxide concentrations will not exceed 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> air. *Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board, Technical Services Board, Town and Country Planning Board*

Target 22 – the reduction of noise-related health risks

22. Of the homes that are officially identified as being most affected by noise pollution, a minimum of 200 will be offered noise remediation or a grant towards it by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Technical Services Board*



# Vision 2030

In the Greenest City in Europe 2030 the energy consumption of homes, businesses and transport has no environmental impact whatsoever from fossil carbon dioxide emissions. Växjö has become a fossil fuel free municipality that has also taken measures to reduce its carbon footprint from consumption.

All heating, electricity, cooling and fuels in the Greenest City in Europe stem from renewable energy sources, of which Växjö has a large production. All homes and businesses are energy efficient and the heating of buildings is always with the lowest possible primary energy consumption. All new buildings are energy efficient and made from renewable materials, mainly wood.

It is simple and easy to walk, cycle and use public transport in the Greenest City in Europe. This mode of transport has been prioritised for several years and now answers for 50 per cent of journeys while the use of cars has been limited. Renewable fuel is used in cars, goods transportation and processing machinery.

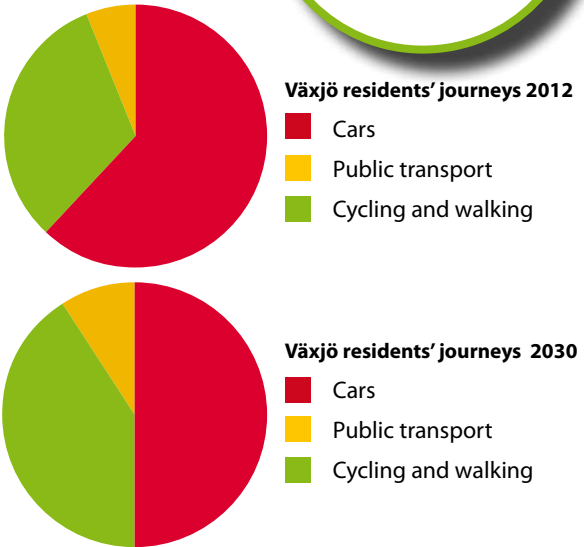
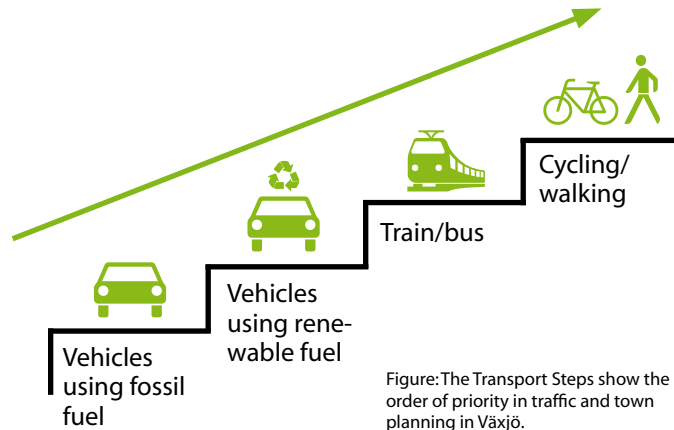


Figure: Forecast change in Växjö residents' personal journeys between 2012 and 2030.



## Measurable targets for Fossil Fuel Free Växjö

### Climate

Targets 23 and 24 – to reduce direct and indirect climate impact

23. Fossil carbon dioxide emissions per person in the City of Växjö will decrease by 65 per cent between 1993 and 2020. Växjö will be fossil fuel free by 2030.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board*
24. The municipal organisation will be fossil fuel free by 2020. *Main responsibility: Växjö municipal boards and boards of municipal companies*

Target 25 – energy smart buildings made from renewable materials

25. In the City of Växjö a minimum of 50 per cent of new municipal buildings will be wood-based by 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Växjö kommunföretag AB*

### Energy

Targets 26-28 – a sustainable energy future

26. Energy consumption per person in the City of Växjö will decrease by 20 per cent between 2008 and 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board*

27. The total energy consumption per square metre in municipal properties will decrease by 20 per cent between 2010 and 2020.  
*Main responsibility: Växjö kommunföretag AB*

28. Municipal solar, wind and hydro power production will supply a minimum of 4,500 MWh by 2020. *Main responsibility: Växjö kommunföretag AB, Technical Services Board*

### Traffic

Targets 29 and 30 – to reduce the environmental impact of motor vehicles

29. Car traffic in the City of Växjö will decrease to a maximum of 6,300 kilometres per person a year by 2020. *Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board, Technical Services Board, Town and Country Planning Board.*
30. All journeys made by residents will be made on foot or by bike to at least 37 per cent and by public transport to at least 10 per cent by 2020. *Main responsibility: Municipal Executive Board, Technical Services Board, Town and Country Planning Board.*



The City of Växjö has the ambition to be one of the leading municipalities in the environmental and climate work. It is also the basis for our work to revise the targets in the Environmental Programme.

Many people have been involved in this work; politicians, employees, business sector and residents of the municipality.

We cannot become the greenest city of Europe without you.

[www.vaxjo.se/sustainable](http://www.vaxjo.se/sustainable)