

For those wanting to know more

Background to and clarification of the Växjö Declaration

Who is the sender?

The sender of the Växjö Declaration is the Sustainable Småland network, Linnaeus University and the City of Växjö.

Who is the recipient?

The recipient of the Växjö Declaration is the Swedish Government and European local authorities.

Why a Växjö Declaration?

Växjö has a history of high aspirations within environment and climate. Work on lake restorations and district heating got underway as far back as the 1970s. In the 1980s the switchover from oil to bioenergy began and in the 1990s Växjö realised the importance of cross-sector collaboration. In 1996, probably as the first municipality in the world, Växjö set the goal of reducing its climate impact and become a fossil fuel free municipality. It is a tough target, but we have already come a long way. The key to success is politicians who are passionate for environmental issues and the broad collaboration between the municipality, university and private sector.

Växjö's private and public sector actors still have high aspirations within the area of environment and climate. Växjö has set a goal of becoming a fossil fuel free municipality by 2030. To achieve this goal we need help from other actors. We have identified the Swedish Government as an important actor. We have also identified European local authorities as important actors in jointly pursuing the climate issue throughout Europe.

Presentation of Sustainable Småland

Sustainable Småland is a regional environmental network with a special focus on knowledge sharing and the development of innovative and challenging environmental solutions. The network is located in Växjö, in a region with the ambition of becoming the Greenest in Europe. In our network we share and develop our joint environmental knowledge and awareness. We can combine products and services from the world's leading technology companies, with experience and knowledge of the public sector and the latest university research. This combination with its broad expertise enables us to jointly develop environmental solutions for the future. The members of Sustainable Småland are Abetong AB, Andritz AB, ArkitektBolaget Kronoberg AB, ITK Envifront, Jonsson Consulting Sweden AB, Linnaeus University, Nyréns Arkitektkontor AB, Sweco Environment and Energiguide AB, Södra, Växjö Energi AB, Visionskompaniet Arkitektur & Projekt AB, Volvo Construction Equipment AB and Växjö Municipality. For further details, visit www.sustainablesmaland.se

Clarification of terms and formulations used in the Växjö Declaration

"Fossil fuel free city"

In 1996 Växjö council declared that Växjö shall become a fossil fuel free city. By that we mean that no fossil energy sources will be used in Växjö as a geographical area for heating, transportation or industrial processes. This involves fossil oils and fuels, coal, natural gas and peat. The council carries out an annual inventory of energy consumption within the geographical area.

“In the past 20 years the people of Växjö have almost halved their fossil carbon dioxide emissions.”

Växjö has the goal of becoming a fossil fuel free city by 2030. Fossil carbon dioxide emissions shall then be zero. The interim goal is a 65 per cent reduction in emissions per capita between 1993 and 2020. Progress is followed up on an annual basis. Between 1993 and 2013 emissions per capita fell by 47 per cent to roughly 2.4 tons of carbon dioxide per person a year. Most of the remaining emissions come from the transport sector.

“52 identified measures for sustainable travel“

Växjö council adopted a new transport plan in autumn 2014. The plan contains 52 measures for sustainable travel within five strategic areas; sustainable vehicle traffic, cycling, walking, public transport and mobility management.

“The Covenant of Mayors“

The Covenant of Mayors is an initiative launched by the European Commission in 2008. Local authorities that sign the covenant undertake to go further than the EU's energy and climate goals. The covenant is entered to show that even local level is important for sustainable development. Växjö was one of the first local authorities in Europe to sign the covenant, which now has 6,200 signatures.