



Curtin University

Climate Contracts

A Swedish perspective on transdisciplinary partnerships for energy transitions.

GILES THOMSON

A global university

Western Australia | Dubai | Malaysia | Mauritius | Singapore

Overview of presentation

- Multi-level governance
- The EU mission for Climate Neutral Cities
- Viable Cities (Swedish research platform)
- Climate Contracts (Klimatkontract 2030)

Deep Engagement, reflexivity & co-learning

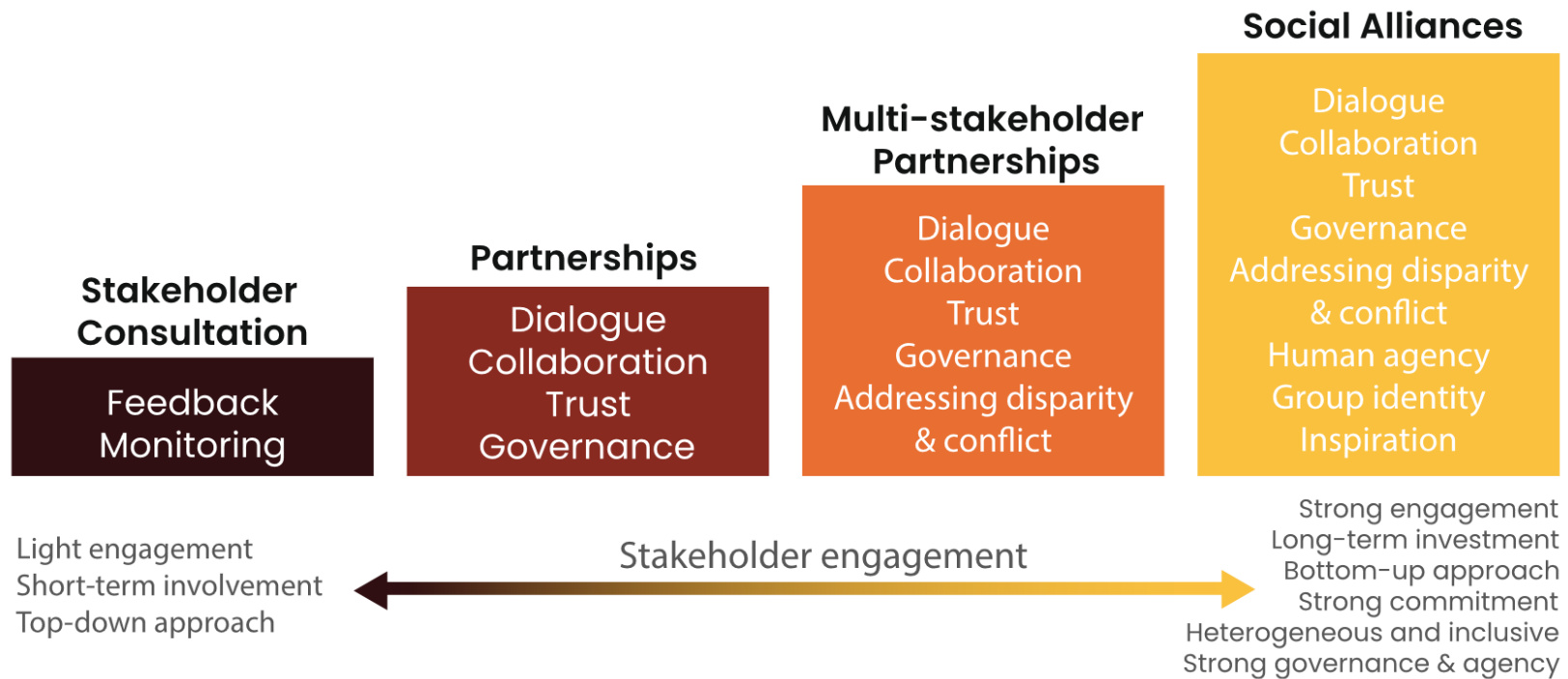


FIGURE 1 Continuum of stakeholder engagement.


Source: Gutierrez, V., Ploeg, P., Bajraktari, F., Thomson, G., Visseren- Hamakers, I. & Roth, D. (2023)

The potential of Cities

- Cities 3% of the land area
- >50% of the global population
- Up to 72% of emissions
- Cities form a nexus of social, political, economic and environmental systems
- Cities are a geographic entity where energy, transport and built environment systems interact
- **Cities are therefore central for the climate transition**

Mission oriented governance

- Moonshot:
1960s Apollo Moon mission
- Mission oriented governance model:
Adopted by the European union
- EU definition:
mission oriented approach as involving target-setting, a systemic mobilization of policy instruments, programme design, experimentation and multilevel governance
- EU cities' mission
Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission with the goal for 100 climate-neutral cities in Europe by 2030.

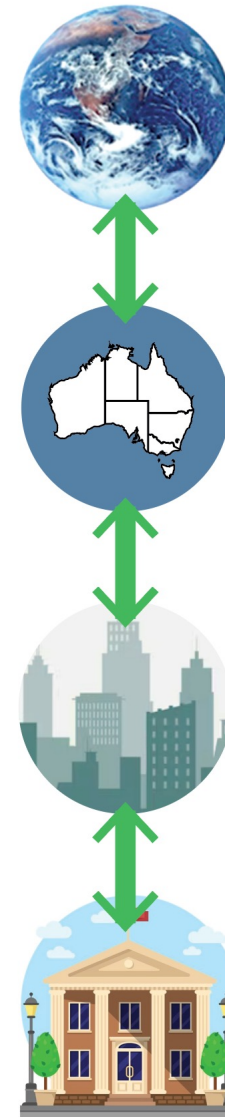


**Viable Cities (Sweden) Mission:
Climate neutral cities 2030
– with a good life for all within
the planetary boundaries**

Image: Viable Cities

Multi-Level Governance

- International goals
e.g. the Paris Agreement goal to keep global warming below 1.5°C
- National Goals
e.g. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to meet the Paris goal
- State and regional/metropolitan goals
e.g. state government strategies, net zero targets and interim goals
- Municipal, Business and stakeholder goals
Local sustainability and decarbonization plans
- **But** these levels are often disconnected and fragmented...
- National targets (e.g. set by Federal government) may not translate to local plans (the scale of the community)



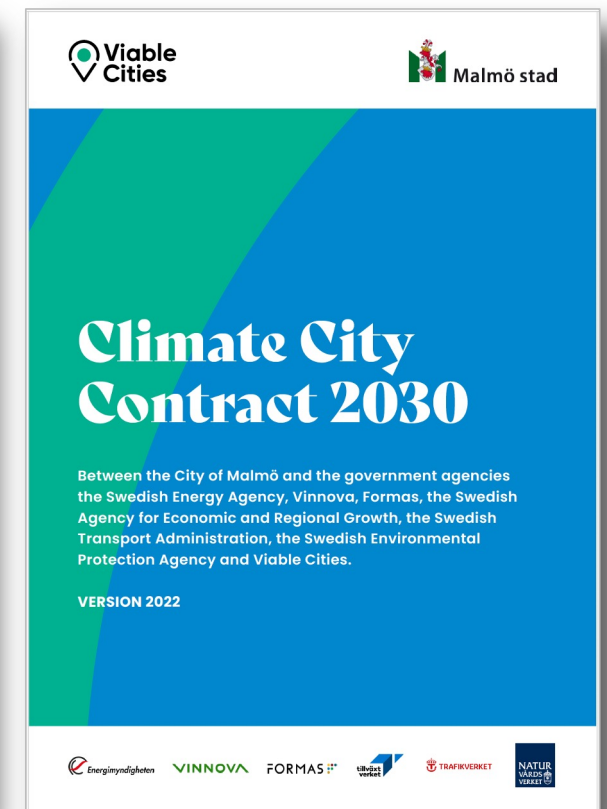
Viable Cities (Sweden)

- Mission: ‘Climate neutral cities by 2030 with a good life for all within the planetary boundaries’
- Transdisciplinary research focused on their mission
- Co-ordinated by the Royal Stockholm Institute of Technology (KTH) and with 130 partners from the public sector, academia, the business sector and civic society
- **Climate contracts** are the major transdisciplinary research output of the ‘Viable Cities’ program.

What is a Climate Contract?

...a ca. 25 page contract...

"Between the (e.g. City of Malmö) and the government agencies the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Viable Cities"



What is in a Climate Contract?

Swedish Climate City contracts consists of three parts:

- 1. Commitments by Mayors** Based on local conditions and needs within the municipality –in collaboration with stakeholders with the aim to find new ways to accelerate climate action
- 2. Commitments by the General Directors of national authorities** to facilitate the urban transition by coordination at the national level
- 3. Commitments by Viable Cities** to undertake long-term support, coordinate, facilitate development, revision and analysis of the recent Climate Contract activities

Climate Contract 2030 Cities



Flagship initiative:
Climate-Neutral cities 2030

23 municipalities, 40% of
Sweden's population

Image: Viable Cities

Climate Contract 2030

Reflexive co-learning network including:

- **Monthly innovation team meetings between the 6 national agencies** seeking synergies and to overcome barriers
- **Viable Cities Transition Lab** – reflexive co-learning between cities and agencies
- **Annual city action plan** updates captured in annual iterations of the climate contact signed by the 3 actor groups (The City, National agencies, Viable cities)

Viable Cities **Stockholms stad**

Climate City Contract 2030

Between the City of Stockholm, the government agencies the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Viable Cities.

Stockholm, 8 December 2022. The parties agree that their joint commitments as formulated above shall apply for 2023. The first version of Climate City Contract 2030 was signed in 2020. The Climate City Contract shall be updated and renewed prior to each new year.

Karin Wanngård Mayor, City of Stockholm	Olga Kordas Programme Manager, Viable Cities
Robert Andrén Director General, Swedish Energy Agency	Darja Isaksson Director General, Vinnova
Johan Kuylenstierna Director General, Formas	Elisabeth Backteman Director General, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth
Roberto Maiorana Director General, Swedish Transport Administration	Björn Risinger Director General, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Energimyndigheten **VINNOVA** **FORMAS** **Tillvästverket** **TRAFIKVERKET** **NATURVÄRDETS VERKET**



Annual signing ceremony at European Viable Cities Day.
Mayors, Director Generals of government agencies and Viable Cities, December 8, 2023

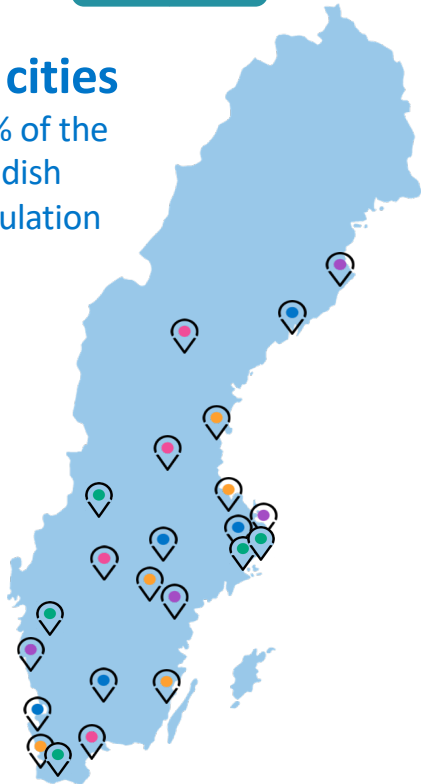
Source: Viable Cities 2023

Mission: Climate neutral cities 2030 with a good life for all within planetary boundaries



Sweden

23 cities
40 % of the Swedish population



EU

112 cities of which seven Swedish



Globally



European Missions
100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030

NET ZERO CITIES



Climate Smart Cities Challenge



Image: Viable Cities 2023

Climate Contract in Australia?

- Australian cities offer great potential for decarbonisation as 86% of the population currently live in urban centres and urban areas are a major source of energy transport and industrial emissions
- But Australia's current fragmented governance landscape results in a disconnect between bottom-up and top-down strategies
- There is a need for stronger multi level governance for greater coordination and inspirational visions to support actor innovation ecosystems to drive decarbonisation...



Conclusion...

Climate contracts show a governance model for

- greater vertical co-ordination between tiers of government (local, state, national)
- Alignment of activities and budgets between agencies, businesses and municipalities
- A long-term governance tool for co-ordinating and inspiring actors for complex mission-oriented goals
- Strengthening actor networks through place based co-learning communities
- Setting a clear vision, with accountability through reporting and strategic annual (re)calibration to keep the mission on track.



Thank you

Giles.Thomson@curtin.edu.au

grt@bth.se

<https://viablecities.se/en/>

Example Climate Contract commitments

Stockholm Climate City contract prioritized commitments for 2022 include:

- Dramatic reduction in road traffic emissions (e.g. increasing EV and active and public transport) - this includes a ban on ICE vehicles in the city centre from 2025.
- A Phase out all fossil fuel for heating and electricity
- And BioEnergy Carbon Capture and Storage to offset remaining emissions.

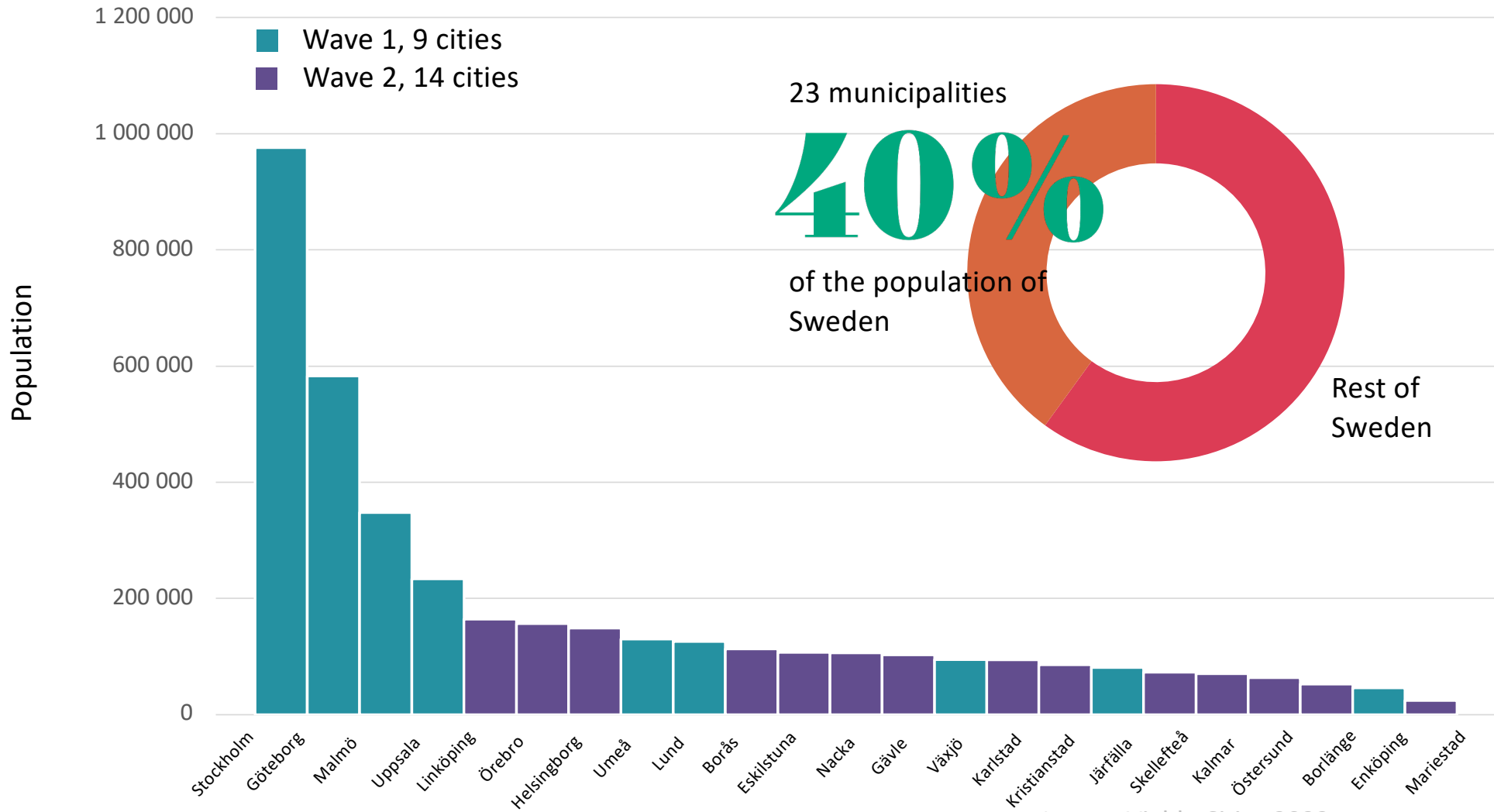


Image: Viable Cities 2023