Long term implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the City of Malmö

Localising the 17 UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development

In 2015, the City of Malmö signed ‘A Declaration of Cities’ Commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda’, committing to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s or Global Goals) by approving an integrated and holistic development strategy by 2020 – a Local 2030 Agenda. This ambition will be achieved by integrating the SDG’s in the City Council's goals and as part of the budget process. By integrating the SDGs in the city’s steering and management systems, it will become clear in what way the city operations and activities contribute to a more sustainable city and world.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development with its’ 17 goals and 169 targets, is an agenda for global and local sustainable development alike. The agenda aims to eradicate poverty and hunger, fulfil human rights for all, obtain gender equality as well as empowerment for all women and girls, and secure a lasting protection for the planet and its natural resources. The SDGs are integrated and indivisible, meaning that they balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social.

Leadership, communication and systemic perspective

The City Director, Directors of departments, and Directors of the municipality owned companies are equally responsible for the city’s work on sustainable development and are expected to apply a balanced approach with economic, environmental and social aspects equally taken into consideration.

Among several success factors, a courageous leadership taking responsibility for the full picture and making conscious decisions, is the most important. A leadership recognising the importance of consistent and unanimous communication for all employees to understand how everyone plays a part in contributing to and accomplishing the Global Goals through every local effort. A leadership capable of managing conflicting objectives, intersectional perspectives and of working with a systemic approach for the City vision and the City Council's goals, supported by proactive strategies and an innovation and co-creation promoting culture. Together with public authorities, academia, the private sector, civil society including NGO’s and the citizens, these success factors will make Malmö a sustainable and attractive city.
Development processes 2018 for a sustainable city

Integrating the Global Goals locally in the City of Malmö is a long-term commitment involving all departments and municipal owned companies.

The city’s new budget process, fully implemented in 2020, will be our Local 2030 Agenda. During 2018, we will strengthen the city’s ability to convert the SDGs into our local development work, with a focus on below development areas. For each section, some examples are described of planned and ongoing processes and activities.

1. Integration in existing steering and management systems

The 2030 Agenda is to be a guiding principle for all city operations. Sustainable development is not supposed to be defined as an addition to regular work, rather it must be defined by what the regular work includes and how it is performed. To secure that we are making the right prioritisations to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the Global Goals need to be integrated into existing steering and management system.

Examples in 2018

- In the 2019 City Council budget, the Global Goals will be integrated and concretized, and by 2020, fully be part of the new budget process.
- A joint analysis is created by the city departments, assessing the current situation and identifying the gaps in relation to the SDGs. The gap analysis will serve for future prioritisations in the city.
- The work on sustainable investments is strengthened, i.e. by establishing a social investment ‘knowledge hub’ in accordance with the recommendations stated by the Malmö Commission.

2. Sustainable development through operational development

Our work with sustainable development is implemented within the entire organisation through the regular operations systems, in development processes and in different networks with a strong focus on management and the municipal owned companies’ core tasks. As sustainable development is about balancing the three dimensions of sustainability while having the future generations in mind, we need to strengthen the child and youth perspective in our operational development.

Examples in 2018

- Various tools and methods are being tested to assess and clarify sustainability impact of decision making.
- As part of ‘The development plan for the work on children’s rights in Malmö city’, all departments and municipal owned companies are receiving support to develop the capacity and knowledge regarding the Children’s Convention and Children’s Rights, how these can be put into practice in the daily work as well as implemented into a systemic approach on children’s rights.
3. Planned communication and participation for learning and support
Coherent and planned communication efforts highlighting the local SDG work, with focus on participation and anchoring, will contribute to growing awareness and knowledge both internally and externally. Communication and dialogue are also prerequisites for cooperation, for building knowledge alliances and establishing partnerships.

Examples in 2018
- A jointly developed communications strategy is implemented in the city.
- Story telling as a communications tool is used to share inspiring stories from the entire city on the ongoing work with sustainable development. The stories are produced, shared and used as a basis for dialogue.

4. Increased knowledge for conscious decisions
Making conscious decisions for sustainable development based on all sustainability dimensions and with an emphasis on achieving the Global Goals, requires knowledge and skills. Conscious decision-making at all levels contribute to a sustainable city.

Examples in 2018
- Education efforts targeting decision makers (politicians), directors, managers as well as employees.
- Inspirational and knowledge-building seminars are organised internally but in partnership with external actors.

5. Innovative partnerships making a difference
Through active partnerships in local, national and international contexts we try new forms of cooperation involving different actors.

Examples in 2018
- The M21 partnership (Malmö in the 21st century), a partnership between the City of Malmö and the private sector aiming to become a national testbed for urban innovations and systems. Academia and civil society, including NGOs, are also being involved.
- The partnership between the City of Malmö and civil society including NGOs through the ‘Agreement Malmö and’ is continuously being developed.