



Helsingborg Sustainability-Linked Bond Framework

September 2021



HELSINGBORG

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Summary

The City of Helsingborg wants to drive the transition towards an eco-friendly society. One step on this journey is to align our funding with our sustainability commitments by linking the coupon/principal on our Sustainability-Linked Bonds with our performance on the following KPI: Absolute greenhouse gas emissions, tonnes of CO₂e, in the geographical area of Helsingborg.

Our target is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 at the latest and we want to take the lead in environmental and climate questions, which means that we will sometimes choose to aim higher than the politically settled national targets. Our net zero target is one example of this; the national environmental goal is directly comparable to Helsingborg's but the target for the national goal is 2045. However, benchmarking with other municipalities is not a like-for-like comparison, as definitions and time-frames vary quite substantially. In light of this, Helsingborg may be climate neutral long before 2035, using other cities' definitions.

The greenhouse gas emissions in the geographical area is measured by RUS, a state owned institution, and presented yearly in the national database for emissions. The national database for emissions includes emissions produced in the geographical area of Helsingborg, it does not measure complementary actions of carbon absorption inside or outside of the municipality's borders, nor does it measure emissions from consumption.

To track and measure performance Helsingborg has calibrated a sustainability performance target (SPT) trajectory illustrating annual SPTs available for securities issued under this Framework. Changes to Helsingborg's sustainability strategy and/or ambitions may lead to a downward revision of the SPT trajectory which would be beneficial for the bondholders.

To reach our goal we have a comprehensive strategy in place, which among other things involves commitments from businesses, actions to promote sustainable transportation and vital carbon capture and storage technology. Through the issuance of our Sustainability-Linked Bonds, we aim to reinforce our commitments laid out in our Climate and Energy plan.

By using distinct external figures from RUS-data, we are challenging ourselves and hopefully others will follow with similar KPIs or other relevant and ambitious goals.

Background

About Helsingborg

Helsingborg is located in the south of Sweden, just across the bay from Denmark. The municipality has nearly 150 000 inhabitants making it the ninth largest in Sweden¹. In the framework, “Helsingborg” is used for the geographical area, “City of Helsingborg” refers to the municipal departments, and “the Helsingborg City group” is the whole group including municipally owned companies.

The City of Helsingborg wants to drive the transition to an eco-friendly society. This is why the city’s climate and energy plan wants to bring you and the whole of Helsingborg on the journey toward a sustainable future. If Helsingborg’s climate impact is to be minimized while the city is growing, we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in all areas of society. It is about how we get to work, what we eat, how we produce goods and services, how we live and how we consume. It is a huge challenge to stop global warming and build an eco-friendly society, but together we can make a difference.

Helsingborg Sustainability Governances

Climate and energy plan

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. Through wise choices and resolutions, we can take part in turning the climate trend and creating a sustainable future. 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. Since 1990, the emissions in Helsingborg have decreased by 52 percent. This can be compared to the emission reduction in Sweden that corresponds to 27 percent since 1990.

The actions of the Helsingborg City group are important, but our success is also highly affected by the behaviour 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 behaviours.

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. 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.

¹ [Folkmängd, topp 50 \(scb.se\)](http://Folkmängd_topp_50_(scb.se))

Quality-of-life Programme

Since 2016, Helsingborg has been implementing a Quality-of-Life Programme, a city-wide instrument and steering document for the city's work relating to sustainable development, environment, and public health. The policy context of Sustainable Development in Helsingborg incorporates several strategic documents adopted by the City Council. Our strategy is to create and improve structures in society that strengthen the opportunities of our citizens to live a good and healthy life. We also encourage and enable citizens to make sustainable choices in their everyday lives and strive to create the right conditions for innovative and climate-smart solutions to emerge. The Quality-of-Life Programme is our plan for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and it consists of politically set ambitions or directions. These describe which changes the city needs to make to ensure everyone in Helsingborg has access to a high quality of life. These directions each have three focus areas that define what the city wants to do. The focus areas are based on Helsingborg's biggest challenges and are connected to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as Sweden's national health and sustainability goals. Our ambition is to create a Helsingborg where people can enjoy a high quality of life but with a low environmental impact, within planetary boundaries.

Sweden's most environmentally friendly municipality

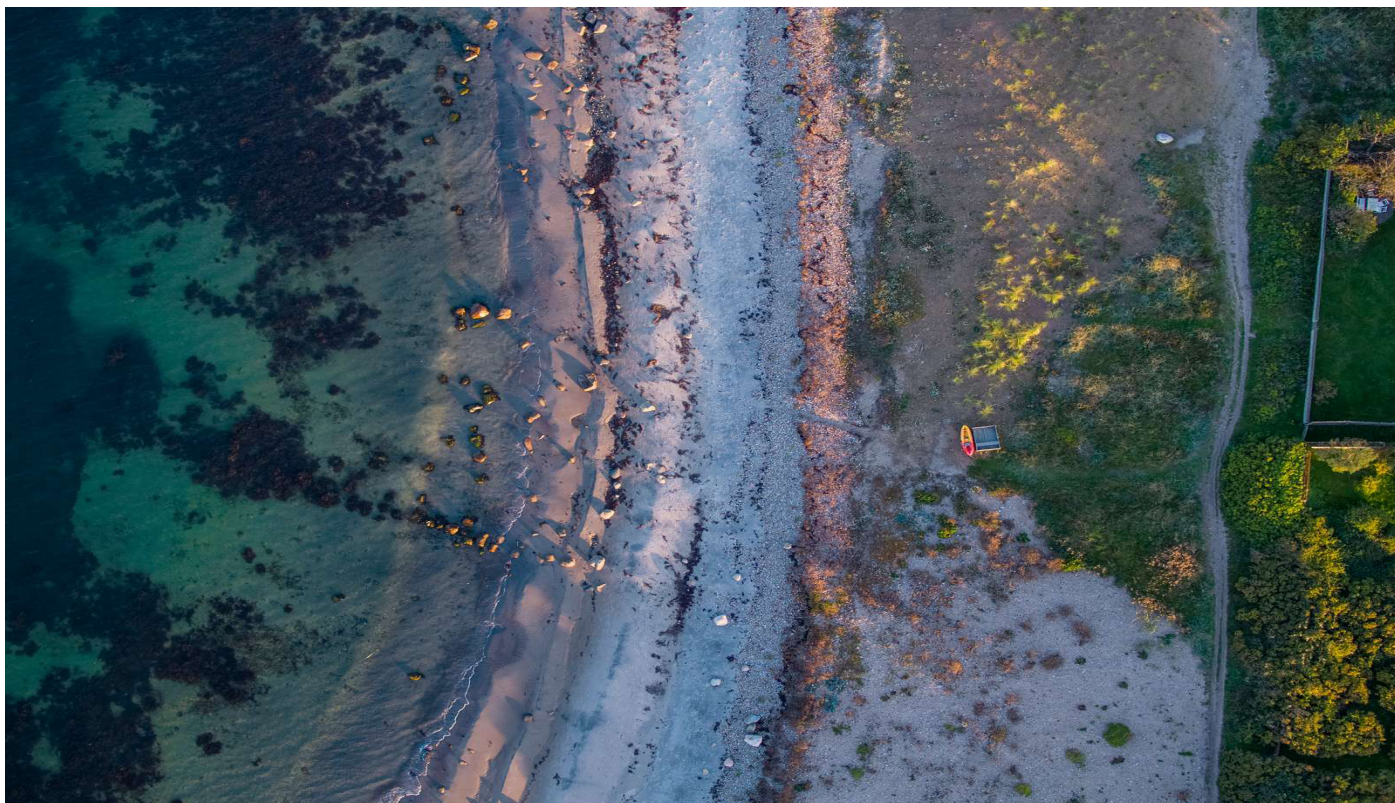
For four years in total, Helsingborg has been awarded as Sweden's most environmentally friendly municipality and during 2021 Helsingborg ranked as number two. In May 2021, we were announced as one of the finalists to become the Green Capital of Europe 2023. This is the result of a long-term initiative centred on citizens' quality of life. Helsingborg's most prominent successes are linked to how we have tackled environmental challenges associated with air, water, and noise pollution; waste management, energy efficiency and climate mitigation. The city has many concrete initiatives that are clearly linked to sustainable energy and sustainable

consumption and production, and which involve the establishment of circular systems for resource use.

In 2017 we updated our ecological footprint survey, which highlights one of the main challenges in our work with sustainability. If all humans on earth would live like a Helsingborg resident it would require resources equivalent to three earth globes. This is 25 percent less than average in Sweden but clearly exceeding the Planetary Boundaries. Many challenges remain in reducing our lifestyle's impact on the environment, and the work to do so requires close collaboration with the people who live and work in the city.

Helsingborg's primary challenges going forward are found within the realm of social sustainability. This involves reducing the health inequality between different socioeconomic groups, establishing a prioritised integration process for newcomers, and bolstering the perceived sense of safety and security in the city. Just a few years ago, the environmental discussion was more distinctly separated from discussions concerning social sustainability. Today we know that environment and public health are closely linked, and that social and environmental sustainability are a prerequisite for a sustainable economy in the long term. Our ambitions require giving those who work in the city the tools needed to measure and monitor, the methods for engaging and enabling, and the support and permission required to think and work in new ways.

Sustainability-Linked Bond Framework



By setting up this document (the “Sustainability-Linked Bond Framework” or “Framework”), the City of Helsingborg intends to link its funding with key objectives that are material for our long-term sustainability performance. The objectives will be achieved through an ambitious timeline, the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and the Sustainability Performance Target (SPT). The Framework is developed to align with the Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles (SLBP) published in June 2020 by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA).

The five core components of the SLBP are:

1. Selection of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
2. Calibration of Sustainability Performance Targets (SPTs)
3. Bond characteristics
4. Reporting
5. Verification

The terms and conditions of the underlying documentation for each Sustainability-Linked Bond issued by the City of Helsingborg shall provide a reference to this Framework. The purpose of the Framework is to define the KPI, SPT, bond structuring features, disclosure and verification related to our sustainability-linked financing.

The City of Helsingborg has worked with Danske Bank to develop the Framework and S&P Global Ratings has provided a Second Party Opinion, confirming alignment with ICMA’s Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles. All relevant documentation will be publicly available at our website.

Selection of the Key Performance Indicator

KPI – Absolute emissions in tonnes of CO₂e

Absolute emissions, tonnes of CO₂e, in the geographical area of Helsingborg measured yearly by RUS¹ (a state owned institution).

Calculation methodology

Helsingborg's target for absolute emissions in tonnes CO₂e is set to: Net zero greenhouse gas emissions at the latest by 2035². Complementary actions may be taken into account to reach net zero emissions³.

Emissions included are CO₂e emissions in the geographical area of Helsingborg which implies that emissions from waste, agriculture, transportation, industry, machines, individual heat supply, product use, electricity and districted heating are included. The data is collected from the National Database for Emissions presented by RUS.

The National Database for Emissions presents Sweden's national emission statistics on a county and municipal level. The data is used by, for example, The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, which is responsible for both national emissions and geographical distribution, and reported to the EU, the Climate Convention and the Convention on Civil Protection. In addition to international reporting, information is needed at county and municipality level for the work on measures and monitoring of climate and environmental goals, among other things. At the municipal level, emission figures are available in approximately 18-20 months after the year the emissions occurred.

The data in the database are based on Sweden's official emission statistics, is updated annually and can be found here: [Nationella emissionsdatabasen \(smhi.se\)](http://Nationella%20emissionsdatabasen%20(smhi.se)). The data is provided and verified by SMED (Svenska Miljöemissionsdata), which is a consortium between IVL (Swedish environmental research institute), SCB (Statistics Sweden), SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) and SMHI (the Swedish meteorological and Hydrological Institute). Naturvårdsverket (The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) finances the database. The full methodology can be found here (in Swedish): [Metod- och kvalitetsbeskrivning av geografisk fördelning av emissioner till luft \(rus.se\)](http://Metod-och%20kvalitetsbeskrivning%20av%20geografisk%20f%C3%B6rdelning%20av%20emissioner%20till%20luft%20(rus.se))

EU Environmental objective

The related EU environmental objective is "Climate Change Mitigation" as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13 "Climate Action".

² RUS stands for regional development and collaboration in the work with Sweden's environmental goals. RUS supports, guides and coordinates the work of the county administrative boards and the Swedish Forest Agency in the environmental goal system. As a link between the regional, central and local environmental goal work, RUS works to make the regional and local level of the environmental and sustainability work visible.

³ Our net zero target implies that greenhouse gas emissions should be at least 85% lower than in 1990 and that complementary actions may be taken into account to for the remaining 15%. This target follows the national environmental objectives' definition (The Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives, 2016).

⁴ 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.

Rationale behind the KPI

Helsingborg has a long-term vision, Helsingborg 2035. The vision guides our work towards building a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable Helsingborg by 2035. Vision Helsingborg 2035 was broadly agreed upon in 2012 from all political parties in Helsingborg.

Closely connected to the Vision is the Quality of Life programme. It consists of five directions that describe which changes the city needs to make to ensure that inhabitants have a high quality of life. There are fifteen focus areas that define what the city wants to do. The areas are built on Helsingborg's biggest challenges and are connected to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Europe 2020 strategy as well as Sweden's national health and environmental goals.

The Climate and Energy plan is an important policy document related to the Quality of Life programme. Helsingborg wants to take a lead in environmental and climate questions. The City of Helsingborg has the ambition to have net zero emissions in 2035 in the area of Helsingborg. Nevertheless, we are not to stop at 2035. How we consume and use resources, regardless of where the emissions occur, also determines our impact on the global climate. Therefore, we will reduce our overall climate impact and our

consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions to a sustainable level by 2045.

In the Paris Agreement, Sweden and most of the world's countries have agreed that we must reduce global warming to a maximum of 2 degrees in order to avoid the most serious effects of climate change. Ideally, the heating should be kept below 1.5 degrees. Municipalities and regions are key players in Sweden's climate work. With the proximity to the citizens, the long experience of spatial planning and energy management and the role of major employers, the municipalities are important climate actors in the journey to reach the national climate targets.

In order for Helsingborg to contribute to the achievement of the Paris Agreement and reach the target of net emissions in 2035, it is important that emissions are reduced rapidly over the next few years as greenhouse gases accumulate in the atmosphere. This implies an even faster reduction of emissions compared to previous years and that we are successful with tying more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through biological carbon sinks and carbon dioxide removal technology. A faster reduction of emissions requires, among other things, focus on passenger transport since it is Helsingborg's largest source of emissions.



Calibration of Sustainable Performance targets (SPTs)

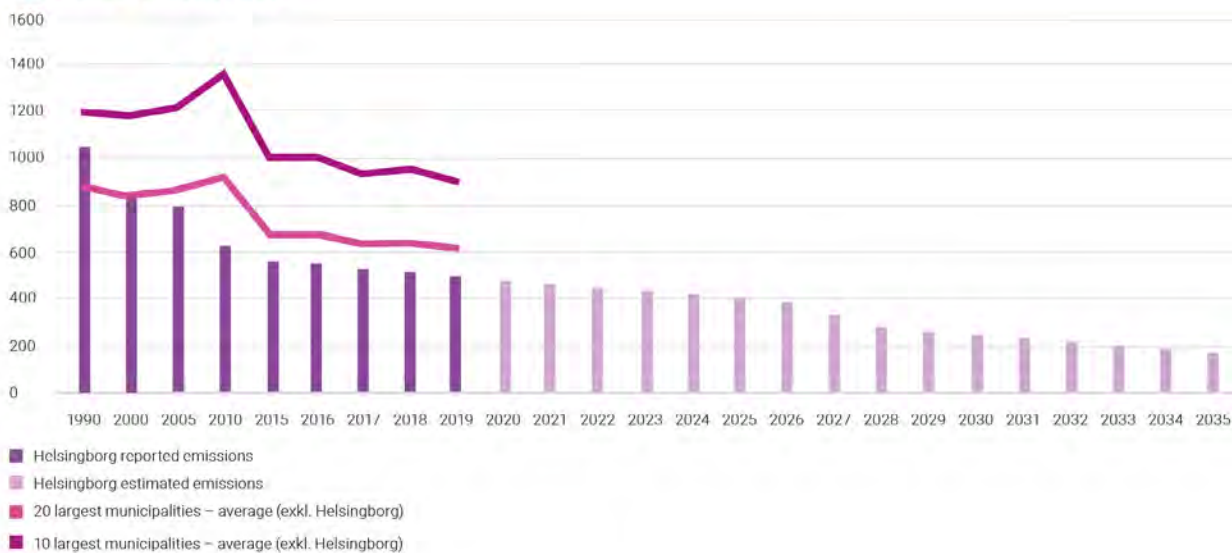
SPTs

| SPTs | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 | 2035 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Emission targets tonnes of CO ₂ e | 418 420 | 403 110 | 387 800 | 372 500 | 357 190 | 261 880 | 246 570 | 231 260 | 215 950 | 200 650 | 185 340 | 170 030 | 154 720 |
| CO ₂ e change% | 59% | 61% | 62% | 64% | 69% | 75% | 76% | 78% | 79% | 81% | 82% | 84% | 85% |

The SPT trajectory illustrates the annual SPTs available for securities issued under this Framework. The baseline for each SPT is 1990.

Calculated performance – reported and estimated emissions in the geographical area

Thousands tonnes of CO₂e



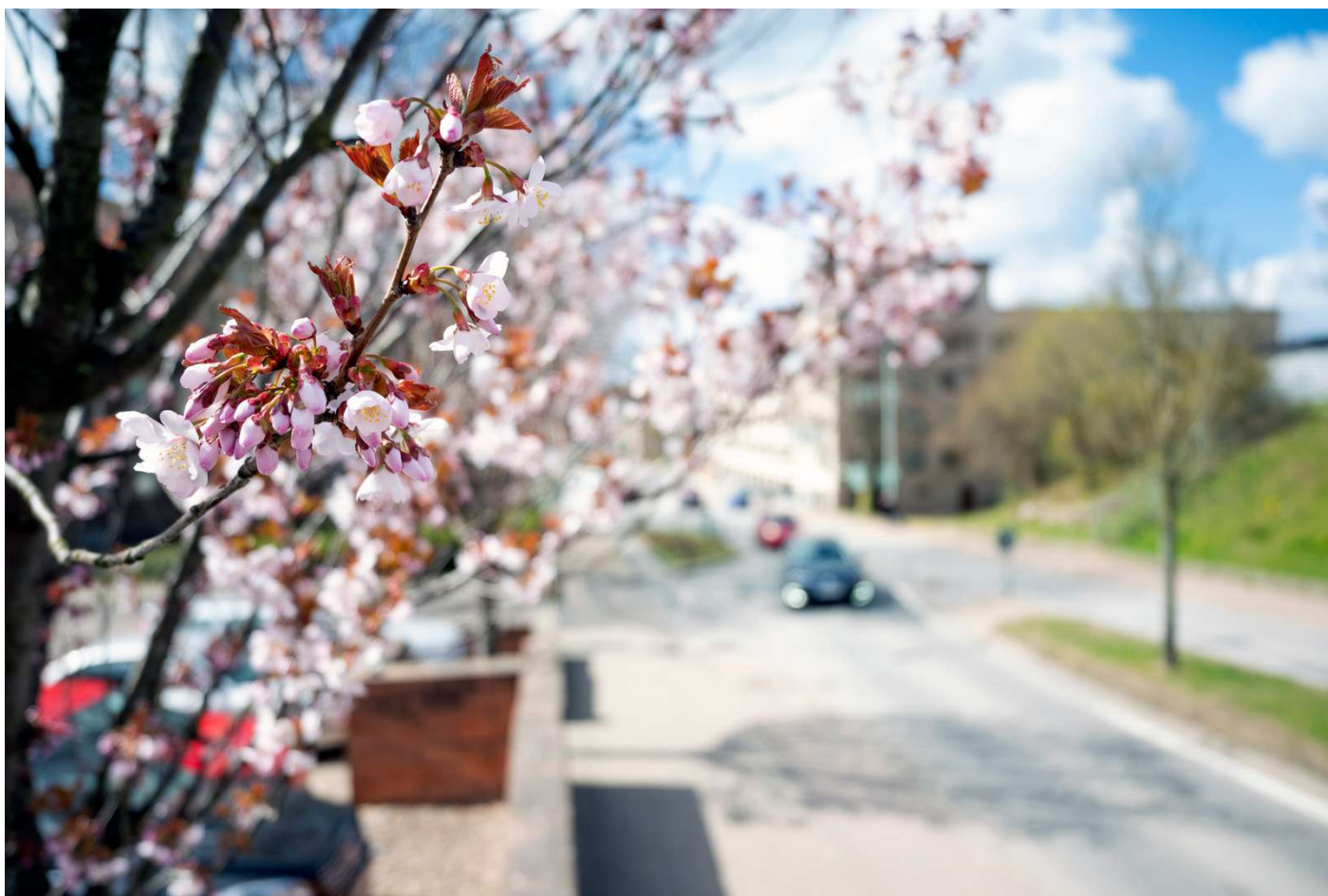
Target observation date

At the municipal level, emission figures are available approximately 18-20 months after the year the emissions occurred (see calculation methodology above). Since the data is lagging behind, the target observation date for the each SPT is therefore set to 31st of august in the second year after the emissions occurred e.g. the SPT for 2023 will be observed 2025-08-31.

Benchmark

Helsingborg wants to take a lead in environmental and climate questions, which means that we sometimes choose to aim higher than the politically settled national targets. Our net zero target for 2035 is one example of this, the national environmental goal is directly comparable to Helsingborg's but the national goal is targeting 2045.

On a local or regional level, there are no guidelines for how environmental goals should be formulated. The municipalities can adopt the national environmental objectives as a whole or define their own targets and adapt the objectives according to local conditions.



Out of Sweden's 290 municipalities, Helsingborg's target has been benchmarked against the 20 largest municipalities in order to compare municipalities of similar size. From that comparison it can be concluded that the definition of targets vary. Two municipalities track their target per inhabitant, one is not restricted to the geographical area, one is restricted to the municipality group, two targets are based on a yearly reduction according to their carbon budget, five targets are not quantified and two municipalities are developing new targets.

However, seven municipalities out of the 20 largest have an absolute emission target for CO₂e emissions in the geographical area and account for the same variables as Helsingborg and Sweden's national target. Recalculating all baselines to 1990 levels it can be concluded that two municipalities have an emission target for 2030, one should reduce emissions by 70% and the other one by 78%. This can be compared to Helsingborg's 2030 SPT that is targeting a 78% reduction. Three municipalities have a target to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by 2040, the last two municipalities are targeting the same reduction rate by 2045. This can be compared to Helsingborg's SPT of 85% reduction by 2035.

Another aspect to consider when comparing climate targets is that some municipalities, including Helsingborg, have signed an agreement with Viable Cities that stipulate that the concerned municipality should be climate neutral by 2030. However, this contract is a long-term commitment that ensures cooperation between cities and the state level. The definition of climate neutrality differs in each contract, which makes it difficult to compare these ambitions with Helsingborg's net zero target.

Strategy to achieve the SPT

We have adopted a Climate and Energy Plan with ambitious goals for climate neutrality, and our principal steering document for sustainable development emphasises the importance of minimising climate impact and preparing society for transformative change.

Helsingborg's Climate Contract

To achieve the ambition of climate neutrality, 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.

In January 2021, several businesses in Helsingborg signed climate contracts as a show of commitment to sustainable practices. Now, many other companies and associations in the city are voicing an interest in following their lead. These agreements are a collaboration between the city, businesses, associations, and committed residents aimed at together reaching the city's ambitious target of climate neutrality by 2035. This call to action complements The People of Helsingborg's Climate Contract – an initiative conceived and run by Helsingborg residents to engage more people in sustainability efforts. A climate contract for children has now also been drawn up with the help of schoolchildren and the city's child rights strategists. The growing number of signatures is a clear signal of shared ambition.

Transportation

Transportation is today the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Helsingborg, with passenger cars being the main source. To reduce our climate impact, we must rethink our daily travel habits and build a society where it is easy to travel sustainably. According to Helsingborg's Climate and Energy Plan, road

traffic emissions shall be reduced by 80 per cent from 2010 to 2030. In order to make this possible, we need to push for more cycling and transportation by public sector, and for the transition to renewable fuels. A travel habit survey conducted by Region Skåne in 2018 showed that around 30 percent of car journeys are shorter than 5 km, with the average distance being 7 km. Here we can see great potential in increasing public transport, cycling, and walking.

The City of Helsingborg is promoting sustainable travel and are working to change travel habits in the city, a few example actions are:

- Since 2019, a fully electric-powered BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) with high capacity, HelsingborgsExpressen, has been serving the busiest bus route in Helsingborg.
- All other city buses besides the BRT are fuelled with locally produced biogas, mainly from household food waste. Biogas is also available for residents' passenger cars.
- There are ongoing investments in bicycle paths and bicycle parking. The city's mobility management team promotes cycling, through campaigns and a bicycle-library. At the Miljöverkstaden¹, students at Helsingborg schools learn how to travel sustainably.
- We are running a project called "bike friendly workplace" to encourage more workplaces to promote bicycle commuting.
- We are organizing campaigns to promote public transportation.
- ForSea runs electric ferries to Helsingör in Denmark. This makes the route between Helsingborg and Helsingör the world's first high-intensity battery-operated ferry line.
- In the project Fossilbränsle fria kommuner 2.0, the Helsingborg City group works to ensure that the city's own service vehicles as well as contractor's vehicles are completely fossil fuels-free. By September 2021,

¹Miljöverkstaden (the Environmental Workshop) is Helsingborg's commitment to support the schools environmental education. Each year, Miljöverkstaden meets with 10,000 elementary school students for lessons, projects, and outdoor activities. The aim is to engage pupils in learning about a sustainable future, a healthy and clean environment, and to inspire them to care for nature.

only 8 special-vehicles remain diesel-driven in the city's own fleet. For the contractor's 67 out of 94 contracts demand fossil fuel-free vehicles to a certain level.

Renewable energy

The national goal is that 100% of all electricity production should be produced from renewable sources by 2040. Helsingborg is investing in solar power and by 2035 the goal is that local production of solar power should be equal to 10% of the total need for electricity in the city. To achieve this, small-scale local production is going to be encouraged. Small-scale production is stated as an important measure in the European Green Deal.

Local biogas production and use should increase by 15% until 2024 (7,140 tons year 2016) and the production of district heating should be from 100% recycled and renewable energy by 2024. To achieve a production of district heating without fossil fuels, the starting fuel needs to be changed. This has already been implemented at one CHP-plant. The goal is to change the starting fuel at the other plant as well by 2022.

Waste and wastewater management

Helsingborg is continuously working with implementing circular solutions, one example of this is the Three Pipe wastewater system that is being built in the new city district Oceanhamnen. The planning started with the far-sighted decision in 2013 to implement the system. The system and the adjoining Reco Lab¹ were thereafter put into construction.

The system allows for source separation of toilet wastewater, food waste and grey water. The vacuum toilets are saving a large amount of water. The system allows for increased biogas production, energy efficient removal of organic micro pollutants, water recovery as potable water and the recovery of clean mine-

ral fertiliser pellets. These fertiliser pellets are currently being used by five local farmers in Helsingborg, creating a local nutrient cycle.

Biochar – the versatile green product of the future

Helsingborg is exploring new avenues in the production and applications of biochar. The city's waste management company (NSR) has been awarded grants from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to co-finance a biochar production plant. By producing biochar from garden waste, carbon is conserved in a solid state for many years instead of being released into the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas. The process itself could produce biochar from many waste streams such as sewage sludge, food waste, and even paper.

Surplus heat from the process will be delivered to the district heating grid. The electricity required for the process will be derived from landfill gas, which when converted to CO₂ will reduce the climate impact from the landfill to at least 1/25. In total, 1,500 tons of biochar will be produced each year.

Vital carbon capture and storage technology (CCS)

CCS tech is the final piece of the puzzle for Helsingborg's future energy system. A study is exploring whether this tech can be used at the city's CHP plant Filbornaverket to make the district heating produced in the city carbon positive. The ambition is to have the CCS tech in place in 2026. With a current efficiency level of 99.8% renewable and recycle energy in the output, this would compensate for those emissions that cannot be reduced. Less dependency on fossil fuels will require that sectors such as industry and transport use electricity instead. At present, the share of renewable fuel for transport is 24%, partly from local biogas production.

¹Reco Lab is a development plant and test bed where it will be possible to test new technology and new services related to food waste and wastewater treatment in Oceanhamnen. Reco Lab is also a show room and meeting place for raising awareness of circular solutions.

Smart Food project

Since 2018, the school kitchens of Helsingborg have been working to reduce food waste and increase the amount of vegetables used in the food. This is part of an effort to reduce the food's climate impact and contribute towards the students being offered a nutritious diet. The schoolchildren and students have been involved in the initiative, in part to make them aware of where their food comes from, but also the effects it has on the climate and their health. The school kitchens in Helsingborg have been given the educational task of promoting seasonal produce in pupils' diets in order to increase demand for locally produced food with greater variation. In addition to re-

sulting in a more varied and nutritious diet, the initiative has reduced food waste by 49 percent and has lowered the climate impact from school lunches by 25 percent.



Bond characteristics

Failure to reach the SPTs at the selected Target Observation Date, as disclosed in the Sustainability-linked bond report published following that date, will result in a Triggering Event. A Triggering Event will result in a premium payable by City of Helsingborg according to one of the following alternatives:

- A coupon step-up until maturity, by a number of basis points as specified in the final terms of each Sustainability-Linked Bond.
- A one-time payment, by an amount specified in the final terms of each Sustainability-Linked Bond, payable at maturity.

Further details on the structure of the Triggering Event and the adjustment in the coupon rate or the principal repayment amount will be specified in the final terms of each Sustainability-Linked Bond.

In the event the performance level against each SPT cannot be calculated or observed, or not in

a satisfactory manner (non-satisfactory manner to be understood as e.g. RUS would stop or fail to produce the underlying data), the new performance level will be calculated from the two consecutive performances⁷. Likewise, if City of Helsingborg fails to publish reporting related to the relevant SPT at or before the Reporting End Date, it will result in a Triggering Event. All reporting is published at Helsingborg's website: [Helsingborg.se](https://www.helsingborg.se)

Should there be a notable change, at least 5%, in the reported levels of CO₂e emission from RUS e.g. through recalculation, change of methodology or improved data quality, the baseline may be adjusted to inherit this change.

Changes to Helsingborg's sustainability strategy and/or ambitions may lead to a downward revision of SPT trajectory and will thereby be beneficial for the bondholders. Adjustments to the baseline or the SPT trajectory must be reported in the Sustainability-linked bond report.



⁷Through: $SPT(n) \text{ Performance} = \text{Performance}(n-1) - (\text{Performance}(n-2) - \text{Performance}(n-1))/2$ n=year

Reporting

The City of Helsingborg will annually, up to and including the Reporting End Date, which is the date falling 30 days post the Target Observation Date, communicate to investors in a Sustainability-linked bond report the progress towards the KPI and SPT. Information regarding the progress will constitute the following information:

- Up-to-date information on our performance related to the selected KPI and SPT, compared to the baseline and information about any recalculations.
- If applicable, information on the sustainability impact and related key actions undertaken that have contributed to the improvement.

Verification

Second Party Opinion

S&P Global Ratings has provided a Second Party Opinion on this Framework assessing the rele-

vance, robustness, reliability and ambition level of the selected KPI and SPT, and confirming its alignment with the five core components of ICMA's Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles dated June 2020. The Second Party Opinion will be published on City of Helsingborg's website.

Verification certificate

Helsingborg's performance in relation to the KPI is calculated, measured and presented in the national database for emission by RUS, a state owned institution, and the data is publically available. The City of Helsingborg performs no own calculations, whether the performance on the KPI meets the relevant SPT and as long as no own calculations are performed there is no need for an external verification of the performance.

If Helsingborg performs a recalculation of the SPTs, an independent third party, assigned by the City of Helsingborg will issue a verification certificate confirming any recalculations. The verification certificate will be published on the City of Helsingborg's website.

