



HYDROSYM-2030

Net Zero Accelerator
Framework for Industry

Helsingborg - Umeå

Cities and industry event 7–8 September 2026, Helsingborg

Invitation to attend

Issued July 1st 2026



HYDROSYM-2030 is funded through the Enabling City Transformation Programme, an EU-funded programme managed by NetZeroCities.



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Welcome to The City of Helsingborg in September!

HYDROSYM-2030 is an Enabling City Transformations project for the **cities of Helsingborg and Umeå, Sweden**, to accelerate the industrial green transition.

We invite you to attend the **HYDROSYM-2030 Cities event on 7 and 8 September 2026**.

Let's meet up to:

- **Explore insights and learnings from the Hydrosym-2030** ECT project to accelerate the industrial transition in the cities of Helsingborg and Umeå.
- **Exchange insights and learning** with participating cities on their experience in working with industry to accelerate the green transition locally;
- **Launch the Net Zero Accelerator Framework for Industry (NZAFI)** as a scalable model for cities in Europe to adopt;
- **Explore opportunities to connect** to the City-Industry Dialogues initiative supported by NetZeroCities process in Sweden;
- **Discuss with representatives** from the European Commission, NetZeroCities, Climate-KIC, Viable Cities and the Hydrosym-2030 team on the industrial green transition in cities and across multi-level governance.

The agenda will include: **evening reception, keynote speeches, panel discussions, dynamic cities and industry discussions**, and **site visits** to local industrial transformation projects.

How to attend?

Time: September 7-8th 2026

Place: Helsingborg, Sweden (Close to Copenhagen Airport)

Cost: travels and accommodation (the event is free of charge and includes an informal dinner and lunch)

RSVP: August 26th <https://innovation.helsingborg.se/hydrosym-2030-cities-roundtable-7-8-september-2026/>

Limited numbers of participants

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What are the City-Industry Dialogues?

It brings together cities, industry, finance and policymakers to connect the demand emerging from the EU Cities Mission with industrial supply. Developed by Climate KIC with ICLEI Europe and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), now also supported by NetZeroCities. By helping cities align and structure their demand, it creates clearer market opportunities for clean technologies, low-carbon materials and resilient infrastructure, supporting investment and deployment at scale.

7th Sept.	Description	Details
14:00	PRE EVENT EXPERIENCE (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will travel by bus to an industrial area buzzing with an exciting initiative on industrial symbiosis around process water, before continuing down to Öresundskraft for an in-depth guided tour of their pioneering carbon capture and storage (CCS) project. Don't miss this unique Pre-Experience event!
18:00	WELCOME RECEPTION & INFORMAL DINNER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from the City of Helsingborg. Networking drinks and an informal dinner.
8th Sept.	Description	Details
9:30	WELCOME & LAUNCH OF THE NET ZERO ACCELERATOR FOR INDUSTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction from City of Helsingborg. Setting expectations – TBC Ioannis Sagias, European Commission Launch of Hydrosym-2030 Net Zero Accelerator Framework for Industry (NZAFI) – Sofie Holmkvist, Director for Environment
	PANEL: Industrial green transition: are city-industry partnerships the missing piece in the puzzle for achieving an accelerated transition? What opportunities are unlocked when the city-industry ecosystem is fully activated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants drawn from: Helsingborg, Umeå, The Lunar Works, Öresundskraft, Umeå Energi, EC representative / NZC representative.
	KEYNOTE: Introduction to City-Industry Dialogues initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of initiative and progress to date What is next for this initiative The link to HYDROSYM-2030 and opportunities to carry forward common challenges and priorities discussed today.
	PANEL: City industrial ecosystems towards the green transition: what is holding them back; what are the big opportunities that regional/national/international governments can solve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants drawn from: Climate-KIC, Viable Cities, Helsingborg, Umeå, EC representative / NZC representative, Helsingborg industrial partner.
12:30	LUNCH (@Venue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finger food at Parken
	SYNERGIES AND SHARING SESSIONS: Cities, ecosystems, industry and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic fishbowl sessions for sharing, learning and insights in Hydrosym-2030 and from other industrial cities, industry, and institutional actors.
	REFLECTIONS and CLOSING REMARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflections from fishbowl sessions, conclusions from Hydrosym-2030 and the day, what's next. Thank you.
16:30	END OF EVENT	

Hydrosym-2030

Project Description



Programme:	Hydrosym-2030, Enabling City Transformation, NZC, EU Cities Mission
Location:	Cities of Helsingborg and Umeå, Sweden
Duration:	Eighteen months (March 2025 to September 2026).
Project partners:	Cities of Helsingborg and Umeå, The Lunar Works/Tynos Consulting, IVL Swedish Environmental Institute, LTH Lund University, Umeå University, Umeå Energi, Öresundskraft.



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Impact Summary

– how to accelerate the industrial green transition in cities

Net Zero Accelerator Framework for Industry (NZAFI) is being launched in September 2026, drawing on the work of the cities of Helsingborg and Umeå to accelerate the green industrial transition (through the Hydrosym-2030 ECT project funded by NetZeroCities).

The NZAFI offers cities a systems governance and deployment template for accelerating the green transition with industry.

It is designed for cities that want to orchestrate the significant operating space between the municipality and industry (capitalising on insights from the experience of Helsingborg and Umeå) and provides strategic design guidance for developing a dynamic portfolio that responds to industry and city needs while optimising synergistic opportunities in the city.

The NZAFI provides agile and resilient ways of working through the governance, transition and technical arenas and across finance, risk and business case development and skills and learning.

What is Hydrosym-2030?

Hydrosym-2030 is designed to accelerate the industrial green transition in two mid-sized Swedish cities with sizeable industrial sectors, and to develop a Net Zero Accelerator for Industry (NZAFI) for cities throughout Europe to deploy.

Why Helsingborg and Umeå?

Helsingborg is a logistics hub for Southern Sweden, while Umeå is a significant knowledge and service hub located in northern Sweden. The two cities have different challenges and prerequisites in skills, employment, energy, heating and industry transformation pathways.

Why was the project needed and where do cities fit?

Nearly 50% of Europe's emissions derive from closely linked activities in energy production, industry, transport & logistics and waste. Industrial emissions can be hard to abate. The scale of capital investment required, long infrastructure lead times and the influence of drivers beyond city and national boundaries all play a part.

Beyond their traditional regulatory role, cities are uniquely placed to understand the city/regional ecosystem - what is needed for skills, infrastructure, resource flows, and governance – and to work with industrial partners to achieve transformative change.

What are the main project insights and outcomes?

The project revealed a sizable, untapped opportunity between the usual operating parameters of industry and of municipalities when working towards the green transition and developing urban industrial symbiosis. Technically, significant synergies across resource flows, fuel sources, and heat re-use were identified and pipelines of investment projects have been accelerated. What's more, the project demonstrated the orchestration required to realise these benefits requires a new approach, involving agile governance, strategic dialogue with industry partners and well-timed innovative investment across hard and soft infrastructure.

These different ways of working, include:

- An agile, resilient governance framework that facilitates a shared approach to risk and benefit;
- Working with portfolios where risk and benefit can be shared (no hero projects);
- Embracing the industrial ecosystem so synergistic opportunities become visible;
- Deploying interconnected roadmaps at governance and technical levels to drive transformation;
- Recognising that readiness and resilience are critical for agile transformation – not just for hard infrastructure but soft infrastructure like future skills pathways;
- Working with trust as the common currency for the transition – without it shared projects fail.

What does the Net Zero Accelerator Framework for Industry include?

The Net Zero Accelerator Framework for Industry (NZAFI) offers cities a template for accelerating the green transition, and includes:

- Strategic Design Framework and guidelines – to help cities design dynamic portfolios, agile governance and strategic risk structures so that the city is able see the industrial ecosystem in its entirety and map where it can apply its influence and convening power to effect lasting change;
- Transition Roadmap and Technical Roadmap Guidelines – to help cities connect their individual projects into dynamic portfolios and working with project architecture that integrates governance for increased volatility and potential disruption;
- Frameworks for innovative finance, business case, and strategic risk and for future skills mapping – to enable the city to understand how it can better unleash strategic opportunities linked to the green transition;
- Framework for future skills mapping – to enable the city to align future skills pathways to future industry needs through the transition;
- Methodologies for the co-design approach – deployed in the project including for three synergies workshops and learning synthesis;
- Case studies from Helsingborg and Umeå – showing how each city worked within the project, including city-specific outcomes, dynamic project portfolios, insights and next steps.