

The Aalborg Commitments

for a sustainable city



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The Aalborg Commitments for a sustainable city

The Municipality of Umeå signed the Aalborg Commitments in August 2007, thereby taking a holistic perspective of its efforts for sustainable development. The Aalborg work will assemble and structure the municipality's ongoing sustainability efforts as well as previously adopted objectives and programmes, such as environmental and public health targets. Through the work on the Aalborg Commitments, the Municipality of Umeå is taking one step closer towards the objective of sustainable development.

Follow-up of the Aalborg Commitments will be conducted in the municipality's Living Environment Report, which will be published at least once every mandate period.

Background of the Aalborg Commitments

The Aalborg Commitments have their historical background in earlier important milestones. The actual beginning was at the 1992 Rio summit, which was followed by several important political strategy decisions. The Lisbon Strategy, "From Charter to Action" is the European initiative for sustainable development that was concretised in the Danish city of Aalborg in 2004. The City of Aalborg has the official task of coordinating this work and distributing information, including that on the official website www.aalborgplus10.dk. In an initial stage, municipalities shall prepare a local baseline review, which Umeå has now done in this report, to show how far the work has come in realising the declaration's 50 commitments. Once the municipality's baseline review has been presented, a local action plan will be prepared.

Municipality of Umeå

The Municipality of Umeå is one of the municipalities in Sweden with the greatest population growth. Since 1975, the population has grown by approximately 50% or 36,500 people. At year-end 2007 Umeå has approximately 111,800 residents. In the past ten-year period, the average annual increase has been about 900 people and the number of jobs has increased to an equivalent extent. The forecast for the period 2008-2014 indicates a continued population growth of approximately 800 residents per year. The number of students registered at the two universities grew from about 10,000 at the end of the 1970s to about 29,000 at present.

Baseline review for Umeå

This baseline review was prepared in broad cooperation between employees of the Municipality of Umeå's administrations and companies. It presents what has generally been done and what is underway in each of the 50 commitments in ten thematic areas.

1. Governance
2. Local management towards sustainability
3. Natural common goods
4. Responsible consumption and lifestyle choices
5. Planning and design
6. Better mobility, less traffic

7. Local action for health
8. Vibrant and sustainable local economy
9. Social equity and justice
10. Local to global



1. GOVERNANCE

We are committed to energising our decision-making processes through increased participatory democracy. We will therefore work to:

1.1 further develop a commonly shared long-term vision for a sustainable municipality

The Municipality of Umeå's overall objective states that the municipality shall cooperate across all boundaries to generate positive growth, long-term sustainability and a high degree of attraction and growth with the objective of achieving 150,000 residents before 2050¹. Umeå shall strengthen its position as the cultural capital of the north with a sub-target of becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2014. The organisation and operations shall be characterised by transparency, a focus on service to consumers and residents, strong democratic governance and clarity in the interaction between politicians and municipal employees.

Umeå shall strengthen its position as one of Sweden's leading quality municipalities. "We win in Umeå" expresses the objective that everyone should feel that they benefit by living and working in Umeå. Objectives, powers and responsibilities shall go hand in hand and be clearly communicated within the organisation and operations. Goal fulfilment shall be reported annually in the form of quality and productivity. Human resource policies shall promote positive work results and the employees' health and sense of context. Operational development shall be characterised by a spirit of innovative contribution, creativity, acceptance and a desire to accept responsibility. The Municipality of Umeå sees environmental certification as an appropriate instrument for systematically working to improve the environmental performance of the municipal organisation.

A development dialogue has been initiated to formulate common, general strategies for Umeå's continued development in consultation with other community stakeholders. The Municipality of Umeå intends to prepare a strategy for a sustainable municipality.

One factor of major importance in creating a sustainable municipality is a vibrant and diverse cultural life. This is seen from a broader perspective, which means that we also include sports and leisure as well as living environment in the work. Accordingly, the Municipality of Umeå has decided to make a stake on becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2014.

¹ A proposal that the municipality's growth target for 2050 should be 200,000 residents is under evaluation.

1.2 build participation and sustainable development capacity in the local community and municipal administration

The municipality works purposefully and ambitiously to involve its residents in the work on sustainable development. The municipality invests in many communication channels to increase the residents' opportunities of participating in the municipality's work and to increase availability, including web-based solutions customised to the population. Daily news updates are posted on the website. The Municipality of Umeå has also introduced municipal terminals connected to www.umea.se where the residents themselves can search for information and services, ask questions and express their opinions on every aspect of the municipality's activities. Weekly advertising in local newspapers and bulletins handed out at strategic locations also constitute important aspects of the municipality's communication with its residents.

As part of the work on sustainable development, Umeå University, together with the Municipality of Umeå, has arranged science lunches to which the public has been invited to listen to presentations about sustainable development. Various researchers at the university have presented their research in different areas with ties to the Aalborg Commitments. There are plans to continue with similar events during the spring of 2009.

1.3 invite all sectors of local society to participate effectively in decision-making

The participation of the residents of Umeå is viewed as an important factor in the municipality's development efforts. The participation of the municipality's residents is provided for in many ways, including through an initial dialogue procedure in connection with construction development. In the municipality, there are a number of civil committees such as the Pensioners' Committee, the Committee for the Disabled and the Youth Committee. The municipality has also hired four young people with the specific task of critically reviewing democratic processes and questioning ingrained traditions.

In 2005, the Municipality of Umeå was nominated Sweden's Quality Municipality. The municipality considers it to be important to create the best possible opportunities for its residents to obtain information and knowledge regarding municipal affairs. The meetings of the Municipal Council and several committees are therefore open to the public. As a part of the work on quality, the municipality works in a goal-oriented fashion to develop its IT support. In 2006, the Municipality of Umeå was selected as the Swedish IT Municipality of the Year.

The municipality uses IT to inform and involve its residents in its work in various ways. Examples of this include the use of Google Earth to present urban development plans in an illustrative manner. The Office of Leisure uses e-dialogue to communicate its Vision 2010 proposal to civic associations and the public. Web-based dialogues have also been conducted with young people.

1.4 make our decisions open, accountable and transparent

The municipal website is an important tool for the continuous work on transparency in the municipality. The minutes of

the meetings of the Municipal Council, the Municipal Executive Board and most committees are available on the municipal website. The Municipal Council meetings are broadcast by web TV, web radio and local radio. The municipality also intends to develop a coordinated structure for how minutes and presentation lists should be presented on the website.

A communication handbook has been prepared which strongly emphasizes that the municipality's various texts should be designed so that most residents should be able to study and understand them. Development work has also been initiated to review the design of the operational planning process and its documents, with the aim of facilitating and improving intelligibility both within the municipal organisation and among residents. The Municipality of Umeå devotes major efforts to facilitating communication through the mass media. Press releases are issued and press conferences are held directly after the meetings of committees and councils.



1.5 work effectively and in partnership with adjoining municipalities, other cities and towns, and other spheres of government

The Municipality of Umeå is involved in many cooperation projects, partnerships and networks, including the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), the Umeå Region, the Bio Fuel Region (BFR) and the E12 Alliance. The Municipality of Umeå received good marks from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) in an evaluation leading to the Swedish Quality Municipality Award 2007. It was confirmed that the municipality had positioned itself as one of the country's best municipalities in terms of external awareness, cooperation and in seeking projects. The municipality sees well-developed and broad cooperation as a success factor for the municipality's development.

2. LOCAL MANAGEMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

We are committed to implementing effective management cycles, from formulation through implementation to evaluation. We will therefore work to:

2.1 strengthen Local Agenda 21 or other local sustainability processes and mainstream them into the heart of local government

Operations in the Municipality of Umeå are governed by policies, plans, programmes and strategies. The municipality's comprehensive plan from 1998 outlines a vision for sustainable development:

“The Umeå of the future must be planned in greater harmony with nature than today. Conditions for a good quality of life shall be created and the health and safety of Umeå residents shall be prioritised in municipal planning. Agenda 21, with its long-term goals regarding sustainable development, is a starting point in planning for the Umeå of the future. Thrift with natural resources, reduced emissions of harmful substances, retention of biological diversity and equitably distributed resources are important to development. The financial and social aspects are also important to Umeå's development. Opportunities for greater participation that strengthens democracy must also be created.”

The comprehensive plan's statement of objectives for sustainable development was prepared in close connection with the work on Agenda 21. Over the years, extensive activities based on Agenda 21 have been conducted internally in the public administrations and externally towards the residents. Today, there is no special Agenda 21 group since issues regarding sustainable development are included as a natural part of all operations in the municipality. Various forums have been created to conduct dialogue on sustainable development and Agenda 21. Examples of these include the Environmental Strategy Group, the Health Council and the Aalborg working groups.

One focus of the Agenda 21 work has been education. This has resulted in 20 schools/pre-schools being awarded the Green Flag from the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation. The municipal school administration has decided that all local schools and pre-schools apply to the National school development authority for the award “School for sustainable development” no later than 2010. Of the WWF's ten model schools in Sweden, two are located in Umeå. These schools will become national models for work on sustainable development.

2.2 deliver integrated management towards sustainability, based on the precautionary principle and with regard to the forthcoming EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment

In the Municipality of Umeå, there is no general approach to the precautionary principle, but it is instead currently applied in certain specific cases, such as electromagnetic fields and non-toxic environments.

The Municipality of Umeå's targets are the following:

- In all new construction of housing and commercial property, the electrical facilities shall be implemented with 5-lead systems. In addition, 5-lead systems shall be installed in all major school and pre-school renovation no later than 2012.

- No toxins shall exist that affect the environment or the health of children at schools, pre-schools, playgrounds and athletic surfaces no later than 2012.
- The polluted areas that according to the current state of knowledge entail more than a moderate risk to people's health and the environment will have been investigated no later than 2025 and action taken where necessary.

All Umeå residents are affected to varying degree by exposure to electromagnetic fields, since these arise in connection with activities and processes that use electrical current. The municipality recommends that great caution be observed with regard to all kinds of radiation, which under the precautionary principle means that exposure to magnetic fields should be generally reduced.

The City Planning Office surveys the risks of electromagnetic fields in for example schools and pre-schools. There are simple measures to prevent exposure to electromagnetic fields. It is therefore important to get this information out to the public.

2.3 set targets and time schemes in the framework of the Aalborg Commitments and create and follow the Aalborg Commitments monitoring review

By signing the Aalborg Commitments, the Municipality of Umeå pledges to fulfil the commitments that this entails. With a starting point in this baseline review, the Municipality of Umeå intends to begin work as soon as possible on systematising and preparing an action plan based on the Aalborg Commitments' ten thematic areas. In accordance with these commitments, the Municipality of Umeå also intends to regularly monitor and report on progress both to our residents and to the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign.

2.4 ensure that sustainability issues are central to urban decision-making processes and that resource allocation is based on strong and broad sustainability criteria

A review of the municipal budget and operational planning process is underway, in which the intention is to more clearly integrate sustainability issues into the municipality's management system. In this work, municipal decision-making processes and the residents' opportunities of influence and insight, among other aspects, are being reviewed by external experts. In 2006, an initial Living Environment Report was prepared and later formed the basis for continued work on sustainable development in areas such as social support. Since the Sound Economic Administration Act entered into effect in 2005, the Municipality of Umeå has adapted its governance guidelines to the content of the law in terms of sustainability, etc.

2.5 cooperate with the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign and its networks to monitor and evaluate our progress towards meeting our sustainability targets

The Municipality of Umeå participates in a number of different networks, including the Union of Baltic Cities and the Nordic-Baltic Aalborg Commitments Network, and in accordance with the Aalborg Commitments, intends to cooperate with the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign to monitor and review the progress we make towards our sub-targets for sustainability.

3. NATURAL COMMON GOODS

We are committed to assuming our responsibility to protect, to preserve, and to ensure equitable access to natural common goods. We will therefore work to:

3.1 reduce primary energy consumption, and increase the share of renewable energy sources

The Municipality of Umeå's objectives in the energy area are the following:

- By 2012, the consumption of electrical energy per resident, excluding the manufacturing industry, shall have decreased by 12% compared with 2001.
- By 2012, electricity consumption per gross regional product in the manufacturing industry shall have decreased compared with 2001.
- By 2012, the use of fuel oil shall have decreased by 40% compared with 1990.
- By 2025, total emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels shall have decreased by 50% compared with the amount emitted in 1990.
- By 2009, the energy requirement for heating and hot water in new construction shall be a maximum of 90 kWh/m² of floor space (A_{temp}) for multi-family dwellings and 100 kWh/m² of floor space (A_{temp}) for single-family homes.

Umeå's energy supply shall be permeated by a holistic perspective and shall be based on renewable energy sources. This is the formulation of the Municipality of Umeå's vision in the area of energy outlined in the "*Energy programme for sustainable development*". The municipality's strategies for work on energy and the environment are the following:

- The municipality shall promote the introduction and expansion of environmentally adapted energy technology.
- The municipality shall actively work with information and counselling for environmentally adapted and resource-efficient energy consumption.
- The municipality shall plan so that conditions for more efficient energy consumption are provided for by co-locating development areas, services and workplaces.
- The municipality shall promote the connection of new areas and areas that are currently heated by electricity or oil to district heating or other environmentally adapted, locally generated heat.
- The municipality shall actively work for a transition to renewable energy sources, better energy management and energy efficiency enhancements.

The Municipality of Umeå's environmental targets for Limited Climate Impact outline the municipality's objectives for decreased electricity and oil use. See commitment 10.

The Municipality of Umeå works in several different ways to increase the share of renewable energy sources and to decrease the consumption of electricity. Umeå has a well-developed district heating network, which is operated by the municipal power utility, Umeå Energi AB. Besides new construction, about 500 single-family homes were connected to district heating in the past four years. The types of heating being discontinued are primarily electrical and oil heating.

New production capacity for heating and electricity is being expanded. During 2006, a 25 MW biofuel-fired furnace was commissioned and in 2008, a new large co-generation furnace will be commissioned for a total of 105 MW. These measures will virtually remove the total share of oil that previously existed in the heating-production mix.

Besides the municipality's major investment in district heating, it also works to increase the share of renewable energy sources in various ways. In this area, we can mention investment in the expansion of six new wind-power plants, and the transition from direct-effect electrical and oil furnaces to heat pumps where a connection to district heating is not possible. There are also plans to build a large, energy-efficient residential area on the island Ön in central Umeå.

The Municipality of Umeå has 25% of the riparian rights in Stornorrfor's power plant at its disposal, which provides access to clean and renewable electrical power.

Industry is working intensively to make its energy use more efficient and reduce its reliance on oil. Examples of this include SCA Packaging AB, which significantly reduced its oil consumption by converting to biofuel and installing new bark presses and heat exchangers. Volvo Trucks has replaced oil-based premises heating with district heating and expects to be entirely free from fossil carbon dioxide emissions in a few years. Norrmejerier, a dairy cooperative, has become virtually self-sufficient in terms of energy by investing in biogas from a facility where whey is decayed.

The Municipality of Umeå is a part of the BioFuel Region, the purpose of which is to become a world-leading region in the transition to biofuels and new products from renewable raw materials. The municipality has adopted a declaration of intent for membership in the BioFuel Region.

The municipality has a service for energy counselling that is primarily focused on the public. An energy survey is now also a part of the municipal environmental inspection of companies. The objective is to make companies aware of energy efficiency enhancements and energy use.

3.2 improve water quality, save water and use water more efficiently

The overall target for Umeå's drinking water supply is that it should be sufficient, secure and sustainable for all residents. Umeå's environmental targets for good quality ground water are the following:

- By 2012, ground water supplies of high value shall be protected from development at risk of impacting the ground water, such as industries and large residential areas.
- By 2012, conflict points between ground water supplies of high value shall be investigated and action shall be taken where necessary.

In Umeå's environmental targets, one of the municipality's profile areas is good drinking water, which is to say that: "*Norrland's ground water supplies maintain a high level of quality and we have particularly good conditions to supply drinking water of the highest quality. We shall therefore protect our ground water supplies and develop this resource in a world where access to clean drinking water is rapidly dwindling. Drinking water as a trademark and a resource is gaining awareness among our residents both in Umeå and in the rest of the country.*"



Umeå is fortunate in terms of access to drinking water. In spite of this, the municipality believes that it is important to be thrifty with water and create guarantees that high quality ground water will continue to be available in sufficient amounts in the future. Protection zones and established regulations for the sources of the municipality's water supply are in place to safeguard current and future drinking water supplies. Drinking water is controlled by the principal's self-regulation. The Environment and Health Protection Committee is responsible for authoritative supervision and public control.

During 2008, the municipality will prepare a water supply plan to create a comprehensive overview of the municipality's drinking water supply and identify possible locations of an auxiliary source of water supplies.

There are three so-called EU bathing areas in the municipality, Nydala, Bettnesand and Ljumviken, where tests are taken in accordance with EU directives. The water quality maintains a high standard. Umeå's lakes and waters are continuously monitored. The results indicate that excessive fertilisation is not a major problem with the exception of a small number of lakes, where elevated levels of nutrients and algal blooms occur. For the Ume/Vindel Rivers, there is a coordinated recipient control programme that is financed by commercial operators and municipalities whose waste water treatment plants discharge into the rivers.

3.3 promote and increase biodiversity, and extend and care for designated nature areas and green spaces.

The Municipality of Umeå's target for rich flora and fauna is that:

- The loss of biological diversity shall be stemmed and species shall cease to disappear from Umeå's flora and fauna by 2010.

The Municipality of Umeå's environmental target for green spaces is that:

- The green spaces shall be developed in existing developments through the creation of new green areas and green stretches or the development of existing green areas no later than 2012. New areas that are planned and built have parks, playgrounds, spaces for spontaneous athletics and easily accessible meeting places for all ages.

Within the Municipality of Umeå, there is a rich variation of nature areas consisting of coniferous forest, wetlands, lakes,

flat landscapes and a 60-kilometre long, uplift coast.

The flat lands around the Ume delta and the cultivated lands along the Ume River are important, cohesive open areas with significant natural capital and of great value to the landscape structure. Together with the delta, the flat lands are an important resting place for migratory birds and are listed on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands list over valuable wetlands and are also a part of a wider Natura 2000 area. There are 20 nature reserves that comprise forests, wetlands and coastal habitats. Two of the reserves are municipal, Grössjön and Strömbäck-Kont.

The Ume River with its leafy banks, shallow bottoms and gullies is of great value to biological diversity. The stretch along the river is also an important recreation area for the residents of Umeå.

The greenery in Umeå, "City of the birches", is an important part of the city's soul. The parks, the city's trees, the water and the forest near the city are crucial to social life in the city and to the city's biological diversity and cultural identity.

In autumn 2007, work began to update and supplement a new green area plan for Umeå. The description of the natural capital was supplemented and analysed from an urban ecology perspective. Coordination of social and natural capital is an important aspect of the work on the green area plan, which forms a key support for overall planning.

3.4 improve soil quality, preserve ecologically productive land and promote sustainable agriculture and forestry

The Municipality of Umeå's environmental target for forests is that:

- The forest areas of high social value shall be cared for so that recreational, natural and outdoor capital is maintained and developed by 2012.

Forests of high social value in this context are forests close to dense development, the primary function of which is to be used by the urban area's population, and forests of high recreational value that are of significance to local development.

The Municipality of Umeå's environmental targets for a Rich Cultural Landscape include the following:

- The acreage of cultivated agricultural land shall not decrease compared with the level of 2005.
- Grazing lands by virtue of traditional usage that are worthy of protection shall increase.

- No later than 2012, a minimum of 30% of the cultivated agricultural acreage shall be cultivated by methods certified as ecological and 15% of animal husbandry for food production shall be certified as ecological.

Umeå is a forest-rich municipality with around 150,000 hectares of forest, of which approximately 2% is protected as reserves. The older deciduous forests, found mainly along the uplift coast and along river valleys, have a generally high diversity of species and belong to the most species-rich ecosystems in the boreal zone.

The municipality's own holdings of forests are environmentally certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), which is a guarantee that the forests are cared for in a long-term sustainable manner. As a basis for the municipality's forest planning, there is a Multi-use Plan, in which issues concerning nature, culture and recreation are emphasized along side of production issues. The municipality's target that 10% of its own forest holdings shall be set aside for nature/recreational purposes has been achieved.

The Municipality of Umeå works actively to preserve and make forest areas near urban areas accessible for recreation and outdoor activities during both the summer and the winter. Large forest zones near urban areas that are important for recreation have their own management plans. The Municipality of Umeå has 22 school forests that are used for pedagogical activities out in nature.

Within the Municipality of Umeå, there were approximately 13,000 hectares of agricultural land in 2005. It is primarily the agricultural land along the Ume River landscape that is tilled. Of Umeå's agricultural land, 24% is located here as are 200 hectares of species-rich, natural grazing lands that are maintained in some form.

An important task is to resolve the problem of overgrown agricultural land. Today, the municipality grants usage of its land at no cost or a marginal cost to those who pledge to keep the agricultural land open.

The municipality has carried out extensive inventories of the natural/cultural capital of forests and cultivated lands within the municipality. These inventories constitute valuable documentation for ongoing planning work.

3.5 improve air quality

In the Municipality of Umeå, the air quality targets are the same as the environmental quality targets adopted by the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament).

The municipality began investigating air quality outdoors as early as the beginning of the 1970s. In recent years, measurements taken have included nitrogen dioxide and particles (PM10) along the E4 motorway's route in central Umeå. The results indicate that the environmental quality norms for nitrogen dioxide are being exceeded. In terms of particles PM10, no amounts above the norms have yet been confirmed, but they have been very close. The critical period of high particle content is during the spring when the roadways dry up and all sand from anti-skid treatments and particles from studded tyres whirl up. The highest contents of nitrogen dioxide arise during the wintertime when there is little mixing of the air.

The Municipality of Umeå has prepared a programme of measures to meet the environmental quality norms for nitrogen dioxide. A new ring road solution, where the E4/E12 motorway traffic is led outside the city centre, is necessary to be able to reduce the heavy traffic that accounts for 50% of the nitrogen dioxide emissions in the city centre. In order to implement planned road projects as soon as possible, the municipality has offered financial incentives. Other measures on the agenda are the establishment of occupational car pools, environmental zones in central Umeå and a Mobility Management Office. The municipality also intends to conduct campaigns to increase the proportion of bicycle and public transportation.

Radon in indoor air is a problem that has long received attention. In recent years, the radon situation in houses classified as radon buildings has been improved by property owners of multi-family dwellings being encouraged to measure and address the problems where necessary, so that the new guideline value of 200 Bq/m³ of air is met.

The Municipal City Planning Office has visited all schools and pre-schools in the municipality in inspection campaigns. In the premises visited, the air quality was good in the majority of cases. As several new pre-schools and compulsory schools are being established in existing premises, there is reason to monitor air quality to ensure that it is of sufficient quality for the children and students spending time there.

4. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND LIFESTYLE CHOICES

We are committed to adopting and facilitating the prudent and efficient use of resources and to encouraging sustainable consumption and production. We will therefore work to:

4.1. avoid and reduce waste, and increase re-use and recycling

The Municipality of Umeå's environmental targets for waste are the following:

- The amount of waste per resident shall decrease.
- The content of hazardous substances in household waste shall decrease.
- Recycling of waste shall increase.
- Waste management shall be planned based on a regional perspective.

An adaptation and conversion plan for the Dåva dump has been prepared and several important environmental measures have been initiated. The entire Dåva area, where the dump comprises a part of the waste management, is assuming the form of an ecocycle centre with various methods for treating waste.

There are six recycling centres located throughout the municipality at which households can leave heavy waste, garden waste and hazardous waste. At these large recycling centres, households can also turn in objects that can be reused instead of becoming waste. Recycling stations are located at another 80 sites where newspaper, paper, plastic, metal and glass containers can be left.

Gravel (for antiskid purposes) collected from the streets is

taken care of in a mobile washing facility and can then be re-used the following season. This means that natural resources are saved.

4.2 manage and treat waste in accordance with best practice standards

UMEVA, Waste & Recycling, is responsible for the collection and management of all household waste that arises in the municipality except such waste where producer responsibility applies. Combustible household waste is transported to the Däva co-generation plant for burning. The Däva facility has a receiving capacity of approximately 160,000 tonnes of waste per year. The energy in the waste, approximately 2-4 MWh per tonne of waste, is recycled by the excess energy that arises in incineration being used to heat water that is pumped out into the district heating network in the Umeå urban area. A minor part of the waste is also used to produce electricity.

The amount of dumped waste decreases each year, fully in line with environmental legislation and its intent. In 2000, approximately 80 tonnes were driven to the dump compared with 15 tonnes in 2005. Gas extraction has also been installed at the Däva dump and waste facility.

In 2006, the collection of biologically treatable waste from households in Umeå began. The biogas produced when the food waste is decayed, which takes place in neighbouring Skellefteå, is used to power the municipality's vehicles.

4.3 avoid unnecessary energy consumption, and improve end-use energy efficiency

In Umeå, energy consumption per resident has decreased from 55 MWh in 1990 to 48 MWh in 2005. The municipality has employed an energy and climate advisor, who is assigned the task of providing advice to residents and companies on energy matters. The municipal power utility, Umeå Energy AB, also offers advice on how households and companies can save energy.

Smart Consumer is a project conducted by the City Planning Office. The objective of the project is to see what a regular household in Umeå can do to decrease its environmental impact and reduce its costs. It is a question of making lifestyle changes, mainly in areas that concern how we eat, live and travel. There are 20 families involved in the project, in which they work with the various components of energy savings, waste management, sustainable consumption and transports for 7-8 months. Advice and suggestions are provided and the families choose the areas they want to address. Studies and measurements are made at the beginning and end of the project to see how the families have changed their habits and behaviour.

The Municipality of Umeå works on lowering energy consumption in several municipal operations, including IT operations. Energy saving measures include computers being placed in a waiting state or turned off, engine heaters being controlled with the Internet and smart cards and smart conferencing technology. Power consumption in the computer hall has also been nearly cut in half through the use of virtual servers.

4.4 undertake sustainable procurement

The Office of Procurement signs general agreements with various service providers and goods suppliers. The municipi-

ality's administrative units can then make purchases based on these agreements. In most categories of goods, there are environmentally adapted alternatives. Through the general agreements, the Office of Procurement can make it possible for the units to make environmentally friendly purchases. Every individual unit, such as schools, pre-schools, special housing and offices decide themselves which products and services to purchase. Most items can be ordered in the "Bella" ordering system. This way, unnecessary transports with the municipality's own vehicles are avoided.

The Municipality of Umeå's procurement guidelines, under "Environmental Requirements", states that the municipality shall positively impact health and the environment by setting high environmental standards in its procurement activities, where possible and relevant. The Office of Procurement uses the Swedish EMAS Council's tool (previously the EKU tool), where possible/relevant to the procurement. The positive aspect of this tool is that it is constantly maintained and updated.

The municipality has prepared environmental requirements for vehicles and machines in the procurement of contracts and services. This is a part of fulfilling the environmental targets and a part of the programme of measures for better air quality in the Umeå urban area.

4.5 actively promote sustainable production and consumption, particularly of eco-labelled, organic, ethical and fair-trade products

The Municipality of Umeå's target is that:

- A minimum of 50% ecological food shall be offered in the municipality's schools, pre-schools and disabled and geriatric nursing by 2012.

In the latest food procurement, ecological products accounted for 10%.

Meal Services in the Pre-school and Compulsory School Administration works to increase the component of local/ecological foods. The target is 25% ecological foods by 2010. An action plan has been prepared to introduce ecological foods and more sustainable food operations. Strategies for this introduction include the following:

- The menu for the autumn is planned according to the S.M.A.R.T model and shall be adapted to local and seasonal produce as far as possible. Gradually increasing the share of dishes prepared from scratch.
- The Linnea School/Linblomman is a selected school that will test and learn what is required in the form of adaptations of working methods, kitchens and menus to make it work with 25% ecological goods.
- Continuously request and monitor new ecological products and gradually increase the number of ecological products.
- There is a working group within Meal Services working on sustainability issues.
- Annual training and dialogue with all personnel.

The Umeå Municipal Council has decided that the municipality will work to be certified as a Fair Trade City.



5. PLANNING AND DESIGN

We are committed to a strategic role for urban planning and design in addressing environmental, social, economic, health and cultural issues for the benefit of all. We will therefore work to:

5.1 re-use and regenerate derelict or disadvantaged areas

The Municipality of Umeå works to re-use derelict and disadvantaged areas. Here, the previous military area I20 can be mentioned. Today, I20 has largely been rebuilt into a corporate park. The former industrial area at Öbacka has been cleaned up with the aim of building a new residential area, Öbacka Strand, with 600 flats. Revitalisation and supplemental development is also being conducted in certain residential areas and suburbs. This is being done in accordance with the target of the Comprehensive Plan and the Housing Strategy that approximately half of the construction in Umeå should be supplemental, concentration projects.

5.2 avoid urban sprawl by achieving appropriate urban densities and prioritising brown-field site over green-field site development

The Municipality of Umeå's target for development is that:

- A minimum of 50% of new development up to 2012 shall take place through completion of existing development and the remainder through green-field site development.

Important starting points for this strategy are to:

- reduce traffic work,
- increase the basis and opportunities for travel by public transport,
- reduce the need for car travel and thereby limit environmental impact.

Between 1998 and 2007, approximately 70% of housing construction was in the form of the completion of existing development.

By completing existing development, existing infrastructure is efficiently utilised.

Examples of such areas include Dragonfältet, additions to Älidhem, new construction in the Bryggeriet and Bågen blocks in Teg, new construction at the former university

pavilions at Berghem and new construction at Lilljansskogen on the campus area. Planned development at Sandåkern and Ön may become very attractive areas.

5.3 ensure the mixed use of buildings and developments with a good balance of jobs, housing and services, giving priority to residential use in the city centre

The Municipality of Umeå's comprehensive plan states that in both green-field development and the large brown-field development projects, the range of housing should include a varied mix of flats and forms of tenure. This is to meet the needs of different groups of the population and to promote social integration. This has long been characteristic of construction in Umeå.

The objective for the entire city centre is that development and functions shall be developed and renewed with a holistic perspective of old and new so that they jointly contribute to an exciting and vibrant urban environment. Another overall objective is to create housing environments acceptable over the long term for various categories of housing. Housing construction shall be prioritised above other types of construction, particularly the eastern and western part of the city centre. A more detailed explanation of these objectives is presented in the separate, in-depth comprehensive plan for the city centre.

5.4 ensure appropriate conservation, renovation and use/re-use of our urban cultural heritage

Umeå has many city districts that are of great cultural value. It is the Municipality of Umeå's objective to protect and preserve cultural-historically valuable buildings and development environments, ancient remains and cultural landscapes, and to safeguard the cultural environment capital in city planning. The Building and Planning Committee has therefore prepared the following:

- Local building ordinances in several city districts
- The architecture guide
- Development in the villages (Programme for development in rural areas)
- The public spaces programme

5.5 apply requirements for sustainable design and construction and promote high-quality architecture and building technologies

The municipality's overall goal for city planning is that public spaces shall be of a high quality with regard to accessibility, design and layout and offer safe and attractive environments for all residents. The objective in the Comprehensive Plan is that future new production should take place based on ecological and long-term sustainable principles. New housing shall be built with natural and well-tested materials and technologies. Hazardous substances and methods must be replaced by environmentally better alternatives where possible. Ecocycle-adapted waste water systems, waste separation and composting will be important concepts in the housing areas of the future.

6. BETTER MOBILITY, LESS TRAFFIC

We recognise the interdependence of transport, health and environment and are committed to strongly promoting sustainable mobility choices.

We will therefore work to:

6.1 reduce the necessity for private motorised transport and promote attractive alternatives accessible to all

The Municipality of Umeå's various plans present objectives in which the emphasis is to develop public transport and improve the possibilities of travelling by foot and by bicycle to reduce the need to travel by car. The Municipality of Umeå's targets are the following:

- Motor-vehicle traffic, measured per resident, shall decrease in the Umeå urban area.
- By 2014, the share of travel made with public transport, by bicycle or on foot shall together be a minimum of 55% of all travel for residents in the Umeå urban area. By 2022, this share shall be a minimum of 65% of all travel.

The municipality's Comprehensive Plan ÖP-98 outlines the following objectives:

- Housing construction should be distributed between green-field site and brown-field site projects. Seen over time, this distribution should be about half each.
- Housing and crowd-generating facilities shall be placed so that they can be practically served by public transport.
- Every city district shall have a minimum of one pedestrian and bicycle route to the city centre and to the university and hospital area year-round.
- The city districts shall be tied together with separate pedestrian and bicycle paths.
- Safety for pedestrians and bicyclists shall be continuously improved.
- The public transport system shall be developed. Continued efforts towards cleaner fuels for buses are necessary.
- Infrastructure development shall take into account a continued positive population and commercial trend at the same time that negative environmental consequences of vehicle traffic shall be managed. (FÖP Comprehensive road network 2002)

The Municipality of Umeå works to reduce the reliance on cars by concentration and supplemental brown-field development in central areas and along major bus routes. In the most recent 10-year period, a large part of new housing construction has taken place in areas within a 3 km radius from the city centre and the hospital and university area.

According to the Travel Habit Survey RVU 2006, population aged 16-84, approximately 16% of all journeys are made on foot, 19% by bicycle, 8% by bus and 57% by car. In comparison with a similar travel habit survey from 1998, it can be confirmed that the share of car travel has increased in recent years, primarily at the expense of travel on foot and by bicycle.

The number of private cars in the Municipality of Umeå has increased by approximately 14.5% since 1998 (the change in population was +8%). Among the entire private car fleet, the share of environmentally adapted cars remains small at approximately 2.5%. However, the number of environmentally adapted cars is gradually increasing in Umeå as well as the rest of the country. Of the private cars newly registered

in Umeå in 2007, approximately 13% were environmentally adapted, which was somewhat higher than the Swedish national average.

After a decrease in the number of bus journeys during the period 1998-2005, an increase occurred by about 10% during the period 2005-2007. In spite of this, the annual number of bus journeys remains at the same level as during the 1980s. To increase bus travel, both traffic improvement measures and rate changes were implemented. The objective is to decrease car usage, mainly for everyday travel.

The objective is to increase travel by public transport by 1,000,000 journeys by 2009, which means an increase of approximately 25% from the level of 2005.

6.2 increase the share of journeys made by public transport, on foot and by bicycle

The primary measure to increase the share of travel by public transport, on foot or by bicycle is to plan the city with a focus on these types of transportation. City planning that creates proximity and short routes and/or expansions in connection with the main public transport routes benefits travel by bicycle or on foot as well as public transport. An example of such planning is the in-depth comprehensive plan for Ön. Here, a large number of homes are being planned in central Umeå where the traffic supply to the area should promote travel by bicycle and on foot.

In its "Programme of measures to meet the environmental quality norm for nitrogen dioxide," the municipality presents how car traffic shall be reduced in central Umeå to the advantage of greater public transport and travel by bicycle and on foot. The programme of measures presents measures to increase local public transport travel by 25% and the establishment of a Mobility Management Office. The project Sustainable Travel in the Umeå Region will begin in 2008 and is an EU project which will initially run for a three-year period with the aim of influencing the travel habits of residents towards becoming more environmentally adapted.

The need to increase the share of travel by bicycle is emphasized in the Programme of Measures. The measures agree with those outlined in the Bicycle Traffic Programme for the Municipality of Umeå. Among other aspects, it is pointed out that the network of bicycle paths should be made direct and cohesive through new construction and by ensuring fast and careful maintenance. The Bicycle Traffic Programme is currently under revision, whereby a review of targets and measures is being conducted, but the need for the aforementioned measures remains.

The targets of the Bicycle Traffic Programme under revision are aimed at harmonisation with the municipality's environmental target that the share of travel by public transport, bicycle or foot should altogether account for 55% of all travel in the Umeå urban area by 2014 and 65% by 2022. The share of travel by public transport, bicycle or on foot is currently 48% of all journeys in the Umeå urban area.

6.3 encourage transition to low-emission vehicles

The Municipality of Umeå is working on a number of efforts that promote the transition to low-emission vehicles. An environmental zone will be introduced in central Umeå. The aim of this is to hasten the renewal of the vehicle fleet for

heavy traffic and to give cleaner vehicles the right to traffic the more congested central Umeå roads. The project “Survey of goods transports in central Umeå 2005” showed that 12 of 26 vehicles were model 2000 or older.

The Municipality of Umeå has also decided to establish an environmentally adapted carpool for municipal business travel and a travel policy is being prepared for the municipality. Procurement of an external environmentally adapted carpool is under way and the agreement will begin at year-end 2008.

Owners of environmentally adapted vehicles can apply for a parking permit that entitles them to free parking for two hours in the multi-storey car parks Nanna and Parketten. To receive a permit:

- The vehicle must be certified by the manufacturer as being principally driven by biofuel. In this context, biofuel is considered to be biogas, ethanol and synthetic fuels manufactured from renewable raw materials.
- For electrical-hybrid vehicles, at least 25% of the total power shall be able to be supplied by the electrical motor.

6.4 develop an integrated and sustainable urban mobility plan

The municipality’s comprehensive plan states that reduced reliance on cars shall be generated through more attractive public transport and better conditions for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. A good living environment can be created in disrupted parts of the city through a differentiation of traffic and a reduction of car traffic. Good conditions for business are created through an effective main road network.

For many years, the Municipality of Umeå has worked in cooperation with the National Road Administration to find a solution for the overall road network. Today, the E4 and E12 motorways pass through the central parts of Umeå with environmental, safety and mobility problems as a result. This work has resulted in a system solution, consisting of a ring road system around Umeå. The new links offer alternative transport routes for heavy traffic and better passability. At present, negotiations are underway with the State regarding the ring road’s implementation.

The Bothnia railway opening in 2010 provides opportunities to strengthen public transport and the competitiveness of goods transports by rail. In connection with the new rail transport terminal, the municipal infrastructure utility, Infrastruktur i norr AB (INAB), is developing the organisation and infrastructure for the terminal area. In addition to this the municipality, in cooperation with the municipal utility, is planning for a new operations area of approximately 40 hectares intended for logistics companies directly adjacent to the terminal area. Umeå is already a hub for goods transports. For example, nearly 90% of heavy transports on the E4, the E12 and road 363 have their destination or departure points in Umeå. The port of Umeå in conjunction with the new goods terminal means positive conditions to further develop Umeå as a logistics hub and transfer more transports from roads to railways and shipping.

With the new Bothnia railway, it will be possible to operate attractive passenger services by rail. According to conducted forecasts, a transition of travel will take place from buses and cars. Moreover, total travel is expected to increase. The municipality is building two travel centres in connection to

the Bothnia railway. One is the so-called Umeå Östra at the Regional Hospital and the other is in Hörnefors. In addition, a travel centre is being planned in the city centre, Umeå C.

6.5 reduce the impact of transport on the environment and public health

The negative consequences of transports on the environment and public health are well known and the municipality is working in various ways to reduce these problems. Measures to reduce environmental impact from transports are presented in sections 6.1 – 6.4. These measures aim primarily at reducing the share of car/lorry transports and increasing the proportion of public transport and transport by bicycle or on foot.

The consequences of transports on public health in the form of poor air quality, physically inactive transportation, traffic safety problems, etc. are mitigated through measures within the scope of the aforementioned “Programme of measures to meet environmental quality norms for nitrogen dioxide”, the Bicycle Traffic Programme and the Public Transport Programme.

The 2007 Traffic Safety Programme has the objective of reducing the number of those seriously injured and killed by an average of three people annually up to the end of 2015. This would mean that fewer than 100 people would be seriously injured or killed in traffic in Umeå by 2015.

7. LOCAL ACTION FOR HEALTH

We are committed to protecting and promoting the health and well-being of our citizens. We will therefore work to:

7.1 raise awareness and take action on the wider determinants of health, most of which lie outside the health sector

In the Municipality of Umeå, work is underway in several areas to promote the health and well-being of the population. The municipality implements health-promoting efforts in virtually all operations. Umeå has multiple policies, programmes and action plans prepared within the health sector. Examples include the Alcohol, Drug and Crime Prevention programme and the Vision 2010 – Leisure Policy programme. Besides these programmes, there are also goals and action plans in the fields of equality and diversity.

The Municipality of Umeå’s Living Environment Report 2006 presents Umeå’s status in relation to the national public health targets. Based on the facts that have come forth in the Living Environment Report, among other sources, Umeå has prepared public health objectives for the municipality. The Umeå Municipal Council has decided to primarily prioritise six of the eleven national target areas and overall goals for each target area as per the following:

- 1 Participation and influence
Everyone in Umeå, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, disability, sexual orientation and social background, shall have equal rights, opportunities and obligations in all different areas of life.
- 2 Financial and social security
Residing and living in Umeå shall be safe and secure. Everyone shall have the conditions to live an independent life with equal living conditions, education, access to meaningful work and occupation and a reasonable personal financial situation.

- 3 Positive and safe conditions during childhood and adolescence
The living conditions for children and adolescents in Umeå shall be good and secure. Good social conditions are created for children and good support is offered to both parents during the child's entire upbringing. Exclusion and economic disadvantage shall be reduced.
- 9 Increased physical activity
Good conditions for physical activity for the entire population shall exist in the Municipality of Umeå.
- 10 Good eating habits and safe foods
The residents of the Municipality of Umeå shall have access to safe food and have good eating habits.
- 11 Reduced consumption of alcohol and tobacco, a society free from narcotics and doping and reduced damage from excessive gambling.
In Umeå, children and adolescents up to the age of 18 shall have an alcohol and tobacco-free upbringing. Drinking for intoxication and risky consumption among adults shall be reduced to combat addiction and alcohol-related injury and damage.

The overall goals shall be worked into the committees' operational plans. In the future, Umeå will work the national goal of safe and secure sexuality into the action plan for the municipal public health efforts.

Through the Living Environment Report for the Municipality of Umeå, the LEVA survey (regarding living habits among middle-school and high-school students), national statistics, etc., the municipality monitors trends in the area of public health.

7.2 promote city health development planning, which provides our cities with a means to build and maintain strategic partnerships for health

Public health is influenced by a number of factors, such as the physical environment and people's social and economic conditions. Public health work is consequently the responsibility of several public players. To succeed and achieve results in its public health work, the Municipality of Umeå has established strong cooperation with various parties with regard to prevention efforts for children and young people as well as the elderly. Furthermore, the Municipality of Umeå works to improve and develop new forms of collaboration.

The Municipality of Umeå has long had a Health Council. The Health Council is a group comprising representatives of municipal administrations, and representatives from the county council and the national social insurance office are co-opted. Its objective is to constitute an arena for exchange of experiences, skills development and cooperation for good public health. In the three municipal districts, there are corresponding local public health councils that are composed slightly differently depending on the set-up and interest in the local community.

The Municipality of Umeå works together with the police, the county council, churches and the business community to create a safe and secure Umeå. The Alcohol, Drug and Crime Prevention programme, adopted by the Municipal Council, and an annual operational plan for UmeBRÅ, the Umeå Council for Crime and Drug Prevention, form the starting point for this work.

The Municipal Council for the Disabled (KHR) is a cooperative forum where the council's members are representa-

tives for various organisations for the disabled and politicians from municipal committees. KHR plays an important role as a reference group and referral body for policy issues concerning the disabled. The objective of KHR is to provide persons with disabilities greater participation and equality in all areas of society.

The Municipal Pensioners' Council, KPR, is a body for consultation and information between the Municipality of Umeå and pensioners' organisations in the municipality.

The municipality and the county council have jointly developed family centres as a general working method. Family centres have been established in five areas in the municipality and a sixth centre is being started. The target group is primarily children ages 0-6 years, but there is one family centre with the extended target group of 0-16 years, and more are on the way. Common to the family centres is the objective to promote good health among children and parents based on the entire family's life situation, and to prevent a negative social trend with early efforts.

Every year, approximately 50 children are assessed to be victims of serious crime in the Municipality of Umeå. To improve support for these children, there is a Children's Home in Umeå. In cooperation with the county council, the police, the Umeå division of the office of the public prosecutor and the National Board of Forensic Medicine, the Municipality of Umeå has built up an operation under the same roof to improve the process of taking children into care and to improve the quality of investigations regarding children suspected of being victims of serious crime. The Children's Home houses a "Centre against violence" which also includes a reception for women who are victims of violence. The social services also have a men's reception directed at men who commit violence.

TILDA (Early efforts and long-term activities where people live in a different manner)

The Municipality of Umeå invests SEK 10 million/year to develop different types of prevention activities that focus on prevention and early efforts concerning young people and their families with signs of growing social problems. This work is characterised by considerable openness to new working methods and efforts where associations and volunteer organisations are viewed as a resource to cross traditional boundaries of responsibility.

The Youth Health Services shall enhance efficiency and improve support to adolescents and young adults (16-25 years) that are in need of coordinated psycho-social efforts. Personnel from Child Psychiatric Services, Adult Psychiatric Services, Social Services, the Public Employment Service, the National Social Insurance Office, upper secondary and adult education and the Labour Market Department (VIVA) work within Youth Health Services.

In the project "Common grip", the municipal social services and VIVA, the Public Employment Service, the National Social Insurance Office and Adult Psychiatric Services work to support the long-term unemployed, both young people and adults. The objective is to get the unemployed back to self-sufficiency in working life or studies.

The county council and the Municipality of Umeå have recently established a joint alcohol and drug clinic. The objective is to address the people in the municipality who are at

the beginning of a career of addiction with both medical and social efforts. Individuals can come on their own accord and get support and help in becoming free from their addiction.

Preventative home visits are offered to pensioners aged 76 and older in at least five areas of the municipality. The home visits are made in cooperation with the local healthcare centre. The objective of preventative home visits is to create safety and promote health, and thereby postpone the need for regular care and nursing, and to discover persons with hidden needs for help.

To meet a growing need for coordinated rehabilitation, a coordination federation has been created between Västerbotten County Council, the Municipality of Umeå, the National Social Insurance Office and the County Labour Board. The target group for this mobilisation of resources is primarily people between the ages of 18-30 who are in need of coordinated rehabilitation efforts from several of the cooperative parties. The objective is that these individuals shall improve or completely regain their capacity for gainful employment and self-reliance.

The aim of local prevention groups is to discover social problems well sufficiently early among young people at group levels and to actualise preventative and promoting activities for the living situation of young people.

7.3 reduce inequalities in health and address poverty, which will require regular reporting on progress towards reducing the gaps

Through surveys and national statistics, the Municipality of Umeå has presented local figures on income, unemployment, sustenance allowance, illness rates and education in the Living Environment Report for the Municipality of Umeå.

In Umeå, women have lower incomes than men. The salary difference between men and women is 5%. In Umeå, there are more low-income earners compared with the national average, which applies to both men and women.

One risk group from a financial perspective is elderly female pensioners, since they to a considerable extent have had part-time work during their lives, which reduces the size of the pension. The share of openly unemployed women in Umeå was at the same level as the national average in 2005. Unemployment among men in Umeå was somewhat higher than the national average for men.

Through various sources of statistics, the municipality can monitor the trend of living conditions among various groups of residents. Noteworthy projects in this area include the LEVA survey among students in compulsory and upper-secondary schools, unemployment statistics from the Employment Service, statistics regarding sustenance allowance trends and local statistics for Umeå from the National Institute of Public Health's surveys. Local statistics are also available on conditions with regard to equality.

Research resources are available in the municipality's social services through the Development and Field Research Unit (UFFE). This unit has well-developed cooperation with the university.

Schools also have researchers at their disposal, who in part are active in school operations and in part have their base within the university. Otherwise, the municipality cooperates in several different social and health development projects with Umeå University.

7.4 promote health impact assessment as a means for all sectors to focus their work on health and the quality of life

At present, no decision has been made to work with health impact assessments (HKB). In connection with the environmental impact assessments (MKB) being prepared, issues concerning public health are also touched upon. The Västerbotten County Administrative Board plans to start a project together with the Municipality of Umeå to work on and develop methods for environmental/health impact assessments. This project will deal with the health impact of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the river at Bölesholmarna.

7.5 mobilise urban planners to integrate health considerations in their planning strategies and initiatives

Within the work on the Comprehensive Plan and work on other strategic documents, a broad cooperation between the municipality's various administrations takes place to integrate health issues into planning. The municipality's public health and environmental targets are important starting points in the work with urban planning. The municipality has established a programme of measures to improve air quality in Umeå. See section 3.5.

8. VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY

We are committed to creating and ensuring a vibrant local economy that gives access to employment without damaging the environment. We will therefore work to:

8.1 adopt measures that stimulate and support local employment and business start-ups

The Municipality of Umeå actively supports business start-ups and entrepreneurship. An important factor to achieve sustainable societal development is strong entrepreneurship and business start-ups. In an increasingly changing and more competitive world, new companies are important to create renewal and dynamic in the business community. New companies contribute innovative thinking and vitalise the modern social economy. They pressure established companies to improve products, quality and service, and to lower prices. Thanks to the new companies, new goods and services rapidly find their way to market and new methods and processes are introduced in a flexible manner. Through this, employment opportunities are generated for a growing share of the population.

The Municipality of Umeå works in cooperation with EntreprenörCentrum, Jobs & Society, BIC Factory, Uminova Innovation and Ung Entreprenör for effective efforts to increase business start-ups through consulting, coaching and incubators.

Moreover, continuous participation takes place in measures concerning the role of schools for the development of the students' contacts with the business community and insights regarding entrepreneurship and the spirit of enterprise in accordance with the Umeå Region's common growth strategy.

8.2 cooperate with local businesses to promote and implement good corporate practice

Issues concerning ethics and responsibility are often included in activities and training focused on business development and leadership that the municipality conducts or co-organises.

8.3 develop and implement sustainability principles for the location of businesses

The municipality works in various ways to guide companies to appropriate areas and contributes in the inspection of operations in accordance with environmental legislation to find suitable business locations.

In the current Comprehensive Plan, areas are zoned for industry and in the ongoing in-depth comprehensive plan, industries are planned in areas that make sustainable logistics and minimal disruption to development possible.

The municipality's commercial policy outlines criteria for the placement of commercial activities. The basic idea is to achieve balanced growth of trade, with a long-term sustainable structure where the city centre plays the most important, municipally comprehensive role. Under the commercial policy, other large-scale trade should be distributed in a "city district-wide" structure with Ersboda, Strömpilen and a third new, western area in Klockarbäcken.

8.4 encourage markets for high-quality local and regional produce

The Municipality of Umeå is involved in a project that aims to increase employment and new business by developing utilisation of the region's forest berry produce. There is great demand for our high-quality berries for food as well as for bio-extraction companies in Europe and Asia and for the manufacture of natural medicines and dietary supplements. High demand for high-quality blueberries in Northern Sweden with short produce transports is a strong competitive advantage as are the conditions (SLU, Umeå University) for building up a knowledge-intensive processing industry. A local market consisting of local food produce has been established, the "Farmers' Market" where local producers of meat, fish and vegetables meet their customers directly, without middlemen.

8.5 promote sustainable local tourism

The municipalities in the Umeå Region have a joint tourism project. The ambition is for participating tourist companies to be able to use local suppliers to the furthest possible extent and thereby reduce transports and save the environment. The ambition is also to stimulate greater environmental awareness among participating companies through information and environmental consideration based on the municipalities' environmental plans. In the quality efforts and certification with Tourquality, special environmental aspects are outlined and the companies should work on these to be approved for certification.



9. SOCIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE

We are committed to securing inclusive and supportive communities. We will therefore work to:

9.1 develop and implement programmes to prevent and alleviate poverty

The Municipality of Umeå monitors the overall trends of economic disadvantage through surveys and statistics, such as the number of children who live in families below a certain economic standard, the number of people receiving sustenance allowance and the proportion of low-income earners in the municipality.

It is important to monitor the development of the financial situation of pensioners and in doing so pay particular attention to the pensions of women as this is a group that often worked part-time and/or worked in unpaid work during their occupational lifecycle. This will be reflected in future pensions. A risk of economic disadvantage increases in this group. In Umeå, men have larger pension savings than women.

The Municipality of Umeå works with the Public Employment Service and the Social Insurance Agency to notice and address young people who lack motivation and incentive and need help in forming realistic goals for their own support. The target group comprises unemployed young people ages 18-24. The objective is for the young people to rapidly be introduced to, or returned to, work or studies.

9.2 ensure equitable access to public services, education, employment opportunities, training, information and cultural activities

The Municipality of Umeå's goal is to be a municipality in which, regardless of ethnicity, religion, beliefs, disability, sexual orientation and social background, all have equal rights, opportunities and obligations in all different areas of life.

The Municipality of Umeå has high ambitions of creating equitable access to public services, education, employment opportunities, training, information and cultural activities. Several projects are underway through which Umeå is developing this. Men and women shall have the same rights and opportunities to exercise active citizenship and to shape the terms of decision-making.

The supply of information is extensive. Umeå residents are very active and are pleased to share their opinions on the municipality's work. See sections 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. The information on the website is also available in an adapted format

for the visually impaired and there is the possibility of sound interpretations. Keywords are linked to presentation lists for an overview of what will be discussed. Records can be reached via the municipality's records system, which in turn is available over the Internet.

VIVA Unga and VIVA Resurs are operations where the focus is on getting people out in the labour market or into education, thereby combating exclusion and social welfare dependency. The Municipality of Umeå also works to break the gender-segregated labour market. An example is the Meal Service's school restaurants, which currently have an equal number of men and women on their substitute list as a part of breaking the sexually segregated workplaces in the long term and at the same time securing labour needs.

Umeå's rich cultural offering with top skill, breadth and diversity is an important driving force for continued quality of life and development. This offering addresses all age groups, such as through the Culture for Seniors, the Cultural Centre for Children and Young People and access to library service.

9.3 foster social inclusion and gender equality

Public spaces are central meeting places that promote social inclusion and equality. A successful model used for many years to work on issues of social inclusion is being used in Umeå and builds on broad cooperation between the municipality, organisations, associations and volunteers. Networks work together to generate positive development in the city districts.

Umeå is a strong association city with around 600 associations and organisations, which entails opportunities for leisure activities for most interests and wishes. Youth and athletic associations alone conduct around 120,000 association meetings annually in the municipality. That corresponds to approximately 360,000 hours for volunteer leaders or 170 work years. Athletics foster few world champions, but many good members of society.

The Municipality of Umeå has a comprehensive equality plan and an equality policy. The Equality Committee's (JUSK) task includes spreading knowledge about equality and developing methods and strategies to achieve the equality objectives. JUSK is used to introduce an equality perspective to development and planning issues. JUSK's activities are conducted internally within the municipality and externally with the residents.

Umeå is one of the Swedish cities that signed the Council of European Municipalities and Regions' declaration on equality, and work has begun to introduce the declaration in the regular work objectives. A digitised version of an action plan for equality is being planned to further strengthen the management and control of this. Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out and how this is to be done constitutes two important questions for continued work.

The equality index is a total appraisal of 13 variables that present differences in the conditions of men and women in society, working life and the family. The most equal municipality in Sweden has a ranking of 1. Umeå ranked 35 out of 290 in 2005. An important variable for Umeå to work on is the poor health of women.

9.4 improve community safety and security

Today, Umeå is one of Sweden's safest cities. Compared with the eleven largest cities in Sweden, Umeå has by far the low-

est figures in terms of total crime.

A large share of women in Umeå say that they often refrain from going out alone for fear of being attacked, robbed or molested in some other way. It is primarily young women who are afraid of going out alone. However, the survey indicates that it is not this group who are victims of violence outdoors, but rather mainly young men who get into trouble. In light of this, several projects in the Municipality of Umeå have focused on safety and the following has been done:

- Safety walk in the city centre, a pilot project, to find the right measures to address the issue in central Umeå.
- A survey regarding perceived insecurity along the municipality's bicycle path network is carried out within the scope of the bicycle traffic programme. A programme of measures will be prepared in 2007.
- Work on a lighting programme for greater security in central Umeå.
- Cleaning measures for sight improvements along pedestrian and bicycle paths are carried out continuously.
- Several seminars on safety and security have been arranged.

The Umeå Council for Crime and Drug Prevention, UmeBRÅ, is a cross-sector council on alcohol, drug and crime prevention issues. Together with Umeå C, UmeBRÅ has developed a project concept that aims to create a safer and more pleasant city centre on weekend evenings and nights. The idea is a win-win concept that is based on inviting associations to go on night watch walks in the city centre and thereby also receive a contribution to their association.

Umeå cooperates with a number of organisations and authorities concerning various projects and works on issues that concern violence, including men's violence against women. The women's crisis centre in Umeå and the Centre Against Violence are important resources in this work. To reduce drinking for intoxication and assault in public settings, the police in Umeå works according to the so-called Väjjö model. If the person carrying alcohol is under the age of 18, the police confiscate the alcohol directly on site and immediately contact the young person's parents.

9.5 secure good quality and socially integrated housing and living conditions

The Municipality of Umeå has adopted the following targets for development and the green structure:

- A minimum of 50% of new development up to 2012 shall take place through completion of existing development and the remainder through green-field site development.
- The green spaces shall be developed in existing developments through the creation of new green areas and green stretches or the development of existing green areas no later than 2012.

The Municipality of Umeå's comprehensive plan states that in both green-field development and the large brown-field development projects, the range of housing should include a varied mix of flats and forms of tenure. This is to meet the needs of different groups of the population and to promote social integration.

Good public transport and safe pedestrian and bicycle

paths are important factors for making the residential area accessible to everyone. The Municipality of Umeå conducts various efforts to support social life in the residential areas, including the creation of spaces for spontaneous sports and meeting places.

The range of locations in the public sphere is important. A new green plan is being prepared for Umeå. In contrast to the municipality's previous vision for green spaces, greater focus is now being placed on social value. The sociotope concept has been a starting point for this work, i.e. that different environments give rise to/make possible varying experiences and activities. The offer shall suit all, regardless of age, background, disability, etc. It is also important that environments be created for different interests - everyone should be able to find their meeting place.



10. LOCAL AND GLOBAL

We are committed to assuming our global responsibility for peace, justice, equity, sustainable development and climate protection. We will therefore work to:

10.1 develop and follow a strategic and integrated approach to mitigate climate change, and work towards a sustainable level of greenhouse gas emissions

In the municipality's "Energy programme for sustainable development" and the Limited Climate Impact environmental objective, there are targets and strategies for limiting the emission of greenhouse gases. The municipality's vision is to jointly create an Umeå where the energy supply will be permeated by a holistic perspective and will be based on renewable energy sources.

The Municipality of Umeå has adopted the following targets:

- By 2012, total emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels shall have decreased by 12% compared with the amount emitted in 1990.
- By 2025, total emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels shall have decreased by 50% compared with the amount emitted in 1990.
- By 2012, the use of fuel oil shall have decreased by 40% compared with 1990.

The Municipality of Umeå has begun work on preparing an action plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from municipal activities.

The municipal housing company, AB Bostaden, has prepared an environmental plan as a step towards active participation in the municipality's work with the Aalborg Commitments. The objective is for energy use to decrease over time and the target is for energy consumption to have decreased by 20% by 2016 compared with the amount consumed in 2007.

Umeå Energi AB, the municipal power utility, is an energy and communication company with a holistic perspective of environmental issues. The utility's major investment in district heating contributes to sustainable development and thrift with natural resources.

10.2 mainstream climate protection policy into our policies in the areas of energy, transport, procurement, waste, agriculture and forestry

Umeå has a well-developed district heating network that is growing year by year. The expansion of new district heating maintains a high pace; between 500-600 single-family homes in existing neighbourhoods have been connected each of the past four years, primarily replacing electric and oil heating. Umeå is an expansive city, which means that new buildings are built that will be connected to the district heating network. The heat is produced from waste, waste heat and biofuels. A minor component of oil, approximately 10%, remains as a point load and auxiliary source, but will soon disappear by late autumn 2008 when a new biofuel-fired co-generation plant will be commissioned. Annual heat production amounts to 1 TWh.

The Dåva co-generation plant is a good example of how an efficient energy system is created, where the district heating system is used as a heat sink in the production of electricity. This provides utilisation of the primary energy of approximately 90%. This can be compared with European electricity production where only about 30% of the primary energy is utilised. The rest is cooled off.

The Municipality of Umeå will very likely achieve its goal of eliminating all oil-fired heating of its properties by 2008. The municipality's property organisation is energy certified as well as quality and environmentally certified. The municipality also applies lifecycle estimates to all energy investments made, in which climate-impacting emissions are included in the decision-support material.

The Municipality of Umeå works purposefully to achieve a more planned local supply by annually compiling a short and long-term local resource plan. Every wrongly planned square metre built entails major economic and climatic impact over the 50-year period that it normally lasts. The municipality also prepares tools and instructions to be able to guide the market to supply that which the municipality wants as a customer and conducts follow-ups to ensure that what is ordered is really delivered.

During 2008, the Municipality of Umeå will take a comprehensive approach to energy issues with a scope that was never previously applied in the municipality. The municipality is preparing a procurement of an Energy Performing Contract (EPC) project, which means that the majority of the municipality's property stock will be energy declared and

analysed. This is being done to meet the municipality's political objectives as well as to the commitments that the EU and the Swedish government have challenged public bodies in Sweden.

The Municipality of Umeå participates in the "Sustainable travel" project together with the other municipalities in the Umeå region. The aim of the project is to promote sustainable travel for developed mobility and accessibility in the Umeå region and to develop an organisation as a support in this work. Several tried and new, innovative methods and techniques to promote sustainable travel will be tested and evaluated. Within the scope of the project, a Sustainable Travel Office will be established with three full-time employees, who will conduct various activities such as safe and effective carsharing systems, carpools, walking and cycling to work, information campaigns and public transport coordination.

10.3 raise awareness of the causes and probable impacts of climate change, and integrate preventive actions into our climate change policy

The Municipality of Umeå works in various ways to raise awareness among its employees and residents. One of the most important components of this work is getting sustainability questions into schools at an early stage. The target is for all schools and pre-schools in the Municipality of Umeå to have registered for the "School for sustainable development" award by 2010.

In cooperation with Umeå University, the Municipality of Umeå invites residents to Science Lunches, where various researchers at Umeå University speak about different topics that concern sustainable development, including the climate issue.

Umeå Energi AB provides information on climate issues on its website.

10.4 reduce our impact on the global environment and promote the principle of environmental justice

The Umeå Municipal Council has decided that the municipality will work to become a Fair Trade City. This is a way for the municipality to actively work on human rights in its procurement efforts and to cooperate with representatives from other parts of society on ethical consumption.

10.5 strengthen the international cooperation of towns and cities and develop local responses to global problems in partnership with local governments, communities and relevant stakeholders

The Municipality of Umeå has a broad international contact network. This includes formal twin-town agreements with Saskatoon, Wurzburg, Vasa, Harstad, Helsingör and Petrozavodsk.

The Municipality of Umeå is a member of the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), which is a member organisation with more than 100 cities in the Baltic Sea region as members. The UBC works in such areas as the environment, health, social issues, education and equality. The UBC supports the development of its member cities through various development projects.

As the climate issue gradually made its way to the agenda of all countries, Umeå Energi's knowledge of biofuel-fired

co-generation, district heating and waste firing has been in growing demand. The city of Petrozavodsk in Russian Karelia is one of the cities that sought cooperation with Umeå Energi, where a pre-study was conducted concerning a new co-generation plant fired with waste. China is also interested and cooperation is being built up. Examples of other countries that have expressed interest include Chile, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (Dubai).

The Municipality of Umeå is a member of the Nordic City Network, which is a network for large and medium-sized cities with clear knowledge profiles.

Quality Cities is a European quality network between municipalities in Europe. The idea is that cities that work purposefully with quality development should learn from each other. Umeå is the first Swedish municipality to join the European quality network, Quality Cities. Membership is a result of Umeå being appointed as Sweden's Quality Municipality from 2005 to 2007. The network, which currently comprises 12 municipalities, is as yet somewhat small, but it will grow in coming years. Umeå has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of the quality network.

Confidence is an EU-funded project, the aim of which is to support the aging population by developing safety systems so that the elderly will be able to live at home longer. The project is conducted in partnership with Spain, Finland, Germany, Slovenia, Italy, France and Greece.

The Municipality of Umeå is one of five Swedish cities participating in the Tusenet project, a four-year long project financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and led by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) and UMT, the Turkish equivalent of SKL. The objective of the project is to help Turkey strengthen local government since it is one of the areas that the EU has pointed out as being in need of review for Turkey's application to join the EU. Besides Umeå, the Cities of Stockholm and Malmö and the Municipalities of Kalmar and Karlstad are the other municipalities in Sweden participating in the project. The project is divided into different areas and Umeå's areas are economy and personnel. Each Swedish municipality has a number of municipalities tied to it. The Municipality of Umeå cooperates with three municipalities in Bursa, one in Eskisehir and one in Ankara. Bursa and Eskisehir are located south of the Sea of Marmara.

The Municipality of Umeå has a public health project in the areas of TBC, drugs and HIV/AIDS together with the Republic of Karelia, City of Petrozavodsk and the Västerbotten County Council and County Administrative Board. Conferences have been held in Petrozavodsk and Umeå and networks of specialists in these areas have been built up.

The Municipality of Umeå's schools have considerable cooperation with a large number of countries to exchange experiences and build up networks in various areas, including the area of the environment.

The Municipality of Umeå is a member of the Bio Fuel Region to increase knowledge about and strengthen positive attitudes to bio-fuels and their effect on climate change. Umeå University has good credentials to be a research leader in the field of alternative fuels.



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