

The Greenest City in Europe

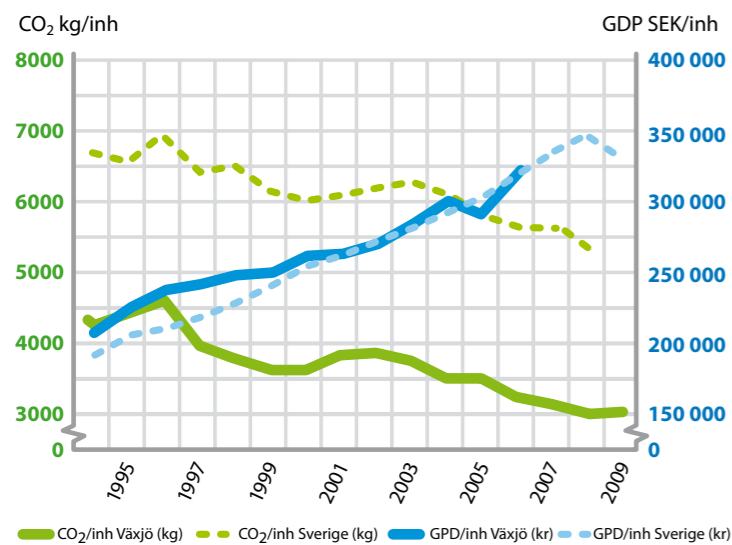
Växjö has ambitious climate goals and takes active measures that will provide major successful climate activities. This has led to an enormous number of technical visits here and journalists from all over the world coming to Växjö since the 1990s. When the BBC visited the city in 2007 they coined the city to be the Greenest City in Europe. Växjö is frequently held to be a good example in environmental and climate contexts both within Sweden and internationally.

For many years, Växjö has taken a local responsibility for global problems and has actively worked for a reduced effect on the climate and for a better environment. It all began with lake restorations in the 1970s, the introduction of district heating from renewable energy sources in the 1980s and the decision to become a fossil fuel free municipality in the 1990s. Växjö collaborates with municipalities, companies and organisations within many national and European projects.

Collaboration, broad political support and financial contributions are important factors to success for Växjö. These activities are all based on political decisions, for example, the environmental programme for the municipality of Växjö, together with the measures taken and their follow-up.

34 percent carbon dioxide reduction

As early as 1996 the city of Växjö unanimously decided to become a fossil fuel free city. Since then, a great deal has happened. The goal up to 2015* from 1993 is to reduce CO₂ emissions by 55% per inhabitant and to become completely fossil fuel free by the year 2030. The results in 2009 show that carbon dioxide emissions have reduced by 34%. At the same time economic growth has been excellent – 70% up to 2007.



VÄXJÖ'S ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS example:

- to purchase 45% ecological and/or locally produced foodstuffs by 2015
- to become fossil fuel free by 2030, within the municipal organisation by 2020
- to reduce electricity consumption per inhabitant from 1993 to 2015 by 20%
- to increase the number of travels using public transport
- to concentrate on the green structure and parks

*The environmental programme for the city of Växjö was approved by the city council in 2006, with a revised version in 2010. This contains targets for both short and long terms within three areas: Living Life (consumption, waste), Our Nature (water, nature, biodiversity), Fossil Fuel Free Växjö (energy and transport). www.vaxjo.se/miljoprogram

ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED example:

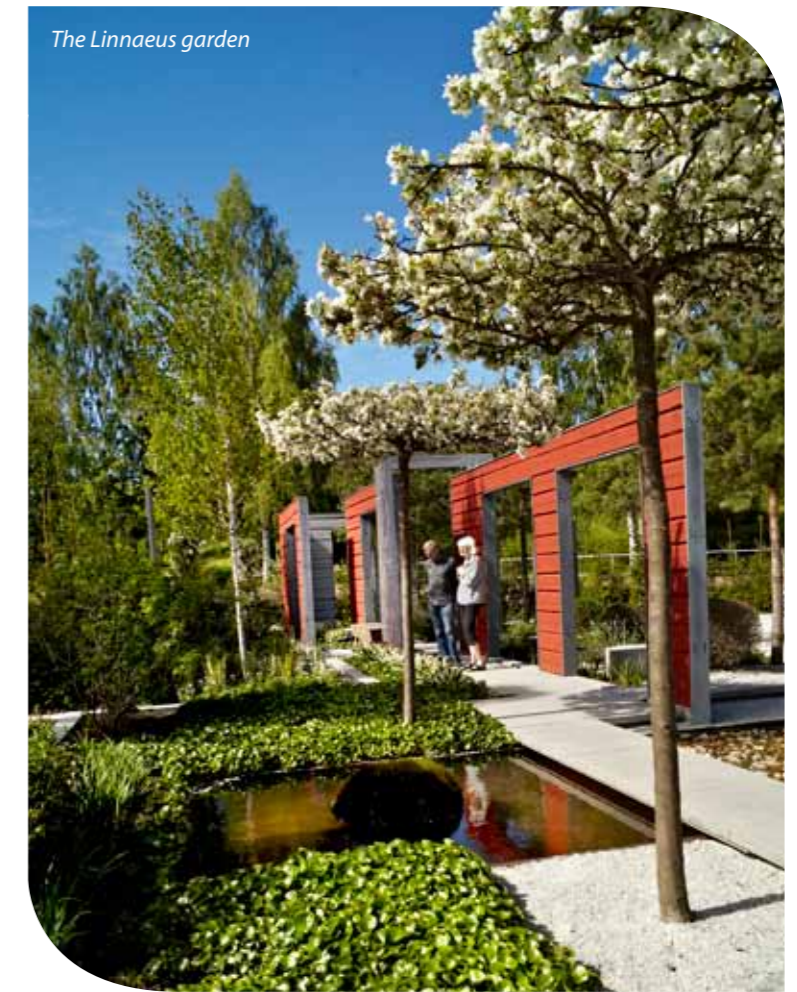
- a conscious concentration on timber constructed buildings
- the building of two eight storey passive buildings* in timber
- solar panels on some of the municipal schools
- SAMS, electricity saving campaign, including competitions for school pupils
- climate idols as good examples
- audio guide about environmental activities, nature and culture around Lake Växjö
- the Linnaeus garden, the Rose garden, the Bee paradise
- first public charging pole for electric vehicles, with more to come.
- signing of the EU's Covenant of Mayors
- "Växjö's little green book" a guide for sustainable consumption
- outdoor preschool with a 25% proportion of ecological food
- annual events: Earth Hour, European mobility week, European Week for Waste Reduction

*A passive building is an extremely well insulated building where the actual heating of the building is achieved by the recirculation of the heat generated by household machines and the residents themselves.



Our goal is to purchase 45% ecological and/or locally produced foodstuffs by 2015

The Linnaeus garden



Växjö distinguishes itself

- The EU-project SESAC, coordinated by Växjö, was awarded 1st place in the National ENERGY GLOBE Overall Winner France (2009)
- Joint 3rd place in the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation Climate ranking for 2010 as a climate municipality after Östersund and Stockholm and together with Malmö.

ON-GOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES example:

- small scale wind power on multi-storey buildings
- bio-gas from food waste
- improved public transport and cycle paths
- project for more electric cars in Växjö
- loan cycles in the town centre
- environmental and climate centre, business ventures for the export of environmental technology
- building energy efficiently and in timber
- the introduction of renewable district cooling/air conditioning
- development of green areas such as the Linnaeus' arboretum, Spetsamossen, etc.
- solar panels on the city council building
- consolidation centre system
- vehicle fuel produced from forestry products
- export of climate idols to Duluth, USA

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT VÄXJÖ

34%

reduction in CO₂ per inhabitant (1993-2009)

56%

share of renewable energy (2009)

81 %

of city inhabitants believe themselves to be environmentally aware (2010)

26 %

of city inhabitants often purchase locally produced foodstuffs (2010)

20 people/week

want to know more about environmental activities in Växjö (2009)

40

different languages are used for technical and other visits to the city hall in Växjö (2009)



Every year hundreds of visiting groups come on technical visits to Växjö from other municipalities and from all over the world and you, of course, are most welcome to visit Växjö too! Contact us: technical.visits@vaxjo.se

Växjö

- Population ~ 82 000 (2010)
- Total area 1925 km²
- Inhabitants/km²: 41
- Forests and 200 lakes
- Centre of trade – more than 7 600 enterprises
- Linneaus University since 2010

For more information: www.vaxjo.se/english

Växjö 
kommun

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Växjö "The Greenest City in Europe" is the sum of all the environmental projects that has been carried out and that will be carried out in Växjö, both private and public.

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