



Environmental and energy programme

for Västernorrland County Council 2015-2019

Adopted by the County Administrative Board on May 6, 2014



Landstinget
Västernorrland

COUNTY COUNCIL VÄSTERNORRLAND



Contents

Environmental and energy policy.....	5
Introduction.....	6
Energy.....	9
Transport	11
Waste management	13
Pharmaceuticals	15
Internal climate compensation.....	17
Food.....	19
Chemical products.....	20
Sustainable purchases	21
Environmental management.....	23
Education and knowledge	25
Collaboration	26
Implementation.....	27



Environmental and energy policy

The County Council's primary tasks are to improve public health and to promote development in the county. Environmental protection, energy efficiency and the effective use of energy and natural resources are fundamental in good public health and sustainable development.

The County Council's activities in the shape of healthcare, service organisations, public transport and regional development have a significant environmental impact. All activities and all work within Västernorrland County Council shall contribute to sustainable development by:

- pursuing active environmental and energy work characterised by constant improvement
- utilising renewable energy sources in a sustainable manner and reducing our use of resources by rationalising our processes
- preventing pollutants by procuring, purchasing and ordering goods and services with low levels of environmental and energy impact
- complying with environmental legislation and preparing for future demands
- engaging all our staff in the environmental work
- endeavouring to improve the insight into the link between public health and the environment
- exerting regional political responsibility within environmental and energy fields and interacting with other organisations



The County Council Programme 2015-2017 states that the County Council's operations comprise three areas – healthcare, dental care and regional development. A county characterised by diversity, a good working environment, good opportunities for work, education and development, accessible public transport, a developed infrastructure and a rich cultural life is attractive and creates the conditions for good health and a good life.

Västernorrland aims to be one of the best developed regions in the country when it comes to sustainable, climate-adapted development in collaboration between the public and private sectors. It is particularly important to train our own employees and thereby raise skills levels and motivation in respect of sustainability issues. One of our contributions towards sustainable development in Västernorrland is to work proactively with important environmental and energy issues. This is being done in order that future generations can continue to live a good life in the future.

The County Council will focus on reducing its emissions of environmentally harmful substances, reducing its energy consumption and reducing the amount of waste, being a good role model and inspiring others. A good environment is the foundation for a healthy living environment and contributes to fewer days of healthcare, reduced consumption of pharmaceuticals and fewer instances of sick leave and disability pension.

The EU strategy for sustainable development was adopted by the European Council in 2006. The result is a common, uniform strategy for how the EU can meet the challenges entailed by sustainable development more effectively. The overall purpose of the strategy is to establish and develop measures to continually improve quality of life, both for the present and future generations.

The EU's timetable up until 2050 for the climate issue states that domestic emissions reductions are required amounting to 25 per cent by 2020, 40 per cent by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2040 (compared to 1990). The Stern Report, which was published in 2006, estimated that a global temperature rise of 5°C up until 2100 will cost between 5–10 per cent of global gross national product (GNP), while costing 1 per cent of the world's combined GNP up until 2050.

The Swedish Parliament has adopted environmental quality objectives within 16 areas, and regional environmental goals have been drawn up in Västernorrland. The County



Council is placing particular emphasis on the environmental objectives Reduced Climate Impact, A Non-toxic Environment and A Good Built Environment.

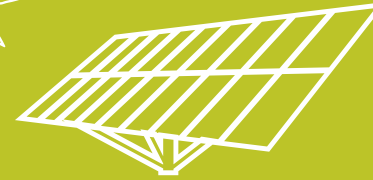
The County Council is conducting active environmental and energy work in fields such as energy, transport, chemicals and waste. Experience of reduced energy consumption in properties shows that targeted, long-term measures make it possible to both keep down costs as well as reduce the impact on the environment. The efforts focusing on increased knowledge regarding energy and the environment are decisive in bringing about the level of commitment that is required to achieve a sustainable transition. The proactive efforts that the County Council is implementing within its own operations are also causing other players to become increasingly interested in co-operating with the County Council in the field of sustainability.

Experiences from the Environmental and Energy Programme 2010-2014 form the basis for the objectives in this updated programme for the period 2015-2019.

Vision 2024

Constant improvements within renewable energy, permanent changes to behaviour and leading-edge technology have contributed to Västernorrland County Council being a part of a sustainable society that is both energy efficient and adapted to the ecocycle.





Energy

Within the County Council, energy is primarily used for heating and cooling premises, ventilation, lighting, technical medical and IT equipment, as well as in the field of transport. It is extremely important to use the energy as efficiently as possible and to introduce renewable energy solutions in order to limit cost increases and reduce the County Council's impact on the environment and the climate.

The County Council is employing a long-term and systematic approach in its energy rationalisation work in respect of electricity, heating and cooling in its own properties. The long-term vision for 2030 is for purchased energy consumption per unit of area in properties to have halved compared to the 1995 level – “energy factor 2”.

The County Council's properties are largely heated by means of district heating. In areas where district heating is not available, the Council also uses its own biofuel facilities. As regards the cooling of properties, the strategy is to use “free cooling” such as cooling from snow, river and sea water, as well as cold outside air. In order actively to promote the transition towards more renewable electricity production, the County Council is investing in producing its own solar electricity during the measurement period.

Vision 2024

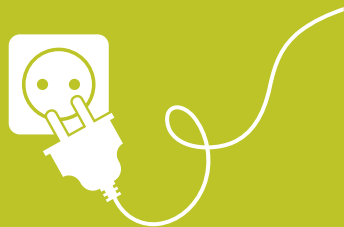
The County Council will have taken necessary steps along the road towards the long-term vision of energy consumption per unit of area in its properties being halved by 2030 compared to the 1995 level. The County Council will have invested in renewable energy that is produced in-house.

Goals 2019

- Total purchased energy consumption in its own properties will be cut by 10 per cent compared to 2013, corresponding to 4.5 GWh, giving a consumption of max. 80 kWh/m² usable floor area.
- Total purchased heat consumption in its own properties will be cut by 15 per cent compared to 2013, corresponding to 8.5 GWh, giving a consumption of max. 93 kWh/m² usable floor area.
- The proportion of renewable electricity produced in-house will be at least 2 per cent of the total amount of purchased electrical energy.

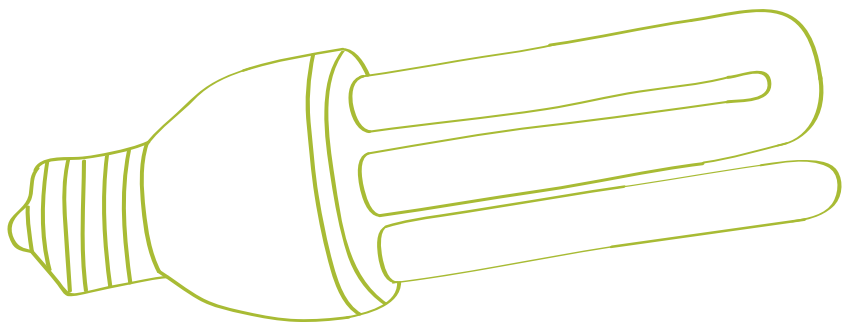
Goals 2019

The proportion of renewable electricity produced in-house will be at least 2 per cent of the total amount of purchased electrical energy.



Actions

- Stringent demands will be stipulated as regards energy and environmental performance in all new construction and renovation work.
- The conditions for introducing systems for the environmental classification of buildings are being investigated.
- Increased focus on operational optimisation of existing property installations.
- Targeted strategic energy measures are being implemented in the Council's own stock of properties.
- Energy-efficient options are being chosen during purchasing and procurement.
- Efforts are being made to utilise behavioural changes to contribute to reduced electricity consumption, and the use of operational electricity is being visualised at a number of workplaces.
- Installation of solar electricity produced in-house.
- Strategies for green IT and sustainable data storage are being developed.
- The annual environmental action programme is adopting a position on whether the County Council is to specify ecolabelled electricity.
- Developments in the field of renewable electricity production and the conditions for investing in our own production are being monitored.



The burning of fossil fuels produces emissions that affect the climate. Traffic also emits other air pollutants that can affect people's health. High nitrogen oxide levels can result in increased numbers of people seeking healthcare. Particles from studded tyres can cause asthma and a series of other illnesses. Particularly sensitive groups include individuals with cardiovascular conditions, respiratory conditions, elderly people, ill people and children.

In a pilot project running from 2013-2014, the County Council introduced internal climate adaptation for business travel, which means that walking, cycling, public transport and distance meetings are promoted at the expense of car travel and flying. Medicare transport, ambulance transport and goods transport also have an impact on the climate. The County Council is responsible for a large proportion of the cost of the county's public transport, and this responsibility also includes regional rail transport. In Västernorrland, the industrial and heating sectors have come a long way in the work of phasing out fossil fuels. The challenge is to also transform the transport sector, which is primarily fossil fuel-based.

Vision 2024

The County Council will have a sustainable communications system with smart logistic solutions and developed distance meeting technology. It will also use renewable fuel in all transport.

Goals 2019

- The impact on the climate from business travel will have decreased by 30 per cent compared to 2013.
- The impact on the climate from medicare travel will have decreased by 30 per cent compared to 2013.
- Private cars and light goods vehicles must be green vehicles¹ and be driven using at least 85 per cent renewable fuels. The requirements in the current version of the "Ordinance (2009:1) concerning environmental and traffic safety requirements for authority vehicles and journeys" will be applied throughout the entire programme period.
- Sustainable business travel by foot, bicycle and public transport will increase in order to achieve positive effects from a health and environmental perspective.

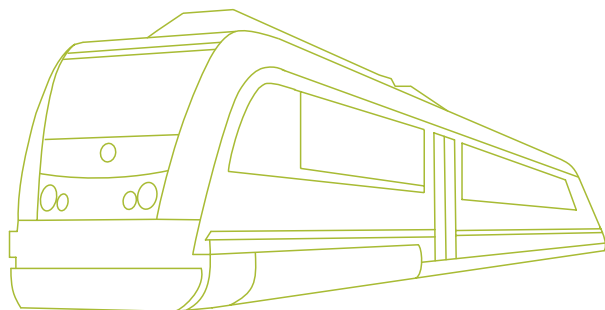
1) current green vehicle definition according to Chapter 2 § 11 a of the Road Traffic Tax Act (2006:227), Ordinance (2011:351).



- The suppliers of transport services will report the impact on the climate from transport that relates to the County Council.
- The environmental and climate impact from public transport will be reduced as a result of the environmental requirements in Swedish public transport's current environmental programme being used in conjunction with procurement. At least 90 per cent of public transport in Västernorrland will take place using renewable fuels.

Actions

- Internal climate compensation for business travel is being developed to promote public transport as well as walking and cycling.
- Medicare travel routes are being developed to achieve good quality for patients combined with improved logistics and reduced mileage.
- Medicare travel that is implemented using public transport will be promoted.
- Measures are being implemented to increase the use of distance technology for distance meetings and healthcare.
- More efficient vehicles that run on renewable fuels are being procured.
- A strategy for the introduction of an infrastructure for charging up electric vehicles is being developed.
- Campaigns are being implemented to encourage employees to select sustainable business travel methods such as walking or cycling, as well as public transport.
- A strategy is being developed that is producing positive effects for the labour market region, as well as benefiting the climate, for the basic routes within public transport for which the County Council is responsible.



Every day of the year, the County Council sends several tonnes of waste for incineration. If we consider all the material and energy that has been used to manufacture everything that is being discarded, we can see that this is a considerable waste of resources. Most of the County Council's waste is currently incinerated, where the energy is recovered in the form of heat. Ash containing many different substances is left over from this process, which is deposited in landfills or can be dispersed in the countryside. The County Council will follow the EU's waste management strategy, which entails that measures must be taken in the first instance to prevent waste arising. After this, the waste must be reused, recycled, its energy recovered and as a last resort deposited in landfill. Reduced amounts of waste, as well as the reuse and recovery of materials, result in lower costs and reduced energy consumption.

Vision 2024

The County Council's waste will be well-sorted and part of a sustainable ecocycle.

Goals 2019

- The total amount of waste from the County Council will be cut each year during the period 2015-2019.
- At least 40 per cent of waste must be recycled.
- At least 60 per cent of waste from new construction and renovation work must be reused or recycled.

Actions

- A system for reusing furniture is being developed and implemented. A system for reusing the County Council's art can also be developed.
- Skills development for employees regarding waste management is being developed.
- Procedures and instructions are easily accessible to all employees.
- Monitor developments relating to the recycling of healthcare-specific plastic products.
- Co-operate with procured contractors in order continually to improve and develop the sorting of waste within the County Council.
- Requirements regarding the sorting of waste are being stipulated in all agreements relating to new construction and renovation work.
- Waste statistics for all operations are being developed within the County Council.
- Requirements for waste statistics in the event of new construction and renovation work.
- Reduced use of disposable materials, see goals for Sustainable purchases.



Goals 2019

Destruction facilities for laughing gas will be installed in all hospitals with maternity departments.



Pharmaceuticals

Pharmaceuticals are vital for many people and consequently are one of the most powerful tools used within healthcare. When pharmaceuticals find their way into the environment, however, they can have a detrimental impact on plants and animals and, in the long term, also on people. There is still a lack of knowledge about how pharmaceutical residues will affect the environment and human health in the long term. However, it is known that hormone-disrupting substances affect the reproduction of fish and other aquatic organisms. Several pharmaceuticals that are used to alleviate pain and reduced inflammation, in particular diclofenac, have been shown to be harmful to the environment even at low levels. Diclofenac has also demonstrated an increased risk of cardiovascular side-effects. Antibiotics are normally effective against infections in people and animals, but if they are used too much, bacteria can become resistant. Quinolones are a type of antibiotic that have a broad spectrum, which means that they act on many different types of bacteria. Quinolones are very difficult to break down in the environment, and the link between the use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance is well established.

The County Council will minimise the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals without affecting patient benefit. Through increased knowledge about the environmental impact of the pharmaceuticals, consideration is being given to the environment when selecting pharmaceuticals in conjunction with procurement and the writing out of prescriptions. If there is a choice between two pharmaceuticals that have the same effect, the alternative that has the least detrimental environmental impact should be selected. When discarding pharmaceuticals within the county, they must be handled optimally.

Nitrous oxide (N₂O), or laughing gas, is used for pain relief, chiefly during childbirth. As laughing gas has a 310 times greater climate impact than carbon dioxide, its emissions have a significant environmental impact. The County Council is reducing emissions through the installation of destruction facilities in hospitals.

Vision 2024

The County Council will contribute to minimising the dispersion of environmentally harmful pharmaceutical residues to the ground, water or air.



Goals 2019

- The prescribing of sleeping drugs will be reduced compared to 2013.
- The prescribing of fluoroquinolones will be reduced compared to 2013.
- The prescribing of diclofenac will be reduced compared to 2013.
- The amount of pharmaceuticals being discarded within the County Council will be reduced annually.
- Destruction facilities for laughing gas will be installed in all hospitals with maternity departments.

Actions

- Develop the environmental aspects in the Pharmaceutical Committee's list of recommended pharmaceuticals for the most common illnesses.
- Develop procedures and methods for continually measuring and monitoring the discarding of pharmaceuticals within the County Council.
- More efficient use of pharmaceuticals to reduce discarding.
- Disseminate information to healthcare units in respect of how surplus pharmaceuticals should be handled to ensure that they are safely destroyed.
- Increase knowledge among doctors writing prescriptions regarding pharmaceuticals that have a considerable risk of harming the environment.
- Increase knowledge about, and access to, alternatives to treatment with pharmaceuticals.
- Co-operate in national networks to achieve joint strategies regarding objectives, training, information and procurement.
- Disseminate information to the general public regarding the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical waste.
- Follow research regarding pharmaceutical residues in wastewater.

Internal climate compensation rewards actions that have a positive impact on climate and the environment. During the period 2013-2014, a pilot project is being carried out regarding internal climate compensation for business travel that has contributed to the increased use of sustainable travel. A cost has been added to flights and car travel, and the money has been used via a climate account for regional business travel by rail and bus as well as travel advice. Internal climate compensation can be developed within areas such as sustainable purchasing and energy behaviour.



Photo: Christina Mattsson

Vision 2024

Internal climate compensation is a recognised method that helps to promote developments towards more energy efficient and climate-adapted operations.

Goals 2019

- Internal climate compensation has been introduced within several areas in the County Council's operations.

Actions

- Decision-making data for internal climate compensation is being developed within several areas.



Goals 2019

A minimum of 40 per cent of the cost of food will be made up of organic products.

The organic production of food is a vital instrument in achieving several of Sweden's environmental objectives, including Biological Diversity, Reduced Climate Impact and a Non-toxic Environment. Organic production does not use synthetic chemical pesticides or artificial manure. Consideration is also given to the animals' natural needs and behaviour patterns. Food production has a climate impact during processing, packaging and transportation. It is therefore of vital importance to reduce the discarding of food in order to avoid impacting the climate unnecessarily.

Vision 2024

The food the County Council serves will contribute to better health and be produced in a sustainable manner.

Goals 2019

- A minimum of 40 per cent of the cost of food will be made up of organic products².
- A minimum of 5 per cent of the cost of food will be made up of fair trade-labelled products or products with corresponding labelling that ensures ethical and socially acceptable production conditions.
- The County Council will purchase foods that are free from genetically modified organisms in quantities that require labelling.
- The palm oil that is included in purchased foods will be certified³.
- Food waste will not exceed 7.5 per cent per portion.

Actions

- When procuring food, selected product groups will be made up solely of organic products or products that are both organic and fair trade-labelled.
 - Kitchens will give consideration to the climate impact of the food when planning menus and will introduce two vegetarian main options per week.
 - Endeavours will be made to use organic foods in conjunction with conferences arranged by the County Council.
- 2) which are labelled according to KRAV, MSC and/or satisfy the criteria for organically produced food according to "Regulation 2092/91/EEC on organic production (for plant cultivation)" and "Regulation 1804/99 (for animal production)".
- 3) Certified according to the Round table on Sustainable Palm Oil.

Chemical products



Sustainable purchases



Chemical products occur in most aspects of our everyday lives, and we come into contact with thousands of different chemicals every day. Apart from in chemical products, chemicals can also be found in other goods. Many of these chemicals can have a negative impact on health and the environment. Nobody knows exactly how the body is affected by the cocktail effect, i.e. how different chemical substances react with each other. Reduced use of chemical products and goods produces benefits for health, the environment and the economy.

Vision 2024

The use of chemical products will have a low impact on the environment and human health. The County Council's range will comprise selected goods and products that do not have a negative effect on health or the environment.

Goals 2019

- All goods and chemical products included in the County Council's substitution list will be phased out by 2019 at the latest. The substitution list will be drawn up at the start of the programme period.
- The number of chemical products in the County Council's chemicals register will be reduced each year.
- In the event of new construction and renovation work in properties, a system will be used for the environmental assessment and documentation of building products and materials. At least 80 per cent of the total number of products that are used will be recommended from an environmental and health perspective according to the system.

Actions

- A substitution list for goods and chemical products will be drawn up in 2015 and updated annually.
- Reduce the assortment in the largest product groups.
- Make products that have a low impact on health and the environment more visible in the County Council's purchasing system.
- During 2015, a recognised system for the environmental assessment of building products and materials is being introduced. This action is intended to reduce the use of hazardous chemical products.
- Requirements regarding the reporting of chemicals used in new construction and renovation work are stipulated in each procurement by building contractors. Reporting and registration will be performed continually by the relevant contractor.

The County Council buys in large quantities of goods and services from many different suppliers. In order to ensure we do not buy in products and services that have a considerable environmental impact, we stipulate environmental requirements in our procurements. Public procurement is a strategic tool for achieving several goals within the environmental and energy field. Sustainable purchases also promote developments and increase the range of environmentally adapted products.

Vision 2024

During all purchases of goods and services, environmental and energy issues are evaluated in order that the most sustainable alternative in the long term can be selected. The County Council's agreements are used where they have been drawn up.

Goals 2019

- Environmental requirements will be stipulated for all procurement. This also applies to procured contracts. The Swedish Competition Authority's procurement criteria will be used where they have been drawn up, at the highest possible level, if there are no particular reasons why they should not be used.
- Goods and services will be selected in the first instance on the basis of the most advantageous option from a financial perspective. Environmental and energy performance will be given sufficiently high weighting to make a difference in the outcome of the procurement.
- The County Council will work in accordance with the most recent available version of the Code of Conduct (Social taking of responsibility in public procurement).
- The purchase of disposable products will reduce each year.

Actions

- Basic requirements will be produced that must be used in all procurements.
- Procedures will be in place to follow up the environmental and energy requirements that are stipulated in the tender documentation.
- Information about recommended goods and services boasting good environmental and energy performance will be produced with several agreement areas.
- The environmental impact from consumables will be investigated and product groups identified where disposable articles can be replaced with non-disposable alternatives. Identified products will be replaced.



Environmental management

In order for environmental and energy work to improve continually, it has to be conducted systematically and in a targeted manner. A management system that handles environmental and energy issues contributes to making the work more structured and to the fulfilment of the operation's environmental objectives.

Vision 2024

The County Council's management system will cover ecological, financial and social sustainability aspects.

Goals

- Västernorrland County Council's environmental management system will be certified according to ISO 14001 during 2016.

Actions

- The County Council's entire operation will be ready for certification during 2015.

Vision 2024

Det landstingsgemensamma ledningssystemet omfattar de ekologiska, ekonomiska och sociala hållbarhetsaspekterna.



Education and knowledge

Environmental education is an integral element in getting employees to take part in the systematic environmental and energy work. All employees are offered training comprising basic environmental awareness and information about the County Council's environmental work.

Vision 2024

All employees will be included in a learning process in which everyone is informed about the impact that the County Council and their own work have on the environment and on human health. The employees' commitment to environmental and energy issues will be utilised and developed.

Goals 2019

- 95 per cent of all employees will have undergone basic environmental training.

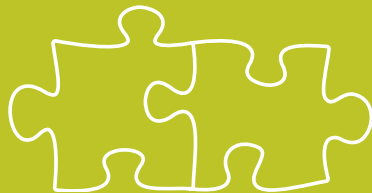
Actions

- Mandatory basic environmental training for new employees.
- Recurring information sessions for all employees, e-learning will be used.
- Environmental representative and environmental co-ordinator meetings twice a year.
- Environmental section in the basic training for new managers.
- Targeted environmental training is carried out with particular focus on strengthening the expertise of managers and politicians regarding environmental issues.

Goals 2019

95 per cent of all employees will have undergone basic environmental training.

Collaboration



In order to bring about a transition to a sustainable society, extended collaboration is required between various players such as companies, associations, municipalities, authorities, trade associations and individuals.

Vision 2024

Västernorrland County Council will collaborate actively with other players to achieve a sustainable Västernorrland.

Goals 2019

- The County Council will take part in at least five regional development projects in the field of sustainability during the programme period.

Actions

- Project collaborations will be developed within areas such as energy, sustainable travel, chemicals and distance healthcare.
- Project funds should be set aside during the budget process in order to collaborate in regional, national and international development efforts in the field of energy and the environment.



Implementation

Organisation

All environmental work takes place in the line organisation, although with the support and assistance of environmental representatives, environmental co-ordinators, management representatives and the central environmental function.

Action programmes

Each year, the County Council's Board decides on a council-wide environmental action programme comprising the measures that are required to achieve the goals in the environmental and energy programme up to 2019.

New goals

The environmental and energy field is knowledge-intensive and new findings are continually being presented. The environmental and energy programme can be revised if new information emerges.

Following up and reporting

It is important to follow up the environmental and energy work in order to achieve constant improvements. The environmental function will work to rationalise and quality-assure the reporting process to make it easier for businesses to compile environmental data for business follow-ups and environmental balance sheets. The County Council will work to integrate environmental follow-ups with other business follow-ups to a greater extent.

Would you like to know more about the County Council's environmental and energy work? Go to www.lvn.se/environment



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www.lvn.se