

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION — A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Nordic Baltic Aalborg Commitments Network

Transnational organization helps local authorities tackle climate change

STORY IN SHORT: The Aalborg Commitments aim to promote sustainable development at the local level. Many of the ten commitments are linked directly to the issue of climate change. During 2009, the Nordic Baltic Aalborg Commitments (NBAC) Network has supported its members in forming climate-relevant local policy through the exchange of good practices related to the Aalborg Commitments. Two NBAC network members, Reykjavik, Iceland and Västerås, Sweden, are particularly successful at tackling this challenge.

Reykjavik works to reverse transport trends

Transportation in Reykjavík is the main source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the city and has negatively impacted air quality. Privately owned cars are widely used. In 2007, emissions from car traffic represented about 70% of the total greenhouse gas emissions. In 2008, 75% of Reykjavik's inhabitants drove to work in privately owned cars.

The City of Reykjavík is committed to reversing this trend and has plans to go even further. Reykjavík is aiming to decrease the net amount of greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2020, as compared with 2007. The city intends to be among the leading cities in the world with regard to electric car traffic and has supported the development and introduction of environmentally friendly transportation. For example, in the city centre eco-friendly cars can park for free. Also, all of the garbage collection trucks in Reykjavík, along with a portion of the public transportation, is powered by methane. Roads have also been converted into pedestrian-only streets. Children have been invited to log on to the city's official website and make improvement related comments regarding their route to school. The goal of all this is to quintuple the total distance covered by pedestrian and cycling lanes over the next five years.



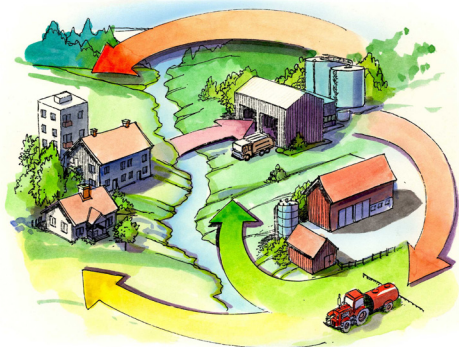
Roads have been temporarily closed to car traffic and made into pedestrian streets in Iceland's capital Reykjavik.

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This project connects with Aalborg Commitments #6 and 7.

The Aalborg Commitments cover diverse policy areas

1. *Governance: participating in the democratic decision-making process*
2. *Local management towards sustainability: formulating, implementing and evaluating processes*
3. *Natural common goods: protecting and preserving common resources for all*
4. *Responsible consumption and lifestyle choices: encouraging wise consumer decisions*
5. *Planning and Design: addressing issues from a planning perspective*
6. *Better mobility, less traffic: encouraging sustainable mobility methods*
7. *Local action for health: helping citizens to live healthy lives*
8. *Vibrant and sustainable local economy: protecting employment as well as the environment*
9. *Social equity and justice: supporting the local community*
10. *Local to global: acting with both local and global perspectives*



The building of a cycle society - this illustrates the circulation of plant nutrients and organic material between the community and the agricultural sector in such a way that the residual product can be used in the cultivation of raw materials to food.

© Illustration by Lars Ahlberg

Västerås: connecting the city and countryside

For several years now, the Vätkraft biogas plant in Västerås has produced vehicle fuel from organic wastes. The plant transforms source-separated household waste, crops, and other suitable organic waste into biogas fuel primarily used for public transportation. Biogas is bought from the sewage treatment plant and is also incorporated into the system. In total, biogas equivalent to 2.3 Million litres of petrol is produced every year.

This sustainable system recycles the matter since liquid and solid digestates from the biogas plant are accepted as fertilizers in organic farming according to EC-regulations. In 2003, the project became an EU demonstration project within the 5th framework program which adds national and international partners to the project. The Vätkraft project is part of the EU-funded project BiogasMax.

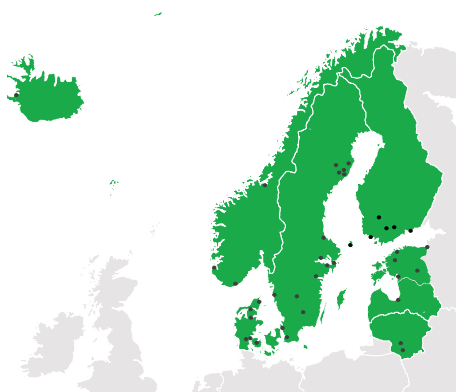
This project connects with the Aalborg Commitments #3, 6, 8, and 10.

Aalborg Commitments and Climate (ACClimate) Workshop

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Tallinn Centre, the Association of Estonian Cities and The Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Estonia co-organised a workshop in Tallinn, Estonia on November 10th, 2009 linking the Aalborg Commitments and climate change. The aim was to evaluate local level preparedness for climate change related challenges. Local governments in both the Nordic and Baltic countries have been working on climate issues and presentations covered regionally relevant issues, risk analysis, adaptation, and mitigation from both regions. In addition, a peer review workshop, led by the Union of the Baltic Cities, Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat, focused on Transport (linked to Aalborg Commitment #6 – Better Mobility, Less Traffic) a Commitment extremely relevant to climate change, was held along with presentations of recent peer review work completed by NBAC members.

For more information on this workshop, contact:

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NBAC members are located in Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Iceland.

Network profile & contacts

The Nordic Baltic Aalborg Commitments Network (NBAC) is a network of local authorities located in the Nordic and Baltic countries. The aim of the network is to support the local authorities in carrying out the Aalborg commitments and develop sustainably. It is a platform for local authorities, civil servants and politicians to exchange and benefit from the experiences of the other local authorities in the network. The work of the network is strongly supported by the local and regional authorities in each country, as well as the Union of the Baltic Cities, Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. In 2009, the Stockholm Environment Institute – Tallinn Centre and the Association of Estonian Cities hosted the NBAC secretariat.

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The local stories are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the cities described. They shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15.

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