

Cities of the Future 2008–2014 Agreement between the state, KS and the municipalities

Cities of the Future is a collaboration program between selected municipalities and the state for developing urban areas with the lowest possible levels of greenhouse gas emissions and good urban environments. The background for this effort is the threat of climate change, the greatest challenge of our time.

Klimaforliket, The parliamentary climate agreement demonstrates that there is broad political agreement to reduce Norwegian greenhouse gas emissions by 15–17 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents within 2020. To reach national emissions reduction goals action must be taken in multiple areas and several parties will have to take part. The municipalities will develop comprehensive measures in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities, and with regional and state authorities and take their share of the emissions reductions.

The main goal of developing Cities of the Future is reducing the combined greenhouse gas emissions from road transport, stationary energy use, consumption and waste in urban areas as well as developing strategies for meeting future climate change.

Subsidiary goals of the work are improving the physical urban environment with respect to ecological cycles, security, health, subjective experience and private sector development.

The state and the municipalities will actively contribute to achieve these goals through increased cooperation. We will develop the collaboration with regional authorities and mobilise the public and organisations to participate. We will exploit available resources better, develop more efficient means and test new measures to foster climate friendly and environmentally friendly cities. The state authorities will implement specific measures to address the challenges facing the cities. The parties are willing to go to great lengths to reach the goals of Cities of the Future. The efforts are to give measurable results and examples of best practice, to the benefit of other cities and urban regions, and contribute towards policy development at all levels. The state and the municipalities wish to set a good example and put their house in order regarding efforts in response to climate change.

Business and industry participation is necessary if the goals are to be reached. A closer collaboration will give the parties increased understanding of each others roles and inspire better and quicker results, as shown in the intentional agreement between the state, KS (Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities) and trade sector of 19. May, 2009.

The work will be concentrated on means and measures in four focus areas:

1. Area usage and transport

- We will accomplish area usage and localisation patterns that reduce area encroachment, the need for transport and facilitates environmentally friendly transport.
- We will strengthen public transport, bicycle use, pedestrians, accessibility and stimulate more effective goods transport and good common solutions.
- We will strengthen the use of measures limiting automobile usage.
- We will strengthen coordination and cooperation regarding area usage and transport measures for the entire functional, regional urban area or establish such a collaboration where such does not exist.

- We will integrate the work on area usage and transport measures within Cities of the Future with ongoing or planned financial support packages for cities' transport, environment and urban development.

2. Stationary energy usage in buildings

- We will contribute to a reduction in energy usage in existing houses and residential, commercial and public buildings through increased energy use efficiency and energy source change, better building and insulation solutions etc.
- We will contribute to the development of and use low and zero emissions solutions for new buildings.
- We will strengthen the use of renewable energy sources, exploit waste heat, retrieve energy and the further development of district heating facilities, with a final target of phasing out fossil sources of energy.

3. Consumption patterns and waste

- We will purchase goods and services that lead to low emissions of greenhouse gases. This will also contribute to increase the responsibility of producers and suppliers.
- We will work for the contribution of state enterprises, business and industry and the public to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through purchases, operations and consumption.
- We will reduce the amount of waste through change in consumption patterns, reuse, better rubbish sorting, recycling and increased material and energy retrieval.

4. Adaptation to climate change

- We will facilitate societal development reducing the vulnerability to the effects of long term climate change and periods of extreme weather.
- We will work towards the integration of climate change adaptation in spatial planning and projects for infrastructure, commercial, environmental, and urban development.
- We will realise climate change adaptation measures within the confines of sustainable development.
- We will contribute to the development of methods and tools for the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in municipality and region.
- We will contribute to the development of new measures and solutions to adapt to climate change.

Agreements and areas of cooperation

With the municipalities' action programmes as a background we agree to cooperate on the execution of prioritised measures as shown in the attached overview. Individual measures are to be initiated as soon as practically feasible. Areas of cooperation will be developed and agreements entered into as the parties gain experiences and achieve results. Compliance to the agreements will be reported annually.

The cooperation on Cities of the Future will be led by the Minister of the Environment and International Development through an annual summit of Secretaries of State, mayors/City council chief commissioners, political management of KS and trade organisations.

Oslo, 19. May, 2009

Mayor of Fredrikstad

Mayor of Sarpsborg

Chief Commissioner
Oslo City Council

Mayor of Bærum	Mayor of Drammen	Mayor of Skien	Mayor of Porsgrunn
Mayor of Stavanger	Mayor of Sandnes	Chief Commissioner Bergen City Council	
Mayor of Trondheim	Mayor of Tromsø	Mayor of Kristiansand	Chairman, KS
Minister of the Environment and International Development		Minister of Local Government and Regional Development	
Minister of Transport and Communications		Minister of Petroleum and Energy	