

Cities of the Future 2008–2014

Agreement of intention between the state, KS and the trade sector

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. The program extends to 2014.

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.

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 in which the trade sector invests in sustainable innovative solutions and the authorities contribute good long term external conditions. The trade sector will make substantial contributions to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and development of a greener economy, thereby increasing their competitive power.

Agreements and areas of agreement

With the municipalities' action programmes as a background we agree to cooperate on the execution of prioritised joint measures as shown in the intentional agreement between the state, KS (Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities) and trade sector of 19. May, 2009. 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. mai 2009

Minister of the Environment
and International Development

Minister of Local Government
and Regional Development

Minister of Transport and Communications

Minister of Petroleum and Energy

NHO

HSH

Sparebankforeningen

Chairman, KS