

## The goal is a fossil-free Sweden

Sweden is aiming to be one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations. To achieve this, all actors in society must work actively to reduce emissions. The Fossil-free Sweden initiative will mobilise and highlight actors who are contributing to climate efforts and a fossil-free society. We are now challenging other countries and actors to do the same.

Sweden has succeeded in reducing its emissions, and we have done so in a way that benefits our economy and development in a number of other areas. Now we want to go one step further. The Swedish Government is therefore inviting actors such as companies, municipalities and organisations to tackle the issue of climate change together and take part in the national Fossil-free Sweden initiative. Many actors have already realised that sustainable solutions are environmentally sound and profitable. Sustainability efforts drive the development of innovations, new technologies, new business models, jobs and better societies.

Fossil-free Sweden is an initiative with a clear message: Sweden can and will be fossil-free. The path Sweden is now choosing can and must be followed by others. For this reason, Sweden now challenges other countries to become fossil-free and increase the pace of climate efforts together with us – a Fossil-free Challenge. Global warming must be kept as far below two degrees as possible, and to achieve

this, everyone must contribute. The Paris Climate Conference and the new climate agreement are by no means the end. Rather, the Paris Climate Conference will mark the start and form the framework of more ambitious, fair and gender-equal climate efforts for a long time to come. A transition to fossil-free societies will contribute to such a development.

### **Mobilise all areas of Swedish society**

Through Fossil-free Sweden, the Swedish Government wants to mobilise the commitment of our entire society in climate efforts, and to give various actors the opportunity to showcase their efforts under the same umbrella.

Those who participate in Fossil-free Sweden share the view that the world must become fossil free and that Sweden should lead the way in these efforts. They contribute through ambitious targets and measures to reduce emissions. Municipalities, manufacturing companies, architects, industry organisations, think tanks and retail chains are



Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Åsa Romson Minister for Climate and the Environment

"Sweden will be one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations, and in the long term our energy system will be based on 100 per cent renewable energy."

among the actors participating in Fossil-free Sweden.

Fossil-free Sweden contributes to the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA), which France and Peru jointly initiated together with the UN to show how companies, cities, municipalities and organisations are contributing to climate efforts. These measures are collected in the NAZCA database, where many of the actors that participate in Fossil-free Sweden will also register their actions.

### **Ambitious Swedish climate goals**

The Swedish climate goals are ambitious. The Swedish Riksdag has decided that the target for Swedish emissions of greenhouse gases from activities outside the emissions trading system must be reduced by 40 per cent by 2020, compared with 1990. In 2013, the use of renewable energy amounted to 52 per cent, while the target was to achieve 50 per cent of the total energy use by 2020. In 2020, energy

use is to be 20 per cent more efficient compared with 2008. Use of renewable energy in the transport sector already exceeds the target of 10 per cent. Work is under way to further develop a long-term climate policy.

Sweden's experience shows that climate efforts offer many advantages. The country has worked long and actively to reduce emissions, primarily through various types of economic policy instruments such as a carbon dioxide tax and emissions trading. Since 1991 when the carbon dioxide tax was introduced, the level of taxation has continuously been raised to respect the polluter pays principle. Sweden's carbon taxation levels for fossil fuels are today the highest in the world at around 140 USD/tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> for households and services.

At the same time as Sweden has enjoyed positive and clear economic growth. It is time to take the next step. The Government is now investing in the greening of transport,

more renewable energy and sustainable consumption that also reduces impact in other countries. The Government also wants to increase the impact of environmental taxes as a steering mechanism and apply the polluter pays principle.

### **More countries can become fossil free**

The Fossil-free Sweden initiative will give Sweden the chance to drive development by stimulating and challenging nations and actors around the world to work towards the same ends. It is the right thing to do with respect to future generations, and it is also economically smart.

Read more about Fossil-free Sweden at [www.government.se/fossilfree-sweden](http://www.government.se/fossilfree-sweden)

