

THE SWEDISH CLIMATE PARLIAMENT







THE SUSTAINABLE APPROACH

In order to pave the way for a sustainable future, we must do everything that we can, and we must do it now. Right now.

Both the government and parliament must promptly take responsibility, as we find ourselves in a state of climate emergency. A drastically revised political strategy is needed throughout the 2020s.

Democratic processes have the power to save life on Earth. Using a multifaceted approach, we can reverse the current, unsustainable trends. It is fully possible, although we must first overcome significant challenges, such as unsustainable emission levels, short-term economic thinking, and a lack of political impetus. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that we are capable of global rallying around critical issues.

The Swedish Climate Parliament is a non-profit association consisting of engaged citizens, and our 2020 Emergency Plan serves as a blueprint for the creation of a sustainable, emission-free welfare society. In these difficult times, our aim is to highlight the seriousness of the situation, provide solutions, and give hope.

The central premise is that respect for the planet's climate and its capacity should form the basis of politics. Political and public action is needed at all levels: local, regional, national, and global.

In order to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and make Sweden climate neutral, our substandard climate policy must be refined. Changes must be made to our industry, agriculture and forestry, infrastructure, and society as a whole. Energy consumption, automobile dependency, aviation, and consumerism must be kept in check if we are to achieve these goals. In essence, a lifestyle adjustment is warranted. Water must be treated as the precious resource that it is, and fossil fuels must be phased out. Circularity must be fostered within the economy. Our throwaway culture cannot be allowed to continue.

A clear climate policy should also enable the individual to clearly identify and make good choices. There are already plenty of good examples of sustainable societies to support this idea. Sweden has its own fossil-fuel free electricity production, and all of the conditions needed for expansion into other renewable energy sources are present; we have large forests that can sequester carbon and provide materials for durable wood products; we are used to structural changes; and we have a climate policy framework. During the oil crises of the 1970s, we were able to adapt, and we can do it again. Actors affiliated with Fossil Free Sweden demand that the government raise its ambitions with regard to the climate. There is a large, active, and knowledgeable climate movement in Sweden. The cause has been further strengthened in recent years by the efforts of the International Youth Climate Movement.

The Climate Parliament's Emergency Plan combines prior experiences, new opportunities, a range of innovative ideas, and previously proposed solutions. Taken together, this plan should get Sweden on the right track.

You are currently reading the abbreviated version of the Climate Parliament's Emergency Plan, a summary of the main ideas that will help us get there. You can read the full version of the Climate Parliament's Emergency Plan on our website (klimatriksdagen.se).

The plan's recommendations: This is how we will create change

Our wealthy nation must take responsibility and drastically reduce emissions in order to give developing countries a chance to prosper. We propose a 70 percent reduction in emissions by 2030 as a preliminary goal, followed by the achievement of net-zero emissions by no later than 2040. This includes our overall fossil fuel consumption along with shipping and international aviation.

In order to achieve these goals, a reduction of 7 million tonnes of CO2e/year is needed until 2030, followed by a slightly lower annual rate of reduction (carbon dioxide equivalents, or CO2e, compare the greenhouse effect of different gases with an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide). Meanwhile, the carbon sinks in our forests, land, and agriculture will need to increase by around 13 million tonnes between today and 2040.

That is what is required for Sweden's climate budget to become globally sustainable.

Herein, we describe measures relating to a number of areas that, when addressed concurrently, will facilitate the transition to a sustainable welfare society.

Raise the level of ambitions

The climate issue needs to be considered from a broad perspective. Various sectors must collaborate, the work to be done must be given the highest priority, and the changes need to permeate every level of our political structures, processes, and regulatory frameworks.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

- Use Backcasting. The government should utilize a technique known as backcasting, in which the requisite steps are reverse-engineered from a hypothetical situation in which the climate goals have already been achieved. This proven method should govern all aspects of the sectors that relate to the climate, including the following: economy, transport, infrastructure, energy, industry, construction, agriculture, and forestry. Clearly-defined goals promote greater understanding and acceptance of climate policies
- Tighten the Law. Sweden's 2018 climate policy

needs to be made more stringent. According to the Paris Agreement, we have agreed to prevent a temperature increase in excess of 1.5 degrees Celsius. This commitment must be enforced by legislation. In order to facilitate decision-making on the parts of the government and other actors, including investment decisions and environmental assessments, adherence to such legislation should be upheld by a court of law. Even decisions made on a municipal or regional level should be regulated in accordance with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

• Introduce a national carbon budget. The government needs to impose a nationwide carbon budget that provides a clear framework regarding our current emission levels while also ensuring that the temperature target put forth by the Paris Agreement is adhered to. The climate policy framework, climate-related goals, Climate Act, and the Swedish Climate Policy Council formed in 2017 must all be reformed such that our goals and deadlines are in line with Sweden's commitments in this regard. The government should commission the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to determine its carbon budget and annually review our adherence thereto

Carbon dioxide budgets are already being employed by Uppsala municipality and the city of Stockholm. Their adoption must now be extended to the rest of the country, and a system is needed to enable the transfer of budgetary allotments between regions.

Accelerate electrification

The Swedish Climate Parliament believes that Sweden's energy system can become free from fossil fuels, flexible in its implementation, and entirely derived from renewable sources by 2040.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• **Strengthen electricity networks.** Give the authority Svenska Kraftnät more resources and a greater role in strengthening the capacity of the electricity grid. The state must proactively strive for improvements in terms of flexibility, storage, and new services. The interaction between actors in the energy market must improve, and the roles of Svenska Kraftnät and the electricity providers should be clearly defined. The electricity grid will inevitably face challenges as electricity production becomes more weather dependent; as a result, effective storage solutions and flexible systems for meeting the demand will become crucial.

• Facilitate the implementation of wind power. Promptly remove obstacles to the increased adoption of wind power. Reform the municipal veto, and limit the Armed Forces' ability to prevent the construction of wind turbines. Increase the opportunities for local involvement and co-ownership.

• Make solar energy cheaper. Remove the tax on self-produced solar energy produced and used up internally.

• **Stop burning plastic**. The burning of plastic during district heating production needs to stop. Eventually, reduced waste volumes and recycling solutions should decrease the need to incinerate other waste as well.

• **Restructure the district heating industry.** Begin the restructuring of the district heating industry. Appoint a state commissioner to oversee the transition from waste incineration to effective utilization of waste heat, heat pumps, solar heat, heat storage, and low-temperature electricity networks.

• Establish hydrogen corridors. Join the EU's joint effort to establish corridors for heavy-duty transport through Europe. The state should promote the production, storage, and use of hydrogen in a system where electricity production (by means such as wind and solar power) varies throughout the year.

An emphasis on both energy reduction and optimization should underlie all aspects of climate policy and its implementation. The potential is great in the realms of industry, housing, and construction.

This potential has been largely overlooked by the government's climate action plan. The implementation of wind power, solar power, and hydrogen needs to be emphasised. Moreover, the entire electricity grid must be improved. Bioenergy is regarded by many as a solution to fossil fuels; however, it is crucial that we are mindful of our forests, the most valuable carbon sinks that we have. Land-based wind power, when used on commercial grounds and without government subsidies, can potentially increase annual power production from 19 TWh in 2019 to 80 TWh by 2040. Even then, the wind turbines would still be sparser than those possessed by Germany at present. An increased emphasis should be placed on the production of sea-based wind power to ensure an even distribution across the country and provide increased export opportunities. A suitable goal would be to produce at least 20 TWh of offshore wind power by 2040. In 2018, solar power contributed only 0.25 percent of the country's electricity production. However, production is rapidly expanding owing to individual engagement, time-efficient installation processes, and governmental financial support for investment and maintenance. When considered together with solar parks, we expect solar production to surpass 15 TWh by 2040.

During the 2030s, hydrogen gas will likely be produced on a larger scale in the periods when renewable electricity is produced in surplus and will be used by heavier vehicles, shipping and trains on certain routes. Hydrogen is also needed for the fossil fuel-free production of steel, the development of which must be promoted. Pilot projects using solar-powered hydrogen stations have shown great potential.

Make demands and support industrial transitions

Our industries can entirely eliminate their dependence on fossil fuels while simultaneously improving their energy efficiency and aligning their materials flow with that of a circular economy. Moreover, they can prosper in the process.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• **Improve emissions trading.** Accelerate the rate of reduction in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, growing it from the stipulated 2.2 percent per year to at least 7 percent.

• **Promote the decommissioning of fossil fuels.** The reduced fuel taxes must be gradually increased again until 2030.

• **Replace coke with hydrogen in the production of iron and steel.** Continue to provide government support to accelerate the replacement of coke with hydrogen during the production of pig iron from ore (the so-called Hybrit project, collaborated upon by the SSAB, LKAB, and Vattenfall). • **Support plastic recycling plants.** Provide government support for demonstration plants that refine recycled plastic and adapt legislation so that the supply of materials to such plants is facilitated.

At 17 million tonnes per year, the industry sector accounts for around a third of Sweden's territorial emissions. These emissions consist of those related to chemical processes (for example, the production of steel and cement) and the use of fossil fuels and minerals. Swedish facilities contribute with approximately 15 million tonnes within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Together, the iron and steel industry, mineral industry (cement and concrete), and refineries account for 70 percent of all industrial emissions. It is estimated that the industrial sector could potentially reduce its energy consumption by 10 to 50 percent by 2040. However, the restructuring of this sector will require stringent policies that call for the decarbonization of industrial processes while supporting the implementation of novel fossil-fuel free and resource-efficient solutions.

In order to provide some much-needed leeway in the energy system for both increased electrification and the increased use of biofuels that will eventually replace fossil fuels, annual energy savings of 1-1.5percent must be made in the industrial sector by 2040. This means that approximately 15 TW of energy will have been saved by 2030.

Sweden's plastic waste amounts to 1.8 million tonnes, including the transport of waste to district heating plants. Roughly 100,000 tonnes of this is recycled. A circular economy that emphasizes the recycling of plastics is needed, while simultaneously reducing our overall consumption.

Sustainable cities and towns with energy-efficient buildings

We can create climate-neutral cities and vibrant, sustainable townships throughout Sweden.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• Assess the entire life cycle of buildings. Accounting requirements must be established in order to assess the environmental impacts of buildings from a life cycle standpoint prior to their construction. An upper limit needs to be introduced with regard to environmental impact. All materials used during construction must be certified as being environmentally friendly. Regulations must be imposed as to how concrete waste should be treated in order to maximize the recycling rate and increase the ability of the demolished concrete to absorb carbon

dioxide from the atmosphere.

• Tighten the requirements for energy efficiency improvements. The energy ratings of newly constructed buildings should be class A or B. Existing homes and facilities must either achieve a class C rating or improve by 2 energy classes within a span of 10 years. White certificates or a quota-based auction system for energy suppliers can be introduced.

• Revise the tax deductions on expenses incurred during construction. Abolish the current model of tax deduction in construction and introduce a new system whereby deductions can be made for energy- and climate-friendly solutions, especially in the home.

• **Invest in innovation**. Offer a government-issued risk insurance plan for innovative methods and materials designed for sustainable construction.

• **Support climate-neutral city planning**. Develop incentives and regulations for planning climate-neutral cities.

• **Develop the townships.** Form a strategy for the facilitation of broadband adoption and provide sustainable, climate-neutral solutions for local community services, schools, care, and health services in the townships and sparsely populated areas throughout the country.

Today, residential and commercial buildings account for 40 percent of Sweden's total energy use. Despite the availability of information and the excellent examples of successful implementation, far too few properties have energy efficient. The new energy class system, introduced on 1 July 2020, is difficult to apply to climate change measures. It does not specify the type of energy used or the predicted energy consumption. Too much emphasis has been placed on cost efficiency and technology neutrality during the construction process; meanwhile, little thought has been given to the environmental impact of these practices. The current standards in new construction only require a class C energy rating and, compared with previous regulations, the accepted levels of energy consumption have almost doubled as a result.

Owing to rapid urbanization, cities undergo constant expansion and renovation, generating extremely high levels of emissions in the process. Meanwhile, local communities find themselves underdeveloped. There is a pressing need for better community services, a higher degree of self-sufficiency, access to sustainable jobs, expanded public transport, access to digital resources, and future opportunities for youths.

Such development depends heavily on the extent to which taxes and profits derived from natural resources and energy production are returned to the municipalities where the facilities that produce them are situated. Additional measures to ensure that a much larger proportion of new construction takes place in rural areas and smaller towns also need to be implemented until 2040.

Increase public transport and provide electric alternatives

The transport sector must be made emission-free by 2030. Since access to sustainable fuel sources is still highly limited, we must compensate by reducing our overall use of vehicles powered by fossil fuels.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• An overarching plan based on climate goals. Governmental policies should employ the backcasting method when addressing their climate objectives and should consider all resources at their disposal within the transport sector and the associated infrastructure. This undertaking depends upon the effective cooperation of all relevant authorities.

• Invest in the railway system. The main railroads between our largest cities have, in principle, reached their maximum capacity. Maintenance has been severely neglected along many routes, and this must be addressed by means of expansion and renovation. The conditions must be provided for freight to take place by rail rather than by road. Legislature must form the basis for decision-making and expansion along our main railroads, including Stockholm–Gothenburg, Stockholm–Malmö, and Stockholm– Oslo. Sweden should strive to undertake this project in a manner that contributes to a coordinated European railway system.

• Increase the number of charging stations. A prerequisite for the transition to electric cars is the opportunity to charge their batteries throughout the entire country. This needs to happen as soon as possible and under the supervision of the state. Charging stations must be readily available in the countryside and in close proximity to homes, service facilities, businesses, and hubs for public transport. The distribution networks also need to be expanded, as the electrification of road transport requires it.

• Prohibit the sale of new vehicles powered by internal combustion. The transition to an entirely emission-free automobile industry will take time (the average life expectancy for passenger cars is 17 years). Therefore, we propose that the sale of new cars powered by internal combustion engines be prohibited from 2025 onwards.

• Expand and finance public transport. In order to meet the transport sector's climate goals, public transport systems must be significantly expanded. Departures must occur with increased frequency, and the comfort of the passengers must be emphasized; well-designed transit and parking areas must be present; and a wide range of areas should be accessible by public transport, even outside of peak hours.

• Strategically plan for digitization. A national strategy should be developed for the role of digitization in every aspect of the transport system. Of particular importance is the need to identify the possibilities for cooperation between the state, regions, and municipalities with regard to transportation. The development of a digital platform for a national ticket system is already underway. Ideally, this system would be operated on a non-commercial basis. The platform should be designed in a way that integrates with other passenger and freight transportation services and can accommodate dynamic and differentiated tolls in the future.

• Increase adoption of broadband networks. The state should invest in broadband technology, assume responsibility for the planning and implementation in those parts of the country where the necessary infrastructure is lacking, and ensure the long-term availability of existing broadband installations.

• Reduce the environmental impact of aviation. Sweden needs to look internationally for measures to reduce the environmental impact of aviation. One example of this would be to unite the EU in opposition of CORSIA, an international civil aviation agreement that has ultimately failed to reduce emissions. Nationwide take-off and landing fees can be introduced, aviation taxes can be raised, and biofuels or electricity can be adopted if possible. Financial support in the form of grants and subsidies can be offered to airlines on the condition that they do not offer flights to destinations that can be reached in under 4.5 hours by train. Other conditions should also be established when financial support is given to the aviation sector. Guidelines should be provided to Swedavia, responsible for state airports, to redirect financial resources away from the expansion of airports and into the development of technology to reduce aviation emissions.

The climate goals established for the domestic transportation sector, to which domestic aviation does not



belong, aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent before 2030. Projections made with respect to the current policies suggest that this goal will not be achieved. However, the Swedish Climate Parliament believes that the transportation sector can become emission-free by 2030.

The transportation sector accounts for approximately 40 percent of Sweden's territorial emissions, including international aviation and shipping. The modes of transport that produce the highest levels of emissions are cars and aircrafts.

The restructuring of the transportation sector requires particular efforts to be made in the following three areas: the creation of a transport-efficient society, the development of energy-efficient vehicles and their use, and the utilization of renewable and sustainable fuels.

Passenger and freight transportation must take place by railway and shipping, public transportation must be developed, and the conditions to allow walking and cycling to play a more prominent role in people's mobility patterns must be provided. The opportunities to implement digitization in the management of this transition must be recognized as they appear. Access to digital communication opportunities is a privilege enjoyed by many people today, enabling many different forms of contact without the need to physically meet. Remote work and meetings are increasingly applied by businesses.

Even today, the financing of public transport is proving to be a challenge, and the need for a reinforced health care sector will mean even more difficult decisions regarding regional resource allocations in the times ahead. Long-term finance solutions will therefore be necessary to keep the public transportation system running. The perspective that passenger traffic is a coherent system of greenhouse gas emissions should also be applied to the coordination of transport-related taxes, such as carbon, congestion, and airfare taxes, and tolls that, once implemented, will regulate suppliers in the transportation sector using tariffs. The transfer of funds to the public transportation in a predictable manner will, in part, enable the long-term financing, planning, and implementation of important initiatives.

There are currently no measures in place to ensure that the environmental impact of aviation will decrease in the near future. Furthermore, the aviation industry actually stands to benefit from its current stance regarding the environment with regard to fees and taxes when compared with other modes of transport. Sweden currently has no climate-related goals for the aviation industry, although the government's Climate Policy Action Plan promises that it will. International agreements largely govern the regulations that hold the potential to reduce aviation emissions.

Preserving the forests in order to sequester carbon

We must gradually transition to a combination of forest conservation and management, collectively referred to as continuous cover forestry.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• **Prioritize protection of the forest.** At least 20 percent of all forested areas, representatively distributed across the country's various forest biotopes, must be preserved during future felling.

• Long-term continuous cover forestry. Deforestation should emphasise the production of materials lasting 50 years or longer (e.g., timber frames for housing) and preferentially employ continuous cover forestry wherever possible.

• Systematize carbon sequestration. Create a system for the biological storage of carbon in forests. This can be paid for by the actors and sectors that do not meet the stipulated annual reductions in emissions.

• **Compensate forest owners**. Land owners should be compensated for the net amount of carbon sequestered by forests and other areas.

Forests store between one and three tonnes of carbon per hectare, which corresponds to four times the current total levels of greenhouse gas emissions. For every unit of energy, the incineration of forest products emits more carbon than does oil. The advantage of forest products is that a newly planted forest can reabsorb most of this carbon within 75–100 years. Hence, primary forest products should not be incinerated, but rather reserved for timber, furniture, and the like. However, one possible use for forest waste that is not needed for nutrient compensation in the soil or energy forestry in otherwise unforested areas is the production of bioenergy.

Forests currently store 36 million tonnes of CO2e, (which corresponds to 60% of our territorial emis-

sions). Increased deforestation will ultimately lead to the shrinking of this important carbon sink. The socioeconomic impact of the forest in its role as a climate regulator must be taken into account. A monetary value must be assigned to the forest's capacity for sequestering carbon, and forest owners must be compensated accordingly.

Continuous cover forestry increases the value of both forest products and the trees that remain. Meanwhile, the cost of planting new trees decreases. Moreover, a significantly larger proportion of wood products that sequester carbon in the long term can be produced. The forest owner does not even experience short-term economic losses using this method. Owing to international agreements to, we have agreed to protect at least 17 percent of all forest biotypes. Today, only about 9 percent of the forest is permanently protected.

Circular agriculture and a sustainable food supply

Sustainable, regionally-adapted agricultural practices with reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration secure our food supply while creating jobs throughout the entire country.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• **Sequester carbon**. Farmers should be financially compensated for the net carbon sequestration in their agricultural land.

• **Protect biodiversity**. All agricultural practices should aim to minimize the use of poisonous substances and establish protective areas near water sources, roads, and land boundaries. The washing away of nutrients should be addressed using strategies such as the creation of wetlands, limestone traps, or mussel farms.

• Establish a sustainable policy. Under the current legislation, there is a lack of nationwide, sustainable policies concerning agriculture and food security. Such legislation is needed to create the necessary conditions for climate neutrality and sustainable food consumption.

• **Improve the EU's agricultural policy.** We must push for higher standards concerning climate-neutral, sustainable meat production and increase the production of plant-based foods within the EU.

Both plant cultivation and animal husbandry emit greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane). The quantity of greenhouse gases emitted depends, among other things, on the climate zone and soil type. Agriculture becomes more energy- and climate-efficient as a result of the circular agricultural practices used in both plant cultivation and animal husbandry. The knowledge of how these practices should be customised in different parts of the country must be promptly investigated with regard to the environment, climate, and possibilities for local consumption and production. The agricultural sector should be financially supported as it strives for climate neutrality through carbon sequestration in both the soil and vegetation.

Net emissions can be reduced by increasing the humus content of the soil and reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, such as nitrous oxide, methane, and carbon dioxide.

Sustainable farms that combine plant production and animal husbandry, common in rural and forested areas, are ideal places to implement this approach.

Animal husbandry should mainly take place on smaller farms that are unsuitable for the production of food crops, such as pastures, grasslands, and moraines. Animal husbandry must be conducted under stringent ethical and environmental regulations. The animals should, to some extent, be given animal feed derived from productive, arable land or former forest lands. If possible, birds and pigs should be kept close to crops so as to enable natural fertilization.

Highly fertile soil (such as that found in plains) should mainly be used for crop production, tillage should be kept to a minimum, and nitrogen-fixing plants can be used to reduce the need for additional fertilization. The water level of ditches containing organogenic soil should be increased as much as possible.

The connection between agricultural production and local communities must be strengthened. Long-term contracts should be drafted between schools, hospitals, and senior centres. Local production and processing, such as that of dairies and slaughterhouses, should be encouraged.

Adapting to the rising sea levels

Within 15 years, all of our water sources must be clean and minimally harmful to the climate. All treated water should be purified as per the guidelines of the Water Framework Directive. We must prepare for the rising sea levels and coordinate our water supply accordingly.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT

• **Improved water sanitation.** The Water Framework Directive should strive to achieve a rating of good eco-

logical status or moderate ecological potential in lakes, streams, and coastal areas. This work should be carried out using measures that minimally impact the climate, and it should be completed by 2033.

• Predict and counteract the increased sea level. Promptly assess the rise in the sea level along Sweden's coasts and quantitatively investigate the risk level. Water contributed by Antarctica should be considered, and particular attention must be given to the coasts of Skåne, Gothenburg, and the easternmost bay of Lake Mälaren in which Stockholm is situated. Funds must be allocated to preventive measures to address the rising sea levels, and work should begin as soon as possible.

The sea surface level will likely have risen by 2.5 meters by 2100 (this projection takes into consideration the melting ice from Antarctica), and today's Sweden will be caught unprepared. An international research panel should be established at the earliest to produce a quantitative risk model that considers Sweden's particular circumstances. An authority on soil and water should propose suitable measures that can be politically enforced in a manner consistent with the nation's stance on acceptable risk levels. Special emphasis must be placed on the national water supply, as saltwater may intrude on Lake Mälaren by 2050. Gothenburg's water supply is poised to eventually follow suit. Vulnerable coastal areas must be identified and measures taken to protect the buildings and the infrastructure that require it. Climate change is affecting ecosystems in lakes and watercourses. The browning of the water (including our supply of drinking water) and the ongoing deaths among fish and bird species along the shores of the Baltic Sea have been linked to climate change, and further investigation is warranted.

In accordance with the Water Framework Directive, all naturally occurring bodies of water must achieve a good ecological status (reflective of their pre-industrial quality levels) by 2033. In a similar vein, socioeconomically profitable, regulated bodies of water, such as those associated with ports and canals, must achieve a rating of moderate ecological potential. This means that any changes to the water quality must be the result of targeted intervention unless such interventions are not technically possible or socioeconomically defensible.

A fossil-free welfare society is the goal of the economy

The economy must adapt to the planet's limitations

while also catering to the basic needs of all human beings.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• **Prohibit investment in fossil fuels**. Remove the possibilities for investment in fossil fuel infrastructure on both a national and international level. The AP funds must be banned from investing pension capital into fossil fuels and must create a settlement plan for existing investments.

• Introduce taxes to fund the transition. High-income earners have been statistically shown to contribute the highest levels of emissions compared with other groups. For this reason, they should make greater financial contributions to the transformation of our society. A special climate protection tax should be introduced for high-income earners, and the wealth inheritance and gift taxes should be reinstated. These taxes should be used to finance climate goals, and not the treasury, as is the case today.

• Promote social security during the transition. Create a national programme to ensure that livelihoods are protected and that reskilling is provided to those working in industries that will disappear during the transition. The overarching goal of the economy should be to make Sweden a fossil-fuel free welfare nation, and ambitions concerning growth targets and profits should reflect this. Policies in support of this goal should necessitate the transition away from fossil fuels and the associated emissions. Specifically, such policies must address costs of capital exceeding 20 percent in an economy that only grows by 2 percent annually. Policies based on subsidies and tax breaks contribute to the growing economic and social gaps. The financial market must strive for sustainability, and subsidised fossil fuels have no place in this vision. In fact, their continued presence may counteract progress made in other areas with respect to the climate. Reintroducing the wealth tax from a sustainability standpoint also serves to reduce consumption and contribute to sustainable investments that benefit society as a whole.

The needs for short-term security in the livelihoods of the people must be balanced against the need for prompt and comprehensive societal restructuring. This can be accomplished using, for example, comprehensive compensation plans to address unemployment and lifestyle adjustments as well as extensive investment in reskilling and adult education. The people will need to play an active role in the transition by means of public education, workplace democracy, and collaboration with trade union movements.

Climate neutrality and sustainable consumption

We can fulfil our basic needs while also living, creating, enjoying, learning, and discovering; in short, the planet offers everything we need for all of us to live good lives.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT:

• **Improve the procurement process**. The public procurement authority must promptly establish guidelines so as to contribute to sustainable development and the achievement of the aforementioned global climate goals through procurement both in Sweden and abroad.

• **Investigate food life cycles.** Environmentally certify food from a life cycle perspective. Reduce the VAT on foodstuffs that are sustainable and climate-neutral.

• Mandate the sustainability of electrical appliances. The so-called planned obsolescence of electronic products must be prohibited as it is in France. Responsibility for the sustainability of electrical appliances should rest on the manufacturer.

Almost 60 percent of what we consume in Sweden is produced in other countries. Hence, the emissions observed in Sweden do not tell the whole story.

According to the Swedish Competition Authority, the procurements made in 2017 had a total value of SEK 706 billion, slightly more than one-sixth of Sweden's GDP. Using regulatory letters submitted to the Procurement Authority, the government can legally require that guidelines be established as to how compliance can be ensured. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's contribution to the government's Climate Policy Action Plan discusses the potential that regions and municipalities have to influence their emission levels in the public sector.

Household food consumption accounted for 20 million tonnes worth of carbon dioxide equivalents in 2016, which corresponds to around two tonnes per person per year. These emissions stem from production, processing, and transportation and the energy sources that power them both in Sweden and abroad. The products that we import also lead to extensive pesticide, veterinary medicine, and antibiotics use as well as deforestation in the countries of manufacture. According to EAT-Lancet, an international research panel on the sustainability of the food industry, the large climate footprint left by the meat industry must be reduced by at least 30 percent by 2030.

Planned obsolescence is standard among manufactu-

rers of electric appliances, and the concerned components often cannot be replaced or lack the ability to be repaired.

Digitization risks becoming a threat to the climate and environmental. If the rate of increase were to continue unchecked, the internet would consume more electricity by 2030 than the entire planet is currently producing. This is, of course, assuming that energy efficiency measures have not been implemented by then. On the other hand, properly organized and implemented digital technology has the power to streamline various services and to reduce energy consumption by decreasing the need for business travel and paper recycling. It is, therefore, important that these systems are powered by renewable energy, that efficient technological and systematic solutions are developed, and that server rooms become climate-neutral in terms of their construction and operation.

INTO THE FUTURE: A VISION FOR 2040

A better world is within reach

The Climate Parliament's vision is to create a society that puts the climate first and looks beyond merely the next fiscal quarter, opting instead for a long-term approach with sustainable carbon budgets. The economy would emphasise health, new career opportunities, and better collaboration between businesses.

By 2040, we will have introduced shorter working days with lower levels of stress, uncertainty, and aggression. Our societies will employ efficient and innovative energy solutions, and the distribution of electricity will benefit everyone. Local communities will be supported along with car-free cities, reducing the need for unsustainable transport.

In the housing market, there will be more so-called passive houses and energy-plus houses, the latter of which generate more energy than they consume. New buildings will be climate positive. Local crafts and food production will provide jobs and forge connections between people. We will show respect for our green areas and will benefit from significantly improved health by virtue of increasingly plant-based diets.

We will see a greater willingness to bridge economic and social gaps. Women and marginalized groups will gain more influence in a society that strives to reduce violence and improve healthcare, social services, and education.

Efforts will be made to clean up after the unsustainable society that came before, the latter of which left plastic waste and environmental toxins in its wake and rendering both sea and land uninhabitable.

Schools will teach children how they can contribute to a sustainable society, and this will be as central to the curriculum as the history of mankind and the relationships that societies have to one another. In this way, we will respect the planet and the life that we share it with.

Our 2020 Emergency Plan provides a blueprint for how we can quickly and decisively take steps to create a sustainable future.

This Emergency Plan, written by the Swedish Climate Parliament, is the first in a series of reports to be produced before the 2022 election. The forthcoming reports will focus on, among other things, employment during the transition, sustainable economic practices, public health, and our propensity for change.





The Swedish Climate Parliament and its values:

"We take the warnings of climate science and very seriously. The Earth's temperature cannot be allowed to increase by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. We welcome solutions that recognize the equal worth and rights of all people, respect justice, and seek to eradicate poverty. Our values are in accordance with the 2nd Article of the Paris Agreement (COP21), UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals."