

Malmö



Sofia Hedén
Deputy Mayor in the City of Malmö

Sofia Hedén is since 2022 Deputy Mayor in the City of Malmö with responsibility for environmental and internal service issues, and the chairman for the city's environmental board. During Mrs Hedén's time in office, the city of Malmö has been chosen as a pilot city amongst the 100 cities already chosen by the EU Commission to lead the development towards climate neutrality by 2030. Mrs Hedén has a teaching degree in Swedish and social studies from

Malmö University. Before she took office as Deputy Mayor, Sofia Hedén worked as a lower secondary school teacher for 20 years.

City of Malmö

Malmö is a city with ambitious targets to reduce the city's carbon footprint. As one of the European Union's Mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030, we are firm in our determination to lead the way and showcase how cities can transition and attain the lowest possible climate impact. In order to succeed cooperation, locally as well as internationally, is an absolute prerequisite.

An insight that Malmö reached early was that at the same time as politics and other decision-makers have an important role to play in the green transition, we cannot do everything. If we are to reach our goal of climate-neutrality by 2030 we need all parts of society to take part in the transition – including those that we as politicians do not have a direct influence over. The question posed therefore is: how can the political level ease and encourage other actors' green transitions?

No actor can, on their own accord, make sure that we reach our climate objectives. All of society must muster our collective strength for us to succeed. At the same time those that can must create the right setting for others. In Malmö the city has taken on a great responsibility to function as a coordinating arena for all actors – business, academia, civil society and all residents of Malmö. It is about making it easy for all actors to do right and to be part of the green transition.

To create a transition that is also socially sustainable the cooperation between all actors is of vital importance. It is not only a way to get a broader perspective in important matters, but also a way to create legitimacy and trust for the green society. The city of Malmö is actively working with creating the right settings for everyone to take part, for example through the Malmö Climate Contract. It is a project where local actors together with the



city of Malmö commit to take steps to decrease their own emissions. In exchange the city promises to do our part by easing the transition for businesses and individuals through policies and decision-making.

The fundamental role of cities in the climate transition cannot be overemphasized. We live in a time of rapid urbanization where more people choose to move into cities. That is something we see clearly in Malmö, Sweden's fastest-growing large city. The challenge of Malmö, shared by so many other rapidly growing cities, is to handle the climate crisis, the rise in population and social justice simultaneously. At the same time as the city grows, Malmö needs to transition without increasing social injustices or drive away residents with less resources from their current areas in the city.

In that perspective, the eco-city of Augustenborg in Malmö serves as an inspirational model. Since the end of the 1990s this part of the city has functioned as a green testbed for a sustainable transition. The story of Augustenborg is the story of how a troubled part of the city was transformed into an economically, socially and ecologically sustainable part of Malmö. Augustenborg has also proven to be resilient against the extreme weathers associated with the climate crisis, not the least in conjunction with the heavy rains that hit Malmö in 2014. In that way Augustenborg is proof that the climate transition in itself is a prerequisite for the city to become more equal.

The large-scale and systematic transition that cities need to go through have never before been attempted. If Malmö is to succeed in its transition, we must continue looking outside of our own organization and prioritize collaboration – with other actors in Malmö, as well as with other cities both nationally and internationally. That is how we can create a climate transition that is sustainable in the long term, both ecologically and socially. i

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