



Strategy 2026–2030

Sweden – a partner for cities globally



Credits: Ulf Gårnbaum / Image Bank Sweden. Illustration by the Swedish Institute

**A Swedish strategy for future urban development
– direction and priorities for Team Sweden Smart Cities**

Introduction

Why a strategy?

As urbanisation accelerates, cities face increasingly complex challenges related to climate change, sustainable growth, inclusion and quality of life. These challenges are interconnected and require integrated responses.

Cities are on the frontline of this transition, and how they adapt will shape global development, innovation and growth. Cities are, for instance, today responsible for over 70% of greenhouse gas emissions globally and generate over 80% of global GDP. This is why solutions for smart and sustainable cities are essential.

Swedish approaches – grounded in democratic governance, climate-smart technologies and integrated planning – are internationally recognised. Building on these strengths, Sweden aims to further strengthen its role as a partner for cities globally in developing sustainable, resilient and attractive urban environments.

Focus for the strategy

Sweden has a history of successfully combining environmental and social sustainability with economic growth.

Short-term, Team Sweden Smart Cities focuses on identifying trade and investment opportunities of significant size that could be of interest to the Swedish public and private sectors, and where possible considering ways of joining efforts.

In the long term, the focus is also on building relationships that can drive transformative governance change in sustainable urban development and smart cities.

Team Sweden Smart Cities – a collaboration platform

Team Sweden Smart Cities (“the Team”) is a collaboration platform bringing together Swedish public and private actors, including government agencies, academia, research institutes, non-profit organisations and industry associations. The Team facilitates cooperation among Swedish stakeholders for the development of sustainable, resilient and technologically advanced cities.

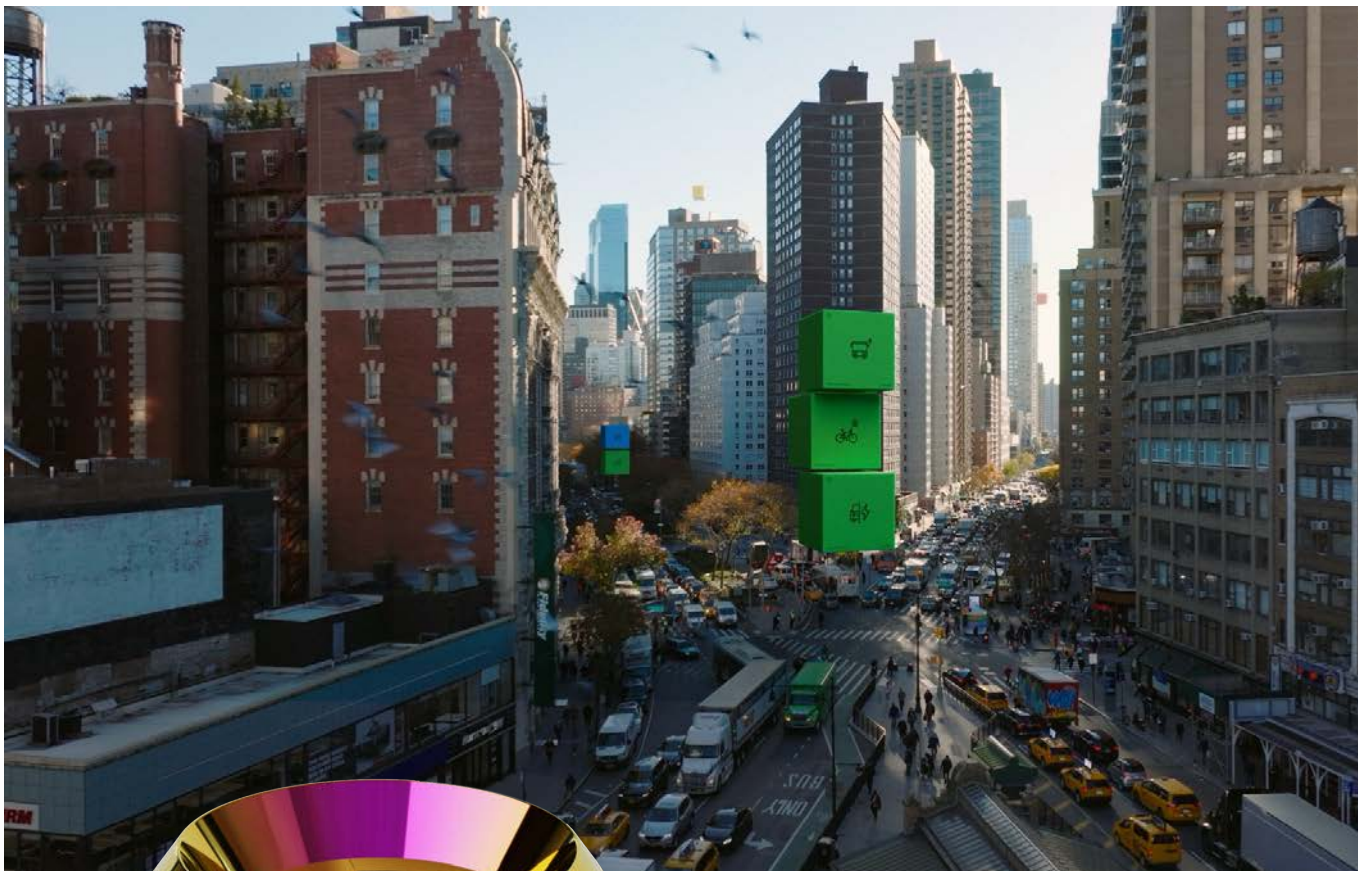
The Team works through a simple but powerful model: Learn → Share → Engage. By identifying opportunities and needs in partner countries, Team Sweden Smart Cities mobilises Swedish expertise, experience and solutions around shared urban challenges. This approach strengthens knowledge exchange, promotes trade and investment, and supports long-term partnerships for implementation and urban transformation. At the same time, it improves coordination and clarifies the contributions of Swedish actors engaged in the green and digital transition.

A learning partner for cities

Lead: RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, supported by SALAR International

Team Sweden Smart Cities explores major opportunities related to smart cities, while considering green, digital and inclusive responses to key urban challenges.

The Team is particularly interested in learning more about large-scale urban investments as well as research and data on the governance of complex sustainability challenges.



Credits: ClimateView

Sweden's democracy develops and promotes three strategically important qualities: reliability, collaboration and creativity. Each is valuable in its own right, but together, they are invaluable. They are also crucial to Sweden's ability to innovate and develop solutions the world needs.

A sharing partner for cities

Lead: the Swedish Internet Foundation, supported by the Swedish Institute

Based on needs of cities in different parts of the world, Team Sweden Smart Cities shares experiences on pioneering systems thinking in an urban context.

This includes solutions for clean energy, smart mobility, water and nature resilience, circularity and urban infrastructure, as well as multi-stakeholder governance practices for sustainable and smart cities.



Photos left to right: Candela, Photo: Johnér / Image Bank Sweden, White Architects (Rendering of the relocation of Kiruna)

Sweden gives people, companies and communities space to grow so that we can use our courage and collective strength to break new ground. That is how we have enabled the innovations, culture and social reforms that have brought us this far. And that is how Sweden will continue.

An engaging partner for cities

Lead: Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, supported by the Swedish Energy Agency

Team Sweden Smart Cities engages with European and global partners at major international events, such as COP and the World Urban Forum, highlighting the importance of cities for the green and digital transition.

Building on Sweden's strong and flexible export credit system, the Team welcomes trade and investment opportunities all over the world.

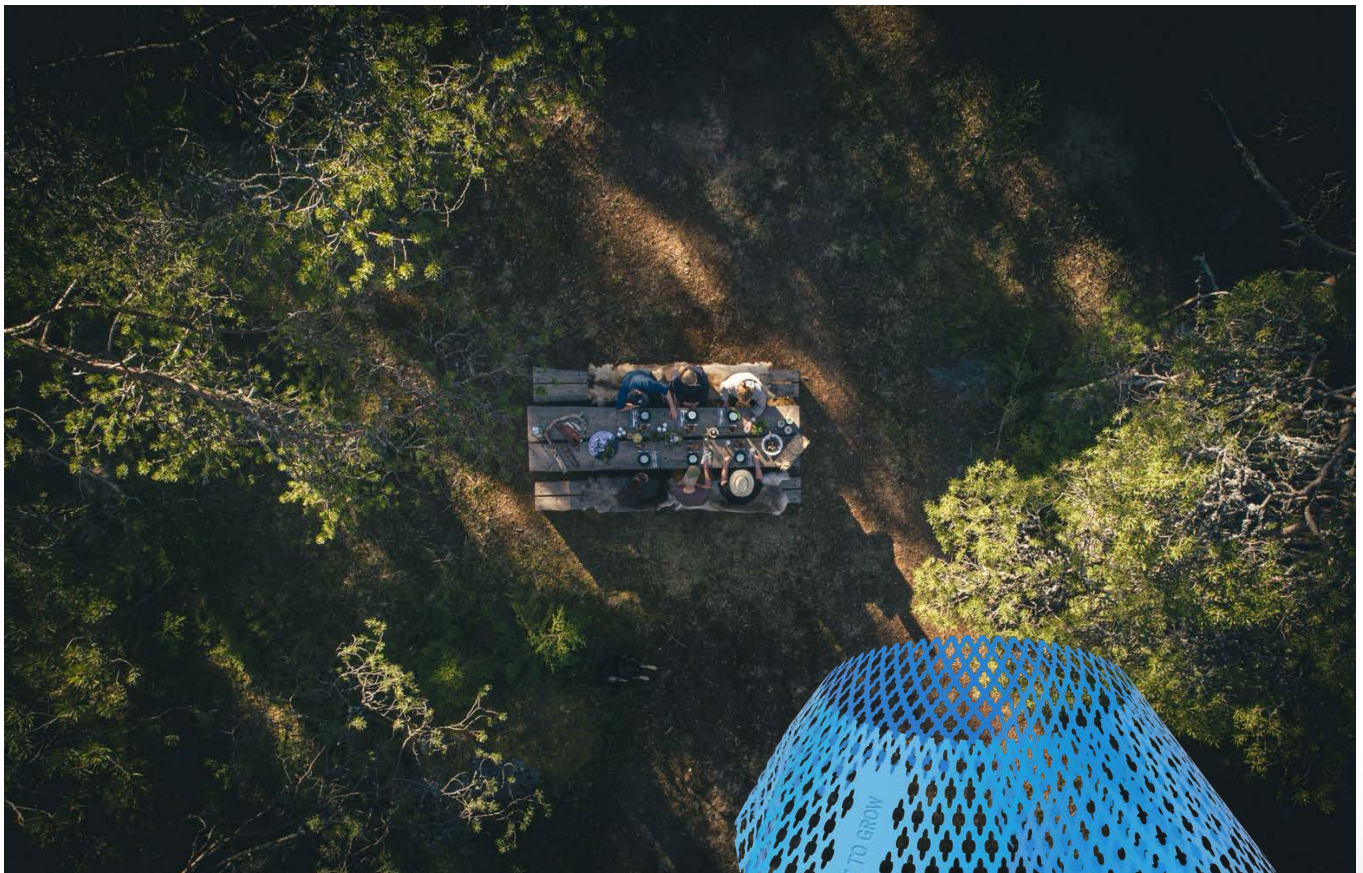


Photo: Swedish Lapland / Imagebank Sweden

Sweden's strong democratic society and sought-after qualities create ideal conditions for people, companies and communities to develop and thrive. There's an appeal to anyone who has or wants to have a connection with Sweden or Swedish stakeholders: space to grow.

Where – and with whom?

Team Sweden constellations

- Brazil
- China
- India
- Ukraine

Key global partners

- **CHAMP¹ coordinators and partners:**
 - C40 Cities
 - Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance
 - Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
 - ICLEI
 - World Resources Institute
- **European Union actors:**
 - European Commission
 - CapaCITIES
 - Driving Urban Transitions
 - Global Gateway
 - NetZeroCities
 - New European Bauhaus
 - Urban Transitions Mission
- **Multilateral development banks, environmental and climate funds:**
 - World Bank Group
 - Global Environment Facility
 - Climate Investment Funds
 - European Investment Bank
 - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - Regional development banks (IDB, ADB, AfDB)
- **United Nations entities:**
 - UN-Habitat
 - UNEP
 - UNFCCC
- **World Economic Forum:**
 - First Movers Coalition
 - First Mover Cities
 - Pioneering Places within Davos Baukultur Alliance

¹ Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action.

Smart Cities organisation



KTH Royal Institute of Technology coordinates Team Sweden Smart Cities through Viable Cities, with Olle Dierks serving as Chair



RISE Research Institutes of Sweden – leads the "Learn" pillar through Gustav Fridlund, supported by SALAR International

The Swedish Internet Foundation leads the "Share" pillar through Daniel Dersén, supported by the Swedish Institute

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise leads the "Engage" pillar through Josephine Andersson, supported by the Swedish Energy Agency



The Swedish Government Offices stand behind the initiative Team Sweden Smart Cities through the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure & the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swedish foreign missions lead regional and national coordination



Business Sweden leads Investments & Communication

IVL – Swedish Environmental Research Institute – leads Evidence & Impact

When you think of Sweden today, you most likely think of Spotify, Volvo and ABBA. Perhaps you think of Bluetooth, the three-point seat belt or other classics used daily by people all over the world.

You will hopefully also soon associate Sweden with vibrant and resilient cities.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!



Appendix A

All participating organisations

Participants of Team Sweden Smart Cities meet 3-4 times yearly. Lead participants prepare content for each meeting. Other forms of engagement are agreed upon separately.

The following organisations (as of September 2026) are participating in Team Sweden Smart Cities. Private companies are engaged through separate dialogues.

Government / Public Organisations

Boverket – Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning; Business Sweden, EKN – Swedish Export Credit Agency; Formas – a Governmental Research Council on Sustainable Development; Lantmäteriet – Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority; Nefco; SEK – Swedish Export Credit Corporation; Sida – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; SMHI – Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute; Swedfund; Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management; Swedish Energy Agency; Swedish Government Offices; Tillväxtverket – Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and Vinnova – the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems.

Business sector

Confederation of Swedish Enterprise; SISP – Swedish Incubators & Science Parks.

Universities and research institutes

IVL – Swedish Environmental Research Institute; KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Viable Cities); RISE Research Institutes of Sweden (Water Wise Societies); SIS – Swedish Institute for Standards; Stockholm Environment Institute; Stockholm School of Economics House of Governance and Public Policy.

Non-Profits

ElectriCITY Innovation, IQ Samhällsbyggnad – The Swedish Centre for Innovation and Quality in the Built Environment (ShiftSweden); SKR – Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions & SALAR International; SIBC – Sweden-India Business Council; Swedish Internet Foundation; WWF – World Wildlife Fund.

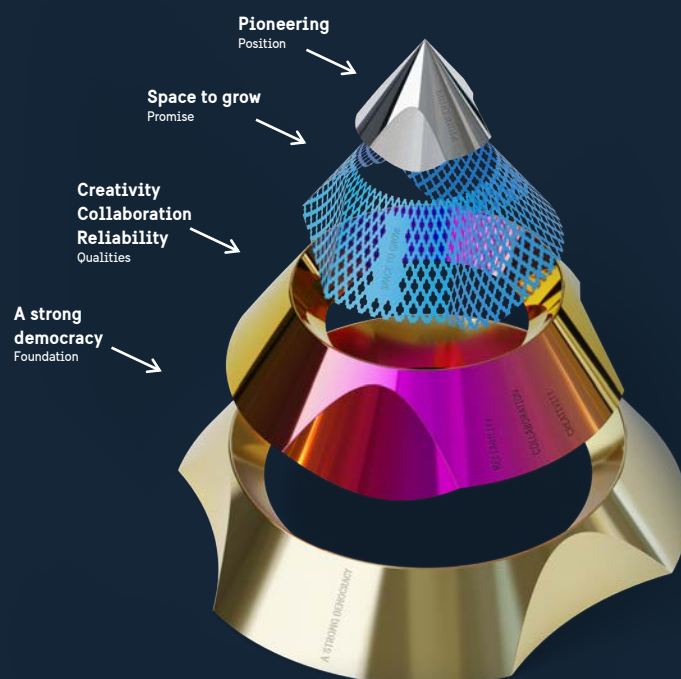
Appendix B

Opportunity selection criteria

To be selected, an opportunity needs to perform strongly against the following criteria:

1. Value added through collaboration amongst Swedish participants
2. Collaboration with international partners to secure scalability and relevance
3. Anchored locally and demonstrated interest for Swedish partnership and solutions
4. Potential business/procurement volume and job creation
5. Clear interest from the private sector
6. Contribution to Agenda 2030 through the green and digital transition
7. Funding secured for partner engagement, or a strong likelihood of securing it

Sweden gives space to grow



The Swedish peak was created in 2025 and is an original design illustrated in industrial origami. A Swedish manufacturing technique that uses folding and curved lines to reduce weight, minimise waste, and optimise the strength of the material.

Sweden's competitive edge is rooted in strong democratic values. The country's inclusive and people-centric principles make it one of the most innovative countries in the world.

What is Team Sweden?

Team Sweden is a government-initiated way of working and a collaboration platform that brings together government agencies, state-owned companies, regions and industry partners to strengthen Swedish exports, investments and business opportunities.

Team Sweden constellations

Industries	Trade & Invest	Global Network
Agriculture & Food	Brand Sweden	Brazil
Cultural & Creative	Invest Promotion	China
Life Science	Strategic Projects	India
Mining	Talent Attraction	Ukraine
Smart Cities	Trade & Development	Global
Tech	Sustainability	

teamsweden.se/industries/smart-cities