

Summary Energy- and climate plan

Municipality of Kil, Värmland, Sweden

Introduction

The Municipality of Kil is to reduce its climatic impact and at the same time lower its energy costs. The Climate and Energy Plan is to be a tool to concretize and structure the municipality's objectives in the environment and energy fields.

The municipality's strategy in its climate and energy work is thinking long-term, creating routines, focusing on its own activities, making well-founded decisions and achieving constant improvements.

Objectives

The climate and energy objectives of the Municipality of Kil should be compatible with the national and regional environmental quality aims relating to energy. Together they should promote a long-term sustainable society with good ecological, economic and social development. The aims are divided into the following fields of focus:

- Reduced climatic impact
- More rational use of energy and resources

Reduced climatic impact is to be achieved by reducing the use of fossil fuels for heating and transport. More rational use of energy and resources is to be achieved by reducing energy use in the municipality's properties and demanding high energy standards in new buildings. The municipality has decided that the aims of the plan should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Accepted, Realistic, Timed) so that they can be followed up and evaluated.¹

Pictures of the future/Environmental analysis

The municipality has chosen to do this by examining and elucidating the Plan's environmental and climatic impacts with the help of two pictures of the future, "Laissez-faire"² and "Far-sighted"³, on the basis of the use of fossil fuels and electrical energy. The purpose of pictures of the future is to show possible development processes that give a picture of what can happen irrespective of what the municipality wishes.

¹ The Climate and Energy Plan Committee have also added the specification "Adopted" in order to emphasize the fact that the aims have legitimacy for those who are to work with them.

² In the "Laissez-faire" scenario assumptions are made as to what the future would be like if the Municipality did not actively address energy issues.

³ In the "Far-sighted" scenario it is assumed that the Municipality works actively to attain the climate and energy goals that have been drawn up.

In the “Laissez-faire” scenario, fossil fuels are expected to decrease in the municipality as a geographical area in spite of the fact that here the municipality does not choose to do active energy and climate work. The decrease is due to the fact that some of the municipality’s oil-heated properties and premises have been converted to renewable alternatives because of increasingly high oil prices. The fossil fuel consumption of transports, however, has not changed to any appreciable extent during the period. The reduction that takes place is not sufficient, however, to fulfil the proposed goals of the government’s Climate Committee.

In the “Laissez-faire” scenario for electricity, the use of electricity for heating is assumed to have gone on decreasing in the municipality as a geographical area because of the increasingly high electricity prices. The total use of electricity continues to increase markedly, however. This is partly due to the increased use of electrical equipment in households and the fact that the use of electricity in the service and industrial sectors has increased.

The pictures of the future indicate that certain positive effects will occur even if the municipality does not choose to do active climate and energy work, but this will not happen sufficiently quickly. The consequence can be very high energy costs for the municipality and a failure to reach the goals for reduced emissions.

The description of the present energy situation in the Municipality of Kil

The description of the present situation provides a basis for the Climate and Energy Plan’s target formulation, plan of action and pictures of the future. Looking at the different energy sources in the different user categories, for example, gives a picture of the degree of self-sufficiency of the municipality and the areas that should be given priority. As the latest statistics from the Central Bureau of Statistics are from 2004, this year has been chosen as the statistical base year. Information and data have been obtained and compiled from the statistics of the Central Bureau of Statistics, and from meetings and consultations with the municipality’s politicians and officials.

In 2004 the activities of the Municipality of Kil had energy costs of about 17 million SEK. Of this, about 2.2 million SEK was the cost of oil for heating, and about 1.1 million SEK was the cost of petrol and diesel (including the fuel costs of Kils bostäder AB, the municipal housing agency). Total electricity costs were about 10 million SEK.

Follow-up, evaluation and revision

When the implementation of the plan is in process, the person responsible for carrying out the plan in each administration/company is to make a report once a year to the financial department, which will follow up the activities in collaboration with the Climate and Energy Planning Committee. After a stipulated time, approximately four years, a more comprehensive evaluation will be made of the extent to which the Plan of Action has been conformed to and the effects of the measures in relation to the targets. This evaluation will then form the basis for a revision of the plan.

The Climate and Energy Planning Committee is responsible to the Municipal Executive Board. It has a co-ordinating role in the Climate and Energy Plan work. The co-ordination comprises:

- Producing annually a proposed plan of activity for climate and energy planning.
- Implementing the climate and energy work in the municipal group by informing and training staff as to how climate and energy issues can be integrated in their work.
- Spreading information about the Climate and Energy Plan to the public, associations, property owners, companies, etc. and ensuring that the intentions of the Climate and Energy Plan are followed up in the information directed outside the municipality.
- Helping the Municipal Executive Board revise the plan and producing the basic data for the section of the environmental balance sheet relating to climate and energy.
- Indicating who is responsible for each measure in the action plan of the Climate and Energy Plan.

For the plan to be a successful planning tool, there should be annual compilations and analyses of statistics and measures taken, and a revision of the plan every fourth year.