

Mid Sweden University's Climate Strategy

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Innehållsförteckning

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Mid Sweden University's Climate Strategy

Universities and colleges have several roles in the transformation of the economy so that it is possible to reach both national and global climate commitments. Research at higher education institutions can focus on how climate change can be counteracted and how society can adjust to manage them. The education of students in different subjects needs to provide knowledge to implement and lead the transformation of society. Collaboration with different social actors is needed to drive this development. Higher education institutions (HEIs) also have a responsibility for disseminating knowledge about research findings and concrete solutions. Finally, the higher education institutions also have activities and operations that lead to greenhouse gas emissions and they also need to be addressed so that they are in line with the objectives. This is important because it shows that universities and colleges take their assignments and their own research seriously.

Climate Framework

As part of Mid Sweden University's work on sustainable development, the Vice-Chancellor has signed the Climate Framework (MIUN 2019/896). As a result, Mid Sweden University has undertaken to develop a climate strategy for Mid Sweden University.

The climate framework is an agreement between the university and higher education institutions in Sweden on how to jointly relate to the climate transition and reduce their emissions. It is an initiative that brings Swedish universities and colleges together with the ambition to clearly contribute to the climate transition, in line with society's national and international commitments¹.

According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, IPCC, the next ten years are

¹ Climate Framework – Guidance for universities and colleges. (2018)

crucial for achieving the goal of 1.5 degree warming². By 2030, each HEI that has joined the Climate Framework shall have implemented measures so that they are in line with the 1.5-degree target. The national target is a reduction of 7 % annually. The reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) underline the severity of the climate change. Mid Sweden University's climate strategy aims for the University to contribute to reaching the 1.5-degree target by 2030. This means a reduction in emissions by an average of 10 % per year.

The climate framework describes a number of key areas where the activities of higher education institutions affect the climate. They are categorised into two groups; areas related to core activities (education, research and collaboration) called indirect climate impact; and areas that affect the HEI's emissions from its own operations, called direct climate impact. Both indirect and direct climate impacts can be both positive and negative. The cursive areas below are areas the HEIs are obliged to work with in accordance with the Environmental Management Regulation in government agencies³ and they are included in Mid Sweden University's climate strategy because measures aiming at reduced emissions are deemed to have the greatest effect on these areas:

Indirect contribution to the climate transition

- Education
- Research
- Collaboration and utilization
- Students

Direct climate impact

- Business travel
- Commuting, trips to and from work

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

³ Ordinance (2009:907) on environmental management in government agencies.

- Food and serving
- Energy use
 - ◇ Operation of building stock
 - ◇ Research and education activities
- Properties, new and refurbishment
- Waste management
- Purchases and procurement of goods and services
- Investments
- Key areas of technology transition

Mid Sweden University's strategy

Mid Sweden University's vision is:

Mid Sweden University is a global university with regional commitment where we research and educate for the whole life. Our work leads to enhanced attractiveness, relevance and quality as well as sustainable development.

Sustainable development has been identified as one of four strategically important areas in Mid Sweden University's strategy 2019-2023 (MIUN 2018/1006).

The strategy states: What we do should work not only today but also in the future. Our education and research should consistently be orientated towards building a resource-efficient, equal, gender-equal and sustainable society. We will actively and visibly contribute to the UN's Global Goals, in order to also contribute to a better future. We will strengthen the sustainability culture among Mid Sweden University staff and students.

One of the milestones of the strategy is to: Increase the integration of sustainable development into education, research and collaboration. We will contribute to the UN's Global Goals for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030, and thus also to a sustainable future. The organization's negative impact on the environment should be reduced.

Mid Sweden University's work on sustainable development covers social, economic and environmental perspectives. This includes contributing to the climate transition at both national and international levels. The climate strategy focuses specifically on the climate.

Climate Strategy

The work to implement the climate strategy is integrated into ordinary operational planning according to Mid Sweden University's steering model (MIUN 2019/1118). The Mid Sweden University's operational plan defines concrete and timed activities. The activities are continuously monitored in connection with operational dialogues.

General objectives

In order to lead the business and implement the climate strategy, management and employees must have good knowledge of different perspectives in sustainable development and specifically climate issues. Access to digital tools is necessary to reduce climate impact, whether it is education, research or support activities.

Mid Sweden University's goal 2030

- People in leading roles at Mid Sweden University have knowledge of sustainable development including climate issues.
- All employees at Mid Sweden University are offered education in sustainable development to contribute to an active work to reduce climate impact.
- Mid Sweden University has digital tools, technology supported learning and virtual mobility that provide greater opportunities for both employees and students to reduce climate impact through travel-free activities.

Education and student participation

Mid Sweden University's goal is to increase the integration of sustainable development within the programmes, and this includes knowledge about climate change and the climate transition.

To achieve this goal, all Mid Sweden University employees and students need to collaborate and make visible how different subjects, courses and programmes contribute to sustainable development within the framework of Agenda 2030. Multidisciplinary collaborations increase the knowledge about sustainable development from several perspectives.

By acquiring relevant knowledge and skills to contribute to climate transition and sustainable development within the framework of Agenda 2030, we as a university can play a major role. Our students today are the generation that in a few years will make decisions that help solve the climate crisis and sustainability challenges.

Education initiatives are already promoting knowledge that contributes to sustainable development. There are specific expertise and courses on environment and climate change in certain subjects, but these perspectives should be highlighted more in all programmes.

Mid Sweden University also plays an important role as a mediator of knowledge in society, and this way, we can contribute to the dissemination and utilization of research and knowledge about the climate transition.

Mid Sweden University's goal 2030

- Mid Sweden University's educational programmes include sustainable development, climate change and climate transition
- Multidisciplinary collaborations that integrate different perspectives on sustainable development, climate challenges and the climate transition are well developed, which contributes to a holistic approach.

- Sustainable development is an integral part of the quality of education.
- Students from all subjects and programmes have access to student networks to engage in issues of sustainable development and climate transition.
- Mid Sweden University offers digital commissioned education that provides knowledge that contributes to the climate transition and to sustainable development in collaboration with other universities, organizations and authorities

Research

Mid Sweden University's goal is to increase the integration of sustainable development within research, and this includes knowledge about climate change and the climate transition.

Research on sustainable development covers a number of scientific perspectives. Research is currently underway at Mid Sweden University, which in various ways responds to research questions that can eventually contribute to the global sustainability goals and to deal with the climate crisis. These include, for example, research and development in sustainable energy, community building, the environment, tourism, transport, consumption, production and design. Projects are underway aimed at reducing energy consumption in industry, minimizing forest damage, raising awareness of the need for climate adaptation at local and regional levels, and developing sustainable transport and communities on equal terms. Research is constantly being developed and new areas are constantly added. Research communication contributes to visibility and creates incentives for strategic collaborations between researchers and other actors.

Mid Sweden University's goal 2030

- Research in Mid Sweden University's research areas on sustainable development including climate change is multidisciplinary and contributes to the climate transition

- Researchers and postgraduate students from different fields of science work together to solve complex research challenges in sustainable development including climate impact
- Strategic research collaborations with other universities and external actors contribute to mitigating climate change and achieving the global goals.
- Mid Sweden University's research related to the climate transition and sustainable development is well-known and reputable

Collaboration, innovation and utilization

Mid Sweden University's goal is to increase the integration of sustainable development in collaboration with the surrounding society. This includes knowledge about climate change and the climate transition.

Mid Sweden University prioritises the relationship with the outside world as it is important for the university's activities. Education and research provide noticeable and useful results.

The climate issue and the transition to a climate-neutral society is a complex and multifaceted process with tight time frames that require collaboration between different types of actors. The transition is dependent on the knowledge and research findings on climate change that exists, and that is continuously developed, to be made available to decision-makers and actors in society. Mid Sweden University is an important partner that can drive development, contribute to the acceleration of the transition, and that research results, innovative products, services and strategies that are developed are also implemented and useful.

Mid Sweden University's employees also have an important role in making the knowledge visible in the public debate in order to increase the level of knowledge in society, enable networking and form new partnerships.

Mid Sweden University's goal 2030

- Mid Sweden University's collaboration in both education and research internally, with other universities and external actors contributes to achieving the global goals and counteracting climate change
- Mid Sweden University employees contribute to disseminating knowledge about sustainable development including climate change and the climate transition by developing programmes in collaboration with society's actors and actively participating in the public debate
- Researchers and doctoral students are active in research communication and debate in various forums in society to make visible knowledge that contributes to solutions to climate challenges.

The University's direct climate and environmental impact

Business trips

Mid Sweden University's goal is to reduce its direct climate and environmental impact, which includes travel. The biggest climate impact in this area is business travel by air, but other travel options also contribute to climate impact.

In order to conduct research and education, Mid Sweden University needs to collaborate nationally and internationally. Good international relations are based on both physical meetings and a continuous dialogue and interaction over a long period of time. Digital and physical meetings should be regarded as parallel in a way where one does not exclude the other. It is a challenge for the university to find that interaction and at the same time reduce our climate impact. International collaboration and qualifications are important for the university's development and quality. By implementing a more sustainable internationalisation, new opportunities open up.

Each employee and student contributes to reducing Mid Sweden University's climate and environmental impact by meeting more travel-free, while resources are used efficiently.

Mid Sweden University's goal 2030

- Mid Sweden University's international relations are largely digital, which helps to reduce climate impact through travel
- Mid Sweden University employees are working more actively to minimize travel in connection with national meetings and conferences by travelling climate-smart and finding alternative forms of meeting
- Mid Sweden University has reduced its climate impact (carbon equivalents per annual working power) compared to the 2019 level in line with the 1.5 degree target

Energy use

Mid Sweden University's goal is to reduce its direct climate and environmental impact, which includes energy use.

Mid Sweden University's energy use consists largely of heating and operation of the university's premises. It includes offices, teaching facilities, laboratories and public areas. To keep down greenhouse gas emissions and streamline energy use, regular dialogues are held with the property owners.

Mid Sweden University's goal 2030

- In collaboration with the property owners, Mid Sweden University will work to reduce energy use and seek sustainable alternatives
- Property acquisition (rent agreements, refurbishment and new construction) shall take place in accordance with the Sweden Green Building Council's highest environmental classifications

- In cooperation with the property owner, Mid Sweden University will reduce its operational electricity demand to a level that is in line with the 1,5 degree target

Purchase and procurement of goods and services

Mid Sweden University's goal is to reduce its direct climate and environmental impact, which includes purchasing and procurement.

All purchases and procurements at Mid Sweden University are governed by the Public Procurement Act (LOU 2016: 1145). Mid Sweden University's procurement and purchasing rules apply to all of the university's organisational units as well as the projects in which the university participates.

Within the framework of procurement, the university's food and catering, waste management and investments are listed as examples of direct climate impact in the Climate Framework.

Mid Sweden University's goal 2030

- All purchases and procurements at Mid Sweden University have clear sustainability requirements, including those with climate and environmental impact.