

Why climate neutral cities?

Urbanisation is a megatrend: by 2050, 7 out of 10 people will live in urban settlements (UN, 2018)

Urban settlements are a net source of carbon as they are responsible for 70% of GHG emissions (IPCC, 2022)

Urban land consumption outpaces population growth by as much as 50%, → 1.2 million km² of new urban built-up area to the world by 2030 (World Bank, 2023)



But cities...

.. generate over 80% of global GDP so urbanization can contribute to sustainable growth (World Bank, 2023)

... provide the right scale to implement policies into concrete actions in response to global challenges (Lombardi and Sonetti, 2017)

... play a key role in achieving the climate goals of the Paris Agreement



What is a climate neutral city?

A city that has achieved net-zero GHG emissions within its defined territory and accounting year (Global Protocol for Community-Scale GHG Inventories, 2019)

Cities' dependency on the hinterlands makes their emissions accounting more complex

Efficient inventories support policies that reduce emissions



By whom?

Redesigning, managing, and living in a climate-neutral city requires the engagement of **ALL** and intensive policy coordination, investment choices, and lifestyle changes.

National and local governments have an important role in shaping climate neutral cities and creating opportunities for all.



The Nordic take on Climate Neutral Cities

- Great power of the local level
- Frontrunners establishing national networks to support municipalities towards climate neutrality
- Awareness of conflicting goals and trade-offs
- Willingness to bring together environmental goals with sustainable development

