



Sweden



Population: 9.3 million
Capital: Stockholm
Language: Swedish
Currency: Swedish Crowns (SEK)
GDP per capita: \$39,600

Governmental Objectives

Already In 1999, the Swedish parliament adopted 15 environmental quality objectives to be met by 2020. In 2005, another objective was added to the list (the objective to protect the diversity of plant and animal life). The objectives describe what has to be done to make the Swedish environment ecologically sustainable in the long term. Authorities, municipalities and county administrative boards cooperate to achieve the objectives. The Environmental Objectives Council was established to promote the cooperation between the different organizations involved. Once every year, the government reports to the parliament on the actions that have been taken towards the objectives, and what is left to be done.

Some of the objectives have been proven hard to achieve. Nine of the 16 objectives are considered not possible to be met by 2020. The main reason for this is that it takes time for the environment to recover from damages.

Water & Waste Water

Water supply and water treatment are by law the responsibility of the municipalities. Today there are some 2,000 water works, 67,000 kilometers of water pipes, some 2,000 sewage treatment plants and 92,000 kilometers of sewers. Total water production is estimated at 330 liters/person and day with 200 liters for household consumption. The remaining 130 liters are used in industries and for use in official premises, and also includes leakage in the distribution network. Good-quality groundwater is one of the 16 environmental objectives. The market for water treatment equipment is mature and dominated by domestic suppliers. Increase in local demand is only expected in replacement equipment



In 2007, Sweden consumed 284 millions of liters of bottled water. This is considered to be problematic because of the environmental effects. The bottled water is transported by car, boat, flight or train which all gives rise to carbon dioxide emissions. One liter of Swedish tap water cost an average of USD 0.003. One liter of bottled water cost an average of USD 3.12 which is about one thousand times more than tap water.

Waste & Recycling

The amount of waste has increased in Sweden during the last couple of years, but so has recycling and incineration. The amount of household waste treated in 2008 was estimated at 4,717,380 tons or 514 kg/inhabitant. This represents an increase of 4.8 percent from the previous year. The most important methods of handling waste are- material recycling (some 49 percent of household waste goes through a process of material recycling), waste- to-energy (an estimated 47 percent of household waste is

incinerated), land fill (4 percent of household waste is deposited as land fill. In addition to the above, it is further estimated that some 39,000 tons of hazardous waste is collected from the households.

The household waste is the responsibility of three players: the municipalities, the producers and industry/trade. The inhabitants of the municipalities pay a fee to cover the costs of managing the waste in the municipality. The producers are responsible for the collecting and recycling of their products when they have been discarded. The aim of the law is to make the producers more motivated to fabricate more environmentally friendly products that are easier to recycle. In 2007, 80 percent of all magazines and packaging were collected to be recycled.

Swedish waste incineration plants produce district heating for about 800,000 households. It also produces electricity to cover the annual demand for about 200,000 households. With this heating system, Sweden can decrease the carbon oxide emissions with about three million tons compared to what the emissions would have amounted to with oil heating.

Indoor & Outdoor Air Pollution

Clean air is another of the environmental quality objectives set out by the government. The increased car traffic is the main reason for bad air quality in urban areas. To decrease the effects on the environment, only lead-free gas is allowed. Except for car traffic, wood burning and maritime are also reasons for air pollutions.



Most indoor air pollutants are made up of chemicals released from the use of cleaning products, air fresheners, pesticides and emissions from construction materials, heating and cooking. Exposure to these indoor air pollutants occurs in both private and public indoor environments such as homes, offices, schools, and transport systems

Stockholm – The First European Green Capital City

Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, is the first city to be selected for the European Green Capital Award by the European Commission. The Award has been conceived as an initiative to promote and reward the role that local authorities play in improving the environment, and their high level of commitment to genuine progress. Starting in 2010, one European city will be selected each year as the European Green Capital of the Year. During 2010, Stockholm will be the first European Green Capital.

Trade Events

2009 World Water Week in Stockholm; 16-22 August - www.worldwaterweek.org

2009 Water & Waste Water Fair; 22-24 Sept –

<http://nemonet.swefair.se/templates/Flexiblepage168324.aspx>

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