

# Environmental and economic benefits in the winds of Örebro and Kumla

Text: **Petter Arneback** Photo: **Shutterstock.com/ Rafa Irusta**

The municipalities of Örebro and Kumla in the heart of Sweden have initiated a joint effort towards green growth and securing a stable energy supply to their citizens. The two municipalities have recently agreed on forming a joint power company with the intention of building at least 20 new wind turbines by 2020.

**T**he pilot study, prepared as the foundation for the decision, showed significant profits for the municipalities to invest in and build wind turbines. The newly established energy company will also be open to other interested parties to buy shares. In order to engage both public and private sector, smaller individual wind power cooperation initiatives will be an important element in the new joint venture, where both individual investors and smaller companies can make green investments. It is a determining factor for Örebro and Kumla to involve all stakeholders from citizens to private enterprises in the municipalities' sustainable energy plans.

'This wind power investment is a major step towards the goal of our climate plan. We have the ambition to reduce carbon emissions by 40%, and wind power will represent more than half of this', says Petter Arneback, project manager for the wind power in Örebro municipality.

Both Örebro and Kumla municipalities have high ambitions for wind power. Örebro Municipality has in its climate plan set a target to reduce the climate impact of the organization by 50 per cent per capita from 2000 to 2020. The new turbines will reduce the climate impact by 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year - 32,000 tonnes for Örebro and 8,000 tons for Kumla.

This represents as much as a car emits if it would run 5,000 times around the world. Moreover, the focus means that Örebro municipality organization will become self-sufficient in renewable electricity in 2020.

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