



City of Gothenburg

Sustainable Urban Planning

One of the most important long-term measures to meet the climate challenge is to locate new developments and infrastructure so the city becomes more dense and connected. A well-planned city makes it easy to travel, live and work sustainably. For historical reasons, Gothenburg suffers from urban sprawl and a relatively low public transport share. Nowadays our mindset is different and we apply a sustainable urban planning with the support of the West Swedish Agreement (see other action). Today the City of Gothenburg has agreements, plans and programmes at several geographic levels and areas which make it possible to create a more sustainable urban structure.

Some of the key policy documents are these:

Structural Illustration for the Gothenburg Region

The structural illustration is an agreement on joint responsibility for a sustainable regional structure between the 13 municipalities in "Greater Gothenburg". There is strong support for new building developments being concentrated along the main rail corridors and in the Metropolitan District and the Core of Gothenburg, as well as strengthening public transport in these areas. This provides major benefits, as many people will be within walking or cycling distance of good services and public transport.

Comprehensive Plan for Gothenburg

This is the municipality's long-term vision regarding the use of the Gothenburg land and water areas and how the building stock is to be developed. In the comprehensive plan it is stressed that the city's infrastructure should be used efficiently and that the environmental impact of transports should be minimized. Continued planning in Gothenburg should, in the first instance, be undertaken with a view to supplementing the constructed city in combination with the development of five strategic nodes. The nodes are important changeover places for public transport and should have many people living nearby. In addition there should be shops, other services and workplaces nearby.

RiverCity Gothenburg

"Open to the world - inclusive, green and dynamic" - that's the vision for the RiverCity adopted in 2012 by the city council. RiverCity corresponds to the city center of Gothenburg and the core for the entire region with a huge range of workplaces, education options, meeting places, commerce and culture. One of the most important objectives for RiverCity is to enable the city centre to grow on both sides of the river in a way that ties the city together. The potential is huge, with around four square kilometers of brownfield land and dockland areas. This will make the city center much more dense and climate smart.

Strategies for development planning, transport and the green structure

The city center is surrounded by the "intermediate areas" or "the metropolitan district", an urban landscape with a well developed system of local public transport. Three strategic documents were

adopted in 2014 for the development of the intermediate areas over the next twenty years. A strategy for development planning has been drafted and demonstrates the potential for residential construction over the next twenty years. Here, it is possible to build a dense mixed-use area. Development Strategy work has been coordinated with the drafting of a Transport Strategy and a Green Strategy for the City. Together, this means concretization of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Transport Strategy aims to reduce the transport sector's energy use and the emissions of greenhouse gases. Many different measures are mentioned to reduce car traffic without worsening the accessibility.

Environmental requirements for detailed planning

During detail planning, the strategic documents provide guidance on the local level, but also more detailed rules and methods are needed to ensure that all new construction is of high environmental standard. The Programme for environmentally-adapted construction (see other action) ensures that new homes are built with high energy requirements. The parking policy (see other action) aims to reduce the number of cars in street areas and encourage cycling and car sharing by prioritizing parking needs. Rules for minimum floor height above sea level ensure that buildings and critical infrastructure can withstand floods. There are also programmes for compensatory measures for nature and recreation, as well as to create a dense city without high noise levels etcetera.

Social sustainability and future planning tools

Spatial planning should of course not only take into account the environmental perspective but all three dimensions of sustainability. For several years all detailed planning are using tools for making "Social impact analysis" and "Children impact analysis". The tools are used to ensure that citizens of different ages and with different living conditions should be given the opportunity for good quality of life (see other action).

There is still a need to develop methods that make urban planning more sustainable. Within the project Step Up (see other action) a "Lifestyle impact analysis" developed to provide better conditions to live sustainably. In the project an "Energy matrix" was also developed to ensure that different aspects of energy are included in the planning process at the appropriate planning stage.

More information (in English):

The Structural Illustration:

<http://grkom.se/download/18.276a42981270147ed3580006332/1269880603189/Structural+Illustration+for+the+G%C3%B6teborg+Region.pdf>

The Comprehensive Plan:

https://goteborg.se/wps/wcm/connect/ef7f3608-57e7-4020-afcf-cf657e2e16e/OPA_Sammanfattning_OP_eng.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

RiverCity Gothenburg:

http://alvstaden.goteborg.se/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/rivercity_vision_eng_web.pdf

Transport Strategy:

http://goteborg.se/wps/wcm/connect/6c603463-f0b8-4fc9-9cd4-c1e934b41969/Trafikstrategi_eng_140821_web.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Development Strategy:

http://goteborg.se/wps/wcm/connect/9c52d58d-af74-4494-89e0-759d852a528e/ENG_UP_kap1-4.pdf?MOD=AJPERES