Climate Road Map 2040

REVISION FOR THE PERIOD 2025–2026 (SHORT VERSION)

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The Climate Road Map describes how the University will reach carbon neutrality by 2040 and presents proposed measures on how the University, through research, education and collaboration, can contribute to the development of a more sustainable and resource-efficient society. This is a shortened version of the Climate Road Map for the period 2025-2026.



The EU and Sweden on the Path to Climate Neutrality

In 2015, Agenda 2030 was adopted with 17 global goals for sustainable development, as well as the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius. The EU aims to reduce emissions by 55 percent by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. To reach this goal, there is a roadmap – the European Green Deal – and the legislative package Fit for 55. Sweden aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. Swedish universities contribute to Agenda 2030 through research and education but must also reduce their own emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

By signing the UN's Climate Emergency Letter for Higher Education, Stockholm University has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. Additionally, the University aims to mobilize more resources for solution-oriented climate research and to develop environmental and sustainability education across disciplinary boundaries. The University's Climate Roadmap, which is revised every two years, outlines goals and proposed measures to fulfill these commitments. These are then implemented through action plans within the University administration and each science area.

A Carbon-Neutral University by 2040

Stockholm University is actively working to reduce its direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. This requires an average annual reduction of emissions by 5 percent. Between 2016 and 2023, the University's carbon footprint decreased, particularly during the pandemic, and was 23 percent lower in 2023 than in 2019. To reach the 2040 carbon neutrality goal, the University must continue reducing emissions by an average of 5 percent per year, aiming for a 30 percent reduction by 2026.

The largest sources of emissions are buildings and energy, procurement of goods and services, and business travel, making these areas of the highest priority. Achieving the goals within these areas will require collaboration with external partners. One key partner is Akademiska Hus, with which the University has formalized cooperation through a joint declaration of intent. This agreement focuses on energy, facilities, biodiversity, travel, and waste management.

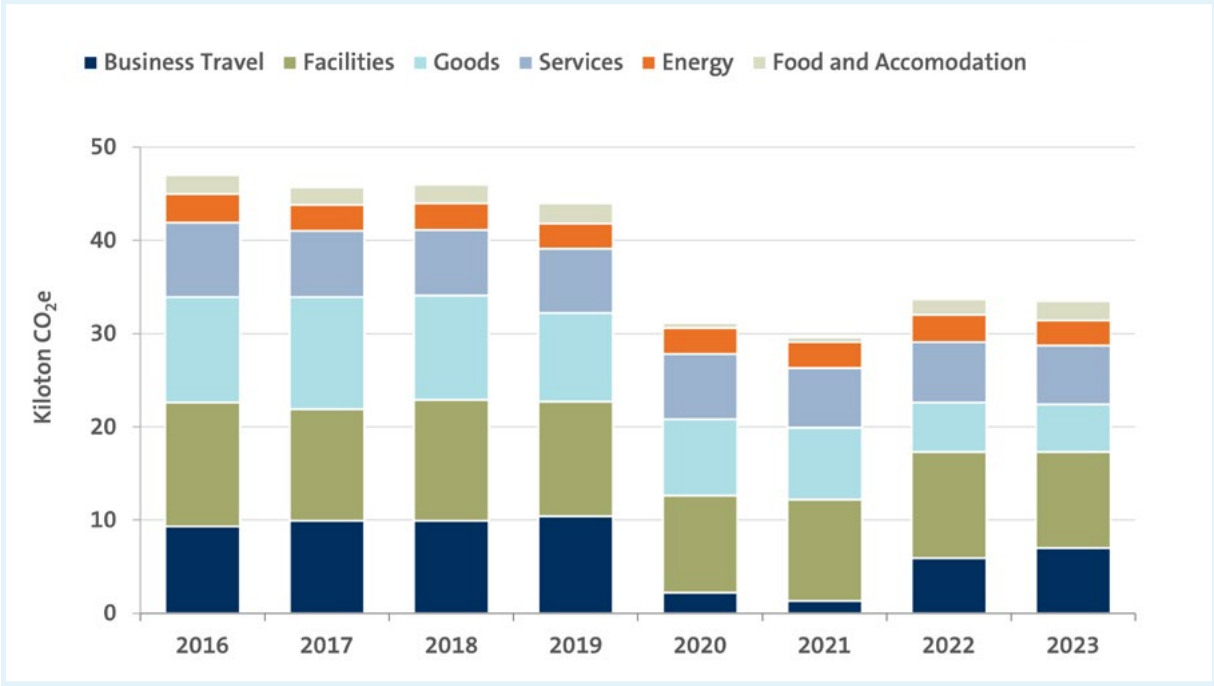


Figure 1. The University regularly measures its emissions, which are visualised in a climate tool, categorised into buildings, energy, business travel, goods, services, and food & accommodation.

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Buildings and Energy

The University is working on space optimisation of its premises to improve the use of facilities, including the co-location of activities and increased use of sensor technology for better planning. The ambition is also to clarify areas of responsibility and improve calculations in close collaboration with property owners. There is also the potential to reduce emissions through increased energy efficiency. Due to a lack of data, the University has chosen to postpone setting emissions targets within this category for this period.

Procurement of Goods and Services

Procurement accounts for a significant portion of the University's carbon footprint, for which the University has set a target of a 30 percent reduction by 2026. To reduce emissions from this category, the University is working on reuse of furniture and equipment, as well as sustainable procurement. For example, direct reuse and adaptation of existing products are encouraged, while new purchases prioritise sustainable alternatives. For IT equipment, the University is exploring the possibility of extending the lifespan of computers and other technological products.

Business Travel

Business travel has decreased significantly since 2019, and the University has set a target of a 30 percent reduction by 2026. Despite this progress, further actions are necessary to reduce the climate impact from travel, including promoting sustainable travel options by exploring the possibility of a carbon fee and procuring a specialised travel agency for train travel.

The University's Contribution to a Sustainable and Resource-Efficient Society

SStockholm University plays a central role in creating a sustainable and resource-efficient society through research, education, and collaboration. The University has strong research environments in climate, environment, and sustainability, such as the Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm Resilience Centre, and the Stockholm University Centre for Circular and Sustainable Systems (SUCCeSS). Interdisciplinary initiatives and strategic partnerships, both nationally and internationally, contribute to promoting sustainability and policy development.

In recent years, Stockholm University has developed several new interdisciplinary programmes, including a bachelor's programme in business, ethics, and sustainability, a master's programme in sustainable chemistry, and the new master's programme in environmental humanities. There are also new initiatives related to graduation goals linked to sustainable development. As part of the European collaboration European Civic University Alliance (Civis), a new master's programme will be launched in autumn 2025 — "Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment, and Energy" — involving nine European universities.

In matters of sustainability, the University works closely with stakeholders such as Stockholm City and Region Stockholm. The collaboration with Karolinska Institute (KI) and KTH Royal Institute of Technology within the university alliance Stockholm Trio also places a strong focus on enhancing climate efforts and sustainable societal development. By integrating sustainability into all aspects of its operations, Stockholm University contributes to addressing today's and tomorrow's climate challenges.

Goals for the Period 2025–2026

Goals for Procurement of Goods and Services:

Stockholm University aims to achieve a 30% reduction in emissions by 2026, compared to the reference year 2019

Goals for Business Travel:

Stockholm University aims to achieve a 30% reduction in emissions by 2026, compared to the reference year 2019.

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Proposals for Actions for the Period 2025–2026

Buildings and Energy

- Ensure that a sustainability is incorporated into the premises optimisation projects.
- Work to reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency within the University's premises, in collaboration with property owners.
- Investigate the possibility of using the same system for calculating emissions from buildings and energy as Akademiska Hus.
- Improve the climate tool's calculations for existing properties by creating access to detailed and relevant data from property owners

Procurement of Goods and Services

- Investigate which product groups can have an extended lifespan through increased usage or reuse, and identify the requirements and criteria that encourage longer lifespan.
- Explore the possibility of extending the lifespan of computers and other hardware.
- Establish a system for the reuse of furniture, inventory, and laboratory equipment.
- Update the University's Green IT Policy, both generally and by including how the impact of data centres and AI can be managed sustainably.
- Improve the climate tool's calculations for cost-intensive services, where possible.

Business Travel

- Ensure that the Meetings and Travel Policy is being followed.
- Improve and simplify the use of land-based means of transport, such as trains, instead of flights for business travel within Sweden and Europe, in continuous dialogue with the contracted travel agency.
- Investigate the possibility of hiring a travel agency specialised in train travel, particularly international train travel.
- Explore the possibility of introducing internal carbon fees to subsidise business travel with significantly lower carbon footprints than air travel.

Education

- Conduct an inventory of the course and programme offerings within the sustainability area and begin work to create new courses and programmes where needed.
- Investigate the possibility of developing and implementing local graduation goals related to sustainability within more subject areas.
- Identify and reduce administrative barriers for developing new interdisciplinary and faculty-wide education programmes.

Students and Student Influence

- Increase awareness of sustainability and promote courses and programmes that address sustainability on the University's education portal.

Collaboration

- Map and make visible the University's existing arenas for collaboration on sustainability.
- Ensure that sustainability and climate are central to the University's collaboration efforts.
- Clarify the strength of Stockholm Trio's sustainability work and collaboration with society by leveraging the knowledge and resources of the three universities.

Research

- Actively influence research policy, both in Sweden and at the EU level, to more clearly integrate the humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary research within the EU's framework programme Horizon Europe.
- Ensure that necessary internal resources are available for effective collaboration with Stockholm City, Region Stockholm, and other relevant external stakeholders

Academic Collaborations

- Provide necessary resources to enable collaborations with other universities to drive national and international research and joint projects within the climate and sustainability areas.

Negative Emissions

- Maintain a continuous dialogue with Akademiska Hus and Stockholm Exergi about future collaboration on district heating that generates negative emissions.

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