NET ZERC EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES





Think of **one or more words** that come to mind when you hear the word 'mandate'. Please type them into **Mentimeter**.

Add as many as you would like!





What words comes to mind when you think of 'mandates'?







Power to act: Strengthening the mandate

Transition Team Programme





Transition Team Programme

Area 1:

Fostering interdepartmental coordination & collaboration

Area 2:

Strengthening TT's mandate internally & externally Area 3:

Building capacities for Municipal officials

Area 4:

Prototyping
Transition Team
from scratch





cross-organisational

engaging-politicians

stakeholder-management

silos

governance-integration

evolving

effectiveness-of-the-team

unclear mandate-of-the-tt

cross-political-mandate

communication

engaging-finance

how-to-support-transition governance engagement

fading

resistance

decision-making

internal

success-criteria

influence common-indicators

transition-capacity

value-creation

change-management

tt-mandate-vs-council

story-telling

sustaining-mandate





Objective

Foster a dedicated safe, collaborative space for peer-learning, reflection, and innovation focused on the **challenges & opportunities** related to Transition Teams' mandates. We will focus on exploring **what enables or constraints**Transition Teams' authority and permission to act: execute, coordinate and influence action and decisions across departments and sectors to advance their mission, and how to navigate these boundaries.

- → Introduce a shared understanding of mandate, how strengthen, and why it matters
- → Explore how we can practically assess gaps, strengths, & opportunities for mandates
- → Learn from the experiences of peer-cities that are navigating mandate challenges & how they strengthen & embed the mandate within city processes and governance structures





Agenda

- 1. Welcome, Introduction, Agenda [10 min]
- 2. Setting the Scene [15 min]
- 3. Reality check Learning from the practice [25 min]
- 4. Break [10 min]
- 5. Let's explore solutions [50 min]
- 6. Closing [10 min]





Setting the scene

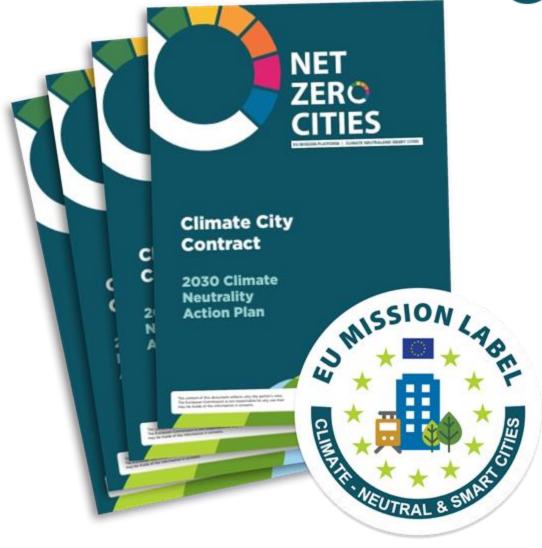
[15 minutes]





Mandates in Mission Cities Where they stand

- Mission Cities are building from strong foundations:
 - Climate City Contracts (CCC)
 - Action & Investment Plans
 - EU Mission Label
- Yet challenges remain.
 Mandates can still be fragile, contested, or not sufficiently embedded, limiting their ability to consistently drive climate action

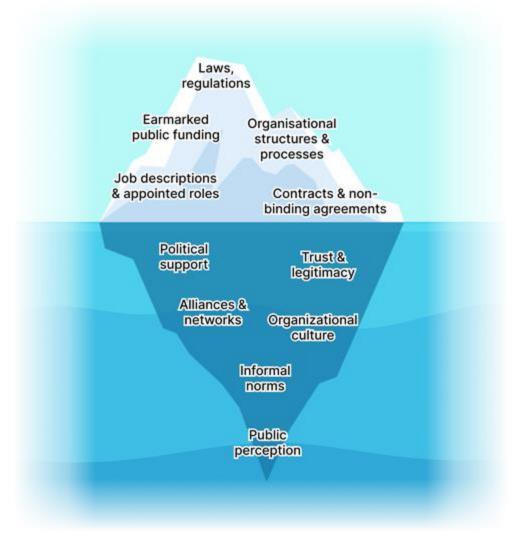






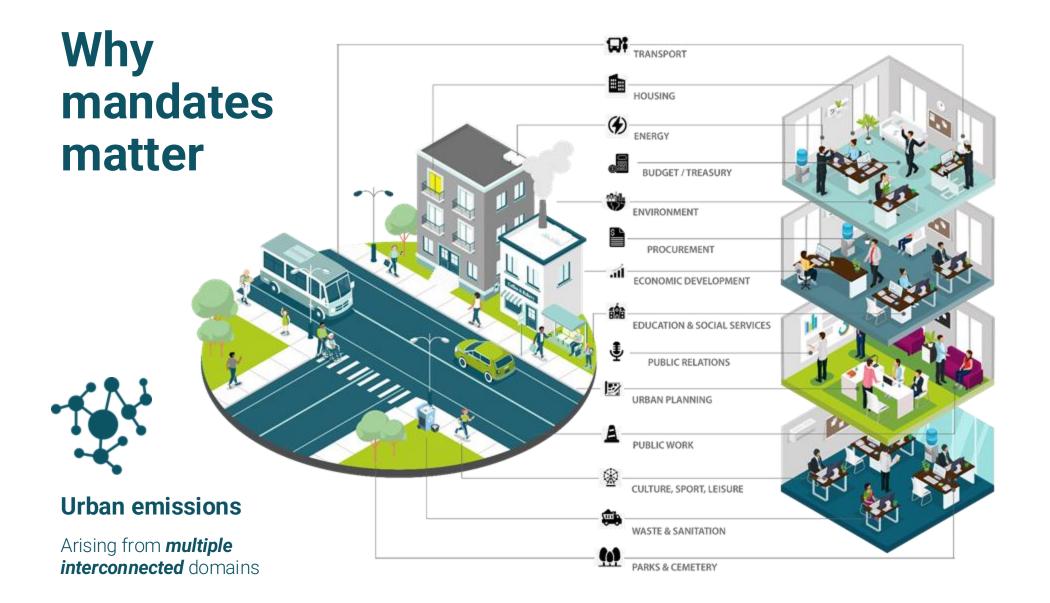
Understanding mandates

- Not only formal granted authority, they are shaped both formally & informally
- Dynamic & flexible, often extending beyond what is written in documents.
 They are interpreted and assumed
- Even with formal mandates, cities may encounter challenges if power is fragmented or limited
- Soft power & influence can be just as important in moving things forward











Designed to deliver public services.

Fragmented, functional & delivery-focused.









Climate crisis

'A war of the truth': Europe's heatwaves are failing to spur support for climate action

Voters may feel hotter summers are 'too much' but they appear to tolerate roll-back of policies to stop global heating

Ajit Niranjan and Elsie McDowell

Fri 4 Jul 2025 17.44 CEST





- Just as mandates can be weakened, they can be strengthened & reinforced
- For example, backing from high-level decisionmakers is a powerful lever:
 - → Paris doubled bicycle use in one year (2022 2023)
 - → Over 20 years of continued political leadership (1999–2019), Pontevedra reduced traffic by 97% and emissions by 70%
- Mandates can also draw support from other institutional & relational sources



Bloomberg

CityLab | Transportation



Pontevedra started limiting cars in its city center in 1999, when Mayor Miguel Fernández Lores took office. Source: JUT Media

The Mayor Who Prioritized Pedestrians Before It Was Cool

Spanish Mayor Miguel Fernández Lores started limiting the flow of cars in Pontevedra in 1999. The seaside city has been growing ever since.









By Alonso Soto

September 27, 2023 at 7:00 AM GMT+2 Updated on September 27, 2023 at 8:19 PM GMT+2





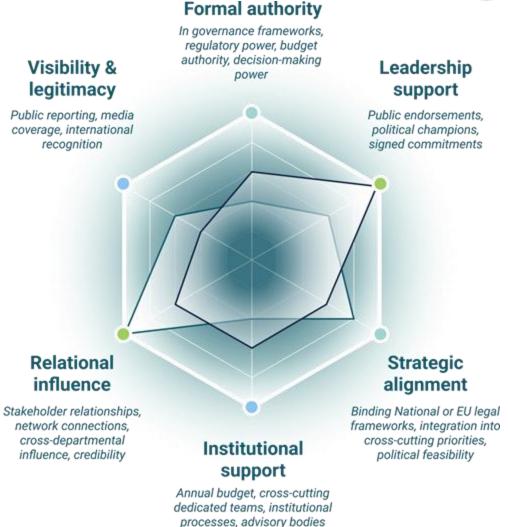
Wielding policy tools DIRECT LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES INDIRECT TAX INCENTIVES GRANTS INCENTIVE SCHEMES PROCUREMENT POLICIES PLANS & STRATEGIES PUBLIC INFORMATION & METRICS LICENSING & PERMITS VOLUNTARY STANDARDS QUOTAS & CAPS FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS LAND USE REGULATIONS PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES, PROTOCOLS MANDATED STANDARDS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT DATA & RESEARCH DISSEMINATION POLICY **AS WIELDING PUBLIC POWER IN SERVICE OF** EDUCATION & A CITY MISSION TRAINING OTHER





Assessing mandates

- Mandates may seem abstract, but we can assess them & map their boundaries.
- Understanding where they are or may be falling short enables strategic intervention to shape and strengthen them.
 - **Where is it strong**, and what can I leverage or lean on to move things forward?
 - Where is it falling short, and what gaps do I need to strengthen or address?
 - What external factors could affect it, what risks and opportunities should you be aware of?





Strengthening mandates

Cities may be at different stages. These are some ways approaches that can help **build** \rightarrow **grow** \rightarrow **embedding** mandates.

- 1. Leveraging Political and Institutional Support
- 2. Building Strong Networks and Coalitions
- 3. Co-Creating Strategic Alignment and Shared Priorities
- 4. Demonstrating Consistency & Reliability in Action
- 5. Making Results Visible and Relevant
- 6. Seizing Discretionary Opportunities







Leveraging Political and Institutional Support

Backing from key decision-makers or influential actors in the ecosystem can strengthen the mandate's legitimacy and open doors to influence priorities, mobilise resources, and secure support.





Build

Identifying and engaging supportive *high-leverage* actors (e.g., city council member, senior officials), who can be *empowered to champion* for the mandate. Lay the groundwork for support.



Grow

Mobilise initial supporters to deepen buy-in and secure early commitments, even if not formalised yet. e.g., support letters, public endorsements, or participation in key discussions.



Embedding

Institutionalise support by ensuring the mandate is secured by formal commitments and embedded in regular processes, such as budgeting or review cycles, or long-term city plans.

→ Stakeholder mapping, climate education workshops, pitch decks, engagement plans, support letters







Building Strong Networks & Coalitions

Networks and coalitions expand the mandate's reach by building accountability and amplifying advocacy power. Through them, cities can gain a broader base of support, coordinate priorities, and unlock untapped capacity.





Build

Identify stakeholders aligned with climate goals (peers within or in other cities, NGO's, community groups), or leverage networks to form early, informal coalitions around a shared mission.



Grow

Empower the network with clear shared goals and mission, structured engagement processes, or by facilitating joint initiatives that demonstrate demand and support for climate action.



Embedding

Embed linkages to formal city governance processes through mechanisms for sustained collaboration (e.g. participation in steering groups, accountability processes).

→ Stakeholder mapping, [multi-]stakeholder agreements (e.g. Local Green Deals), ecosystem governance frameworks.





Co-Creating Strategic Alignment and Shared Priorities

Mandates are co-constructed through ideas & discourse. Through the process of co-creating the climate agenda, cities can align the mandate with strategic goals, creating shared priorities and expectations around climate action.





Build

Identify adjacent goals between climate and local priorities (e.g., economic growth, energy security), and leverage participatory processes to help stakeholders identify connection points and co-create and co-create a shared agenda around the mandate.



Grow

Raise visibility and support by engaging relevant networks and trusted champions across sectors. Leverage trusted voices (e.g., political figures, business leaders, sector experts) to anchor the mandate and reinforce strategic alignment with broader goals.



Embedding

Embed shared strategic goals by integrating climate metrics into adjacent sectorial mandates, and planning frameworks, ensuring climate action is part of the broader city strategy, linking it to other critical priorities

→ Alignment mapping, agenda setting tool, strategic communication plans, Integrated climate frameworks







Demonstrating Consistency & Reliability in Action

Mandates are strengthened through practice. By actively exercising available powers and delivering results, legitimacy is built through action and outcomes. Leverage even small actions to demonstrate capability, engage stakeholders, and anchor collaboration.





Build

Identify small, integrated pilots that can engage multiple stakeholders and departments (e.g., public space, mobility, urban greening) as entry points to build initial collaboration..



Grow

Build on successful projects, e.g. expanding or replicating them. Use early successes to attract more support and engage additional stakeholders.



Embedding

If scalable, institutionalize successful projects by integrating them into core municipal operations and planning, ensuring that resources are allocated through annual budget cycles.

→ Portfolio mapping, tactical pilots





Making Results Visible & Relevant

The mandate holds value for stakeholders only when they can recognize the clear, tangible benefits it offers. When the outcomes are visible and relevant to their needs (e.g. cost savings, or eased processes), they are more likely to support the mission.





Build

Map co-benefits within the portfolio, identifying how climate actions create value across sectors. Cross-match these with relevant stakeholders to identify initiatives that align with their priorities and demonstrate the broader value of climate action.



Grow

Regularly communicate progress and outcomes to broaden awareness, highlighting their alignment with the city's wider priorities to keep them visible and relevant to city goals.



Embedding

Formalise co-benefits in institutional processes such as KPIs, review cycles, or annual reporting, ensuring outcomes remain tracked, assessed, and included in decision-making.

→ Impact assessment tools, dashboards, communication strategies, co-benefit indicators, public reporting.







Seizing Discretionary Opportunities

In situations where formal rules or processes are undefined, gaps create opportunities for innovation and testing. By taking proactive action, teams can shape new processes, redefine existing roles, and introduce innovative solutions that can be formalised over time.





Build

Identify gaps in internal processes or regulations that hinder climate action, and explore operational alternatives or pilot solutions within current conditions to test new approaches.



Grow

Leverage early wins to establish temporary processes or mechanisms that shape formal processes, laying the groundwork for permanent solutions over time.



Embedding

Use lessons from successful pilots to inform local policies and higher-level regulations, creating an enabling environment for scalable climate action.

→ Policy mapping, process mapping, decision flowcharts, feedback loops, policy briefs





Recap

- **Mandates are dynamic and relational**, shaped through practice and influenced by the context in which we operate.
- **To make mandates resilient** to changing conditions and external pressures, it is critical to embed them within institutional structures and processes.
- **Mandates can be acted upon.** By understanding the strengths and gaps in a mandate and recognizing the levers available, mandates can be actively reinforced.
- Building, growing, and embedding the mandate is an ongoing process requiring consistent action, strategic engagement and collaboration, and clear communication of the mission's value.





Reality check - Learning from practice and real-world experience

Anette Olovborn, city advisor and ex Head of Environment Strategy Department, Huddinge, Sweden

Juliet Leonette, Process manager Climate Neutral Lund 2030



Why mandate matters?

- time is running out, action is crucial
- we need action we change things when we do (or don't do) things
- mandate 's needed to have agency to act



Get a mandate or assume a mandate?

- Enlarge the "job description": include building collaborations, translate goals to actions, support managers and politicians with your expertise in climate transition
- Be proactive do not wait for assignments, you are empowered to translate set goals and directions into necessary actions, and lead the work getting there



How do we build mandate for the transition?

- Identify co-benefits and (re)frame the climate transition by linking it to your city's priorities and values (eg improved public health, cost reductions)
- Break down goals to actions and assign responsibility for actions to relevant actors (departments)
- Embed climate work into existing and regular city planning and governance processes, eg budgets and operational plans
- Build on existing success stories and win-wins
- Identify and build structures that support the transition





Identify structures that can support (or impede) the mission and the transition

- Identify key functions (rather than individuals) that affect the system's conditions and ability to change, and to maintain the normal
 - steering documents goals, plans, strategies, programmes
 - o processes, routines
 - o formal organisation and authority structures
- These functions can either support and/or enable change, or impede and slow down
- The functions can also establish, support, increase the impact and the scaling of efforts and maintain the desired change and the new normal



Leading the transition is very much about building relationships and foster collaboration

- Everything we do happens inside a system of people (ex: your municipality, a neighbourhood)
- Leading in a complex system requires building relationships - no one can do it alone
- collaboration builds meaning, purpose and belonging



Transition teams job: Create prerequisites for change

- Increase others' motivation, ability and opportunity to change

Motivation

(incl habits and feelings)

- Awareness Interest Inspiration
 Show what can be done
- Value/gain "This could be good for me/us"
- Understand purpose and consequences
- "This could solve problem X / provide value Y / reduce or avoid unwanted effect Z for us, our residents, and be good for the planet"
- Meaning Shared mission
- Belonging Be part of a movement

Ability

- Knowledge
 about solutions (what to do)
 and processes (how to do
 it)
- Capability

 capacity to do or act eg
 mental and physical ability,
 experience
- Competence

 a combination of knowledge
 and capability

Opportunity

- Resource: Time
 Space in calendars and operational plans
- Resource : Budget
 Space in operational and investment budgets
- Mandate
 Entrusted and allowed to act
- Social acceptance
 Norms that support change
- Permission
 Rules/laws/policies that support change

Why collaboration matters

- The transition requires system-wide change - no department can achieve this alone
- Collaboration across departments can lead to shared resources, knowledge and coordinated procurement, reducing costs



Governance structures that support collaboration and shared agency

Cross-Departmental Working Groups

Teams built around adjust: around specific areas of work or projects that require cross departmental cooperation, bringing together technical experts from relevant departments to solve specific challenges.

© Climate Steering Committee

Cross-departmental leadership group that has decision-making authority for climate actions and budget allocation.





The Process

from plans to practice,
 anchoring and embedding
 the mission into operations

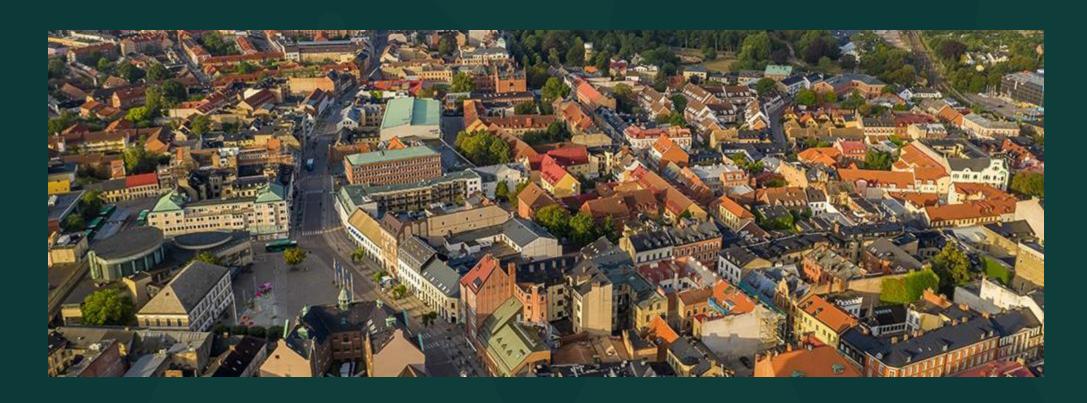


Lund 1000 years of history ...

- One of the oldest cities in Scandinavia
- Today 130 000 inhabitants
- One of the top-ranking universities in the world
- Part of the Greater Copenhagen area with over 4 million inhabitants



By 2030 Lund is climate-neutral and fossil-fuel-free and the city is adapted to a changing climate.



A fossil fuel free organisation





WWF One Planet City Challenge









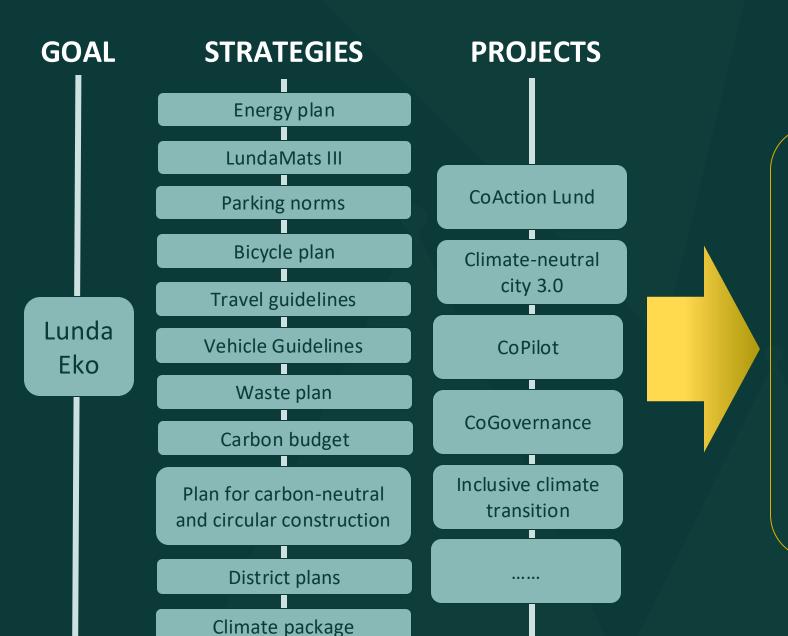


Lund Climate City Contract





Climate City Contract



ACTION PLAN

INVESTMENT PLAN

- 1. Transport and mobility
- 2. Agriculture and sustainable land use
- 3. Circular economy and sustainable consumption
- 4. Net zero construction
- 5. Energy
- 6. Carbon sinks

cost co-benefits



Commitments

collaboration

goals, strategic priorities, processes

co-benefits

6 prioritized areas for transition

80% reduction in emissions from 2010 levels

Climate positivity by 2045

consumption-based target of 1 tonne CO₂/capita by 2050





Action plan





Climate City Contract

2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan

2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan of the City of Lund

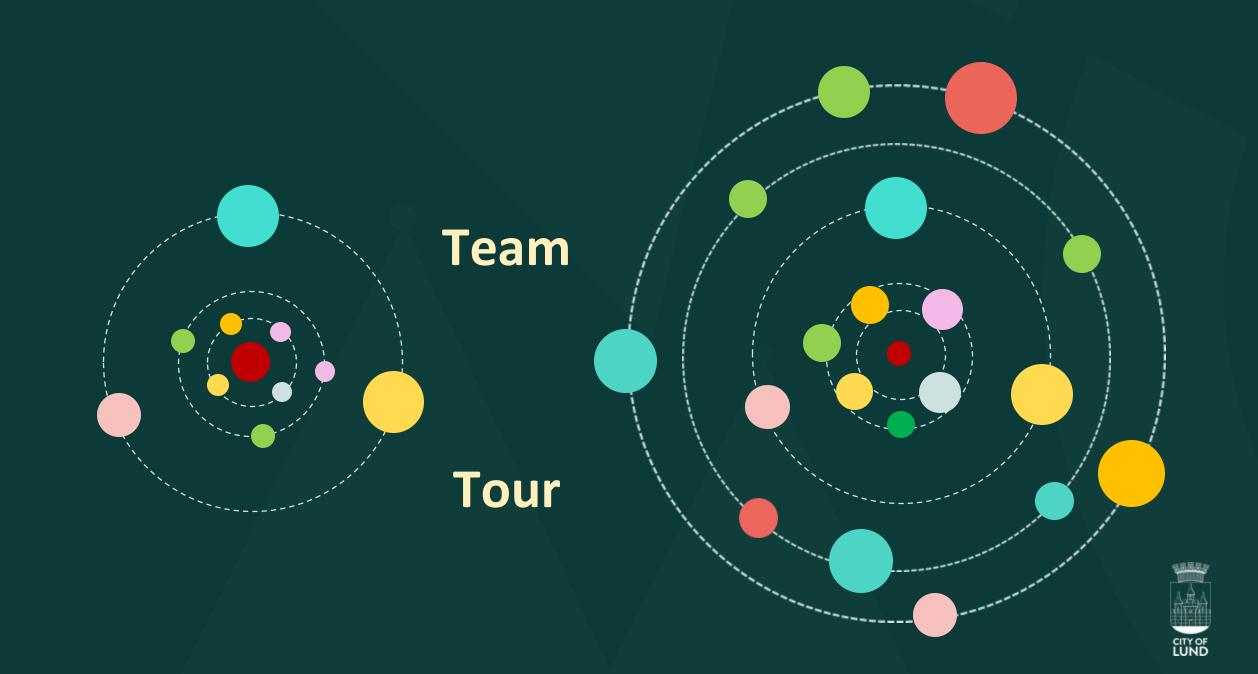


List of actions and activities

- 1. Transport and mobility (11)
- 2. Agriculture and sustainable land use (4)
- 3. Circular economy and sustainable consumption (5)
- 4. Net-zero construction(6)
- 5. Energy (6)
- 6. Carbon Sinks (3)

Overall (2)





How do we learn faster?

What departments are not yet involved?

How do we map our portfolio?

What should we stop doing?

How do we scale proven solutions?

How do we get our climate actions into ordinary budgets?

How do we onboard more people and spread ownership?



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Portfolio mapping



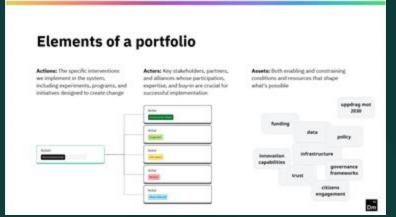
Why

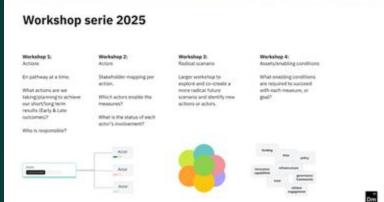
Portfolio mapping is both a tool and a process that aims to create a **better understanding** of the portfolio and to **keep the portfolio alive** by iterating it to achieve the best possible impact.

- Without a portfolio logic, resources such as money, time, materials, people (burnout) will run out.
- Keeping the entire system and your portfolio in your head at all times is an
 exhausting task or even impossible. Portfolio mapping can be a tool to help you
 zoom in and out of your portfolio, allowing you to spot gaps and connections.
- 3.The mapping will also help to engage stakeholders, by showing them how they are part of the system and to coordinate efforts and investments where relevant.

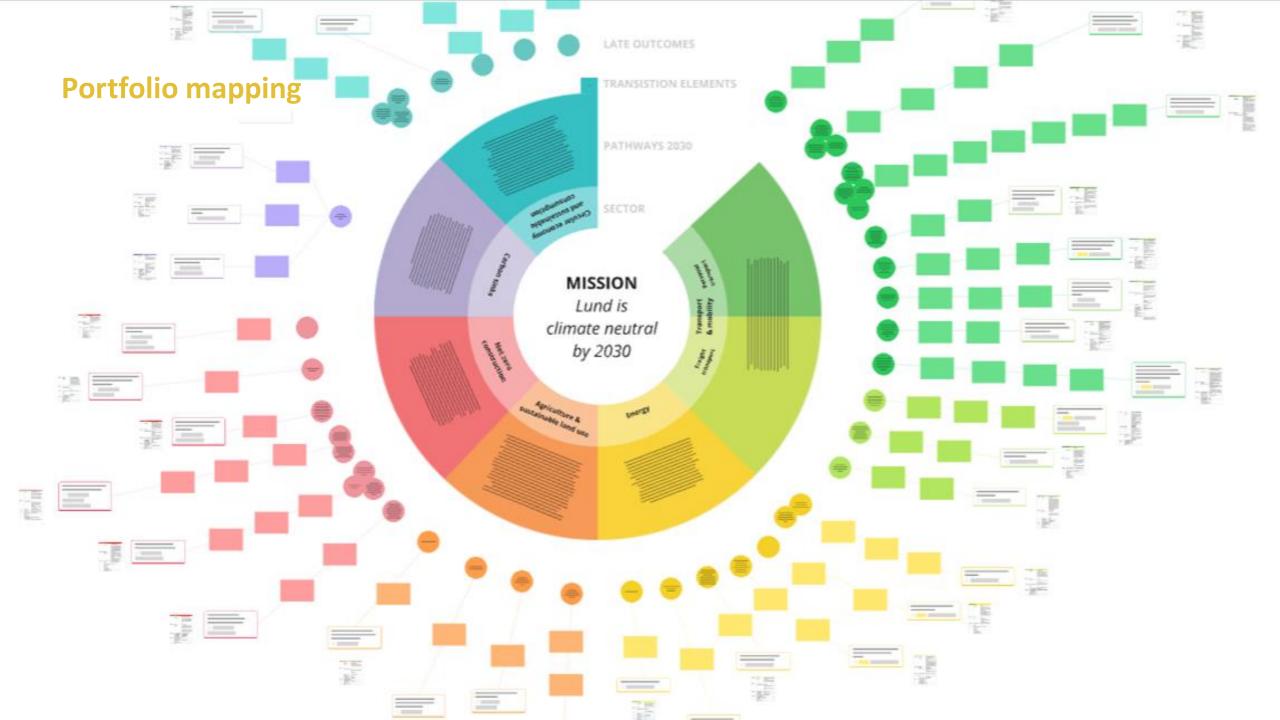


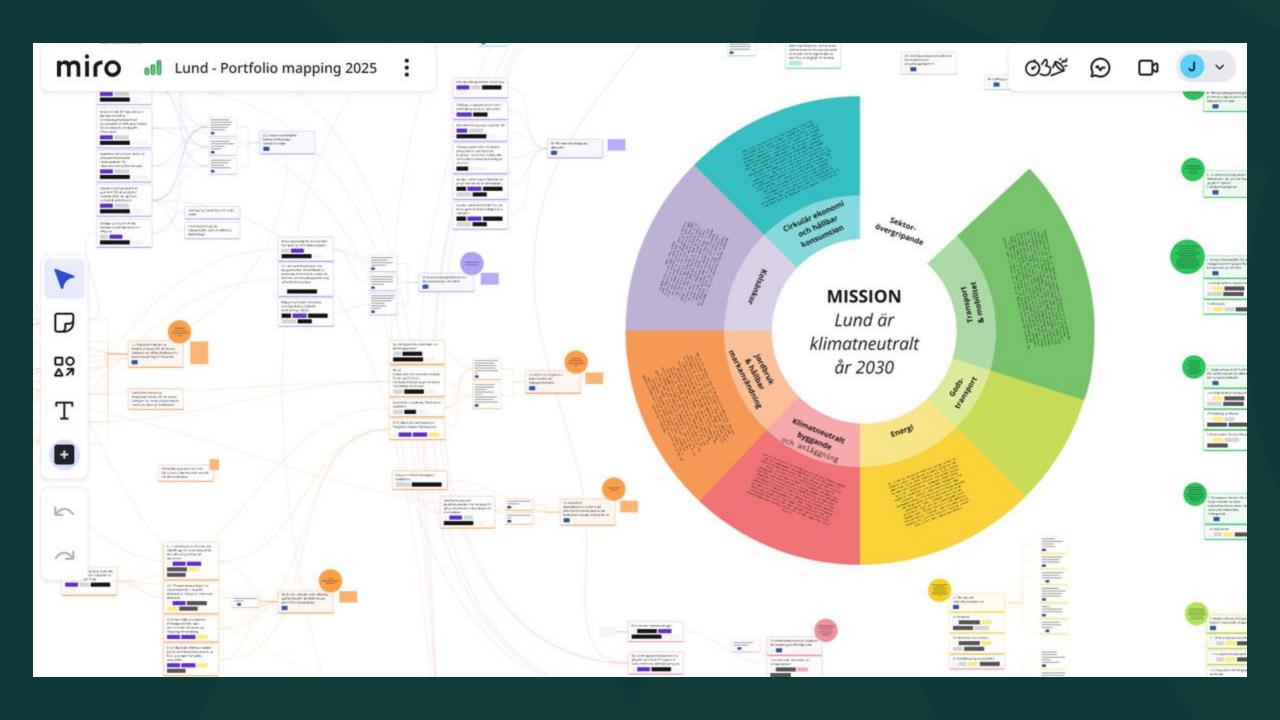




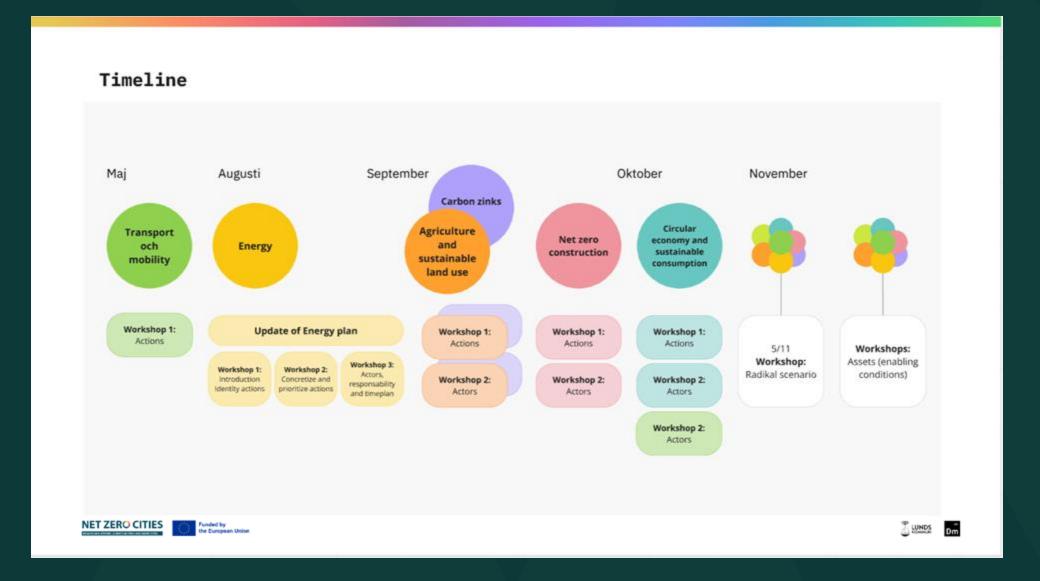






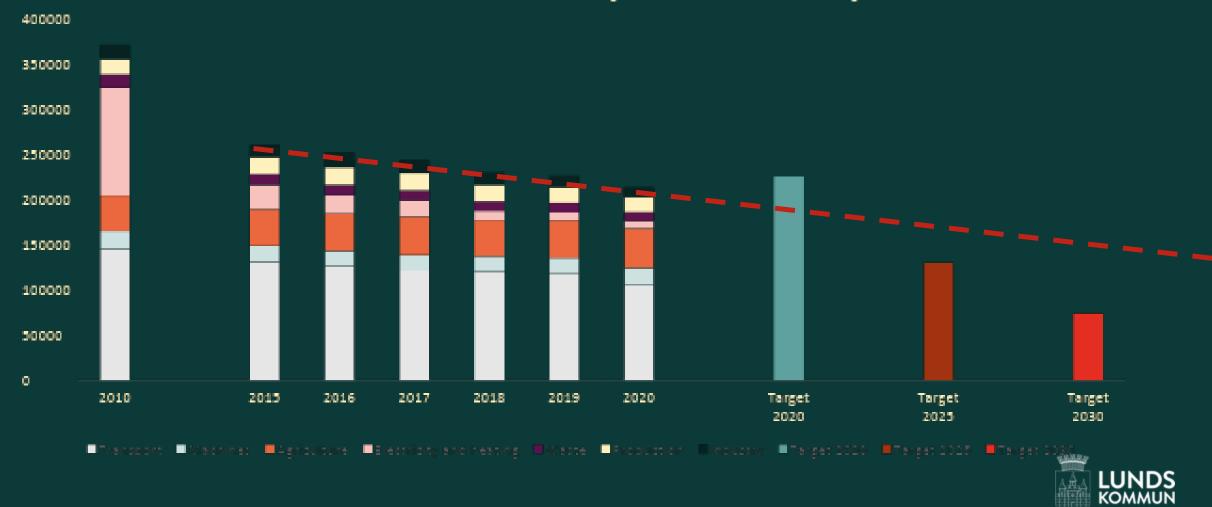


Portfolio mapping - collaborate, translate goals to actions, assign responsibility



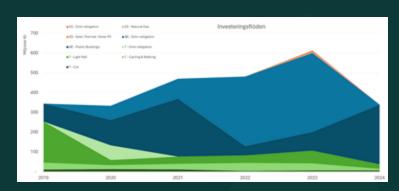


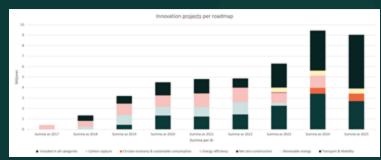
GHG emissions (ton CO2 – e)



Portfolio management

Analysis and follow-up









Needs assessment and planning

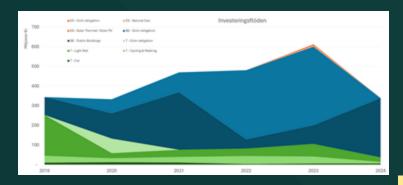


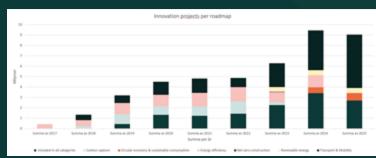
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Process

Analysis & follow-up







Finansieringsbudget (Mnkr)	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Plan 2026	Plan 2			
Den löpande verksamheten							
Anets resultat	-72	125	190				
Justering för avskrivningar mm	443	488	493				
Justering för försäljning exploatering		-45	-45				
Justering för avsättningar	258	50	9				
Medel från den lögande verksamheten	629	617	647				
Investoringer							
Investoringar							
Nettoinvesteringar	-1 099	-1 095	-1179	-1			
Medel för investeringsverksamhet	-1 099	-1 095	-1.179	-4			
Financiering							
Upplining/Amortering	470	478	532				
Medel från finansieringsverksamheten	470	478	512				
Förändring av likvida medel	0	0					

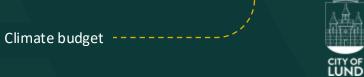
City's Financial & operational plan



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Planning & Roadmaps

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Questions?





Time for a pause

[5 minutes]







Let's explore solutions

Alexandra Anghel [50 minutes]





Instructions

Step 1 - Let's map key challenges [15 min]

- Please share **one or two key mandate-related challenges** you are currently facing Think about real situations or barriers you are experiencing
 - What is a specific mandate-related issue that's hindering progress for your mission?
- Collectively prioritise challenges around 2-3 themes and patterns, to focus on in groups.
- Choose which theme/ cluster is more relevant or pressing to you.





Instructions

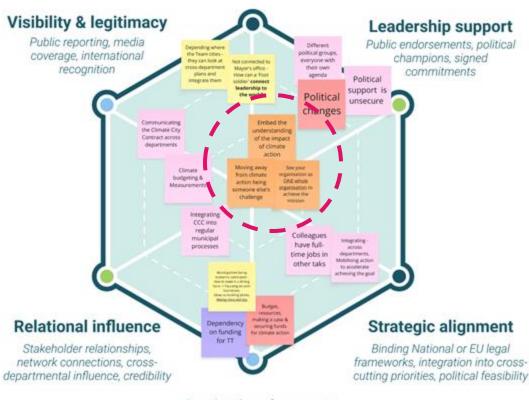
Step 2 - Discussing alternatives for action [25 min]

- Quick round of introductions
- Share your experience with the group:
 - How are you navigating this challenge? What worked and what didn't?
- Collaboratively brainstorm practical solutions. Focus on actionable, immediate steps you can take.
 - What are other steps or actions you can take when you return back to your city?
 - What resources, support, or conditions would you need to make this happen?
- Pause and take a moment to reflect on the ideas generated
 - Which of these solutions resonate with your city's current context?
 - Are there any potential barriers that might prevent these from working?



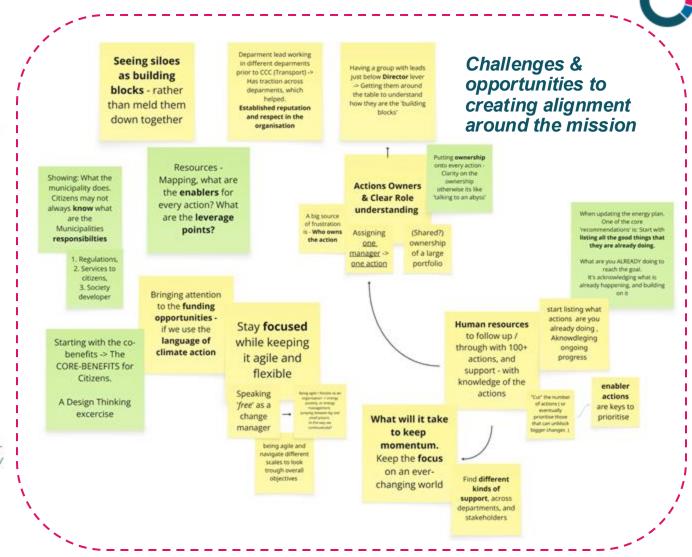
Formal authority

In governance frameworks, regulatory power, budget authority, decision-making power



Institutional support

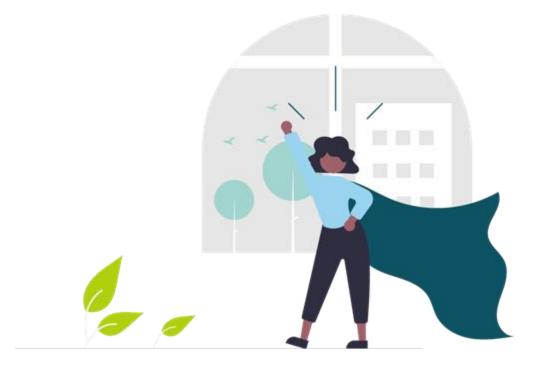
Annual budget, cross-cutting dedicated teams, institutional processes, advisory bodies





Plenary

What is one thing you can do and have the freedom to act on now?





Closing

[10 minutes]





Tools

- → <u>Stakeholder mapping</u>
- → Climate narrative co-creation [Tips & Canvas]
- \rightarrow <u>Multi-actor alignment</u>
- → Action portfolio mapping
- → Mission agenda setting
- → Strategy alignment tool







Interested in exploring further?

If there is a specific topic you would like to continue exploring with peer cities and dive deeper into, *let us know*! We can will organise the peer-to-peer space to explore this together with other Transition Teams.

Tailored support? We would be excited to explore with you:

- Diagnostic & mapping: Gain a clearer understanding of your team's current challenges and opportunities.
- Navigating alignment: Identify and align the mission with shifting priorities within your city
- **Strategy co-design:** Collaborate with your team and colleagues to develop short-term and long-term strategies to position and advance the mission.
- **Embedding the mandate:** Exploring opportunities to formalise climate within governance and operational structures.

Feel free to reach out to us directly, or through your City Advisor





Get in touch!

- Carlotta Fontana: <u>carlotta.f@demsoc.eu</u>
- Marcial Silva Mercado: <u>marcial@darkmatterlabs.org</u>
- Anette Olovborn: <u>anette@darkmatterlabs.org</u>
- Alexandra Anghel: <u>alex.a@darkmatterlabs.org</u>





See you in the next session!

Area 1:

Fostering interdepartmental coordination & collaboration Area 2:

Strengthening TT's mandate internally & externally Area 3:

Building capacities for Municipal officials

Area 4:

Prototyping
Transition Team
from scratch

21st of October

Registration link



Get in touch with NetZeroCities!





@NetZeroCitiesEU



NetZeroCities



NetZeroCitiesEU



NetZeroCities EU



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