



# COBUILD NETZERO

## Pilot City Helsingborg Innovation District: Co-creating for Climate Neutral Building and Construction in Oceanhamnen

### HELSINGBORG, SWEDEN

#### Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Multi-sector waste management & disposal



Land use (agriculture, forestry & other land uses)



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure



All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)

#### Key Terms

Oceanhamnen testbed | LCA and carbon calculation | Climate requirements | Regulatory sandbox | Circular construction | CoLoop reuse marketplace | Change agents

#### Levers of Change

Data and Digitalisation | Financing and funding | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Procurement | Technology/infrastructure

#### Description of the Pilot Activity

Helsingborg is using its Oceanhamnen innovation district to test climate-neutral construction. Through COBUILD NETZERO, the city is co-developing carbon calculation tools, standards, and procurement methods with developers, contractors, and municipal departments to cut construction emissions by 50% by 2030.

In Year 1, the project was embedded in Helsingborg's Climate and Energy Plan 2025–2030, which added a dedicated chapter on building and construction. Lund University established a carbon baseline for existing development, a 20-person Change Agent Learning Programme built technical and leadership capacity, and draft carbon limits were tested with 16 developers and contractors to prepare for formal adoption.

#### Year One Highlights

COBUILD began with strong policy support: Helsingborg's Climate and Energy Plan 2025–2030 was approved with a dedicated chapter on building and construction, giving the project formal municipal backing.

In Year 1, the city co-developed carbon calculation tools and data protocols for buildings, civil works, and districts with IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and Lund University. These were tested with 16 developers and contractors before any requirements were introduced, helping build industry support. Lund University also established a whole-life carbon baseline for existing buildings in Oceanhamnen.

A 20-person learning programme brought together city staff, municipal companies, and developers to build expertise in carbon accounting and change leadership. Pilot actions included emission-free machinery, low-carbon civil works, reuse projects, and the launch of CoLoop, a digital marketplace for reusable construction materials. COBUILD is now embedded in city strategy and positioned to continue beyond NZC funding.

#### Key Insight

*CoBuild is now a central driver in Helsingborg's green transition, aligning tools, actors and ambitions across the construction value chain.*

#### Innovation Highlights

The annually tightening carbon limit schedule reflects a practical insight: industry capacity grows over time, and regulation that acknowledges this builds cooperation rather than resistance. Running co-creation groups for buildings, civil works, and districts in parallel allows cross-sector learning while maintaining technical depth in each. The learning programme's inclusion of personal leadership development alongside technical training recognises that the construction sector's transition ultimately depends on individuals choosing to lead change, not just comply with new rules.

#### Twinning Here

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