



SCALE UP

Systematic Climate Action to Lower Emissions in Uppsala

UPPSALA, SWEDEN

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Multi-sector waste management & disposal



Land use (agriculture, forestry & other land uses)



Industrial process emissions



All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)

Key Focus Areas

Climate budget | Climate investment plan | Circular construction | Carbon budget | Municipal governance | Behavioural change

Levers of Change

Democracy and participation | Financing and funding | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation | Technology/infrastructure

Description of the Pilot Activity

Uppsala launched Scale-Up to accelerate its transition toward climate neutrality, recognising that its current trajectory falls far short of the 1.5-degree pathway. Despite being regarded as one of Europe's leading mid-sized sustainable cities, Uppsala must increase the pace of action at least fivefold to reach its 2030 targets. The pilot embedded climate governance directly into municipal financial planning through a carbon budget and investment plan, while advancing circular economy practices in construction.

Impact & Results

The central achievement was introduction of a climate budget (inspired by Oslo) integrating climate measures into Uppsala's annual financial planning. The 2026–2028 budget will be the first to include climate budget measures.

Uppsala's carbon budget: 7,622 ktCO₂e for 2021–2100, based on average annual reduction of 12% from 2020 levels. Target: emissions reduced to ≤283 ktCO₂e by 2030 (28% of 2020 emissions).

A climate investment plan was developed prioritising investments with highest mitigation effect, giving municipal companies and departments a common framework for evaluating climate-related expenditures.

Circular construction was advanced in the Ulleråker district, achieving a 70% increase in recycling (reuse and construction material recycling), with maximum 30% waste going to landfill and energy recovery. Digital tools were tested to track climate impact.

Innovation Highlights

The climate budget model integrates climate measures into municipal financial planning, allowing transparent overview of progress toward emission targets. An annual cycle enables continuous improvement.

The Ulleråker district model demonstrates circular construction through material inventories, building disassembly, and guidelines for dismantling potentially reusable materials.

