

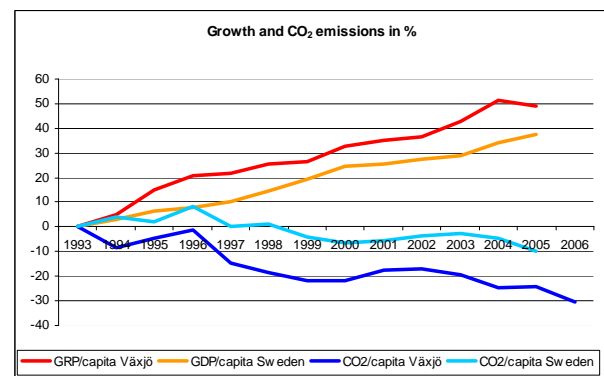
## Mayors' statement on a more active climate policy in Europe

We, the Mayors of Grenoble, Delft and Växjö, with the consent of the Mayors in Vastseliina, Miskolc and Kaunas – as cities involved in the SESAC project – will continue to work closely together. We herewith declare our cities:

- contribute to and support the European targets to increase energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energy,
- consider the EU established targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% (30%) by 2020 as a best effort, and will move beyond this – leading the way. We assume our responsibility for climate protection, and will take all necessary measures to reach the targets.
- consider that cost of energy are getting more and more a substantial part of living of the citizens; saving energy has a positive effect on cost of living and environment/climate change.
- call on the European Union to take prompt action on the following points:
  1. Strongly emphasise the more efficient use of currently-used energy sources and encouraging the extensive production of renewable energy,
  2. Subscribing to the principle of a climate tax on energy by:
    - a. stopping direct and indirect subsidies on all types of fossil fuels;
    - b. imposing a high tax on all fossil fuels;
    - c. encouraging energy efficient real estates through the tax system.
  3. Investing in and stimulating sustainable energy measures at a local level using the funds generated from above mentioned point 2.
  4. Activating actors in the construction and building management sector to apply energy efficient measures in the whole building process, from a sustainable life cycle perspective.
  5. Support local governments and their associations to ensure they are empowered to lead the way in community sustainable energy development and local climate protection.

Experience has shown that progressive work to diminish the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is possible through step-by-step action, and that it should not be decoupled from economic growth.

This graph shows the development of Växjö; with a 50% growth of the economy and 30% decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1993 - more than Sweden average. It also shows the impact on economic growth after an extreme weather event (severe hurricane which hit the region in January 2005), with the sustainable energy approach helping to make Växjö a more resilient community – and acting as key factors in the positive trend of economic growth.



\* GRP = Gross Regional Product

The cities represented in this declaration are partners in the SESAC (Sustainable Energy Systems in Advanced Communities) project, a joint effort to realise local sustainable energy management in Europe. SESAC is a European project that aims at accelerating innovation in renewable energy solutions. This includes advanced energy efficiency and systems for poly-generation linked together with concepts for eco-buildings. This declaration is a direct result of experiences within this field.

Dissemination of the project is handled by Energie-Cités and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, as part of these networks' promotion of sustainable energy solutions.