

Climate Knowledge Malmö

City of Malmö

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a hard topic to talk about. It's polarising, complex, and people carry very different ideas about both the problem and the solutions. Knowledge about climate change, and what it means locally, also varies a lot from person to person.

Climate Knowledge Malmö – a text, website, and presentation – was built to close that gap. It **makes local climate facts more accessible and easier to understand**, giving people a **shared starting point for discussion**. Used at the start of a dialogue, it makes sure everyone in the room has at least the same basic facts about Malmö's emissions, climate risks, and possible solutions.

The idea is simple. A more equal footing makes for a **fairer conversation**. When nobody has a head start on the facts, everyone can be heard on more equal terms.



SWEDEN

MANDATE

Climate Knowledge Malmö was developed as part of **Climate Transition Malmö, a cross-departmental process** within the city administration that carries **strong political backing**.

The material itself doesn't carry political weight. It's simply a tool to **build knowledge about climate change**, especially its **local impact** and what can be done about it. City staff use it internally, and also in conversations with outside partners in Malmö and beyond.



ENGAGEMENT LEVEL

- ☒ **Inform**
- ☐ Consult
- ☐ Involve
- ☐ Collaborate
- ☐ Empower

PROCESS DESIGN

The material is built around **six chapters**: what's happening to the climate, climate targets at the local, national, and international level, the climate situation in Malmö specifically, climate adaptation, why progress is slow, and what individuals and organisations can actually do.

It was never meant to be read start to finish. Instead, people are encouraged to **pick what fits the situation at hand**.

Different versions have been used across every dialogue process in Malmö's Speak Up work. With young people, it emphasises where they have real impact and agency. In community dialogues, it zooms into hyperlocal data and consumption patterns for individual city districts. In the citizen assembly on climate, it formed one of four introductory lectures, moving from a global and national perspective toward local challenges and solutions.

OUTPUT & FOLLOW-UP

Climate Knowledge Malmö **isn't designed to produce its own outputs**. Its role is to **support other initiatives**, by giving them a shared factual foundation to build on.



RESOURCES

Climate Knowledge Malmö is **revised regularly**, based on feedback from dialogues, lectures, and discussions, including with students. It's now embedded in the Climate Transition Malmö process, and **no longer needs a dedicated budget of its own**.



STRENGTHS

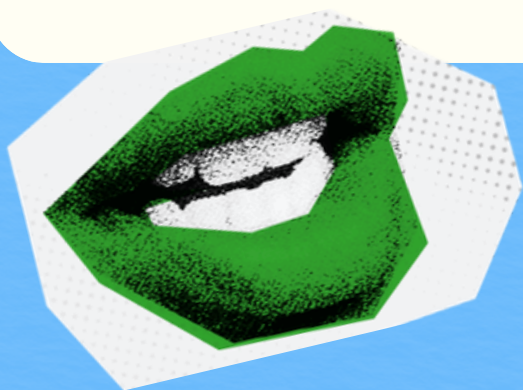
- Gives people **facts to work with**, at a time when climate discussions are dominated by opinions.
- Makes climate facts and explanations **accessible** to Malmö's citizens and others.
- **Free to use**, and **easy to download**.
- Gives every participant in a dialogue the **same starting point**.
- Supports a **fairer, more equal conversation**, since nobody starts with a knowledge advantage.

CHALLENGES

- Keeping the material up to date. It needs at least an **annual revision**.
- Striking the **right balance**: not too easy, not too difficult, not too alarming, not too optimistic.
- **Wide variation in existing climate knowledge** across target groups. Some find it too basic, others not detailed enough.
- **Finding the time** to actually deliver the lecture.
- Making sure **enough colleagues feel comfortable** delivering it, or taking part in the dialogues themselves.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Starting a climate dialogue with a **fact-based** session makes the rest of the conversation **more meaningful**, and **easier** to hold.
- **Capacity building on climate change** is genuinely needed, and appreciated, by participants, partners, and the city administration alike.
- It **took time** to find a format that worked, but **appreciation for it keeps growing**.
- Even when people think the material is too basic, surveys show they still value it. There seems to be a **real need for a reminder of the bigger picture**, and a clearer sense of where their own actions, or their organisation's, actually fit in.



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