

# **Environmental Actions in Region Skåne's healthcare**

**HOPE Exchange Programme in Sweden 2023**



**Elisa Daniele -  
Italy**



**Lucinda Edge -  
Ireland**



**SUS - Lund**



**SUS - Malmö**



**Emergency Dept  
and physiotherapy  
unit, Hässleholm**



**Palliative Care ward  
and mobile teams,  
Malmö**



**Orupsjukhuset –  
brain injury rehab,  
Höör**



**Primary Care –  
Abels Rehab,  
Malmö**



**Primary Care  
Health centre,  
Dalby**



# The Public Health Agency of Sweden: ‘Health consequences of Climate Change in Sweden – a risk and vulnerability analysis’

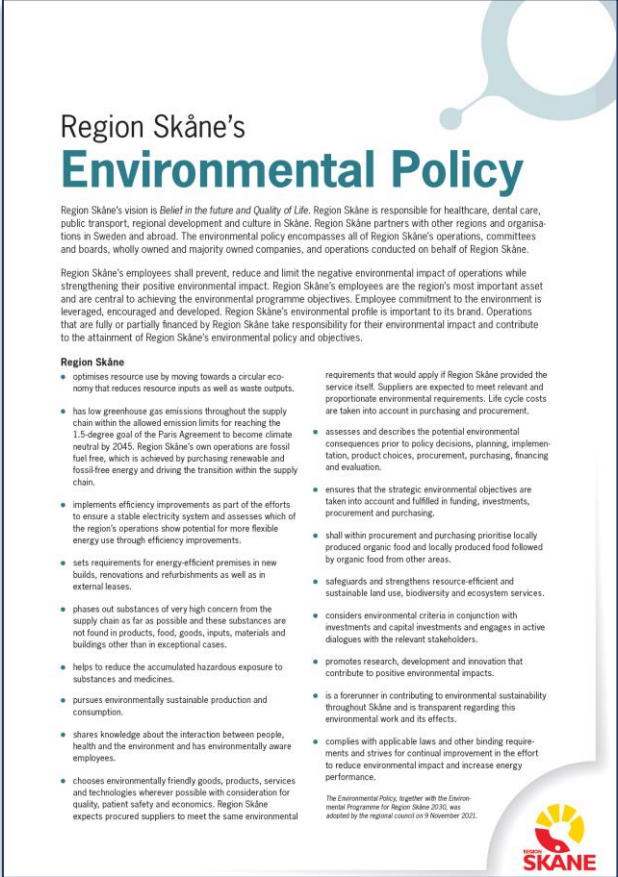
## Identifies 17 health risks

1. Heatwaves
2. Tick-borne infection
3. Pollen allergies
4. Floods
5. Drinking water impact
6. Water-borne infections
7. Rodent-borne infections
8. Mosquito-borne infections
9. Food-borne infections
10. Zero-crossing
11. Warmer winters
12. Air pollution
13. Forest fires
14. Drought
15. Indoor environmental impact
16. Landslides
17. Cold snaps



# Regional Environmental Policy

- Adopted by Skåne Regional Council in 2021
- Sets targets to be reached by 2030 compared with 2019
- ISO 14001:2015 (environmental management standard) certified since 2017
- Sustainability Strategist SUS (Malmö and Lund)



**Region Skåne's  
Environmental Policy**


Region Skåne's vision is *Belief in the future* and *Quality of Life*. Region Skåne is responsible for healthcare, dental care, public transport, regional development and culture in Skåne. Region Skåne partners with other regions and organisations in Sweden and abroad. The environmental policy encompasses all of Region Skåne's operations, committees and boards, wholly owned and majority owned companies, and operations conducted on behalf of Region Skåne.

Region Skåne's employees shall prevent, reduce and limit the negative environmental impact of operations while strengthening their positive environmental impact. Region Skåne's employees are the region's most important asset and are central to achieving the environmental programme objectives. Employee commitment to the environment is leveraged, encouraged and developed. Region Skåne's environmental profile is important to its brand. Operations that are fully or partially financed by Region Skåne take responsibility for their environmental impact and contribute to the attainment of Region Skåne's environmental policy and objectives.

**Region Skåne**

- optimises resource use by moving towards a circular economy that reduces resource inputs as well as waste outputs.
- has low greenhouse gas emissions throughout the supply chain within the allowed emission limits for reaching the 1.5-degree goal of the Paris Agreement to become climate neutral by 2045. Region Skåne's own operations are fossil fuel free, which is achieved by purchasing renewable and fossil-free energy and driving the transition within the supply chain.
- implements efficiency improvements as part of the efforts to ensure a stable electricity system and assesses which of the region's operations show potential for more flexible energy use through efficiency improvements.
- sets requirements for energy-efficient premises in new builds, renovations and refurbishments as well as in external leases.
- phases out substances of very high concern from the supply chain as far as possible and these substances are not found in products, food, goods, inputs, materials and buildings other than in exceptional cases.
- helps to reduce the accumulated hazardous exposure to substances and medicines.
- pursues environmentally sustainable production and consumption.
- shares knowledge about the interaction between people, health and the environment and has environmentally aware employees.
- chooses environmentally friendly goods, products, services and technologies wherever possible with consideration for quality, patient safety and economics. Region Skåne expects procured suppliers to meet the same environmental requirements that would apply if Region Skåne provided the service itself. Suppliers are expected to meet relevant and proportionate environmental requirements. Life cycle costs are taken into account in purchasing and procurement.
- assesses and describes the potential environmental consequences prior to policy decisions, planning, implementation, product choices, procurement, purchasing, financing and evaluation.
- ensures that the strategic environmental objectives are taken into account and fulfilled in funding, investments, procurement and purchasing.
- shall within procurement and purchasing prioritise locally produced organic food and locally produced food followed by organic food from other areas.
- safeguards and strengthens resource-efficient and sustainable land use, biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- considers environmental criteria in conjunction with investments and capital investments and engages in active dialogues with the relevant stakeholders.
- promotes research, development and innovation that contribute to positive environmental impacts.
- is a forerunner in contributing to environmental sustainability throughout Skåne and is transparent regarding this environmental work and its effects.
- complies with applicable laws and other binding requirements and strives for continual improvement in the effort to reduce environmental impact and increase energy performance.

The Environmental Policy, together with the Environmental Programme for Region Skåne 2030, was adopted by the regional council on 9 November 2021.



# Some of the Targets

## Real Estate targets (whole Region)

- ✓ Reduce climate impact of construction by 40%
- ✓ Increase use of recycled material
- ✓ 100% fossil-fuel-free land transport by 2030 - both for the organisation and providers
- ✓ Install renewable power plants on properties owned by the region where possible

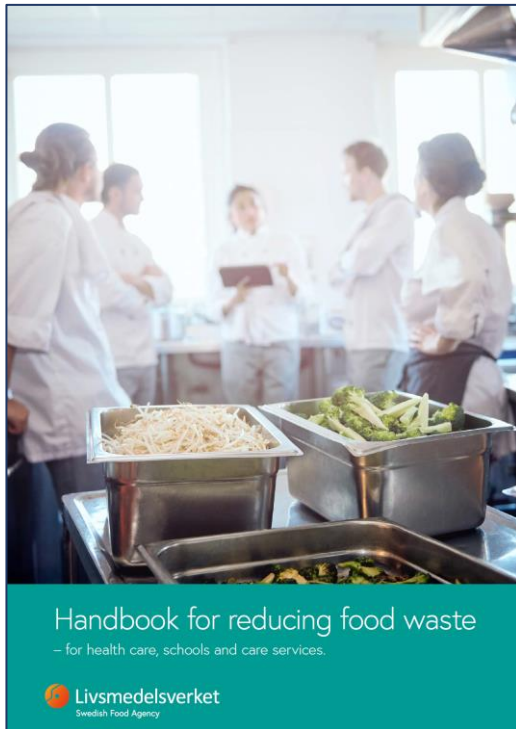
## Healthcare related targets

- ✓ Reduce the amount of municipal waste by at least 40%
- ✓ Reduce food waste from patient meals by at least 50%
- ✓ Reduce the use of consumables by at least 30%
- ✓ Reduce the amount of discarded medicine by at least 30%
- ✓ Reduce emissions of nitrous oxide and anaesthetic gases by at least 50%

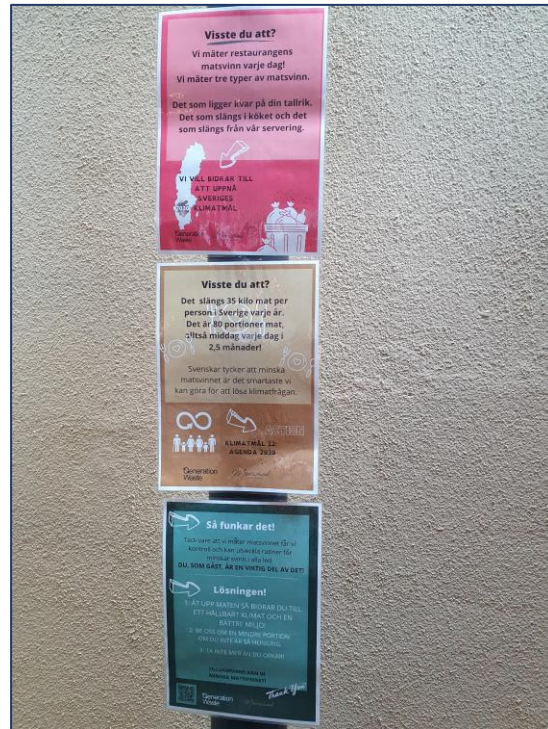
# How will they achieve their targets?

- ✓ Raise employees environmental knowledge and awareness - at least 50% of staff should take part in digital environmental education
- ✓ Measure food waste
- ✓ Monitor quantity of disposable materials purchased and used
- ✓ Produce their own renewable energy
- ✓ Apply environmental standards to new buildings

# Food Waste



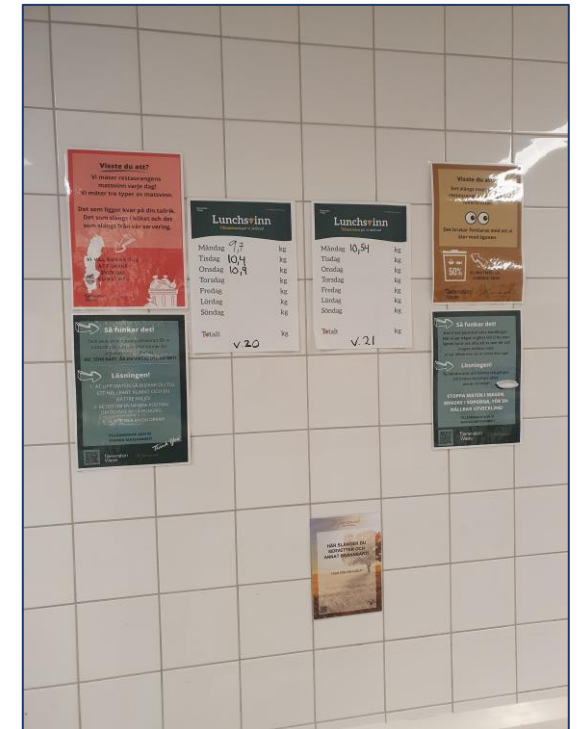
Handbook for reducing food waste - Swedish Food Agency



When you order food the hospital restaurant informs you that they weigh food waste and asks you to eat all your food, request smaller portions or take less food



When you sit at the table to eat, there is a sign to remind you



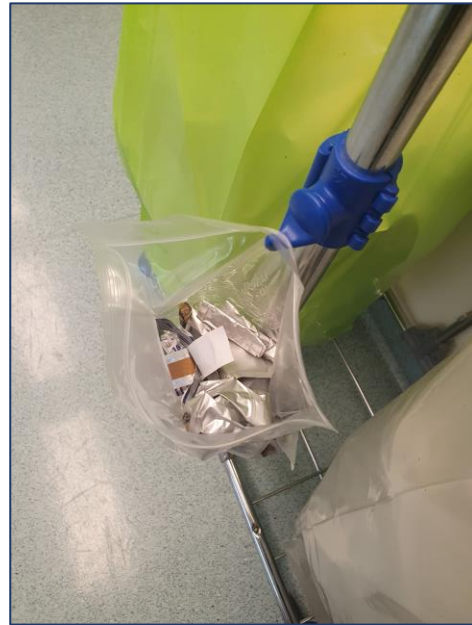
When you leave and clear your plate there is a sign on the wall displaying food waste in kg per day



# Waste Sorting and Recycling (Plastic Surgery Unit)



**Plastic and paper**



**Metal**



**Cardboard**



**Surgical instruments**

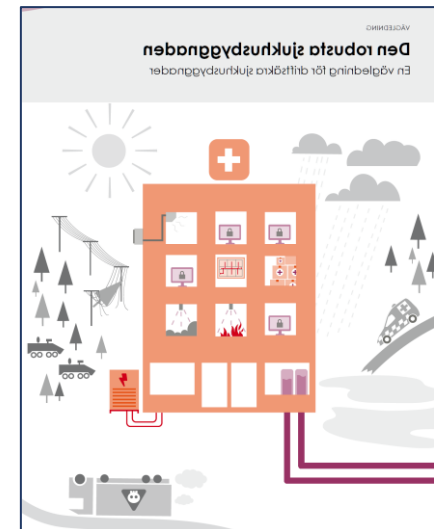
# Energy

- Biogas – used to power vehicles owned by Skåne University Hospital
- Solar power – installed at sites in the Region
- Wind Turbines - Region Skåne owns six large wind turbines in Småland and one in Trelleborg



# Buildings

- New building at Malmö campus – new waste centre
- Forensic Psychiatric Centre in Trelleborg – energy efficient building
- Planning new hospital campus in Helsingborg – first climate neutral hospital in Sweden





# Thank you...

Erik Svanfeldt  
HOPE National Co-Ordinator for Sweden

Petra Kullander  
International Office, Skåne University Hospital

Emma Klingspor,  
International Office, Skåne University Hospital

Staff who dedicated time to meeting us  
and sharing their insights

