



15 environmental quality objectives for life

Who will take responsibility for the future if we don't? Here and now. Our goal is to solve the major environmental problems within a generation. The adopted environmental objectives and legislation, together with effective cooperation between many stakeholders, will help us to achieve this goal.

In order to achieve the objectives we will have to change our own lifestyles and strengthen international cooperation on the environment, in particular with the other EU Member States.

Keep up with progress on the environmental objectives on the Internet!

- www.environ.se (English)
- www.miljo.regeringen.se (English)
- www.smn.environ.se (English)
- www.virtualsweden.net (English)
- www.eu2001.se (English and French)

For further information, phone the Ministry of the Environment (+46-8-405 10 00) or the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (+46-8-698 10 00).

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The future, our responsibility today



We must focus on what we want for ourselves. The focus is shifting from dealing with problems to preventing them.

Now is the time to decide what sort of environment we hand down to our children and to future generations.

Sweden has adopted 15 environmental quality objectives. They point the way to our future. Together, the 15 objectives make up a coherent whole that is essential for successful implementation of our environmental policy. They were formulated in the course of fruitful cooperation between elected representatives, public authorities, industry and environmental organizations. They were adopted unanimously by parliament. They are a platform for all environmental action, at all levels, in Sweden and within the framework of our international cooperation.

By the year 2020 we will be well on the way to sustainable development. By then, the future will be here.

Fast, comfortable and environment-friendly communications are the backbone of an ecologically sustainable society.



If they are properly managed, forests can be constantly renewed and represent an infinite resource in a closed-loop society. New generations will learn how to manage forests in accordance with the environmental quality objectives.

An ecologically sustainable Sweden by 2020

We are resolved to hand down an ecologically sustainable society to future generations, a society in which the major

environmental problems have been solved, with a flourishing natural and cultural environment.

The 15 environmental quality objectives are based on five fundamental principles. Ecologically sustainable development:

- Promotes human health
- Preserves biological diversity
- Preserves cultural and historical assets
- Maintains the long-term productive capacity of ecosystems
- Ensures prudent management of natural resources



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Sweden's 15 environmental quality objectives

- 1 Clean air
- 2 High-quality groundwater
- 3 Sustainable lakes and watercourses
- 4 Flourishing wetlands
- 5 A balanced marine environment, sustainable coastal areas and archipelagos
- 6 No eutrophication
- 7 Natural acidification only
- 8 Sustainable forests
- 9 A varied agricultural landscape
- 10 A magnificent mountain landscape
- 11 A good urban environment
- 12 A non-toxic environment
- 13 A safe radiation environment
- 14 A protective ozone layer
- 15 Limited influence on climate

Common objectives for Sweden's environmental protection activities



The fifteen national environmental quality objectives are a distant landmark on the horizon which we are going to try to reach.

The environment concerns us all and is one of the most important issues of our time. The 15 environmental objectives represent a major contribution to our efforts to improve the environment. The objectives will function as benchmarks for all development in Sweden, regardless of where they are implemented or by whom. A system of environmental objectives, intermediate objectives, sectoral objectives, regional and local objectives set by those involved at various levels facilitates our pro-environment efforts.



One of the five fundamental principles on which national quality objectives are based is the need to preserve cultural and historical assets.

The intermediate objectives are adopted by Parliament. The sectoral objectives are formulated by the authorities, organizations and enterprises in each sector, the regional objectives by the county administrative boards and the local objectives by the municipalities.

This approach increases participation and encourages the various sectors and levels in Sweden to take an active part in the task of implementing the 15 environmental quality objectives. The responsibility for environmental action has been decentralized as never before.

The new Environmental Code, monitoring and evaluation

The Environmental Code – Sweden's first coordinated body of environmental legislation is the main legal instrument for achieving the environmental objectives. The objectives themselves provide guidelines for application of the Code.

Another important tool is a new Swedish classification system – Environmental Quality Criteria – that makes it easier to interpret environmental data and thus to evaluate and describe the current state of the environment.

Last but not least, progress towards the achievement of the environmental

objectives will be continuously monitored and evaluated. This is essential if we are to achieve the overall objective of an ecologically sustainable society.



Food production is a key environmental policy issue.

A good future environment is the responsibility of each and every one of us. The key to achieving the objectives is broad participation and shared responsibility.

