

Implementing the Article 12 of the Paris Agreement in Sweden

Summary

This mission to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute SMHI in collaboration, was performed and reported in 2020.

In December 2015, the countries of the world agreed on a new climate agreement. In the Paris Agreement Article 12 defines the mission to work to strengthen education and practice learning about climate issues as well as public awareness, participation and accessibility to information on climate and international cooperation, as a way to achieve The Paris Agreement in its entirety.

This mission takes stock of possibilities and conditions for Sweden's implementation of Article 12 in order to form the basis of a national strategy on ACE, Actions for Climate Empowerment.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and SMHI has performed the mission by carrying out surveys to more than 50 different universities, authorities and organizations, made interviews with municipalities, compiled various existing knowledge bases and made a new survey on the needs and sources for information on climate change by the Swedish public,.

One sub-assignment within the mission was for the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to establish and continuously update digital information on the Paris Agreement.

Conclusions

One conclusion is that Sweden has well implemented sustainability in education for children, youth and adults. At the same time, the findings in the

mission state that solving climate issues requires new and innovative solutions, and the training must be adapted to handle that challenge.

Another conclusion is that the public awareness is relatively high. At the same time a great majority of Swedes are interested in climate issues and remain worried about climate change. This is especially true for young people.

Surveys show that authorities, researchers and the news media have important roles to play, since the public state that they would like them to be the primary source of information on climate issues.

The mission also shows that many authorities have important assignments and works actively with climate issues, but there is a lack of coordination and a common knowledge base.

The international cooperation is bilateral and can both function as a learning for Sweden and as a platform for global cooperation. To increase the public knowledge on international matters can provide a platform for increased understanding of the need for a just transition.

Overall, the assessment is that Sweden has good conditions to go through efforts within Article 12 contribute to achieving Sweden's national climate goals and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The following areas are proposed to be central in the continuous development on a national strategy:

- Give the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and SMHI clearer assignments to communicate overall climate issues with the public.
- Strengthened government collaboration to increase the opportunity for participation and access to information on climate issues
- Equip teachers for young people's involvement in climate issues
- Investigate how civil society can contribute to raising knowledge