

Environmental indicators

SEkom has developed 12 environmental indicators that were officially adopted in 2002. The aim of these indicators is to monitor development in the eco-municipalities and to create a means for tracking trends and actions. Currently, all of the indicators measure only environmental trends, and there has been no focus placed on trying to measure social or economic trends in the municipalities. The 12 indicators are as follows:

Indicators related to the geographic area of the municipality:

1. CO₂ emission from fossil fuel (tons per resident)
 - a) CO₂ emissions from local industry
 - b) CO₂ emissions from other local sources (energy production, transportation, etc)
2. Quantity of dangerous waste from households (kg per resident)
3. Percentage of arable land with ecologically grown crops
 - a) percentage of arable land receiving support according to EU regulations
 - b) percentage of arable land subject to KRAV control (approved for organic cultivation)
4. Percentage of environmentally approved forestry (Certified by FSC or PEFC)
5. Percentage of protected environments (nature reserves)
6. Collection of household waste for recycling (responsibility of manufacturer) (kg per resident)
7. Total amount of household waste (excluding responsibility of manufacturer) (kg per resident)
8. Heavy metals in drainage sludge (mg per kg TS)
 - a) Lead
 - b) Cadmium
 - c) Mercury

Indicators related to the local authority of the municipality

9. Percentage of renewable and recycled energy in municipal premises
10.
 - a) Transportation energy for business trips by car (tons per employee)
 - b) CO₂ emissions from business trips by car (tons per employee)
11. Purchase of organic provisions within the municipal organization (percentage of the cost)
12. Percentage environmentally approved schools and day care centers (certified systems such as Green Schools, Schools for Sustainable Development, ISO 14001, EMAS)

The 12 indicators were narrowed down from an original list of 25, and were chosen because they corresponded to national indicators. They were also picked because they are of interest to the majority of municipalities in the network. The eco-municipalities are spread throughout Sweden, and face a variety of different environmental issues and SEkom felt that these 12 applied to the majority. Finally, they were chosen because the municipalities should be able to gather the information relatively easily.

While SEkom has officially adopted these indicators, there is no mandatory reporting system. It is up to each municipality to voluntarily report on each indicator once a year through a web based system. SEkom then compiles this data and creates graphs that can be accessed through their website, allowing municipalities to see the progress that others have made.