



Umeå (Sweden)

133,000 inhabitants



GHG emission reduction

Fossil-free Food Deliveries in Umeå

What? To reduce the climate impact of transporting goods procured by the Municipality of Umeå.

When? 2024 - 2026

Who? Pre-schools, schools, elderly homes, and other facilities managed by the municipality.

"By discussing transport, the municipality draws attention to both its impact and the supplier's work which is a win for both parties."

The challenge?

Umeå Municipality has set a target to reduce climate impact of transport by switching to fossil-free fuels by 2030. Market dialogues showed that suppliers were already making progress towards fossil-free transport, but that companies were at different stages in the transition.

The solution!

Umeå used its climate ambition as a starting point for market dialogues with potential bidders. The procurement set a minimum level for fossil-free deliveries, while bidders could receive additional points for going beyond this requirement. The contract set out gradually increasing requirements over time, allowing suppliers to transition while keeping the tender open to a range of bidders.

The results:

Umeå has developed a green procurement framework for public food services that drives the shift toward fossil-free transport across schools and retirement homes. By using market dialogues and smart evaluation criteria, the city sets a baseline for fossil-free deliveries while rewarding suppliers with higher environmental ambitions. This encourages market progress without excluding smaller suppliers from bidding.

Economic impact: Keeps tenders competitive by using a realistic baseline, rewarding top environmental performers through a balanced price-and-quality evaluation.

Social impact: Reduces noise and air pollution from heavy vehicles, creating cleaner and safer neighborhoods around public facilities.

Environmental impact: Lowers the carbon footprint of daily food logistics, accelerating the city's transition toward climate-neutral transport systems.



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Key Takeaways for Cities:

Set clear city-wide goals to create a shared direction. Show suppliers and the public what matters to the municipality.

Hold individual market dialogues with bidders to discuss capabilities, opportunities, and contributions during contract period.

Design procurement to reward compliance and ambition while ensuring fair competition, with clear monitoring and penalties built into the contract

