

Focus Area Sustainability

The construction industry has a large and long-lasting footprint in our society. That construction projects are designed with sustainability in focus is becoming increasingly important, so as to address the demands and challenges that we face. Generally speaking, sustainability means that environmental, social and economic aspects interact in the most optimal way possible.

The construction sector generates 25-40% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Projects linked to infrastructure account for up to 10% of total emissions, there is therefore a need for construction projects to be made more efficient and for climate impact reduction measures to be implemented. The government and the Riksdag have taken initiatives with the goal that by 2030 Sweden will have a fossil-free vehicle fleet and that Sweden as a nation will be climate neutral by 2045. As a result, the Swedish Transport Administration has started to set requirements for suppliers for accounting and reporting of energy use and emissions of climate gases in projects. In order to achieve the national goal of becoming climate neutral in the longer term, the industry needs to accept responsibility and continuously identify improvement measures.

Construction in Sweden also accounts for about 30% of the total amount of waste generated, when mining waste is excluded. Approximately half of the waste (hazardous and non-hazardous) from building and construction activities consists of spoil. The Construction Forum has decided to run a project in 2020 called "Sustainable spoil management" to increase our knowledge both from an environmental and a legal perspective about how we can handle spoil and thus increase productivity and reduce climate impact.

Working to promote sustainable development means driving the construction industry in the direction of a smaller climate footprint, being more resource efficient with less waste, towards a zero vision for accidents and towards lower construction costs. The Construction Forum is an excellent platform for promoting joint industry projects in a sustainable direction. An important cornerstone for promoting sustainability work is digitalisation, which will therefore be given extra focus. The project "Autonomous and electrified production" began in 2019 and has delivered a feasibility study. Work continues to start a pilot project in which digitalised processes that enable autonomous production with significant elements of electrification.