

The good life in Gävle - 2030

Students' visions

Gävle works actively with sustainability and has implemented an ambitious Environmental Strategic Plan. 2016 Gävle was nominated as Sweden's sixth best environment municipality, by the magazine "Aktuell hållbarhet"

The education department recently carried out the initiative "The good life in Gävle 2030 – in the framework of one globe" in four municipal schools. This activity is one way to engage students for a sustainable future. The students worked with projects which they presented during one day at the University of Gävle.

Young people (ages 15-18) show a large engagement for these issues. They think that the work was motivating and educational and they really want to be involved in influencing the future! The students have been working on different areas like housing, segregation, green spaces, collective housing and transports.

Hanna and Wilma worked with segregation. They have studied the breakdown between property rights and condominiums in different neighborhoods and how you could increase the mix of housing.

Green areas in urban planning was a topic for Karl and Farhad. Their conclusion is that it is important to preserve green spaces within the city center. "We have a new way of looking at the society," says Karl.

Emil and Jesper, planned for a new residential area. They thought of sustainable planning with solar cells, recycling rooms and a car pool. They also found it important to create good conditions for social cohesion and a pleasant outdoor environment with vegetation.

Helena, one of the teachers who have worked with the project is very proud of her students. "It's so fun to see how happy and proud the students are" Helena says.

The day also included a group project in which students and adults jointly made the headlines of the future in the "Gävle Express" the 21st March 2030. Some of the all the hopeful headlines were:

- Environmental threat wiped out - students at the council in Gävle in 2017 laid the foundation for today's sustainable society!
- Gävle's last gasoline car scrapped!

The students were pleased to notice that so many adults were participating during the day. Young people have good things to say and want to be listened to. "As long as we want to change we can accomplish anything!" says one of the students. The initiative "The good life in Gävle in 2030 – in the framework of one globe" was definitely a success where both students and adults have gained insight and inspiration and could easily be spread to other municipalities.

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During the first part of the counsel about 120 students presented their projects to about 100 adults in a great exhibition. Some students presented designs of new housing areas in Gävle. Photo: Michael Wagner. #firstgeneration



Students and adults participating in the counsel send their greetings to the future, to the year 2030, when their work will be opened again in the city of Gävle. Photo: Michael Wagner. #firstgeneration