

# Regional Centres of Expertise

on education for sustainable development

## RCE SKÅNE

### The region

Skåne is Sweden's southernmost region covering 11,346 sq. km., which is 2.5% of Sweden's land area. Its 1 million inhabitants make up 13% of the country's population. Skåne is a strategically positioned region bordering central Europe, Scandinavia and the Baltic countries. The region has a strong sense of identity, although through the ages it has belonged to both Denmark and Sweden and has been subject to many external influences.



### Regional challenges

Skåne is a region with many great opportunities and possibilities but it has its share of sustainable development challenges.

- From an ecological perspective, Skåne should reduce its local and global impact on the environment. Certain areas of priority in which it is critical to develop sustainable systems and solutions are energy, transport, agriculture, consumption and urban development.
- From a social perspective, the region must work towards ethnic integration, lower unemployment rate and gender equality.
- From an economic perspective, the region needs to move towards long term sustainable economic development, in the context of products and services, in an environmentally and socially sound manner. Research, new innovations and product development are crucial.

### Regional role

The vision of the RCE is to make Skåne a leading example in Sweden on delivering education for sustainable development. RCE Skåne will contribute to the empowerment of people of all ages in the region to assume responsibility for creating a better tomorrow and a sustainable future. The RCE plans to act as a catalyst in strengthening those (citizens, businesses and organizations) who are currently striving for sustainable development in the region, and act as a platform for partnerships with similar initiatives in other parts of the world.

### Organizations involved

RCE Skåne was developed through a partnership led by Malmö University, the City of Malmö, Lund University, the City of Lund and the Skåne Region. In addition, several other partners working in formal and non-formal education are invited to join the RCE.

### Decision-making structure

RCE Skåne is led by a steering committee whose members occupy positions such as those of mayors and managers. All levels of formal education – primary, secondary and higher education – as well as non-formal education will be involved in the RCE. In the long run, several working groups will develop based on various interest groups and stakeholders involved.

SKÅNE



## Goals of the RCE

RCE Skåne intends to assist in the exchange of knowledge, ideas, experiences and research on ESD by offering support, seminars and courses, leading debates and through other outreach programmes, to institutions and organizations in formal, non-formal and informal education in the region.

## Objectives

- Act as a base for ESD in the region. The centre will co-ordinate activities to promote synergies between different actors, organize networks and educational activities.
- Support and document the progress of ongoing activities on ESD in the region, to identify the needs and challenges within the area and find solutions using available knowledge and resources.
- Support Swedish agencies in developing and implementing national targets and introducing ESD in the curriculum.
- Develop a common platform for research on and about ESD in the region and strengthen links between the research and the community.
- Act as a facilitator between different educational bodies, such as adult education, public education and higher education, to implement the idea of ESD on a broad level.
- Build thematic partnerships in various areas that are essential for the region, such as for training trainers.

## Activities

- A national research network entitled Education and Sustainable development, with members from Kristianstad, Lund and Malmö Universities has been established since 2000. Activities within this network have the potential to evolve and develop as strategies for collaborative research and development activities expand.
- **Nature and urban environment for education.** Experiencing and learning about the environment, both natural and urban, is an important part of understanding and engaging in sustainable development activities. This can be achieved through programmes such as Nature Buses with trips into the surrounding countryside, as well as specific actions to promote access to the countryside, environmental education for people in areas of social exclusion and regional cooperation with museums and nature reserves.

- **A Sustainable Society.** Increasing awareness and new methods in teaching are essential for creating an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable society. Skåne has unique opportunities to become a leading region for sustainable urban development. This is, however, dependent upon a close partnership between companies, universities, local authorities and other stakeholders. More information and training is needed to learn about and spread sustainable solutions.
- **Food as a means for learning about sustainable development.** Skåne is an agricultural and food producing region. Issues surrounding the production and consumption of food are important ones for local and global sustainability. Food is also a key issue pertaining to social welfare, culture and public health. Today in Sweden, obesity and diabetes among children are on the increase. There are also opportunities to improve the supply and demand of food in Skåne, which could have a major impact on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Coupling organic, locally produced and well-prepared school meals and educating about food is an important area for ESD in Skåne.
- **Train the trainers.** Persons working with ESD, such as teachers, civil servants and other employers will have the possibility to be involved in this project. Training programmes will consist of scenario-seminars, dilemma-workshops, and lectures given by experts.



A young resident playing by the rainwater management system in the Ecocity Augustenborg in Malmö. The Ecocity is a large and important urban sustainability project in order to make Augustenborg into a more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable neighbourhood.

## For more information

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