

Abstract Template

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Organisation : City of Vaxjo

Short description:

Located in the southeast of Sweden. 81 000 inhabitants.
Have a long history of working on reducing CO2 emissions.

Presentation title: High quality of Life – redefining a comfortable way of living.

Abstract:

The success story of Vaxjo is primarily based on big structural investments that give rapid and great results without changing people's way of life. Now we are facing the biggest challenge of all; convincing people that there are other ways to acquire high quality of life than the ways we are used to measuring it by. We can no longer relate to quality of life in only consumption and even more consumption. We need to fill our lives with another definition of consumption and another definition of what a comfortable way of living is.

In Vaxjo we address this issue in many ways when we plan for a bigger city. We haven't given up on the structural and planning way of doing things. Currently we are working towards the vision of a modern wooden city by building high effective wooden energy buildings and constantly working with lowering our energy consumption in the Vaxjohomes.

We are making bicycling more enjoyable by building safe, beautiful and comfortable bicycle paths. This all comes together in the plan for bicycle paths decided by the city council. We constantly discuss how to make public transportation more attractive and effective. Like many other cities we struggle with the out of town shopping centres; to meet those we want to offer a city centre not only for shopping but primarily a city centre full of experiences and enjoyment.

What is the role of politics in all this? Is it to interfere as little as possible or to take control? How should we react when our principles stand in the way of private investors to open more shops outside the city, meaning more workplaces and higher tax incomes? What is the overall principle, citizens' wellbeing today or tomorrow?

Resumé: Socialdemocrat, formerly a social worker now working full time in politics in the city of Vaxjo. Member of city council and member of the executive board with special responsibility of housing. Vice chairman of the technical board, formerly vice chairman of the school and childcare board.

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