

LIFE Programme in Sweden



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 165 projects in Sweden over 130 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €621m, of which the EU contributed €269m.

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising more over €12 billion and contributing with more than €5 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The LIFE programme contributes fully to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The budget for the period 2021–2027 is set at €5.4 billion.

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

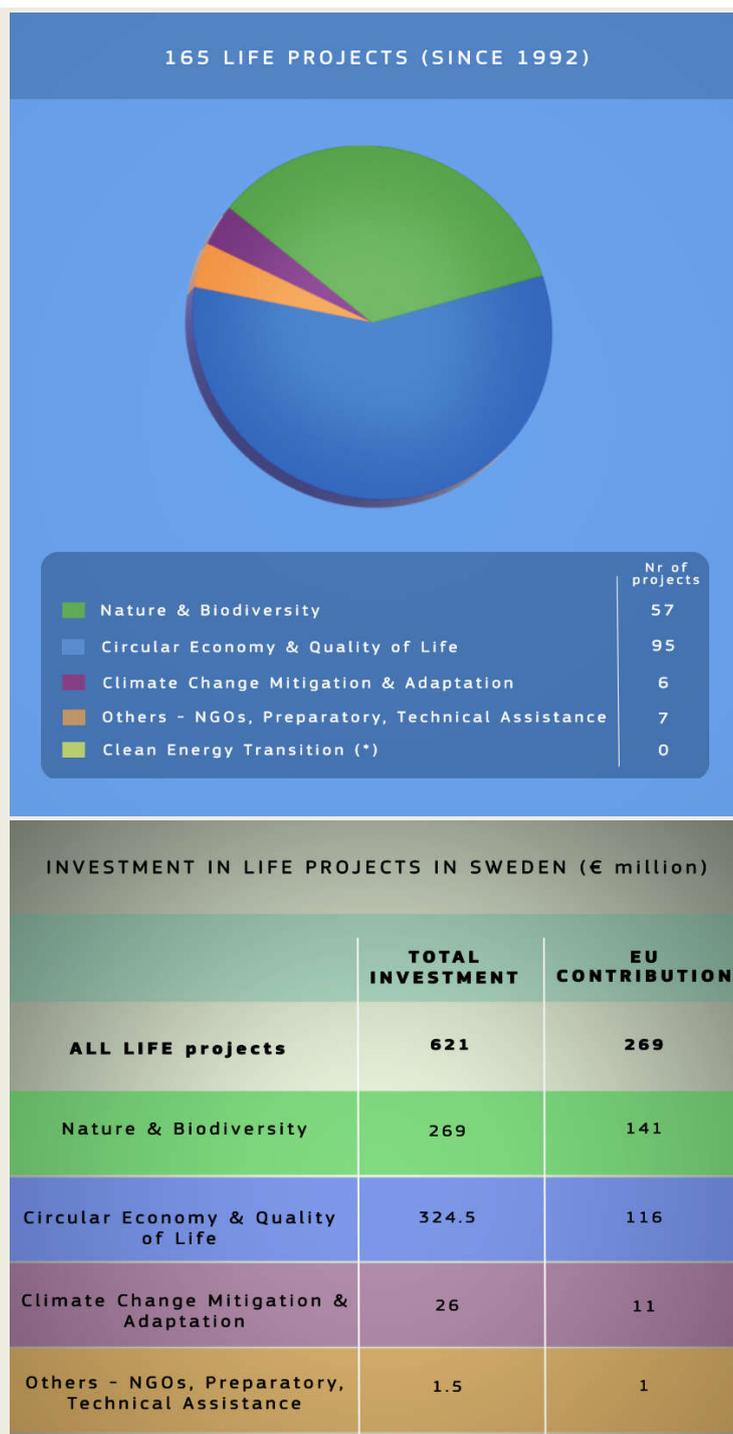
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

For more information:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

'The future is green. The future is LIFE' leaflet

Past and closed projects are designated in this document with the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 nomenclature





LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

The Nature and Biodiversity strand includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as “Strategic Nature Projects” (SNAP). These new projects support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States in order to mainstream those objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the prioritised action frameworks adopted pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 57 projects in Sweden. These represent a total investment of €269 million, of which €141 million has been contributed by the EU.

The majority of completed projects focused on the protection and restoration of habitats (e.g. western taiga, mires, deciduous forests, grasslands, pastures and meadows, rivers, archipelagos, wetlands, Fennoscandian wooded pastures, sandy soils, coastal areas, ancient agricultural landscapes, natural forests, and habitats rich in trees and shrubs) and species (e.g. arctic fox, freshwater pearl mussel, thick shelled river mussel, the beetle *Osmoderma eremita*, acoustic monitoring of harbour porpoise, and control of the invasive raccoon dog). The projects were mainly coordinated by local, regional or national authorities, as well as a research centre and a university.

There are eight ongoing projects in Sweden. Most are targeting the conservation and restoration of habitats: boreal Nordic boreal rivers; semi-aquatic ecosystems; threatened oak habitats; cold-water coral reefs; and EU Red List Annex I habitats depending on grazing or hay cutting in Sweden’s Natura 2000 sites. One project specifically aims at ensuring river connectivity and restoring ecosystems.

One Strategic Nature Project has been co-funded in Sweden and is ongoing. The GRIP on LIFE-IP project’s objectives are described below.



Improving wetland habitats and ecosystem services in Sweden (GRIP on LIFE-IP) LIFE16 IPE/SE/000009

The GRIP on LIFE-IP project will help to fully implement the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Sweden. The project team, led by the Swedish Forest Agency, will do this by making improvements to watercourse and wetlands habitats, to the benefit of their characteristic species and the ecosystem services they provide, and by enhancing the sustainable use of watercourses and wetlands. They will also raise awareness and help gain a wide acceptance for the Swedish PAF as a tool to achieve the goals of the EU Habitats and Birds directives; increase available funding by improving the coordination of existing funds; and build capacity amongst relevant organisations.

[Project summary](#)



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Actions supported under the Circular Economy and Quality of Life strand will help in reaching major EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the environment and life. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 95 projects in Sweden thus far, representing a total investment of €324.5 million, of which €116 million has been provided by the EU.

Approximately one-fourth of the completed projects focused on clean technologies. The other main themes dealt with included hazardous waste; water management at the scale of the river basin; wastewater treatment; forest and sensitive area management; urban design; waste management (notably hazardous and industrial waste, as well as plastic and (food) packaging waste); wastewater treatment; energy supply and renewable energies (biomass and solar); energy-efficient transport; water quality improvement; waste recycling/reuse; noise abatement; agriculture (organic and low input farming to mitigate and adapt to climate change); eco-products design; risk management and reduction of pollutants (in the dental sector); reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases; and life-cycle assessment. The main types of coordinating beneficiaries were international and large enterprises, local/regional authorities, public enterprises, research institutes, a university, development agencies, an NGO and SMEs.

One closed project has been co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. The COM-U project was able to reach 29 000 teachers and 340 000 children in Sweden with information around EU environmental policy and related issues. It has made an important contribution to enhancing the teaching of environmental issues to provide a more balanced and practical view of the challenges and possible actions to be taken to address them.

There are seven ongoing projects in Sweden. These focus on: water resource protection and water quality improvement; renewable energy technologies (e.g. small-scale biomass, Combined Heat and Power); municipal waste/landfill and waste recycling; river basin management; water resources protection; wastewater treatment; and circular economy (with a new, innovative recycling process for food waste).

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Sweden under this strand. The LIFE IP RICH WATERS project's objectives are described below.



Integrated approach to achieving resilient ecosystems in the North Baltic Sea River Basin (LIFE IP RICH WATERS) LIFE15 IPE/SE/000015

The LIFE IP RICH WATERS project team will address water planning, eutrophication, connectivity, environmental pollution and other issues, with the aim of fully implementing the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) of the Northern Baltic Sea River Basin district (2016-2021). This will help achieve the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, which requires good status of all waters. The project team will use policy instruments listed in the RBMP's programme of measures to best achieve its objectives. They will carry out concrete and capacity building measures that support the adoption of common approaches and best practices, as well as implementing innovative measures.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation strand will support actions which help implement the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and meet the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Projects under this strand will contribute to a renewable energy based- and climate- resilient economy. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, the Climate Change strand has co-financed six projects in Sweden. The total investment for these projects amounts to €26 million, of which the EU is contributing €11 million.

The closed EffiSludge for LIFE project cleaned the wastewater treatment process water from the paper mill, while biogas was generated from both the wastewater itself and from residues from the wastewater treatment process in co-digestion with waste from the Norwegian fish industry. The LIFE LSO project was terminated without achieving results.

There are four ongoing projects. The main objective of the SUNALGAE for LIFE project is to demonstrate a highly innovative algae material that leads to significant improvements in the efficiency of silicon-based and thin-film solar panels. The overall objective of the LIFE UPHS project is to demonstrate an innovative method for large-scale underground energy storage, which utilises abandoned or inactive mines. The aim is to enable energy storage with 70-80% round-trip efficiency. The overall objective of the LIFE NOVIOCEAN project is to demonstrate a new and highly innovative concept for wave energy, which is much more cost efficient than existing wave energy converters. The objective of the LIFE COASTadapt project is to demonstrate ecosystem-based measures against coastal erosion and floods that strengthen coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project will also contribute to the 2002 EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the Commission's 2013 proposal for a new initiative on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management.



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

Building on the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003-2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014-2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy. In particular, it aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy across Europe.

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports projects in the following five areas of intervention:

- 1) Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- 2) Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- 3) Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- 4) Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- 5) Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition.

Want to know more about LIFE?

- Visit the [LIFE website](#) and [LIFE project database](#)

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



- Sign up to the [LIFE Programme](#) and [CINEA Clean Energy](#) Newsletters

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Bridging the Spatial and Temporal Gaps in Threatened Oak Habitats	LIFE15 NAT/SE/000772	LIFE BTG	http://lifebridgingthegap.se	10/2017 -> 09/2022
Restoration for Improved Resilience, Biodiversity and Status in Boreal Rivers	LIFE18 NAT/SE/000268	Rivers of LIFE	https://www.riversoflife.se/	08/2019 -> 08/2025
River connectivity, habitats and water quality towards restored ecosystem services	LIFE18 NAT/SE/000742	LIFE CONNECTS	https://lifeconnects.se/	08/2019 -> 07/2025
Method development for cold-water coral reef habitat restoration with implementation in Kosterfjord-Vderfjord, Sweden	LIFE18 NAT/SE/000959	LIFE LOPHELIA	https://www.lifelophelia.se/	08/2019 -> 07/2025
Restoration of EU Redlisted Annex I habitats, dependent on grazing or hay cutting in Natura 2000 sites in Sweden	LIFE19 NAT/SE/000172	LIFE RestoRED	https://www.liferestored.se/	03/2021 -> 08/2027
ECOSySTem based REStoration And Management of boreal riverS	LIFE19 NAT/SE/000333	Ecostreams for LIFE	https://www.ecostreamsforlife.com/	01/2021 -> 12/2026
Using functional water & wetland ecosystems and their services as a model for improving green infrastructure and implementing PAF in Sweden	LIFE16 IPE/SE/000009	GRIP on LIFE-IP	https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/en/about-us/our-task/project/grip-on-life/about-grip-on-life/	10/2017 -> 07/2025

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Good ecological status of an agricultural stream - introducing Integrated Buffer Zones in a holistic approach	LIFE14 ENV/SE/000047	LIFE-GOODSTREAM	http://goodstream.se/	09/2015--> 12/2022
LIFE SURE - Sediment Uptake and Remediation on Ecological basis	LIFE15 ENV/SE/000279	LIFE SURE	https://lifesure.kalmar.se/	08/2016--> 07/2022
HALOSEP - Innovative method for recycling and reuse of waste streams from incineration plants in the EU	LIFE15 ENV/SE/000265	LIFE HALOSEP	https://www.lifehalosep.eu/	07/2016--> 09/2022
Lidköping Innovation Wastewater Eco-Hub	LIFE17 ENV/SE/000384	LIWE LIFE	https://lidkoping.se/4.4dc288a41793b1c9fa312d18.html	07/2018--> 06/2023
Demonstration of a unique cleaning and recovery process for ammonia/nitrogen, enabling 100% recycled fertilizer products	LIFE18 ENV/SE/000265	LIFE RE-FERTILIZE	https://www.easymining.se/re-fertilize/	07/2019--> 06/2022
Circular Biomass Build Up	LIFE19 ENV/SE/000274	LIFE CB2U	N/A	01/2021--> 12/2024
Increased resource efficiency and decreased waste in the food production system	LIFE20 ENV/SE/000266	LIFE RE:FOOD	N/A	09/2021--> 08/2024
Integrated approach to mobilise resources for resilient ecosystems and rich waters in the North Baltic Sea River Basin	LIFE15 IPE/SE/000015	LIFE IP RICH WATERS	https://www.richwaters.se/	07/2013--> 08/2022

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
SUNALGAE - Innovative process of enhancing the efficiency of solar panels through the use of algae	LIFE17 CCM/SE/000050	SUNALGAE for LIFE	https://swedishalgaeactory.com/project/eu-life-sunalgae/	07/2018 -> 12/2023
Coastal adaptation to climate change by multiple ecosystem-based measures	LIFE17 CCA/SE/000048	LIFECOASTadapt	-	06/2018 -> 12/2022
Demonstration of a unique process for large scale Underground Energy Storage (UPHS)	LIFE19 CCM/SE/001227	LIFE UPHS	https://www.sens.se/17/51/pumped-hydro-storage-en/	07/2020 -> 12/2023
Upscaling and demonstration of NoviOcean, a breakthrough wave energy converter : The Hydro Power Plant at Sea	LIFE20 CCM/SE/001589	LIFE NOVIOCEAN	N/A	07/2021 -> 06/2025