

101

things you didn't know about
the County
Administrative
Board



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1. The Stockholm County Administrative Board has around 450 employees, of which one third are men and two thirds women.
2. We deal with about 250 issues every day.
3. Swedish newspapers annually report about the Stockholm County Administrative Board around 5 000 times.
4. The Stockholm County Administrative Board was the first public authority in Sweden to join a car pool that is also available to the public.
5. The County Administrative Board was formed in 1634, and is thus one of Sweden's oldest public authorities.
6. The logo of the County Administrative Board includes Stockholm's county crest. It consists of three symbols – the griffin of Södermanland, the royal orb of Uppland and St Erik representing the City of Stockholm.
7. The three most recent county governors of Stockholm are Chris Heister (2012–), Per Unckel (2007–2011) and Mats Hellström (2002–2006). Chris Heister is the 55th County Governor, and the first woman.
8. The Tessin Palace in the Old Town is the residence of the Governor of Stockholm County. The palace was begun in 1694 by Nicodemus Tessin the Younger.
9. The County Governor heads a working party that reports to the Archipelago Council operating in Stockholm County. The role of the working party is to maximise efficiency in and coordinate activities in the archipelago.
10. We allocate approximately SEK 225 million annually in EU grants to farmers in the county. Just under 2 000 farmers apply for grants every year.
11. We allocate development finance to the municipalities in the county in order for them to increase capacity and develop the reception and establishment of newly arrived refugees.
12. Every year, the county governor awards a prize for "Settler of the Year" and "Pioneer of the Year" to persons with foreign backgrounds who have started up companies.
13. There are 32 professional fishermen in the Stockholm archipelago. The County Administrative Board gives grants to the fisheries industry.
14. The Stockholm County Administrative Board coordinates the national work against prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. An estimated 160 persons in the county are involved in street prostitution.
15. Lake Mälaren supplies around 2.5 million people with drinking water. The county administrative boards around Lake Mälaren have set up and annually award, the Mälaren Water Prize, in order to encourage the work with Lake Mälaren water.
16. The Stockholm County Administrative Board supervises compliance with Sweden's law on money laundering. The supervision aims to prevent companies being used for money laundering or for financing terrorism.

A strong Stockholm region

– for our residents and for Sweden

The Stockholm region is one of Europe's most successful regions. Entrepreneurship is strong; research, education and innovate ability are top class. One third of Sweden's economic growth is created here. Stockholm County is the largest in the country in terms of population. Just over two million people live here, just over one fifth of Sweden's population.

Stockholm is Sweden's driving force. The County Administrative Board supports the region's development – people, municipalities, companies and organisations are to be given the opportunity to realise their lofty ambitions. The County Administrative Board also has the task of ensuring that the citizens in the county receive the social services the Government has decided on, that municipalities and companies comply with laws and regulations, and that national goals decided on by the Government become reality in Stockholm County.

The County Administrative Board is a public authority with a broad sphere of responsibility. We work with issues concerning the environment, nature, the business community, social care, animal protection, gender equality, integration, transport, infrastructure and housing. The County Administrative Board's task is to coordinate these and other areas of public responsibility to ensure a sustainable society in which economic development, the environment and social welfare are interlinked.

Sweden is divided into 21 counties. Each county has a county administrative board and a county governor. In this brochure we will be giving an overview of the work of the County Administrative Board in our county.

Chris Heister, County Governor



Chris Heister, County Governor, is the head of the County Administrative Board of Stockholm.
Photograph: Mikael Sjöberg

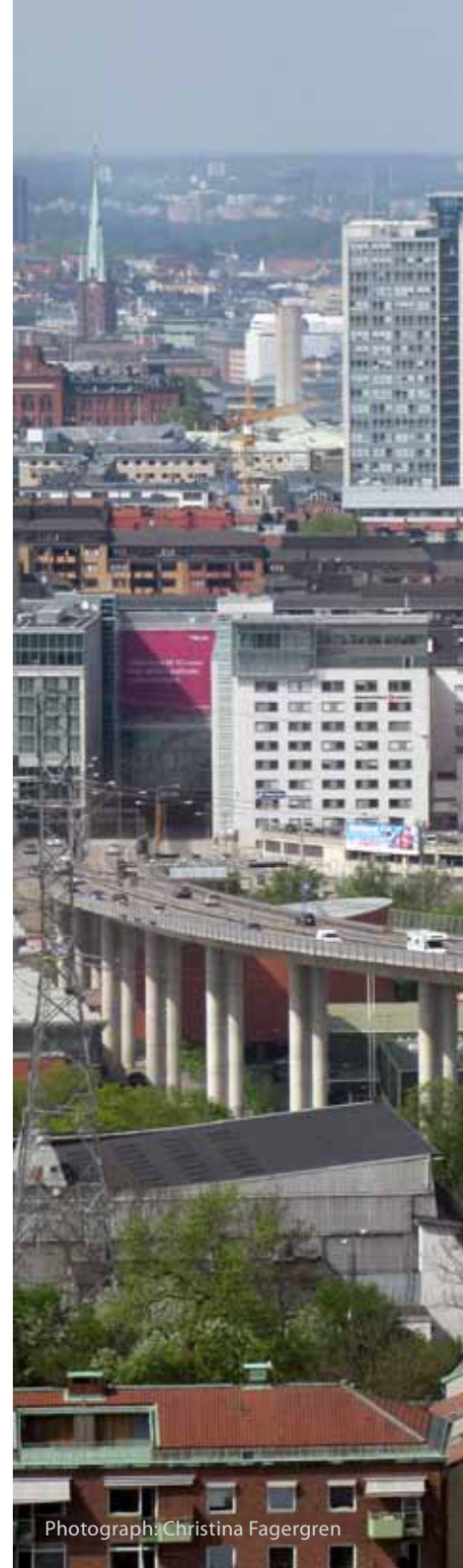
Stockholm must grow

The Stockholm region is the growth engine of the whole of Sweden. According to international assessments, the region is top in Europe. The future of the region will be determined in competition with the metropolises of the world. The County Administrative Board aims to help make the Stockholm region an attractive place in which to live, study, work and conduct and cultivate business.

The County Administrative Board supports the growth of the business community and builds the foundations for renewal, skills development and adapting to the new climate. The strengths of the Stockholm region, including IT, life sciences, vehicles and finances, are to be made use of. The region is to be a centre for world-leading research.

A well-functioning housing market and a well-developed transport infrastructure are crucial for the growth of the Stockholm region. Increasing numbers of people commute daily to Stockholm from other places in Sweden. The County Administrative Board is responsible for planning the major infrastructure projects that will take place in the region over the next ten years – both roads and railways. We do this in close collaboration with the Swedish Transport Authority and the municipalities, among others.

But Stockholm is not only a metropolitan area – it also has rural areas and, not least, an archipelago. The County Administrative Board works to develop a competitive, profitable and environmentally adapted business community in the archipelago and in rural areas. EU subsidies are available to entrepreneurs, farmers, professional fishers and other business owners for investments and skills development. The County Administrative Board allocates these grants.



Photograph: Christina Fagergren



17. The County Administrative Board draws up and adopts a county plan for regional transport infrastructure. Over ten years, almost SEK 100 billion is being invested in improving transport access in the county.
18. The Stockholm region means to position itself as the world's most innovation-driven economy by 2025. The County Administrative Board has contributed to a regional innovation strategy.
19. During 2007–2013, Stockholm County will receive SEK 338 million from the EU to improve the competitiveness of the region. A regional partnership, which includes us, is responsible for the implementation.
20. Stockholm County has the greatest number of entrepreneurs in the country. The County Administrative Board operates Entrepreneur Sthlm, which helps the county's entrepreneurs and innovators to obtain quality-assured advice.
21. Over the 2008–2013 period, we are tasked with allocating SEK 30 million annually to the development of enterprise in rural areas.
22. We work to ensure there is access to cash in the archipelago, to make life easier both for companies and for visitors.
23. Every year, we arrange the Bazaren fair, which helps companies find the skills they need and Stockholmers with foreign background find new jobs or training or start up their own businesses.
24. The County Administrative Board has assisted in establishing nine separate courses in vocational Swedish for people with a non-Swedish background.
25. We work to increase the proportion of women in newly started and established companies.
26. The County Administrative Board works to create meeting places for dialogue between the business sector, the universities and the public sector for contemporary issues and issues of the future.
27. We lead a project to increase the opportunities to fly direct from Arlanda to other major cities around the world.
28. Road and rail projects, from pedestrian paths to motorways, are inspected by us.
29. Materials for building in the county is gathered from around fifty gravel and stone quarries. We issue permits for operations within stone and gravel production.
30. 2012, all municipalities in the county reported a lack of rented accommodation. We have produced an action program for the supply of housing.
31. Almost 1 200 planning and building applications and 120 detailed plans are appealed to us every year.

32. Housing and premises are responsible for around 40 per cent of the energy use in the county. We allocate grants aimed at improving energy efficiency.
33. Every year, around 900 homes are cleared from radon with support from the County Administrative Board.
34. Around 1 250 homes were given grants towards installing solar panels by the County Administrative Board during 2010–2011.
35. The particle level in the air in Stockholm is too high. The County Administrative Board coordinates the regional work to achieve the Swedish environmental quality goals, one of which is “Fresh air”.
36. Construction in water, jetties and dredging are referred to as in-water activities. The County Administrative Board receives applications for activities of this kind.
37. In Stockholm County, there are just over 190 building monuments. The County Administrative Board makes the decision to declare a site a building monument.
38. During 2011, we distributed around SEK 14 million for measures to care for the cultural heritage sites in the county.
39. There are around 850 lakes in the county. The County Administrative Board scrutinises the decisions of the municipalities on exemptions from the right of public access to shores.
40. Nearly 200 churches in the country are protected under Sweden's cultural heritage legislation. We supervise compliance with the provisions.
41. At twelve of the country's county administrative boards, there are environmental assessment delegations, which assess permits for environmentally hazardous operations in accordance with the Environmental Code. The Stockholm County Administrative Board is one of these.
42. We exercise environmental supervision over large sites, such as Arlanda airport, Hallsta paper mill and the oil refinery in Nynäshamn.
43. The County Administrative Board identifies, and assesses risks in, polluted areas. Within the county, there are just over 10 000 areas that may be polluted.
44. In the county there are 4–6 wind turbines in use. During the summer of 2012, the environmental assessment delegation at the Stockholm County Administrative Board gave permission for 17 plants within the national interest area for windpower in Hallstavik.
45. We describe the environmental condition of the county's ground water, coastal water, lakes and watercourses. More than 400 water localities are monitored regularly.
46. In 2010, Sweden got a new Planning and Building Act. We carry out training and arrange exchanges of knowledge about this act for the municipalities.



Sustainable development

The purpose of spatial planning in the Stockholm region is to make it possible for the region to grow in a sustainable manner. Houses, roads, airports, railways, ports and power lines are to be planned and constructed in a way that is positive for the environment, the economy and people – now and in the future.

The County Administrative Board helps municipalities and authorities with basis for spatial planning. We make sure that municipal planning of for example a new road or new buildings does not conflict with other social interests, such as the environment, people's health or safety.

When new projects are planned, this must also take place with respect for the old. The County Administrative Board protects valuable buildings, ancient monuments and the historical landscape. When residential areas, roads or railways are planned where there are burial fields, hill forts or ruins, a permit from the County Administrative Board is required.

Noise is an environmental disturbance that affects people's health. The County Administrative Board is working to ensure that the number of people exposed to noise pollution in residential areas decreases.

The housing market in the county is to meet demand and provide residents with a good living environment. The municipalities plan the provision of housing while the County Administrative Board gives advice and support and produces documentation, e.g. annual housing market surveys, to facilitate the municipalities' housing planning.

The County Administrative Board guides and supervises the municipalities in their work on planning and planning permission. We hear appeals against decisions on for example planning permission.

Environment and nature

– part of quality of life

The Stockholm region is to act as a role model in terms of the environment. The County Administrative Board works on a broad front to achieve sustainable development. The overall environmental quality goals of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) serve as guidelines. Future generations should be able to experience good living environments that show our cultural heritage, attractive urban districts, vibrant rural areas and diverse nature.

The County Administrative Board analyses and produces documentation describing the situation with water, air, land, flora and fauna in the county. We particularly map land that is polluted and make sure that decontamination is carried out. We issue permits and inspect operations that may have a negative impact on the environment. We produce action plans and plans for a good aquatic environment.

The County of Stockholm is to be an energy-efficient county. Re-organising the energy system to increase sustainability requires that energy is used more efficiently and that the proportion of renewable energy sources is increased. The County Administrative Board coordinates the regional work on reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, and we work at adapting society to a changed climate.

The beautiful natural and historical landscapes and biodiversity of the county are to be preserved. To protect particularly precious natural environments, the County Administrative Board designates nature reserves, bird protection areas and other protected areas. We are responsible for work being carried out to preserve these areas. We allocate grants for municipal nature conservation, carry out inventories, and monitor and inform about flora and fauna that are under threat.



Photograph: Christina Fagergren



47. We continuously measure air-borne deposits of sulphur and nitrogen in the county in order to monitor the development of acidification and overfertilisation.
48. In our work of improving the marine environment, we have provided support to 40 new suction-operated sewage emptying stations and around ten boat washing plant within the county.
49. The County Administrative Board checks how many salmon trout and other fish there are in watercourses emptying at the coast. This is done to follow up the environmental goal "Living lakes and watercourses".
50. We allocate funds for fishery protection. In recent years, between SEK 600 000 and 1 200 000 have been distributed in the county every year.
51. The County Administrative Board protects valuable nature. The county has around 285 nature reserves, two national parks and one national city park.
52. Just over nine per cent of Sweden's animal and plant species are threatened by extinction. We produce action programmes to protect and preserve these species.
53. We monitor the development of the cormorant bird in Lake Mälaren. In 2011, 1 948 nests were counted.
54. Preventive hunting of wild mammals and birds that cause damage requires a permit from us.
55. The County Administrative Board oversees compliance with Sweden's animal protection law in the county. We are authorised to take animals into care in cases of negligence.
56. The County Administrative Board's work with predatory animal issues include inventorying, monitoring, information and training. In our county, the main predators are lynx and wolves.
57. We are working to create a nature and/or culture reserve on the islands of Lovön and Kärnön and the surrounding islands.
58. A permit from us is needed to build enclosures and keep wild animals in them.
59. The County Administrative Board is responsible for monitoring bees in the county. We appoint bee monitors, determine the monitoring districts and make announcements when areas may be infected by bee diseases.
60. In the Stockholm archipelago, there are currently around 100 livestock holders. The County Administrative Board has produced an action programme to improve the prerequisites for livestock holding in the archipelago.
61. In 2008, we established the county's first quiet zones in the archipelago, at Stora Nassa and Huvudskär. The aim is to preserve quiet and peaceful areas for both people and animals.

62. We give investment grants for housing for the elderly and sheltered housing. During 2010–2011, around SEK 108 million was allocated to support new projects covering 980 homes.
63. In 2012, we granted around SEK 15 million in state funding for the municipalities' personal representatives for persons with mental handicaps.
64. The County Administrative Board oversees compliance with Sweden's alcohol and drug laws in the county. For example, we support the work of the municipalities in supervising the ban on smoking in school playgrounds.
65. The living conditions of Roma are often poorer than for the rest of the population. The County Administrative Board follows and coordinates a pilot programme for Roma inclusion in five municipalities in Sweden during 2012–2015.
66. We train restaurant personnel about responsible service of alcohol and politicians about responsible permit issuing.
67. We provide support to the social services in their work with women subjected to violence and children who have witnessed violence.
68. The County Administrative Boards of Stockholm, Västra Götaland and Skåne coordinate the development of sheltered housing throughout the country for persons exposed to honour-related violence and repression.
69. We are participating in the work of creating "Origo", a resource centre against honour-related repression and violence in Stockholm County.
70. One of the tasks of the Board is to create a more secure return of foreign citizens who have become subjected to prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes.
71. Every year, around 30 000 persons move to the county from other countries. The County Administrative Board works to ensure that immigrants are quickly introduced to society.
72. Each municipality has a Chief Guardian, or a Chief Guardian Board. We check that the Chief Guardians in the county are fulfilling their duties correctly.

A secure life

All citizens are to be offered an environment in which it is safe, easy and secure to live – on equal terms. The County Administrative Board supports the municipalities, public agencies, non-profit organisations and others in their work of creating a socially sustainable society. This is done for example by providing advice, information, training and networks for development work and exchange of experiences.

Stockholm's multicultural composition is a strength. The County Administrative Board works to achieve the national integration goals. Among other things, we work to ensure that the municipalities are able to receive newly arrived immigrants; adults and children arriving alone.

Those at risk of becoming victims of violence are to be given support and protection. The County Administrative Board supports organisations working to prevent violence by men on women and children, as well as honour-related violence and oppression. The County Administrative Board also allocates government grants. These may concern initiatives to prevent and reduce alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse and to combat people becoming victims of trafficking or falling into prostitution. We also manage funding for the building of homes for the elderly.

The rights of national minorities are to be respected. The Stockholm County Administrative Board is responsible – in association with the Sami Parliament – for coordinating and monitoring the way in which Sweden's minorities policy is implemented.



Photograph: Christina Fagergren

A safe society

A prerequisite for a prosperous region is that everyone living in or visiting the region should feel safe and secure. Comparisons with other major cities worldwide and cities in Sweden indicate that the County of Stockholm is a safe place. The Stockholm region is well prepared to deal with serious accidents or exceptional events such as natural disasters, chemical accidents and widespread power cuts.

If a serious accident or exceptional event takes place in the County of Stockholm, it is the task of the County Administrative Board to gather the information required to produce a status report and make sure that the municipalities, police, county council, electricity companies, central authorities and voluntary organisations coordinate their efforts. In the event of accidents requiring major measures, the County Administrative Board is empowered to take over responsibility for management in order to facilitate coordination.

In the preventive work – planning and preparing efficient crisis management – the County Administrative Board provides advice and support to the municipalities. We map operations critical to society and conduct an annual risk and vulnerability analysis of the county. Training and drills are other important tasks.

We also make sure that the emergency services in the municipalities follow laws and regulations.



Photograph: Christina Fagergren



73. The County Administrative Board decides which operations critical to society are to be classified as secured facilities. There are just over 100 secured facilities in the county.
74. Every year, we arrange training for personnel within the municipal emergency services, among others. Together with other actors within the county, we carry out major emergency exercises.
75. If a shortage of electricity should arise in Sweden, parts of the electricity network must be closed down in order to safeguard socially critical functions, such as hospitals and the emergency services. The County Administrative Board coordinates the controlled electricity supply work in the county.
76. We cooperate with other county administrative boards in central Sweden to reduce the vulnerability and raise the ability to deal with serious accidents or crisis.
77. We monitor the municipalities' emergency services. The county has four emergency services, organised into two emergency service associations.
78. In the event of any emission from a nuclear plant, the County Administrative Board is responsible for emergency response and decontamination in the county.
79. We are responsible for emergency preparedness and control of epizoots and other infectious diseases in the county.
80. There is always one officer on standby at the County Administrative Board. This person is on call 24 hours a day, and is notified by SOS Alarm if a major accident should occur in the county.
81. The County Administrative Board coordinates the county's work on climate adaptation. We inform about climate change and the consequences for the Stockholm region.
82. Professional transport of hazardous waste requires a licence from us.
83. The County Administrative Board determines which roads are recommended for transport of hazardous goods and which should be subject to hazardous goods restrictions.
84. Together with the police and the public prosecutor, we work to prevent environmental crime.
85. The County Administrative Board is responsible for regional food inspection. The food we eat must be of good quality and must not cause us to fall ill.

At your service

The County Administrative Board has many tasks aimed directly at those who live, work, study or run a business in the county. Our ambition is to be open and available and to maintain a high standard of service to all who contact us.

We issue permits for putting up surveillance cameras and we license pawnbrokers. We are responsible for payments of State-guaranteed salaries. Citizens can deposit money with us for rent in the event of conflicts with landlords.

The County Administrative Board performs a supervisory role to ensure that companies at increased risk of being used for money laundering are acquainted with and observe the law on money laundering and financing of terrorism.

The County Administrative Board issues licences to surveillance companies and security guards. Businesses intending to create jobs in the Stockholm archipelago can apply for a development grant from us.

You can also contact the County Administrative Board to find out who is authorised to officiate at weddings in the county. And if you want to hunt on public water which do not belong to any homestead, you need to apply for a licence from us.

You can apply to the County Administrative Board for a permit to spread the ashes of a deceased person at a place other than a public or private cemetery.

These are just a selection of the services we provide for citizens. You can find more on our website.



Photograph: Karolina Kristensson



101

things you didn't know about

the County
Administrative
Board

86. Around 1 200 persons telephone us every day.
87. We send out 700 letters a day on average.
88. Every day, our website www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm receives around 1 800 visits. You can also follow us on Twitter, at @LansstyrelseSTH.
89. We monitor and report on algae blooms in the Baltic.
90. The County Administrative Board grants hunting licences. During the hunting season 2011–2012, 1 146 elk were shot in the county.
91. The County Administrative Board is the supervisory authority for foundations with head offices in the counties of Stockholm, Uppsala, Södermanland, Gotland and Västmanland.
92. Car breakers have to be licenced by us. We check that the plant fulfils environmental requirements and that the person applying has planning permission for the plant.
93. A permit from us is required to establish a fish farm.
94. Perhaps you have money to collect from us for expropriated shares? The County Administrative Board will keep the money on account for ten years. You can find current share lists on our website.
95. The County Administrative Board is a regional election authority. We double count all votes given in Stockholm County.
96. County Governor Chris Heister twitters and blogs regularly on twitter.com/Enlandshovding and chrisheister.blogspot.se.
97. The County Administrative Board appoints persons who officiate at civil weddings. Our website has a list of who these are in our county.
98. In order to marry, you must have turned 18 years old. We can grant exemptions from this rule.
99. The Notaries Public are appointed by the County Administrative Board. A Notary Public can help the public to confirm signatures and act as witness in various circumstances, among other things.
100. In order to arrange a competition involving vehicles on roads, a permit from the County Administrative Board is required.
101. We handle around 1 000 municipal detail plan cases ever year.

Facts about Stockholm County

- 2.1 million residents from 189 countries
- 22 per cent of Sweden's population
- 26 municipalities
- corresponds to two per cent of Sweden's surface area
- is the country's most densely populated county
- grows by between 30 000 and 40 000 residents every year
- responsible for 55 per cent of Sweden's overall population increase
- responsible for almost 31 per cent of the country's GDP
- more than one third of the companies in the country are based here
- has the highest number of women running a business in Sweden
- just over one third of Sweden's inhabitants born abroad live here
- the average age is 39 years (youngest in the country)
- has the highest density of environmentally friendly cars in the country (14 per cent of all private cars)
- during weekday peak hours, just over 430 000 journeys per hour are made within the county
- 15 per cent of the county's surface area consists of arable fields
- 40 per cent of the county's surface area consists of forest
- has around 850 lakes
- in the Stockholm archipelago, there are more than 30 000 islands, around 13 000 permanent residences and around 50 000 holiday homes
- Sweden has fourteen World Heritage Sites on the Unesco list, of which three are in Stockholm County: Drottningholm Palace, Birka and the Skogskyrkogården burial ground.



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LÄNSSTYRELSEN
I STOCKHOLMS LÄN