Executive summary of Bergens Voluntary Local Review

The City of Bergen works to achieve sustainable development through a good balance between economic, social, and environmental sustainability. All the Sustainability Goals (SDGs) are important for the City of Bergen, and the municipality works to realize all the global goals.

Over the last couple of years, the City of Bergen presented three Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) that together make up status of how the City of Bergen contributes to each of the 17 SDGs. The VLRs helps to monitor and evaluate our progress in achieving the SDGs. Furthermore, findings and knowledge from the VLRs helps us in our work to achieve the SDGs and to manage resources where they provide the most benefit.

The SDGs are about achieving sustainable development along three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. Each of the VLRs tackles sustainability goals that are linked to all three dimensions. All the VLRs has been presented to the City Council for consideration and to note the progress on the municipality’s work on the SDGs.

The first VLR Status for Bergen kommunes arbeid med bærekraftsmålene (2020) goes in depth on the following six SDGs: No poverty (SDG 1), Good health and well-being (SDG 3), Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), Climate action (SDG 13) and Life below water (SDG 14).

The second VLR Status for Bergen kommune sitt arbeid med berekraftsmåla (2022) goes in depth on the following five SDGs: Gender equality (SDG 5), Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9) and Reduced inequalities (SDG 10).

The third VLR Status for Bergen kommunes arbeid med FNs bærekraftsmål – del 3 (2023) goes in depth on the following six SDGs: Zero hunger (SDG 2), Quality education (SDG 4), Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), Life on land (SDG 15), Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) and Partnership for the goals (SDG 17).

The reports highlight and discusses connections across and between the SDGs. In addition, it shows how the SDGs are linked to human rights. Bergen is a Human Rights City and the connection between the SDGs and human rights is integrated in our work.

The report shows a clear connection between the SDGs, the City Governments political platform, the municipal master plan and thematic plans.

Furthermore, the report shows that Bergen has already taken important steps to follow up on the SDGs although much work remains. In the future, it will be crucial to strengthen cooperation with business, civil society, other public actors, and citizens. Local cooperation is necessary for global success.

The three reports show how Bergen through our plans and actions contributes to the global goals. It is a first step to set a sustainable course for the future and create awareness of how we can make better use of available resources.