

The environmental data for Sweden reveals a country making good progress on sustainability metrics, yet facing ongoing challenges in key areas that require targeted improvement.

Positively, Sweden demonstrates high energy efficiency, with low energy usage per GDP. This shows efforts to decouple economic growth from resource consumption. Additionally, 13% of Sweden's lands and waters are protected areas, helping preserve biodiversity and ecosystems. These strengths provide a strong foundation for further advancement.

However, the data exposes concerning trends in agricultural land use, hazardous waste management, renewable energy, and greenhouse gas emissions. Agricultural land has declined 11% since 1990, suggesting issues like urban sprawl, land degradation and unsustainable farming practices. Curbing this trend will necessitate better land-use planning and regenerative agriculture policies promoting conservation and sustainability.

Sweden also falls short on hazardous waste, with only 43% properly disposed of. This indicates the need for stronger regulations and systemic changes to ensure hazardous materials are correctly handled. Similarly, despite Sweden's energy efficiency, renewable energy accounts for just 2% of production. Incentives for clean energy sources like wind, solar and biofuels can help boost renewables to mitigate climate impacts.

Per capita greenhouse gas emissions, while not extremely high globally, must also decrease to align with climate goals. Strategies like low-carbon transportation, energy efficiency incentives, reforestation and wetland restoration can provide effective, nature-based solutions.

Overall, the data shows Sweden has solid foundations but must act decisively in priority areas. With proper management policies and commitment from government, businesses and society, Sweden can become a sustainability leader. Yet this will require systemic changes and

investments to transition to a truly green economy aligned with ecological limits. Sweden can secure its environmental future for generations to come through strategic action today.

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