

Examples of environmental improvements in and around Sweden

1. **Stopping desert spreading.** At the end of the 18th century, a small desert had formed in southern Skåne around lake Våmb. Through pine planting the desert spreading was halted. Our famous botanist Carl Linnaeus tells us about the sand storms at Skålder bay in the same county which was also stopped through pine tree planting.

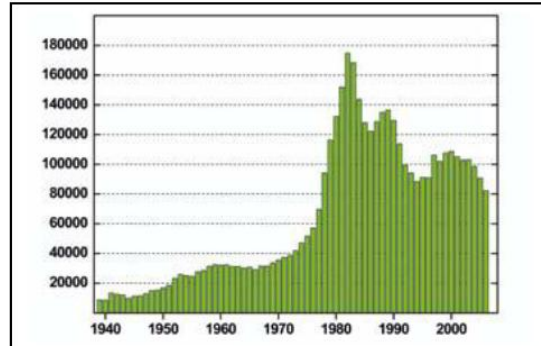
Skåne today



2. **Replanting of the Swedish forest.** At the beginning of the 20th century the Swedish forest was entirely devastated by cutting down the forest as in some developing countries today. A large scale replanting was started which has resulted not only in environmental improvements but also economic benefits as we now export a lot of forest products.

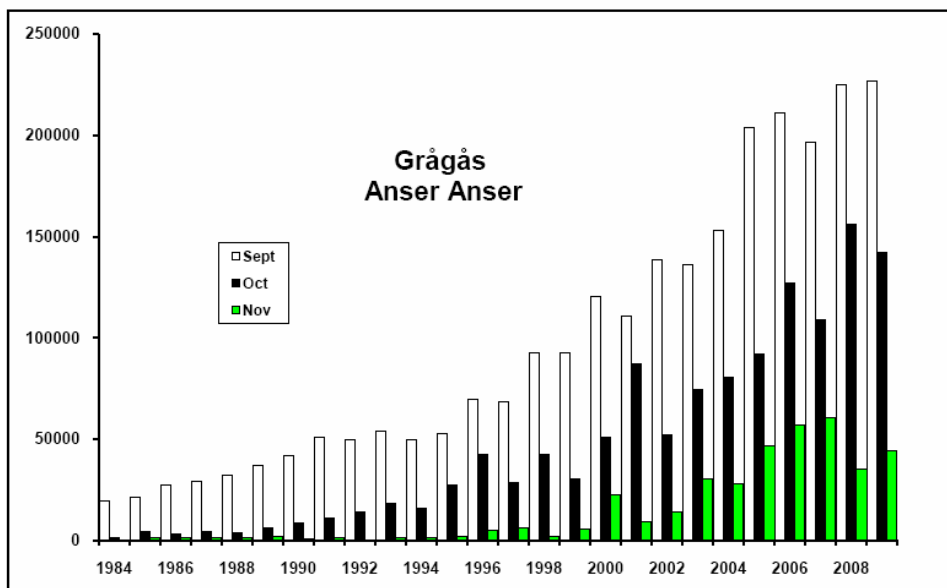


3. **Animals increasing.** Animals like moose have returned as the woodlands has grown. At the beginning of the 20th century there were approximately 2000 moose and 200 roe deer (in 1850 there were only 50 deer in southern Sweden). Today, there are hundreds of thousands of animals, both moose and deer. Animals that had been exterminated, like beavers and wild boars, are again part of the Swedish fauna.



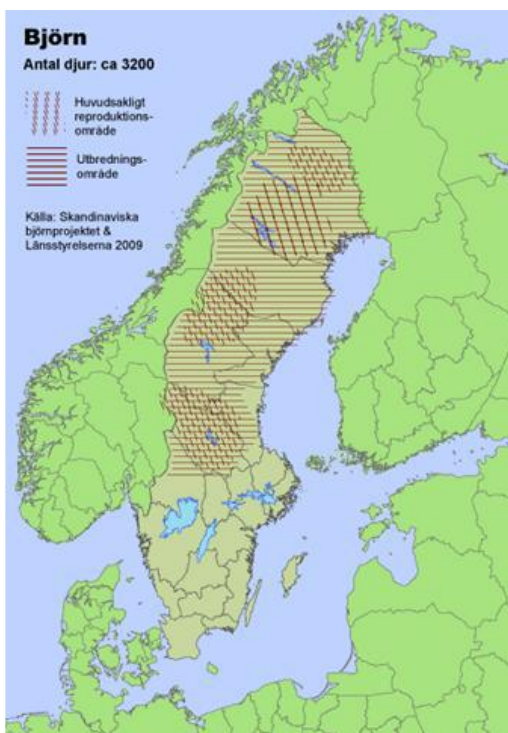
Moose area and how it has been increasing in Sweden.

4. **Birds increasing.** Big birds, like cranes, swans and geese, have significantly increased in numbers. Sometimes so much that they cause problems for the farmers in some areas.



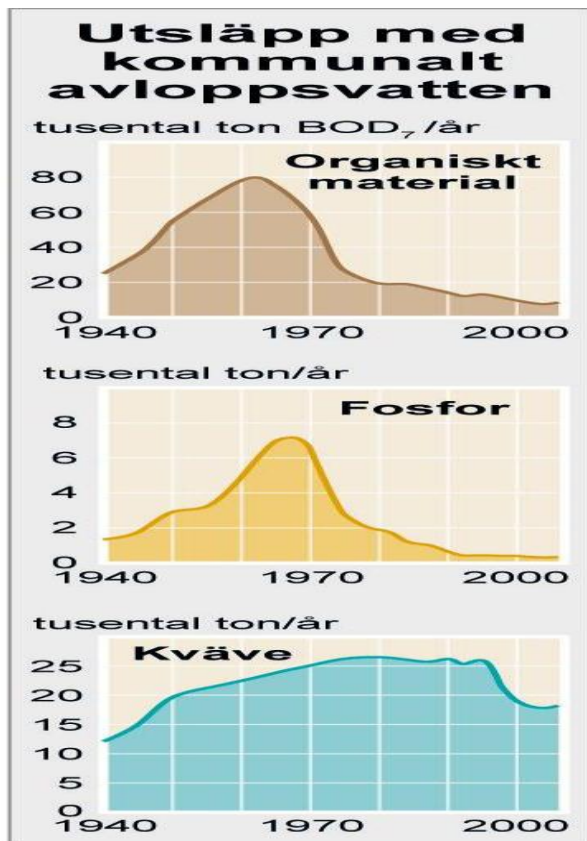
One species of geese increasing, just an example.

5. **Some predators increasing.** The biggest predators also increase in numbers. Wolf, bear, lynx and wolverine increase. Also the otters are returning.



Bears increasing.

6. **Cleaner water.** Cleaner lakes and rivers. Big factories and the introduction of the WC caused many Swedish watercourses to be severely contaminated. The introduction of sewage plants for factories and municipalities made watercourses cleaner again. Lake Vänern (the third largest lake in Europe) was very much contaminated in the sixties but now the lake is as clean as it was at the beginning of industrialisation.

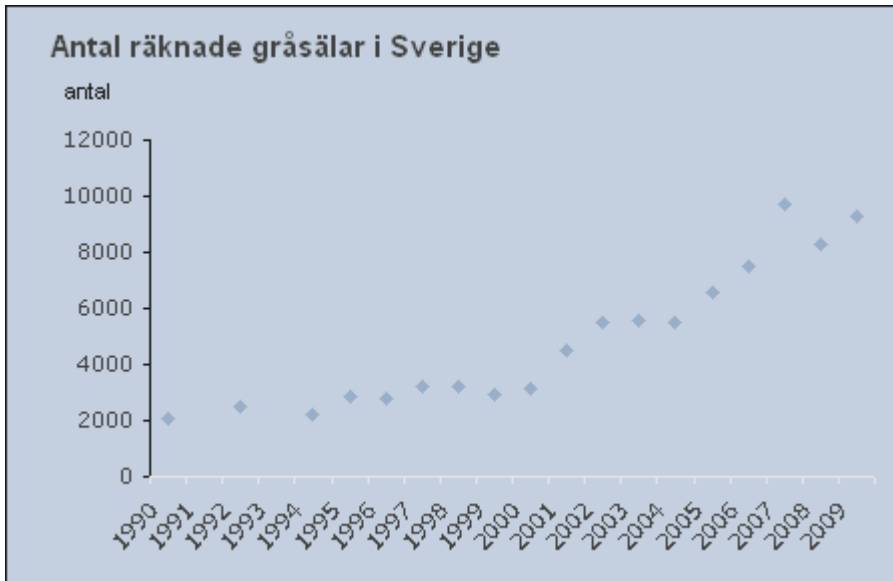


Less pollution to lakes and rivers

7. **Pollution decreasing.** Less leakage than before from the industry into the Baltic Sea helps the local kelp to recover. But still there remains many dead bottom areas in the Baltic Sea. The belts of kelp make an important environment for many organisms living in the water.

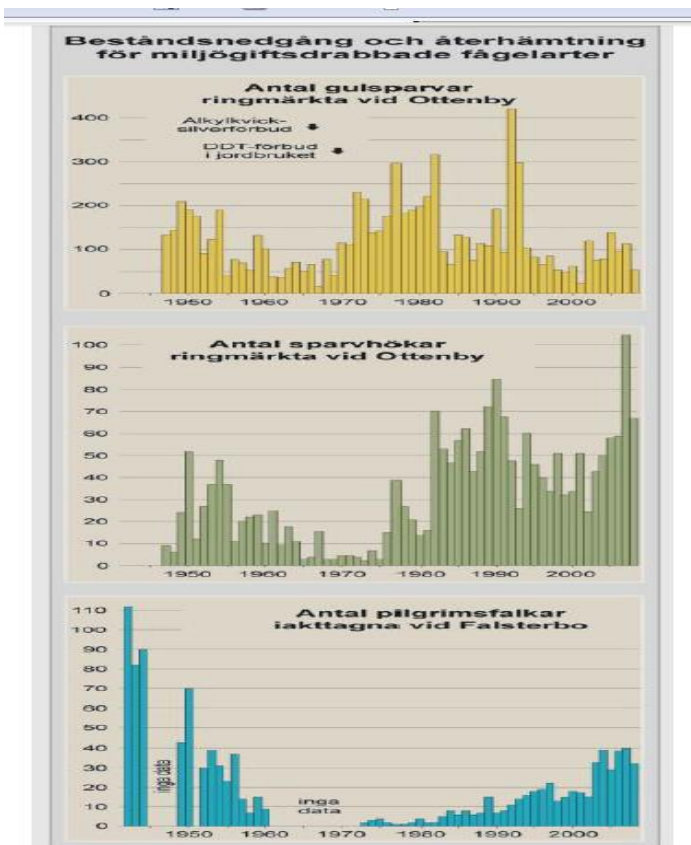
8. **Life returns.** Idefjorden, a bay between Sweden and Norway, had completely dead bottoms before but now it is swarming with life due to increased purification of water waste outlets.

9. **Bans against PCB** (chlorinated hydrocarbon) helped the seals in the Baltic Sea to recover. PCB made the females sterile when it leaked out into the water in great amounts but now there are a lot of seals again.



Numbers of a sealspecies increasing.

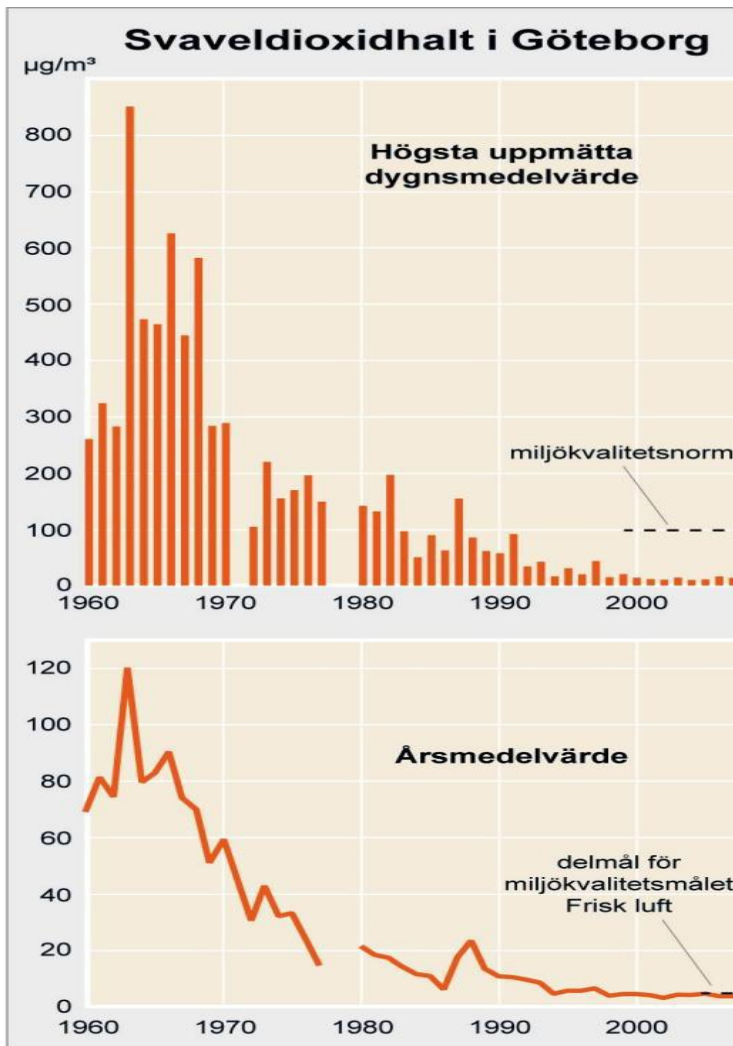
10. **Bans against DDT** have also helped the birds of prey to increase in numbers. DDT made the egg shells too thin and the eggs were broken when the birds brood but now these birds populations are increasing again.



Birds increasing, sparrows and birds of prey.

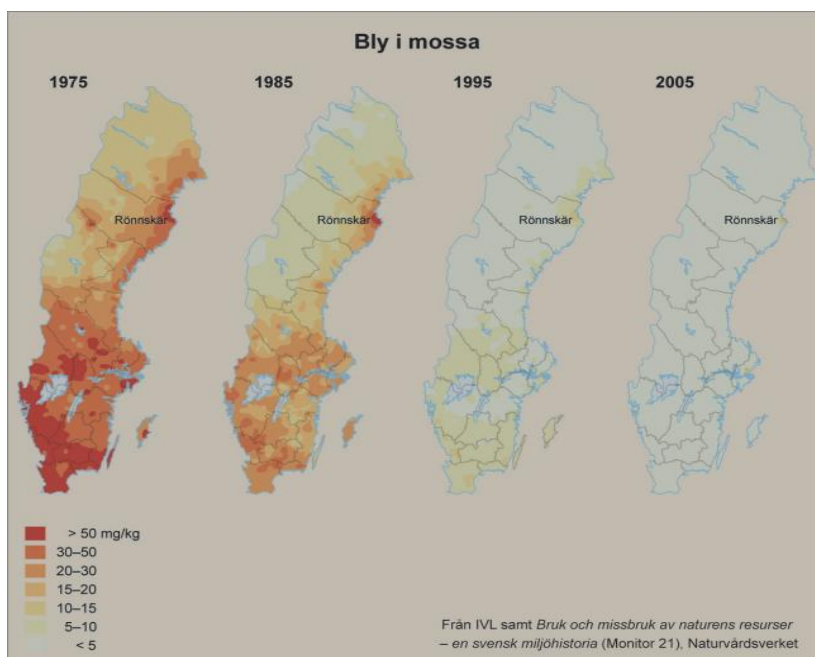
11. **Less pollution.** The reduction of emission of acidifying oxides like sulphurous dioxide has resulted in less acid rain. Emission of sulphurous dioxide has decreased with over 90 % due to the purification of petrol and diesel.

Catalysts on cars have also decreased the emission of NO_x but not as much. Seas and woodlands are no longer as exposed to acid rain as before.



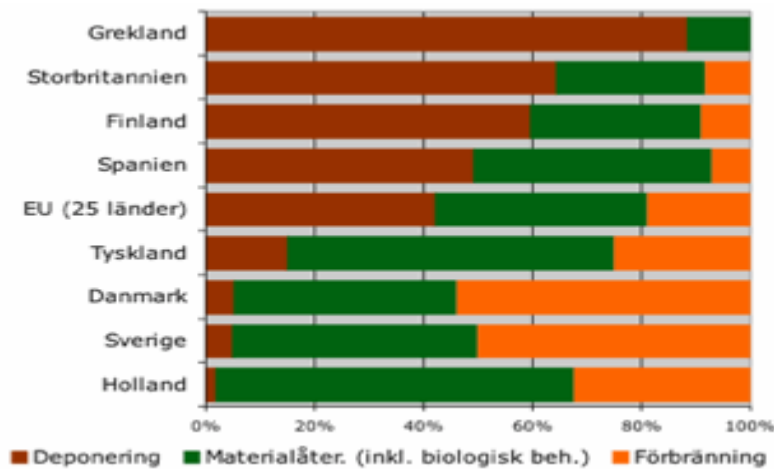
Decrease of sulphurous dioxide.

12. **Less pollution.** Decreased fallout of heavy metals like lead, mercury and cadmium due to decreased use of the metals and increased purification of exhaust fumes. This means less poisoning of the environment.



Lead in nature decreasing.

13. **Recycling.** More recycling of materials like papers, glass, plastics and metals but also energy which is necessary in order to save natural resources.

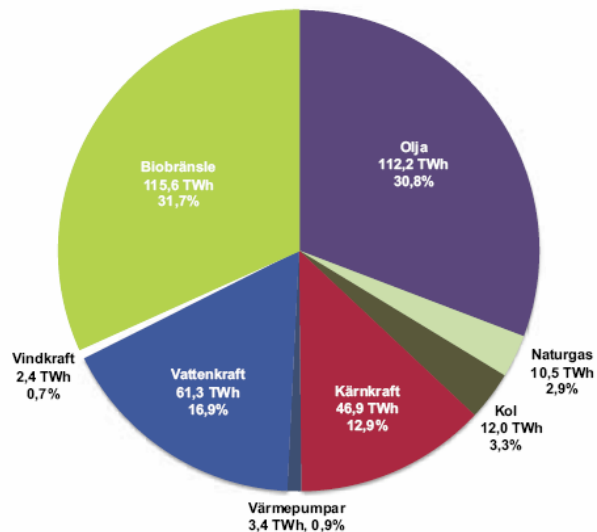


14. **Decreasing the use of fossil fuels.** In 2009 bio fuel became the largest kind of energy in Sweden, about a third of all energy. In the 1970 energy from fossil fuel was over 80 %. Today it is just above 30 %.

No other country in the world have succeeded to do anything similar.

Slutlig energianvändning 2009
Fördelad efter energikälla

	TWh	Procent
Olja	112,2	30,8
Naturgas	10,5	2,9
Kol	12,0	3,3
Kärnkraft	46,9	12,9
Vattenkraft	61,3	16,8
Vindkraft	2,4	0,7
Biobränsle	115,6	31,7
Värmepumpar	3,4	0,9
Totalt	364,3	100



Figures from 2009, today fossil fuel is even less.

Further improvements similar to those mentioned above are still necessary. We must still work to care about. More work needs to be done with the Baltic Sea, to ensure biodiversity, decrease the use of chemicals etc.

More diagrams and pictures are available in the Swedish part, miljöförbättringar.

What you can do

Some examples

1. Use less energy, for example electrical energy. All energy production and consumption influences the environment in one way or another. Use bicycle if possible.
2. Recycle more materials and do not throw away things so easily. Sometimes you can shop in second hand stores. It saves natural resources.
3. Work at home with waste sorting and leave the material to recycling stations. In school, leave your wastes in appropriate places and plastics, papers and glass in recycling bins. This also saves our natural resources.
4. When washing the car use a place where grass is growing, not areas with gravel/sand or asphalt. It is forbidden to wash the car on the street where chemicals can follow the rainwater.
5. Make an effort to cut down on the use of chemicals. In Sweden we use around 100,000 tons of tensides every year. Surely this amount can be decreased.