

Policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Task
 - Assess existing policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the healthcare sector, including policies eHealth
- Method
 - Material: National and County Council Policies
 - Identifying Criterias
 - Compiling a matrix
 - Assessing the matrix

Legal Framework

- The Environmental Code (SFS 1998:808)

“to promote sustainable development which will assure a healthy and sound environment for present and future generations.” (Ds 2000:61, 9)

National Level

- Environmental Policy

“The overall goal of Swedish environmental policy is to hand over to the next generation a society in which the major environmental problems in Sweden have been solved, without increasing environmental and health problems outside Sweden’s borders.” (Government Communication 2009/10:155, 21)

- Environmental Quality Objectives (16)
- Milesstones (14)

National Level - eHealth Policy

"National eHealth is about how all societal actors can come together to improve information management within the healthcare and social services for the benefit of the patient, the staff and decision-makers throughout the sector." (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, 2011)

County Council – Structure

Adopted by the
County County
Assembly

- Range 5 to 46 pages
- Average 18.5 pages
- Oldest revised 2007
- Latest revised 2012

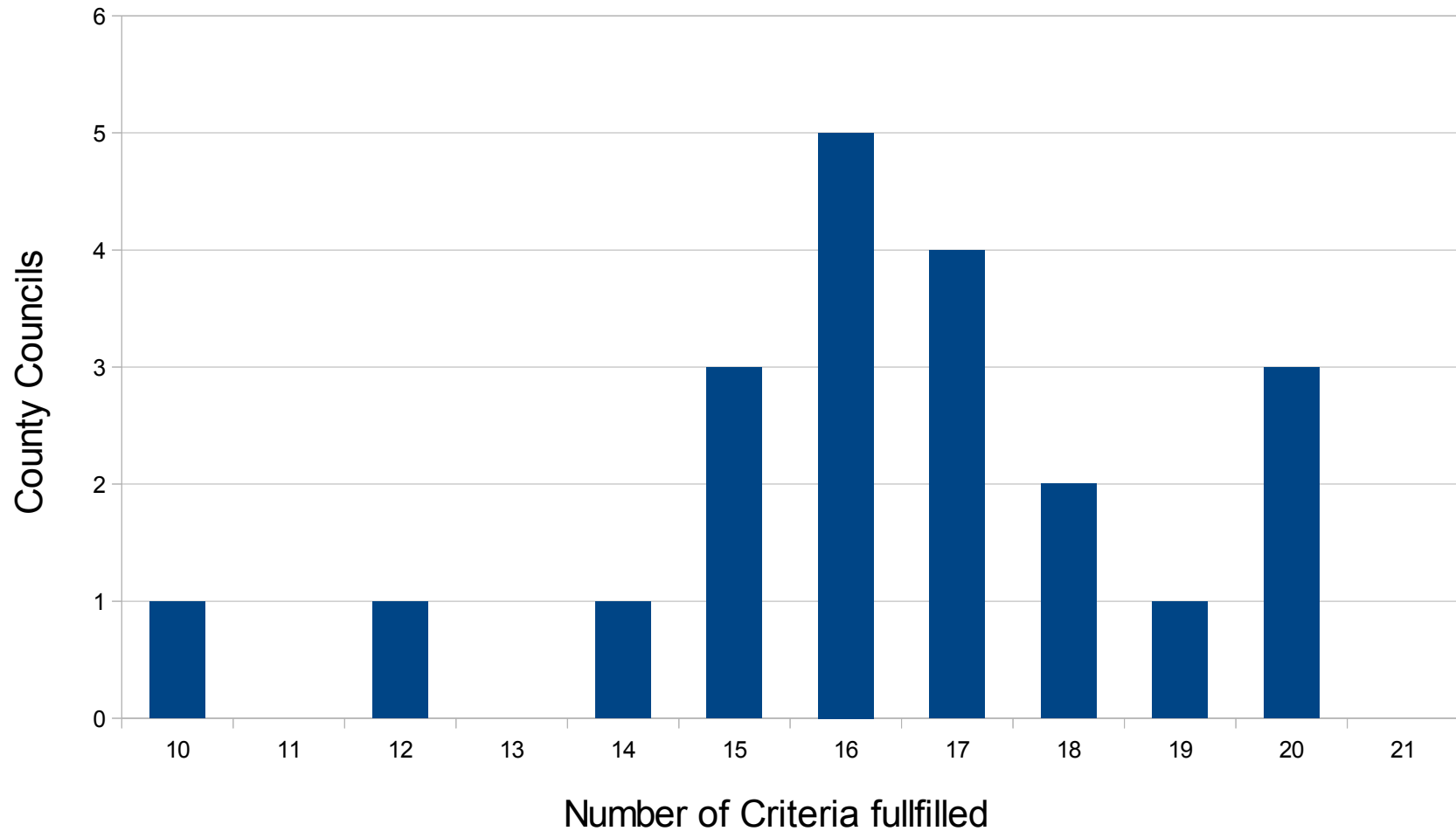
Örebro County
Council

- Overall impact on climate
- Energy
- Travel & transport
- Pharmaceuticals
- Chemicals
- Waste & Recycling
- Food
- Products
- Organization for Sustainability

County Council – Content

Mentions the need to improve energy efficiency	21	Declared that procurement are to include environmental considerations	21	Acknowledge that pharmaceuticals can have an environmental impact.	21
The need to reduce or improve the process of hazardous chemicals	21	Identifies transports and travels to impact the environment	21	Need to educate their staff on environmental issues	20
Emphasize that procurement of food need to have environmental or ethical considerations	20	Mentions the need of transportation with better fuel, cars etc	20	Acknowledge a connection between environment and health	19
Expressed a need of good sorting and recycling	18	Mentions the need of more efficient, and/or fewer transportations.	18	Expresses the need of reduced volumes of waste	17
Refers to the National Environmental Quality Objectives	16	Express the need to reduce the impact of nitrous oxide	15	The need of a good environmental management system	15
Mention other alternatives such as video conferences or other IT solutions.	14	The need of cooperation and coordination with other relevant actors.	14	Mentions climate change and its impact on the environment	11
Mentions the possibility of lowering costs and other economical benefits	9	Refers to the European Union Environmental Policies	7	Declares, within the ambition or vision, to be the leading or most prominent County Council	6

County Council – Content



County Council – Content

“The world is getting warmer and climate change is described by an increasingly united scientific community as this century's biggest threat to global health. The knowledge of how climate change may affect human health and the environment is increasing.” (VLL 1502-2012)

“The world affects us. And we affect the world. Pollutants discharged into the sea and air knows no boundaries.” (Norrbotten County Council 2008)

Conclusions

- The County Councils identifies a connection between Health, Environment, and Climate
- As a one of the largest Employer in each County, acknowledging a responsibility
- Starts to look beyond the County and Sweden
- ehealth as a tool to increase efficiency and reduce cost, not climate change mitigation