

The task of the Council for Protection of Ecological and Aesthetic Matters is to protect the city and its important features; its artistically or culture-historically important townscape, new buildings or areas planned for development as well as the aesthetic and environmental values of the city and its surroundings.

The Council for Protection of Ecological and Aesthetic Matters was founded in 1919. Its main task was to protect the interests of people living in Stockholm at a time when the city grew and changed rapidly. The antiquarian values that directed the Council's work in the early days turned out to be a costly task. The Stockholm City Museum was founded in 1931 and took over the culture-historical inventorying. But the task of decorating the city's public spaces was the responsibility of the Council up until the 1960's. Today, this task is performed by the Stockholm Arts Council.

The Council's strength still lies with questions concerning the townscape in a broader context. The Council works as a body considering proposals for city authorities and institutions, but also owns the right to initiate matters and deliver expert opinions without being prompted, which gives the Council an independent position in the municipal organisation. The work of the Council mainly concerns inspecting submitted detail plans and building permit matters from the Stockholm City Planning Committee. Motions, questions concerning the listing of historical buildings and matters from the Stockholm City Real Estate Street and Traffic Administrations or other administrations are submitted to the Council, but the Council also answers questions from private citizens concerning the townscape.

The Council members, who have to be residents of Stockholm, are chosen by the Stockholm City Council after being nominated by certain authorities, groups and institutions. The twelve members of the Council, in turn, elect a thirteenth member – he or she is traditionally an authority on Stockholm and often an author. The Council convenes once a month for their regular meeting. On top of that, the Council also convenes once a month for their more informal so-called "delegation meeting" where matters can be prepared or discussed in more detail. To the Council's meetings additional members such as the Managing Director, the City Architect, building permit directors, planning directors, parks superintendents, the City Conservation Director and one representative of the Royal Djurgården Administration are summoned.

The Council for Protection of Ecological and Aesthetic Matters
SE-105 35 Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: +46850829 765/29 766
Fax: +46 8 650 82 05
E-mail: skonhetsradet@stadshuset.stockholm.se