

Sweden sets out budget for non-toxic living strategy

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The Swedish government has announced plans to strengthen its work on non-toxic living.

In its budget for 2017 it will set aside SEK 375m (€39m) for chemical investments. This will cover the period up to 2020.

The money will be directed towards several areas of action, including:

- strengthening environmental monitoring of hazardous chemicals;
- achieving a better understanding of perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), especially in drinking water sources;
- funding for a support centre to replace hazardous substances in chemical products and goods;
- mapping the presence of dangerous substances not yet regulated in the EU; and
- national chemicals agency Kemi achieving shorter pesticide processing times.

The government points out that hazardous substances can cause cancer, allergies or affect reproductivity.

Children are particularly vulnerable, it says, and promises to focus on initiatives aimed at young people.

"A non-toxic environment is one of the most important and challenging tasks in environmental policy," says environment minister Karolina Skog.

The government's initiatives, she says, will further "help reduce the risks of chemicals in everyday life".

Kemi director general Nina Cromnier welcomed the announcement: "with increased knowledge about hazardous chemicals in products it will be easier to replace problematic substances with a better alternative."

Kemi will also be called upon to look at restricting Swedish consumers' non-professional use of chemical pesticides, such as on lawns and in flower beds.

The announcement comes as Sweden pushes on with the [five year toxic-free strategy](#) it launched in 2014. The first stage of the plan covered [2015-17](#).