The Most Functional City in the World

Sustainable Development Goals

Second part of the city-level implementation reporting
In 2015, the UN member states agreed upon goals and an agenda for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda aims at eliminating extreme poverty and facilitating sustainable development that takes the environment, the economy and people into consideration in equal measure.

Even though the 2030 Agenda is a state-level commitment per se, a significant portion of the actual implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is carried out at local level. Cities play an important role in attaining the goals. The Sustainable Development Goals turn from the agenda into action especially at city level. Achieving the goals will also require strong cooperation between countries and cities in the future.

Helsinki wants to be the most functional city in the world and stand out as a pioneer in implementing global responsibility locally. The Helsinki City Strategy features several identifiable goals through which the City takes part in promoting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

New York City was the first city in the world to submit its own city-level Sustainable Development Goal implementation report. In September 2018, Helsinki decided to follow New York City’s example and become the first European city to commit to submitting Sustainable Development Goal implementation reports at city level. The goal of the reporting is to illustrate how well Helsinki’s strategy succeeds in relation to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, produce understandable and open information about the City’s sustainable development, promote dialogue and co-operation with the international community, improve cities’ opportunities to interact with the UN, and highlight any weaknesses that Helsinki has, which we can then address. The long-term vision is to produce solutions and information that can help cities around the world implement the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals so that the 2030 Agenda can be actually implemented.

In April 2019, Helsinki published the first part of the UN’s local implementation reporting on sustainable development. It described the key objectives, measures and indicators of the Helsinki City Strategy, and their connection with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

In the second stage of the reporting, the examination will be reversed so that the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals serve as the starting point. This publication presents Helsinki’s overall goals connected to each of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals 1–16. The indicators representing the phenomena and examples of Helsinki’s measures are also highlighted for examination. SDG17 has been left out of the comparison following New York City’s example, because it refers to international cooperation on development, which is primarily conducted at state level in Finland.

Helsinki’s report is the first stage in a long process, the ultimate goal of which is to realize the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals successfully and productively in our city.
The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Helsinki City Strategy

1. No Poverty
   - Sound and healthy
   - Minds the wellbeing of children and young people
   - Digital
   - Learning
   - Financially sustainable

2. Zero Hunger
   - Sound and healthy

3. Good Health and Well-being
   - Pleasant and safe
   - Sound and healthy
   - Minds the wellbeing of children and young people
   - Athletic and active
   - Carbon neutral
   - Responsible leadership

4. Quality Education
   - Sound and healthy
   - Minds the wellbeing of children and young people
   - Carbon neutral
   - Learning

5. Gender Equality
   - Pleasant and safe
   - Resident-oriented and engaging
   - Learning
   - Responsible leadership

6. Clean Water and Sanitation
   - Diverse nature

7. Affordability and Clean Energy
   - Carbon neutral
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- In 2015, on average 13.4 percent of residents under 18 years old of OECD countries lived in relatively poor families*. Relative child poverty increased in several countries between 2004 and 2015.


- In Helsinki, the relative poverty rate of families with children was 11.8 percent in 2017**. The total number of people under 18 years old living in low-income households in Helsinki was 12,383. The relative poverty rate of families with children has been reduced from the 2008 level, when the percentage of people under 18 years old living in relatively low-income households was 16.7 percent.

  Source: THL, SotkaNet

- Helsinki is aiming for an extensive and systemic change that would reduce social exclusion, intergenerational exclusion, and regional segregation in Helsinki. The intention is that the residents in need of support will receive support before any problems arise and various precursory signals will be reacted to before any serious symptoms arise. These objectives are being implemented in the spearhead projects “Project for Youth Social Inclusion” and “Health and Welfare Promotion Project”, among others. The projects aim to extensively tackle the root causes of social exclusion, such as unemployment, poverty, loneliness and illness.

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* The percentage of people under 18 years old living in families whose income level is no more than 50 percent of the median income in the whole country of the corresponding age group in the whole country.

** The percentage of people under 18 years old living in families whose income level is no more than 60 percent of the median income in the whole country of the corresponding age group in the whole city.
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.
Malnutrition is one of the most severe social problems in many countries. However, in the countries with the highest well-being, Finland being among them, a key nutritional issue is obesity. Obesity causes serious health and well-being problems and has adverse impacts on health and social systems and the general productivity and growth of the economy.

https://www.ecologic.eu/15958

The body mass index measurements conducted at Helsinki’s health stations showed that nearly half (46 percent) of the participating 18–64-year-old residents of Helsinki had a body mass index (BMI) of at least 25 (at least a slightly elevated risk). Almost one in five (19 percent) had a body mass index of at least 30 (a significantly elevated risk).

Source: Helsingin kaupunki, Stadin Hytebarometri 2019

The obesity prevention and treatment program (Sutjakka Stadi) and the advisory board for nutritional care part of Helsinki’s well-being plan will continue to develop the City’s operations. We will treat obesity in all age groups through measures such as developing the health counselling offered to families (the Smart Family method), by strengthening nutrition knowledge in schools, offering group activities (Healthy Life groups), developing digital services and increasing the nutrition skills of the care personnel working with older people.
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

– In the EU, 68 percent of the population over 16 years old felt their health was good or very good in 2016.

– In Helsinki, 70 percent of the population over 20 years old felt their health was good or very good in 2018. The percentage of people engaging in fitness exercise or sports (for example running, swimming or ball sports) for several hours per week was 34 percent among 20–54-year-olds, 20 percent among 55–74-year-olds and 13 percent among those over 75 years old.
  Source: THL, FinSote

– During the current strategy period, Helsinki has highlighted increasing physical activity as one of the pilot projects for their promotion of health and well-being. Helsinki has started a physical activity program, the aim of which is to have residents become more physically active and less sedentary. The objective is to make physical activity an easy and attractive everyday choice in Helsinki. The actions of the physical activity program pay particular attention to those residents who engage in little physical activity and who have clear and identified difficulties with mobility.
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Globally, over 265 million children are currently out of school and 22 percent of them are of primary school age.
  

- In Helsinki, 94.4 percent of those who completed the 9th grade of comprehensive school and applied for upper secondary education received a place to study in 2018.
  
  Source: The Finnish National Agency for Education

- In Helsinki, all those who complete comprehensive education are given access to further education. In addition to this, Helsinki targeted €2 million toward a free-of-charge upper secondary education trial during the current strategy period. The funding will be used for education materials available to loan, travel expenses and cultural visits for new students at the City’s general upper secondary schools and the Helsinki Vocational College.
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.
Despite their increasing presence in public life all over the world, women continue to do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do.


In Helsinki, the employment rate of 18–64-year-old women with immigrant backgrounds was only 48 percent, while 77 percent of women with Finnish backgrounds were employed in 2017. With men, the corresponding numbers were 56 percent and 74 percent.

*Source: Statistics Finland, Labor Force Survey*

Immigrant women, particularly women with refugee backgrounds, are less likely to be employed than other immigrant groups due to their low level of education. Lacking a job or study place, many women stay at home and take care of the children. Helsinki has been able to promote the access of immigrant women to training and employment by developing and implementing peer groups for stay-at-home parents around Helsinki in Somali and Arabic. In the groups, the participants learn about things such as education and career opportunities, family services and Finnish studies with the help of an instructor using their own language. There are 80–120 participants annually, and as many as 50–70 percent of them go on to education or employment.


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*Helsinki Vocational College’s KYKY II project (from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2019) develops the support and guidance for immigrant stay-at-home parents in Helsinki. The project continues the work of its precursor, the KYKY project, in promoting the participation of immigrant families and receives its funding from the European Social Fund.*
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

– In the world, 2 billion people lack access to clean drinking water.
  Source: WHO, https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water

– Finland has the cleanest drinking water in the world.
  Source: Unesco

– The drinking water in the Helsinki metropolitan area is provided by the municipal body Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority HSY. The raw water comes to Helsinki along a 120 km-long tunnel from Lake Päijänne, the water quality of which is good. The security of water supply in the water supply network of Helsinki is top-quality due to the structure of the network. It allows for the bypassing of pipe breaks, so that no long stoppages in water supply have the opportunity to occur.
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.

- In 2017, a total of 133,853.38 TWh of fossil fuels were used globally.
  Source: Our World in Data, https://ourworldindata.org/fossil-fuels

- On 1 April 2019, an Act came into force in Finland banning the use of coal as of 1 May 2029.

- Helsinki will start an international Challenge competition in the fall of 2019, looking for a solution for replacing coal in the heating of Helsinki as sustainably as possible and with minimal use of biomass. The main prize of the competition is planned to be a sum of €1 million.
8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.
– Globally, 61 percent of the working age population was in the labor market in 2018.  

– In Helsinki, the employment rate of 15–64-year-old people was 74 percent in 2018. Despite the good employment development, over 30,000 people remained unemployed in Helsinki in March 2019.  
Source: Statistics Finland, Labor Force Survey

– The City of Helsinki offers advice, guidance and multi-sectoral shared services to promote employment. Within the One-Stop Guidance Center operations, the instruction services are targeted particularly at Helsinki residents under 30. During 2019, a similar service is piloted for those over 30 in cooperation with the Uusimaa Employment and Economic Development Office.
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.

9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.
The percentage investments related to research and development (R&D) made up of the global GDP was 1.7 percent in 2014. The percentage R&D investments made up of the GDP had increased slightly (0.2 percentage units) compared to the 2000 level.


In Helsinki, the research and development expenditure amounted to €2,98 million in 2017. The R&D expenditure grew 52 percent compared to the 2000 level.

Helsinki’s goal is to be one of the most fascinating locations in Europe for creative startup activities and the most attractive competence cluster for companies and individuals who want to make the world a better place. Cooperation with the leading Finnish and international universities, cultural institutions, developers and companies advances the construction of a new trial ecosystem. Through its innovation fund, the City funds investment projects and undertakings that help create a business and competence base.
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements.

10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.

10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.
Reduce inequality within and among countries

- After social transfers, 17.3 percent of EU citizens were low-income* in 2016.
  

- In 2017, almost 32,000 residents of Helsinki (40 percent of beneficiaries and 5 percent of all residents) received basic social assistance** for at least 10 months of the year. In relative terms, the most common recipients of long-term assistance were families with children receiving social assistance, almost 45 percent of which received long-term assistance.
  
  Source: Kela

- Reducing inequality between population groups and areas alike is one of the most key goals in the Helsinki City Strategy. The actions of the Project for Youth Social Inclusion started in the current strategy period aim for a systemic change that would reduce the social exclusion of children and adolescents, intergenerational exclusion, and unwanted regional segregation in Helsinki.

* Low-income people are people with a household disposable income per consumption unit (after social transfers) of below 60 percent of the median disposable income of all households.

** Social assistance is a form of last-resort financial assistance. Social assistance is granted in situations where other forms of social security do not cover essential needs.
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- Over half of the world’s population is already living in urban areas, which is projected to increase to almost 70 percent by 2050.

- Projections show that the population of Helsinki will grow to 700,000 residents in 2025 and 822,000 residents in 2050.

- Helsinki will continue to balance the regional distribution of occupancy types of the housing stock, which prevents segregation. Of the newly constructed housing units, 45 percent will be implemented as unregulated owner-occupied and rental housing production, 30 percent as a mix of rental and owner-occupied housing, such as Hitas owner-occupied housing and right-of-occupancy housing, and 25 percent as ARA rental housing that will remain reasonably priced for a long period. Since the City Strategy came into force, the City has also created the Carbon-neutral Helsinki 2035 action plan and adaptation guidelines for climate change, the Air Quality Plan and the noise abatement action plan, as well as introducing the participatory budgeting model, where residents get to decide on the distribution of €4.4 million.
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- If food wastage were a country, it would be the third largest emitting country in the world.  

- On average, each resident of Helsinki throws away 20–25 kilograms of food each year.  
  Source: Natural Resources Institute Finland

- In Helsinki, food wastage is prevented by engaging pupils in food planning, to ensure food is as tasty as possible. Pilots for selling surplus food have also been organized in schools. Surplus meals are also donated to charity. The City’s staff restaurants employ the one plate model, which helps to compile a meal in accordance with the plate model and reduces food wastage.
13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

- In 2018, the global temperature was the fourth highest ever recorded. The only years hotter were 2015, 2016 and 2017. 
  Source: NOAA

- The average temperature of the year in Kaisaniemi, Helsinki, was 7.2 °C, which is 1.4 higher than during the reference period of 1981–2010.
  Source: Finnish Meteorological Institute

- With the inception of the City Strategy, Helsinki created and approved the Carbon-neutral Helsinki 2035 action plan. The action plan includes 147 actions that aim to reduce Helsinki’s direct greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent compared to 1990. By 2018, Helsinki had reduced its total greenhouse gas emissions by 27 percent.
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.
In 2004, The Baltic Sea was classified as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). Nevertheless, it is also one of the most heavily traveled and polluted seas. Approximately 85 million people live in the Baltic Sea drainage basin.  
*Source: WWF*

Helsinki and Turku together initiated the Baltic Sea Challenge in 2007. The challenge has already been accepted by almost 300 organizations. As a part of the Baltic Sea Challenge, Helsinki participated in creating the Baltic Sea professorship for the University of Helsinki.

The third action plan of the Baltic Sea Challenge was drawn up after the City Strategy came into force. As a part of the Baltic Sea Challenge, Helsinki has encouraged ships to discharge their waste water at the harbor into the City’s sewer network for no separate charge since 2008. In addition to this, the Port of Helsinki has adopted an incentive offering a 20-percent discount on the waste charges for solid and oily waste for ships that leave their waste water in the harbor. Most ships leave their waste water at the harbor.
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- There are more than 200,000 conservation areas in the world, covering approximately 15 percent of Earth’s land and 10 percent of its waters.  

- In Helsinki, nature conservation areas currently cover 2.2 percent of the city’s land area and 0.5 percent of the water area.  
  Source: City of Helsinki Environmental Report 2018

- Since the City Strategy came into force, Helsinki has started implementing a new nature conservation program, which will double the surface area of conservation areas.
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- In EU countries, residents’ feeling of safety in their own area has improved in recent years. The percentage of people experiencing crime, violence or vandalism in their area has reduced by an average of 1.6 percent per year between 2011 and 2016.
  

- The residents of Helsinki find their own neighborhood, the city center and means of transport safer than ever before. Of the 15–74-year-old respondents to the Helsinki safety survey, 81 percent found their own neighborhood safe even late at night in the weekends. Men found their neighborhood safe more often than women, but even women’s feeling of safety has improved in recent years.
  
  *Source: Helsinki safety survey 2018.*

- Everyone should feel safe in Helsinki. Security planning in the city is implemented from local perspectives as the citizens’, communities’ and authorities’ collaboration. The initial data for security planning is received through monitoring the well-being and health of the population. The purpose of the security planning is to improve the safety of citizens and their sense of safety by preventing crimes, disturbances, accidents and disasters. The principles of local security planning will be updated in 2019.