

#### Helsinki Partners

## Toolkit: Climate & environmental sustainability in Helsinki

Updated in October 2023



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## How to use: Sustainability Toolkit

- 1. A useful tool for your everyday sales work or communication with your customers and stakeholders.
- 2. A quick way to find:
  - what is Helsinki's sustainability work about actions & goals
  - facts and figures
  - rankings.
- 3. Get examples on:
  - how to use the information in your own social media channels
  - · quick links to useful material.



## Sustainable Helsinki:



## In a nutshell





## City Strategy 2021–2025

Sustainable growth is in balance with the prevailing ecological limitations, creating benefits that are socially, financially and culturally sustainable. We are proud to continue to evaluate and guide the development of Helsinki in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

We will move our deadline for achieving carbon neutrality forward five years to 2030 and renew our Carbon-neutral Helsinki Action Plan. A goal to attain carbon zero status by 2040 will also be set.

We will all have to adapt to the consequences of our planet's climate crisis. The health, property and way of life of Helsinki's inhabitants must be protected. The goal is to prepare Helsinki well for extreme weather phenomena and their indirect effects.

Helsinki actively protects and nurtures its diverse natural environment. We will expand our networks of forests and fields and ensure that every city resident lives in close proximity to nature

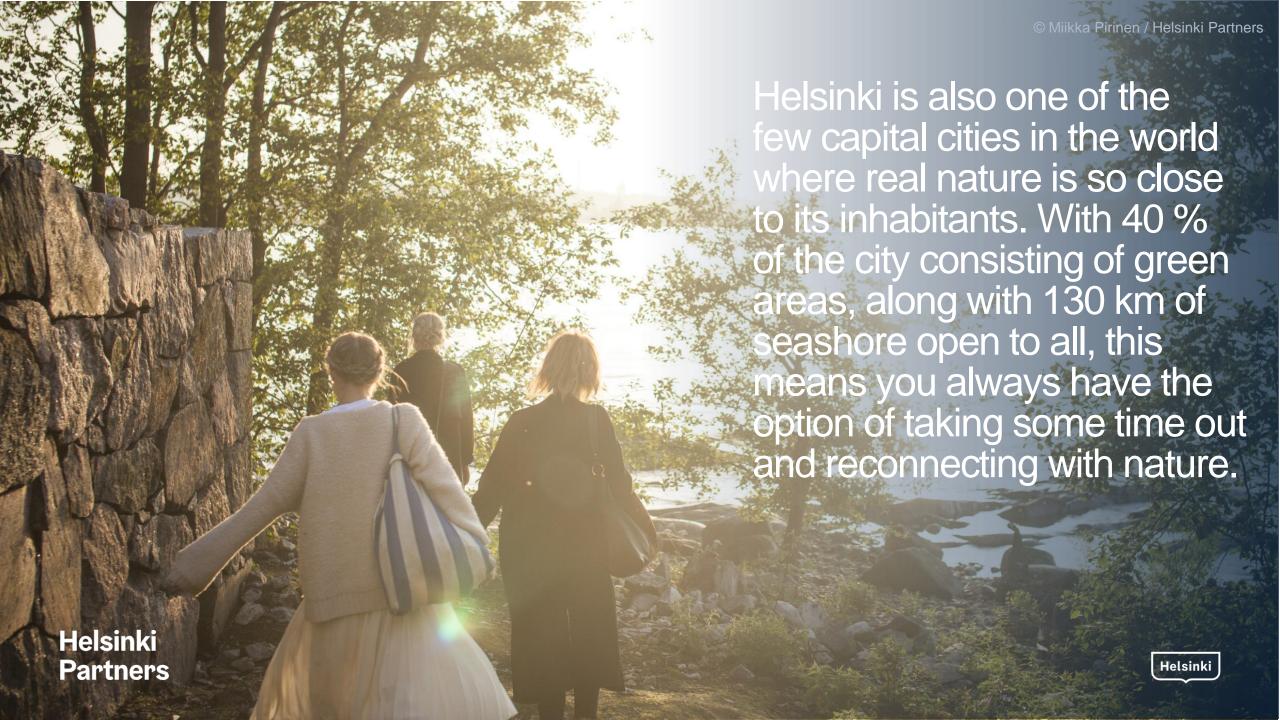
An appealing city also attracts travellers. We will develop Helsinki into the smartest and most sustainable travel destination.





The air quality is superb, clean water is abundant, and there are quiet spots everywhere, even in the city centre. The city is designed to be walked or biked in – so no need to sit in traffic jams breathing in fumes.







## Achievements, rankings & PR

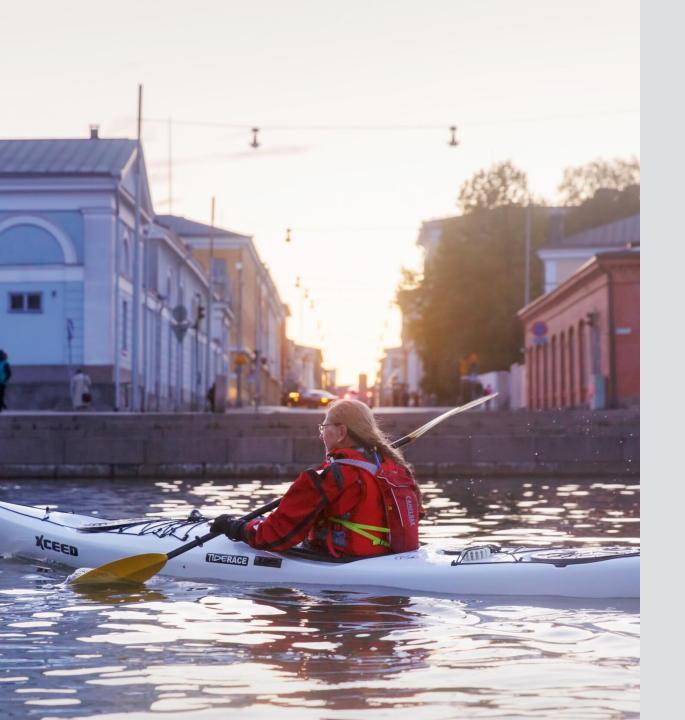




#### Helsinki facts & figures: climate and environment

40 % of the city consists of green areas.	34 quiet areas in the midst of the city.	All rail traffic runs on sustainably produced electricity.	The highest quality of water among European capitals (Treated.com)	Helsinki 4 <sup>th</sup> sustainable tourism destination and 1 <sup>st</sup> in environmental performance globally.  (GDS Index, 2023)
130 km seashore for everybody to use.	Every local lives 10 km from seashore.	99 % of public transport departures take place on time.	5th best air quality in global comparison of capitals (IQAir 2019)	Helsinki ranks 12th in sustainability among destinations. (GDS Index, 2022)
Intact forest 3km from the city centre.	Easy access to islands by public transport.	The average Helsinki local commutes for just 26 minutes a day.	The 4 <sup>th</sup> best public transport in Europe (BEST 2022)	Helsinki 3 <sup>rd</sup> in Europe in achievement of sustainable development goals (2019 SDG Index European Cities)
Over 100 parks open to all 24/7.	1200 km of maintained cycle lanes.	70% of the hotel rooms in Helsinki are certified as environmentally friendly.	Helsinki 6 <sup>th</sup> in Sustainable Cities Index rating environmental performance and climate resilience. (Corporate Knights 2022)	Finland #1 in the total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs (SDG Index 2022)
Over 60 nature reserves in the city area.	One of the most popular city bike systems in the world.	100 % of major congress venues environmentally certified.	Finland #2 in the Sustainable Travel Index. (Euromonitor, 2021)	Finland 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the world on environmental performance. (Environmental Performance Index 2022)

Helsinki Partners Sources: Helsinki Facts & Figures 2021, HSL



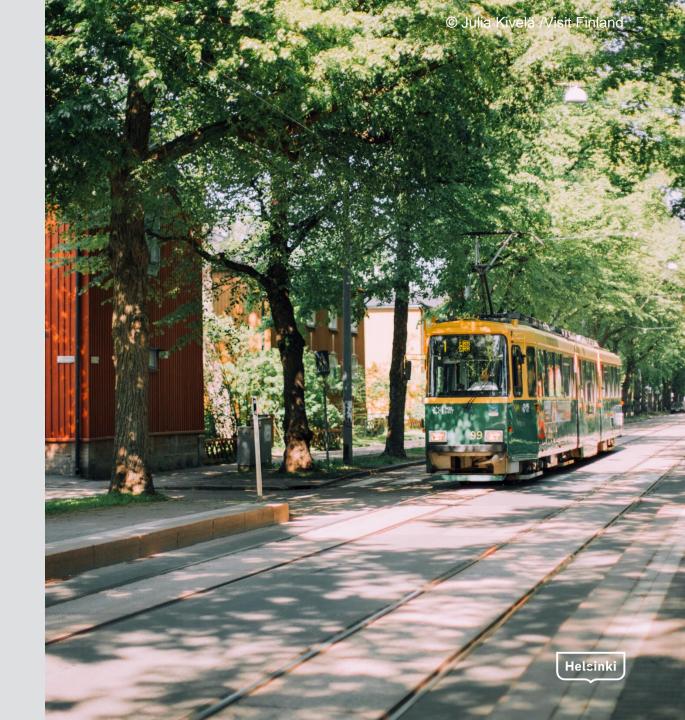
## Helsinki 4<sup>th</sup> sustainable tourism destination and 1st in environmental performance globally.

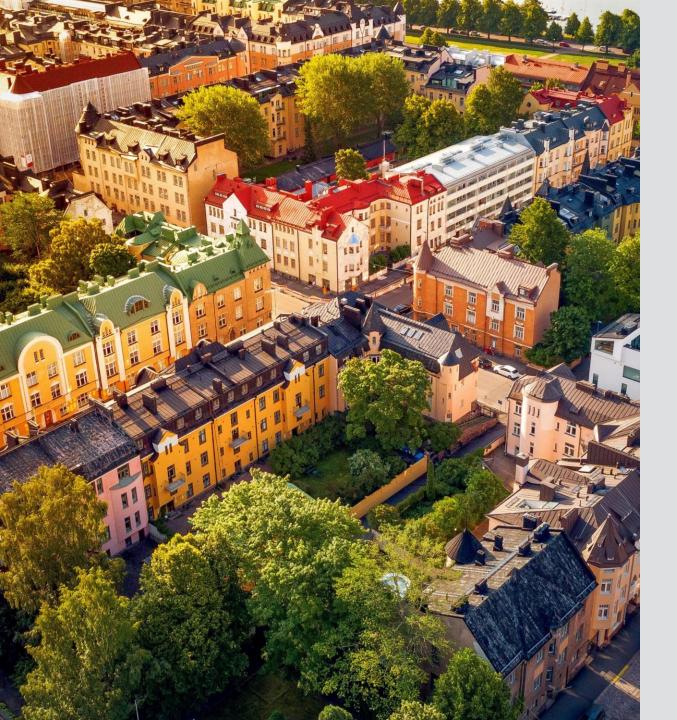
Global Destination Sustainability (GDS) Index 2023



# Helsinki has the 4<sup>th</sup> best public transport in Europe.

Benchmarking in European Service of Public Transport (BEST) 2022





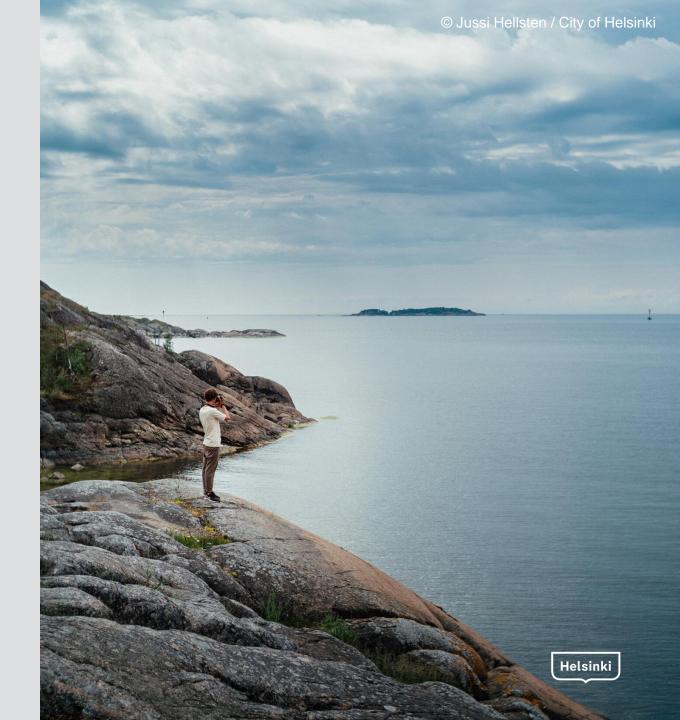
# Helsinki 6th in environmental performance and climate resilience.

Sustainable Cities Index 2022 by Corporate Knights



Helsinki has the highest quality of water among European capitals.

Treated.com





## Finland #1 in Sustainable Development

SDG Index 2022



Finland is the happiest country in the world (6<sup>th</sup> year in a row).

World Happiness Report 2023





## Helsinki is the happiest city in the world.

World Happiness Report 2020

Helsinki

"The city's desire to grow and transform while always doing the right thing for the environment and its people is rare."

Forbes 2023



"Helsinki has long stood at the frontier of environmental responsibility and innovation"

Independent 2022



"The capital of the world's happiest country is big on green initiatives, brimming with bold design and embraces the outdoors"

**iNews 2022** 



## How to use: Helsinki Material Bank

- **1. Browse, pick and use.** The <u>Helsinki Material Bank</u> offers high quality images, raw video material, press releases, statistics and brochures about Helsinki. No log-in is required, so you can download and share content immediately and with ease.
- **2. Collect and save for later.** You can collect also your favorite sustainability themed photos and save them in the <u>My Selection basket</u>. Every selection gets a unique url. In order to access your selection later, save this url. Instead of downloading media one-by-one, do a quick and easy mass download here.
- **3. Choose from a pre-selected image collection**. We have collected sets of images for you according to different themes. If you're in a hurry or can't find a suitable image, try our photo selections for <u>Sustainability</u>, <u>Nature</u>, <u>space and silence</u> and <u>Smart city</u>.



#### Photos & videos

#### Helsinki Material Bank:

- Sustainability
- Nature, space and silence
- Smart city

#### MyHelsinki YouTube:

 Sustainable Helsinki playlist

#### Websites

#### MyHelsinki.fi:

- Think Sustainably
- Nature in Helsinki

#### Sustainable.Helsinki:

Sustainable Helsinki

#### Helsinginilmastoteot.fi

Helsinki's climate actions

## Relevant documents

#### City of Helsinki:

- City Strategy 2021-2025
- LUMO programme. City of Helsinki Biodiversity Action Plan 2021–2028
- Compass A Handbook for Safety in Tourism and Events in Helsinki 2023
- Helsinki Facts & Figures
   2021 (PDF)

#### Sustainable Meeting Guidelines:

 <u>Sustainable Meeting Model</u> (e-publication)

## Other useful information

#### Finland Toolbox:

 Nature & sustainable development

#### Visitfinland.com:

- Travel Sustainably
- Sustainable Travel Finland Label

#### **Business Finland:**

- Guide to Inclusive Travel
- <u>Tips for sustainability</u> communication

Helsinki Partners

Helsinki

## Actions:



## UN's Sustainable Development Goals





## City Strategy 2021–2025

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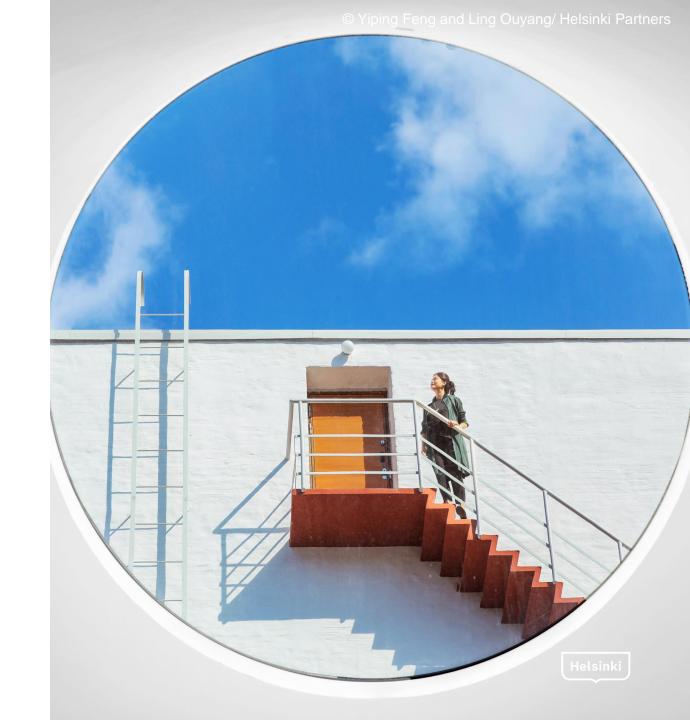
Helsinki actively protects and nurtures its diverse natural environment. We will expand our networks of forests and fields and ensure that every city resident lives in close proximity to nature

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### SDGs – global leader, European pioneer

Helsinki was the 1<sup>st</sup> in Europe and the 2<sup>nd</sup> city in the world to commit to the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) model created by the City of New York. So far, more than 100 cities from all over the world have joined these efforts. Helsinki has completed its third report in 2023.





### SDGs – global leader, European pioneer

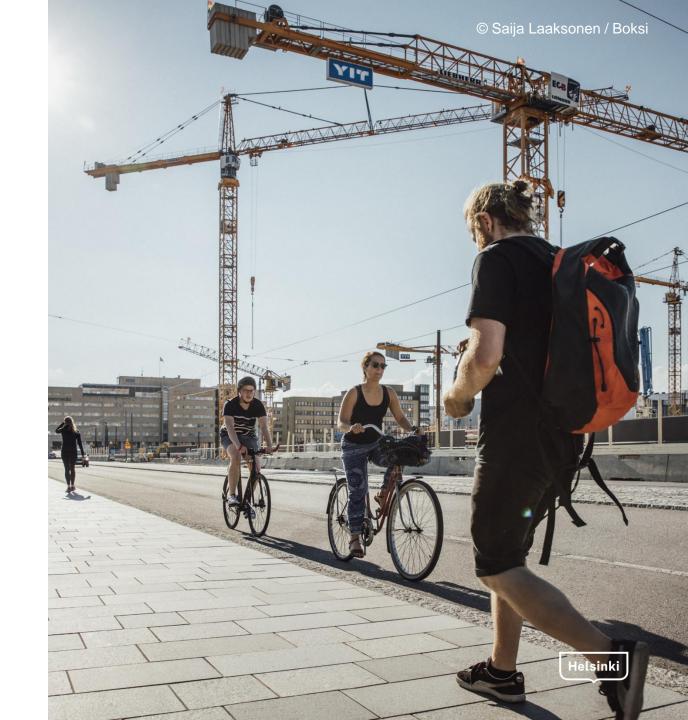
Sustainable urban development is not an empty promise in Helsinki. Sustainable solutions are not only environmentally friendly and energy-efficient in Helsinki, but they are also made of citizen wellbeing, equality and functional everyday life. The third report 2023 brings focus also on cultural sustainability in addition to ecological, social and economic sustainability.



### Global leader, European pioneer

The 2023 report highlights five success factors:

- Sustainable development learning path integrated into early childhood education.
- Increased production of renewable energy, improved air quality.
- Promotion of cultural equality an important priority throughout the cultural sector.
- Improved attractiveness of residential areas and high-quality complementary construction enabled via suburban regeneration model.
- Development of mental health service chains, and investments to support physical activity and hobbies.



### SDGs – global leader, European pioneer

- Sustainable Helsinki compiles all sustainability actions taken by the City of Helsinki
- <u>Kestavakehitys.fi</u> information on Agenda 2030 (national level)
- Information on SDGs (UN website)

































## Actions:



## Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2030





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## Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2030

Helsinki has set a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, attaining carbon zero status by 2040 and aiming to become carbon negative afterwards. The target of the emissions reduction plan is to reduce the direct emissions level of the year of comparison, 1990, by at least 80% by 2030 and compensating for the remaining emissions (up to 20%).



## Examples of commitments

Helsinki has been selected as one of the 100 climate-neutral and smart cities of the European Commission. The 100 cities represent all 27 member states of the European Union and are committed to achieving climate-neutrality by 2030. Helsinki selected for EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities | City of Helsinki

Helsinki has signed the Glasgow Declaration to support the global commitment to halve emissions by 2030 and reach Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050. Glasgow Declaration | One Planet network

Helsinki is part of the international Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA), whose member cities are all striving to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 80–100 per cent by 2050 or sooner. <a href="CNCA">CNCA</a> (carbonneutralcities.org)





### Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2030

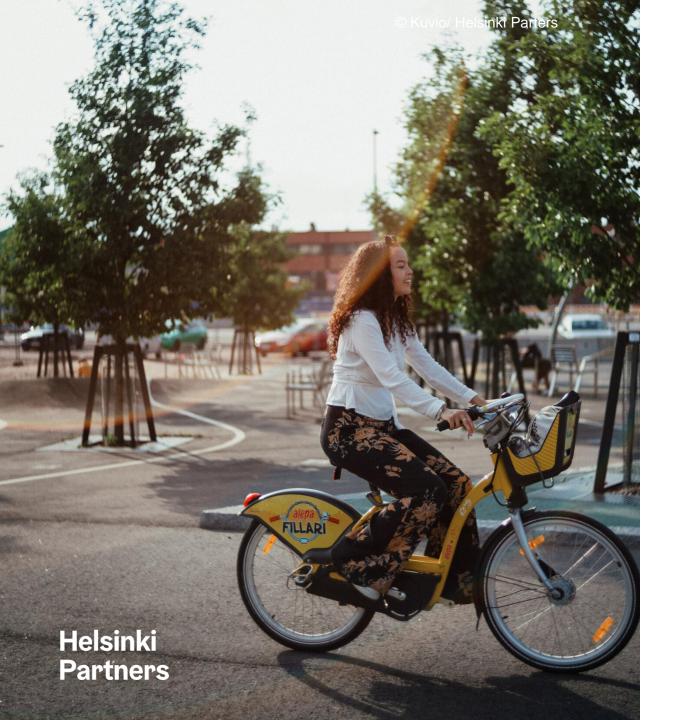
The renewed logic of the programme is based on effectiveness — it prioritizes actions that lead to direct emission reductions and in which the city itself has the most influence. The carbon-neutral Helsinki Action Plan therefore focuses especially on **transport**, **energy solutions** and **construction**, of which the most significant part of Helsinki's emissions are generated.



## Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2030

- Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2030 (updated action plan)
- Helsinginilmastoteot.fi Helsinki's climate actions, objectives and monitoring





## Helsinki is also adapting to climate change

Effective green solutions can help manage storm water, minimize flood risk and limit the heat island effect of hotter temperatures in urban areas. In Helsinki, part of preparing for these changes will include planting more trees and adding more green spaces to the city. Drought-resistant greenery will be added to Helsinki parks, and green walls and roofs will assist with drainage.

Helsinki

#### Quick guide: 3 x actions circular economy



## Construction: bold openings and good practices

The city's circular economy cluster programme aims to promote circularity in the construction sector and to develop solutions and new innovations regarding i.a. reuse, recycling and management of building materials.

testbed.hel.fi/en/circular-economy/



## Environmental benefits with product as a service procurement

Palvelukeskus Helsinki's framework agreement regarding workwear entered into force in 2022, and within this framework, part of the workwear used by the personnel is acquired as a rental service. The goal is to promote the longevity of products and to enhance their use and recycling.

carbonneutralfinland.fi



## Citizens as actors of the circular economy

A circular economy –section has been created in the service map of the capital region. This section includes different circular economy actors, i.a. sale of recycled and surplus products, borrowing and renting services, mending and repairing services and shared spaces and transport.

Search results | Service map (hel.fi)

## Actions:



# Biodiversity Action Plan 2021–2028





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## Biodiversity Action Plan

Helsinki's ambitious Biodiversity Action Plan (LUMO programme) lists more than 90 measures to preserve and improve green connections, habitat types and the habitats of the species in the city. During the city's strategy term 2021–2025, a minimum of five new protected areas will be established each year.



## Examples of initiatives

The City of Helsinki has joined the European Commission's Green City Accord initiative by which it commits to achieving five different goals related to a healthier, cleaner and greener city by 2030. Green City Accord (europa.eu)

The City of Helsinki is involved in the Baltic Sea Challenge, a network initiative of 270 organisations from Finland and the other Baltic Sea countries that have committed to the protection of the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea Challenge (itamerihaaste.net)

Helsinki is among the first cities to sign the European Circular Cities Declaration to support and act on the transition to a circular economy.

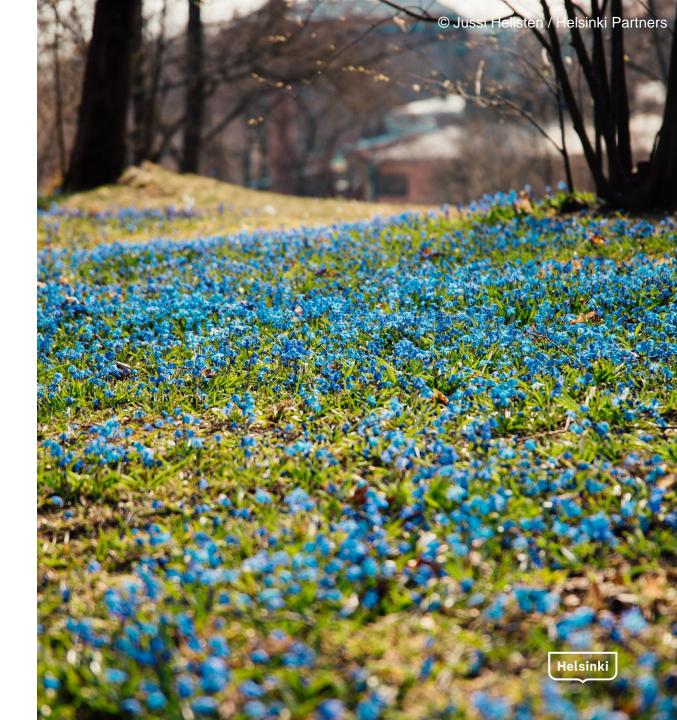
Helsinki among first cities to sign European Circular Cities Declaration - Helsingin Ilmasto (helsinginilmastoteot.fi)



## Biodiversity Action Plan

The central goal of the Action Plan is that the diversity of nature in Helsinki will be increased and utilized better than before in all of the City's operations. The action plan involves the entire Helsinki region on the mainland, at sea and in the archipelago, as well as in the recreation and outdoor activity areas located outside the city limits and owned by the City.

<u>LUMO programme. City of Helsinki Biodiversity Action</u> Plan 2021–2028



## Actions:



# Tourism and events programme 2022–2026





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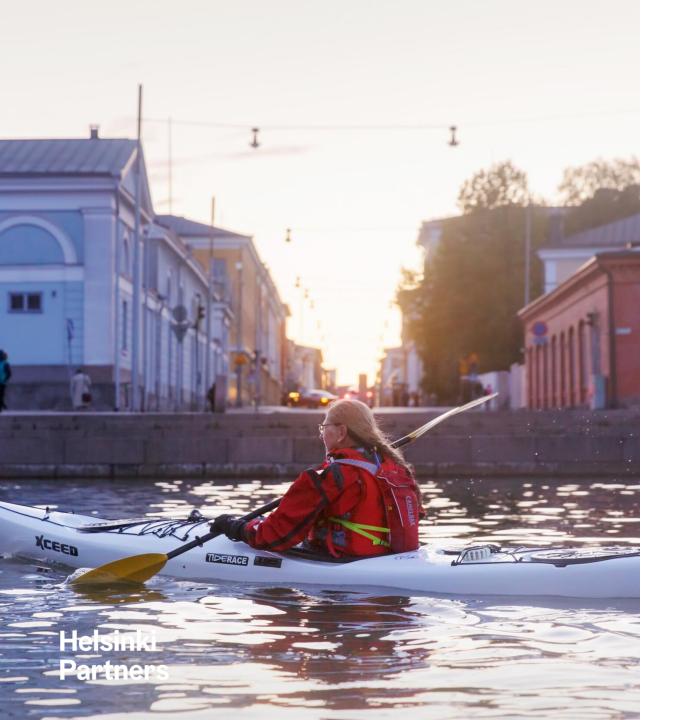
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## Towards most sustainable destination in the world

The tourism and events programme guides and supports the long-term development of the tourism and events in Helsinki. It has three strategic goals:

- Helsinki is a vibrant and internationally attractive city for tourism and events.
- Helsinki is an international pioneer and provider of solutions in sustainable tourism and events.
- Helsinki is a smart destination and a functional event city.

Helsinki

### Tourism commitments

Helsinki has committed to the UNWTO Lisbon Declaration on Cities for all: building cities for citizens and visitors.

lisbon-declaration-unwto-mayorsforum.pdf (hel.fi)

Helsinki has committed to the UNWTO Nur-Sultan Declaration on 'Smart Cities, Smart Destinations.

nursultan-declaration-unwto-urban.pdf (hel.fi)

Helsinki has signed the Glasgow Declaration to support the global commitment to halve emissions by 2030 and reach Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050.

Glasgow Declaration | One Planet network



## Towards most sustainable destination in the world

In reaching the goal of becoming the most sustainable destination in the world, the focus areas are:

- Environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality at the forefront of development.
- Helsinki residents, inclusiveness and social and cultural sustainability at the core of development.
- Helsinki is a world leader in sustainability, verified by indices and certifications.
- The availability of skilled labour is vital for the sectors.
- Focusing on comprehensive safety is a prerequisite for the city's appeal.



# Towards most sustainable destination in the world

- Helsinki Tourism and Events programme 2022–2026 – full report
  - Measures and indicators
- Tourism sustainability in Helsinki compiling all city actions and documents
- Helsinki Tourism Sustainability
   Policy



# Actions for businesses:



\*Think Sustainably
\*Sustainable Travel Finland
\*Sustainable Meeting Model



## How to use: Think Sustainably

- 1. New to sustainability: The criteria is a convenient way to review and gain additional perspective in your daily operations in terms of sustainability.
- 2. Already on the path to sustainability: It's easier to see the big picture and identify any areas of development. Get new views and understanding in regard to different dimensions of sustainability.
- 3. Both: It supports more active communication about your sustainability actions to your customers and stakeholders, and gives you more visibility.



## Think Sustainably



#### In a nutshell:

<u>Think Sustainably</u> combines sustainable services, experiences, and transportation in Helsinki into one easy-to-use digital service on MyHelsinki.fi. The base of the service is on sustainability criteria that have been tailor-made for Helsinki. Based on three principles: criteria, actions made by service providers, and the activity of service users.

#### To whom:

Works as a good marketing and communication tool for businesses included in the service. Accessible to different types of service providers: restaurants, cafés and bars, shops, attractions, accommodation, events and venues.

#### Focus in regard to sustainability:

The criteria highlight ecological and social sustainability, yet also consider different aspects of environmental sustainability.

#### Cost:

Free of charge.

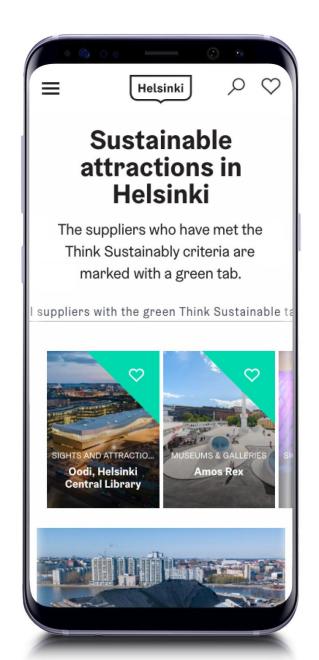
#### How to be included:

Open to all service providers that fulfil the minimum requirements for the criteria. The businesses and service providers review their operations themselves through the criteria of their own service category. The service provider fills in the form corresponding to their service category and chooses the criteria it fulfills, and sends it to Helsinki Partners. If a minimum number of requirements is fulfilled the actor can be recognised as a sustainable choice in the MyHelsinki.fi service, and marked with a green tab.

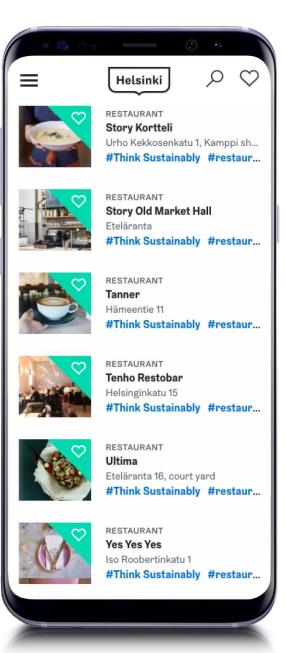
#### Auditing:

Not an official sustainability label or certificate, and therefore the fulfillment of the criteria is not evaluated by a third party. The service provider is expected to regularly brief its own employees on the company's values and visions of sustainability.









## How to use: Sustainable Travel Finland

- 1. Apply for the programme and begin the 7-step sustainable tourism development path that is available on an online platform specifically built for the purpose, with support from an e-learning environment facilitated by Visit Finland.
- 2. Although the label is awarded only for those tourism companies that have undergone the entire programme and fulfilled the criteria, by applying to the programme you get access to useful tools and materials that help you on your path to sustainability.
- 3. The Sustainable Travel Finland label is a guarantee to your customers, the travel trade and travellers, that you take sustainability seriously.



#### Sustainable Travel Finland



#### In a nutshell:

The <u>Sustainable Travel Finland</u> programme provides companies and destinations a 7-step sustainable tourism development path that makes it easier to adopt sustainable practices in everyday business. Companies and destinations that undergo the entire programme are recognised with the STF label.

#### To whom:

Accessible to all Finnish tourism companies and destinations who wish to develop their operations towards a more sustainable direction, including restaurants, accommodation, travel agencies, activity providers, attractions, transportation companies, events and resorts.

#### Focus in regard to sustainability:

Ecological, socio-cultural and economic sustainability.

#### Cost:

Free of charge but requires obtaining a certificate, accepted under Sustainable Travel Finland label, that supports sustainable development. Frontrunner companies can replace certification (Step 5) by fulfilling specific criteria set for the programme. Further information on frontrunner qualification from STF team at Visit Finland.

#### How to be included:

Any tourism company or destination can apply to the programme:

https://auth.sustainabletravel.businessfinland.fi/login. When the application to the programme is approved, the participant will receive access to an online platform, including the development path, and can apply for the label.

#### Auditing:

Commitment to regularly renewing Sustainable Travel Finland label, including a valid audited certificate/updated frontrunner company documentation, and updated self-assessment, development plan and sustainable tourism indicators.

Helsinki

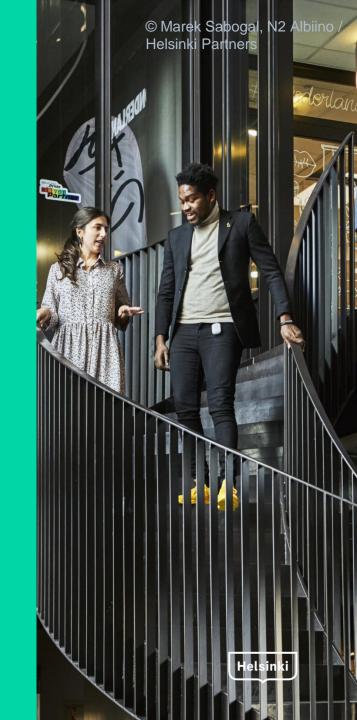
## The 7-steps approach to sustainable tourism development





## How to use: Sustainable Meeting Model

- 1. What to consider when organising a sustainable event? The Sustainable Meeting Guidelines provide you with a ready check list on what to consider before, during and after the event.
- 2. Is my event too small / too big to be sustainable? The model fits all kinds of events, small or big even small events can have a big impact!
- 3. Where to start? Download the guide, free of charge, from the Helsinki Material Bank, and familiarise yourself with the concrete measures you can take into practice directly.



#### Sustainable Meeting Model



#### In a nutshell:

A toolbox that helps event organisers make more sustainable choices when organising conferences and meetings as well as to set clear objectives for the event right from the outset. The model provides a comprehensive and easy-to-follow check list for:

- Travel & transportation
- Accommodation & venues
- Food & beverages
- AV & material production
- Experience design & communication
- · Performance documentation.

#### To whom:

Event organisers who plan to organise a conference or meeting in Helsinki.

#### Focus in regard to sustainability:

Comprises of a sustainability criteria that includes i.a. material use, waste management, diversity and inclusion, good governance and communication. Aligned with SDGs, supports the city's carbon-neutrality goals.

#### Cost:

Free of charge.

#### Where can I find it:

Just go to the Helsinki Material Bank (materialbank.myhelsinki.fi) and search for <u>Sustainable Meeting</u>. Or find it among materials: <u>materialbank.myhelsinki.fi/publications</u>.

Helsinki

### Sustainable Meeting Model



Electronic signage



Zero printing or handouts



Easy to get to by public transport



World's best tap water



**Accessible event** 



**Event minimizes energy consumption** 



Reduced waste and recycling



Event's carbon footprint is compensated



Social responsibility



Organic vegetarian food and food waste minimized



Organic and fair trade coffee and tea

### Helsinki Partners



Feedback and comments on the toolkit can be sent to: <a href="mailto:helsinki.partners@helsinkipartners.com">helsinki.partners@helsinkipartners.com</a>.

