How to save money and the environment

– Getting to know the circular economy

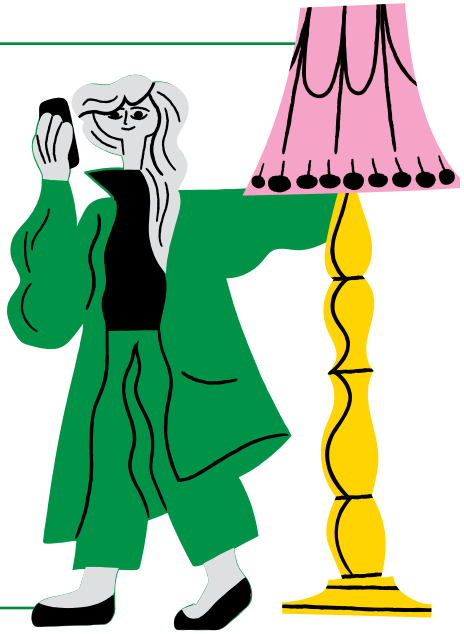


This brochure provides information and practical tips for living an ecologically and financially improved life. When considering your everyday choices, you can save money while protecting the environment.

How to live responsibly

- Buy less.
- Buy durable products and favour second-hand items.
- Use your items for a long time, maintain and repair them.
- Donate or sell your unwanted items for reuse.
- Borrow and rent things. There is no need for you to own everything. You can also share costs by owning things together with others.
- Recycle your waste. Do not litter.

→ **Read more about sustainable daily choices.**

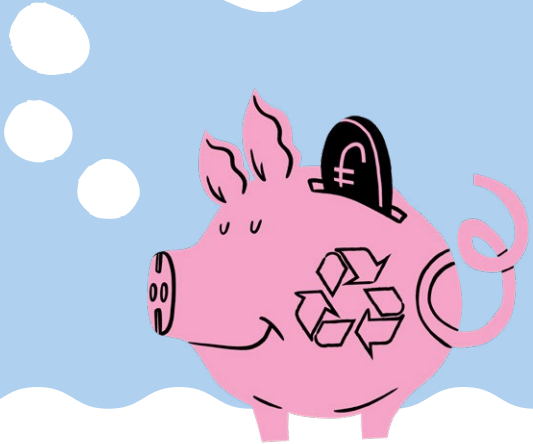


Front cover: Marjaana Malkamäki / City of Helsinki Media Bank, Illustrations: Lille Santanen / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Why is all this worth it?

- **You will save money:** When you buy durable and second-hand items, you will not need to buy new items very often. When you maintain and repair items, they will last longer. This way you will save money in the long run.
- **You will protect nature:** When you buy fewer new products, you help conserve natural resources.
- **You will combat climate change:** When you buy fewer new products, you will reduce the amount of production, transportation and waste. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help combat climate change.
- **You can meet new people:** You can make new connections when you borrow or rent items. The company of others and doing things together make life more meaningful.
- **You will benefit from wellbeing:** When the environment, the economy and your community are stable and healthy, your personal wellbeing improves.

Did you know: circular economy means an economic model in which materials and products are used sparingly and sensibly. This reduces the amount of waste generated. The tips provided in this brochure are examples of everyday circular economy.



Donate, borrow, DIY

– Helsinki has the services for you



Libraries

At the City's libraries, you can borrow books and magazines in different languages, as well as movies and music. You can also borrow a variety of tools, exercise equipment, musical instruments and other items. Different libraries have different selections.

Borrow: Drills, tennis racquets, headphones, heart rate monitors, skis, skates and musical instruments.

Enjoy activities, work, print: You can use computers at the City's libraries. You can also print things. At some libraries, you can play games, use a sewing machine or play the piano.

→ **You can find more information about the City of Helsinki's libraries here.**





Image: Jussi Hellsten / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Varaamo

Varaamo is the City of Helsinki's facility reservation service. Varaamo has a wide variety of facilities and equipment that you can reserve for personal use free of charge or at an affordable price. You can reserve meeting rooms, work desks, banquet facilities, event venues, studios, cottages and saunas. You can also reserve and use various devices, such as 3D printers and sewing machines.

→ **Reserve the City's facilities and equipment.**





Image: Karun Verma / City of Helsinki Media Bank

City bikes

City bikes are bikes shared by all. You can rent a city bike for a day, a week or the entire season. You can also rent a bike for several months by placing a continuous subscription via the city bike website. One journey can last up to one hour. The bikes are available from spring to autumn.

→ **Register online and rent a city bike for a duration that suits you.**





Image: Jussi Hellsten / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Repair events

At repair events, you can repair damaged clothes and other textiles together with other people. Sometimes, you can also mend small items. At the event, participants learn new skills together, and there are often volunteers on hand to help and offer advice. The event may be called a ‘repair café’, ‘repair workshop’, ‘mend together’ or ‘sewing workshop’ (in Finnish korjauskahvila, korjauspaja, korjauskaupunki or ompelupaja). The events are usually free of charge, and they are held in different parts of Helsinki.

→ **You can find the events in the City of Helsinki event calendar.**

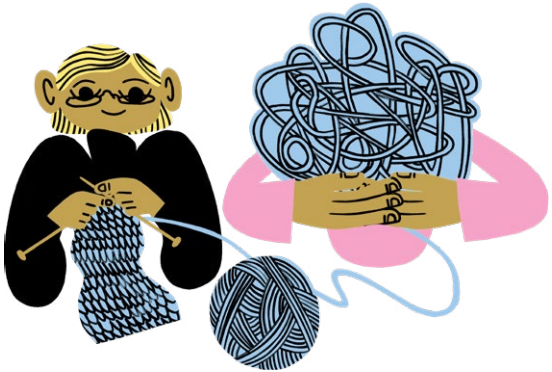




Image: Vesa Laitinen / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Community houses

Helsinki's community houses are open to everyone, and you can visit them to take part in a wide range of activities and meet other people. Many community houses have sewing machines that you can use for free. You can also take part in guided sewing sessions, where you will receive advice and help with mending and altering clothes.

→ **Find out more about activities at community houses.**





Image: Vesa Laitinen / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Pääkaupunkiseudun kierrätyskeskus – Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Centre

Pääkaupunkiseudun kierrätyskeskus is a non-profit company. It supports and encourages the reuse of clothes and items and provides information about environmental matters. It also provides unemployed people with work opportunities.

The Reuse Centre has sales outlets across the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

Donate or Buy: Clothes, books, tableware, bicycles, furniture, carpets, household textiles, toys, records, household appliances and electronics.

Take for free: All the outlets also have a section where you can take items for free.

→ **Learn more about the Reuse Centre and its operations.**



Image: Jussi Hellsten / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Stara Kierrätyskeskus – Stara Reuse Centre

The Stara Reuse Centre sells the City's decommissioned assets. Individual devices and items are auctioned the year round at the **kiertonet.fi** website. Vehicles, machinery and other larger items are sold in a separate auction in spring and autumn.

Buy: Large and small machinery, exercise equipment, hand tools, construction materials and vehicles.

→ **See the contact information for Stara, ask questions or give feedback.**

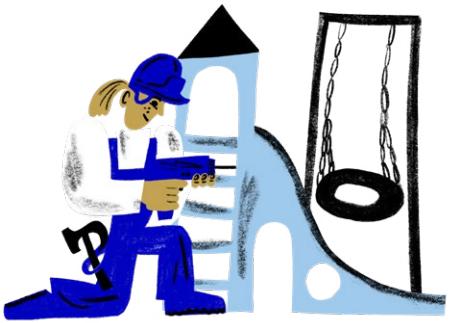




Image: Jussi Hellsten / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Työväenopisto – Finnish Adult Education Centre

The Finnish Adult Education Centre is an educational institution open to all. The Adult Education Centre provides a wide variety of courses in different fields, as well as in different languages.

→ **Learn about the courses and events of the Finnish Adult Education Centre.**

Learn manual skills. There are thousands of courses and events available, among which you will find many item and textile repair and restoration courses.

→ **Sign up via the ilmonet.fi service.**





Image: Karun Verma / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Yard sales and park jumble sales

Did you know that you can sell your own used items in public yards and parks?

If you are selling your items off a blanket on the ground and you are not blocking people's passage in the area, you do not need a sales permit from the City. However, remember to clean up after yourself and take away any items that you did not manage to sell.

Helsinki also features places where people gather in the summertime to sell their items. These flea markets do not have an actual organiser and every vendor is responsible for their own sales spot. The event requires a permit if there will be many vendors in the park area and structures such as chairs and tables will be used for selling items.

→ **Find public park jumble sales "kirppis" (only in the summer season).**

→ **Apply for a flea market permit.**



Image: Ninni West / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Find services on the map

Helsinki Metropolitan Area Service Map

The service map makes it easy to search for various services, such as schools, health stations and libraries. The directory also features circular economy services and plenty of private service providers. Select the kind of service you are looking for in the directory and the map will show you the locations of such services.

Find: Flea markets, repair services, collection points, shared-use facilities, borrowing services and rental services.

→ **See the Helsinki Metropolitan Area Service Map here.**



Waste sorting
– Find information

Sorting waste is important to prevent it from causing any hazards. When waste materials are sorted correctly, they can be used to make new products.



HSY Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority

HSY provides municipal water supply and waste management services. It produces information and carries out active circular economy work.

'Waste guide' search site: Not sure where you can take your waste? The HSY waste guide will help you. You can find the waste guide on the HSY website. Enter the type of waste into the search field and the guide will tell you what category the waste falls under and where you can take it.

→ **See the HSY waste guide here.**

Instructions: The HSY website features a variety of household sorting instructions and brochures. There are instructions and brochures available in many languages, such as Finnish, Swedish, English, Russian, Arabic, Somali, French, Dari, Sorani and Tigrinya.

→ **You can download electronic brochures or order them to your home free of charge here.**



Image: Hannu Bask / HSY

InfoFinland website

The **InfoFinland.fi** online service is a multilingual website. The website provides plenty of important information for immigrants and people planning to move to Finland. The website features instructions for sorting and recycling waste.

Instructions: The sorting instructions are available in 12 languages. The languages are Finnish, Swedish, English, Russian, Estonian, Ukrainian, French, Spanish, Turkish, Chinese, Persian and Arabic.

→ **You can find the InfoFinland website's instructions on waste types and recycling.**





Image: Maija Astikainen / City of Helsinki Media Bank

Do this when sorting your waste

- Only bring types of waste that have designated containers for them to the waste facility of the housing company. The waste must fit into the waste container.
- Keep the waste facility and its surroundings tidy to prevent rats from spreading.
- You must not bring any electric devices, large items or hazardous waste to waste facilities, such as medicines, batteries, accumulators, paints or chemicals.
- Take old or unnecessary medicines to a pharmacy.
- Return batteries with their terminals taped shut to a store selling them.
- You can bring large items to a Sortti Station if you have access to a car.
- If you do not have a car, you can order a pick-up service for large items for a fee. The pickup service is called Sortti-nouto (‘Sortti Pick-up’).



Image: Suvi-Tuuli Kankaanpää / HSY / Keksi Agency

→ **Order the Sortti pick-up service on the HSY website.**

→ **See the opening hours of Sortti Stations.**

→ **See the collection points on the electronic map of the Kierrätys.info website.**

Links to services

- Helmet online library: **helmet.fi**
- Reserve facilities and equipment: **varaamo.hel.fi**
- Rent a city bike: **hsl.fi/en/citybikes**
- Repair events: **tapahtumat.hel.fi/en**
- Helsinki's Community houses: **hel.fi/yhteisotalot**
- Pääkaupunkiseudun kierrätyskeskus – Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Centre: **kierratyskeskus.fi/en**
- Stara: **stara.hel.fi/en**
- Työväenopisto – Finnish Adult Education Centre: **tyovaenopisto.hel.fi/en**
- Adult education institutes in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa: **ilmonet.fi**
- Helsinki Metropolitan Area Service Map: **palvelukartta.hel.fi/en**
- HSY waste guide: **hsy.fi/en/wasteguide**
- InfoFinland website: **infofinland.fi/en**
- Sortti Stations: **hsy.fi/sorttiasemat**
- Collection points on the electronic map: **kierratys.info**
- Public park jumble sales (only in the summer season): **stadissa.fi**
- Tips for sustainable daily life: **hel.fi/sustainablelife**



Helsinki

Tämä on englanninkielinen kiertotaloutta käsittelevä esite.

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