



# SUSTAINABLE VANTAA BELONGS TO EVERYONE

Implementation of the UN Sustainable  
Development Goals in Vantaa 2021

# GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR



Responsibility is a key value in Vantaa's strategy. By responsibility, we mean securing a good life for present and future generations. In preparation and decision-making, we take ecological, social and economic aspects into account. In other words, we promote sustainable development in our operations.

The basic task of municipalities is to promote the well-being of their residents. That is what the goals of sustainable development are about. Public administration can make a significant contribution to this development through its example, choices and decisions.

Systematic work to promote sustainable development began in Vantaa in 2018, when we carried out a materiality assessment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which examined the current state of the city, its challenges, and actions already taken. Vantaa's first

VLR (Voluntary Local Review) report is a continuation of the more systematic promotion of sustainable development that began at that time.

Vantaa implements corporate responsibility work through various programs and roadmaps: the city's work is guided by the Roadmap to Resource Wisdom, the Welfare Program, the Regional Program for Positive Action and the Equality and Non-discrimination Plan, the Roadmap of Strategic Procurement, and the Vitality and Attraction Program. In the city's New Vantaa

2020 organizational reform, responsibility was identified as one of the city's strategic themes.

In the spring of 2020, we all found ourselves in an exceptional situation when suddenly things we took for granted were taken away and our lives were restricted in a way we are not used to. At first, we thought we would soon return to normal again, but now, after more than a year of exceptional circumstances, our thoughts and hopes are in the new normal.

The coronavirus pandemic has affected all of our lives. Unfortunately, some of the goals of sustainable development have also taken a back seat: unemployment and child poverty have increased, mental health problems among young people have become more common, and the number of Vantaa residents who are dependent on food aid has increased. On the other hand, the achievement of many targets is now even closer: the achievement of the city's ambitious carbon neutrality target is no longer far off, and air quality in 2020 was better than in the entire history of measurement. Now, if ever, it is the right time to take the goals of sustainable development as common goals of our city and to ensure that no Vantaa employee is left behind in a fair and sustainable recovery.

Ritva Viljanen, kaupunginjohtaja

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## SUSTAINABLE VANTAA BELONGS TO EVERYONE

- Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the City of Vantaa

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# ABSTRACT

The main goals of the Vantaa City Council's 2018-2021 Strategy are taking care of the city's economic balance, tightening up the city, improving the city's vitality and attractiveness, taking care of the well-being of its residents, and developing services with a renewable and inclusive approach. The values formulated in the strategy are openness, courage, responsibility, and community. As a city, Vantaa is bound by several international agreements as well as national and international laws. Some of these requirements cannot be fully implemented. Most of the UN's sustainable development goals are taken into account well in the strategy, but there are also shortcomings.

A lot of work is being done in Vantaa to promote sustainable development, and we felt it was important to

assess at the end of the strategy period where we have succeeded and where we may not have succeeded. The purpose of the report is to identify the links between the strategy of the past term of office and the objectives of sustainable development, on the basis of which recommendations and plans for the future can be made and good practices shared. The report provides good preconditions for the development of planned work on sustainable development in Vantaa. The report examines the city's performance from the perspective of each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and applicable sub-goals. For each objective, the indicators describing the status of the objective in Vantaa and the measures presented in the report have been sought as well as possible.



# INTRODUCTION

This report serves as the City of Vantaa's first VLR report examining the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Vantaa.

For the first time, sustainable development was defined in the UN Brundtland Commission's report Our Common Future in 1987. In the report, sustainable development refers to development that meets the needs of the present without depriving future generations of the opportunity to meet their own needs. Sustainable development includes ecological, social, and economic sustainability. Since the Brundtland Commission, it has been part of the UN's activity. In 2000, for the first time, guidelines for achieving sustainable development were further defined. The goals were named the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These eight goals were to be achieved by 2015. Many of the goals, such as halving poverty, were achieved, but work to achieve a world in accord with sustainable development was not yet complete.

Thus, in 2015, the UN agreed on a global Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, which aims to eradicate extreme poverty as well as for sustainable development in the sub-areas of environment, economy and people. One of the core values of the program is that no one

is left behind in development. Agenda 2030 includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a total of 169 sub-goals.

The goals are ambitious and in order to achieve them, we need to know where we are going at the moment and what remains to be done. Finland published its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2016 and its second in 2020. States are committed to the Sustainable Development Goals, but in reality, up to 2/3 of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is the responsibility of the work done in municipalities. Thus, in 2018, New York was the first city in the world to publish its own local monitoring report (VLR), while challenging other cities to come along.

At its meeting on 6 April 2020, the Vantaa City Government decided to join the ranks of Helsinki, Espoo, and Turku and publish its own VLR report in 2021. The report has been implemented as part of the corporate responsibility strategy theme. At its meeting on 7 June 2021, the City Management Team has approved the report and determined that reporting will be carried out every two years in the future. The report was given to the City Executive Board on 15 June 2021.

# VANTAA AS A CITY

Vantaa is the fourth largest city in Finland in terms of population, with 237,231 inhabitants at the end of 2020. Vantaa is located in the region of Uusimaa and is part of the Helsinki sub-region and the Capital City Region. The border neighbors are Helsinki, Espoo, Nurmijärvi, Tuusula, Kerava, and Sipoo. The city is divided into seven major regions and 61 districts.

The parish of Helsinki became the rural municipality of Helsinki in 1865, the rural municipality became a township in 1972, and Vantaa became a city in 1974. However, the development into a city began already in the 1950s, when the first apartment buildings and the town hall were built, and the airport was opened.

As a counterweight to the built-up urban area, Vantaa also has a different world: extensive forest areas in Sotunki and Petikko, the vast agricultural landscapes of the Vantaa River and Kerava River valleys, and creek and riverbanks, all of which are Vantaa's nature at its best. Most Vantaa residents have at most 300 meters to the nearest recreation area.



## Area

(1 January 2021)

Total surface area	<b>240,35 km<sup>2</sup></b>
Ground area	<b>238,37 km<sup>2</sup></b>
Water area	<b>1,98 km<sup>2</sup></b>

## Demographics

(31 December 2020)

Total population	<b>237 231</b>
Women	<b>50,1 %</b>
Men	<b>49,9 %</b>
0-6 years old	<b>7,8 %</b>
7-15 years old	<b>10,5 %</b>
16-64 years old	<b>66,2 %</b>
65+ years old	<b>15,5 %</b>

## Language

(31 December 2020)

Finnish	<b>76,1 %</b>
Swedish	<b>2,4 %</b>
Sami	<b>20 henkilöä (2019)</b>
Foreign languages	<b>21,6 %</b>

Different cultures have room to flourish, and more than 120 mother tongues are spoken in Vantaa. In addition to Finnish and Swedish, the most common languages are **Russian** (3.8 %), **Estonian** (3.6 %), **Arabic** (1.7 %), **Somali** (1.3 %) and **Albanian** (1.2 %).

## Educational attainment of the population aged 15 and over

(31 December 2020)

Basic education	<b>30 %</b>
Secondary education	<b>39 %</b>
Higher education	<b>31 %</b>

Higher education can be further divided into three parts, of which **9 %** were lowest tertiary graduates, **13 %** lower tertiary graduates, and **10 %** upper tertiary graduates.

## Trustees

The Vantaa City Council 2021-2025 has **67** members

National Coalition Party **18**  
Social Democratic Party **16**  
Finns Party **12**  
Greens **9**  
Left Alliance **4**  
Centre Party **2**  
Swedish People's Party **2**  
Christian Democrats **2**  
Movement Now **2**

## Vantaa's title species

The title plant is the forest pansy  
The title animal is salmon

# HOW THE REPORT WAS IMPLEMENTED

The city's cross-administrative responsibility strategy theme's management team was responsible for completing the report, and a working group with representation from each of the city's departments was appointed to implement the report. The working group selected the indicators to be included in the report as well as examples of measures. Descriptions of the measures were collected from a wide range of the city's experts. In the selection of goal-specific indicators, emphasis was placed on relevance from Vantaa's point of view and compliance with the UN's sub-goals for sustainable development. The indicators were selected from among existing indicators. The report has been implemented in accordance with the VLR reports previously prepared in Finland in Helsinki, Turku, and Espoo.

The work began by examining the links between the City Council's strategy and its programs and the objectives of sustainable development (mapping). In addition to the strategy, the Council's term of office is guided by four programs: the Roadmap to Resource Wisdom, the Welfare Program, the Land and Housing Policy Guidelines, and the Vitality and Attraction Program. All of these were examined against the UN's sub- goals and indicators for sustainable development in order to get an idea of what has been done in particular during the Council's term of office on the basis of the programs. Goal 17, Partnerships for the Goals was excluded from the review, as its sub-objectives were interpreted as state-level work. However, the goal has been included in the report and it has been discussed from Vantaa's point of view.

## Mapping implementation

The Vantaa City Council's strategy and its programs were read through, and records related to sustainable development were collected.



The collected entries were combined with appropriate SDG sub-goals or metrics and scored based on relevance (\*, \*\*, \*\*\*). Those that received one star were removed from the review.

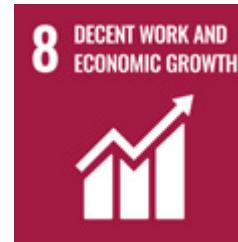


\*\* or \*\*\* recipients were added together by track / priority. It was then summed up how many priorities were evaluated according to the attention of each SDG. This is to get an idea of how much emphasis each SDG gained in total.

The result was the frequency of each sustainable development goal in the city's strategy and the programs included in the strategy:

<b>SDG11</b> Sustainable cities and communities	<b>11</b>
<b>SDG8</b> Decent work and economic growth	<b>11</b>
<b>SDG10</b> Reduced inequalities	<b>8</b>
<b>SDG16</b> Peace, justice and strong institutions	<b>7</b>
<b>SDG12</b> Responsible consumption and production	<b>6</b>
<b>SDG4</b> Quality education	<b>5</b>
<b>SDG13</b> Climate action	<b>4</b>
<b>SDG3</b> Good health and well-being	<b>4</b>
<b>SDG5</b> Gender equality	<b>3</b>
<b>SDG1</b> No poverty	<b>2</b>
<b>SDG7</b> Affordable and clean energy	<b>2</b>
<b>SDG15</b> Life on land	<b>2</b>
<b>SDG9</b> Industry, innovation and infrastructure	<b>2</b>
<b>SDG2</b> Zero hunger	<b>1</b>
<b>SDG6</b> Clean water and sanitation	<b>0</b>
<b>SDG14</b> Life below water	<b>0</b>

## The sustainable development goals that appeared the most in the strategy and its programs



### 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Emphasized in particular in the strategy for the Council's term of office, but also strongly visible in the programs.



### 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Emphasized in particular in the Roadmap to Resource Wisdom and the Welfare Program.



### 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Emphasized in particular in the Welfare Program and the Vitality and Attraction Program.

Based on the review, it can be stated that the themes related to the economy and inequality, as well as sustainable cities, have been especially emphasized in the programs of the Vantaa Council's term of office. Life below water and clean water and sanitation are seen the least in the programs.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN VANTAA



# GOAL 1 – NO POVERTY

Poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon that is widely prevalent in many of the city's industries. In order to achieve this goal, activities must be coordinated and strategic.



## Everyone has a right to a home

Work is constantly being done in Vantaa to eliminate homelessness. The goal is to first halve the number of homeless and eventually eliminate homelessness altogether. To achieve this goal, a project has been launched in 2021 to develop a model of work to be implemented for the most disadvantaged people. The project involves exploratory work, offering service guidance, and implementing various services with the customer. The target group of the project is the homeless and those at immediate risk of homelessness, who are outside the services or who need additional support to use the services.

## Poverty of families with children

The low income of a family can affect the well-being of children. Relative poverty creates inequality and may cause loneliness or bullying by limiting a child's ability to function. It manifests itself in health habits and health condition, different symptoms, challenges in

schooling, and lack of vision. The effects of childhood poverty are life-long. The best way to reduce child poverty is to raise the level of education of caregivers and thereby create better employment opportunities. Family centers are one way to alleviate low-income families. In the family centers, various forms of support are available for families, such as food aid, children's clothes and supplies points. In family centers, extensive co-operation between different actors, e.g., with the third sector, makes unrestricted access to services possible.

**Children's poverty\*** 2019

**12 %**

\*Proportion of people under 18 living in low-income households in the total age group

**Families with children receiving income support**

% of families with children, 2019

**18 %**

## Poverty of the aging population

Senior counseling's service counselors make home visits to elderly clients, and the extensive assessment of the need for services made there also asks about the financial situation and provides guidance in applying for benefits. The client's case is directed to a social worker when major financial problems and a need for clarification arise. If necessary, the customer is referred to Social Security services, social credit, financial and debt counseling, as well as housing guidance for obtaining a cheaper rental apartment. For monthly home care fees and certain support service fees, a decision may be made to reduce or waive the fee so that the client can use the service they need regardless of their financial situation. Availability of affordable rental housing is also essential to prevent poverty in the aging population.



**Relative poverty** 2019

**10 %**

**Long-term recipients of income support during the year** 2019

**4 %**

**Homelessness** 2020

**0,10 %**

# GOAL 2 – ZERO HUNGER

The coronavirus pandemic has had a negative impact on the well-being of Vantaa residents and the income of more and more people is not enough to ensure adequate nutrition. It is indeed important to find ways for the city to reach everyone in need of nutritional support.



## Food, community, and work around the Shared Table

The Shared Table is a food aid operating model developed in Vantaa that has been found to be good elsewhere, as well as a platform that brings together the actors of the city, the church, the third sector, and educational institutions to utilize waste food. The network includes more than 50 active donors of food waste (shops, food production facilities, and wholesalers) and 80 organizations that normally distribute food aid in various ways in Vantaa, the city's residential space and other offices, as well as Lutheran congregations and other churches. In addition, the Shared Table waste terminal employs the hard-to-employ in the logistics, warehousing and kitchen sectors. Prior to the pandemic, food aid included indoor food-related meetings in Vantaa, such as breakfast, snacks, lunches and coffee, and other activities serving recipients of food aid, such as service counseling, peer support, needle exchange, discussion assistance, debt counseling, and hobbies. The aim of developing food aid is to increase the well-being and capacity of the recipient and distributor of food aid. The pandemic took

food aid back out into the bread queues. In Vantaa, the challenge for the future is the huge number of hot lunches, which are still largely wasted. Cooperation with service providers is key in this.

## Picnic bags for park dining

Park meals for children and young people have been organized in Vantaa since 2019. In the summer of 2019, a hot meal was served at two outlets. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, lunch bags were distributed last summer and next summer instead of a hot meal. The contents of the picnic bag vary daily, and the bag may include, for example, fruit, pastry, snack biscuits, and smoothies. The lunch bag is not nutritionally equivalent to a warm meal, nor is it an ecologically sustainable option, as some of the products are in individual packaging. The goal of park dining is to provide children and young people with a snack during the summer, when schools and educational institutions are closed. The aim is also to increase the community and cohesion of city dwellers. All service points offer guided exercise, cultural activities, and other activities on a weekly basis.

## Meal agreements ensure adequate nutrition for schoolchildren

It has been noticed in the Capital City Region that school food is much better received by schoolchildren on Mondays than during the rest of the week. In some schools in Vantaa on Mondays, up to a fifth more food is consumed on Mondays compared to other school-days. From such a large difference it can be concluded that some of Vantaa's schoolchildren do not get enough nutrition on weekends. Agreements between the city and the service providers therefore require that soup is not to be served for lunch on Mondays and that all the components of the meal are sufficiently available throughout the mealtime.



### Expenditure on food as a share of revenue

2016

**9 %**

### Number of food bags distributed through the Shared Table per week

**4500**

### Does not eat breakfast every weekday morning

% of 4th and 5th grade students 2019

**32 %**

# GOAL 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Taking care of the well-being and health of local residents is a prerequisite for a vibrant municipality and the result of a responsible policy.

Vantaa's well-being includes, for example, a comfortable and safe urban environment, the opportunity to exercise and have hobbies, the opportunity to experience inclusion and encounters, enjoy cultural and artistic experiences, the opportunity to care for and promote one's health, learn and work, as well as the right to be a relevant part of the urban community.

Sometimes actions to promote well-being are the result of network-like cooperation. For example, the mobility of children and young people has been strengthened with the Exercising Day Care Center and Exercising School operating models. Youth sports have been supported by developing recess activities and, for example, by offering free admission to swimming pools and sports venues. The city has organized countless sports groups with organizational actors, including for special groups, and supported voluntary exercise at public sports venues.

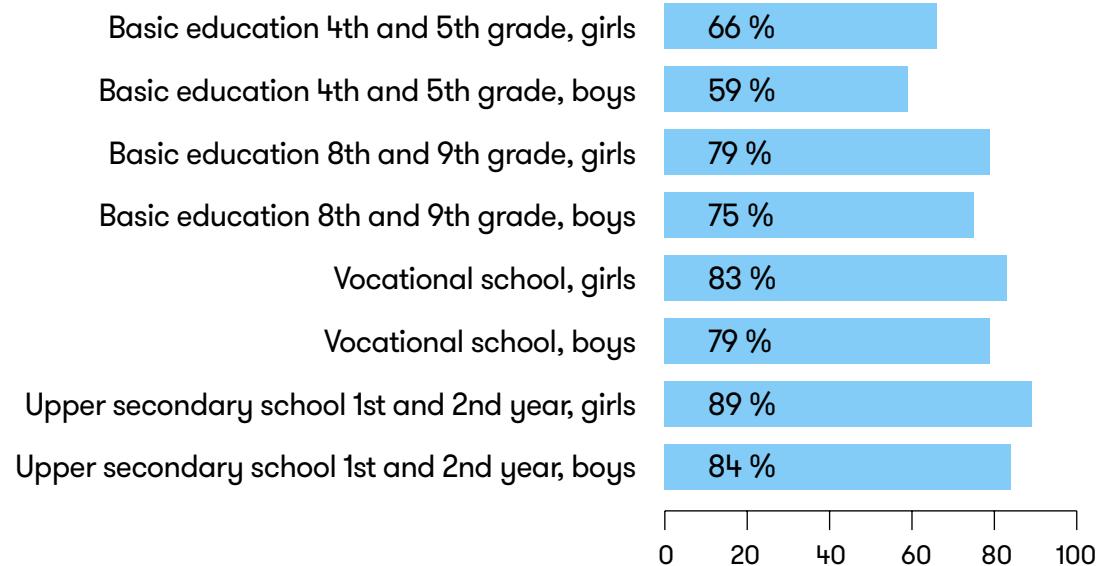
**Tea-viisari\*** 2020

**76/100**

\*describes the municipality's activities to promote the health and well-being of its residents



## Exercising less than one hour per day 2019



Mental health issues challenge city actors in organizing both preventative action and remedial services. The mental health phenomena of children and young people require timely services and support to cope with the challenges of everyday life. Supporting parenting, but also getting help for a parent's potential mental health problems from the earliest possible stage, are also key solutions to the challenges of children in the family. In the case of young people, the well-being of the mind is supported, for example, by youth services, culture, sports and leisure activities, the school environment and student care, and, if necessary, social and health care services. Among other things, Vantaa has launched a large-scale project to provide all children and young people with a pleasant leisure time activity in connection with the school day.

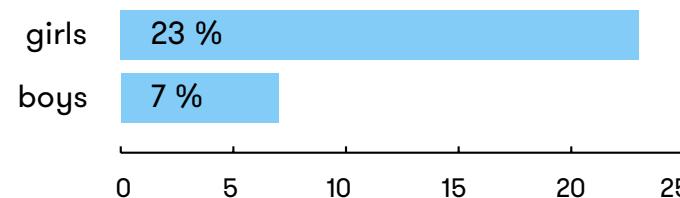
The coronavirus pandemic has increased challenges, especially in healthcare, e.g. as a growing care debt and an increased need for mental and physical care. In the coming years, stabilizing health care will be one of the municipality's biggest challenges.

**8th and 9th graders who skip school meals at least once a week 2019**

**59 %**

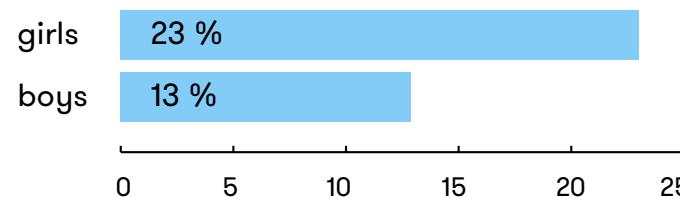
## Children with moderate or severe anxiety

Basic education 8th and 9th grade, % 2019

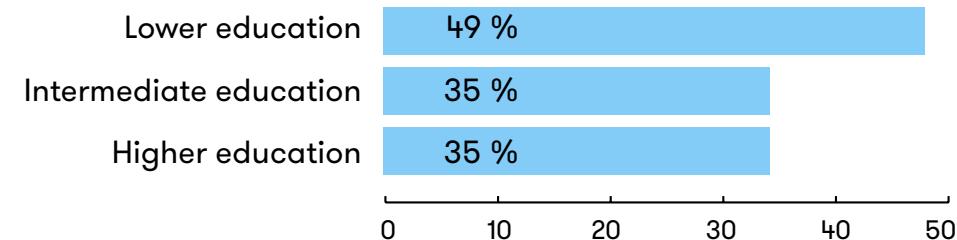


## Children experiencing school exhaustion

Basic education 8th and 9th grade, % 2019



## Perceived quality of life in the adult population Moderate or worse 2018





# GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

Providing education and training is one of the municipality's biggest basic tasks. In Vantaa, the challenges of education are inequality and increasing mental health problems among children and young people.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## Investment is made in education in the Regional Program of Positive Action

Under the focus of the Regional Program of Positive Action, "Strengthening Competence - Supporting the School Path," emphasis is placed on special youth work in schools, from primary schools to secondary education, and on curatorial activities in early childhood education. Youth workers in schools and educational institutions support schooling and young people's leisure time through youth work methods. Vocational College Varia's offices have a total of five special youth workers, whose goal is to support the well-being of students holistically and thus reduce student dropouts. In the autumn of 2019, a pilot project on early childhood education was started, for which three curators were hired. Early childhood curators specifically support parenting and increase interprofessional support for children. As a result of the good experiences gained from the operations, the curatorial activities continued to expand from the beginning of 2021 with the work of one curator.

## Digital solutions as solvers of challenges in vocational education and training

The drop-out rate is a major problem in vocational training and a risk factor for exclusion. In vocational education, learning takes place in the workplace, in an educational institution and, for example, online. This poses challenges for the perception of the whole and for monitoring the progress of studies. In Vantaa's Varia, people have started looking for solutions in digital services. In order to monitor the progress of studies, the Workseed service has been introduced, which enables students, teachers and other support staff to better perceive the student's studies as a whole and to monitor progress and communicate with a low threshold. This improves the staff's ability to react early. Through the Annie app, on the other hand, students are asked about their support needs and the answers are directed directly to various experts who contact the students. The app provides students with a low-threshold socially accepted conduit for seeking help. Students rarely refuse support, but the threshold to apply for support themselves can be high.

## Shortage of teachers in early childhood education

The number of starting places for the training of early childhood teachers has not met the need of the Capital City Region, and the retention capacity of early childhood teachers is low, both in the field and in individual day care centers. Vacancies in early childhood education have been partly filled on a regular basis by unqualified childminders. The planning, implementation, and evaluation of goal-oriented and pedagogically high-quality early childhood education in accordance with the basics of early childhood education and the Vantaa Early Childhood Education Plan is challenging in such a situation. Vantaa Early Childhood Education co-operates especially with the University of Helsinki and Laurea University of Applied Sciences, so that in addition to their work, it is possible to qualify as either an early childhood education teacher or a sociologist. Qualification takes time and, initially, the number of support staff has been increased according to the needs of the area and the day care centers.

**11 %**

17-24-year-olds who dropped out from education 2019

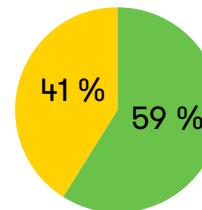
**34 %**

Proportion of unfilled vacancies and unqualified teachers and special needs teachers in early childhood education, April 2021

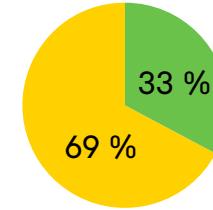
**73 %**

Employed after 1 year of education from Varia 2019

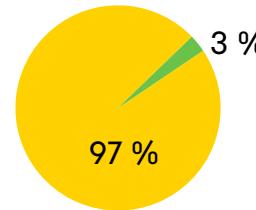
Of those selected for upper secondary school 2020



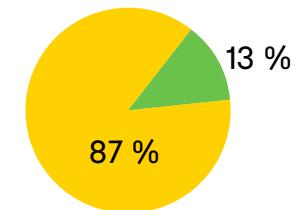
Of those selected for Vocational College Varia 2020



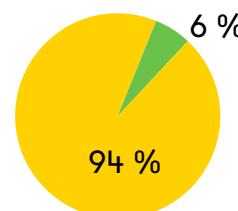
Vocational qualification in Logistics 2020



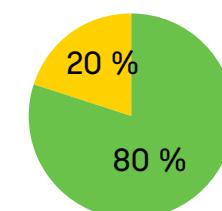
Vocational qualification in Electrical and Automation Engineering 2020



Vocational qualification in Vehicle Technology 2020



Vocational qualification in Social and Health Care 2020



girls



boys

# GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

Gender plays an important role in society and there can also be large differences between the sexes in, for example, income and wealth, various social problems, well-being and health, as well as the use of different services.



## Gender equality in decision-making and services

The importance of gender and, at worst, indirect discrimination are often invisible, unless gender is considered separately or together with, e.g., criteria relating to a person, such as age, origin, state of health, or belief system. As public services are for everyone, the municipality must ensure that all genders are able to benefit from tax-funded services fairly and in accordance with their needs. Vantaa's equality work aims to ensure this through gender-conscious budgeting. Briefly, the method means that the gender perspective and the promotion of equality, as well as the evaluation of the equitable use of resources, are integrated into normal budget work and its various stages and, where necessary, gender-conscious changes are made to the services themselves and their financing in the budget.

Gender- and equality-conscious activities face challenges. For example, gender-sensitive Vantaa-level statistical information or qualitative information is not obtained, acquired or used, even though the obligations to do so are unambiguous from the direction

of both the Equality Act and the city's management decisions. In this case, there are no prerequisites for equality work and, for example, the application of gender-conscious budgeting. In addition, equality-conscious activities are considered unnecessary or a matter of personal interest of the actors and thus an additional voluntary aspect in decision-making and service production.

### Women's share in the city council

2020

48 %

### Share of parental leave used by fathers

2020

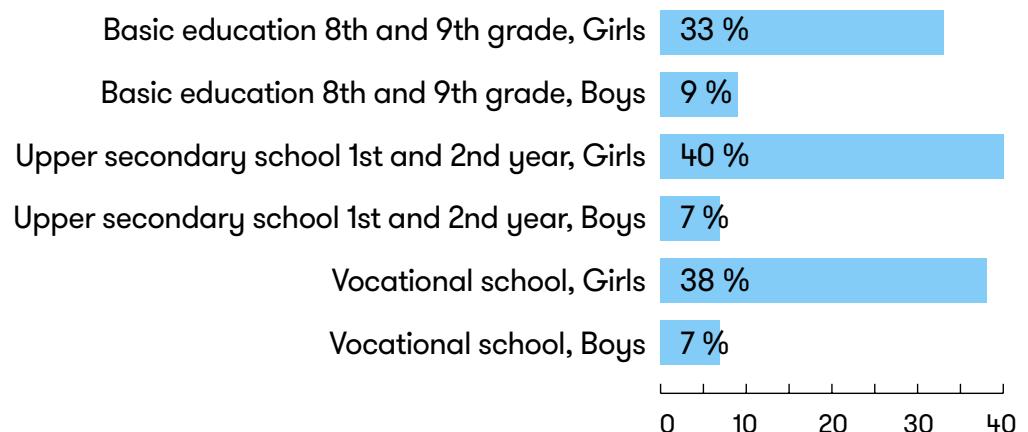
3 %

## What is being done in schools and educational institutions to eradicate sexual harassment?

Prevention of gender and sexual harassment is part of statutory equality planning for schools and educational institutions. In practice, such work is part of community student care work that belongs to all adults in the school but is coordinated and developed by the school's student care team. The means to address and prevent sexual harassment and violence are in part the same as for bullying in general. In prevention, it is important to strengthen a confidential and community atmosphere in the encounters of individual students, in the classroom, and throughout the school community. Many schools and educational institutions collaborate with experts from outside of the school, and students are involved in planning in the school community. Sex education is the most important tool from the point of view of the prevention of harassment, as it provides the child and young person with the knowledge on the basis of which he or she is able to make responsible decisions. Knowledge of sexuality needs to be increased so that we can face and understand what sexual violence or harassment violates at worst. The child must first be given words about the diversity of sexuality in order to be able to identify when one's own boundaries are being violated.

## Experienced harassing sexual suggestion or harassment during the year

2019



# TAVOITE 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Vantaa residents can enjoy clean water and a safe sewer system. With climate change, the biggest challenges lie ahead. How to ensure flood control when rainfall increases?

Vantaa's water supply is the responsibility of Helsinki Region Environmental Services HSY, which is also responsible for tap water quality and the sewer network. As part of the municipal system, individual properties do not have to take care of water quality, but HSY is responsible for it, and it is supervised by the city's environmental health service. The quality of the water and the operation of the sewerage network are therefore safe in Vantaa.

However, not all properties are covered by the municipal system. An estimated 97% of Vantaa's properties are connected to the water supply and sewerage network. There are an estimated 1,500 properties outside the network. The water supply development plan for 2021-2030 is currently being updated in the HSY area, which also assesses the need for water supply in the areas outside the sewerage system.

If such a property outside the system has shortcomings in the quality of drinking water or if the wastewater is not treated properly, in addition to odor nuisances,

the situation may, if prolonged, pose a risk to human health and environmental pollution. In order to minimize the risks, all properties outside the network should be mapped out, preventive monitoring should be ensured, and efforts should be made to ensure that all Vantaa properties will be part of the municipal water supply system.

There are dozens of wastewater pumping stations in Vantaa, some of which are located near bodies of water. In pumping plant disturbances, overflows often have to be discharged into waterways. Overflows occur especially in rainy years, which will also be increasing in Vantaa as a result of climate change. The treated wastewater from the Riihimäki, Hyvinkää and Nurmijärvi wastewater treatment plants in the Vantaanjoki catchment area also strains our bodies of water.



**0,05**

**Total phosphorus load in wastewater (P) g/as/vrk 2020**

**1,96**

**Total nitrogen load in wastewater (N) g/person/day, 2020**

**1,25**

**Biological oxygen demand in wastewater (BHK) g/person/day, 2020**

**137**

**Community water consumption l/person/day 2019**

**7**

**Overflow situations at Vantaa wastewater treatment plants in Viikinmäki and Suomenoja and overflows at Vantaa pumping stations in 2020**

# GOAL 7 - AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

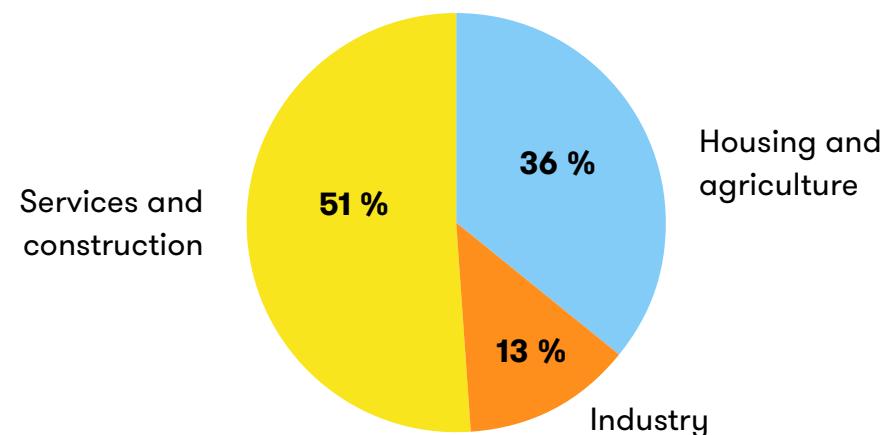


Vantaa's goal is zero-emission electricity and heat production, increasing energy and resource efficiency, and wise energy consumption. The challenge is to improve the energy efficiency of the existing building stock quickly enough.

The city can indirectly influence emissions caused by energy production and consumption, for example by controlling land use and construction, and by influencing the energy source choices of city-owned energy plants. In addition, the city has the opportunity to set an example and share information on good practices. The goal is to phase out oil heating in its own properties by 2030. Oil heated units will systematically switch to geothermal energy. Geothermal heat is also to be implemented in all new buildings where it is the most carbon-neutral and cost-effective form of heating. Photovoltaic electrical systems will also be implemented for all suitable new projects.

## Community electricity consumption

GWh, 2019. Total 1981 GWh.



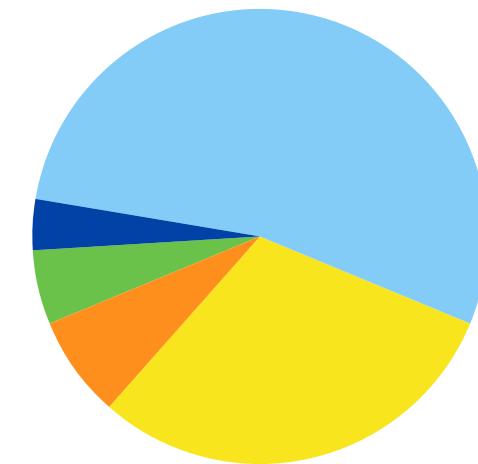
Vantaa is involved in a Green Deal agreement for zero-emission construction sites, which aims to phase out fossil fuels at the city's construction sites by 2025. In addition, by the end of 2030, at least 50 percent of construction machinery and site transportation will be powered by electricity, biogas, or hydrogen. Emissions from construction sites under the agreement include emissions from machinery, electricity and heating, and transport in a phased manner.

Vantaa Energy's role in achieving the carbon neutrality target is significant, as district heating production currently generates about a third of all Vantaa's greenhouse gas emissions. Vantaa Energy has made a decision to give up fossil fuels in 2026. The transition of Vantaa Energy to fossil-free production is to be implemented with the help of renewable energy sources, energy from waste energy use, and energy storage solutions. The plan is to stop using peat in 2021. In addition to mixed waste, the waste treatment capacity of the Vantaa Energy Waste Power Plant will be expanded in 2022 to commercial and industrial waste, and in 2024 to waste requiring a higher treatment temperature. Plans also include the construction of a medium-deep geothermal heating plant. A significant part of the whole is the seasonal storage of thermal energy, which enables the use of heat stored during low heating demand during the frost season.

## District heating production share

% 2020

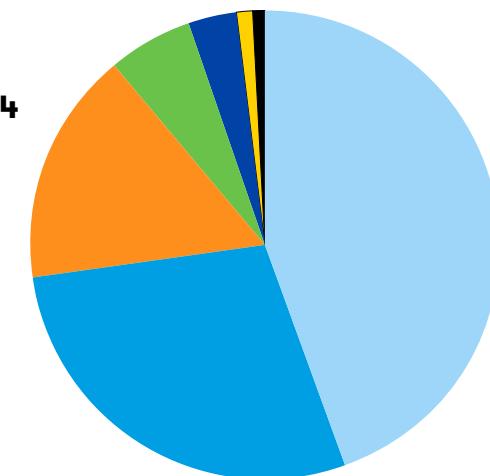
- Mixed waste **53 %**
- Bioenergy **30 %**
- Coal **7 %**
- Peat **5 %**
- Natural gas **3 %**
- Oil **0,1 %**



## Method of heating buildings

number of buildings 2019

- Electricity **13782**
- District or area heating **8824**
- Oil, gas **4968**
- Geothermal **1759**
- Other, unknown **1017**
- Tree, peat **384**
- Coal **217**





VANTAA

# GOAL 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The coronavirus pandemic has affected employment in Vantaa through changes that are shaking industries. The number of job seekers increased 75 % when comparing January and December 2020.

## Impact of the coronavirus pandemic on employment

For example, layoffs of varying lengths, redundancies, and the financial difficulties of operators affect the number of jobseekers registered as a result of the pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, concern has arisen in Vantaa particularly for 2,328 unemployed young people. Some have not received their summer jobs. Others have missed out on that important first job. In 2021, the city will focus on providing services for young people under the age of 25, e.g., in the form of projects. Funding has been received, e.g., for the Walking Along-side, Declining the Youth Unemployment -project. The project provides individualized support for unemployed young people under the age of 25.



## Municipal employment trial

Vantaa and Kerava are participating cooperatively in a municipal employment trial. The trial areas are responsible for, among other things, advising on services for clients, providing guidance and service tasks, as well as granting certain discretionary benefits and issuing certain employment policy statements. The clients of the municipal trial are unemployed jobseekers, those in employment, and those in employment-promoting services who are not entitled to earnings-related daily allowance, as well as all those under 30 and all immigrants and foreigners.

In the municipal employment trial in Vantaa and Kerava, the aim is to meet jobseekers individually, invest in a strong start to the job search, assess the jobseeker's need for services extensively, and guide the client effectively to services such as employment, skills services, and multidisciplinary services.



**Employment  
rate** 2020

**77 %**

**Accidents at work**

accidents/workplace  
2018

**0.04**

**Youth unemployment**

share of unemployed of under  
25-year-olds in the under  
25 labor force 2020

**17 %**

**Unemployment of  
speakers of foreign  
languages** among speakers of  
foreign languages aged 15-64, 2020

**16 %**

# GOAL 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Vantaa promotes sustainable industry, innovation, and the construction of infrastructure supporting them, mainly through projects and cooperation clusters. The challenge is indeed establishing new, good practices.

The common employment area of the Capital City Region and KUUMA municipalities is broad. Housing and work often take place in different municipalities. Cities have been profiled in different ways and currently jobs requiring high skills are largely located outside Vantaa. Jobs in Vantaa are strongly founded on construction, trade and services and logistics based on the airport.

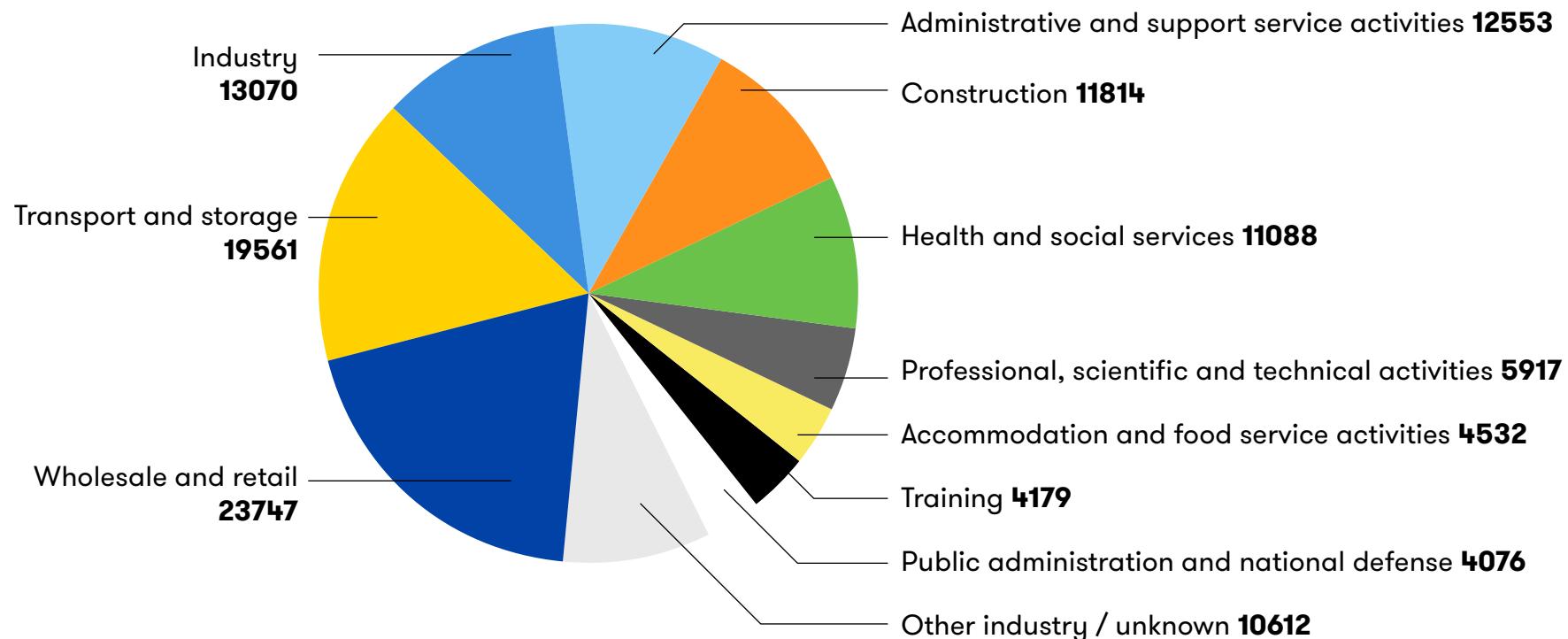
In the logistics and trade sectors in particular, in the coming years digitalization and automation will change the conditions for employment and have a significant impact on the number of jobs in Vantaa. Raising the skills level of the workforce and developing the operating environment of companies are key prerequisites for success. Decoupling companies' competitiveness and economic growth from material consumption is essential to achieving carbon neutrality goals.

## Vantaa supports responsible business

Through cooperation between research, development and innovation actors, companies, and the city, experimental platforms are being created for new solutions, and the development of new solutions aims to make new solutions more widely available in the city. The Six City Strategy (6aika) The CircularHoodFood project will test the scalable potential of urban farming and improve the connection between residents, businesses, and the city. 6Aika The Climate Positive Business Areas and Value Chains project builds a network of materials recycling economy actors and identifies opportunities for cooperation to reduce and compensate for climate impacts. And in the 6Aika Carbon Neutral and Resource-Wise Business Areas project in the Petikko-Varisto area with companies in the commercial sector, e.g. lighting technology solutions have been found in order to reduce climate emissions.

## Most employing industries

Jobs, 2018



## Vantaa is growing new entrepreneurs

The education and training department, in cooperation with the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, has drawn up an entrepreneurship education plan to increase the popularity of entrepreneurship in Vantaa. Entrepreneurship is presented as a career option alongside others, and entrepreneurship is introduced to pupils and students from primary school to universities.

### KIBS\* jobs

2017

**11508**

### Job self-sufficiency

2018

**109 %**

\*knowledge-intensive business services. The abbreviation KIBS comes from the English words Knowledge Intensive Business Services.



# GOAL 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Despite the investments made, the growth of disparities between residents and regions has not stopped and the coronavirus pandemic has also affected the development of differentiation. The need for support for children, young people and families in particular seems to have increased. The situation is particularly difficult for children and young people who are already in a vulnerable position. In Vantaa, therefore, there is a need for continuous measures to reduce the disparities in the well-being of residents and regions also in the coming years; it is also important to focus on combating inequality in coronavirus aftercare.

## The Regional Program of Positive Action and the Vantaa suburban program

The Regional Program of Positive Action (2019–2021) is part of the city's welfare work to reduce disparities in well-being between residential areas and residents. It has been decided to continue the action program for the next period. Areas with a lower-than-average socio-economic status and well-being of the population have been selected as target areas for the Regional Program of Positive Action. Vantaa invests in reducing inequality by focusing on preventive and early support services and by strengthening the opportunities for Vantaa residents to influence and participate in the

development of their own residential area. Vantaa is also involved in a suburban program coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment in 2020–2022. Vantaa's suburban program "Building a Rail City" includes three projects, which also aim to prevent the segregation of residential areas, increase the well-being and inclusion of residents, as well as to strengthen the vitality of areas.

## Diversity in city recruitment

The city is working to find ways to promote staff equality and broad diversity. Anonymous recruitment contributes to ensuring that applicants are treated equally and without bias. The city works closely with educational institutions in training programs in areas of labor shortage. In the

future, more attention will be paid to the qualification study paths of those who have completed their degrees abroad. During the training, the city's operational units provide internships and substitute positions as studies progress, where possible. In addition, the city provides language training for foreign language workers.

The most challenging situation is in the departments of City Strategy and Management, Urban culture, and the Urban Environment. 21,6% of Vantaa's residents are speakers of foreign languages and, for example, 0.1% of employees in the Urban Environment Department are speakers of foreign languages. In order to develop the city to look like everyone in Vantaa, more attention should be paid to the diversity of employees in the future.

## Gini coefficient\*

2019

**25,1**

\*the Gini coefficient describes income differences regionally. The bigger the value the Gini coefficient gets 0-100, the more unevenly the income is distributed.

## Share of foreign language employees in city employees

2020

**6 %**

### Urban Strategy and Management Department 2020

**0,2 %**

### Education and Learning Department 2020

**2,2 %**

### Health and Social Welfare Department

2020

**3,3 %**

### Urban Environment Department 2020

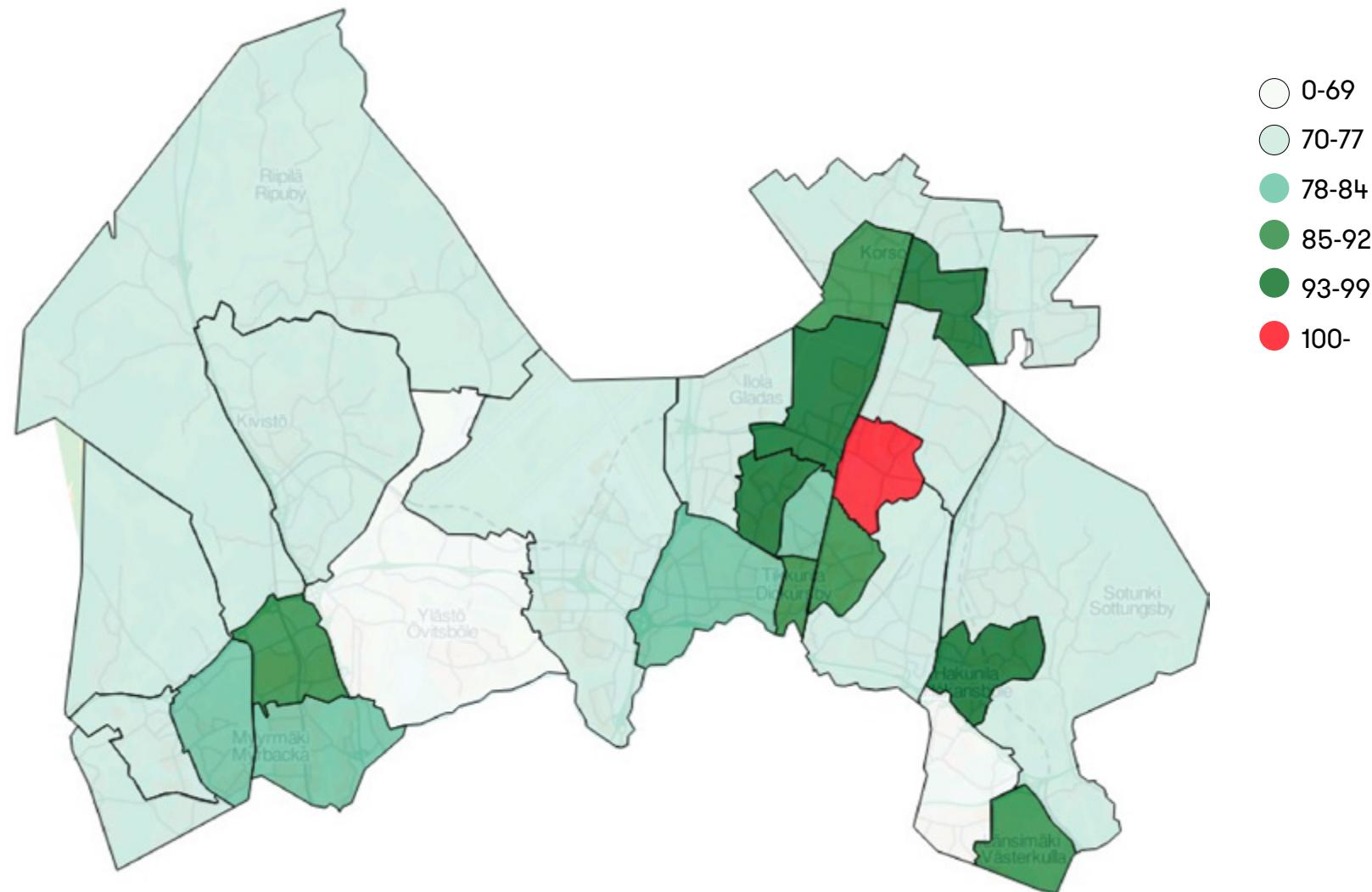
**0,1 %**

### Urban Culture Department 2020

**0,2 %**

## Morbidity index in Vantaa subdivisions

2017



# GOAL 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



The master plan guides all construction in the city and is the most direct and effective way for the city to build a sustainable future. Vantaa's Master Plan 2020 takes into account all dimensions of sustainable development. Sometimes they contradict each other, and an absolute truth about the most sustainable land use solution does not always exist.

## The master plan guides the construction of a sustainable city

Sustainable development was set as a framework for the goals of the Master Plan 2020: not as a singular goal, but as a framework within which to operate. The aim of Vantaa is to condense the community structure where construction already exists and thus leave space for green areas and vegetated land outside the areas to be built. Apartments, jobs and services will be built close to rail stops, allowing people to make their daily journeys on foot, by bicycle, or by public transport. In addition, the development corridor to be built in Vantaa will also connect areas threatened by segregation to the networks of the urban area.

### Air quality

Poor or very poor, hours in 2020

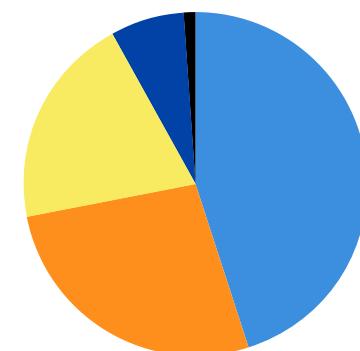
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in 2019 there were 49 hours of poor air quality

**48 %** of Vantaa residents lived in an area with a population density of at least **50 inhabitants/ha** (2019)

### Transit distribution

- Passenger car **45 %**
- Walking **27 %**
- Public transport **20 %**
- Cycling **7 %**
- Other **1 %**



## Promoting sustainable mobility

The city aims to promote environmentally friendly forms of mobility. The development of land use, especially in the vicinity of stations, along the planned tram route and in other areas of good public transport, will make sustainable modes of transport increasingly attractive to more and more people. In the next few years, Vantaa will also start several new bus traffic trunk lines, the smooth operation of which will be ensured by e.g., by improving bus stop arrangements and strong traffic light benefits. In the first phase, the conditions for bicycle traffic will be developed by improving quality corridors and main routes, which aim at smooth cycling, e.g., with direct routes, well-functioning traffic light arrangements, curb-free intersection arrangements, and good guidance. The bike routes marked in the master plan guide the planning in the longer term.

## The city serves as an example

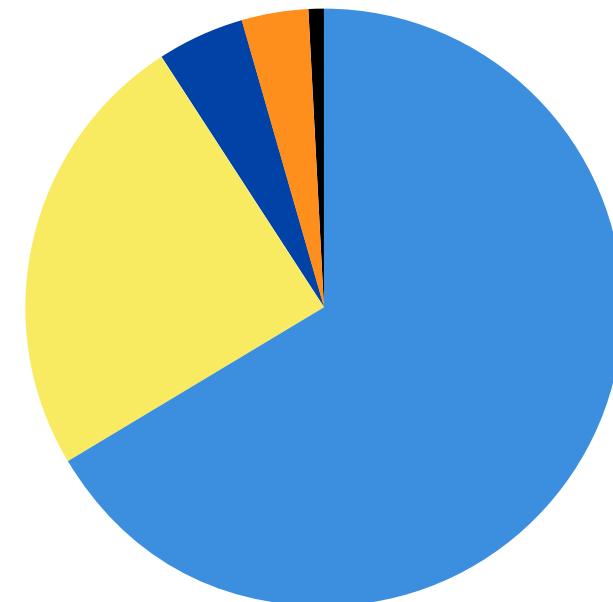
All of Vantaa's own educational and day care center buildings as well as office buildings will be implemented in energy class A. The city requires resource and energy efficiency in design, construction and maintenance, as well as land transfer conditions and land use agreements. An example of building sustainable development is the Vaaralanpuisto Day Care Center, which stands on energy poles and also utilizes solar electricity and heat. The building utilizes low-energy ventilation. The shapes and structures of the building are also energy efficient.

## Passenger cars in traffic use

31.03.2021

- Gasoline **75 836**
- Diesel **27 722**
- Total others **5162**
- Rechargeable Hybrid (Gasoline/Electric) **4 091**
- Electric **968**

Natural gas (CNG) **343**  
Gasoline/CNG **339**  
Rechargeable Hybrid (Diesel/Electric) **206**  
Gasoline / Ethanol **180**  
Ethanol **1**  
Gasoline + motor petrol **1**  
Gasoline/LPG **1**



# GOAL 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The city has the potential to influence the responsibility of consumption. More and more should be done together to bring about a change in responsible thinking. A Responsible Vantaa is made together with residents, companies and other partners.

## The city influences corporate responsibility

More than half of the city's budget is spent on procurement, i.e. purchases of services and goods, investments, and works. For this reason, it is important to see them as more than just a bidding. The city's strategic procurement priorities are carbon neutrality, recycling economy, innovation, human and labor rights in procurement, the social perspective of corporate social responsibility, inclusion, as well as legality and efficiency.

The Procurement Service Unit has developed an operating model for taking account of responsibility aspects in the preparation of procurements. An evaluation team of procurement professionals, lawyers, and accountability experts support the procurement expert in assessing the accountability requirements and risks of each

procurement. The environmental, social, and economic dimensions of responsibility are reviewed in the procurement process. For example, a tender may set criteria that require the supplier to use resources efficiently, to impose restrictions on the use of hazardous chemicals, and to enforce labor rights. Vantaa is involved in two green contracts for sustainable procurement, which aim to reduce emissions at construction sites and reduce children's exposure to chemicals in day care centers through procurements. In addition, Vantaa has done long-term work with procurement in promoting employment.

Corporate responsibility is also affected in the corporate governance of conglomerates. The general part of the ownership policy guidelines states that the objectives of the conglomerates are to be set in such a way that they support the urban strategy and are clear and

measurable. Targets are set for finances, quality of operations, personnel, and environmental responsibility. In addition, the corporate ownership policies are to set large corporate long-term corporate responsibility goals, which describe the social, economic, or ecological responsibility to be taken into account in the company's operation.

## **Responsible consumers are raised in schools and day care centers**

Vantaa's educational activities are guided by teaching and educational plans, one of the numerous goals of which is to educate children and young people for a sustainable future. Responsible consumption is one of the essential skills for a sustainable future. The contents of responsible consumption are taught within the school subjects and through various campaigns. However, teaching consumer behavior is a challenging issue, as it may not be easy to link it to the subject structure, and sustainable consumption will in part require a change in current economic standards. Education is not used to being a factor in changing society. However, we are used to teaching, for example, waste reduction and providing information on the basis of sustainable consumption, so the foundation is promising. As curricula change, phenomenal learning and broad-based skills have become involved, making it easier to deal with entities. Next, we need the courage to start changing our perceptions. This has already begun in the Ruusuvuori School's "Korso complains" activity.

## **Amount of municipal waste incinerated at Vantaa Energy's Waste Incineration Plant**

2020

**365 000 t**

## **Total biowaste per diner**

Day care centers, schools, and educational institutions managed by Vantti, 2020

**50 g**

# GOAL 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION



In its city strategy, Vantaa has set the goal of carbon neutrality by the end of 2030. Achieving emission reductions is most challenging in the transport, energy production, and energy consumption sectors.

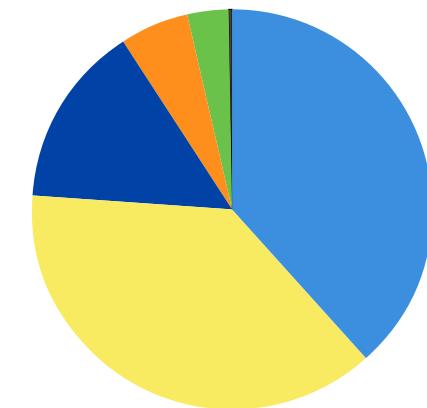
## The Roadmap to Resource Wisdom will lead to carbon neutrality

We are committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 80% compared to 1990 emissions and offsetting the remaining emissions, for example through carbon sinks and by financing low-carbon projects elsewhere. Emissions are monitored through annual emissions calculations in the Helsinki metropolitan area. In order to achieve this goal and promote new and more efficient ways of operating, the Roadmap to Resource Wisdom and industry-specific implementation plans were drawn up in 2018. The roadmap aims for a carbon-neutral and waste-free city of the future, where natural resources are used sparingly - while creating the conditions for sustainable well-being. The roadmap proceeds in four lanes, which are energy production and consumption, community structure and mobility, consumption and materials, and responsible Vantaa resident. The city is also minimizing the risks of climate change with adaptation measures. Adaptation has been taken into account in the city's risk management.

### Greenhouse gas emission distribution

2019

- Traffic **377 kt**
- Heating **373 kt**
- Electricity **142 kt**
- Industry and work machines **57 kt**
- Waste treatment **31 kt**
- Agriculture **2 kt**



In addition to the city organization, the climate targets apply to citizens as well as companies and communities operating in Vantaa. The city's goal is that the Vantaa lifestyle is sustainable and based on a good relationship with nature. Vantaa-based companies and communities bear their environmental responsibility.

## Reducing the carbon footprint of consumption

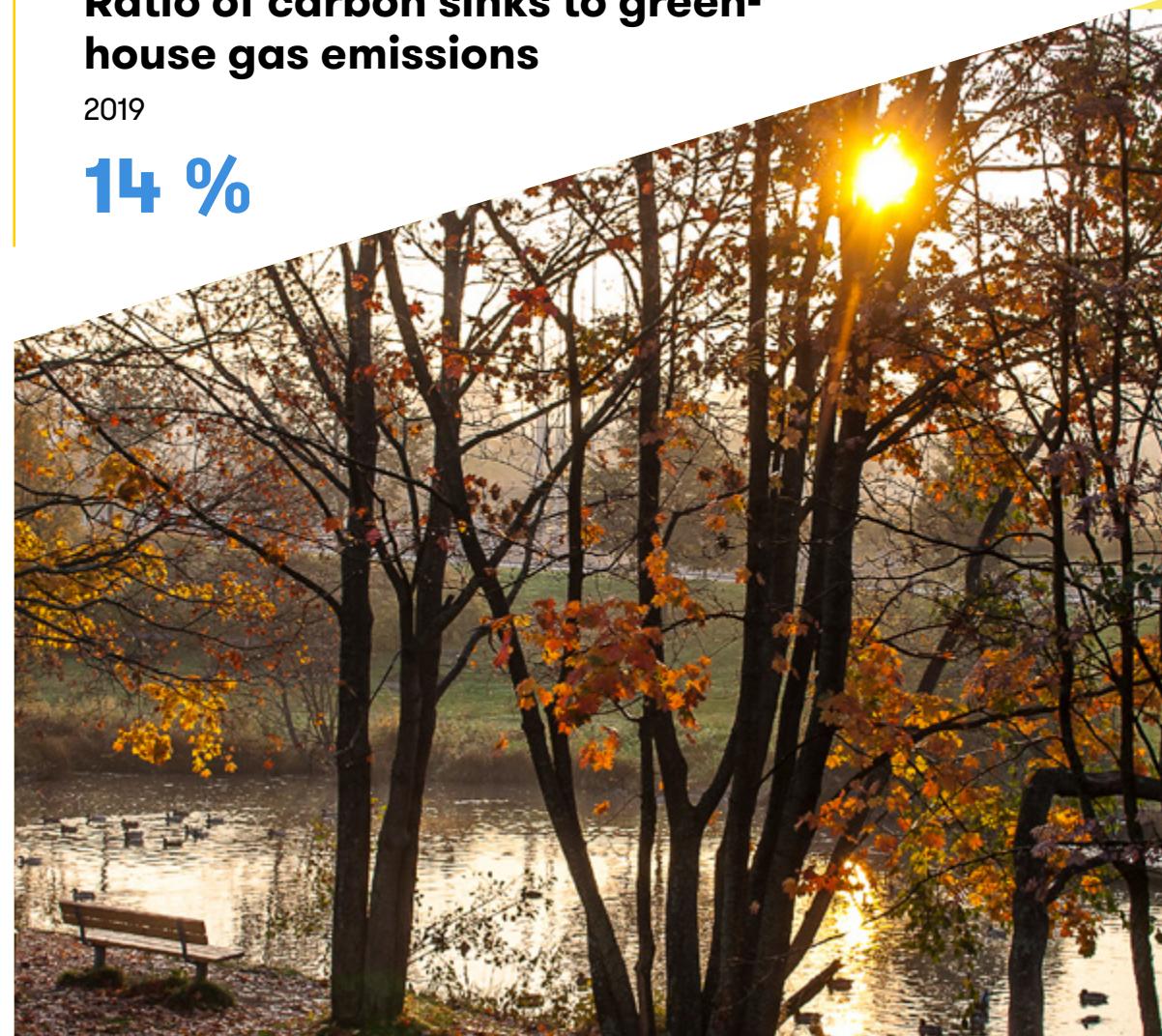
The carbon footprint of the city's catering services was defined in the fall of 2020, with the goal of reducing the carbon footprint. The result was that 80% of the carbon footprint of catering services comes from the primary production of the food provided. The next most significant cause of the carbon footprint is food loss with an 11% share. In the autumn of 2021, a label describing a climate-friendly main food alternative, Hiilidiili, will be introduced in Vantaa schools. Main dishes with a significantly lower-than-average carbon footprint will receive the label. Such dishes are, according to the results, vegetarian dishes that do not contain much cheese. In addition to Hiilidiili, in the canteens of day care centers, schools, and educational institutions, vegetarian food has been transferred to the front of the lines and once a week, on vegetarian food day, both food options are vegetarian food. In addition, service providers are committed to monitoring and reporting on the amount of bio-waste twice a year or as needed. The aim is to reform the menus so that the carbon footprint of the menus will decrease in the future. In the autumn of 2021, Hiilidiili will also be expanded to include an electric car experiment in student transport.

Day care centers, schools and educational institutions offer vegetarian food **every day alongside mixed food**. Once a week, there is a **vegetarian day** with two vegetarian options

## Ratio of carbon sinks to green-house gas emissions

2019

**14 %**



# GOAL 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER

Although Vantaa is not by the sea, we also affect the state of the Baltic Sea through our rivers. That is why Vantaa supports the goals of the Baltic Sea Challenge. The challenge is the large river basins, which make it difficult to identify sources of emissions, for example.



## Vantaa is a city of streams

The landscape of Vantaa has been significantly shaped by the Vantaa River and its largest tributary, the Kera-va River. In addition to these rivers, Vantaa has almost 60 designated streams and 14 designated water areas, which together with their banks act as ecological cor-ridors for fish as well as birds, insects, mammals and plants. There are two species in the Vantaa area that are strictly protected by the European Union: the otter and the thick shelled river mussel. Endangered sea trout also rise in the rivers and streams of Vantaa to spawn in the autumn. The Natura area of the Vantaa River has been rehabilitated with large-scale projects and, for example, the removal of rising barriers has made it possible for fish stocks to recover. The Vantaa River is the most signif-icant area for the occurrence of thick shelled river mus-sels in Finland with an estimated 2 million individuals.

The environmental goal of the Uusimaa Water Management Operational Program was to prevent the deterio-ration of water status and to achieve at least good sta-tus by 2015, but it was not initially estimated that this goal would be achieved. The target date for some of the surface waters of Uusimaa's bodies of water has now

been set at 2021 or 2027. The water quality in the Vantaa River area is monitored at several monitoring points, the results of which are reported annually. Water quality is maintained, especially during the downstream period, by additional runoff from the Päijänne Tunnel and the Silvola Reservoir. The water quality of the Vantaa streams var-ies from poor to excellent, but overall, the streams are at least at a satisfactory level in terms of water quality. The water quality of Lake Kuusijärvi has been good in recent years.

## Stream caretakers at work

The aim in Vantaa has been to increase the vitality of streams, develop the diversity of the water landscape, improve water quality, and involve local residents in the management and rehabilitation of small bodies of water. Vantaa's low-flow bodies of water have been rehabilitat-ed for several years by stream caretakers hired for the summer. The stream caretakers have organized spawning grounds and cleaned the streams of rubbish. The aim is to protect the nature of the streams also with the dimension-ing of the creek corridor, which instructs the new zoning areas to leave room for the streams to live and meander.



In 2020, there were **35** days when bathing on the beaches of the Kerava River was not recommended at all. It was not recommended to swim at Leppäkorpi beach for **3** days.

**Ecological status of rivers  
flowing in Vantaa 2017**

**100 % satisfactory**

# GOAL 15 – LIFE ON LAND



Nature reserves play a key role in safeguarding biodiversity and protecting endangered species. In Vantaa, the city is being condensed, taking care of local nature. In addition to nature conservation, maintaining a good relationship with nature is important in safeguarding biodiversity. Since 2015, Vantaa has supported a relationship with nature through the local nature theme years, the theme of which have been both running water and forests as well as bugs. The years have been accompanied by events related to nature communication and the theme year, as well as local nature guides from 2017 onwards, who have helped to build a good nature relationship for Vantaa residents.

## Green areas secure a wide range of nature

Vantaa has several nature reserves protected by the Nature Conservation Act, as well as habitat preserves, such as walnut groves and alder backwoods. Nature reserves play a key role in the protection of endangered species, for example, the Mätöja Nature Reserve was established to protect the endangered White Adder's Mouth and the highly endangered Halavasepikkä beetle. The new master plan introduces new nature reserve reserves of about 800 hectares. In addition to protected areas, the general plan designates a total of 780 hectares of areas of special importance for biodiversity (recreational areas) along recreational areas and streams. The network of natural areas is supported by the ecological

route connections indicated in the master plan, which aim to ensure the mobility of species and the preservation of biodiversity.

Vantaa's forests are mainly allowed to regenerate naturally, no clear-cutting is carried out, and the management of important habitats is aimed at keeping the areas suitable for endangered species. Nature management resources are very limited, and the limited resources have been allocated to the maintenance of the habitats in open environments of the most endangered species, such as the highly endangered Burren Green moth and, in particular, the highly protected Nemophora cupriacella moth. The population of Vantaa is constantly growing, which creates great pressure as construction and consumption of natural areas increase.

## Control of alien species in Vantaa

On its own lands, the city is disposing of hogweed and rugosa roses, especially harmful alien species. In addition, for many summers, Himalayan balsam work parties have been arranged under the direction of stream caregivers and local nature guides, where plants have been uprooted from the streams. The city also encourages and instructs its residents to eradicate harmful alien species from their yards and surrounding areas. Control of other alien plant species has been sporadic. An important development target in enhancing the control of alien species is Vantaa's missing alien species strategy.

**Trees over 80 years of age** 2019

**19 %**

**Number of alien species  
work parties** 2020

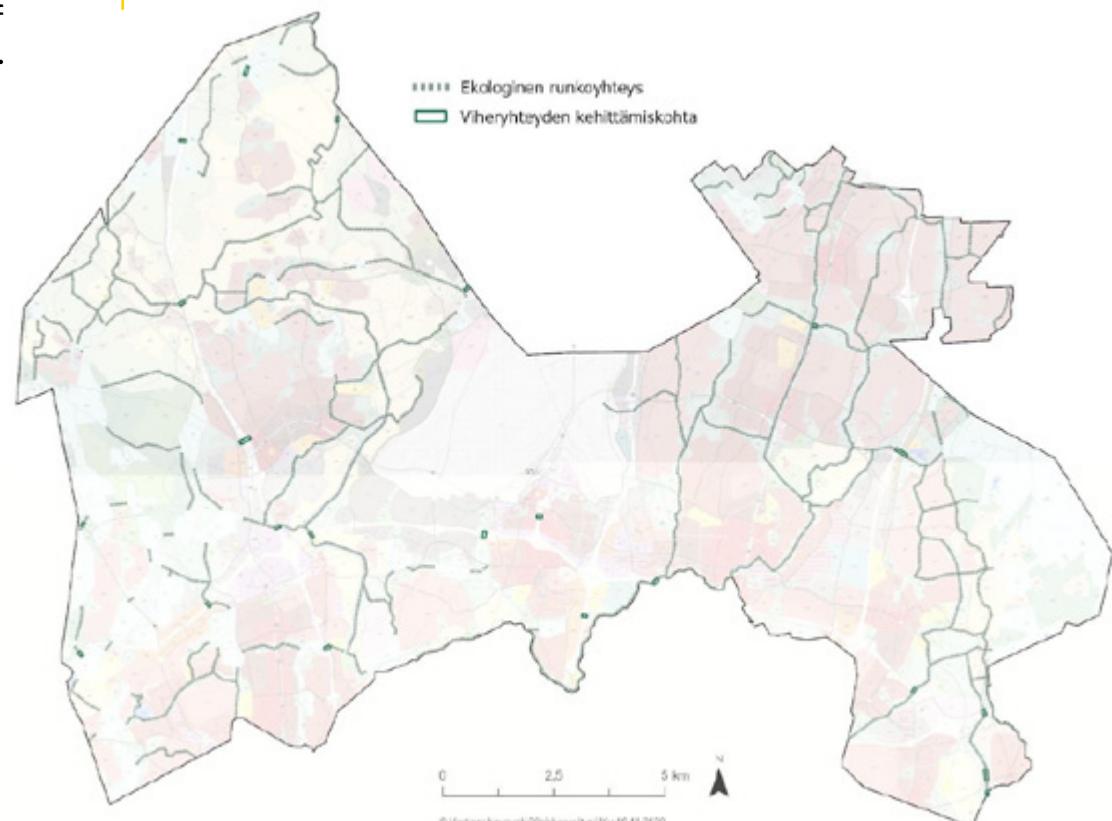
**6**

**Nature reserves share  
of land area** 2020

**6 %**

**Master Plan 2020 allotted  
nature reserves**

**800 ha**



Ecological route connections and green connection development points in the master plan

# GOAL 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The experience of inequality and exclusion increases insecurity as well as the feeling that one's own actions do not matter. It is therefore in the interests of the whole of Vantaa to ensure that every Vantaa resident has equal opportunities for a good life.

## Security work in Vantaa

Vantaa's current security challenges are often related to exclusion and the coronavirus. Statistics show an increase in home alerts, violent crime, and drug crime. The pandemic is reflected in the relocation of domestic violence, crime, and disruption to homes. At the same time, the need for mental health and substance abuse services has increased. The number of property crimes, on the other hand, has decreased. School violence, youth violence in general, and young people's disorderly behavior and substance abuse have increased. There is no clear formation into gangs among young people in Vantaa, but the trend and the glorification of roadman culture are a cause for concern.

Perceived security does not always indicate the actual security situation. Sometimes the experience of insecurity reflects people's fears and worries more. Based on the responses to the studies, the behavior of intoxicated

people and open drug trafficking are a cause for concern. There were no major differences between the different metropolitan areas, but they were found between districts. The visibility of police and guards was reported to increase the sense of security.

Inclusive and equitable security planning, improving security culture, strengthening security management, and tackling exclusion are key to reducing security threats. The Domestic Violence Prevention Program and the RAD project, which aims to prevent violent radicalization, provide ways to tackle difficult issues. Preventive work for children and young people is most effective. It includes e.g. substance abuse education, early intervention, as well as on-site and searching work. More meeting places and meaningful things to do should be provided. Information should be increased and the threshold for access to substance abuse services and treatment should be lowered. Resources should be permanently directed to where they are most needed.

## Voter turnout is worrying

In Vantaa, voter turnout is low, especially in municipal elections. We want to encourage Vantaa residents to influence the future of their municipality in many ways. In Kivistö and Koivukylä, the most central location of the advance polling stations has been taken into account, so that you do not have to go to the polls separately, but you can even vote on a shopping trip. In addition, there were five outside polling places in the municipal elections in various parts of Vantaa, so that voting would be considered safe even during the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition, campaigns have been organized in Vantaa to reach groups with particularly low voter turnout. The aim of the children's and youth elections is to bring voting to be a part of residency in Vantaa even before coming of age. Youth voter turnout is also supported through the Where Voting Affects discussion event, the voting quiz on the Discord platform, and the From Youth-to-Youth Municipal Election Panel. Voting activeness will be invested in for people with disabilities for ensuring the physical accessibility of polling stations and the willingness of polling officers to assist when needed. Efforts have been made to increase the voter turnout of speakers of foreign languages by communicating about the elections in the seven most common foreign languages spoken in Vantaa.

## Crime rate

crimes per 1000 inhabitants 2020

**143**

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## Voter turnout, municipal elections 2021

**48 %**

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## Voter turnout, parlia- mentary elections 2019

**70 %**

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## Street Safety Index\*

2020

**17**

\*Crimes are weighted according to their seriousness and proportionate to the population. The higher the index value, the better the street safety.

# GOAL 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



In line with its strategy, Vantaa aims to profile itself strongly as an international city and to be an active player in international networks. Vantaa's international networks and project cooperation promote sustainable development. They are key to learning best practices from sister cities - and at the same time sharing information about Vantaa's own good practices with international partners. Adequate resources are needed for the work to take place.

## Examples of networks and projects

### Eurocities

Vantaa operates in the Eurocities network of 190 large European cities. Good practices are shared in the network's forums and working groups, of which Vantaa is active in e.g. groups focusing on the environment and social issues.

### Nordic Safe Cities

The network of Nordic cities shares and develops good practices to increase security, reduce confrontation, and combat extremism.

### UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

The network supports and develops lifelong learning practices in cities through peer learning and contributes to each of the 17 sustainable development goals.

### CIRCulT

Vantaa is a partner in the 31-partner Horizon project CIRCulT - Circular Construction in Regenerative Cities, which is being implemented in 2019-2023. The aim is to try and develop innovative solutions in a closed urban environment built in an urban environment.

## **EU Urban Agenda partnership for Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement**

Vantaa was involved in the Urban Agenda partnership for innovative procurement “Partnership for Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement” in 2017-2020. Ways to develop procurement strategies and methods for cities that support the creation of innovations and sustainable operations were developed in cooperation.

## **Urban Growth in Vantaa**

The Urban Growth Vantaa project, which is being implemented in 2019-2022 with EU Urban Innovative Actions funding, will create responsibility for working life through an extensive network of partners. The network includes universities, research institutions, the Chamber of Commerce, and several companies. Urban Growth Vantaa creates new solution proposals for raising the level of competence of companies' personnel, acquiring labor, as well as technological change.



## **Avia Network and Green Deal Manifesto**

The Avia Network is a network of more than 30 private, public, and third sector operators in the Helsinki-Vantaa Airport area. In March 2021, the Avia network published a Green Deal manifesto, with which the network wants to make Helsinki-Vantaa Airport and the Vantaa Aviapolis district the most climate-friendly and sustainable airport area in the world. The aim is to be an international pioneer in promoting clean and smart mobility and to create a new kind of responsible tourism and transport that respects the environment and creates new jobs and prosperity.

# CONCLUSIONS

In Vantaa, a huge amount of work is being done in accordance with the values of sustainable development. One's own work is done with commitment and heart, whether it is preparing the zoning or caring for the sick. A large number of experts and management work tirelessly to secure the well-being of Vantaa and the world, often even at the expense of their own well-being, as we have seen especially during the pandemic.

In 2020-2021, the city has had a cross-administrative responsibility strategy theme management group tied to the council term, whose task has been to manage responsibility horizontally. Achieving responsibility requires committed long-term strategic planning, management and the resources allocated to it. The basic task of municipalities, under the Municipal Act, is to promote sustainable development, and many of the basic tasks of a municipality do so by nature. Thus, monitoring sustainable development in Vantaa's future strategic periods and linking it to the city's strategy and economic planning would be a natural direction of development.

The city's first VLR report on sustainable development is a cross-section of the city's work in line with its sustainable development goals and identifies areas for



development on the basis of which the city can develop its operations. The strategy and programs of the current council term of office emphasize Goal 8, Decent work and economic growth, Goal 11, Sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 10, Reduced inequalities. In contrast, Objective 6 Clean water and sanitation and 14 Life below water did not receive any mention, which can be inferred in part from Objective 6's long-standing excellent status of clean water and sanitation and from Objective 14's sea-focused perspective. However, Vantaa's operations also affect the realization of these goals, and they involve risks in the future, so they should also be taken into account at the strategic level. In addition, Objectives 1 No poverty, 2 Zero hunger, 5 Gender equality, 7 Affordable and clean energy,

9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and 15 Life on land were each mentioned only a few times in the strategy or its programs. This is despite the fact that, for example, the promotion of gender equality in municipalities is prescribed by law and clean forms of energy as well as sustainable industry and infrastructure are a necessity to achieve the city's carbon neutrality goal.

During the processing of the report, the need for a more detailed review of the city's sustainable development activities, the development of new indicators and the renewal of the reporting format have been identified as development targets for the report itself. In the future, it would be important to have wide-ranging discussions with departments and units, as well as to organize open forums to ensure that the report contains the most relevant information for achieving the SDGs. In the present report, a nine-member expert working group with representation from each of the city's departments worked with limited time resources and within this framework selected topics and indicators to be presented in more detail. However, on the basis of the work, there has been no overall picture of the sustainable development work being carried out in Vantaa based on the study, and there is no time to focus on the broad theme. The overall

picture should include the identification of the missing information and an assessment of what information should be produced for the report. For example, the collection of data disaggregating different population groups is limited in Vantaa, and it is precisely such data that is essential to make the spirit of Agenda 2030 a reality - no one is left behind. In addition, developments have driven past textual reports. The presentation of the report should be considered and possibly follow in the footsteps of the Helsinki 2021 VLR report in a web-site-based reporting format.

The Sustainable Development Goals are designed to guide the sustainable future of every country in the world. Therefore, the sub-objectives of the goals focus in many respects on the challenges of developing countries, and they alone are not enough to guide the operations of a municipality like Vantaa. For this reason, it would be important to form, on the basis of the sustainable development goals, sub-goals suitable for Finnish conditions, which Finnish municipalities and cities could use to support the planning and evaluation of their own activities.

