

# Summary

**In 2020, the City of Turku was among a group of pioneering cities carrying out a Voluntary Local Review on sustainable development. The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is an initiative launched by the City of New York to involve cities in the implementation of 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.**

Turku's first VLR report focused on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the city and sought to create a clear picture of the contents of all the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and provide concrete examples of the city's role and opportunities to promote the achievement of the goals. Turku's second report examines

changes in the city's sustainable development operating environment and creates steps to achieve the goals by 2025 and 2030.

The main focus of the city's second VLR report is on the future. This is because a number of major changes have taken place in the city: the management system and organisational structure have been reformed, the city's strategy has been updated, a new Mayor's Programme has been drawn up and new spearhead projects and plans have been created.

Turku has made progress in the development targets identified in the city's first VLR assessment report, and overall, the city is either taking rapid steps to achieve a large proportion of the sustainable development goals or has already achieved them. The

second VLR report serves as the city's 2030 Agenda roadmap. The roadmap provides information about which aspects the city will focus on and what timetable and measures will be used to achieve all the SDGs by 2030.

The City's 2030 Agenda roadmap shows future steps and guides us towards a sustainable future and milestones set for 2025.

In the future, we can also use selected key indicators and complementary indicators for sustainable development as well as regular reporting to systematically verify and monitor the city's progress and react to changes as necessary. The integration of the 2030 Agenda into the city's normal decision-making, budgeting, operational planning and monitoring will continue.

# Introduction

The 2030 Agenda is a plan for action for promoting global sustainable development agreed by the UN member states. It includes 17 goals guiding the construction of sustainable societies, set to be achieved by 2030. The objectives take into account all three main areas of sustainable development: ecological, social and economic sustainability. Cities play an important role in promoting SDGs at the local level and exerting influence at the global level. Cities implement approximately 2/3 of the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2020, the City of Turku was among a group of pioneering cities carrying out a Voluntary Local Review on sustainable development. The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is an initiative launched by the City of New York to

involve cities in the implementation of 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. However, setting goals is not enough on its own: we need information on our progress and the steps required to achieve them.

Published in 2020, Turku's first VLR report focused on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the city and sought to create a clear picture of the contents of all the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and provide concrete examples of the city's role and opportunities to promote the achievement of the goals. The first reporting round included examining how the work to promote sustainable development is visible in the city's strategy and activities. The report was used to create a picture of the city's baseline situation in the context of sustainable development.

Turku's second report examines changes in the city's sustainable development operating environment and creates steps to achieve the goals by 2025 and 2030. In the city's second VLR report, the main focus is on the future. This is because a number of major changes have taken place in the city: the management system and organisational structure have been reformed, the city's strategy has been updated, a new Mayor's Programme has been drawn up and new spearhead projects and plans have been created. The City Strategy, Turku in the 2030s, includes the city's long-term goals until 2030. The Mayor's Programme has been drawn up for the period 2021–2025 and includes significant sustainable development promotion plans and action programmes, such as the city's five spearhead projects.

The city's current operating environment is also affected by ongoing changes significant at the national level: The health and social services reform and the transfer of responsibility for organising employment services. These reforms will affect the scope of the city's basic operations and future tasks.

The second VLR report serves as the city's 2030 Agenda roadmap. The roadmap tells us what the city will focus on and what timetable and measures will be used to achieve all the SDGs by 2030. It is also used to define joint SDGs and VLR indicators at the city level that enable monitoring and reporting goal achievement in the future.

The VLR report of the City of Turku brings together the work to promote sustainable development carried out in the city, strengthens the city's internal and cross-administrative cooperation, know-how and competence, and helps to create a shared vision of the city's sustainable development goal setting and future actions. The VLR report also serves as a good tool for monitoring the implementation of local sustainable development goals and communicating about them.



Photo: iStock

# The city's operating environment

## General

Turku is the oldest city in Finland, and it will turn full 800 years in 2029. Turku (Åbo in Swedish) was established in 1229 at the mouth of river Aurajoki, on the coast of the Archipelago Sea. Turku is Finland's sixth largest municipality and the centre of the region of Southwest Finland.

Turku is a vibrant and attractive city with a diverse economic structure, a high level of education, a versatile range of culture and services and a beautiful archipelago. In addition to tourists, Turku attracts residents, students and companies both in Finland and internationally.

The city aims to achieve carbon neutrality in 2029 and to also remain the leading climate and nature city in the future.



# Key tasks of the municipality and significant changes in the operating environment

## Global crises

The impact of global crises has also concrete effects on the City of Turku. The global coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on the city's operations, finances and services since spring 2020, and the impacts will remain visible for a long time. There is also a need for several, new corrective measures to respond to the effects of the coronavirus. The development of the coronavirus pandemic and predicting new virus variants remains challenging.

The war in Ukraine, which began in spring 2022, will also continue to affect

our activities. Concrete measures are already being taken, for example, in the reception, assistance and integration of refugees. Additional resources are needed for this work. It is in the city's interest to quickly engage families, children and young people in normal life, i.e. day-care centres, schools and hobbies. It is also important to promote employment among the adult population. These and other future unpredictable changes increase uncertainty related to the city's financial projections and are reflected in the city's service activities.



## National reforms

At the national level, there are two major reforms affecting cities in Finland: The health and social services reform and the employment and economic development services reform. These two reforms will significantly impact the city's future tasks and responsibilities, and through these, on the city's future operating environment.

The health and social services reform is the largest administrative reform implemented in Finland during the country's independence, and it will significantly change Turku City's organisation and the entire public sector. With the reform, the city will no longer be responsible for organising social welfare, health care and rescue services. These areas of responsibility will be transferred to the already established Southwest Finland wellbeing services county at the beginning of 2023. The new administrative boundaries must not undermine the welfare and services and their availability to local residents.

The reform will result in a very significant reduction in Turku City's organisation at the beginning of 2023. Approximately five thousand employees in the city will move to work in the Southwest Finland wellbeing services county, which will employ around 21,000 employees in total. Approximately 6,000 employees will continue to work for the city.

Another significant change in the city's operating environment will be the transfer of responsibility for organising employment services from the central government to cities in 2024. The change will provide the city with greater means to support the operating conditions of business life and the well-being of city residents. To ensure the success of this change, there is a need for careful preparation and good cooperation between those currently involved in the operations.





Photo A1 Media

## New management system and organisation model – New Turku

In addition to the above changes, the city's management system and organisational structure have been subject to renewals and we have moved from a city manager model to a mayor model as of 1 August 2021. In the new political management model and institutional structure of the City of Turku, the city's top management is represented by the Mayor and three Deputy Mayors elected by the City Council. The City Council, which has 67 councillors, continues to exercise the highest decision-making power in the city. Councillors and their deputies are elected once every four years in municipal elections. The City Board selected by the Council is responsible for the administration and financial management of the city and implements the council's decisions. The Mayor and Deputy Mayors direct and coordinate the city's activities in accordance

with the decisions of the City Council and the City Board.

A Chief of Staff works under the Mayor and is responsible for the management of the group administration and the preparation and implementation of matters under the City Board. In 2023, the City of Turku will comprise leisure time, education and teaching, the urban environment, employment and group administration divisions. The new Turku will employ approximately 6,000 employees instead of the former 11,000. The reform will also have a significant impact on the city's finances, and measures to adapt to the change will be required.

In addition to the Mayor, the city's management team includes the heads of City of Turku group units and the directors of divisions.

The, Director of Corporate Governance directs the corporate governance unit, whose task is to support the city's management in corporate governance and the coordination and monitoring of the organisations that belong to the City Group. The Turku Group comprises approximately 60 subsidiaries, i.e. organisations in which the municipality has authority alone or together with other municipal group entities. Of these organisations, those with the most importance and significance have been named as strategic entities in the city. The strategic organisations operate in the following business areas: housing and real estate, business and expertise, energy and infrastructure, tourism and culture, information services and production. In addition, the city owns 3 water supply enterprises.

# Turku City Strategy and Mayor's Programme as a management tool

A key management tool in the city is a strategy updated for each council term (once every 4 years). Turku City Strategy was updated and approved by the City Council on 14 February 2022. Turku in the 2030s, Turku's city strategy, is a long-term vision that describes what the city will look like in 2030, the key goals and values of the city's operations and the principles that the city's personnel and elected officials commit to in their operations. Local residents and stakeholders can also be committed to the strategy. A key objective of the strategy is to promote the well-being of city residents and the competitiveness of the city in a sustainable manner.

To accompany the city's new management model, a Mayor's Programme was drawn up alongside the City Strategy to define the priorities for the 2021–2025 Turku Council term. The programme has been approved by all the delegation groups represented in the Turku City Council. More detailed information about the implementation of the strategy is provided in the Mayor's Programme and related implementation plan, and the city's spearhead projects, which

were updated as a result of the change. The spearhead projects are used to implement the objectives of both the Turku City Strategy and Mayor's Programme.

Meanwhile, city-level steering documents specify the implementation of strategic objectives. The steering documents include the Voluntary Local Review (VLR), ownership policy, master plan, climate and environmental programme, procurement strategy, housing and land use programme and water management development plan.

## City Strategy (10 y)

## Mayor's programme (4 y)

## Steering documents

## Spearhead Projects

## Action plan (1+3 y)

## Service plan (18 mos.)

## City's spearhead projects

The City of Turku's spearhead projects were updated at the beginning of 2022 by a decision of the City Board. The spearhead projects will be implemented from the beginning of 2022 to the end of 2025. The city has a total of five spearhead projects. The development of the city centre and the implementation of the spearhead projects of the Turku Science Park will continue from the previous Council term. Three spearhead projects have been prepared based on the Mayor's Programme. The new spearhead projects emerging from the Mayor's Programme are the Competence spearhead project, Spearhead project on community, well-being and balanced development of residential areas (Communal Turku) and Cultural spearhead project. The spearhead projects support achieving the goals of the Mayor Programme, aim at better preparedness and broad-based cooperation with the city's different service areas, local residents and different stakeholders, and strive to create new services and attractiveness for Turku. The spearhead projects are also used to pursue the sustainable development goals most relevant to the city.

Figure: the City's steering model

## **Development of the city centre spearhead project (Making Turku city centre a neighbourhood for everyone)**

The aim of the development of the city centre spearhead project is to strengthen a vibrant urban centre and to take concrete measures to achieve the objectives of the vision for the city centre of Turku for 2050. Comprehensive city development strengthens the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Turku city centre from the perspectives of business, tourism, housing and living.

## **Turku Science Park spearhead project**

The Turku Science Park area is the most significant urban development site supporting growth in the urban area. The spearhead project aims to develop the area with an internationally interesting and boldly experimental centre of excellence which has diverse and logically attractive features. The spearhead project aims at the innovative development of jobs, services, housing, mobility and public urban space in the Kupittaa neighbourhood in cooperation with companies

and higher education institutions. The utilisation of smart solutions and digitalisation plays a key role in the project.

## **Cultural spearhead project**

The aim of the spearhead project is to develop and promote the operating conditions of art and culture in Turku in collaboration with the actors in the field. The spearhead project will support the well-being of the city's residents and the vitality of the region. Culture contributes to a good standard of living and continuous learning, and it plays a particular role in promoting well-being and combatting loneliness.

## **Competence spearhead project**

The aim of the spearhead project is to strengthen competence in the Turku region and the city's ability to respond to the needs of the labour market and business life. The project's key goals include strengthening the competence of Turku's residents, also attracting new experts from around the world, and identifying and making use of expertise potential. The measures of the competence spearhead project apply extensively to the

entire field of education and training, from early childhood education and care to higher education institutions and further to working and business life.

## **Communal Turku spearhead project**

The spearhead project on communality, well-being and balanced development of residential areas aims to invest in the balanced development of neighbourhoods in close cooperation with the NGO sector, residents and companies, and to support the opportunities of the local residents to increase their well-being and to work and grow together in distinctive residential areas. At the core of the project is communality and inclusion, which will ensure that Turku is vibrant, beautiful, sustainable and inclusive.

The project measures will strengthen the vitality of Turku and solve societal challenges through a broad partnership. Challenges include loneliness, mental health problems, social exclusion, sedentary lifestyles and regional segregation. By influencing these phenomena, the city can achieve major human and economic benefits.

# Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Turku

## General

International conventions steer the activities of states and, through these, also municipalities. One of the most important conventions include the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it proposes. Finland is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and reports regularly on its progress. Based on many indicators, Finland has already achieved most of the SDGs. However, some challenges persist, especially in the areas of responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, biodiversity loss and global responsibility. Cities play an

important role in achieving the SDGs at the local level.

In its new strategy, the City of Turku is committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda's local goals for sustainable development by 2030. Turku is a strong climate city and among the pioneers in implementing another significant treaty, the Paris Agreement, which limits global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In Turku, climate change mitigation and adaptation to the consequences of climate change, taking care of biodiversity through resource wisdom and the circular economy,

and promoting the well-being and equality of residents are the most important spearheads in promoting sustainable development and are included in the Mayor's Programme. These themes are promoted through spearhead projects and strong steering. The steering of climate and environmental policy, the new steering documents, and roadmaps for the promotion of the circular economy and the preservation of biodiversity serve as a strong signal of the significance of these themes for the City of Turku. In general, Turku is either making good headway with the SDGs or has already achieved many of them.

## Development targets identified in the first VLR assessment report

The city's first VLR assessment report was published in 2020. The development targets identified based on the first VLR reporting were related to the city's sustainable development goal setting, measurement and verification of progress. There was no jointly agreed city-level set of indicators, and the availability of data also created challenges for the implementation of systematic monitoring. The SDGs where the least progress had been made or where monitoring or steering was inadequate included SDG 5 gender equality, SDG 14 life below water, SDG 15 life on land and SDG 12 responsible consumption and production.

It was also noted that the 2030 Agenda framework should be more closely integrated

into the city's strategy and steering documents as well as normal decision-making, budgeting, and the planning and monitoring of operations.

Promoting sustainable development consistently at the local level requires common objectives, regular and systematic monitoring, strong commitment of the entire city organisation and broad engagement. The implementation of the first VLR round included little wider engagement of the city organisation and external stakeholders as well as information provision and communication to city residents on the city's sustainability goals (partly due to the coronavirus pandemic). There is a need to invest more in these areas in the future.



# Measures taken and systematic progress

The city has continued its systematic work based on the observations made to promote sustainable development and integrated the 2030 Agenda into the city's new strategy and monitoring. Long-term targets ensure making steady progress on all SDGs, although it is not possible to invest in all SDGs at the same time. Sustainable development will only be realised once all key goals have been achieved.

The themes covered by the new Mayor's Programme and the city's spearhead projects strengthen the implementation of sustainable development in the city. The Mayor's Programme also includes a commitment to combat racism. In addition, Turku City Board has made a decision to continue reporting on sustainable development in the city.

## Sustainable development as a strategic objective in the city

The city strategy updated in 2022 further strengthens Turku's long-term commitment to the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been clearly stated and adopted as the city's strategic objective in the new city strategy. Turku aims to achieve all city-level 17 SDGs by 2030. To pursue this goal, the city determined sustainability goals and steps necessary to reach them consistent with national and international targets, aiming at the well-being of local residents and the environment as well as economic sustainability.

The VLR report also serves as a steering document that complements the strategy and as a 2030 Agenda roadmap. The VLR metrics for the local level assessment of sustainable development in the City of Turku will be determined in 2022 and progress made will be regularly monitored. In addition to annual internal monitoring and reporting, progress is

reported regularly to the UN. The next reporting in 2025 will include an overview of milestone achievement and progress according to selected indicators.

The themes of the City Strategy and the Mayor Programme strongly support the promotion of sustainable development. City growth must be humanely, ecologically and economically sustainable. We promote equal treatment and equality among residents and in the city's activities. The city's objectives include well-functioning everyday life, high-quality services, a comfortable and safe living environment and attractiveness as a city. The city's finances are managed in a sustainable manner, ensuring well-being and the provision of services. Turku's attractiveness as a city of education, culture and events is strengthened through genuine cooperation. Raising the level of competence and education increases the well-being of the people of Turku. We are also a pioneer in climate action and do our part in promoting the transition from a traditional economy to a circular economy. Nature is an important resource for Turku, and biodiversity is preserved and revived.

## The city's strategic group organisations

The city's strategic group organisations contribute to implementing the city's objectives in their activities and comply with the principles of corporate governance, procurement strategy and other guidelines. Group organisations report regularly and participate in tasks such as the reporting of climate actions in accordance with the city's climate programme. References to climate targets related to the 2022–2025 goals were added to the organisations' scorecards in autumn 2021. In the early stages, the goals are in practice verbal observations on how sustainable development is taken into account in the organisations.

The group organisations promote sustainable development through concrete measures. For example, 1,300 solar panels have been

installed at the raw water pre-treatment plant in Huittinen to produce renewable energy for the plant's needs. By utilising renewable energy in water treatment, Turun Seudun Vesi Oy promotes the achievement of the carbon-neutral Turku 2029 target.

Meanwhile, Turku Energia has launched an afforestation project in cooperation with the City of Turku. In the summer of 2021, we planted 4,000 spruces and 1,000 silver birches in the environment of an old landfill located north of Turku Airport. The afforestation will strengthen the recreational use of the area, and increase biodiversity and carbon sink in the region.

Arkea has carried out many climate actions by now; most recently, it reduced the carbon footprint of school meals by replacing some of the minced beef used for school meals with low-emission alternatives.



Photo: iStock

## Cross-cutting principles and the city's values in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

A common goal and important principle of the UN is to make sure no one is excluded from the 2030 Agenda and to enable all population groups to participate in implementing the Agenda.

The City of Turku aims to promote the holistic well-being of its residents, prevent the uneven distribution of resources and rights and act fairly. One of the city's spearhead projects, Communal Turku, also focuses on preventing social exclusion and regional segregation and reducing inequalities. The project includes the promotion of socially sustainable urban development, the development of neighbourhoods, the reduction of homelessness and, in particular, the prevention of loneliness and social exclusion of children and young people.

The implementation of sustainability transitions does not happen in an instant but, instead, requires long-term decision-making. Policy coherence requires democratic decision-making extended over parliamentary terms and a consensus on key sustainability issues and related goals. National and international goals must also be taken into account at the local level and coordinated with local targets. Decision-making and implementation should also pay attention to the effects of the measures on other countries and future generations, i.e. ensure the realisation of global responsibility.

Through its strategy and related objectives that extend to the 2030s and the Mayor's Programme that extends to 2025, the city aims to ensure local policy coherence related to sustainable development as well as long-term decision-making and monitoring of goal achievement. In addition, the city's 2030 Agenda roadmap paves the way for a sustainable future. International conventions, such as the Paris Agreement, are implemented as part of the city's extensive climate programme.

## Values of the City

The values of the city are part of the urban strategy. The city and its services exist for the benefit of the city residents. The aim is that Turku has the most satisfied residents of all large cities. Values guide our actions and inform us of what is right and what is wrong, what is desirable and what is important.

**Resident and customer orientation:** We value our residents and customers. We offer high-quality and easily accessible services, showing a good attitude and respect for everyone. We develop city services professionally together with our residents, customers and partners.

**Responsibility and equality:** We operate in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, bearing our responsibility for a pleasant and safe residential environment and future Turku residents. We take decisions based on the best available information. Our decision-making is consistent and transparent. We promote communal and equality.

**Renewal and cooperation:** We actively renew our operations and value expertise. We want to be bold, creative forerunners. The key word is cooperation based on respect, openness and trust. We want to succeed and thrive together.

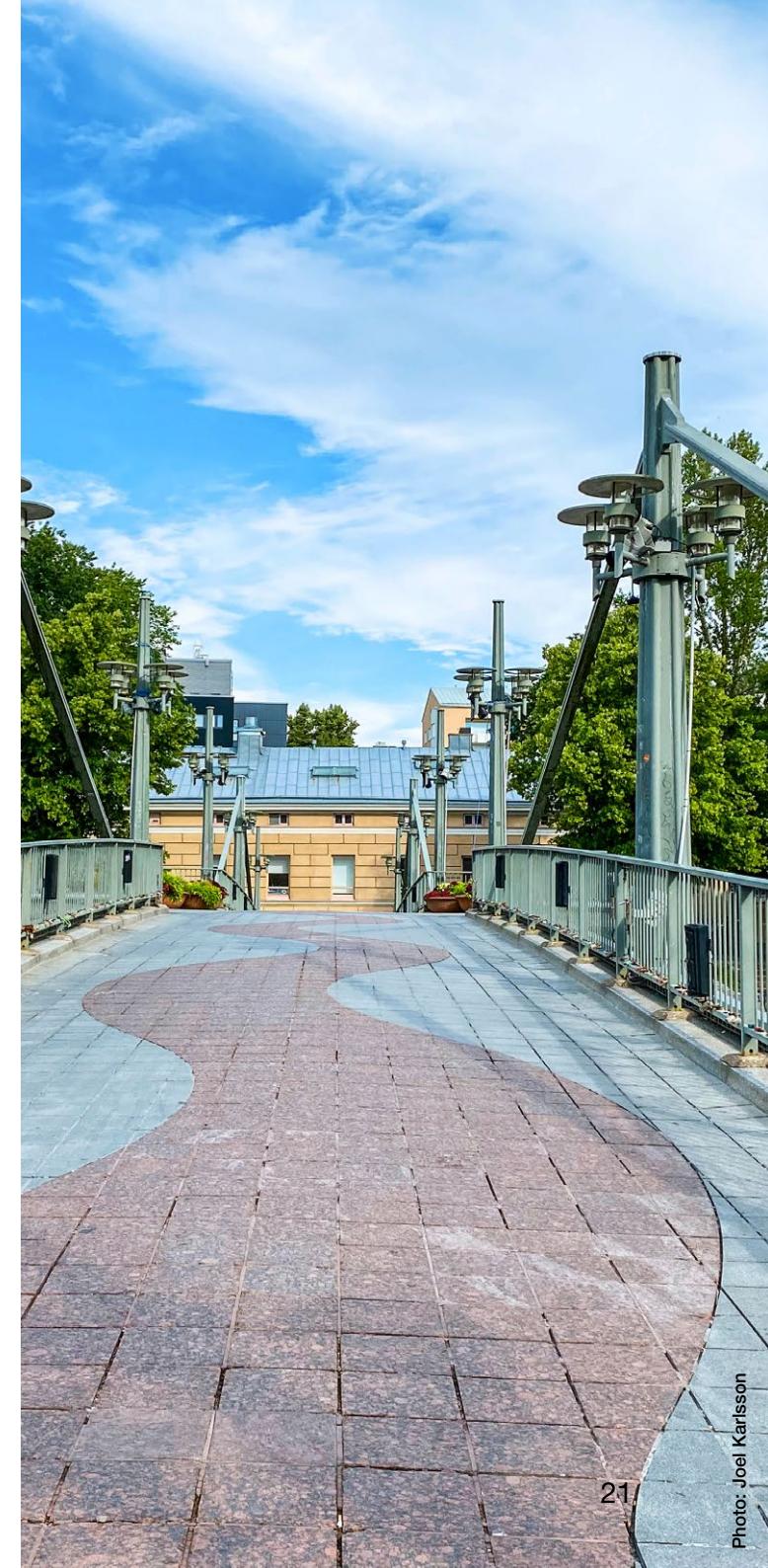
## Working process of the second VLR

### Scope and targets of the review, report structure

This report defines the city's 2030 Agenda roadmap for achieving SDGs at the local level by 2030. The report focuses on the city's most significant future medium-term (2025) and long-term (2030) plans and actions to promote sustainable development. The City Strategy includes the city's long-term targets until 2030, and the Mayor's Programme extends until 2025 and includes the city's spearhead projects. This report also includes a summary of the city's most important commitments and networks for promoting sustainable development.

The City of Turku's 2030 Agenda roadmap provides information about which aspects the city will focus on and what timetable and measures will be used to achieve all the SDGs by 2030. The roadmap also identifies the milestones set for 2025 and the measures to be taken.

**Preparing the roadmap:** The targets set in the roadmap and the city's key measures have been mainly derived from the Mayor's Programme and the spearhead projects implementing the city's renewed strategy as well as the city's most important steering documents and action plans/programmes. The impacts of the city's steering documents on the promotion of the SDGs were identified, and these were used as the basis of compiling the roadmap on the measures used to promote the goals. A particular focus was on those objectives that have not been achieved in Finland which can be influenced at the municipal level and are aligned with Turku's priority areas.



## Report structure

The report examines sustainability objectives and measures in accordance with the three main sections of sustainable development: social sustainability, ecological sustainability and economic sustainability. In addition, cross-cutting SDGs and principles have been identified that apply to all city operations. The 17 main SDGs have been divided into these sections.

Each section begins with information about the SDGs that the section covers and the content of each goal at a general level. Each goal also includes a more detailed description of the city's role in implementing the goal in practice.

In addition to this overview, each section includes the targets of the vision derived from the City of Turku strategy and the city as well as the most significant future plans and actions used to pursue these goals. Below each section, there is also a list of the key steering document promoting the issue. Many of the city's steering documents affect several SDGs at the same time. The same applies to measures taken by the city. This report aims to cover highlighted issues under the main sustainable development theme most affected by them.

This report also contains information about the significant measures taken by the city between publishing the most recent report (2020) and writing the present report (2022).

## Selecting key indicators

The city's first VLR report, published in 2020, contained indicators and instruments used in the city strategy valid at the time. The city's new, updated strategy also uses slightly different strategy instruments and monitoring indicators. 56 indicators have been identified as key indicators for the city's sustainable development (VLR indicators). These will be monitored in the long term, i.e. until 2030. Complementary indicators may be supplemented or changed as necessary if the City's sustainable development goals are updated as a result of a new Council term and strategy, Mayor's Programme or new guidance documents.

## Work process and participation

The report was compiled in collaboration between persons responsible for the city's

most important steering documents, the director of strategy, experts of services and the spearhead project director as well as information services and communications.

The Mayors and City Board accepted the content of the report on June 6, 2022.

## Publishing the report

The report will be published on the city's website and will also be submitted to the UN VLR database at the end of 2022. Detailed VLR indicators will be defined and published in the autumn of 2022, and they will be appended to this VLR report, Appendix 1.

## Monitoring

In accordance with a decision by the City Board, the city will report to the UN next in 2025 by submitting the VLR assessment report and monitoring the progress of the goals and measures annually as part of strategy reporting and in accordance with the defined VLR indicators.

# The 2030 Agenda roadmap – steps towards a sustainable future

The report describes how Turku promotes the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how the city's own objectives are linked to the agenda. The 2030 Agenda roadmap provides information about which aspects the city will focus on and what timetable and measures will be used to achieve all the SDGs by 2030.

Achieving the sustainability transition will require the city to activate and encourage its organisation, residents and other stakeholders to participate in measures such as those related to climate change mitigation. The change requires the commitment of all municipal residents and enabling them to participate in the activities in an appropriate manner.

A sustainable municipality of the future takes human, environmental and economic aspects into account at the same time in all its activities – planning, budgeting, decision-making and implementation.



Photo: Jonne Mattila

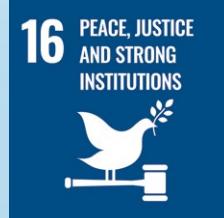
# Cross-cutting goals

SDGs 11, 16 and 17 and also digitalisation have been identified as cross-cutting themes in the city.

SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities covers all activities in the city at the upper level. SDGs 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions and 17 Partnerships for the goals are cross-cutting themes implemented in all city activities.

In addition, the general principles of the 2030 Agenda, such as LNOB (leave no one behind), policy coherence and perseverance, global responsibility and the values of the City of Turku guide all city activities.

Recovery from the coronavirus crisis and the war in Ukraine are also important themes that concern the activities of all service areas in the city.



## 11 Sustainable cities and communities

**SDG 11** aims to guarantee economically, socially and ecologically sustainable growth of urban settlements. As half of the world's population lives in cities, these play an important role in implementing sustainable development.

A sustainable urban environment is safe and provides adequate affordable housing, an affordable and sustainable transport system and basic services for all without destroying cultural and natural heritage or causing harmful environmental impacts.

In Finland, the demographic structure, immigration and low birth rates pose challenges. In addition, the geographical segregation, other forms of segregation and accumulation of disadvantages as well as the increasing problems faced by young people in particular pose risks to the security and social well-being of the city.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Cities influence the goal through their land use, zoning, land use planning and construction, for example by building infrastructure, involving residents and offering affordable rental housing.

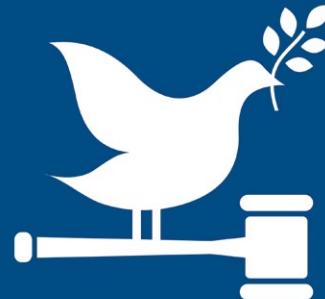
Other important areas include service provision, management of areas, transport planning, public transport and the comfort of the local environment.

## 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

**SDG 16** ensures legal services for all and builds responsible, non-violent and transparent institutions.

The aim is peaceful societies that respect human rights. Flexible and inclusive decision-making and prevention of corruption are included in the objective.

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Cities influence the creation of a safe and pleasant urban environment through land use planning and construction. Cities are also the most important actors in local democracy in Finland and the decisions made by municipal decisions and the implementation of the decisions affect the goal.

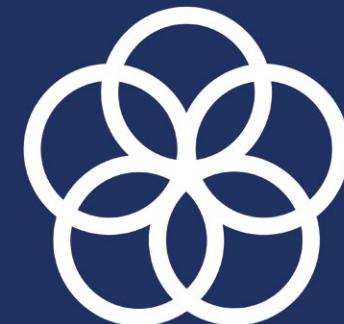
Cities influence residents' trust in public administration, peace in society and democratic society, particularly through the opportunities they offer for all residents to participate and influence common issues.

## 17 Partnerships for the goals

For SDG 17, a key area is to strengthen the implementation of sustainable development and global partnership and to challenge everyone to engage in active cooperation. From the perspective of central government and municipalities, the main issue is ensuring the coherence of policies linked to sustainable development.

Promoting partnerships between the public and private sector as well as with civil society is also essential.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The city influences the achievement of the goal by building partnerships and cooperation at local, regional and international levels together with various stakeholders.



Photo: Heikki Räisänen

## Vision and targets for the cross-cutting sustainability targets in Turku

The long-term target of the city is to renew and grow sustainably and to actively promote the 2030 Agenda. This means that, in its decision-making and implementation, the city takes into account the impacts of decisions on the environment, people and the economy, and monitors progress regularly. Turku aims to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030.

We listen to and meet current and future city residents, offering them genuine ways to participate and influence the services and decision-making. **Methods of inclusion** are continuously being developed and include, for

example, the resident budget, citizen juries and the assessment of the impacts on children. The health and social services county and the third sector are our important partners.

Turku wants to be an internationally recognised player in sustainable urban development, transport, culture and education. The city understands the global operating field and actively seizes new opportunities and works in close cooperation with partners such as higher education institutions and business life.

A successful and growing city attracts new inhabitants, new companies and new jobs that

generate tax revenue and investments. Urban development means creating and constructing a city that supports this growth, creating a pleasant living and business environment and building a sustainable, energy-efficient urban environment. Sustainable growth of a city means building a denser city structure through new construction along good public transport connections, paying attention to the importance of local nature and green areas from the perspective of both comfort and preparedness for climate change. The city will also examine the service network in a manner that takes new residential areas into account.

## | Cross-cutting goals |

In the construction of the city, safety is an important part of both human sustainability and comfort.

Leading the City of Turku is built on trust, leading through examples, openness and dialogue. The aim is to use a more customer-oriented approach and smooth services for customers, residents and the business sector alike. With the help of digitalisation, the city aims to make it easier for city residents to use services and improve their accessibility.

With its ownership policy, the city steers the responsible operations of its enterprises. Turku also utilises digitalisation and data as a part of planning, permit services, street and road network maintenance and guidance.

Turku also wishes to be an attractive employer that appreciates the competence of its personnel and encourages and supports everyone in developing their competence. The city utilises research evidence as a basis for decision-making and promotes a good

culture of knowledge management. We will allocate resources to and establish operating models related to residents' participation, such as citizens' panel discussions. The city is increasing the share of resident budgeting so that the residents of the city have more opportunities to influence the development of their neighbourhood. Additionally, Turku particularly wishes to strengthen the involvement of young people as they do not yet have the opportunity to influence things by voting.

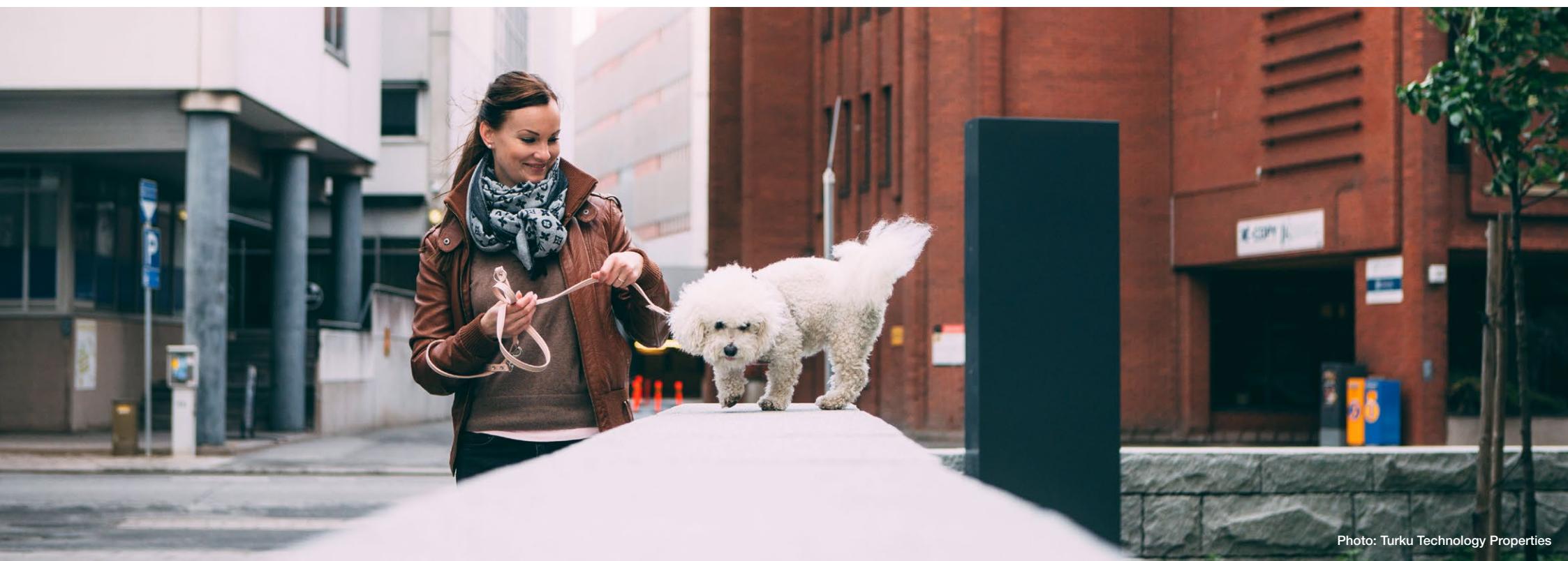


Photo: Turku Technology Properties

## Measures taken between 2020 and 2022

Cross-cutting themes such as sustainable communities, peace and justice as well as cooperation and partnership were promoted in many areas between 2020 and 2022. The strategic development of digitalisation was boosted by the COVID-19 virus, as physical services had to be closed and many services were either partly or entirely transferred to digital channels.

At the city level, the digital foundation was strengthened by launching efforts to build customer relationship management and service and product information system to correspond to the needs of customer-oriented and knowledge-based management. The use of

Suomi.fi Payments was expanded at the same time as a proposal for the city's future business model was completed in 2020. The first steps in digital interaction were taken by introducing Suomi.fi Messages to the procurement and employment services. A policy for centralising the identification options for e-services to the Tunnistamo service also aims at the ensuring uniform user experiences for customers. The digitalisation of operations was also reflected in the expansion of the Varaamo service towards its goal as the system was expanded to include reserving human resources for the first time. In 2020, the Act on the Provision of Digital Services was extended to cover all

city services. An accessibility audit has been performed on the city's digital services, and the services have been largely fixed to serve all residents equally. At the same time, the personnel's competence has improved.

A good, high-quality day-to-day living environment that keeps residents active has been implemented through zoning and maintenance and through planning and investment programmes. A survey monitoring the qualitative development of the urban environment revealed that Turku residents were most satisfied with the quality of drinking water.

The urbanisation trend remained strong in 2021, although there was an increase in people relocating to the municipalities in the surrounding region during the coronavirus pandemic. Demand for dwellings in blocks of flats continued to be high, and construction has continued to be busy. A total of 1,771 dwellings were completed in 2021, which was 271 less than in the previous year. The construction of 2,923 dwellings started in 2021, which is 226 more than in 2020. Building permits were granted for 3,369 dwellings in 2021, which is 193 more than in 2020. The gross floor area of granted building permissions, number of new blocks of flats and new dwellings reached a record peak in Turku in 2021.

The city has transferable land suitable for constructing residential blocks and industrial premises to cover the needs for 3 years and a reserve of plots for single-family houses and terraced houses for 2 years. The building permission granted to Central Administration Municipal Enterprises covers a total of 30,380 k-m<sup>2</sup>, approximately 22% more than the target. All of the transfers exceeded the land sales income target by 2.5%.

## Key steering documents (in Finnish)

Steering document	Valid
<a href="#"><u>Digital and data strategy</u></a>	2021–
<a href="#"><u>Human resource strategy 2022–2025</u></a>	2022–2025
<a href="#"><u>Child-friendly City</u></a>	2018–
<a href="#"><u>Well-being programme for children and young people 2020–2023</u></a>	2020–2023
<a href="#"><u>City of Turku's ownership policy 2022–2025</u></a>	2022–2025
<a href="#"><u>Operating model for inclusion</u></a>	2020–
<a href="#"><u>Equality and non-discrimination plan 2022–2023</u></a>	2022–2023
<a href="#"><u>Turku cycling development programme 2029</u></a>	2018–2029
<a href="#"><u>VLR report</u></a>	2020–
<a href="#"><u>Master plan 2029</u></a>	2020–2029

# Key commitments and networks

## International networks

- Global Covenant of Mayors
- ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)
- GCCC (Green Circular Cities Coalition)
- Green City Accord
- CDP – Disclosure Insight Action
- IASP (International Association of Science Parks and Business Areas)
- Urban Transitions Alliance
- WHO Healthy Cities network
- Open and Agile Smart Cities

## Nordic and national networks

- CLC – Climate Leadership Coalition
- Nordic Smart City Network
- LHT network
- 6-kaupunki network
- SITRA
- FISU

## European networks

- EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- Eurocities
- EU City Mission
- Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)
- New Hanseatic League
- Baltic Sea Challenge
- **Friendship cities:**
  - 1946 Bergen (Norway), Gothenburg (Sweden), Århus (Denmark)
  - 1953 St. Petersburg (Russia)
  - 1958 Gdansk (Poland), Constanza (Romania), Rostock (Germany)
  - 1963 Varna (Bulgaria)
  - 1967 Cologne (Germany)
  - 1971 Szeged (Hungary)
  - 1976 Bratislava (Slovakia)
  - 1992 Florence (Italy)
  - 2008 Tartu (Estonia)

# Current measures by the city

## Digital and data strategy »

Turku's goal is to be the municipality with the most modern management in the world by 2029. In practice, this means creating a resident and customer-oriented operating culture based on knowledge management. For residents and companies, this will be visible as a unified Turku, where services and living environments are built around customers' needs. The impacts of changes in the operating environment and the customer's experience of services and their accessibility guide the development of services.

## Human resource strategy 2022–2025 »

The goal is to make Turku an appealing employer. Employees' competence is valued, and employees are encouraged and supported in developing their competence. The city invests in the well-being of its personnel.

## Well-being programme for children and young people 2020–2023 »

The plan examines the current state of well-being of children, young people and families with children and the services offered to them. It also includes information about the planned measures for developing and increasing well-being. The City of Turku wants to be child-friendly and attractive from the perspective of starting a family. Turku implements the Finnish UNICEF's Child-friendly Cities Initiative. As special priorities, Turku has selected raising awareness of and promoting children's rights and inclusion. The Finnish UNICEF has recognised Turku as a Child-Friendly City.

## Child-friendly City »

The City of Turku wishes to be child-friendly and implements the Finnish UNICEF's Child-friendly Cities Initiative. As special priorities,

Turku has selected raising awareness of and promoting children's rights and inclusion.

## Operating model for inclusion »

The operating model for inclusion aims to deepen and strengthen the significance of inclusion data obtained from local residents in the process of preparing and planning decisions. In addition to requesting residents to provide feedback on the services they receive, the quality and timeliness of the services is ensured by using data on residents when planning the services. The goal is to allocate resources to and establish operating models related to residents' participation, such as citizens' panel discussions. The share of resident budgeting will be increased. Special attention will be paid to the inclusion of young people.

## **Equality and non-discrimination plan 2022–2023 »**

The city's new management system based on mayors aims at better and more individualised consideration of customers' needs to enable the smooth daily life of residents. Better consideration of equality and non-discrimination perspectives also requires many types of data and information, including brand new data, to serve as the basis for both decision-making as well as better knowledge-based management of services.

## **City of Turku's ownership policy 2022–2025 »**

A strategic management tool of the city that aims to promote coherence, systematic approach and preservation of the value of the assets of the Turku Group. Except for foundations, the ownership policy document applies only to ownership by enterprises.

## **Cycling development programme 2029 »**

Cycling is promoted by investing in the conditions and opportunities of cycling by improving cycling infrastructure and complementing the cycling network, improving the level and coverage of bike parking and investing in the maintenance and service of cycling routes.

## **VLR report »**

The City monitors the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on a regular basis with indicators it has selected and submits a Voluntary Local Review report to the UN using the VLR format. The city's third VLR report will be prepared in 2025.

## **Master plan 2029 »**

The city uses its Master plan to guide the development of the urban environment and transport solutions as well as the coordination of different functions. The local master plan drawn up by the municipality guides town planning and other more detailed planning. The most important overall objective of the master plan proposal is to strengthen Turku's status, attractiveness and competitiveness. Other objectives are concerned with sustainable development, integrated urban structure, combating inequalities, ecological networks and diversity of urban nature, tourism and recreation, accessibility, logistics and accessibility with all modes of transport. The population and employment targets recorded in the master plan are 220,000 inhabitants and 115,000 jobs.

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



# Ecological sustainability

Ecological sustainability refers to adapting human economic and material activities to the carrying capacity of nature. Core areas in this section include the preservation of biodiversity, ensuring the functioning and renewability of ecosystems and changing consumption habits.

SDGs affecting ecological sustainability, i.e. the state and well-being of the environment:  
6, 7, 13, 14, 15.



The decline in biodiversity also threatens the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Biodiversity loss is not merely concerned with the state of the environment. Biodiversity loss threatens well-being, economic stability and resilience.

It is also a question of the ethical principle of leaving the same opportunities and resources to the future generations that we have been able to access. Biodiversity loss also affects food and water safety.

The economic value of biodiversity has not been taken into account in the budget calculations, and the depletion of natural resources will lead to conflicts and thus also affect safety.



## Key steering documents

15 | | | | 20 | | | | 25 | | | | 30

Turku's Climate Plan 2029, 2022–2029



Circular Turku – A Roadmap Toward Resource  
Wisdom 2029, 2021–2029



LUMO, biodiversity programme 2022– (under preparation)



City of Turku – Forest Plan 2019–2029



City of Turku Stormwater Programme 2016–



Baltic Sea Action Plan 2017–2023



Protection of the Archipelago Sea 2022–2027 (valmistelussa)



## 6 Clean water and sanitation

**SDG 6** aims to ensure access to clean drinking water, its sustainable use and sanitation for all. Water pollution and water shortages continue to be common global problems. In Finland, the target has been largely achieved. The biggest challenges are related to the protection of aquatic ecosystems and the prevention of pollution (surface waters, groundwater, lakes, rivers, the sea) as well as the improvement of the efficacy of water consumption, treatment and nutrient recycling.

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



At the city level, sustainable water extraction, the sufficient availability of water and wastewater treatment will continue to be important areas of development to ensure safe drinking water and safe hygiene levels also in the future. The city's operations include the organisation of water supply and the city owns water supply and sewerage facilities. The quality and price level of services and the reduction of the loading of surface waters caused by wastewaters promote water protection.

## 7 Affordable and clean energy

**SDG 7** aims to ensure affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all and to increase the share of renewable energy in energy sources.

In Finland, the target has been largely achieved. The aim is to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the share of renewable energy sources, reducing transport emissions and ensuring a functioning, affordable and safe infrastructure as well as self-sufficiency and security of supply also during disruptions. The need for electricity has been predicted to multiply in the future.

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



The city owns energy production plants, supports sustainable and clean energy production and improves energy efficiency. New energy sources are utilised in public transport and shipping solutions as well as real property. The city's strategic organisations are also committed to the city's climate targets and contribute to the achievement of the target.

## 13 Climate action

**SDG 13** aims to combat climate change and increase adaptability to its impacts. The intent is to integrate climate change actions into national policies and plans and to increase knowledge at all levels of society. In 2015, the countries of the world signed the Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION

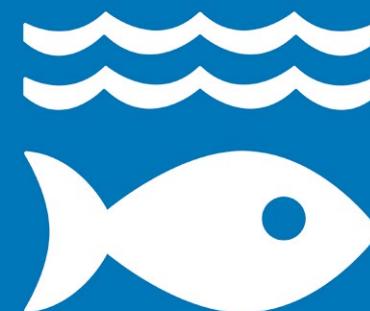


Climate change mitigation and preparedness, and adapting to disasters and risk factors also affect cities. Through their actions, cities significantly influence their carbon footprint and emissions through zoning, land use, housing and transport, heating and construction. The city also plays a major role in raising climate awareness in society.

## 14 Life below water

**SDG 14** protects the seas and marine resources and promotes their sustainable use. Finland's challenge and goal are to prevent and reduce marine pollution, especially caused by land-based activities, such as waste and nutrient loading ending up in the sea, and to protect marine and coastal ecosystems.

**14** LIFE  
BELOW WATER



Cities contribute to the achievement of the goal through zoning, water protection, more efficient waste and wastewater treatment, public procurement and investments, and support and collaboration related to research.

## 15 Life on land

**SDG 15** aims to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems, promote their sustainable use and halt soil degradation and biodiversity loss.

These goals also apply to Finland and have not been achieved. Biodiversity loss occurring in Finland is worrying. Particular attention will be paid to the sustainable management and use of forests, the conservation of natural habitats and the protection of endangered species. It is also important to strengthen the values related to ecosystems and biodiversity and to take practical measures.

## 15 LIFE ON LAND



The city can influence its geographical area and regional collaboration. The city has a great opportunity to promote and safeguard biodiversity in its region in cooperation with other actors. The city influences the realisation of the target, for example, through land use planning and guidance, zoning and construction regulations. The city also owns forest areas and is responsible for the restoration of contaminated land areas.

# Vision and targets for ecological sustainability in Turku

The long-term goal of the city is to be one of the world's leading climate and nature cities. By 2029, the city will have achieved carbon neutrality, with our actions increasingly having a cooling effect on the atmosphere. Turku punches above its weight when it comes to combating climate change. Residents, companies and communities in the region are strongly involved in the creation and implementation of climate solutions both locally and internationally. At the same time, however, the city is prepared for changes caused by global warming and extreme weather phenomena.

We are a pioneer in climate action and do our part in promoting the transition from a traditional economy to a circular economy. Nature is an important resource for Turku, and biodiversity is preserved and revived. In the updated version of the city's climate programme, transport will be subject to the relatively biggest emission reduction target. Biodiversity, rich urban and

local natural environment as well as carbon sinks in the area will increase even though the city's population number is growing. The well-being of the local natural environment improves the quality of life of residents and offsets the effects of intensified weather phenomena. To strengthen biodiversity, Turku is creating and implementing the LUMO programme and setting a nature target that includes strengthening biodiversity and local nature as well as increasing green areas in the city.

The condition of the Archipelago Sea is getting better and conservation measures are actively carried out. As the capital of the archipelago, Turku has special responsibility to preserve its unique nature.

Circular economy creates prosperity and new jobs in the Turku region and strengthens the region's economy, which operates with respect for nature. Ecological values guide zoning, construction and mobility solutions. A sustainable lifestyle and a meaningful life go hand in hand in Turku.





Photo: iStock

## Measures taken between 2020 and 2022

Between 2020 and 2022, Turku has taken numerous measures aimed at ecological sustainability. In 2020, EU-funded projects to develop and safeguard natural environments were ongoing in the city. Designing a campfire hut for the use of a nature school was subject to a tendering process and procurement was carried out. The work to prevent alien species continued in Ruissalo and the Katariinanlaakso area. In November 2020, the work to plant lindens to the avenues along the Kansanpuisto road and two other sites was carried out in Ruissalo. In Friskalanlahti, Pikk-Vihtilä, a shore meadow was cut and crushing work was carried out in September. Implementation of the measures of the Baltic Sea Action Plan 2019–2023 by the Baltic Sea Challenge is underway.

In 2020, the city participated in carrying out 70 measures.

The city's spearhead project on carbon neutrality and resource wisdom included preparing a resource-wise circular economy roadmap for Turku in extensive regional and international cooperation. The City Board approved the roadmap on 22 November 2021, section 518. The project partners and co-funders were Sitra, ICLEI, the University of Turku and Valonia. The implementation of the roadmap was launched in cooperation with regional partners, and it was supported by active communication and by expanding the website and database for climate action into a joint platform for circular economy actions. At the same time, the platform for the city's Climate Team's and climate actions was

also strengthened and further developed. The Taklataan ilmastoahdistus ('Let's tackle climate anxiety') project, supported by the Ministry of the Environment, created and launched the Central Administration's joint 1.5-degree life campaign aimed at citizens, which empowered citizens to participate in climate action as a part of their everyday lives. The climate and lifecycle management model for investments involved implementing pilots and an expansion of deployment. This laid the foundation for launching climate budgeting in accordance with the Mayor's Programme. The first version of the climate budget was completed as part of the Mayor's budget proposal in November 2021 and contained some EUR 80 million in climate investments as part of the 2022 budget package.

## Key steering documents (in Finnish)

Steering document	Valid
<a href="#"><u>Turku's Climate Plan 2029</u></a>	2022–2029
<a href="#"><u>Circular Turku – A Roadmap Toward Resource Wisdom 2029</u></a>	2021–2029
LUMO, biodiversity programme 2022– (under preparation)	
<a href="#"><u>City of Turku – Forest Plan 2019–2029</u></a>	2019–2029
<a href="#"><u>City of Turku Stormwater Programme</u></a>	2016–
<a href="#"><u>Baltic Sea Action Plan</u></a>	2017–2023
Protection of the Archipelago Sea 2022–2027 (under preparation)	



# Current measures by the city

## Turku's Climate Plan 2029 »

The city's climate plan updated in April 2022 is a broad-based entity that promotes all main areas of sustainable development. Particular attention is paid to the city's climate targets when deciding on land use, energy, construction and mobility. We ensure that services encourage the residents of the city and companies to make environmentally friendly and sustainable housing and other decisions, taking the energy efficiency of buildings into account. The city promotes the transition towards a circular economy together with other operators and prepares an implementation programme to support it.

## We will establish a new nature reserve in the Mälikkälä-Kuninkoja area

The nature reserve is set to be established by 2024.

## Circular Turku – A Roadmap Toward Resource Wisdom 2029 »

The implementation of the roadmap toward resource wisdom is accelerated together with partners. The principles of resource wisdom and circular economy practices are implemented and monitored throughout the Central Administration and developed and promoted in extensive cooperation at regional, national and international level. Circular economy solutions aim to affect climate change mitigation, biodiversity and the attractiveness and competitiveness of the region.

## LUMO programme

The preparation of the programme to strengthen biodiversity will be strengthened, and the programme will be completed and presented to decision-makers. The preparation process also includes assessing possible integration of the Baltic Sea Action Plan into the programme. The concept of nature balance will be developed and introduced as an indicator for monitoring the main biodiversity targets. The city will set a nature goal, which includes strengthening biodiversity and local nature and increasing green areas in the city. Where applicable, the work will be linked to climate change adaptation and the promotion of the circular economy, attractiveness, well-being and health.

## | Ecological sustainability |

### **City of Turku Stormwater Programme »**

The purpose of the city's Stormwater Programme is to develop the cross-administrative organisation of stormwater management in the City of Turku, raise awareness, make stormwater a resource for urban development, promote the achievement of good status of water bodies and prevent floods in the city and ensure related preparedness. The Stormwater Programme describes the responsibilities related to stormwater management, the order of priority in stormwater management, the objectives and measures for developing stormwater management and the need for further investigation.

### **Baltic Sea Challenge and Protection of the Archipelago Sea 2022–2027 »**

According to the Turku 2029 strategy, environmental protection and biodiversity are important for Turku, and Turku is particularly active in protecting the Baltic Sea and the Archipelago Sea. The aim is to realise measures to protect the Archipelago Sea and obtain adequate funding to improve the state of the most vulnerable, beautiful and polluted archipelago in the world so that it will still be there for future generations to enjoy and to strengthen biodiversity in our region.



## | Social sustainability |



# Key steering documents

15 | | | | 20 | | | | 25 | | | | 30

Extensive welfare report and plan  
(once per Council term), 2020–



Action plan for preventing social exclusion and  
promoting socially sustainable development, 2019–



Integration programme for immigrants (under preparation)



Suburb programme, 2022– (under preparation)

Sports Facility Plan / Sports Facility Network 2029, 2016–2029



Cultural promise 2029, 2022–2029



Vision of Competence 2040, 2021–2040



Programme to end homelessness, 2017–2022



Security plan, 2021–2024



Operating model for regional development, 2020–



## 1 No poverty

**SDG 1** sets a joint target for all countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms – signs of poverty also include the lack of education, healthcare and basic services, and the lack of political participation.

Finland has comprehensive social security and basic services for all. Meanwhile, many regions are facing the challenges of homelessness, exclusion, segregation and social disadvantage.

## 1 NO POVERTY



At the level of cities, many measures to combat poverty are part of the city's basic operations. Through its operations and decisions, the city has a direct impact on services, their quality and availability. The city particularly wishes to invest in preventive services, as corrective measures are often expensive.

## 2 Zero hunger

**SDG 2** aims to eliminate hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. It is crucial to enable growing, distributing and consuming food fairly and without burdening the environment.

The aim is to support access to healthy and nutritious food for disadvantaged and poor people and to direct aid for the development of efficient and sustainable agriculture. Finland has achieved this goal, and is rather challenged by overweight in the population and related health problems.

**2 ZERO HUNGER**



The city influences the goal through its decisions and actions related to food services and guidance, among other things. The aim is to provide food that meets nutrition recommendations in various city services and to support a healthy diet especially among disadvantaged children, young people and older people. Not all children get warm meals at home. The city also distributes food aid. It is important to develop healthy, communal and sustainable

school meals in the future, for example by increasing vegetarian options and reducing food waste. Overweight and obesity have significant impacts on people's health and the economy, and preventive work plays a key role in improving the situation. The city's procurement activities also play a role in the overall sustainability of the catering service.

## 3 Good health and well-being

**SDG 3** aims to increase health and well-being globally.

The aim is to reduce child and maternal mortality, deaths caused by non-communicable diseases, road fatalities and infections caused by environmental pollution, and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Universal health care, promoting mental health and ensuring sexual and reproductive health services for all are important means of achieving these objectives.

Particular problems in Finland are issues related to social exclusion and mental health as well as global health risks and related preparedness.

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The city's core task is to safeguard and promote the well-being of its residents. The well-being of residents is influenced by factors such as education, culture, recreational environments, land use planning, infrastructure, housing, safety and access to services.

## 4 Quality education

**SDG 4** aims to guarantee open, equal and high-quality early childhood education and care and basic education as well as upper secondary education free of charge. Everyone must have access to literacy, numeracy and lifelong learning. The aim is also to ensure that all pupils and students are provided with the knowledge required in leading a sustainable lifestyle.

The goal has been achieved in Finland. There are challenges in providing equal opportunities for education and vocational training for people arriving in Finland from other countries. In addition, the level of literacy and competence in mathematics has decreased and there is need to strengthen the learning of skills necessary for finding employment.



The city decides on the availability and quality of education and training services and employment services, thus also affecting equality and non-discrimination. It is important to ensure that education continues from early childhood education all the way to higher education, especially in the transition from basic education to upper secondary education.

Seamless cooperation between the city's different services plays an important role in the success of education, health and social services, employment and integration services. The equality and

accessibility of education can be promoted through new diverse and flexible solutions and by enabling continuous learning by recognising competence in different ways. Increasingly small age groups, segregation and decline in learning outcomes pose challenges. Employment and competence are strongly interlinked.

Flexible learning paths and good cooperation with different education providers ensure that pupils and students will not fall outside the education system. Early childhood education and care also plays an important role in reducing inequality.

## 5 Gender equality

**SDG 5** promotes gender equality and strengthens the rights and opportunities of women and girls. The education of girls and women, the elimination of violence and discrimination against them and equal involvement in societal decision-making increase global well-being and promote the realisation of sustainable development.

The SDG also aims to increase the value of unpaid care and domestic work, ensure equal reproductive rights and provide equal access to sexual health services.

Finland has partly achieved the goal, but gender equality is not yet fully achieved. There are challenges related to violence and exploitation against women and girls, as well as discrimination and inclusion.

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



From the city's perspective, gender equality is a theme that penetrates many different decisions and services, such as health services.

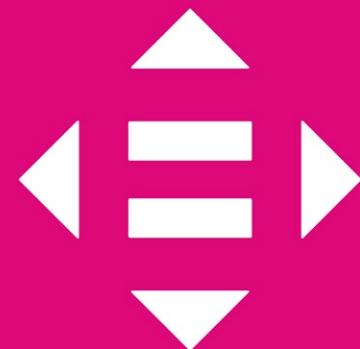
Preventing and identifying violence against women and domestic and intimate partner violence is also a challenge that concerns cities.

## 10 Reduced inequalities

**SDG 10** is about taking steps towards equal societies. At the international level, the goal is to reduce inequalities within and between countries. In particular, the inequality caused by income gaps is examined. The aim is equal treatment for all and equal opportunities for social, economic and political participation.

In Finland, particular challenges are concerned with an increase in the number of basic social assistance recipients, geographical segregation, social exclusion, inclusion and the integration of migrants and immigrants.

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Cities influence the achievement of the target through their well-being programmes and equality and non-discrimination plans and service range, such as the available education, physical activity and recreational opportunities, in cooperation with other actors. It is also important to foster the active involvement of residents and other stakeholders in the city's activities and decision-making.

# Vision and targets for social sustainability in Turku

The long-term goal of the city is to provide the services that residents need easily and at the right time to make everyday life smooth and effortless. The services are available digitally and can be tailored to individual needs. The services exist for the benefit of city residents, so we organise and develop them together with the residents. We collect information on the use, functioning and feedback received of the services, in which case customer and service data support our work.

The city wants to create a good everyday life for its residents and provide them with opportunities for a meaningful and happy life. It means comfortable, accessible and safe residential areas, services that support people's varying life situations, and opportunities for recreation, work and self-development. The goal is that Turku's different residential areas are attractive, and inequality between various neighbourhoods has significantly decreased. Civic skills, competence development and diverse leisure opportunities offer joy to everyone.

The city ensures that Turku's residents have the resources and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and promote the well-being of their community. Turku is building a sense of community through encounters, working together and growing together. By tackling in good time loneliness, the adequacy of mental resources, social exclusion and other phenomena that undermine the quality of life, we will achieve major human and economic benefits. Turku is for all Turku residents.

We offer high-quality, attractive education and training paths from early childhood education and care to higher education. We want Turku schoolchildren to be the happiest schoolchildren in the world. Safe early childhood education and care, high-quality basic education, strong general upper secondary school education, vocational education and training that meets the needs of working life, and top class and versatile higher education attract families with children and young people to Turku, enabling the growth,

learning and competence development of all Turku residents and of those moving to Turku. In all our activities, we implement Osaamisen visio 2040 ("Vision of Competence 2040"), according to which, in 2040, Turku will be an attractive and diverse global pioneer as a learning and competence environment. We offer all Turku residents an excellent framework for the renewal of multidisciplinary their competences and their sustainable utilisation.

We are a prestigious and traditional university city. All our higher education institutions operate internationally. They bring professionals from all over the world to Turku. Thanks to the cooperation between the city, universities and companies, students will find work and stay in the Turku region. Top class research and development opportunities are available to companies, as a result of which RDI investments and companies' competitiveness will significantly increase in Southwest Finland.

## | Social sustainability |

We are city of culture, sports, events and tourism, known as being equal to the Nordic capitals in this respect. A cultural pledge drawn up together with the city residents guides the way to the future. Museum of History and Future, the Turku Music Centre, the House of Arts, the entire Cultural Riverside and the Experience Centre offer cultural and artistic experiences that are appealing and inspiring even from an international perspective. Modern sports and physical activity hubs encourage participation, experiencing and being together. Services accessible at a low threshold, big top-level productions, exhibitions and events have been spread out throughout the city.

We plan our leisure services together with residents. Sports facilities in residential areas, such as school surroundings, nearby forests, outdoor gyms and fitness stairs, support an active lifestyle and encourage people of all ages to work out together. A city dweller who works out feels well.

Turku's position as an engine of international tourism and as a transport hub is strong. Cultural life, the art community, sports clubs and recreational organisations are an important

resource for the city. Professionals of art and culture want to work and live in Turku.

Regional community centres serve as meeting places and places of recreation for people of different ages. Each child and young person has safe adults close to him/herself and something meaningful to do as well as an active leisure time.

The city's 3 new spearhead projects are the most important extensive entities promoting social sustainability, and both the entire city organisation as well as all stakeholders and the third sector are engaged in implementing them. The spearhead projects also include international cooperation. More detailed action plans will be drawn up for the spearhead projects in 2022, and their progress will be closely monitored. The monitoring of the implementation of the action plans prepared for the spearhead projects is a natural part of the city-level monitoring of social sustainability until 2025. After 2025, the city may continue the spearhead projects or create new ones based on the realised development, impacts, challenges and changes in the operating environment.

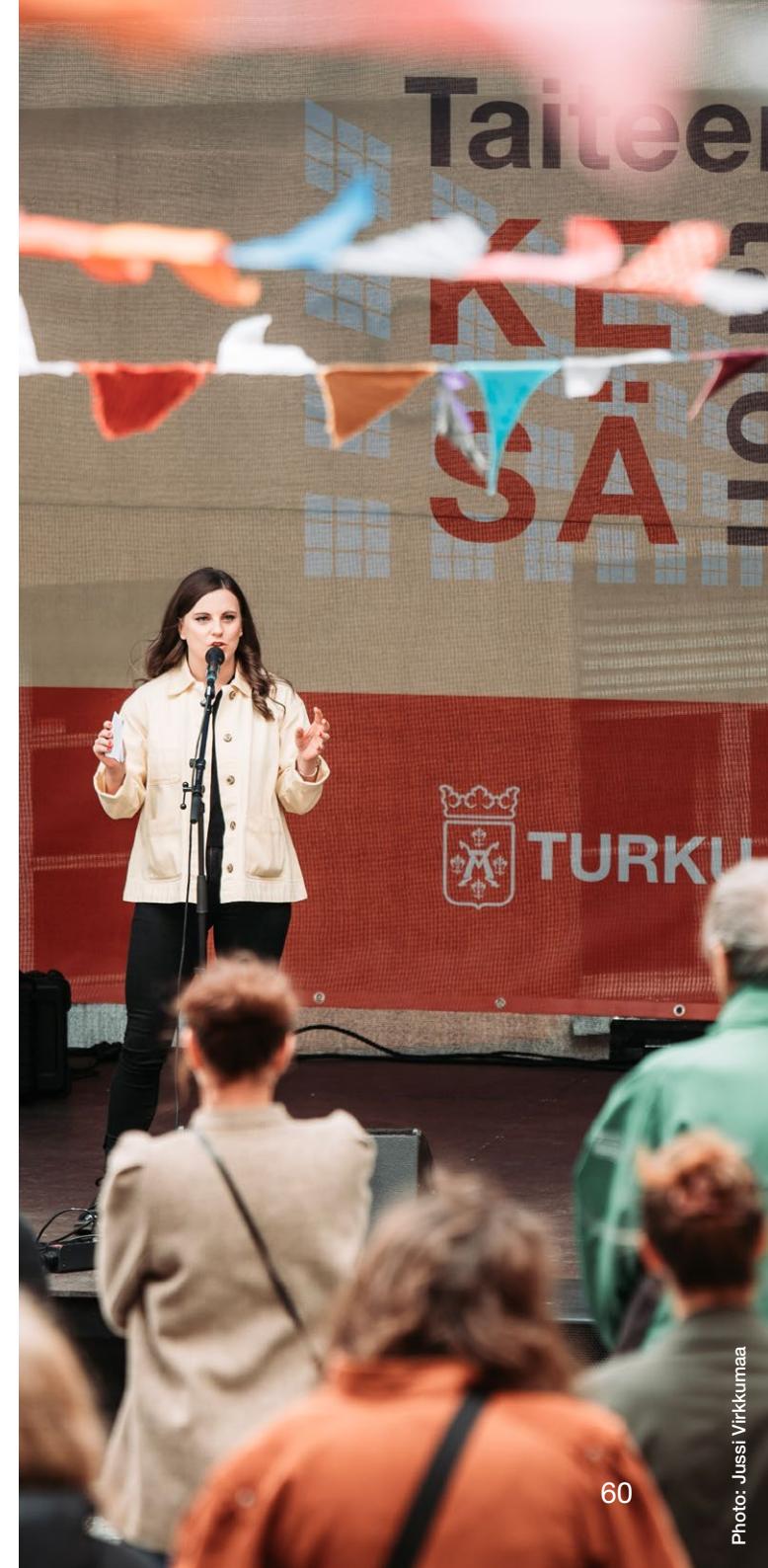


Photo: Jussi Virkkumaa

## Measures taken between 2020 and 2022

Between 2020 and 2022, Turku has taken numerous measures aimed to promote social sustainability. Measures have been implemented on a broad scale to strengthen the basic prerequisites for life through the development of education, culture and recreational activities.

The measures included in the action plan for the prevention of social exclusion have been primarily accomplished during the Council term. During the implementation of the programme to end homelessness, homelessness in Turku as a whole has been reduced from 504 (2018) to 365 homeless people (2021), although there are challenges in reducing homelessness, as it is difficult to find enough affordable housing in Turku. Under the Cooperation Programme to Halve Homelessness, funding was obtained to the Asumisen tukipartio Väylä project for

preventing homelessness and supporting independent living.

New measures to prevent social exclusion were piloted in the spearhead project on preventing marginalisation, and their impacts were assessed. In 2021, a monitoring model was completed for the prevention of social exclusion comprising a set of indicators for the prevention of marginalisation among young people. During the coronavirus pandemic, the project gathered a lot of data on the impacts of the pandemic on children, young people and families with children and continued supporting measures, such as training to strengthen mental resources.

The Vision of Competence 2040 was completed in 2020. The vision aims to increase the role of competence in the development of the city and make Turku a trailblazer both

regionally and nationally. The aim is also to respond to megatrends, such as digitalisation, urbanisation and climate change. The vision process is the basis for a roadmap process that will guide the development of education. The idea is to move from the idea of education and training to competence development and to make the competence of city residents visible in diverse ways. The aim is to expand competence to include skills acquired outside formal education, for example through hobbies, NGO activities and adult education centres. A further goal is to help local residents recognise their competence and make more extensive use of it.

The expansion of the resident budget provided the residents with greater opportunities to influence the comfort of residential areas. The theme of the call for proposals in 2021 was the well-being of children and young people.

## | Social sustainability |

The national suburb programme was continued in the Lauste, Pansio and Runosmäki neighbourhoods. In 2021, Turku launched work for preparing a suburban vision, which sets goals for developing the city's suburbs and collects residents' ideas for achieving these goals.

Turku received significant funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture for the implementation of the Finnish Model for Leisure Activities both the spring term 2021 and the school year 2021–2022. While the pandemic slowed down launching the operations, new operating models, such as outreach activities, could be implemented. Kivaloma (Fun Holidays) activities were carried out during the winter and summer holidays. The Nuorisopassi ("Youth pass") and a recreational voucher model were piloted in six schools.

The city's services continue their cooperation with organisations, associations, clubs and independent operators in the field of culture. During the 10th anniversary of Turku's year as the European Capital of Culture, operators in the field of culture and art were supported with an additional appropriation of approximately EUR 800,000.



Photo: Joel Karlsson

## Key steering documents (in Finnish)

Steering document	Valid
<a href="#"><u>Extensive welfare report and plan</u></a> (once per Council term)	2020–
<a href="#"><u>Action plan for preventing social exclusion and promoting socially sustainable development</u></a>	2019–
Integration programme for immigrants (under preparation)	
Suburb programme, 2022– (under preparation)	
<a href="#"><u>Sports Facility Plan / Sports Facility Network 2029</u></a>	2016–2029
<a href="#"><u>Cultural promise 2029</u></a>	2022–2029
<a href="#"><u>Vision of Competence 2040</u></a>	2021–2040
<a href="#"><u>Programme to end homelessness</u></a>	2017–2022
<a href="#"><u>Security plan</u></a>	2021–2024
<a href="#"><u>Operating model for regional development</u></a>	2020–



# Current measures by the city

## Cultural spearhead project

Art, culture and creative fields strengthen well-being and the vitality of the region. Culture contributes to a good standard of living and continuous learning, and it plays a particular role in promoting well-being and combatting loneliness. The spearhead project is founded on the Turku's year as the European Capital of Culture in 2011 and the vision-like [Cultural Promise](#) made in 2021 that extends to 2029. All city actors, artists and independent operators in the field of culture as well as other stakeholders and key projects participate in the implementation of the spearhead project. The five key themes and objectives of the Cultural Promise are:

1. All Turku residents and tourists coming to the city have an opportunity to participate in, create and experience culture.
2. Professionals in culture and art are supported in their work, and creativity is recognised as a strength.

3. Art and culture are also attractive and competitive factors to the city internationally speaking.
4. Art and culture are taken into account in a cross-cutting manner in the city's services and development, and there is active cooperation between different actors.
5. Investments strengthen Turku's image as a city of culture. There are facilities for making and experiencing art and culture.

## Competence spearhead project

The aim of the spearhead project is to strengthen competence in the Turku region and the city's ability to respond to the needs of the labour market and business life. Key goals include strengthening the competence of Turku's residents, also attracting new experts from around the world, and identifying and making use of expertise potential.

The measures of the competence spearhead project apply extensively to the entire field of education and training, from early childhood

education and care to higher education institutions and further to working and business life. The [Vision of Competence 2040](#), drawn up together with the University of Turku's Finland Futures Research Centre, is behind the new key project. According to the vision, "Turku will be an attractive and diverse global pioneer as a learning and competence environment. The city offers an excellent framework for the renewal of multidisciplinary their competences and their sustainable utilisation." Our aim is to increase the competence and education level of Turku residents, which will have a direct impact on the residents' well-being and income levels." The three main areas of the competence spearhead project are:

1. Strengthening new innovation and competence modules in Turku
2. Strengthening the vitality of Turku and responding to the competence needs of working life
3. Gaining full access to the competence potential of the city's residents

## Communal Turku spearhead project

The spearhead project on community, well-being and balanced development of residential areas aims to invest in the balanced development of neighbourhoods in close cooperation with the NGO sector, residents and companies, and to support the opportunities of the local residents to increase their well-being and to work and grow together in distinctive residential areas. The project measures will strengthen the vitality of Turku and solve societal challenges through a broad partnership, including loneliness, mental health issues, marginalisation, sedentary lifestyles and geographical segregation. By influencing these phenomena, the city can achieve major human and economic benefits. The spearhead project consists of measures that apply to the entire city, and they are implemented in a cross-administrative manner together with NGOs, residents and companies. The measures of

the spearhead project support the city's basic operations. The three main focus areas of the project are:

1. Hyvän mielen Turku - Turku with good mental health
2. Liikkuva Turku - Physically active Turku
3. Uudistuvien lähiöiden Turku - Turku with renewing neighbourhoods

The new spearhead project includes **action plans for reducing loneliness and supporting mental health** during the term of the Council. At the same time, the city ensures that the **programmes to promote integration and prevent exclusion** that have already been approved have the right indicators for the successful implementation of the programme.

Reducing segregation is a priority in the development of neighbourhoods. Turku strengthens the community and participation of urban residents in the development of the city by, for example, implementing and

updating the **suburban programme** to target the different suburbs of Turku and making them comfortable areas that support a good standard of living.

Exercise supports health and a good quality of life as well as overall well-being in a versatile way. It can also offer a sense of community, experiences and enjoyment in itself. As the pandemic has reduced the opportunities for exercise, there is now a need to pay special attention to improve the situation. The objectives for the **action plan for physical activity** are set together with clubs and organisations. The action plan also extends to building an urban environment that encourages physical activity and therefore implements the content of the **Sports facility network update plan 2029**. The plan also aims to offer an opportunity for all children to participate in different recreational activities and reform the grant system for hobby clubs to ensure equality between different activities, genders and regions.

## | Social sustainability |

The [\*\*Extensive welfare report and plan\*\*](#) is a statutory report on the health and well-being of local residents and related measures published once per Council term.

**Integration programme for immigrants** is a programme that also aims to promote activity, inclusion and well-being among immigrants. Gaps in well-being and health will be narrowed by preventive work and by targeting services to population groups and regions with particular need for these. The city is closely monitoring the development of its neighbourhoods and particularly actively intervenes in improving the situation of areas with a higher risk of marginalisation. Diverse opportunities for inclusion and good ethnic relations that support equality are promoted through extensive network cooperation.

The [\*\*Programme to end homelessness\*\*](#) includes a survey of the situation of homeless people in the Turku region and a plan to cut homelessness. The focus of charting the current situation and preparing the plan has been on aspects related to service production and activities.

The goal of the [\*\*Security plan\*\*](#) is to improve the safety and the sense of security of the area's residents and communities. It implements an internal security strategy at the local level. Separate programmes in the security plan focus on traffic safety, the integration of immigrants, and the prevention of violent extremism.

The [\*\*Operating model for regional development\*\*](#) aims to create opportunities for equal participation for the residents in the region, support a sense of community and provide conditions for promoting well-being through broad-based cooperation.

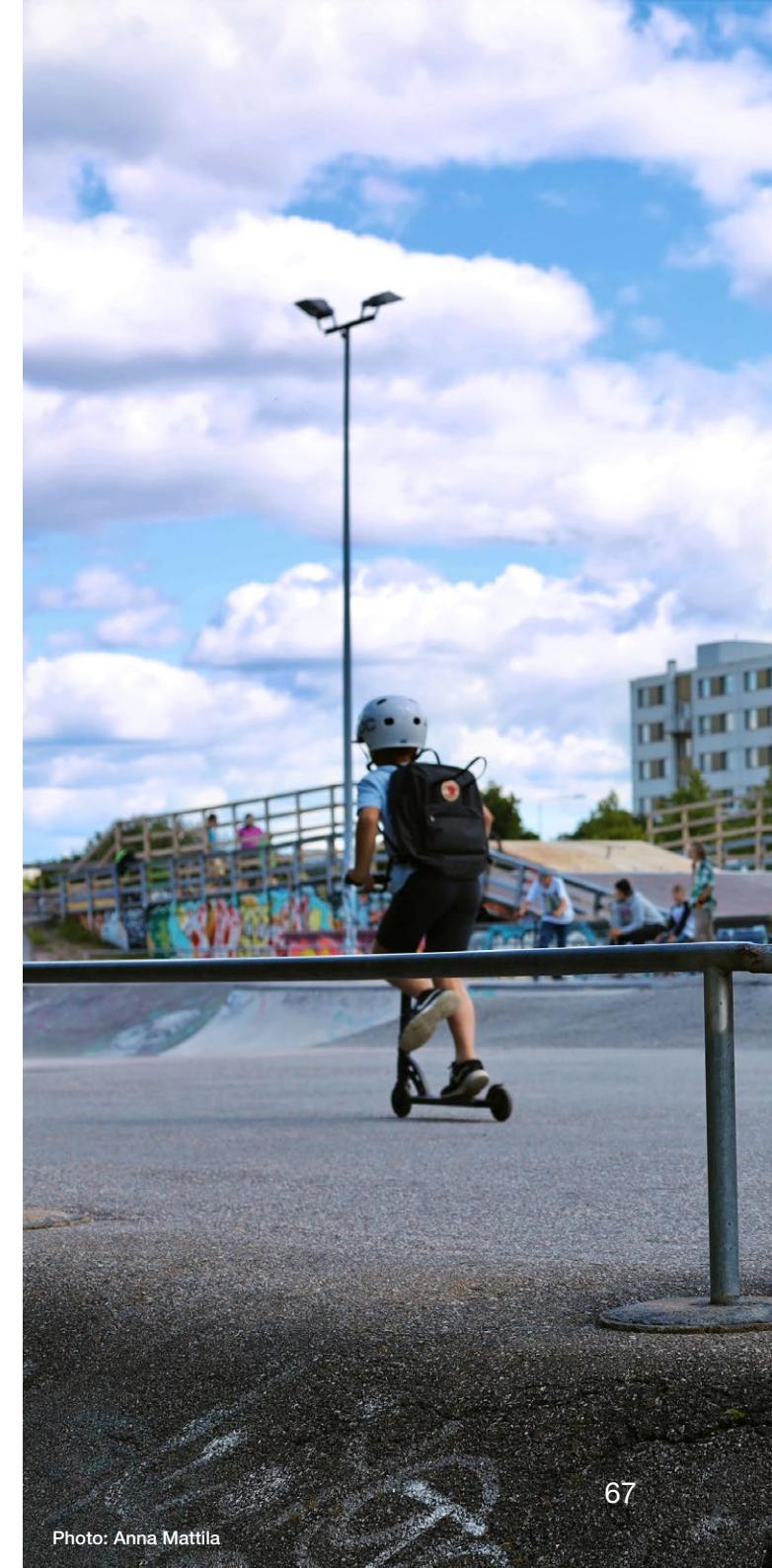


Photo: Anna Mattila

# Economic sustainability



Economic sustainability refers to balanced growth that will not cause debt or damage to nature even in the long term.

A sustainable economy is also an essential prerequisite for safeguarding the key functions of society. Long-term economic policy creates good conditions for fostering and increasing national and local well-being.



In a sustainable economy, economic growth and the deterioration of nature have been separated so that economic growth can be achieved without a negative impact on nature. Nature and ecosystems are essential for safeguarding life on Earth. Nature provides people and production with raw materials. The principles of the circular economy enhance the efficiency of the use of raw materials, which means that one's waste will become raw material for another and material waste is reduced in the process. The ecological dimension sets limits to economic sustainability.

Sustainable Development Goals affecting economic sustainability: 8, 9, 12.



## Key steering documents

15 | | | 20 | | | 25 | | | 30

Procurement strategy, 2021–



Climate budgeting (under preparation)

Vision for the city centre of Turku, 2016–2029



Ownership policy, 2022–2025



Service plan for employment services 2022



Maritime Turku, 2022–2025



Protection of the Archipelago Sea (under preparation)

## 8 Decent work and economic growth

**SDG 8** promotes sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and the creation of decent jobs. A prerequisite for sustainable economic growth is that societies are able to offer high-quality jobs to their inhabitants without damaging the environment – economic growth does not need to mean polluting the environment. Resource efficiency is improved globally in consumption and production.

In Finland, a challenge emerges due to, in particular, the wrong consumption habits and increasing resource efficiency in production. Fostering local culture, work and products also aims to promote sustainable tourism. There is also a need to increase the employment rate.

To achieve sustainable growth, it is important to advance investments that support the energy transition, climate action and accessibility, promote innovations and the utilisation of digitalisation, and support employment and competence development. Comprehensive and reliable data connections throughout the country are also important.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The city is a significant employer in its region and its HR policy and procurement affect the achievement of the goal. The city's employment services and Turku Science Park play an important role in improving the region's business life, vitality and employment.

# 9 Resilient industry, innovation and infrastructures

**SDG 9** aims to build sustainable, high-quality and reliable infrastructure and to support the development of sustainable, environmentally friendly and resource-efficient industries and technologies.

In Finland, this goal has been partly achieved. Particular attention should be paid to research and development activities and investments in transport infrastructure networks.

The city has a significant impact on the production of sustainable infrastructure through its land policy, land use planning and the implementation of land use plans and construction. Sustainable infrastructure and related services include streets and public areas in the city, and the organisation of waste management and water management.

Some of the services are provided by the city's Central Administration Municipal Enterprises or in regional cooperation between neighbouring municipalities. A well-functioning infrastructure also enables the functioning of companies and markets. The city's procurements also affect the operations and operating possibilities of companies in the region.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



The development of the city's services must be based on systematically collected data, and functional and high-quality data connections are also needed for this purpose. From the point of view of society, the city has important data on issues such as street maintenance, water supply network, lighting and traffic control as well as on the state of the environment and the well-being and service needs of residents.

Digital services also promote the availability of services and reduce unnecessary mobility when services can be provided remotely from anywhere and at any time. Well-functioning data networks also allow people to work and study remotely and provide everyone with equal access to basic social services.

## 12 Responsible consumption and production

**SDG12** aims to ensure the sustainability of consumption and production.

Sustainability means that economic activity produces as much well-being as possible, while reducing the use and pollution of natural resources.

In Finland, the greatest challenges are related to the use of raw materials and the material footprint. Finland should invest more in the prevention, recycling and reuse of waste, promote sustainable public procurement practices and introduce environmental impacts as an assessment criterion. Another challenge in Finland is the large amount of food waste and the reduction of food waste.

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The city can influence the sustainability of consumption and production, for example by reducing food waste, reducing waste, improving waste processing and following sustainable public procurement methods and the city's procurement strategy. Sustainable public procurement takes the environment and social responsibility into account and lays the foundation for sustainable economy in the municipality.

The city buys the most services. The largest carbon footprint comes from the energy used by buildings and construction. Reducing the carbon footprint requires energy-efficient solutions. Municipalities also contribute to increasing sustainable development competence through education and training services.

## Vision and targets for economic sustainability in Turku

The city's long-term target is to create successful business, employment and well-being through cooperation with education, research and business. Our unemployment rate is lower than the average in the country's large cities, and the economy is managed with caution and in an orderly manner. Our goal is that Turku and the Turku region will grow at least at the same pace as other large urban regions. Turku also wants to be a sought-after partner for other municipalities in the region. Turku and the Turku region thrive together.

Primarily, the city aims to strengthen its economy with an active employment and growth policy that supports the tax base and other returns. Turku aims to reduce the unemployment rate to 11.2% and to significantly increase the number of construction projects to strengthen the income base. Sustainable financial management and sensible structural and operational reforms as

well as timely and accessible services support the efficiency of operations. Sustainable financial management is supported by investing in preventive services which can immediately reduce the need for more complex services at a later stage. Their impact is always ensured by careful planning and regular monitoring.

Efficient and well-planned land use enables diverse housing, job creation and the establishment of businesses. The distinctiveness of the neighbourhoods has been preserved, while the social differences between them have also narrowed. The sea is important to the city and we will strengthen the maritime atmosphere in the living and leisure time of city residents.

The city's service network review considers changes in the population's age structure and population growth. Efficient temporal and financial management of investments as well

as skilled and well-executed construction projects are key factors in investing sustainably. Investments can also boost the city's growth. Energy efficiency and other sustainable solutions are taken into account in all construction projects.

Our technology expertise is at the forefront of Europe and its best achievements are known worldwide. The Turku region is the country's most business-friendly operating environment and an interesting investment destination which attracts growth companies. International professionals want to move to Turku and are well received. We promote employment and entrepreneurship in, for example, procurement, infrastructure, curricula and transport solutions. Our business and employment services support, guide and coach people at all stages of their careers. We serve employees and employers with demonstrating high quality and individuality.

## Measures taken between 2020 and 2022

The Faculty of Technology at the University of Turku, established in 2021, is a strong new resource for technological development, research and teaching in the area. The first Fraunhofer research unit in Finland began its operations in Turku in September 2021. For research and development infrastructure, it is essential to update the strategy and operations of the Machine Technology Centre Turku Ltd.

Employment services are involved in the local government pilot on promoting employment. The start of the pilot was delayed by one year from the original plan and started on 1 March 2021, at the worst point of the coronavirus pandemic. The outbreak is ongoing and it has affected the arrangements of the employment pilot, the number of clients and the activities carried out in the pilot.

Approximately 16,000 clients were subject to the employment pilot. This number includes

young adults aged under 30, foreign-language speakers and unemployed jobseekers receiving labour market subsidy. The aim of the pilot is to ensure the functionality of the employment services as a whole.

The unemployment that had started to rise in the previous year began to decline in 2021 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. According to the employment service statistics of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Turku's unemployment rate was 13.2 at the end of 2021, and it had decreased by 3.3 percentage points from the previous year. However, the unemployment rate was 1.7 percentage points higher than before the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in December 2019.

Immigration services were compiled into a single entity as a result of the administrative reform. International House Turku provides

guidance and counselling services based on the one-stop shop principle.

In the development of the city centre spearhead project, zoning and development measures for the Linnanniemi area were launched based on the results of an international idea competition in the Maritime Turku focus area. In the Commercial Heart of the City Centre focus area, the implementation of the Heart of the City Centre project was started and a new operating model for cooperation was introduced with others working on the city centre based on a jointly prepared action plan. The development of the market hall block was launched with an innovation partnership created as part of the Sytytä Turku competition. The implementation of the new Market Square has progressed as planned, and private property owners in the environment have been carrying out their investments.

## | Economic sustainability |

In the Aninkainen focus area, the planning/implementation of measures based on the comprehensive development concept for the area was launched.

In the focus area of the Old Town, a development concept has been created for the historical centre of Turku and university area in cooperation with representatives of the area, including defining the identity and communication concept of the Old Town brand. The planning and implementation of practical measures to make the area livelier

and more comfortable and improve its features has been launched.

Lighting in the City Centre focus area. A comprehensive plan for the development of lighting in the city centre has been completed and the gradual implementation of the plan has begun. The city has carried out pilot projects on the use of light in the public urban space of the city centre.

The Turku Science Park spearhead project has developed the steering model towards a

network management approach and the model was subject to decision-making as part of the decision to set up the spearhead projects in January 2022. The coronavirus pandemic has affected the future outlook of the construction of business premises, causing needs for making changes in the development needs of the areas. Preparatory work in 2021 has included specifying the objectives of the Kupittaa Partnership Project related to use purposes and relationships between these. More emphasis has been put on housing construction.



## Key steering documents (in Finnish)

Steering document	Valid
<a href="#"><u>Procurement strategy</u></a>	2021–
Climate budgeting (under preparation)	
<a href="#"><u>Vision for the city centre of Turku</u></a>	2016–2029
<a href="#"><u>Ownership policy</u></a>	2022–2025
<a href="#"><u>Service plan for employment services 2022</u></a>	2022–
<a href="#"><u>Maritime Turku</u></a>	2022–2025
Protection of the Archipelago Sea (under preparation)	



Photo: Joel Karlsson

# Current measures by the city

The two major spearhead projects of the city continue from the previous Council term and strengthen the vitality and competitiveness of the city in a comprehensive manner. The starting point for development is broad-based and open cooperation between the city's residents, business life and other stakeholders. The action plans for spearhead projects will be updated in 2022. The action plans are suitable for monitoring economic sustainability at the city level.

## **Development of the city centre spearhead project (Making Turku city centre a neighbourhood for everyone)**

The aim of the spearhead project is to strengthen a vibrant urban centre and to take concrete measures to achieve the objectives of the [vision for the city centre of Turku for 2050](#).

The project aims at comprehensive urban development, which includes strengthening the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Turku city centre from the perspective of business and tourism as well as housing, mobility and spending time in the area. The aim is to also strengthen the city centre's status

as a pleasant, shared environment for the city's residents by improving public urban spaces, increasing attractiveness throughout the year and ensuring the prerequisites for cultural life and event activities. A further aim is to strengthen the attractiveness of the city centre as an investment site. The city centre must continue to be accessible with all modes of transport internationally, nationally and regionally in the future.

The focus areas of the development of the city centre are:

1. An accessible city centre with smooth mobility
2. A commercially attractive city centre and
3. A pleasant and vivid city centre of encounters.

## **Turku Science Park spearhead project**

The Turku Science Park area is the most significant urban development site supporting growth in the urban area. The aim is the innovative development of jobs, services, housing, mobility and public urban space in the Kupittaa neighbourhood in cooperation with companies and higher education institutions.

The utilisation of smart solutions and digitalisation plays a key role in the project. The measures of the spearhead project are:

1. Turku Science Park is profiled as an internationally significant cluster of innovation and expertise that creates a competitive operational and growth environment for knowledge intensive research and business operation.
2. Turku Science Park is a logically attractive hub of smart mobility. Forms of sustainable mobility and services supporting them are seamlessly linked and make everyday life convenient.
3. Turku Science Park is an oasis of encounters that is alive around the clock. Platforms, solutions and services promoting well-being and health are smoothly intertwined with the everyday life of residents, students and employees in the area 24/7/365.
4. Turku Science Park is the most energy-efficient constructed area in the city. In addition to high-quality basic infrastructure, the solutions and technologies of a smart and sustainable city become highlighted in the development work of the area.

## Municipal trials on employment

We will allocate resources to municipal trials on employment and set a clear employment target for the people who have most trouble finding employment. We are preparing for the transfer of employment services to the city in cooperation with other large cities and the state. We are preparing a new employment project to ensure that Turku makes effective use of the trial on employment and prepares for the transfer of responsibility for organising employment services in 2024. We actively contribute to promoting skilled labour and education-based immigration to ensure that companies in the region meet their competence needs.

### Procurement strategy »

The focus of the procurement strategy is on responsible procurement and economically, socially and ecologically effective procurement. Factors enabling effective procurement include strengthening and ensuring strategic management and procurement competence, successful contract lifecycle management, developing supplier cooperation, implementing procurements together with the market, and the ability to be innovative and experiment boldly.

## Climate budget

Investments, procurements and climate responsibility form a significant entity implemented by the Central Administration, which also includes climate budgeting. In accordance with the Mayor's Programme, Turku will introduce climate budgeting in connection with the preparation of the 2023 budget. The Central Administration's investment programmes have a crucial impact on the implementation of carbon neutrality and the progress of the circular economy. The city budget 2023 contains a climate budgeting section that includes investment programmes with good climate and circular economy criteria compatible with the taxonomy of EU green project funding. Central Administration Organisations' budget cards contain investments in the climate and circular economy. Climate budgeting is developed as a tool for the preparation, steering and monitoring of investment programmes, combining the implementation of climate objectives and the circular economy.

### Maritime Turku »

Regional planning will introduce the assessment of the region's attractiveness and the impacts of

tourism to ensure the usability and functionality of the urban structure and the service platform it offers in promoting national and international attractiveness.

The aim is to protect the Archipelago Sea and obtain adequate funding to improve the state of the most vulnerable, beautiful and polluted archipelago in the world so that it will still be there for future generations to enjoy and to strengthen biodiversity in our region.

Turku can make good progress thanks to our universities and higher education institutions as well as our versatile and strong business sector. Cooperation is important for Turku, and we set the region's major objectives of industrial policy together with various operators. In connection with decision-making, we carry out business impact assessments when the matter concerns business life. A customer-oriented approach is considered in all preparations and decision-making. We will clarify the responsibilities of the city organisation so that the representatives of companies and business life know who to contact in accordance with the so-called "one-stop shop" principle.

# Conclusions and further measures

## Steps towards a sustainable future

Promoting sustainable development consistently at local level requires joint long-term objectives, regular and systematic monitoring, the strong commitment of the entire city organisation and broad engagement. Turku has made progress in the development targets identified in the city's first VLR assessment report, and overall, the city is either taking rapid steps to achieve a large proportion of the sustainable development goals or has already achieved them.

The 2030 Agenda is strongly reflected in the city's new strategy, steering documents, spearhead projects, plans for services and

daily activities. The City's 2030 Agenda roadmap shows future steps and guides us towards a sustainable future and milestones set for 2025.

In the future, we can also use selected key indicators and complementary indicators for sustainable development as well as regular reporting to systematically verify and monitor the city's progress and react to changes as necessary. The key sustainability indicators are part of the strategy indicators, which are monitored annually. Some of these indicators are updated less frequently than once a year. The progress of the objectives and measures

of the spearhead projects is also monitored annually. The complementary indicators include instruments used to measure the city's significant steering documents or other significant plans and programmes.

The integration of the 2030 Agenda into the city's normal decision-making, budgeting, operational planning and monitoring will continue. Future climate budgeting will be one step towards achieving the goal. It is important to involve the employees and enterprises of the city organisation in the work to pursue the goals. Personnel and other stakeholders must be provided with clear information

about the city's sustainability goals and the goals must be made part of the city's normal communications. The city's second VLR, 2030 Agenda roadmap, serves as a good tool in this process. The SDG analysis process developed together with 6kaupunki network will also serve as a good participatory method.

At the same time, it is important to enable all stakeholders to participate in building a sustainable future and to raise awareness of how everyone's actions matter. We all

can influence things and that matters. The city's visible climate work serves as a good example of participatory and interactive operating methods and communication. Sustainable development must be incorporated into the normal stakeholder meetings and communications of the spearhead projects and service areas.

The external assessment of the city's sustainable development can be performed as a part of the future evaluation of the spearhead

projects. One of the tasks of the assessment working group should be to evaluate the spearhead projects from the perspective of the framework for sustainable development.

Finally, it is a good idea to create an electronic platform for the city's internal and external communications and monitoring of sustainable development on the city's website, making up-to-date information constantly visible.

