

SUSTAINABLE VANTAA BELONGS TO EVERYONE 2025

Vantaa's Sustainability Reporting



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vantaa.fi

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GREETING FROM THE MAYOR

The City of Vantaa is now reporting on its promotion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals for the third time. Sustainable development and its various dimensions have been integrated into all of the City of Vantaa's activities, and they are evident throughout the city strategy. At present, we are preparing a new strategy, and we want to further strengthen our commitment to promoting sustainable development in a comprehensive manner.

Vantaa is a growing and vibrant city with a young population compared to most other Finnish cities. The young and diverse population is an important asset for Vantaa. Significant themes in the development of Vantaa include the city's controlled growth, preventing regional segregation, Vantaa's appeal and vitality, and of course the well-being and safety of our residents. We take care of the sustainability of our environment through ambitious carbon-neutrality and nature-positivity goals, for example.

Vantaa wants to be a pioneer in the field of sustainable development, and this report is a part of these important efforts. In the report, we highlight good examples of the development work being conducted in Vantaa. It is important that the report also highlights aspects that require development, as this allows us to improve our work and share our experiences openly and effectively with others. This report shows a strong connection to our city strategy, and we want to strengthen this connection in the new strategy period starting this year.

The economic situation in Finland is currently weak, and due to changes in the operating environment, many of the social sustainability indicators in this report have deteriorated. At the same time, global crises, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, require increasingly effective measures at all levels. When the global situation is uncertain and multiple crises challenge us simultaneously, the importance of the local level as a promoter of long-term sustainability work is highlighted.

Effective promotion of sustainable development is not possible alone. Instead, it requires wide-ranging cooperation. Collaboration with our stakeholders and the organisational culture that enables it are Vantaa's strengths. Only by working together can we find new and innovative solutions to complex and multifaceted challenges.

Vantaa is committed to promoting the goals of the 2030 Agenda at the local level. By reporting on good practices and lessons learned in Vantaa, we also support sustainable development work elsewhere. It has been a pleasure to notice that an increasing number of Finnish cities and regions have started to produce VLR reports. It is definitely worth joining this growing group!



Pekka Timonen, Mayor



SUMMARY

The City of Vantaa is committed to promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, i.e. the 2030 Agenda, locally and is now reporting on this work for the third time. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which cover the dimensions of ecological, economic, and social and cultural sustainability. In Vantaa, different dimensions of sustainable development are promoted throughout the organisation, in addition to which city-level cross-administrative work is carried out through the entire 2030 Agenda framework.

In Vantaa, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, are divided under themes in the strategy, which is why this report is structured according to these themes. The strategy themes reflect the ecological, economic and social dimensions of sustainability. Under each theme there are examples of development work being carried out in Vantaa. You can read more examples in our previous reports.

In terms of social sustainability, the well-being of all Vantaa residents is supported, while special attention is paid to disadvantaged groups. Vantaa’s population is young and diverse, and it is important to invest in the well-being of children and young people.

Regional segregation is an important theme in Vantaa, and new methods of action are being sought to prevent it so that the development of segregation and its negative consequences do not worsen. As the most international city in Finland, Vantaa’s multilingual and multicultural population stands out prominently in the themes and examples of the report.

In terms of ecological sustainability, Vantaa is investing in, among other things, biodiversity, carbon neutrality, sustainable urban structure, mobility and the circular economy. Development work for employment and vitality supports economic sustainability, innovation and continuous learning, and can also strengthen social and ecological sustainability.

Due to recent crises and the current economic situation, many indicators, especially those of social sustainability, have taken a turn for the worse. Poverty and inequality have increased, unemployment is high in Finland and subsidies have been cut. Cities cannot influence everything, but Vantaa is working to address these challenges and is looking for new operating models.

Vantaa’s strength across all themes is its collaboration. The people in Vantaa know how and are willing to collaborate both within and outside the organisation, thereby strengthening effectiveness and finding new opportunities and innovations. Through cooperation, Vantaa can continue to pioneer sustainable development. Commitment to the comprehensive promotion of sustainable development, the necessary expertise and cross-administrative approaches can be further strengthened. By inviting various stakeholders and the entire city, including companies, organisations and residents, to participate in sustainable development work, we can further strengthen the city’s impact in comprehensive sustainable development work.

PROGRESS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Vantaa Belongs to Everyone – Vantaa’s Sustainability Reporting 2025 is the third voluntary local review (VLR) describing how Vantaa is promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The first review was published in 2021 and, in the same year, the city’s management group decided that the review would be published every two years from then on.

In 2015, the UN agreed on a global action plan for sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda. The aim of the 2030 Agenda is to eradicate extreme poverty and promote sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental dimensions. The 2030 Agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) containing a total of 169 targets. The SDGs are to be achieved jointly by all countries by 2030.

Cities are very important actors in sustainable development and, due to their nature, most of the SDGs are most strongly affected at the local or municipal level. Cities have often defined more ambitious targets than their central governments, for example in terms of carbon neutrality, and have the potential to be pioneers in sustainable development.

Vantaa is part of the growing group of cities reporting on progress towards the SDGs through voluntary local reporting (VLR). This demonstrates our city’s commitment to promoting all dimensions of sustainable development locally and more broadly in cooperation with other actors. The commitment has also been written into



Vantaa’s city strategy, in which the UN Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, are divided into strategic themes.

This report was compiled by a working group with representation from all sectors. Other experts of the city organisation have been asked to provide texts and additions as needed. The report is structured according to strategic themes, which supports the connection between sustainable development and strategic work.

We have highlighted some examples of good practices in Vantaa in connection with each strategy theme. Much more is being done in Vantaa to promote sustainable development – in fact, everything that is being done in the city could justifiably be included in this report, which is why choices must be made. You can read more examples of Vantaa’s good practices and development work in our previous reports.

The themes for the strategy period and the SDGs named under them in the strategy are as follows:

VANTAA BUILDS WELLBEING

Challenge: Welfare disparities between different population groups in Vantaa are increasing. Vantaa must be able to safeguard the wellbeing of all city residents, taking into account the varying needs of different age groups. It is also important to consider the safety of the city residents. The wellbeing services county reform took place during the strategy period, and it is important to ensure the continuity of services during the transition through good cooperation.

SDG:



VANTAA IS SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

Challenge: Regional disparities are growing in Vantaa. Segregation has progressed, although various efforts have been made to reverse it.

SDGs:



VANTAA IS ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE

Challenge: By what means will Vantaa cut its emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2030 and take care of biodiversity in the densifying urban structure?

SDGs:



VANTAA IS VITAL AND BRIMMING WITH EXPERTISE

Challenge: Creating jobs and increasing employment in Vantaa. Improving attractiveness. The emphasis is on developing the skills of Vantaa residents and increasing the attractiveness of Vantaa from the perspective of both companies and residents.

SDGs:



VANTAA IS INTERNATIONAL

Challenge: Vantaa is being developed as an internationally attractive and innovative airport city. The integration of foreign-language speakers must be improved and their participation in society increased. Moving to the city must be easy for both people and international companies.

SDGs:



Cross-cutting SDGs:

VANTAA AS A CITY

Vantaa is the fourth largest city in Finland, with a population of 251,405 at the end of 2024. The city continues to grow rapidly, and its residents speak more than 120 different native languages. Vantaa is Finland’s most international city, and its population growth is based primarily on immigration. Vantaa invests in the well-being of its residents, sustainable development and internationality, which increases the city’s attractiveness and strengthens multiculturalism.

Vantaa is located in the Uusimaa region and is part of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. It shares a border with Helsinki, Espoo, Nurmijärvi, Tuusula, Kerava and Sipoo. The city is divided into seven major regions and 61 districts, of which Tikkurila serves as the administrative centre. That being said, Vantaa is a city that does not have a single clear main centre. Vantaa is also home to Finland’s largest international airport. Vantaa’s diverse economic structure and excellent transport connections promote the city’s development.

The typical landscapes of Vantaa include rocky hills, forests and wide open fields along rivers. In addition to dense centres, the region is typified by large areas of single-family homes. Forests, agricultural areas, built-up areas and other environments heavily modified by human activity provide a wide variety of habitats for a large number of plant and animal species. Due to its milder climate and favourable soil, Vantaa is one of the richest areas in Finland in terms of nature. Extensive green areas and easily accessible recreational opportunities make the city a pleasant place in which to live, and most residents live less than 300 meters from a green area.

Vantaa is one of Finland’s pioneering municipalities with its long-term environmental work. Vantaa has set as its goal to be carbon neutral by 2030, and the city is investing in innovative solutions and promoting environmental responsibility.

In 2024, Vantaa celebrated 50 years of being a city with the theme “At Home in Vantaa”. To celebrate the anniversary, the city offered, among other things, a free city bike season and established a jubilee fund of over €1 million to support the hobbies of children and young people. Over the course of half a century, Vantaa has grown into an urban, constantly developing and vibrant city that continues its purposeful work for the benefit of its residents and the environment.



Vantaa’s history

Vantaa has a long history. The original name of the area, Helsinki parish, was first mentioned in documents in 1351, and later the parish became a province. The market town of Vantaa was established in 1972, and Vantaa became a city in 1974. The rural municipality developed into an urban and rapidly growing centre next to the capital, which has, over the decades, attracted new residents with its modern suburbs, excellent transport links and proximity to nature.

Over the years, Vantaa has invested in advanced services, such as maternity clinics, early childhood education and mammography screenings, in which it has been a nationwide pioneer. Over the course of the past 50 years, Vantaa has become the most international city in Finland, and it has developed its own urban culture in which community spirit is

an important asset. Vantaa, which has grown and developed rapidly, has established its position as an independent, progressive and diverse part of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.



Photo:
The Finnish
Heritage Agency
/ UA Saarinen

Surface area
(31 December, 2023)

Total area

240.34 km²

Land area

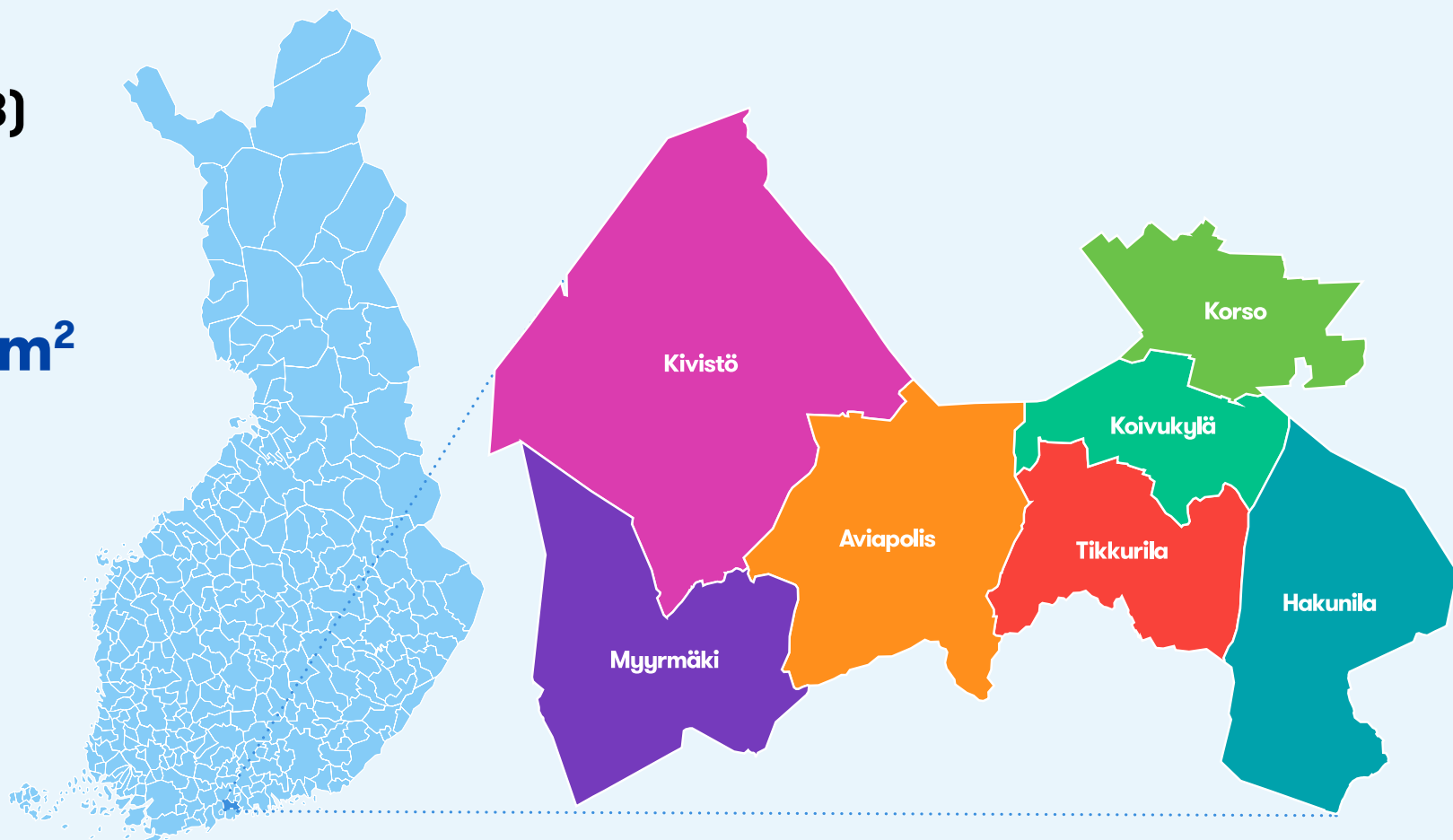
238.38 km²

Water area

1.96 km²

Population/km²

1,038



Language and nationality (31 December, 2023)

Finnish speakers

70.9%



Foreign
language
speakers

26.9%



Swedish
speakers

2,2%

Foreign
nationals

17,1%

Population structure
(31 December, 2023)

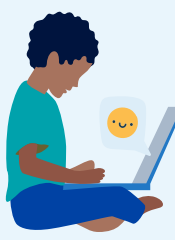
Total population

247,443



Women

49.4%



0-6 years old

7.3%



7-15 years old

10.3%



16-64 years old

66.7%



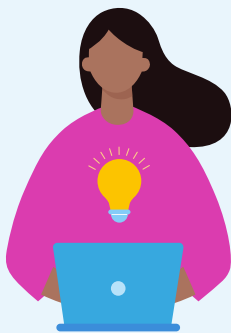
65+ years old

15.7%

Labour market and economy

Jobs (31 December, 2022)

126,921



Job self-sufficiency
(31 December, 2022)

107.8%



Unemployment rate
(31 December, 2022)

10.5%



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORK IN VANTAA



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORK IN VANTAA

City-level efforts to promote the 2030 Agenda

In Vantaa, sustainable development is promoted throughout the organisation, even though the activities are not usually stated through the framework of the SDGs. All of the city's basic activities and separate development efforts through projects, for example, support the promotion of sustainable development goals in one way or another.

The City of Vantaa's strategy states that the sustainable development goals will be taken into account in all operations, and that they will be promoted particularly through five strategic themes, according to which this report is structured. The development work carried out under the themes is described in the following chapters of the report.

In addition to the work taking place throughout the organisation, active city-level development work based on the SDG framework is being carried out in Vantaa. Since 2023, the staff includes a permanent sustainability specialist who presents a comprehensive 2030 Agenda perspective broadly and at city level. The goal is to integrate a holistic perspective of sustainable development into all operations and key processes and documents, such as the strategy and the programmes that implement it. Sustainable development is not seen as a separate entity with its own separate measures or strategy. Instead, the perspectives are integrated into all activities.

Sustainable development work at city level requires extensive collaboration both within and outside the organisation. Various networks within the city organisation enable cross-administrative information exchange and discussion, which promotes the adoption of a broader perspective and the discovery of new opportunities for cooperation. Vantaa is involved in a variety of networks and collaborates on sustainable development issues with other cities at the national level and internationally.

Vantaa is actively involved in the **SDG network** of Finland's six largest cities, which is coordinated by the Association of Finnish Cities and Municipalities. The network engages in close and effective collaboration, for example, by co-developing various tools to support the strategic management of the SDGs, discussing common challenges and learning from good practices in other cities. The network also collaborates extensively with national and international operators, which enables the voice of cities to be heard more strongly in various contexts.

In Vantaa, the promotion of a holistic perspective on sustainable development occurs largely through the city strategy. In addition to strategic work, raising awareness within the city organisation, through training, workshops and internal communications, for example, plays a significant role. Even though everyone in Vantaa already implements at least some aspect of sustainable development through their own work, a more holistic perspective is often missing on how different sustainable development goals are

linked to each other and how our actions can also cause unintended negative impacts if we do not evaluate them through a broader framework.

In Vantaa, processes are being developed to strengthen a holistic perspective on sustainability. The aim is to integrate the efforts into project-oriented development, for example. Responsibility principles have been introduced for events organised by the city, which comprehensively include different aspects of sustainable development. A section on sustainable development has been included in the orientation package for all new employees. Vantaa has its own SDG specifications, which make it easier to bring the goals into the local context and see everyone's work as part of sustainable development efforts.

Vantaa's SDG specifications are used to support thinking and discussion, for example in workshops that utilise tools developed in the SDG network of the six largest cities. Tools like the SDG analysis canvas help us identify both positive and negative impacts that our actions may have on various sustainable development goals. They allow us to discuss how positive impacts could be strengthened and negative impacts minimised.

Important development points in city-level SDG work include, for example, linking VLR reporting to broader data-driven management development and monitoring indicators between reports. VLR reporting is already tied to strategy and strategic themes, but the connection between strategy and VLR reporting can be further bolstered.



Sustainability measures of group entities

The Vantaa City Group includes the parent city and approximately 50 communities, including subsidiaries, associated communities and joint municipal authorities. The city requires responsible and ethical operations from the communities in its ownership. The city group has a significant impact on stakeholders through operations, finances, personnel management and procurement, among other things. Ownership steering promotes responsible business operations within group entities. This ensures that group entities take into account the city strategy's responsibility goals and carbon neutrality target.

The promotion of sustainable business within the group entities primarily means that the companies must identify the environmental impacts of their own operations and act in an economically and socially sustainable manner. Each company has been set a specific sustainability-related theme or goal in the entity-specific ownership policy guidelines, which determines the long-term sustainability goals the city as an owner sets for the companies. The largest subsidiaries have also prepared their own responsibility programmes, in which they have identified the key areas of responsibility for their business.

The City of Vantaa's group entities play a key role in achieving the city's climate goals, such as the carbon neutrality target. The responsibility programmes of the largest subsidiaries have included measures that broadly support the sustainability and climate goals of the City of Vantaa. In addition, city-owned property companies aim to improve energy efficiency, promote the circular

economy and use resources wisely. Alongside the environmental theme, responsibility is promoted in subsidiaries from an economic and social perspective. Transparency is the goal when promoting responsibility. It is essential that actions can be measured in such a way that the effects of the actions can be monitored and the impacts assessed.

The subsidiaries' responsibility programmes are based on the SDGs, in addition to the City of Vantaa's responsibility and climate goals. These goals steer the companies to continuously improve their operations in various areas of responsibility, such as combatting climate change, reducing inequality and responsible consumption. The SDGs have been taken into account in the companies' ownership policies and are utilised in setting annual goals for them.

As of 2025, the largest companies in the Vantaa Group, Vantaan Energia Oy, VAV Group and Vantaan Tilapalvelut Vantti Oy, will be subject to CSRD reporting, i.e. the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. VTK Kiinteistöt Group will report in accordance with the reporting standards voluntarily from 2026 onwards. CSRD reporting requires companies to provide comprehensive and transparent reporting on their responsibility activities, i.e. environmental impacts, social impacts and governance practices. The purpose of the reporting is to assess the consistency of companies' responsibility activities with the EU's sustainable development goals. The aim is to enable impacts to be monitored and assessed using consistent criteria. In addition, reporting provides information on how companies promote the SDGs in their operations.

Responsible procurements

In Vantaa, various aspects of sustainable development are widely taken into account in procurement. Responsibility is one of the values of the City of Vantaa, and sustainable development has played a significant role in Vantaa's strategy for a quite some time. A large portion of the city's budget is spent on various procurements, which is why it is important to consider whether each procurement promotes the realisation of the city's values and goals or whether they work against them. The majority of the city's operations and services are currently carried out directly or indirectly through procurement. For the city to conduct responsible operations, responsible procurements are requirements.

Taking sustainable development into account in procurement is also required by several international agreements, national and EU legislation, the national procurement strategy (Hankinta-Suomi), and many of Vantaa's commitments and cooperation network goals. The city's own commitments and roadmaps (such as the resource wisdom roadmap), programmes, and procurement guidelines also require that sustainable development themes be taken into account in procurement. Taxpayers, i.e. the municipal residents, also expect responsibility from the municipalities and cities. This has been investigated in a recent consumer survey, for example: How to make a difference through purchases and why this is important? – Swan Label). According to the survey, 75 per cent of Finns believe that municipalities should set an example through their responsible procurements. More than two-thirds believe that financial savings should not be pursued at the expense of the environment and human rights. In addition to environmental and social aspects, procurement promotes economic sustainability: we always check the financial situation of companies and strive to prevent the grey economy.

The circular economy in procurements

In addition to taking sustainable development perspectives into account when purchasing services and new goods, it is important to critically assess procurement needs and strive to reduce new procurements by investing in the circular economy.

Promoting the circular economy in procurement saves natural resources and emissions, thereby reducing the environmental and climate impacts of procurements. Efforts have been made to bolster the circular economy in the city's procurements. For example, since 2024, the loose furniture procurement contract has entailed the option of purchasing recycled office and public space furniture from the supplier. The goal is to make purchasing recycled furniture an easy, affordable and natural way to acquire furniture.

We aim to ensure that the city organization and its group entities advance the city's sustainability and carbon neutrality goals. We take sustainable development into account in our procurement.





The Helsinki Metropolitan Area Recycling Centre has been selected as the city's contracted supplier, meaning that you can purchase used goods or craft materials from the Recycling Centre (with certain restrictions). The aim is to promote the purchase of used goods instead of new ones, for example through communication and education.

The circular economy in procurement is also promoted through training on sustainable procurement, which also encourages the use of different forms of goods instead of buying new ones. As an example, the city has increased the number of shared goods and wants to increase their use. The circular economy can also promote social responsibility. For example, the recycling centre of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area employs and trains long-term unemployed persons, thereby increasing social inclusion and reducing exclusion.

After rehabilitative work activities were transferred to the well-being services county at the beginning of 2023, the internal city-wide furniture recycling programme within the City of Vantaa also ended. Now, pieces of furniture and fixtures are recycled on a smaller scale across various fields and through an internal city platform. The education and learning sector also offers small-scale furniture repair as a workshop activity. Developing the recycling of furniture and movables would save costs and natural resources, along with strengthening the circular economy. Furniture recycling should be developed to be more comprehensive.

Vantaa's model for combatting labour exploitation and human trafficking

Vantaa has been working for years to combat labour exploitation and human trafficking. Collaboration has been carried out with other large cities and the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI). In 2024, Vantaa's model for combatting labour exploitation and human trafficking was finalised. The model has been presented to the relevant sectors, and the specific characteristics of each industry and the risks of labour exploitation and human trafficking in the industries' procurement have been considered. Information about the model is also communicated to all personnel. The goal is that every employee of the City of Vantaa is aware of the phenomenon and knows how to act if suspicions of labour exploitation or human trafficking arise. Posters in the cleaning personnel's workspaces communicate the possibilities of securing help if someone feels that they or a colleague, for example, have fallen victim to occupational exploitation or human trafficking. In addition to training and communication, the model also involves developing corporate auditing.





Equality and non-discrimination are promoted in the long term

Meija Tuominen has worked for over 20 years in various administrative and development positions in different parts of Vantaa's administration. She currently works as an administrative expert in the service area relating to municipal democracy.

How do you promote sustainable development in your work?

In municipal democracy, we have many areas of responsibility that are closely related to the 2030 Agenda. We are responsible for, among other things, organising elections, the work of the highest decision-making bodies, city security, data protection, and promoting gender equality and equality for all people at the city level. Equality and non-discrimination are particularly important to us. In this context, the framework is formed by the comprehensive obligations of the Act on Equality between Women and Men and the Non-Discrimination Act to ensure non-discrimination and promotion in all our services.

Is gender equality not already at a very good level in Finland and municipal services? Is the case not the same for equality?

There are numerous countries and regions in the world in which the human rights of girls and women, for example, are currently suffering severe attacks and setbacks, and this is also happening in Europe. Human rights should be protected. We also cannot

accept gaps in equality and non-discrimination on the grounds that the situation is much worse somewhere else. For example, we have quantitative and qualitative research showing that there is strong discrimination based on ethnic background in Finland. Discrimination takes many forms, not only direct racism.

What does sustainability mean to you?

Above all, we should learn to look at what we do and reconcile it from multiple perspectives, i.e. to achieve environmental, social, economic and cultural responsibilities. To me, sustainability also means continuity, that we can build on what has already been achieved through long-term goals. In addition, the 2030 Agenda must promote gender equality (SDG5) as such, but it must also be taken into account in efforts related to other SDGs. This is called the dual strategy.

What is difficult about your job?

Many things. For example, the old issues in equality and non-discrimination work persist or change their form but, at the same time, new problems arise that require a great deal of familiarisation and attention from management, experts and various actors. These currently include, among other things, the non-discrimination of artificial intelligence, various types of human trafficking and "new" forms of violence against women.

On a personal level, a serious challenge is the high turnover of my colleagues, which means that I am often forced to start all my efforts over again almost from scratch in some new service.

And where do you get the strength and energy for your work?

I have had the pleasure of working closely and comprehensively with a wide variety of competent parties within our organisation, nationally and internationally. Even though the topics are very serious, we are brought together by a similar sense of humour and a desire to support and help each other.





VANTAA BUILDS WELLBEING

Cross-cutting
SDGs:



VANTAA BUILDS WELLBEING

The City of Vantaa's work to promote well-being and health is managed and coordinated under the 'Vantaa builds well-being' strategy theme. Practical well-being work is carried out throughout the organisation and includes, among other things, sports, learning, integration, culture and youth services.

The overall approach to promoting well-being has been challenged by the well-being services county reform that came into effect at the beginning of 2023. As a result, social welfare services, health care services and rescue services were transferred from the City of Vantaa to the well-being services county of Vantaa and Kerava. In recent years, cooperation has been built in a new situation and the division of labour and the functionality of interfaces have been particularly examined. Knowledge-based management and the flow of information within and between organisations is also an important area of development.

In Vantaa, concerns related to well-being in recent years have included the number of NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training), anxiety and mental well-being of children and young people, the lifestyles of working-age people, and challenges related to safety and a sense of security. (Link: [well-being report](#), [well-being plan](#) (in Finnish)).

Examined on a national scale, Vantaa's population is young and diverse. Nearly 27% of the population of Vantaa speak a language other than Finnish, Swedish or Sami as their mother tongue. According to forecasts, the number of children and young people will increase further in the coming years.

From this perspective, Vantaa's most important challenge is to take care of the well-being of children and young people, and to provide sufficient services for young people and the foreign-language-speaking population. Among other factors, the challenges relate to the availability of early childhood education places, and the on-going labour shortage is challenging teaching and early childhood education.

The welfare gaps between young people are growing as a result of both the socioeconomic status of parents and regional segregation. Criminal activity and violence among young people have increased. Anxiety among girls has continued to increase, which is a challenge throughout Finland.

For seniors and special groups, such as disabled persons, it is important that cooperation with the well-being services county is smooth, because the services for these groups have been transferred to the responsibility of the well-being services counties. Without effective cooperation, there is a risk that there will be gaps in the service offering.

Approximately 27% of the population in Vantaa speaks a language other than Finnish, Swedish or Sámi as their native language.



Residents of Vantaa value the local nature and communality

The At Home in Vantaa anniversary dialogues organised in 2024 offered a comprehensive view of the everyday life and work of the people in Vantaa. Thousands of residents from different language and age groups participated in the dialogues. Roughly 200 participants took part in the Finnish-language discussions, while 88 people participated in the multilingual dialogues arranged by organisations. Discussions were held in Somali, Arabic, Russian, Estonian, English and Albanian. Interviews with substance abuse rehabilitation patients, seniors and people from a Romani background reached 76 participants. The Perfect City – A Sustainable Future for Vantaa dialogues for children, young people and guardians heard 3,749 people, and discussions were held in Finnish, Swedish and English.

Even though Vantaa has a very young population structure compared to the whole of Finland, from the perspective of inclusion, children and young people are silent groups whose voices are not necessarily heard enough in the City's decision-making. The Perfect City dialogues provided children and young people with the opportunity to participate in the development of the city in a safe environment (in a school classroom, day care group or hobby group). In this way, valuable information was gathered from thousands of participants.

The goal of all of the dialogues during the anniversary year was to find out what being a Vantaa resident and living in Vantaa means to locals. The themes of the discussions addressed Vantaa's strengths, development needs and residents' hopes for the future.

Participants highlighted Vantaa's strengths – specifically its multiculturalism, community spirit and proximity to nature. The activity of the communities was considered to be a valuable asset, and regional events and low-threshold meeting places were seen as important. They strengthen the community, which in turn increases the sense of well-being and security. In the discussions in different languages, the price level of flats also came up, which is more affordable in Vantaa than elsewhere in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

Themes related to safety, well-being and services were seen as areas that require development. In particular, substance abuse, the social exclusion of young people and unrest in public places, such as railway station areas, are causing concern among local residents. Challenges were also observed in the use of digital services, especially among seniors and immigrants. Multilingual and plain language communication was seen as an important way to improve access to health services and support integration. In all discussions held in the different languages, the availability of language training and general trust in public actors emerged as areas to be developed.

The discussions highlighted young people's desire for low-threshold meeting places and guided activities. The role of schools and youth centres was emphasised as a key support network, but the desire was to improve the accessibility of recreational opportunities. The people of Vantaa value local nature and green areas, and preserving them in the midst of increasingly dense urban development was found to be very important. At the same time, people wanted to promote recycling and environmental awareness. Local pride and history were seen as important elements of local identity. Accessible information about the history of Vantaa was desired by young people to promote communality and integration.



A shared table reduces hunger and food waste

Inclusion and communities are key issues for well-being, and they can be linked to broader sustainable development goals, such as reducing poverty and hunger and combating climate change. These perspectives are combined in the Shared Table activities, which combine food security with reducing food waste and community activities. In Finland, food consumption accounts for roughly 20–25 per cent of an individual's climate impacts. Some 650 million kg of edible waste is generated in Finland each year, approximately half of which is food waste. The Shared Table measures combat this problem by donating food waste to those in need while also providing employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed and volunteers.

The Shared Table is an operating model developed in Vantaa, in which cooperation between the city, parishes, the third sector and educational institutions focuses on utilising food waste and distributing food aid. The network includes more than 60 active food waste donors, such as wholesalers, shops and food factories, as well as over 90 organisations and residents' farms that distribute food in various ways. The scope of the activities also includes Lutheran parishes and other church actors. Food aid reaches roughly 5,500 people each week, most of whom are poor elderly people, especially women.

At the heart of the operations is a food waste terminal established by the City of Vantaa. The amount of food waste passing through it has varied in recent years. The year 2023 was a record year for the Shared Table operations with more than 750,000 kilograms of food were distributed, i.e. roughly 15,000 kilograms per week.

Even though 2024 was slightly slower (680,000 kg) in terms of the amount of food donated, the number of people in need of food aid is still increasing. This is due to increasing unemployment and tightening social benefits, among other things.

In 2024, the Shared Table launched a new pilot project that utilised production line waste for food aid in collaboration with five educational institutions and 11 food aid distributors. This was an important step in the use of food waste, as an estimated 37 million servings of food are wasted annually in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area's food services.

The Shared Table works closely with local companies, while strengthening the implementation of corporate environmental and social responsibility. The network collects food waste from over 60 companies in Vantaa. This prevents unnecessary waste and provides companies with the opportunity to support local communities and disadvantaged people.



Vantaa is a child-friendly municipality

At the beginning of 2024, UNICEF granted Vantaa the Child-Friendly Municipality award in recognition of permanent changes that improve the realisation of children's rights and the well-being of children and young people. The model aims to secure children's rights and a good childhood, especially for children in vulnerable situations. Vantaa continues to develop child-friendliness through an action plan, and the new plan was approved in August 2024.

The Child-Friendly Municipality model is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which emphasises non-discrimination, the importance of the children's best interests, the right to growth and development, and listening to children. Vantaa strives to strengthen these principles in all of its operations. The recognition will be valid for two years, and Vantaa is committed to continuing its long-term work to promote children's rights.

Within the framework of the Child-Friendly Municipality model, Vantaa has developed prevention and intervention related to harassment and violence experienced by children and young people, introduced the principles of safer spaces and committed all personnel to children's rights training. Children and young people have been actively involved in the development work. In the new operating period, the work will prioritise promoting the inclusion of children in vulnerable positions, ensuring that children and young people receive information about their rights, and supporting work against bullying. In addition, a model for assessing the impact on children will be created during this operating period, so that the city can more systematically consider the impacts of various decisions on children and young people in the future.

The TEPPPO model in basic education offers opportunities for on-the-job learning

TEPPO stands for flexible, work-oriented basic education for 8th and 9th graders. TEPPO is an innovation from Vantaa, which involves the studies of TEPPO pupils alternating between on-the-job learning periods at workplaces and teaching at school. In total, there are approximately 5–7 weeks of on-the-job learning periods during the school year. During an on-the-job training period, the student learns in working life or learns about studying in upper secondary school or vocational education. The rest of the time, TEPPO pupils study in their own classes at their local school and complete secondary school studies normally according to the curriculum. The work-focused teaching follows Vantaa's basic education curriculum. In Vantaa, you can apply to become a TEPPO pupil at any secondary school. There are more than 500 TEPPO pupils in Vantaa every year.

The aim of TEPPO studies is to support young people in identifying their own strengths, motivation, agency and decision-making skills. Young people learn working life skills and gain related knowledge and career planning skills, as well as experience in different professions, jobs and educational opportunities. A TEPPO pupil can also take part in on-the-job training during the secondary education orientation week. You can learn more about the studies at a Vantaa-based upper secondary school, Vantaa Vocational College Varia or Mercuria Business School.

Each TEPPO pupil receives intensive guidance and takes part in an optional TEPPO course led by a student counsellor. The student guidance supports young people in finding a suitable place for further study. In addition, young people can develop their skills and self-esteem for further study.

TEPPO is suitable for any pupil, regardless of whether their goal after basic education is to move on to vocational studies or upper secondary school studies, or whether the young person's future plans are still unclear. The focus on working life can also serve as a form of support from the perspective of integration into Finland and learning the Finnish language, for example. Through TEPPO studies, pupils can also gain versatility and additional challenges for their studies.

There has been nationwide interest in Vantaa's TEPPO model. The operations have expanded without being regulated nationally, which is why local implementation methods vary. The largest cities implementing TEPPO activities are Helsinki and Espoo, but there are also operations in smaller municipalities, such as Pyhtää. The Ministry of Education and Culture has considered TEPPO to be a pedagogically justified and flexible solution for basic education pupils for whom conventional curriculum-based teaching is not the best option. For this reason, the Basic Education Curriculum (2014) will be amended and supplemented regarding work-oriented basic education. The Finnish National Board of Education is guiding this work and the changes will enter into force on 1 August 2026.

In 2024, Vantaa was recognized by UNICEF as a child friendly municipality, thanks to our work towards advancing child rights and the wellbeing of children and youth.





Well-being is promoted through cooperation

Well-being Promotion Specialist Suvi Korhonen, what does your job involve?



I am responsible for the municipality's statutory reporting and plan related to well-being. We report annually to the council on the well-being and health of municipal residents through a well-being review and once per council term through a comprehensive well-being report. A well-being plan is also prepared for each council term. In addition to these, I build cooperation with the well-being services county through various working groups and well-being and health promotion (HYTE) negotiations. I also handle a great deal of other duties, such as drafting a disability policy programme, strategic development of work to promote well-being and health, and the development of knowledge-based leadership.

What kind of collaboration do you engage in and with whom?

Well-being and health is carried out throughout all services in the municipality, meaning that the tasks take place at the city level. I collaborate with all city departments. I cooperate quite a lot with the well-being services county and also with the City of Kerava. The exceptionally small number of municipalities in our well-being services county enables personal contact. Other important

partners include other organisations working with the coordination of well-being and health promotion in Uusimaa and national networks. Organisations and the HUS are also part of my collaboration network. The cooperation with the various parties involves compiling well-being reports and plans, various working groups and sharing information.

What is challenging about your job?

As one of the most sizeable challenges, I see maintaining smooth services and service guidance for local residents since the well-being services county reform. Many residents do not know who provides the services – they just want the services to run smoothly. We continue to work closely with the well-being services county to ensure that no blind spots emerge. My work is challenged by the fact that, broadly speaking, all municipal work can be classified as work promoting well-being and health. This is both a positive thing and a challenge, because we need to find the most essential measures that will allow us to genuinely impact the well-being and health of the local residents.

What positive news have you heard recently regarding the well-being of the people of Vantaa?

I am very happy about the fact that Vantaa is investing in anti-bullying work through training and dialogue-related methods. The establishment of free lifestyle advice as a service is also positive thing and has yielded good results. Moreover, I am proud that we have our own cultural producer focused on cultural work for the elderly, who plans and implements events and activities for seniors. As a plain language activist, I am also delighted by the increased use of plain language in Vantaa's communications!





VANTAA IS SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

Cross-cutting
SDGs:

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	13 CLIMATE ACTION 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 		

VANTAA IS SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

The theme ‘Vantaa is socially sustainable’ focuses particularly on the aspects of regional segregation. This is an important strategic focus for Vantaa, and the city wants to address the development of segregation and its negative consequences as quickly as possible. The key implementation programme guiding the ‘Vantaa is socially sustainable’ theme is the Regional Programme of Positive Action (MEK), which has been implemented in the strategy period 2021–25. From the beginning of 2025, a new cross-administrative action programme for the prevention of segregation has been established in Vantaa, which will continue to develop broad cross-administrative cooperation around this challenging topic.

Inequality has been increasing in Vantaa since 2015. Recent crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, rising costs of living and the recession have particularly jeopardised the well-being of children, adolescents, young adults and families with children. Inequality has also continued to increase in 2022–2024.

Regional segregation has been strengthening in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area for several decades, but development in Vantaa has been relatively slow. In Vantaa, the city-level situation of segregation has not changed much in recent years, but disadvantages have increased significantly, especially in certain district. The differentiation between areas with blocks of flats and those with single-family homes has increased over the last two decades.

The current changes in the operating environment are increasing segregation and inequality. Important factors include, for example, the Finnish Government’s cuts to housing allowances and benefits and the abolition of the suburban programme. On the other hand, decisions to combat segregation are also possible at local

level and, through the planning of the Vantaa tram system and the improvement of station areas, for example, efforts are being made to steer development in a better direction.

The planning of new residential areas and the size of housing units affect where people move to and where they are able to live. As a result, regulating the size of housing units can influence the development of segregation, and changes have been made to related regulation in Vantaa. The relative share of studio flats has decreased, and the average size of flats has increased since 2021.

Curbing regional inequality in Vantaa

The ‘Vantaa is socially sustainable’ strategy theme is implemented through Vantaa’s Regional Programme of Positive Action, which includes a large number of measures and various projects. The programme has continued to build a new kind of collaborative culture that can solve systemic and complex challenges, such as segregation. One element of the operations has been the construction of a segregation network. Through the network, which is open to all,

Preventing segregation and improving the sense of safety and security of the inhabitants are important themes also in the coming years.

city employees interested in the topic of segregation have been able to collaborate across sector boundaries, share ideas and come up with new ideas. The segregation network has organised, among other things, strategy workshops for discussing the city’s next strategy period and necessary priorities together.

The key themes of the ‘Vantaa is socially sustainable’ strategy theme were knowledge-based leadership, a child-oriented investment strategy, well-being through education, employment and health, and thriving urban centres. Numerous measures were implemented under these themes, which you can read more about on the City of Vantaa website: [Regional Programme of Positive Action | Vantaa](#) [in Finnish].

A safety survey was used to assess perceived safety

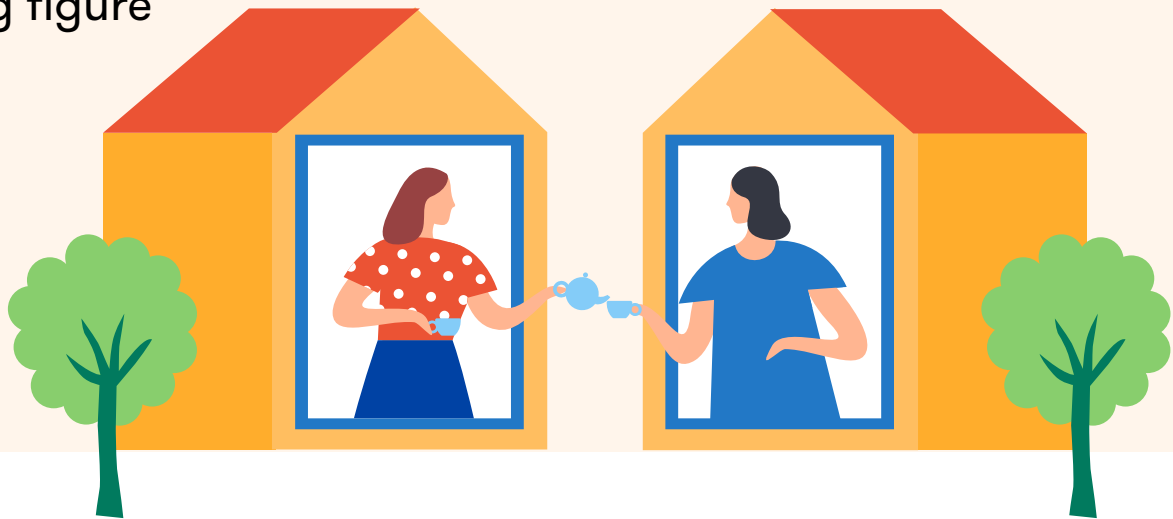
In October 2024, a safety survey was carried out in Vantaa, the aim of which was to determine local residents' perception of Vantaa's security and to map related threats. The survey was responded to by 1,683 Vantaa residents (63% women, 36% men, 1% other).

Sense of safety was examined at the level of each respondent's neighbourhood, residential area and the entire city. Proximity to familiar neighbours and local services creates a sense of safety, and people's own neighbourhood was perceived as significantly safer than their own residential area or the entire city. Twenty-one per cent of the respondents felt the entire city was safe or fairly safe, while 71 percent of respondents considered their own neighbourhood safe.

The biggest concerns among the respondents were related to juvenile crime, substance abuse, untidiness, the number of police on patrol and the social exclusion of people. Regional differences in the sense of safety were particularly evident. The Aviapolis and Hakunila major regions were considered the safest, while feelings of unsafety were more common in Kivistö and Myyrmäki. For example, in Kivistö, 40 per cent of the respondents said they had experienced verbal harassment in the past year, while in Aviapolis the corresponding figure was 15 per cent.

The fear of falling victim to crime has remained fairly constant: in 2021 it was 18 per cent and now it is 14 per cent. There were also differences between regions in the prevalence of being victimised by a crime and concerns about falling victim to a crime. Typical places perceived as dangerous are railway stations and their environments as well as the surroundings of shopping centres. Of those who responded to the survey, 54 per cent felt that the safety situation had changed over the past year. In terms of a reason for the change in the safety situation, respondents cited violence, which they saw as having increased and become more serious. Young people are increasingly becoming the perpetrators and victims of crime, and there is concern about young people joining gangs. Increased substance use was also reported to be causing problems. General unrest and increased malaise cause concern and erode the sense of safety.

The survey also enquired about ways to improve the sense of safety. Increasing the number of police patrols was considered by far the most essential action, and a visible police presence was seen as an important measure, especially in areas perceived as more unsafe. Increasing leisure activity opportunities for young people was also considered a significant means of improving safety and preventing disruptive behaviour. In addition, improving the residential environments and traffic safety, as well as measures related to substance abuse, were raised in the responses.



VAV Group offers affordable housing and curbs segregation

The primary purpose of VAV Group is to support the housing policy objectives of the City of Vantaa. VAV is a group wholly owned by the City of Vantaa that consists of the parent company VAV Yhtymä Oy and three subsidiaries: VAV Asunnot Oy, VAV Palvelukodit Oy and VAV Hoiva-asunnot Oy. VAV owns and manages rental homes and builds new housing to meet the growing needs of Vantaa residents. Approximately 19,000 Vantaa residents live in VAV homes. This means that nearly one in ten residents of Vantaa is a VAV tenant.

VAV Group has a special responsibility to provide affordable housing to low-income and middle-income people in Vantaa. In addition, VAV Group plays a crucial role in preventing homelessness in Vantaa. VAV also supports the implementation of the city's strategy to prevent the development of segregation. VAV curbs the development of segregation through, among other things, diverse distribution of housing, professional resident selection and the location of housing. VAV offers housing units of various sizes, including homes for families. The selection of residents takes into account each applicant's housing needs, income, the resident structure of the buildings and the social balance of the residential areas. Moreover, VAV provides support in the context of housing problems with the help of property managers and housing advisors.



VAV develops and maintains the existing property portfolio as well as sustainable and low-emission new construction. VAV also enables and encourages its stakeholders, such as its residents, to live more sustainably. VAV Group's business operations focus on climate-smart, sustainable and energy-efficient renovation activities, promoting positivity towards nature and building a responsibly operating service partner network. VAV aims to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Vantaa's measures to increase voter turnout

The voter turnout in Vantaa, especially in municipal and county elections, has long been worryingly low compared to other large cities. Regional differences in voting activity are also visible within the city. Ahead of the municipal and county elections of spring 2025, the city will continue to strive to increase voter turnout by making voting as easy as possible and reaching out to groups that have not been active voters through communication efforts.

The election bus is one of the most significant new measures and is being piloted for the first time. The accessible mobile library serves as a mobile polling station, travelling to 45 different locations in Vantaa. The bus will stop especially in areas in which voter turnout has traditionally been low. It will tour educational institutions and support the bolstering of democratic education. Reaching more remote areas is an important part of the election bus route to ensure that as many people as possible can vote easily.

An election fair will be held in February with the aim of providing information about decision-making, elections and democracy in an enjoyable and interactive way. The event will focus especially on silent groups, such as people from immigrant backgrounds and young people. The fair will offer city residents practical information on how they can influence decision-making by voting.

Vantaa provides information through various channels and in multiple languages. The city's website, communication materials and info displays provide clear information about the elections and voting. In addition, a broad marketing campaign 'Value your daily life – cast your vote!' will be conducted, which will appear in outdoor advertising, newspapers and social media. The social media campaign is particularly targeted at young voters. The campaign themes are related to everyday services, such as day care, recreational opportunities, safety and traffic.

The key election materials are available in Finnish, Swedish and English, and some of the content has also been translated into the five most prevalent languages: Russian, Estonian, Arabic, Albanian and Somali. Furthermore, election videos have been produced in several languages, featuring different people speaking about the importance of voting from their own perspectives. The videos aim to lower the threshold for participating in elections and strengthen the awareness of communities about the importance of voting.

In addition to activities during the election campaign, it is important to influence the voter turnout of local residents in the period between elections. Especially in the case of silent groups, efforts are being made to encourage resident involvement and influence by organising discussion events on themes important to residents, for example. The anniversary dialogues organised in 2024 are described in the previous chapter of this report.





Preventing segregation requires cooperation and long-term action

As a continuation of the previous Regional Programme of Positive Action, a new regional programme to prevent segregation has been established in Vantaa, and work on it has started in 2025.

Programme Director Hannu Rusama, why did you want to establish a new programme to prevent segregation?

The establishment of the programme was prompted by the observation that many serious social problems, such as juvenile crime and the challenges of NEETs (not in education, employment or training), are concentrated in certain residential areas. These same areas are also reflected by other indicators measuring segregation. This raised the question of whether the problems can be solved individually or whether a broader, more comprehensive approach is needed that supports the building of a sustainable and equal society.

What are the key elements of the action programme?

The programme is centred around four key elements: data, qualitative information and understanding, action and funding.

The city has roughly 100 segregation-related indicators and indices in use. To keep the work focused and clear, the data must be structured and prioritised. In particular, indicators related to safety, employment and the well-being of children and young people play an essential role. The purpose is to create data paths that can be used to understand what issues are being targeted for early preventive work and what kind of changes are being sought once problems have already arisen.

Data alone is not enough, it must be supplemented with qualitative information collected from city districts. This information can be obtained from both residents and employees in the area. Each district has its own unique characteristics that cannot be identified based on numerical data alone.

The measures consist of both existing and new means. Because resources are limited, the solution cannot always be to add new functions. It is more important to direct efforts correctly. Cooperation between different administrative branches and services also requires development, which may necessitate a regional management model.

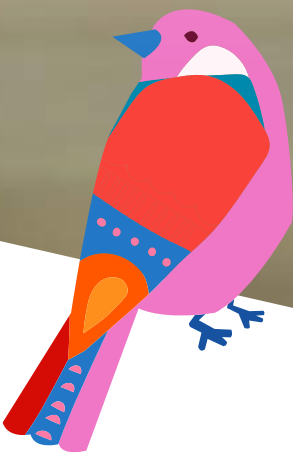
The city alone cannot shoulder all the costs related to preventing segregation. At times, it may also be easier to allocate funding to the work of organisations or other external parties rather than to increase the city's own measures. Therefore, cooperation with the various parties and funders is essential.

What challenges have been identified in the implementation of the programme?

The biggest challenge is the constant rush. Implementing major changes requires active cooperation between different actors but, in large organisations, coordinating schedules can be difficult. Time is also needed for joint thinking and ideation, the scheduling of which is sometimes quite challenging. Moreover, the problems related to segregation are extensive, which makes defining goals difficult.

What are the objectives of the action programme?

The programme has been designed for two years, but it is not realistic to solve deep-rooted social problems in such a short time. As such, the most important goal is to determine a direction that enables long-term success. The success of the programme requires a comprehensive approach in which prevention, timely measures and broad cooperation are combined into the form of long-term work towards reducing segregation.



VANTAA IS ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE



VANTAA IS ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE

Vantaa is engaged in persistent efforts to promote the city's ecological sustainability. In its strategy, the city has set a goal to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to ensure biodiversity in an increasingly dense city. Ecological sustainability and environmental responsibility in the city are pushed along by a resource wisdom roadmap, the goals of which are crystallised into measures via Ympäristövahti. The progress of measures and environmental work in the city is monitored in the annual Environmental Sustainability Report.

The resource wisdom roadmap evolves with the times, striving to respond to increasingly large and complex environmental challenges while ensuring that the city meets its national and international commitments. Vantaa has been classified as one of 119 cities among the world's leading climate cities. The list is maintained by the non-profit environmental organisation CDP.

You can learn more about Ympäristövahti and the Environmental Sustainability Report at [Climate action in Vantaa](#) | [Vantaa](#)

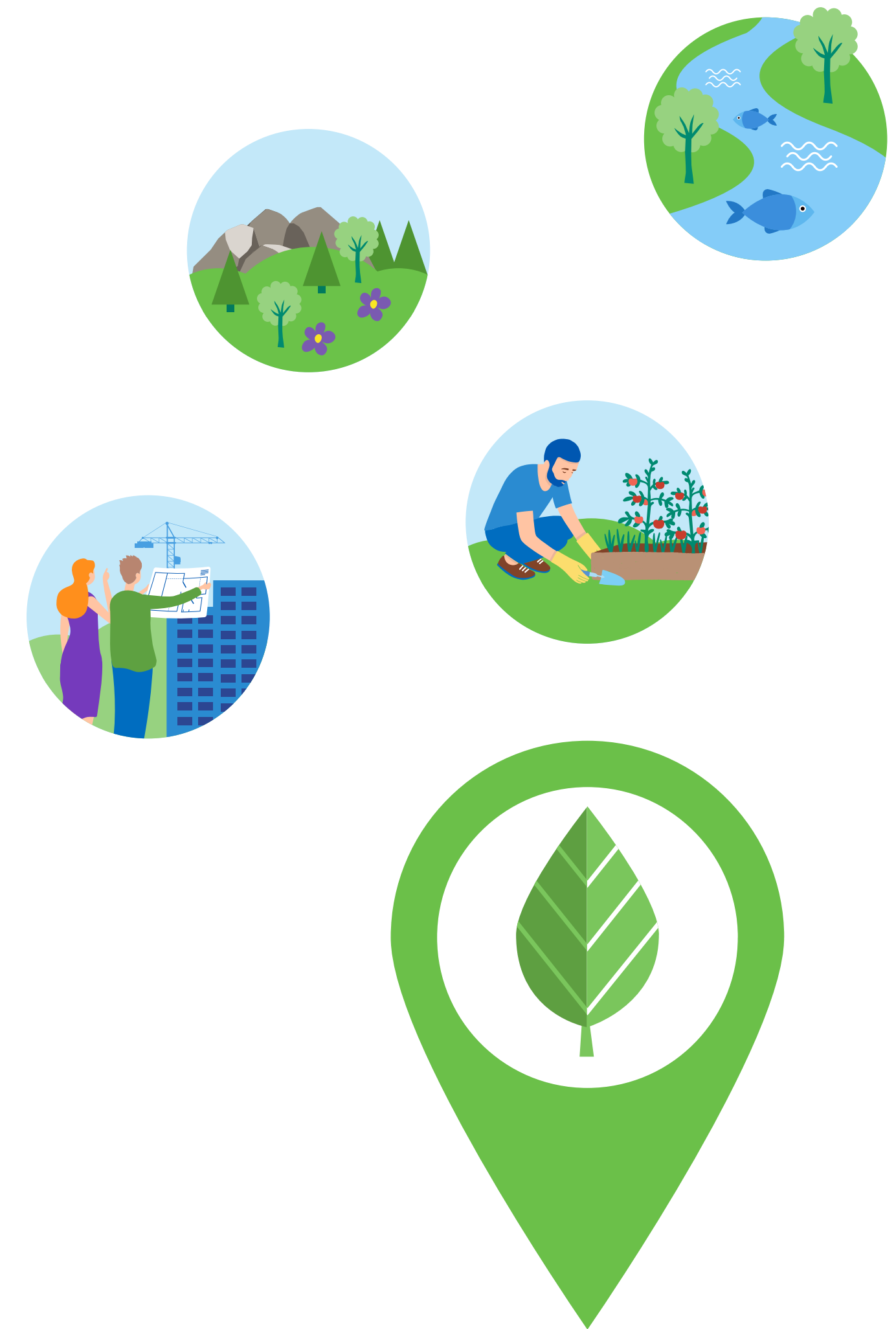
Environmental challenges are increasing

Climate change is progressing and the climate in the Nordic region has warmed significantly faster than the global average. Studies show that more extreme weather events are expected in Finland. In Southern Finland, summers are getting hotter and hot periods are getting longer. The impacts of climate change are diverse and extend across the globe. The change will cause adverse effects on ecosystems and economic sectors, in addition to health and well-being of humans. Buildings and other infrastructure will also be put to the test.

Adapting to the changing climate

Climate change adaptation refers to ways to prepare for and prevent the impacts of climate change and reduce the vulnerability of society and the environment to them. Adaptation planning begins with identifying climate risks and assessing vulnerabilities. A study of the current state of adaptation has been launched in Vantaa.

As a means of adaptation, Vantaa is increasingly adopting so-called nature-based solutions, such as more green areas, which can curb the heat island effect and promote rainwater absorption, for example. It is also necessary to construct flood barriers and enhance flood protection. Changing weather conditions, such as heavy rainfall, heat waves and drought, must be taken into account in the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure. Adaptation requires finding new solutions, which creates preconditions for developing new innovations.



The development of greenhouse gas emissions in Vantaa

It is Vantaa’s goal to become a carbon-neutral city by 2030. Vantaa’s regional greenhouse gas emissions have been decreasing since 2010. The exceptions are the years 2021 and 2022, during which emissions increased mainly due to district heating production.

The achievement of the carbon neutrality goal is monitored through HSY’s (Helsinki Region Environmental Services) calculation of greenhouse gas emissions, which is limited to emissions produced within the City of Vantaa and emissions from purchased

electricity and heat. In Vantaa, greenhouse gas emissions from consumption have also been calculated twice. This calculation includes all emissions caused by the consumption of municipal residents, regardless of where the consumed goods were produced. This is an important perspective, as it highlights the challenges of overconsumption in Finnish society and the global environmental impacts.

To monitor the City of Vantaa’s carbon neutrality target for 2030, Vantaa has an emissions budget in place. An emissions budget means setting a maximum permissible emissions for a certain period of time. An emissions budget is a way to ensure that the path

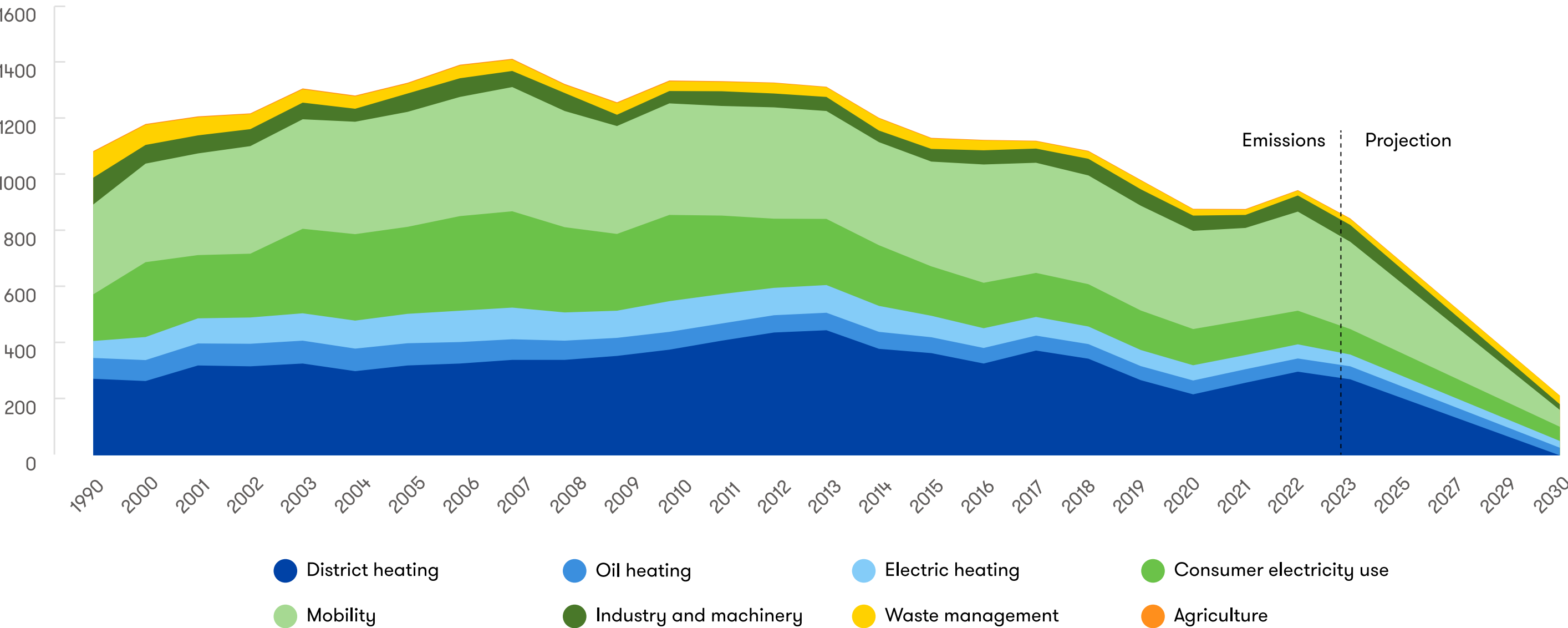
towards carbon neutrality is implemented as planned. A new scenario is currently being developed in Vantaa to assess greenhouse gas emissions for the future. In addition to the emissions budget, Vantaa is developing its environmental budgeting, which compiles the financial resources budgeted for climate and nature positivity measures and indicates their adequacy. The implementation of the pilot budget for 2024 will be presented in the Environmental Sustainability Report 2024–2025, which will be published soon.

The impacts of biodiversity loss are already evident in Vantaa

Climate change and biodiversity loss reinforce each other, and both are caused by human activity. Urbanisation in Vantaa imposes its own challenges on biodiversity. As the city develops, habitats become fragmented and ecological connections may deteriorate. The increased recreational use is depleting the local nature. The condition of traditional biotopes is deteriorating as a result of overgrowth. Changes in the city’s plant and animal species are already visible, and the depletion of nature is being exacerbated by the encroaching invasive species.

Unsustainable consumption weakens biodiversity not only in Vantaa, but also outside the city. Even though biodiversity loss on the other side of the world is not easily measurable, we must try to reduce it by leveraging available means. The city’s procurement efforts aim to take biodiversity into account by promoting a more sustainable food culture and circular economy, for example. The intention is to work with other cities to find solutions for reducing the environmental impacts of procurement.

Trajectory and projection of the greenhouse gas emissions of the city of Vantaa





Vantaa aims for positivity towards nature

Vantaa wants to be a nature-positive city by the end of 2030. The goal is not only to stop nature loss, but also to improve the state of nature from what it currently is.

Environmental Planner Annina Vuorsalo, what does nature positivity mean in Vantaa?

Nature positivity means that the city's activities produce more benefits than harm to nature. The goal covers the operations of the entire city organisation. In Vantaa, nature positivity is made up of three key components: no net loss in land use, nature-related actions that increase diversity and the "nature heart print" i.e. the stronger role of nature in society and in people's ways of thinking.

No net loss in land use means that the primary aim is to avoid and minimise harm to nature. If natural values are lost, they will be fully compensated by restoring similar areas elsewhere, for example.

Measures that improve natural biodiversity include concrete actions to improve the state of nature and adding nature to locations where there is little or no nature. In Vantaa, special emphasis is placed on the functionality of ecological networks, as they form the framework for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity.

Nature positivity is not only an ecological but also a social goal. As an example, increasing the nature heart print means

strengthening communication, taking nature into account better in decision-making and developing new collaboration models with experts, companies, and residents.

How is nature positivity manifested in practice?

A new operating model for ensuring no net loss in land use was introduced in Vantaa, and the city is the first in Finland to implement ecological compensation for environmental harm caused by construction.

Vantaa has committed to increasing the area of nature reserves from 6.7 per cent to 10 per cent by 2030. In 2024, a decision was made to protect a total of 50 hectares of new nature reserve area by the City Council's anniversary decision. In the future, the goal is to designate five new nature reserves a year. Restoration efforts have also been carried out and are planned in various parts of the city.

Every year, Vantaa's stream caretakers take care of streams and the spawning grounds of migratory fish, and local nature guides and the Vantaa Nature School enrich education by taking groups into local nature. In addition to this, local nature is systematically used as a learning environment for day care centres and schools. Participatory methods are used to combat invasive species, and the municipality's knowledge of nature is increased through various activities.

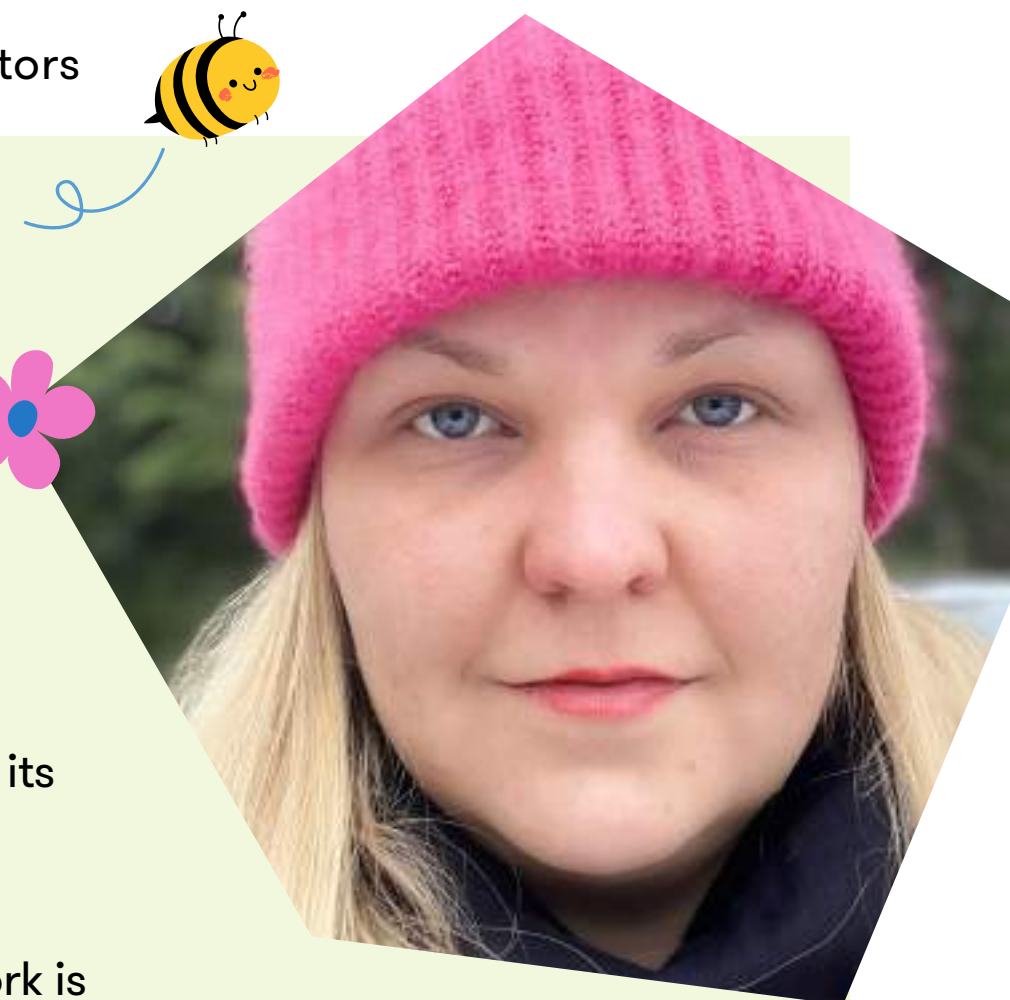
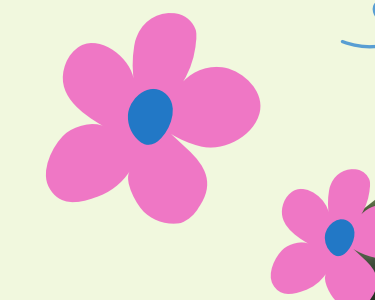
As the first city to make a Baltic Sea commitment, Vantaa has committed to promoting renewable farming and its multiple benefits on its owned and leased fields.

As such, plenty of environmental work is under way, and new measures and solutions are constantly being planned!

What are the biggest challenges in nature positivity work?

The goal of nature positivity is ambitious and requires significant resources. Even though the resources for nature work have already been increased, additional efforts are still needed. This can be partially addressed through project funding, but it is also important to secure the city's own resources.

One of the major challenges is reconciling land use and natural values. Vantaa is growing rapidly, which creates pressure on the development of nature and green areas. The recently introduced no net loss model takes into account new plans and areas under construction, but efforts should still be directed towards the nature debt formed by previous, already built-up areas and repaying this debt.



Measuring nature positivity is also a significant challenge. Biodiversity is a broad concept that includes, among other things, the abundance of species, the state of ecosystems and the connectivity of natural areas. As of yet, there are no clear and established metrics, but a great deal of development work is under way. It should be possible to better monitor the state of ecological networks, and it is also important to find ways to measure changes in people and society.

Collaboration with other cities is key, as many other cities are considering the same questions. Together, we can develop better solutions.



Vantaa is being built sustainably

A sustainable community structure ensures functional day-to-day life with as few harmful environmental impacts as possible. The development of Vantaa’s urban structure is steered by **Master Plan 2020**, which entered into force on 11 January 2023. The starting point for the master plan is the city’s sustainable growth. The master plan fits together the city’s growth opportunities with the preservation of nature, the cultural environment and recreational areas on a city-wide scale. Construction opportunities lay the foundation for economic and social sustainability.

The cornerstone of sustainability is ecological sustainability, which is achieved by a strengthened ecological network and a denser community structure accessible by rail transport. In 2024, a planning-related economic study of the master plan was completed, which also included a carbon footprint calculation for selected new and changing areas. Based on the study, it was determined which of the construction areas enabled by the master plan could be put into use first.

Vantaa is focusing construction particularly in the sustainable growth zone, i.e. the station areas and the area affected by the upcoming Vantaa tram. Land use solutions can significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by influencing the energy consumption of buildings, the use of renewable energy and transport solutions, for example.

A carbon neutrality process has been developed to support station planning. It helps to outline the measures to support carbon neutrality at different stages of the process. Climate impacts are assessed in every new local detailed plan. A dense community

structure in the vicinity of good public transport services reduces the need to travel and makes everyday life easier, even when services are located nearby.

The master plan protects large areas and significant connections in the city’s green space network. These areas are not only important for the preservation of biodiversity, but they also support the health and well-being of residents as recreational areas. At the same time, they contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

As the city grows, it will still be necessary to build in areas with vegetation. In connection with the station planning, the value of different areas will be assessed in more detail than in the master plan, and solutions that are good for both the urban structure and nature will be sought.



Sustainable urban structure supports sustainable mobility

Along with emissions caused by district heating, traffic emissions are the most significant in Vantaa. A sustainable city requires developing public transport, improving conditions for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and developing energy-efficient and low-emission mobility. In addition to ecological considerations, effective traffic planning creates well-being in a growing city. The transport system has a significant impact on both an individual's freedom of mobility and the quality and safety of the living environment.

The City of Vantaa strives to ensure that traffic in the city is smooth for everyone. Vantaa is constantly developing the city's traffic conditions – safer pedestrian and bicycle paths, in particular. Public transport is being developed in cooperation with Helsinki Region Transport (HSL).

The most significant investment in terms of developing public transport in the coming years will be the construction of the Vantaa tram, which will begin in 2025. Sustainable mobility is also promoted by the fact that more and more of vehicles used by the city organisation are fully electric and charging points have been systematically built at numerous facilities. To increase cycling to work, a plan has been drawn up to promote cycling at the offices of the Urban Environment Department. Cycling education and opportunities for walking and cycling are also promoted in daycare centres and schools, and parents are encouraged to give their children the opportunity to walk or cycle on their daily routes. In 2024, Vantaa celebrated its 50th anniversary as a city. To celebrate the occasion, residents and visitors of Vantaa were offered the 2024 city bike season free of charge.

The determined efforts have also borne fruit. According to **Vantaa's traffic barometer** (in Finnish) for 2024, local residents are satisfied with the functionality of the transport systems of their home town. Satisfaction with the smoothness of movement increased for all forms of transport. Satisfaction with public transport increased the most, up to 10 percentage points compared to the 2020 survey. There is also strong support from residents for the traffic planning goals. Improving cycling conditions was supported by 85 per cent of survey respondents support, and promoting public transport was supported by 90 per cent of the respondents.

Residents of Vantaa are increasingly satisfied with public transport and the smoothness of mobility. The construction of the tram line will begin in 2025 – with this investment, our public transport will function even better than before.



Vantaan Energia makes innovative investments towards carbon neutrality

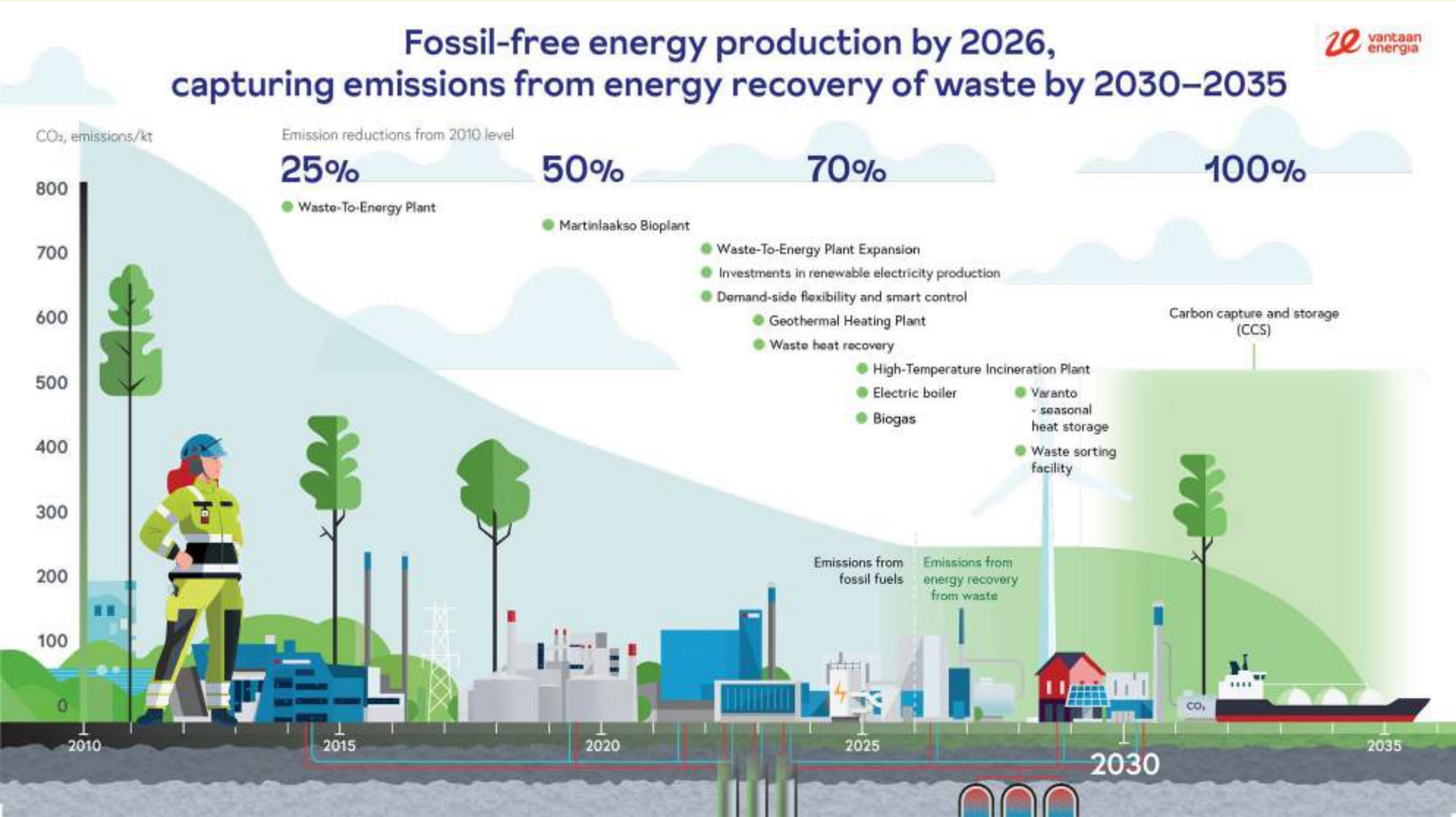
Vantaan Energia Oy is a subsidiary partly owned by the City of Vantaa. The company’s new vision is to be the leading recycled energy company in the Nordic countries by 2035.



**SVP of Communications and Public Affairs
Juha Luomala, how is sustainability work visible at Vantaan Energia?**

Responsibility is an essential part of everything we do. Our strategy is based on gradually moving to completely emission-free energy production. We will move away from fossil fuels as early as next year, and after that, emissions from thermal waste treatment will still need to be addressed. The main driver of our strategy is emission reductions, and we plan and make large and innovative investments to achieve our goals. While the energy transition is under way, it is important to ensure that the price of energy remains affordable and that security of supply is maintained.

Our responsibility policy is updated annually, and we monitor the implementation of our responsibility goals. Essential identified areas of responsibility include work against climate change, promoting the circular economy, and environmental and nature impacts. In terms of social responsibility, we pay attention to both the well-being of our own personnel and the rights of employees related to value chains. We want to be a responsible partner to our customers and other stakeholders.



What plans do you have to reach carbon neutrality goals?

A major leap has already been made in the green transition of energy production over the past ten years. We will reach a major milestone in 2026 when we are able to completely transition away from fossil fuels. As recently as 2014, district heating in Vantaa was produced solely with fossil fuels, so a great deal has already happened in a short time. Yet, there is still much to be done, and we are striving for new and innovative breakthroughs to achieve carbon neutrality

goals. The most significant of these are the recovery of carbon dioxide generated from the thermal treatment of waste and the seasonal thermal energy storage facility “Varanto”.

A key element of heat production in Vantaa is the thermal treatment of waste, i.e. burning to produce energy. Waste must be processed in any case, and heat can be produced in a resource-efficient manner simultaneously. However, this also results in carbon dioxide emissions, and waste processing cannot be stopped.

The only option to reduce emissions from waste incineration is to recover the carbon dioxide. This is what we are developing now and, if everything goes according to plan and we receive sufficient support for the project, the recovery arrangement could be operational by 2035, at the latest. This is our most significant goal in terms of emission reductions, because when carbon dioxide emissions are captured, the result is almost carbon-neutral district heat production. At the same time, we are creating a carbon-neutral chain for waste treatment in Southern Finland. In this regard, we are also developing ways to increase the recycling rate and planning a new sorting centre.

Another major project that is about to be started is the seasonal thermal energy storage facility “Varanto”. The challenge of district heat production is that heat is needed many times more in winter than in summer. In winter, backup plants based on fossil fuels must normally be used to meet needs even at extremely cold temperatures. We are building the world’s largest remote thermal energy storage facility in Vantaa, which will allow us to store heat in a sensible and affordable way and use it from the storage facility in winter. This innovative project is unique in its scale in the entire world.

Sustainable energy production and consumption

The City of Vantaa strives for low emissions and energy efficiency in its own operations. Renewable energy production has been increased in almost all of the city’s new and renovated properties. In addition to this, all of the city’s most significant properties have abandoned oil heating. The city also aims to find solutions to accelerate the energy transition in cities through project development work. The five-year Neutralpath project develops climate-positive areas. The three-year Energy Service Model for Neighbourhoods (ENPA) project develops regional energy service models.

The Housing Company Club (Taloyhtiöklubi) model operating in Vantaa brings together the boards of housing companies in the neighbourhood, establishes a cooperation forum and initiates guided, goal-oriented and active cooperation to develop properties and the area. The focus of the activities has been on improving energy efficiency and promoting energy-related renovations. The Housing Company Club activities were also selected for the city’s Regional Programme of Positive Action (MEK) due to the community development (see the chapter Socially Sustainable Vantaa in this report), and the club neighbourhoods are from areas of positive action. Other themes used to develop areas include the promotion of additional and infill construction, joint procurement and the circular economy, for example. The key idea is the power of collaboration and the benefits it can bring.

Developing the circular economy saves natural resources and increases wellbeing

Vantaa wants to promote the circular economy in all its operations. Vantaa is a growing city in which plenty of buildings are being built and torn down. The built environment plays a crucial role in climate change mitigation, since buildings cause a third of Finland’s climate emissions. Vantaa strives to develop construction processes so that materials and value remain within the framework of the economy for as long as possible and are utilised efficiently. Attention is also paid to the spatial efficiency, flexibility of conversion and multipurpose nature of buildings. This will help mitigate climate change, conserve natural resources and promote the preservation of biodiversity.

Developing a circular economy can also influence people’s preconditions for living a good life as well as their lifestyles. Vantaa aims to develop the possibilities of the sharing economy, in which lending and sharing increase the efficiency of using products and services.



Kiila circular economy area

The City of Vantaa is developing the Kiila circular economy area in the Tuusula and Vantaa areas as a joint project. The aim is for the area to become a regionally significant, modern and innovative circular economy hub that creates new kind of green transition business in the Helsinki region and helps meet the region’s carbon neutrality goals, promote work aimed at slowing down nature loss and reduce the consumption of natural resources. By finding carbon-neutral solutions for circular economy operations, it is possible to develop the business operations of companies and create sustainable growth.

The area’s potential as a circular economy area is particularly notable, as its location is logistically excellent and the area is large. The area is located near main roads north of Helsinki-Vantaa Airport. The site is unique in Finland in terms of its location and size, and Uusimaa has a significant shortage of workplace plots that would enable the circular economy.

So far, the area has not been planned systematically. Instead, it has developed organically on the border of two municipalities. The planning area is largely an existing built-up industrial environment. The current transport network in the planning area is inadequate and hinders the faster development of the area.

The immediate surroundings of the Kiila circular economy area are relatively sparsely populated by the standards of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, but the operations still impact the residents. For example, noise, dust and vibration are negative impacts that should be considered. As such, the needs of housing and business operators conflict in some places. In 2025, a study will be prepared for the area, developing a comprehensive assessment of the combined impacts. The project will develop a model for the continuous updating of the assessment of joint impacts and pilot a common information sharing and interaction platform for stakeholders in the area.



Building a sustainable city and tackling environmental challenges requires new forms of cooperation between the city, its residents, companies, and communities.



Sustainable Vantaa

Developing a sustainable city and responding to environmental challenges requires, alongside the city organisation, concerted effort from everyone, including residents, businesses and communities. The city organisation can serve as an example, enabler and messenger, and it can highlight new ways of operating. The city must find ways to utilise the knowledge and expertise of individuals and communities, enable voluntary action and create equal opportunities for participation. The themes can include mobility, waste, energy consumption, and food and other consumption choices, for example.

In Vantaa, residents are educated and supported towards a sustainable lifestyle and environmental responsibility. In 2022–2024, the Education and Learning sector created a model for sustainable future competence from early childhood education to secondary education. The environmental education work cards used in early childhood education create the foundation for the environmental knowledge of Vantaa residents. The themes of the cards were compiled from the resource wisdom roadmap and the basics of the early childhood education plan. Competence goals for a sustainable future were developed for basic education in the Vilke project funded by the Finnish National Board of Education. The learning outcomes are based on the curriculum, Vantaa's environmental work and the European Commission's Greencomp framework.

At Vantaa Vocational College Varia, environmental responsibility was systematically introduced into the teaching of vocational upper secondary qualifications by adding an environmental

responsibility section to the implementation plans. The section examines environmental responsibility from the perspective of each professional field. Upper secondary schools focused on developing courses that increase environmental competence.

The day care and school meals offered by Vantaa have direct environmental impacts, but they also have indirect impacts as a driver of meal habits that are sustainable and promote well-being. Work has been under way in Vantaa for years to ensure the sustainability of meals. On Influential Day 2019, children and young people demanded more information about food as well as tastier and more sustainable school meals. Since then, the city has been developing meal arrangements more systematically and based on collaboration between various actors. **The Knowhow and involvement – children and the young to participate in making more sustainable food culture** project (2022–2023) deepened this work and produced climate-themed food education materials from early childhood education to secondary education, in addition to developing climate-friendly recipes together with children, young people and catering service providers.

The development of school meals in Vantaa will continue in 2024–2025 with the MUMS project, the main goal of which is to increase the participation of children and young people in school meal arrangements. The goal is being promoted by focusing on the taste of food, involving children and young people (food groups, school food influencers, recipe workshops), and influencing attitudes with students, staff, and guardians. The goal is also promoted by a more frequent rotation of popular vegetarian dishes on the menu and the product development of hybrid recipes.

The City of Vantaa is implementing eco-support activities, and eco-support personnel are appointed and trained in work communities to promote environmentally sustainable practices. Eco-support activities are everyday environmental work that helps increase environmental awareness and implement the organisation's strategies and environmental policies into grass roots actions and practices.





VANTAA IS VITAL AND BRIMMING WITH EXPERTISE

Cross-cutting
SDGs:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	13 CLIMATE ACTION 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	

VANTAA IS VITAL AND BRIMMING WITH EXPERTISE

Vantaa is a rapidly growing city with approximately 250,000 residents and more than 120,000 jobs. The focus of the ‘Vantaa is vital and brimming with expertise’ strategic theme is to increase the vitality of Vantaa from the perspective of both residents and businesses. The implementation of the strategic theme is guided by Vantaa’s Growth and Viability Programme. Work for vitality creates attraction and retention factors for both residents and businesses.

Under the theme of ‘Vantaa is vital and brimming with expertise,’ Vantaa promotes both business cooperation and employment as well as the themes of continuous learning. These are significant issues for Vantaa, because the education level of the Vantaa population is lower than other large cities in Finland. The level of competence and employment are linked.

In 2025, responsibility for organising employment services has been transferred entirely from the state to municipalities, which has brought major changes to Vantaa’s employment services. The reform further emphasises the role of the municipality as a promoter of employment and vitality. It offers positive opportunities when employment services can be linked to other services provided by the municipality, such as business and education services.

The economic situation in Finland is currently weak, which is also reflected in the high unemployment level. The number of available jobs has decreased sharply. At the same time, there is a shortage of skilled labour, and this mismatch is a long-term challenge. Therefore, raising the level of competence, promoting the employment of immigrants and anticipating competence needs are important development targets in Vantaa for which various solutions have been sought.

Active business cooperation is carried out in Vantaa, and efforts are being made to both support the growth of companies operating in the area and attract new investments to Vantaa. Vitality work shows that keeping the economic structure diverse will also strengthen Vantaa’s vitality in the long term. As a result, many factors influence companies in terms of where to establish themselves, such as the availability of land, the overall quality of the urban environment and the associated images, educational opportunities and modes of mobility. Therefore, vitality work requires cross-administrative development efforts.

In recent years, Vantaa has sought to strengthen innovation activities through a testbed trial platform, which was launched at the beginning of 2024. The testbed model allows companies to try out new innovations in an urban environment. The operation has started well and is being continuously developed.

Vantaa has invested in supporting startup activities and attracting startup companies. A new Vantaa startup runway has been opened in the Aviapolis area, offering shared workspaces right next to the airport.





The cluster activities aim to promote the sharing of information and ideas as well as cooperation between companies in a specific sector, thereby contributing to the growth and reinvention of companies. Vantaa will focus on developing the activities of three top clusters in sectors that are important to the city's economic structure: food, logistics and hi-tech. The activities of each cluster are coordinated in vitality services, and extensive project-related and other cooperation is carried out around these themes with various actors and stakeholders.

From the perspective of comprehensive sustainable development, Vantaa's vitality work emphasises Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9, which are related to employment and economic growth. Employment and support for business activities indirectly affect many other dimensions of sustainable development, such as poverty reduction and well-being. On the other hand, the diverse connections between working life and well-being have not been visibly or comprehensively taken into account in Vantaa's vitality efforts. Taking well-being into account in business operations would increase the appeal of companies as employers and support innovation activities. There is reason to consider even more broadly how the city can, through its own actions, promote a working and business life that places people's well-being at the centre.

Themes related to equality in working life, such as gender segregation in work environments, which is particularly strong in Finland, continue to receive little attention in the City of Vantaa.

The perspectives of ecological sustainability and increasing vitality do not need to be seen as opposing each other. Instead, they can reinforce each other. Vantaa's vitality work supports, among other things, the emergence of circular economy businesses and, in the future, a business ecosystem related to the promotion of biodiversity will also be developed. This can create new business and jobs while also increasing positive impacts on environmental sustainability in Vantaa and beyond. Through collaboration, innovations arising from business operations can be harnessed to promote sustainable development and solve significant and global challenges for Vantaa, which is why even more investments in these efforts should be made.

On the other hand, little attention is paid to supporting companies' own responsibility work and critical discussion about types of business we want in Vantaa. The growth of business activity affects the city's own environmental goals and, more broadly, environmental sustainability. If these links are neglected, the different strategic priorities may conflict with each other. Project activities have sought to support, for example, the green transition of companies, but this will remain small in scale and unsystematic if environmental aspects are not included in all vitality work more extensively. This would require a critical examination of the work's objectives from a broader and more comprehensive perspective of sustainable development.

The innovation network supports development through projects

The City of Vantaa's Innovation Network was launched in the autumn of 2024. The aim of the network, which is coordinated by the city's project office, is to increase the quantity and quality of innovative urban development carried out with external project funding in the City of Vantaa, and to intensify cooperation between sectors in relation to development through projects. Vantaa has solid experience in development work carried out with external project funding, and projects have always played an important role in developing city services and seeking new solutions, for example.

The nature of the challenges is often such that solving them requires cooperation between different city units and sectors. Development projects offer an excellent opportunity for this. One of the purposes of the innovation network is to strengthen internal city cooperation related to development through projects and to bring to Vantaa broader development projects that cross sectoral boundaries. With externally funded projects, we can contribute to achieving the city's strategic goals. For example, Vantaa still has a lot of untapped potential in utilising international project funding!

There is a clear need for a city-level network as development through projects has so far been more targeted and focused on certain units. The goal is to move development through projects towards more impactful projects, resulting in more joint development projects across sectors and increased cooperation.

The Innovation Network is an internal city network that welcomes all employees of the City of Vantaa who are interested in or working on innovative urban development. Membership in the network does not oblige members to get involved in anything. Network members can join the Innovation Network's Teams group, which serves as an easily accessible forum and information sharing platform. The group shares information about open funding applications, project preparations and current issues related to project development. In addition to this, thematic networking events and project ideation workshops will be organised, listening to needs emerging from the network.

The innovation network started in 2024, with the goal of increasing city development through projects with external funding.



The upcoming competence campus will combine continuous learning and business services

A competence campus will be built in Jokiniemi, Tikkurila, in the coming years to meet the challenges of the labour shortage and the needs of the changing working life. The project aims to create a diverse ecosystem that connects educational institutions, businesses, city services and residents. The project has three overarching themes: inclusion, cooperation and sustainable development, which are reflected both in the planning of the built environment and the development of operating models.

The project was born from the need to solve problems related to mismatches. Many companies in Vantaa have difficulty finding skilled workers due to the strong growth of the foreign-speaking population, the low level of education and the increase in unemployment, for example. The City of Vantaa, together with its network of educational institutions, has developed a new type of operating model for continuous learning, the “education operator” through which educational modules shorter than a degree programme are offered to meet the needs of individuals and companies. This addresses the challenge of companies finding it difficult to recruit competent personnel who will meet their needs now and in the future.

The campus aims to improve the competence level of Vantaa residents, attract companies and investments, and increase the vitality of the city. The campus will combine physical, digital and networked operating methods to create new types of service models and educational solutions.

The key goals are the following:

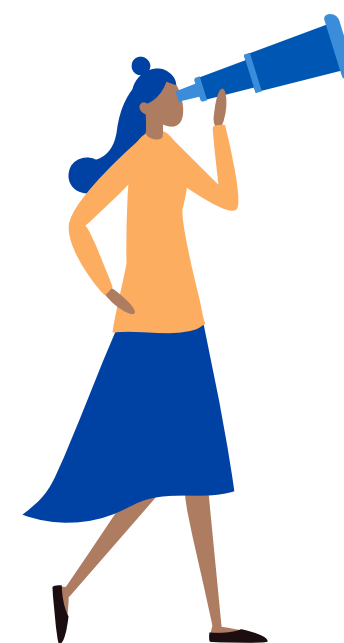
1. Continuing learning services: The campus will enable a diverse, needs-based and flexible educational offering that meets the rapidly changing needs of working life.
2. Reducing the labour mismatch: Business Vantaa Hub will bring together employment, integration and learning services. This will promote the meeting of job seekers and employers, especially to support the employment of foreign-language speakers and young people.
3. Supporting the establishment of companies in the area:
The campus’s flexible and shared spatial solutions and its central location make it attractive to companies and support the creation of innovations.

The campus will serve as a hub for developing Vantaa’s competence and vitality, combining the resources of the city, educational institutions, companies and other actors. This cooperation model will create the foundation for a dynamic ecosystem that supports both the local economy and the well-being of individuals. The project will emphasise sustainable development and resource wisdom, and its construction projects will focus on minimising the carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency. Flexible and shared spaces will ensure the campus’s efficient and diverse operations.

The Tikkurila Competence Campus will increase the region’s educational services to a new level by providing facilities and starting places for Vantaa Vocational College Varia and Tikkurila

Upper Secondary School, for example. The campus will also serve as a platform for innovation environments, such as RDI (research, development and innovation) activities. In addition, digital solutions and artificial intelligence will enable more personalised training paths and smoother service processes. The campus as a whole will combine education, housing, services and leisure activities into a seamless part of the urban structure.





Urban Foresight in Vantaa

The City of Vantaa and the universities of applied sciences Laurea and Metropolia are jointly implementing the VALUE – Urban Foresight in Vantaa project. The project is developing a regional foresight model for Vantaa to meet future needs. The goal of foresight is to strengthen regional vitality in the long term and create a clear city-level strategy for vitality management. The aim of the operating model is to promote cooperation and inclusion, and to strengthen collaboration between the city, business and higher education, as well as connections to national and international networks.

Foresight benefits companies by creating future preparedness and competence through responding to competence needs and providing opportunities for networking and collaboration. For companies, a regional forecasting model provides a competitive advantage when future information is better applied in business development and decision-making.

In the VALUE project, Metropolia is developing a “Meadow Model” for ecosystem thinking to visualise the foresight ecosystem and serve as a guideline for creating foresight information. The Meadow Model is supplemented by an annual calendar and compass relating to foresight. The annual calendar commits ecosystem stakeholders and guides operations, while the compass guides the utilisation of predictive data. The goal of these tools is to create a comprehensive model for foresight work, taking into account different perspectives and needs.

As part of the VALUE project, the City of Vantaa implemented a forecasting platform pilot for the logistics sector in the autumn of 2024. The aim of the pilot is to test the digital platform as a tool for collecting and sharing forecasting information. The current situation and future needs of the logistics industry were explored using an online brainstorming survey. The collected information will be discussed in a workshop in spring 2025, which will be attended by companies, educational institutions and other stakeholders. Forecasting information is also collected on the ‘Vantaa anticipates’ website: [Vantaa anticipates | Business Vantaa](#) [in Finnish].

In the VALUE project, Laurea University of Applied Sciences has strengthened foresight expertise by creating materials for companies, an MOOC course and workshops that support business development. The aim of the workshops is to increase knowledge and promote networking. The MOOC course introduced forecasting methods that support organisational operations and strategic decision-making.

In spring 2025, the Vantaa Future Forum event will be organised, with the aim of developing an annual forum for discussing foresight and future work in Vantaa. Efforts to spark interest in foresight have been made both in companies and within the city. However, more foresight knowledge, related skills and mobilisation are needed to make foresight work effective at the city level. The mobilisation efforts continue, and Tikkurila’s Competence Campus plays an important role in this regard. The competence campus coordinates the development and confirmation of competence and serves as a link between companies and educational institutions.



The TE reform brings challenges and opportunities

With the TE reform that came into effect at the beginning of 2025, the responsibility for employment services has been transferred entirely from the state to the municipalities. The reform is very significant from the perspective of the city organisation and will require a great deal of internal development work.

Pekka Tauriainen, Principal of Vantaa Vocational College Varia, how is the TE reform evident in your work?

Vocational education and training in Vantaa have been strongly involved in the preparation of the TE reform, as skills, education and employment are strongly linked to each other. In this context, Vantaa has a unique opportunity to develop new operating models in cooperation between employment services and vocational training to support employment and competence development. We are in a rare position in that Vantaa organises TE services independently and, in addition, vocational training has been integrated into the city organisation.

In cooperation with employment services, we have built an operating model in which employment service clients are guided directly to vocational training and through it to working life. Vantaa Vocational College Varia has a strong connection to working life, and we actively collaborate with companies. Harnessing all of this cooperation to ensure that unemployed people in Vantaa can gain the skills needed in the labour market and find employment as quickly as possible will benefit all parties. This is an opportunity for us to develop new types of collaboration between sectors to solve complex employment challenges.

What does the new operating model aim to influence?

We strive to meet the challenges of the labour mismatch by building even closer connections to working life. Among our employment services clientele, the low average level of education among the unemployed and the high proportion of foreign-language speakers have risen to the fore. In addition, youth unemployment and the number of NEETs have increased worryingly in Vantaa. As such, we must invest in competence development as part of supporting employment.

Our goal is to build, test and launch an operating model that identifies the target group's existing competence and ensure sufficient Finnish-language proficiency and professional competence so that employment rates are improved significantly. Our ambitious goal is for 85 per cent of those who become unemployed to find employment within 100 days. This can be achieved through close cooperation between vitality services, employment services and vocational training.

Through joint anticipatory activities with educational institutions and employers, we can ensure that education focuses on degrees or parts thereof that are likely to lead to employment.





VANTAA IS INTERNATIONAL

Cross-cutting
SDGs:

 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>



Vantaa is international

Vantaa is the most international city in Finland, and roughly one in every four residents speak a language other than Finnish, Swedish or Sámi as their first language. The ‘Vantaa is international’ strategy theme focuses largely on this multiculturalism work and promoting integration by many different means. On the other hand, internationality in Vantaa also means that the city is being developed as an international and innovative airport city. The aim is to attract more international companies and investments to the city, and international cooperation is actively pursued through various networks.

International cooperation is carried out in Vantaa throughout the organisation in a variety of networks and through project collaboration. Vantaa has drawn up guidelines for international operations between 2025 and 2026. According to the guidelines, Vantaa’s international activities must be strategic, goal-oriented, coordinated, cross-organisational, in line with the values of the City of Vantaa and ethically sustainable.

Integrating Cities Charter launched by Eurocities, which examines integration from four different perspectives: the city as an employer and promoter of employment, the city as a provider of services, the city as a purchaser of goods and services, and the city as a promoter of inclusion. The programme has compiled numerous different measures and objectives under these themes. Through this international connection, Vantaa is involved in monitoring the progress of integration at the European level.

Multiculturalism and integration

Integration and multiculturalism are significant and important themes for Vantaa, and a great deal of development work is being carried out around them. In Vantaa, multiculturalism is seen as an asset and integration as a two-way process, in which attention is also paid to the receptivity of society.

In 2023, a new integration programme for the 2023–2026 period was approved. The programme is built on the framework of the

Vantaa’s strengths in promoting integration include efficient basic services, multilingual instructors in schools and needs-based resourcing. The city actively collaborates with stakeholders such as organisations, and various recreational opportunities and libraries offer many ways to participate and meet other people.

The city has invested in plain-language communication and increased plain-language information provision. Since 2023, plain language is one of the city’s official communication languages, along with Finnish, Swedish and English.

The city offers its personnel plain-language courses, which have been popular. In collaboration with Vantaan Sanomat, the City of Vantaa publishes the Selkovantaalainen local newspaper, which is Finland's first plain-language local newspaper. The city website has separate plain-language pages that provide information about the city's services, direct people to other services and publish news stories from Selkovantaalainen.

Successful integration requires continuous work, as new residents are constantly moving to Vantaa and most of the city's growth is made up of immigrants who speak foreign languages. That is why the importance of early-stage services is emphasised in development work. With the new Integration Act, overall responsibility for organising integration services has been transferred to municipalities, which increases the need to develop a functional and clear set of initial services. There are many services, but the overall picture has been fragmented, and services are produced by a diverse group of actors. Network cooperation will be intensified so that services operate in a customer-oriented and efficient manner.

During 2024, preparations were made for the new Integration Act by developing an integration programme that offers customers a range of services that promote integration. The goal for 2025 is to create a city-level coordination model for integration services, which will facilitate understanding of the system and the development of the service offering.

Key challenges in Vantaa include the social exclusion of young people and its prevention, providing sufficient and diverse Finnish language instruction to people in different life situations, the relatively low employment rate of foreign-language speakers,

and the low availability of affordable rental housing. These are broad challenges that connect to many other themes in this report, such as the prevention of segregation prevention, well-being work and vitality work. As such, the integration programmes objectives and measures emphasise broad cross-administrative cooperation.

Vantaa is the most international city of Finland; we are especially proud of our work towards immigrant integration. It builds among other things on functioning basic services and multilingual counselors in schools.



Involving parents in school and working life

The ‘Involving parents in school and working life’ project by the Vantaa Employment and Integration Services is aimed at parents who have immigrated to the country. It is part of the City of Vantaa’s Regional Programme of Positive Action 2023–2025. The activities have been carried out in cooperation with basic education and early childhood education. In the model, parents participate in guided group activities led by an S2 coach four days a week for four hours, and they can also take part with young children. The activities are organised in Finnish and last for a school year, during which participants get to know the region, its services and society. The aim is to help participants find a path to further studies or working life. During the spring term, parents have the opportunity to get acquainted with working life through work trials. Through the activities, participants will become active in planning their own lives and be heard as individuals.

For some of each week, parents have the opportunity to participate in primary education classes together with schoolchildren or in early childhood education groups. By participating in primary education or early childhood education activities, parents learn more Finnish in daily encounters with both children and adults. They gain first-hand experience and knowledge of the Finnish school system and are introduced to working life. The activities also increase understanding of the field of education and the significance of the work.

Parents who might otherwise spend their days at home gain an important peer community and experiences of inclusion. Furthermore, the activities also strengthen cooperation between the home and school or early childhood education, increase trust and provide more opportunities for immigrant parents to support their children in school.

The activities strengthen families’ resources and increase the ability of parents to take responsibility for their children’s growth opportunities. The Finnish-language proficiency of parents in the context of day-to-day living and working life as well as skills related to studies and working life are also strengthened. They receive support from an S2 coach in planning their further paths and in accessing working life and education. Their integration into Finnish society is strengthened.

Even though the project is intended for all immigrant parents, most of the participants are mothers. Special attention has recently been paid to supporting the employment and integration of immigrant women, for example in connection with the comprehensive reform of the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration, as the employment rate of immigrant women is lower in Finland than in the other Nordic countries and also lower than that of immigrant men or of women of the original population. In particular, the project supports the learning of the Finnish language, integration, strengthening one’s identity, and access to education and working life among immigrant women. This is of key importance for children’s opportunities in terms of education and working life.

The SMILE project strengthened cooperation to support integration

The SMILE project is a successful example of how the integration of immigrants can be promoted through concrete and effective measures. The main objective of the project was to strengthen cooperation between families, communities and local services in Vantaa. This collaboration yielded practices that not only support the integration of individuals but also increase the well-being of the entire community.



Tsemppari working life coaching was one of the key achievements of the project. The coaching provided personal support to 445 participants, many of whom had been unemployed for a long time. Local organisations provided services in the customers' native languages, taking into account their cultural backgrounds. As a result of the working life coaching, 54 participants found employment and eight became entrepreneurs. The training strengthened the participants' ability to function more independently in Finnish society. It helped families in a comprehensive way, which has increased community spirit and trust between organisations, participants and the city.

Schools play an important role in terms of integration. The SMILE project promoted close cooperation between schools, families and communities by organising parents' evenings, hobby information and joint events. Schools serve as regional meeting places in which parents and school employees can build mutual trust. In particular, the Lehtikuusi School's Living Room and Homework Help activities showed how simple but well-planned measures can lead to major impacts.

One of the most innovative parts of the project was the roundtable dialogues. In these dialogues, immigrant communities, city services and local decision-makers came together to openly discuss needs and solutions. In Hakunila, for example, these discussions led to concrete measures, such as Homework Help, digital support and the development of hobby activities for women and girls.

The operating models created in the SMILE project, such as Tsemppari working life coaching and regional dialogues, can be easily scaled to other municipalities and communities. The project not only increased the quantitative outcomes of integration, such as employ-

ment and participation in education, but also changed the way multiculturalism is approached. Its success was based on local commitment, open dialogue and consideration of individual needs, which help create permanent structures to support integration.

The agency of foreign-language-speaking families and communities was central to the SMILE activities. Instead of viewing them as just a target group, they should be seen as active forces. This approach is an important part of achieving sustainable integration, and integration is a community process that benefits all parties.

Eurocities Social Affairs Forum seminar in Vantaa

Vantaa is a member of the Eurocities network of large European cities, which includes over 200 cities. The network is funded by its member cities, and the secretariat that coordinates its activities is located in Brussels. Eurocities offers its member cities extensive opportunities to share their best practices and supervise the EU-level interests of the cities.

As part of supervising interest and sharing best practices, the Eurocities network has six forums focusing on different thematic areas, which organise their annual seminars in member cities. These are the main events of the Eurocities network, in addition to the annual meeting. One of the forums is the Social Affairs Forum, which focuses on social issues, including education, employment, immigration and integration, and housing.

International businesses and investments are important to Vantaa. We are also active in different international networks.



In June 2024, Vantaa organised the annual seminar of the Eurocities Social Affairs Forum under the theme 'Co-Creating Tomorrow's Cities: Joining Forces for Social Innovation.' The seminar was attended by approximately 180 people from Eurocities member cities across Europe and from EU institutions.

The three-day programme included panel discussions and workshops seeking solutions to the challenges presented by different cities. At the "market event," social sector start-ups presented their activities to city representatives. During the seminar, ways to support Ukraine were also introduced. During the conference, guests were also able to learn about the good practices and social innovations of the City of Vantaa by visiting the city's sites.



International cooperation in the field of education and learning

Vantaa engages in a great deal of international cooperation in various sectors and at city level through many different networks.

Education Coordinator Pia Hakkari, what kind of international collaboration do you and your colleagues engage in in the field of education and learning?

We have had the opportunity to be involved in many types of cooperation, which has enriched our work in many ways. A good example of this is the Erasmus cooperation. Vantaa's administration for basic education has received Erasmus+ accreditation for 2024–2027, which means that we are committed to long-term compliance with the requirements and principles of the Erasmus+ programme. Many of these are related to sustainable development!

The goals of Erasmus cooperation are extensive. Within this framework, we invest in students' well-being through emotional and interaction skills, as well as in diverse learning and competence, which includes digital skills and the development of literacy. Erasmus accreditation also aims for a sustainable future, which includes environmental responsibility, eco-social education and sustainable development.

We strive to invest in sustainable mobility and travel. Erasmus study trips are planned throughout the country to provide teachers with supplementary training and job shadowing visits (i.e. shadowing a colleague at work), all the way to the Lofoten Islands and Brussels. The theme has also been addressed in individual schools

and, for example, through an elective course at Hämeenkylä School, students were able to plan and carry out an overland trip to Denmark.

What else have you been able to do in relation to internationalism and sustainable development?

We had a great opportunity at the education and learning services to organise international days for general education in Vantaa in 2024 with the Finnish National Board of Education. The theme was 'Globally local – giving wings to education.' The event was attended by roughly 200 teachers, principals, educators and administration experts from all over Finland who were interested in internationality and a sustainable future. Participants were also introduced to the linguistically and culturally diverse City of Vantaa.

The international event looked towards the future and coming generations. The programme offered participants different perspectives on the current and future global world, introductory visits to international Vantaa, networking and sharing of information. Together, we also considered the importance of domestic internationality as a resource for the learning community and how children and young people can be supported on their journey of growth as global citizens.



CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSIONS

The comprehensive promotion of sustainable development and the goals of the 2030 Agenda requires investment and commitment and often abandoning old ways of thinking and acting. Globally, the goals have not progressed at a sufficient pace, and only about 15 per cent of them have been achieved or are on track to be achieved by 2030. Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda in the **Pact for the Future** document published in 2024. The document also highlighted the importance of the local level as a promoter of sustainable development. Even stronger commitment from cities is needed to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. This also requires looking further into the future and to coming generations.

A massive amount of work is being done in Vantaa towards the goals of sustainable development, both through basic work and development work, such as projects. Even though this work is not yet often framed through the UN Sustainable Development Goals, it is linked to them in many ways. Recognising these links and seeing the work as part of a larger sustainable development framework creates new opportunities for impact.

Regarding the strategic themes, sustainable development is consciously promoted, but the dimensions of sustainable development still remain separate from each other in the relevant efforts. Ecological, social and economic sustainability is promoted through separate programmes and measures that have not been examined as a whole. Reviewing the programmes implementing the strategy through a comprehensive sustainable development framework

would help identify synergies, conflicts and gaps between them. This is a good thing to strive for in the upcoming strategy period.

The Sustainable Development Goals are not separate from each other and cannot be promoted separately. They are connected in many ways, and these links can be both positive and negative. If operations and development work are not viewed from a comprehensive perspective of sustainable development, there may be unintentional negative impacts on some goals while striving for good in terms of other goals.

For example, the connections between well-being and environmental sustainability are highlighted in this report in relation to individual activities and themes. These connections are diverse and sometimes different goals can also conflict with each other. Environmental sustainability, adaptation to climate change and safeguarding biodiversity have clear positive links to well-being. On the other hand, making a city denser has complex, both positive and negative, impacts on the environment and well-being. Conflicts and negative impacts cannot always be avoided, but they should be recognised so that attention can be paid to minimising them.

Extensive and long-term SDG work has only been carried out in Vantaa for a relatively short time, even though previous VLR reports have already raised awareness of the issue considerably. Various training courses, presentations and internal communications that have been launched in recent years are driving awareness on many different levels. Sustainable development work and

its genuine scope and impact can be strengthened by developing cross-administrative and knowledge-based management.

Team-specific, workshop-style SDG training is a good way to promote awareness and commitment to the SDGs, and we aim to organise courses as widely as possible across the organisation. The workshops generate new insights and understanding regarding what promoting sustainable development can mean in one's own work, which increases ownership. Converting these insights into development work and concrete measures requires commitment to sustainable development at all levels of the organisation. The workshops will also consider negative impacts and ways to minimise them, which will benefit future sustainable development work.

Based on the examples in this report, cooperation emerges as one of Vantaa's strengths. Vantaa has the expertise and willingness to engage in cross-administrative cooperation. Flexible working methods, low hierarchies and a culture of experimentation enable the emergence of new forms of collaboration. This also creates new ideas and innovations that benefit many aspects of sustainable development. Many of the social innovations presented in this report have already spread beyond Vantaa, and it is wonderful to see how operating models originating in Vantaa can also benefit others. Vantaa actively cooperates with other cities and organisations at local, national and international levels, which in turn enables and promotes new opportunities.

With these strengths, Vantaa can also be a pioneer in sustainable development – and by many standards it already is. This pioneering position can be further strengthened by making an even stronger commitment to promoting comprehensive sustainable development in all operations. In this way, we can harness both internal and external collaboration and the innovations that arise from it to support comprehensive and long-term sustainable development both locally and globally.

Research cooperation related to sustainable development can also be increased in Vantaa. This cooperation can take place through projects, for example. Vantaa aims to make development more strategic through projects and increase cross-administrative cooperation, as described in this report. In this development, it is important to consider the long-term sustainable development goals comprehensively.

In addition to project cooperation, there is still much potential for broader impact and promotion of sustainability in other stakeholder cooperation. This includes business cooperation, the broad involvement of local residents in sustainable development work and supporting the responsible actions of local residents and stakeholders.

The anniversary year dialogues presented in this report show that the residents consider sustainable development to be important and approach its various aspects in a practical way through their own living environment. In participatory work, this interest can be seized and sustainable development perspectives can be

incorporated into participatory work. This can influence attitudes and practices and increase the local residents' agency in terms of sustainability.

From a sustainable development perspective, overconsumption is a significant problem throughout Finland, and influencing it is challenging for municipalities. However, we can make a difference by increasing information, influencing attitudes and enabling a circular and sharing economy, for example. This is where the potential of participatory work and continuous learning can be put to wider use. In Vantaa, children and young people are raised to be environmentally aware from early childhood, which is essential for the future. However, efforts can be made to influence the attitudes of residents of all ages more broadly than is currently the case.

Vantaa is engaged in active business cooperation, which has great potential to support companies' own responsibility and harness business and innovation activities to solve sustainable development challenges. If we think of sustainable development as a common issue and goal for the entire urban area, we must also pay attention to the types of business we want to support. This is important throughout Finland. According to **Finland's National Sustainable Development Strategy**, the central role of economic growth should be challenged at the national level and natural capital and human capital should be increasingly brought to the core of economic thinking.

Innovations and new technologies, including artificial intelligence, have the potential to solve major global problems and advance

sustainable development when leveraged for this purpose. Business cooperation in Vantaa has the potential to make us consider how we can get companies and their innovation activities to support sustainable development more strongly than they currently do and solve the local and global challenges that are presented in this report. It is also worth paying attention to how new technologies are used responsibly within our own organisation.

One of the areas of change identified in Finland's National Sustainable Development Strategy is an economy and working life that promote well-being, as well as sustainable consumption. Working life has many impacts on people's well-being and all aspects of sustainable development. Employee well-being, work-life balance and the agency of employees and work communities in promoting the sustainability transition are themes that still need to be addressed in the Finnish context. In the vitality work being carried out in Vantaa, it would be possible to take these issues into account more broadly than before and consider work and business activities from a broader sustainability perspective.

The city itself is also a significant employer, employing approximately 8,000 people. The city's own personnel can also be viewed more broadly as a community that promotes sustainable development both internally and externally, which includes employee well-being, working practices and community spirit.



RECOMMENDED MEASURES FOR THE CITY OF VANTAA

RECOMMENDED MEASURES FOR THE CITY OF VANTAA

This report has highlighted Vantaa’s successes, but we also want to continuously improve. Based on the analysis of the report, the expert working group recommends the following measures to address the identified development issues and to advance the comprehensive work on sustainable development:

-  Clarifying the management of comprehensive sustainable development work as part of the development of cross-administrative management.
-  Reviewing the strategy and the programmes implementing the strategy using the SDG analysis tool as part of the programme development process.
-  Inviting companies, organisations, residents and other actors to become more actively involved in sustainable development work.
-  Including the perspective of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the city-level preassessment model for the impact of decisions.

-  Comprehensively utilising procurements to implement sustainable development goals: the strategic objectives and policies of procurements are realised in procurements at the level of the city as well as specific fields and units.
-  Investing in the sustainable development expertise of our staff and decision-makers through SDG workshops, training and communication.
-  Influencing the attitudes and sustainable lifestyles of residents of all ages through participatory work, education, continuous learning and communication.

A person wearing a green jacket is holding a bouquet of white flowers with yellow centers. The background is a blurred green field.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS



SDG 1 – NO POVERTY	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Child poverty	11.8%	10.4%	12.6%	12.8%	13.7%	
Families with children receiving income support, % of families with children	17.3%	17.6%	16.9%	16.2%	16.3%	
Relative poverty	10%	9.4%	10.9%	11.2%	12%	
Persons receiving long-term income support during the year, % of residents	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	
Homelessness, persons						
women	106	83	68	75	64	77
men	166	144	151	216	230	192
total	272	227	219	291	294	269

Source:
Income distribution statistics (Statistics Finland); Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)
Income register (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare THL); Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)
Statistics Finland
Income register (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare THL); Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)
The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland



SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
8th and 9th graders who skip school lunch at least once a week	59.4%		52.6%		57.3%	
Proportion of people who eat vegetables, fruits and berries several times a day (%) (Wellbeing services county of Vantaa and Kerava)						
Persons aged 20–64				26.7%		
Persons aged 65 and above				47.3%		
Persons aged 75 and above				45.4%		
Obesity (Wellbeing services county of Vantaa and Kerava)						
Proportion of obese persons (body mass index BMI ≥ 30 kg/m2) (%), low education		24.8%		30.8%		
Proportion of obese persons (body mass index BMI ≥ 30 kg/m2) (%), intermediate education		22.5%		20.2%		
Proportion of obese persons (body mass index BMI ≥ 30 kg/m2) (%), high education		18.8%		23.6%		

Source:
School Health Promotion study (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)
Healthy Finland survey (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)
Healthy Finland survey (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Children who experience anxiety, by gender						
Basic education 8th and 9th grade, girls	22.8%		28.4%		35%	
Basic education 8th and 9th grade, boys	6.8%		7.7%		10.3%	
Vocational school 1st and 2nd year, girls	17.4%		35.4%		31.8%	
Vocational school 1st and 2nd year, boys	5.7%		7.2%		8.1%	
Upper secondary school 1st and 2nd year, girls	20.3%		29.6%		32.6%	
Upper secondary school 1st and 2nd year, boys	6%		7.4%		6.7%	
Persons who are physically active at least an hour a day						
Basic education 4th and 5th grade, girls	33.7%		35.2%		39.9%	
Basic education 4th and 5th grade, boys	41.1%		42.6%		46.1%	
Basic education 8th and 9th grade, girls	21%		20.7%		21.1%	
Basic education 8th and 9th grade, boys	24.6%		28.1%		30.8%	
Vocational school 1st and 2nd year, girls	16.7%		16.2%		18%	
Vocational school 1st and 2nd year, boys	21.3%		15.6%		20.9%	
Upper secondary school 1st and 2nd year, girls	11.5%		13.7%		19%	
Upper secondary school 1st and 2nd year, boys	16.1%		17.2%		23.9%	
Percentage of people who consider their quality of life (EuroHIS-8) to be good on average (%), by age group (Wellbeing services county of Vantaa and Kerava)						
Persons aged 20–64		54%		49.6%		
Persons aged 65 and above		61.3%		52.8%		
Persons aged 75 and above		46.6%		45.9%		
percentage of people who consider their health to be average or worse (%) (Wellbeing services county of Vantaa and Kerava)						
women		36.6%		39.5%		
men		37.4%		34.5%		
total		37%		37.2%		

Source:

School Health Promotion study (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)

School Health Promotion study (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)

Healthy Finland survey (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)

Healthy Finland survey (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)



SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Proportion of unfilled vacancies and unqualified teachers and special needs teachers in early childhood education			34%		47%	44%
At least an upper secondary degree of those aged 15 and above	70.2%	70.1%	69.7%	68.9%	68.7%	
Gender distributions of those admitted to upper secondary school and Varia:						
Upper secondary school						
girls		59%		53%		53%
boys		41%		47%		47%
Varia						
girls		33%		35%		29%
boys		67%		65%		71%
Varia, vocational upper secondary qualification in the vehicle field						
girls		6%		4%		8%
boys		94%		96%		92%
Varia, vocational upper secondary qualification in logistics						
girls		3%		15%		8%
boys		97%		85%		92%
Varia, vocational upper secondary qualification in the electrical engineering and automation						
girls		13%		6%		4%
boys		87%		94%		96%
Varia, vocational upper secondary qualification in social welfare and health care						
girls		80%		84%		80%
boys		20%		16%		20%
18–24-year-olds at risk of social exclusion (not working, not studying, not in military service), % of people at the same age:						
Women	12.9%	17.6%	15%	13.8%	15.5%	
Men	16.2%	20.5%	18.8%	17%	21.2%	
Total	14.5%	19.1%	16.9%	15.4%	18.4%	

Source:

City of Vantaa

Statistics Finland


City of Vantaa

Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)

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5

GENDER
EQUALITY




SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source: School Health Promotion study (THL), Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)
Experienced disturbing sexual advances or harassment during the year							
Basic education 8th and 9th grade, girls	32.9%		48.9%		47.6%		
Basic education 8th and 9th grade, boys	8.5%		10.4%		14.1%		
Upper secondary school 1st and 2nd year, girls	39.9%		56.2%		48%		
Upper secondary school 1st and 2nd year, boys	6.7%		9.4%		11.7%		
Vocational school 1st and 2nd year, girls	38.4%		65.3%		50%		
Vocational school 1st and 2nd year, boys	6.6%		10.3%		7.3%		
Proportion of women among city councillors		48%		55.22%		53.7%	City of Vantaa

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6

CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION




SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source: HSY
Community water consumption l/resident/day	137		134	184	183		

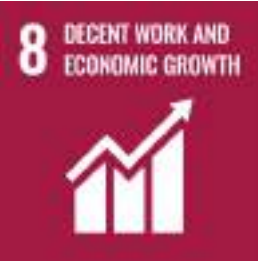
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7

AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source: HSY
Carbon-neutral energy							
Community energy consumption (GWh)	5,582	5,431	5,537	5,478			HSY
Community energy consumption (kWh/person/year)	23,876	22,892	23,149	38,188			
Fuel distribution for district heating							
coal	21%	7.3%	18.4%	20.3%	14.7%		
natural gas	9%	3.7%	12.2%	3.4%	6%		
oil	0%	0.1%	0.2%	1.2%	0%		
biomass	20%	30.2%	23.8%	22%	17.1%		
waste	47%	53.5%	43%	50.8%	59.4%		
peat	3%	5.2%	2.6%	2.1%	2.7%		

↘		SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source:
		Employment rate for ages 20–64	76.94%	71.62%	74.23%	75.58%	73.92%		Statistics Finland
		Women	76.26%	70.62%	73.12%	74.49%	73.64%		Statistics Finland
		Men	77.59%	72.57%	75.27%	76.58%	74.18%		Statistics Finland
		Employed from after education – 1 year after graduation	75%	64%	74%	77%			Vipunen
		Occupational well-being of employees of the City of Vantaa							Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Kunta10 study
		Finding work meaningful		72%		71%		75.8%	
		Amount of work-related stress		21.1%		21.7%		16.8%	

→		SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source:
		Fields that provide the most employment							
		G Wholesale and retail	22,911	21,651	22,839	23,562	22,835		Greater Helsinki Open Statistical Databases
		H Transport and warehousing	19,964	14,392	16,619	18,772	19,664		
		N Administrative and support services	12,689	11,003	11,969	14,314	14,107		
		C Industry	13,466	12,739	13,445	13,453	13,866		
		Q Health care and social services	11,836	11,460	12,038	12,522	13,131		
		F Construction	11,959	12,030	12,928	13,678	12,604		
		M Vocational, scientific and technical operations	6,093	5,783	5,922	6,679	6,373		
		P Education	4,472	4,440	4,686	4,799	4,959		
		I Accommodation and nutrition	4,939	3,213	3,608	4,160	4,405		
		O Public administration	3,757	3,701	3,822	4,024	4,331		
		Other field/unknown	10,785	10,293	10,670	10,958	11,135		
		Total	122,871	110,705	118,546	126,921	127,410		
		Workplace self-sufficiency	106.9%	102.5%	104.6%	107.8%	108.3%		Statistics Finland



SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Gini coefficient	25.1	25	26.3	25.5	25.5	
Share of employees with a foreign background in the city’s fields (total)		7.3 %	8.6 %	10.1 %	9.8 %	
Dissimilarity index, unemployment (regional dissimilarity)	16.3 %	11.94 %	15.3 %	16 %		

Source:
Sotkanet Indicator Bank (THL)
Statistics Finland
City of Vantaa



SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Distribution of transport methods							
Car	45%					42%	
Public transport	20%					20%	
Bicycling	7%					7%	
Walking	27%					30%	
Other	1%					1%	
Passenger cars in traffic use/1,000 residents		467	462	460	456	454	
Overruns of the daily limits value for particulate matter (PM10) by year		13	0	2	6	10	
Service accessibility, 300 m, % of residents:							
Day care centres		59%		59.6%	58.7%	58.2%	57.8%
Schools 1–6		27%		11.8%	15.6%	17.3%	17.3%
Mobile library stops		25%	24.2%	15.3%	25.1%	40.1%	14%
Green areas			91.1%	97.1%	99.8%	98.2%	99.8%
Public transport stops		87%	92%	88.6%	98.6%	98.6%	98.6%
City bike stations		40%	42.1%	44.4%	42.5%	46.1%	46.4%
Collection point							37.5%
Service accessibility, 700 m, % of residents							
Day care centres		89%		90.5%	90.2%	90%	90%
Schools 1–6		88%		42%	55.9%	59.2%	59.4%
Mobile library stops		67%	69.6%	40.1%	71.4%	88.1%	52.8%
Green areas			96.6%	97.3%	100%	100%	100%
Public transport stops		95%	99.8%	96.3%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
City bike stations		58%	60.6%	60.6%	62.6%	63.3%	63.5%
Collection point							85.3%

Source:
HSL
Ecological sustainability indicators (Traficom)
HSY
City of Vantaa



SDG 12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Amount of separately collected biowaste kg/resident/year			22.9	22.1		
Amount of mixed waste kg/resident/year			147.7	137.8		
Recycling rate %			44.3	43.8		
Consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions		7.87		8.27		

Source:

HSY

HSY



SDG 13 - CLIMATE ACTION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Greenhouse gas emissions						
total emissions	977 kt co ₂ -eq	871 kt co ₂ -eq	872 kt co ₂ -eq	943 kt co ₂ -eq	842,kt co ₂ -eq	
per resident	4,2 kt co ₂ -eq	3,7 kt co ₂ -eq	3,7 kt co ₂ -eq	3,9 kt co ₂ -eq	3,4 kt co ₂ -eq	
Emission distribution						
District heating	266	216	257	296	269	
Oil heating	50	49	48	47	46	
Electrical heating	57	54	51	49	42	
Consumption electricity	141	127	120	115	90	
Traffic	371	348	326	339	309	
Industry and work machines	58	54	54	77	62	
Waste processing	31	22	19	17	21	
Agriculture	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	

Source:

HSY

HSY



SDG 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total phosphorus and nitrogen load, and BOD						
Phosphorus	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	
Nitrogen	2.17	1.96	2.03	2.85	1.32	
BOD (biological oxygen demand)	1.53	1.25	1.18	1.83	1.75	
Ecological state of stream water				100% Satisfactory		

Source:

HSY

City of Vantaa



SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of volunteer events related to invasive species				4		6
Number of nature excursions				40		56
Proportion of nature reserves of the city area		6.5%	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%	6.8%
Nature reserves per resident			67.6 m²	66.7 m²	65.4 m²	64.5 m²

Source:
City of Vantaa
City of Vantaa
City of Vantaa
City of Vantaa



SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of refugees	1,592	1,297	1,157	1,085			
Perceived safety in one's own neighbourhood:							
Extremely safe						29%	
Fairly safe						41%	
Moderately safe						19%	
Slightly safe						7%	
Not at all safe						4%	
Cannot assess						0%	
Participation indicator	76.2	77	78.4	74.9	74.2	72.7	
Satisfaction with opportunities for participation and influence	33%	33%	36%	38%	43.8%	43.7%	
Crime rate, crimes/1,000 residents		142.7	111.4	117.8	124	124.3	
Disturbance index	159.2	179.4	230	241.5	275.1	332.7 (01-11/24)	
Voter turnout in municipal elections			48.4%				45.7%

Source:
Wellbeing services county of Vantaa and Kerava
City of Vantaa

City of Vantaa
City of Vantaa
Police database PolStat
Police database PolStat
Statistics Finland



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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