A Better Environment for Future Generations

Ministry of the Environment's Strategy 2035

Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

YM 2035

Contents

Role defined by the Ministry of the Environment

The task of the Ministry of the Environment is to lead the green transition and create the preconditions for the wellbeing of future generations. We ensure that the latest understanding of climate change and ecological boundary conditions guide societal decision-making.

Concepts and definitions

Green transition

The green transition is defined as a change towards an ecologically sustainable economy and growth that is not based on overconsumption of natural resources. It relies on low-carbon solutions that promote the circular economy and biodiversity. The transition will only succeed if wider impacts on the environment and nature, economic sustainability and social justice are taken into account alongside the climate. By definition, compliance with the green transition requires the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle.

Sustainability transformation

The sustainability transformation means that incremental societal changes will no longer suffice to safeguard our wellbeing. Social inequality, biodiversity loss, pollution, the climate crisis and the unsustainable use of natural resources are examples of sustainability challenges that require systemic changes. Solving these challenges requires changing many thinking and behavioural patterns as well as societal structures. Systemic measures are needed even in a country like Finland, which is at the forefront of sustainable development based on many – but not all – indicators.

Section 20 of the Constitution

The Constitution of Finland specifies that nature and its biodiversity, the environment and the national heritage are the responsibility of everyone. The public authorities shall endeavour to guarantee for everyone the right to a healthy environment and the possibility to influence decisions that concern their own living environment.

Operating environment: Climate change and biodiversity loss impact society as a whole

The strategic objective of the Ministry of the Environment is to make the solutions to climate and environmental challenge the cornerstone of growth and competitiveness and to halt biodiversity loss and ecological overshoot. If implemented correctly, the green transition will accelerate the change of economic structures, increase added value, build a carbon-neutral welfare society, strengthen biodiversity and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. Finland is a leading country in innovation in green solutions, and a significant part of global demand is linked to clean technologies.

The coronavirus pandemic and the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine have had a significant impact on the operating environment of companies, communities and the public sector, not only in Finland but also internationally. Our trust in the future has diminished. We are not yet able to assess all effects of the recent crises. However, climate change and biodiversity loss remain among the biggest global crises we are facing. While Finland's emissions are decreasing, the adequacy of climate action must be continuously assessed in order to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality in 2035. Furthermore, we aim to be carbon-negative shortly after this date. Halting biodiversity loss by 2030 requires introducing significant additional measures.

How we succeed in mitigating climate change and adapting to it and halting biodiversity loss will have a crucial impact on the wellbeing of future generations. The state of the environment and the long-term sustainability of the Government finances, as well as the national economy as a whole, depend on this success. The impacts of climate change affect all sectors and actors in society. More than half of all economic activities depend on biodiversity.

In the green transition towards sustainable development, we make sure that the transition will be just. In terms of adequate housing, our aim is to safeguard equal opportunities for a good life throughout the life course. Affordable housing and the right to local nature and a clean environment belong to everyone. A carbon-neutral built environment combines measures that simultaneously increase productivity and create new competitive solutions as well as improve wellbeing and security of housing supply. Cities and rural areas have different means and strengths to move towards carbon negativity and nature positivity. Our goal is that the built environment will be healthy, safe, comfortable and climate-wise, and will also increase natural capital.

The green transition requires bold and consistent societal decision-making. In order for the transition to succeed, expertise, new skills and cooperation will be needed from all sectors of society. The same applies to us in public administration. We must take climate change and biodiversity loss into account in all decision-making in the Government. Measures that slow down or prevent the accomplishment of climate and environmental targets should not be taken without acknowledging the impacts of the decision in advance. We can only

succeed when: key actors participate in decision-making; sufficient funds are available; cooperation is strategic; and research and foresight are used to support decision-making. Cooperation between the public and private sectors plays a particularly important role. In all situations, the private sector makes the majority of the necessary investments. The public sector enables a sustainable environment for investments. Measures at the EU and international level also create preconditions for success. Change must be just from the point of view of all population groups. Regulation must take into account various groups of people and fundamental and human rights.

We are creating a better living environment for future generations: built through cooperation.

1

Carbon-negative Finland has stopped biodiversity loss and pollution

Background

Combating the climate crisis and halting biodiversity loss and pollution are the greatest global challenges of our time. *We must examine these crises together as they increasingly require joint solutions.* Based on estimates, Finland's climate will warm up to 2–6 degrees by the end of this century, unless the trend is reversed. At the same time, biodiversity loss will continue. Climate change and changes in the environment caused by human activity and environmental pollution have a significant impact on flora and fauna. In the Arctic, climate is warming up to four times faster than in the rest of the world on average. Climate change affects society as a whole. The transition to a carbon-negative welfare society is a key prerequisite for sustainable growth. Climate change increases the weather burden on structures and infrastructure. Changes in weather and water conditions affect, for example, the variations and volumes of floods, droughts, soil condition, erosion and carrying capacity. The changes will also increase nutrient emissions and harmful substances into freshwaters and the Baltic Sea. Biodiversity has significant impacts on human health as well.

Biodiversity and a good state of the environment reduce the adverse effects of climate change on natural habitats, species and the preservation of ecosystem services. Climate change mitigation measures can either mitigate or accelerate species and biodiversity loss. Pollution affects both biodiversity and climate change mitigation. Addressing the root causes of the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution requires us to stop the overconsumption of natural resources and replace fossil fuels with emission-free solutions. Comprehensive changes are needed in the economy, technology, administration and human behaviour. We must extensively limit the emissions and damage caused by our consumption. In addition to national measures, binding international and EU-level cooperation and multilateral environmental agreements are needed.

Our targets by 2035

The interdependencies between climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are identified and resolved together.

Global warming must be mitigated, biodiversity must be restored and environmental pollution prevented to safeguard living conditions on our planet. Efforts to halt climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution have become mainstreamed, and policy measures have become intertwined and more strongly linked to extensive decision-making processes – especially as a part of economic impact assessments. There is a need for coordination between administrative branches, research evidence, consistent policy measures and international cooperation. The planning of policy measures (legislation, budgets, financial instruments) involves assessing the impacts of the measures on climate change and biodiversity loss in addition to economic impacts. Structures that maintain or support the fossil economy have been dismantled from legislation and the economic system and replaced with steering methods and incentives that take into account the planet's carrying capacity. The different strategies and plans at the Government level examine how the measures that have been presented affect climate change mitigation and biodiversity in a cross-cutting manner. The Nature Conservation Act has strengthened measures that halt biodiversity loss and improve the state of the environment across sectoral boundaries. A Finland with positive attitudes towards nature has halted biodiversity loss, and the country's biodiversity is on the path to recovery. Human activities restore biodiversity. Biodiversity has an identified value in itself. The protection of biodiversity has economic value. Ecosystem accounting is used at the Government level to support decision-making. The use of natural resources has been adapted to the carrying capacity of nature, the circular economy is the dominant economic system, and ecological compensation is used. For its part, Finland has achieved global and EU biodiversity targets. The national network of nature reserves is comprehensive and connected. At least 30 per cent of the land and water area are protected in different ways. The restoration and management measures necessary for protecting species and habitats have been accomplished. Finland has actively contributed to the strengthening of biodiversity globally as a consequence of conservation measures, nature-based solutions and the use of natural resources within planetary boundaries.

Carbon neutrality target is achieved, Finland is carbon-negative.

Greenhouse gas removals exceed their emissions and greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by at least 70 per cent compared to 1990. This has required consistent decision-making as well as changes in legislation and the economic system that are cross-cutting and promote the sustainability transformation and cooperation in all sectors. This work has ensured that climate change mitigation measures do not cause significant damage to biodiversity. Emissions trading in the EU has expanded and the price of coal is driving the abandonment of fossil energy. Structural changes have been successfully made in a socially sustainable manner. For example, the rise in prices has been predictable and controlled so that it has not unreasonably affected the basic living conditions. Finland bears responsibility for global emissions by reducing emissions caused by consumption through regulation and incentives. International climate policy targets have been achieved and, in addition to

Finland, other countries are also achieving carbon neutrality and diversity targets. Through international cooperation, Finland has strengthened the efforts to reduce emissions from substances with a short lifecycle, such as black carbon, that accelerate climate change and biodiversity loss.

No harmful emissions will be carried to the environment, soil, air and water systems. Environmental risks are under control.

Diffuse loading from agriculture, improved land use efficiency, emissions into the air or water, climate change and chemicalisation no longer cause damage to the state of the environment, soil and waters. They will not threaten nature or harm the use of water or recreation. The most harmful chemicals have been banned and replaced by safe methods. Material cycles will be harmless and waste management does not cause emissions. Emissions to the environment and nature have been prevented by means of economic, legal and knowledge-based steering instruments. Plastic pollution has been significantly reduced by means of an internationally binding agreement and national measures. Finland has achieved its global targets for the management of chemicals and waste and promoted their implementation at the global level. Finland is known for the good state of its waters and the Baltic Sea and water quality. The state of the waters and the Baltic Sea have been brought to a good level and diverse aquatic ecosystems safeguarded. The environmental risks caused by industry and other activities are under control. The state of the environment, soil and groundwater are good and the pressures and risks threatening them have decreased. The best possible technology is always used. The responsibilities and operating approaches related to environmental damage have been clearly set out.

The development of communities prevents biodiversity loss and curbs climate change.

Society has the ability to manage the risks associated with climate change, prevent biodiversity loss, and adapt to and prepare for changes in the climate and the impacts of the changes. These factors are taken into account in the development of communities at each stage, from planning to implementation, alongside social sustainability. The built environment is developed to make the community structure functional, healthy and safe and everyday life smooth and to minimise the burden on the climate and nature. The impacts of climate change on the built environment have been identified and preparations made for these in land use and construction. Planning emphasises the importance and diversity of urban nature, the accessibility of local nature and the connectivity of green and blue areas.

2

The green transition is the foundation for growth

Background

Solving the climate and biodiversity crises requires a comprehensive change in the use of natural resources and major investments in the green transition. The economy must work sustainably from the perspective of the use of natural resources, and we must abandon fossil fuels. The green transition will increasingly steer financing and investments and the measures of the public sector in its role in enabling the transition. The solutions also promote self-sufficiency and, thus, the security of supply and overall security. In the next 10–15 years, investments in the green transition amounting to tens of billions of euros will be launched in Finland. For companies, the green transition provides significant new business opportunities in the global market. It is important to ensure that the public administration has the resources necessary for supporting the green transition over the next 15 years, which will be critical. Carbon 'handprint', i.e. producing positive climate and nature impacts by developing carbon-neutral technological or business innovations, is a competitive advantage and strategic choice for many companies. Finland is one of the most interesting innovators of sustainable solutions for the green transition, and this positive development should also be supported in the future. Financial markets already recognise investments that undermine the green transition, for example, in the pricing of risks for financing and through regulation.

The green transition involves major challenges from the perspective of the sustainable use of natural resources. A change carried out uncontrollably will increase the unsustainable use of both renewable and non-renewable natural resources. In the future, we must find a solution to how we can mitigate climate change without increasing the pressure on nature and the use of natural resources. It is crucial to consider how the growing energy demand and the raw materials required by the green transition are produced and the degree to which they will be further processed in Finland. A competition on raw materials may emerge between different industries due to a lack of a comprehensive picture of the raw materials needed in the future. Resource efficiency has been improved in various sectors, but Finland still has the highest domestic material consumption per capita in Europe. To achieve the green transition, we must be able to produce more products and services with higher added value from less input. This means a transition towards a carbon-negative and nature-positive circular economy society. Construction plays a crucial role in the green transition as it consumes 50 per cent of natural resources. Meanwhile, some 40 per cent of energy consumption originates from the use of buildings. For this reason, measures related to energy efficiency, low-carbon economy, intelligence and the circular economy in the real estate and construction sector are significant.

Our targets by 2035

Green transition solutions are the driving force of the Finnish economy.

We have achieved carbon neutrality through technologies, investments and instruments that simultaneously bring economic benefits, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, restore biodiversity, increase the natural capital underlying the economy and safeguard wellbeing. Fossil fuels and the resulting energy dependencies have been abandoned, and new solutions and investments have also increased energy self-sufficiency and the security of supply. Policy measures, such as incentives, restrictions and steering instruments, are targeted to support the development of increasingly better technologies and business models. Environmentally harmful aid has been reallocated to support the green transition. Finland is an attractive country for international investments. Companies play a key role in green growth. Changes will be needed in private consumption and the public sector. Public sector measures are better coordinated, especially in the context of economic, natural, climate, environmental, industrial and innovation policy.

The green transition strengthens natural capital and the security of supply.

Economic growth relies on low-carbon solutions that promote the circular economy and biodiversity and will take social sustainability into account. The global scarcity of natural resources and uncertainty related to their availability have been acknowledged, and risks have been included in the prices in the financing system. The public sector is a pioneer in guiding the economy and operations towards a green transition in line with the sustainability criteria. The transition has been implemented in a way that also contributes to the growth of natural capital. The green transition has also been harnessed to support the security of supply: energy self-sufficiency and short supply chains ensure uninterrupted sustainable growth and wellbeing. Global population growth and growth in prosperity no longer have a direct impact on the use of natural resources. The environment is strongly visible in people's changed worldview and values. New technologies and services foster making environmentally friendly choices. Ecological compensation will be used.

The circular economy has become mainstreamed in the economy, and the use of natural resources does not exceed planetary boundaries.

Circular economy solutions create significant added value and new business. The consumption of non-renewable natural resources has decreased so that the use of primary raw materials in Finland does not exceed the 2015 level in 2035. Finland's circular material use rate has doubled from the 2015 level. The depletion and increase in prices of non-renewable natural resources, digitalisation and various steering instruments have created extensive markets for recycled products and circular economy services. There is demand for sustainable alternatives manufactured of renewable raw materials. As a result of binding measures at the EU and international level, carbon pricing corresponds to the environmental damage it causes. The use of non-renewable natural resources has decreased and the use of renewable natural resources has been reconciled with the EU's conservation targets.

The use of natural resources is regularly assessed based on Earth's carrying capacity. The amount of waste has decreased from the present and recycling and reuse have risen to a new level. At least 57 per cent of municipal waste and 65 per cent of the biowaste it contains will already be recycled by the end of 2027. Plastic is circulated as high-quality raw material. A breakthrough in the circular economy of plastics has been accomplished in Finland. Fossil raw materials are saved and efficiently replaced with bio-based raw materials. Material cycles in construction support the objectives of the circular economy and climate change mitigation as well as possible. Finland is a sought-after partner in international cooperation on the circular economy as well as sustainable consumption and production.

The productivity of the real estate and construction sector has improved, buildings have a low-carbon lifecycle with good material efficiency.

The development of a functional, safe and sustainable built environment has created competitive solutions and increased wellbeing and security of supply. Regulations have increasingly guided us towards low-carbon solutions, the circular economy and productivity growth. The competitiveness of the construction sector has improved with technologies that support the green transition, increase energy efficiency and reduce the use of natural resources. The change has also accelerated the development of products, technologies, services and practices that mitigate climate change and support low-carbon solutions, and they have been made widely available. The export potential of the sector has been utilised. Buildings are used throughout their life cycles and their intended purpose is altered based on needs at a given time. Fewer spaces are left empty. Construction materials are recycled more efficiently and reused more frequently. The circular economy of buildings and facilities, environmental and cost impacts, energy efficiency and reasonable energy use, as well as smart technology are integral parts of planning, implementation and use. Related solutions are developed through new forms of cooperation. Environmental impacts guide new construction and renovation as well as the systematic maintenance of buildings. Buildings are material and energy efficient, and smart technology improves their functions. Building-specific energy production is used to help meet the energy needs of buildings. Buildings and the technology they contain are designed for adaptability and longevity.

3

Living environments and new solutions make daily life run smoother in all life situations

Background

Global crises have further emphasised the importance of housing, nature and the local environment for a smoothly running everyday life. Housing, mobility and food comprise three quarters of Finns' carbon footprint. One of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals is to guarantee safe and sustainable cities and communities. In a high-quality built environment, residents get to enjoy their daily lives, and nature is not depleted. Diverse lifestyles and multi-location living are becoming increasingly common. The transformation of work, multi-locality and the diversification of families, a change in the role of housing and needs during leisure time set new requirements for land use, housing planning and operational living environments alike. Local nature is gaining more significance.

Digitalisation and globalisation are growing stronger and must be guided towards a sustainable direction. Urbanisation and regional segregation will continue in the future, and demographic changes will be visible. In particular, the share of very old people among the population will increase, and the share of those aged over 65 will increase by an estimated 250,000 in ten years. While housing solutions for older people affect a large population group, they also increase the functionality and comfort of living environments for other population groups. Regional segregation is dividing Finland into areas with growing and declining populations. There is a need to introduce various measures in the different regions to ensure a smooth daily life and good housing for everyone while simultaneously achieving climate and biodiversity targets.

In growing regions and areas, growth must be managed so that it is sustainable in every way. Regions with a declining population are looking for solutions that promote their vitality while emphasising their special features. A healthy, safe environment that makes daily life run smoother and residents' opportunities to have influence lay the foundation for comprehensive wellbeing. The aim is to transfer the prerequisites for wellbeing from one generation to another. Housing solutions that meet the needs of each life situation promote opportunities for good living.

Our targets by 2035

Municipalities, cities and regions create the prerequisites for a sustainable lifestyle.

The regional and community structure creates a platform for the wellbeing of the population and the operating and development prerequisites for business life. Both cities and rural areas make use of their strengths as they move towards carbon negativity. This change needs to be supported by flexible and smooth planning of regions. The built environment is healthy, safe and climate-wise, and increases natural capital as well. Well-functioning connections have provided new opportunities for cooperation between different regions. Urbanisation and multi-locality can continue alongside each other. In rural areas, the built-up areas and villages that support the diversity of the regions and the cultural environment form a functional service network that is strengthened by multi-locality in its various forms. In cities, functions are primarily planned within the community structure along good public transport connections so that they simultaneously support the achievement of carbon neutrality and biodiversity targets. Multi-locality has also created new opportunities to mitigate the segregation of the regional structure. Mobility and housing solutions and services as well as digitalisation support smooth everyday life everywhere to enable emissions-free mobility for the people and services. Urban plans and their implementation are coordinated across municipal and regional boundaries. The opportunities of the metropolitan area as a source of economic growth and as a promoter of environmental and social sustainability have been utilised, and there is an effective cross-administrative partnership between the state and municipalities, which is supported by contractual procedures. This results in the emergence of new innovations, digital solutions and technologies. Finland's competence in urban development has strengthened the implementation of the United Nations Urban Development Programme globally and supported the development of partner countries and cities into carbon-neutral circular economy societies.

There is enough housing available for different population groups and these meet the residents' needs. There is no homelessness.

The prerequisites for good housing will have been secured, and there are enough different housing solutions available in the housing market. Adequate housing and state support measures increase affordable housing. An increasing number of people have an opportunity to find housing that meets their needs and wishes for a form of housing. The preconditions for housing production will be examined in relation to the development needs of different regions. The importance of government-subsidised affordable housing production are particularly important in growth centres. The efforts to produce housing that meets people's needs and to develop urban planning and the quality of local environments have prevented the segregation of residential areas. Residents have good opportunities to influence their housing and the local environment. The development of cities is focused on the smooth running of everyday life and on ensuring that cities are socially sustainable, diverse and comfortable. It has been possible to curb segregation both within cities and between different regions in Finland, and there is no homelessness. The housing stock is flexibly repaired to meet changing needs and accessibility requirements. Housing conditions meet the needs of the ageing population.

The built environment supports people's wellbeing, relationship with nature and smooth everyday life.

The way the built environment is constructed and maintained ensures that living environments and habitats remain healthy, safe and comfortable. The development has created competitive solutions and increased wellbeing, biodiversity and national resilience. Competence enables using and designing urban spaces in a manner that enables a comfortable urban lifestyle. Attention has been paid to accessibility and services have been strengthened. As a result of new technologies and good planning, environmental noise and the number of fine particles is decreasing. Access to nearby water areas, clean water, air and other basic needs in the vicinity will be ensured. There is less emissions and fine particles. Special attention has been paid to the accessibility of local nature in the built environment while strengthening natural ecosystem services. The opportunities for recreation in nature for different population groups have increased, and people's relationship with nature is stronger than before. Natural areas, including both urban green areas and hiking areas and national parks, are increasingly used for recreation.

Making sustainable choices is easy, attractive and involve financial incentives.

The average carbon footprint of Finns has been halved, and the environmental impacts of private consumption significantly reduced. Guidance by information supports sustainable choices. It is easy, attractive and financially sound to reduce consumption and make the most environmentally friendly choices. The sorting and reuse of household waste is efficient. The change has been accelerated by the tax reforms of the green transition. High-quality urban planning and construction have helped reduce the carbon footprint of housing and strengthen biodiversity in the local environment. Knowledge of the positive impacts of sustainable choices on the health and economy of individuals or households promotes the transformation and reduction of consumption. Finns are healthier because their lifestyles have become more sustainable. Growing environmental awareness make walking and cycling and other healthy and ecological choices increasingly popular.

4

Societal decision-making enables the green transition

Background

A successful sustainability transformation and green transition require new competence and cooperation at all the sectors of society, including administration. The sustainability transformation requires that we pay attention to inclusion, funding, cooperation and the utilisation of information. Measures taken at the EU and international level also play an important role. The green transition must be just. The transition requires consistency in societal decision-making and regulation. Any decisions must take into account different demographic groups, fundamental rights and human rights. In order for the public to embrace long-term goals, new means of participation are needed to improve the acceptability of the measures. Climate change and halting biodiversity loss are among the greatest challenges facing humankind. This means that we cannot postpone taking the necessary decisions.

Our targets to 2035

Legislation and administrative structures support sustainable change.

By 2035, the environment will be taken into account in all Government decisions. The implementation of measures promoting climate and environmental targets include assessing the impacts of the decisions. Legislation and other steering instruments will enable the green transition and the new operating models that will be needed. More attention will be paid to climate and nature impacts in the ex-ante assessment of legislation. Legislation and other steering instruments will be coordinated better. This steering will establish the ecological boundary conditions for the activities. A diverse and efficient range of instruments will be in place, including legal and financial instruments, information steering and various solutions based on cooperation between the central government and private operators. The planning of this range of steering instruments will be consistent and long-term in nature. It will be based on the best available scientific evidence.

Promoting investments in the green transition and related transformation has involved significant changes to the structure of government agencies and activities of the environmental administration. Changes have also been necessary in the ways in which municipalities provide services. The structures of the central government's environmental tasks will correspond to needs. All regional administration's environmental tasks (permit, guidance and control services) will be produced by a single authority, with national competence and a regional presence. All environmental services by the central government will be provided on a one-stop-shop basis. The national authority will further develop the necessary legislation for environmental procedures. In addition, it will be necessary to implement a structural change to boost investments in the green transition and to achieve climate and biodiversity objectives. The change will streamline permit procedures, safeguard high-quality services and ensure the uniform treatment of operators.

Private and public sector cooperation guides capital and green transition measures.

Public funding alone will not solve the current environmental challenges; instead, we need major investments from the private sector. In public administration, there will be a need for novel cross-administrative thinking to make the best use of new funding channels linked to the green transition, and to accelerate the necessary investments. The green transition requires new instruments. By 2035, financial steering instruments (e.g. the Do No Significant Harm principle, taxonomy for sustainable finance, green budgeting) will also serve as tools for regulation. They will support the sustainability transformation more extensively and help to identify harmful subsidies or taxes, for instance. The aim is for all central government spending and budget proposals to be assessed in advance based on the green transition criteria. Central government measures will simultaneously strengthen climate and biodiversity objectives, the sustainability of public finances and security of supply, i.e. create sustainable growth and employment. Environmentally harmful subsidies will be reallocated to support the green transition, while taxation and other incentives and subsidies will be better targeted so that they enable the sustainability transformation. The financial support measures by the central government will guide toward low-carbon solutions that support growing wellbeing in society. Publicly owned financing organisations and institutions will systematically finance climate and environmental measures, and projects that are harmful to the environment will not be supported without a conscious choice. Different actors will recognise the climate and nature impacts of their decisions. These will be linked to their strategies and governing practices. The growing opportunities brought on by EU funding related to the green transition have been recognised and utilised. Support from the EU has enabled launching major green transition investments, and sharing of risks. To form and maintain a shared view of the operating environment, the green transition measures will be assessed together between different actors.

Environmental information and digitalisation are utilised effectively in decision-making – information will guide the green transition and consumer choices.

By 2035, monitoring of the living environment and the state of the environment in Finland is based on the best information in the world. Digital technology and satellites will produce environmental monitoring data more comprehensively, efficiently and cost-effectively, and serve as a reference for companies. Monitoring the state of the environment will be versatile, and the data produced will be interoperable, open, easily accessible, machine readable and digitally secure. The same data will only be entered into the systems once, and it will be transferred more smoothly between different authorities. Research on the built environment, natural environment and climate will be of high quality at the international level. The funding of research will be secured and it will be supported by strong research infrastructures. The digitalisation of processes related to the built environment and other environmental information will have improved. Data will flow securely throughout its life cycle, enabling new business activities. Added value will be created by opening up data and interfaces for companies, communities, administration and individuals and by creating shared platforms. They are also used for commercial purposes. The same data will be utilised in e.g. the planning of the built environment and in contexts such as the

energy efficiency of buildings or the assessment of emission reductions. The Ministry will participate in societal discussions by providing clear and consistent messages based on the best science and data. Dependable data will support political decision-making and help gauge the impacts of different alternatives.

Finland exerts influence in an anticipatory and productive manner in the EU and internationally.

Finland will have achieved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 and the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals it contains. Globally, Finland will have increased its impact and consistency by strengthening international environmental administration and its institutions, promoting the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and processes and increasing related synergies. By 2035, Finland will have an active role in the European Union's environmental policy and have more pre-influence to promote the green transition in the EU while also weighing the interests of the EU as a whole. Finland will support the EU's objective of accelerating the green transition and promoting biodiversity and its sustainability. Finland will be building a fairer, more resilient and more cohesive society in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement. Through pre-influence on the formulation of the EU's positions, we will ensure that our views are given political weight in UN decision-making. Through policy influence, we help in pioneering new markets and innovations globally. We will be a valued partner as well as a promoter and pioneer of an ambitious environmental and climate policy. We will be active in regional environmental cooperation between the Nordic countries, the Arctic, the Barents region and the Baltic region, and in bilateral cooperation with strategically important partners. Finland will be a globally influential player in international environmental policy.

The just transition is prepared in interaction with civil society and stakeholders.

The concerns and wishes of citizens and stakeholders will be carefully heard in different projects. This is the only way to ensure a just green transition. By 2035, the Ministry will prepare matters openly, and stakeholders and citizens are able to participate in different stages of decision-making processes in a natural and appropriate manner. The Ministry has solid competence in promoting engagement and assessing operations. Changes to the status quo will be justified and explained in an understandable manner. Transparency will increase the acceptability of potentially conflicting measures that are necessary for the achievement of the green transition. Particular attention will be paid to the public participation of vulnerable groups (e.g. the Sámi people, children and young people, older people and people with disabilities) and gender equality. When taking decisions, impacts will be identified, assessed and taken into account in order to mitigate them, especially for the most vulnerable groups. It is important that young people receive equal access to information on environmental issues and climate change. Particular attention should be paid to the capacity to support young people in the processing of emotions related to climate change and the strengthening of environmental education.

5

We are a responsible and valued workplace

A key prerequisite for implementing the strategy is that we are a responsible and valued workplace for current and future employees of the Ministry of the Environment.

We influence this through our operating culture, competence and wellbeing at work as well as through management and supervisory work:

1. Our operating culture is solution-oriented and cooperative, open and agile.

Our operating culture is characterised by a solution-oriented and cooperative approach and openness, which are visible in the preparation of matters and decision-making. We are building well-functioning partnerships to achieve our goals and strengthen our effectiveness. We are constantly developing the methods that we use to promote the involvement of our partners and share the best practices. We react in an anticipatory and agile manner to changes in the operating environment. In our operating culture, we verbalise and visualise the fact that we have the same goals and tasks. We build our community through shared experiences and working together. We are constantly improving our operations. We take care of one another and support one another, no one is left alone. Clear and open sharing of information in our organisation supports joint success, and the low hierarchy we value makes our work easier. We smoothly use various tools both when interacting with one another and in external communications. We are proud of our achievements and our work at the Ministry!

2. Our personnel are healthy, competent and motivated.

The personnel's wellbeing is supported by clear and correctly dimensioned goals and tasks, which provide suitable challenges, and opportunities for competence development and success. This is supported by an open and encouraging work community, where employees can also address difficult issues, and by supervisory work that is used to systematically manage wellbeing at work. We all play a role in building our own wellbeing at work and that of the working community. To maintain and develop our highly valued expertise, we need both specialists with a high level of expertise as well as those who are at the early stages of their careers. Our expertise is built not only through the Ministry but also through the Y Group and our partners. In addition to substance competence, professional meta-skills are emphasised in competence development. We encourage staff mobility, especially at the Government level and in the Y Group.

3. A coaching management approach ensures that common goals are achieved.

Our management and supervisory work are carried out through goals and tasks. We use a coaching approach to motivate our staff to learn and enable learning. We want to encourage an operating approach that involves anticipation, making bold choices and serving as a pioneer in change. We allocate and prioritise the Ministry's financial and human resources in line with the objectives of the strategy. We direct the development of personnel competence so that our competence will create the prerequisites for implementing the strategy. We promote knowledge-based decision-making and the agile implementation of decisions interactively in cooperation with the Y Group and stakeholders. We value a network-like approach. Our management system supports the implementation of the strategy and creates clear structures for management.

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