

Paths of action of the strategy



1 Good environment and diverse nature

2019

- Conservation area network is completed for the part of the national conservation programmes and Natura 2000 network by designating new areas for nature conservation. Planning systems for the management and use of conservation areas are created and the necessary management measures are launched.
- A study is conducted on whether new conservation measures such as leasing of forests and so-called green loans are suited to Finland to be used alongside the Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO. Funding for voluntary protection is increased. (Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland).
- Reform of the Nature Conservation Act is started to enhance its effectiveness.
- Finland's policies concerning the international biodiversity commitments to 2030 are prepared with the aim to create a more legally binding strategic programme.

2022

- Sustainable use and management of biodiversity is improved with regard to commercially used arable lands and forests in cooperation with other sectors.
- Decisions are prepared concerning the extension of funding under the Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO especially to mires and wetlands in the new financial period that starts in 2025.
- Legislation enhancing the effectiveness and acceptability of the protection of biodiversity is in force and the new sets of tools are in use.
- Action is taken to influence the interim evaluation of international biodiversity goals and the reviews of the binding obligations and mechanisms to be made based on the results.

2025

The loss of biodiversity has been halted and a favourable status has been secured.

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- Reform of the Water Act and amending the Act on the Organisation of River Basin Management and the Marine Strategy is started. Action is taken to influence the content of the reform of the EU water directives.
- National funding model for the implementation of river basin and marine area management is reformed by broadening the cooperation through private sector involvement.
- Use of nature-based nutrient recycling solutions is increased in the implementation of river basin and marine area management.
- Actions that lead to a good status and are in line with the sustainable development goals are incorporated into river basin and marine area management, transboundary water cooperation and the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

- As a result of the reform of water legislation the status of waters improves and e.g. the movement of migratory fish is easier. The effectiveness of environmental targets is clarified and the implementation of river basin and marine area management is improved.
- Experiments and trailblazer networks of municipalities and enterprises are supported to mainstream river basin and marine area management measures.
- Nature-based solutions offer a cost-efficient way to complement traditional technical solutions and diversify the range of alternative solutions.
- The updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is implemented in synergy with actions that lead to a good status in river basin and marine area management and are in line with the sustainable development goals.

A good status of the Baltic Sea has been achieved.

2019

- Coordination of environmental permits continues and legislation on environmental procedures in different sectors is harmonised. Permit and control procedures are automated.
- Legislative proposal is prepared to enhance the competence of the authorities in developing a secondary environmental liability system (TOVA I). The position of environmental liabilities in bankruptcies is clarified.
- Finland promotes action to reduce transboundary pollutants and black carbon and to reach the global marine protection target in the Arctic.
- Risk management actions are targeted to emerging chemical-related issues (microplastics, nanomaterials, substances that interfere with hormone action). Expertise in restoring risk sites in contaminated lands is enhanced and taken to the world.

2022

- Approval procedures are targeted to operators relevant in terms of contamination and alternative, smoother procedures are developed for others. Spatial data is used to link environmental data to electronic environmental procedures. Information systems of the State concerning different environmental procedures are combined.
- The revised environmental liability funding system (TOVA II) is introduced in order that the environmental liabilities of companies are duly managed without economic intervention by the State.
- Finland is active in international cooperation and implements measures to improve the Arctic environment.
- New management procedures for chemical risks and sustainable use of chemicals are developed. Less harmful substances are used instead of harmful ones.

2025

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Environmental risks have been identified and they are being managed

- Role of the quality of the living environment in enhancing health and wellbeing and as a competition factor is recognised. The quality of the living environment is improved through residential area and environmental planning.
- Functional capacity and effectiveness of municipal environmental, building supervision and zoning organisations is developed; taking account of organisational and ICT solutions.
- A national climate protection programme is prepared to implement the emission reduction target set for Finland in the directive. Low-emission small-scale incinerators are introduced to reduce fine particle emissions.
- Healthy Premises operating model is developed and models are introduced to solve indoor air quality problems in the public building stock. Lifecycle building and expertise is enhanced.

- Health and wellbeing impacts of urban nature are recognised and incorporated into municipal planning; nature-based solutions are in wide use.
- Service concepts of municipal environmental, building supervision and zoning organisations have been reformed.
- Clean Air Municipalities project is launched in cooperation with municipalities with the most severe load. Environmental requirements are prepared for fireplaces using solid fuels in new buildings. Oil heating is no longer used in central government premises.
- Healthy Premises operating model is in wide use to solve indoor air quality problems in the public building stock. The condition of buildings funded from public sources is inspected and monitored on a regular basis.

Living environment improves human wellbeing

2 Carbon-neutral circular economy society

2019

- Finland aims for more ambitious emission reduction in the Paris Climate Agreement and, by 2050, reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% from the levels in 1990.
- Besides emissions, sinks are taken into consideration in long-term climate and energy policy planning and in legislation.
- The climate change policy plan (KAISU) is implemented to reduce GHG and F-gas emissions from transport, housing, building, wastes, working machines and agriculture and to develop the monitoring.
- Work, experiments and networks of municipalities and counties towards a low-carbon and resource-smart society are supported.
- The national implementation of the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is started. The introduction of solar energy and heat and smart systems is promoted and electricity demand flexibility is enabled in new buildings.

2022

- Action is taken within the EU to influence the development and implementation of ambitious climate policies and legislation and to contribute actively to international climate negotiations and other international cooperation and initiatives.
- Climate and energy policy is planned as a whole and incorporated into planning in other policy sectors.
- A new climate change policy plan (KAISU 2) is prepared and new measures, incentives and steering instruments are prepared to reach the -39% emission reduction target set for 2030.
- Municipalities and counties become trailblazers in the work towards a carbon-neutral and resource-smart society. They make wide use of new solutions and serve as showcases for environmental expertise.
- Automation and control systems become obligatory in large non-residential buildings. Connection to Smart Grid network is taken into account in the design of new buildings.

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Finland has significantly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions.

- Short- and long-term measures of the plastics roadmap are implemented. Action is taken to influence the implementation of the European Strategy for Plastics and to contribute to the international efforts to prevent marine litter.
- Sustainability and innovativeness of public procurement is strengthened through a centre of excellence. The society's commitments to sustainable development are promoted.
- Various kinds of incentives are introduced to get the markets involved in improving the sustainable use of natural resources, promoting closed cycles and solving environmental problems.

- The sustainable use of high value added biobased materials in e.g. textiles, chemicals, medicines and plastic is promoted.
- Procurement legislation is utilised to promote environmental and health impacts. National guidelines and, where necessary, binding criteria are prepared to target public procurement to promote environmental technology and low-carbon operations.
- Economic steering instruments such as incentives and taxes are introduced to curb the consumption of natural resources. Types of support that are harmful to the environment are abolished.

Natural resources are used sparingly and sustainably.

2019

- Conditions for a sustainable circular economy are improved by reforming legislation, incentives and practices, stricter recycling targets and separate collection requirements, more detailed provisions on producer liability and smoother waste recovery.
- National marketplace is created for wastes and side streams.
- Voluntary contracts are developed (green deals).
- National action programme on nutrient recycling is prepared.

2022

- Waste, product and chemical policies are coordinated to boost a circular economy, traceability of harmful substances and lifecycle thinking are developed.
- Electronic platforms are expanded to serve sharing, leasing and peer-to-peer services.
- Green deal procedure is extended to new sectors and impact investments are made to solve environmental problems.
- RRD&I funding is targeted to the development and testing of nutrient recycling and organic fertiliser products.

2025

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Circular economy
renews the society

- Building guidance systems are developed to promote transition to low-carbon building; guidance of low-carbon zoning and renovation is developed.
- Calculation method for the carbon footprint of building is developed and emissions database is established.
- Low-carbon building is promoted and procurement guidelines on low-carbon public building are tested.
- Sustainable wood building is increased through a wood building programme.

- Lifecycle model of low-carbon building is gradually introduced to legislative guidance and any incentives that may be used.
- Carbon footprint calculation is included in education and training in building; work has been started on also taking account of environmental impacts other than the low-carbon approach in building guidance.
- Lifecycle costs and emissions of buildings are utilised in building and maintenance of buildings.
- In 2025 blocks of flats made from wood represent 15% of all new blocks of flats.

Buildings have a low-carbon
and material-efficient lifecycle

3 Sustainable urban development

2019

- Development of urban planning is strongly linked to the preparation of the reform of the Land Use and Building Act. The reform takes account of the climate change and circular economy perspectives and conditions for sustainable mobility.
- Land use, housing and transport agreements (MAL) for 2020 are negotiated for the largest urban districts. MAL agreement are developed further, also taking account of the requirements of climate targets. Zoning needed for the growth of urban districts and residential building is targeted to accessible locations; the dynamics and competitiveness of urban districts is improved.
- Digital zoning is effectively linked to land use planning with the aim to create open access to public data on building and zoning.

2022

- Urban districts are planned and built as single functional entities.
- MAL procedures have been integrated into a functioning entity, agreements are part of the planning and design of regions. The State Housing Fund is used to develop funding and partnership solutions for housing and other urban development in support of the urbanisation process.
- Digitalisation and new technologies enable new solutions in urban development, building and transport and create productivity growth.

2025

Urban districts promote the sustainable growth of regions

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- Flexible practices are developed for infill building, while the values of the cultural environment are taken into account to promote socio-cultural sustainability.
- Alternative practices for housing solutions to special groups are developed with due account for non-discrimination. Development measures are taken to target the support even more appropriately.
- Long-term perspective in housing policy is promoted by a programme that extends across government terms. Conditions for production aid are secured to support employment and reasonably priced housing.

- Flexible and fast infill building is enabled; taking account of the special characteristics of regions and without weakening the opportunities for participation and environmental values.
- Various forms of housing are available on the housing market where e.g. the change in the population structure is taken into account.
- Sufficient supply of housing and targeted support measures by the State enable reasonably priced housing.

Housing solutions meet the demand and needs of different population groups

2019

- Ways to influence land use planning are developed by making use of digital planning and social media. Possibilities for the people to influence their own living environment are secured.
- The quality of local environments is improved to prevent segregation and improve human wellbeing. The content and objectives of the Accessibility Decree have been incorporated into planning and implementation.
- Climate change preparation and utilising nature-based solutions is part of built environment planning and its development.

2022

- Functioning procedures are secured for citizens' participation in planning as early as possible.
- Attention is given to social sustainability and to amenities and diversity of the residential environment in infill construction. Design for All solutions become increasingly attractive. Most people have access to a good local environment and reasonably-priced housing.
- Impacts of climate change and preparing for these have been taken into account in built environment planning.

2025

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Local environments
are socially
and ecologically sustainable

- Land use planning system is developed to take account of the different kinds of planning needs of urban and rural areas.
- In developing land use planning due consideration is given to the opportunities offered by multiple residence, information and communication technology and sustainable mobility services to develop living in the rural areas and business activities especially by strengthening the existing villages and their vitality.

- Conditions and means for guiding sustainable development of urban and rural areas and promoting their interaction have been improved.
- Land use planning in counties and municipalities is based on the reformed legislation. By piloting different kinds of services good practices are found to develop urban-rural interaction and improve energy efficiency.

Development of urban
and rural areas is mutually
supportive and interactive