

# Strategy 2030



MIKKO VÄHÄNITTY



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment

## VISION

A better environment  
for future generations

## MISSION

Building a sustainable living  
environment and growth

## A better environment for future generations

Recently the whole Government of Finland, all the Finnish ministries jointly, established 15 key drivers of change that impact on the world and us. The foresight work we did together made us at the Ministry of the Environment rethink our strategy and future.

Since last autumn the ministry's staff together with partners and stakeholders have reflected on how the resources available for environmental issues should be targeted in the coming decade and what Finland will be like in 2030.

What do we aim for by 2030? That we have a good environment and diverse nature. Our aim is to turn Finland into a carbon-neutral circular economy society. And we wish for a sustainable urban development.

The means how we intend to implement our strategy will be the key. How ambitious is Finland in setting the targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions? What do we aim for in terms of a circular economy? Better recycling of household waste, or new business and products based on a circular economy? Or both? How is the development of urban and rural areas interactive and mutually supportive?

We have placed more emphasis on the implementation of the strategy and continuous updating of the measures. The whole staff of the ministry joined their forces to draft concrete paths of action for each objective until 2030.

In the paths of change the focus is on legislative amendments, including reform of the Nature Conservation Act, Water Act and Land Use and Building Act. But, voluntary agreements are needed as well.

Permit and control procedures need to be digitalised. In housing policy a more long-term perspective is needed.

The measures and paths of action are updated on an annual basis. The paths of the strategy may twist and turn along the way, but not the objectives.

**Hannele Pokka**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of the Environment

# Strategy 2030



RIKU OUNASLEHTO

### 1 Good environment and diverse nature




- A good status of the Baltic Sea has been achieved
- Loss of biodiversity has been halted and a favourable status has been secured
- Development of the living environment enhances human wellbeing
- Environmental risks have been identified and they are being managed

### 2 Carbon-neutral circular economy society

- Finland has significantly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions
- Circular economy renews the society
- Natural resources are used sparingly and sustainably
- Buildings have a low-carbon and material-efficient lifecycle

### 3 Sustainable urban development

- Urban districts promote the sustainable growth of regions
- Local environments are socially and ecologically sustainable
- Housing solutions meet the demand and needs of different population groups
- Development of urban and rural areas is mutually supportive and interactive

Impact objectives	Priorities	Indicators
 <p><b>Good environment and diverse nature</b></p>	A good status of the Baltic Sea has been achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of waters with a good or excellent status</li> <li>Finland's nitrogen and phosphorous load to the Baltic Sea</li> </ul>
	Loss of biodiversity has been halted and a favourable status has been secured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endangerment of species and habitats</li> <li>Bird populations by habitat types</li> <li>Number of conservation areas and their share of the surface area</li> </ul>
	Development of the living environment enhances human wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average processing time of environmental permits (new action and changes in the process)</li> <li>Analysed and restored contaminated soils and exports in the field</li> <li>Use amounts of permanent organic compounds</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Carbon-neutral circular economy society</b></p>	Environmental risks have been identified and they are being managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small particle and black carbon emissions into the air and sulphur and nitrogen emissions</li> <li>State of the built environment, buildings</li> <li>Satisfaction with the amenities of the residential area</li> </ul>
	Finland has significantly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenhouse gas emissions and sinks, GHG emissions of the effort-sharing sector</li> <li>Share of renewable energy in energy end-use</li> <li>Use of Structural Funds for a low-carbon economy</li> </ul>
	Natural resources are used sparingly and sustainably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural resources consumption, RMC (raw material consumption)</li> <li>Use and recycling of plastics</li> <li>Turnover of environmental business (cleantech)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Sustainable urban development</b></p>	Circular economy renews the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycling rate for municipal waste</li> <li>Turnover of the circular economy business</li> </ul>
	Buildings have a low-carbon and material-efficient lifecycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon footprint of building</li> <li>Energy efficiency of new buildings, grade A energy certificate</li> <li>Share of new wooden blocks of flats of all new blocks of flats</li> </ul>
	Urban districts promote the sustainable growth of regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intact community structures and conditions for public transportation and services</li> <li>Share of apartments in areas covered by detailed plans of all new apartments built in urban areas</li> <li>Share of the population and jobs located in pedestrian and mass transportation zone in total in urban districts</li> </ul>
	Local environments are socially and ecologically sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface area/resident of urban recreational areas</li> <li>Income distribution by urban residential areas</li> </ul>
	Housing solutions meet the demand and needs of different population groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income share of housing costs</li> <li>Number of over 75-year-olds living in their own home</li> </ul>
	Development of urban and rural areas is mutually supportive and interactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment rate in rural and sparsely populated areas</li> <li>Number of village shops</li> </ul>

### Drivers of change

- International system in transition
- Climate change
- State of the environment and nature
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Population structure and urbanisation
- Robustness of critical infrastructure
- Technological transition and digitalisation
- Growing inequality
- Change in values and attitudes

### Enablers

- Cooperation and operational culture**
  - Culture that encourages collaboration and interaction
  - Collaboration and action in partnership networks
  - Utilisation of knowledge and technology
  - Promotion of international cooperation
- Competence and resources**
  - Continuous competence building and responsibility of individuals for their own improvement
  - Efficient utilisation of shared resources and financial instruments
  - Interactive and goal-oriented leadership