

Local practises for sustainable development in Espoo

"Mayors Talk" Forum in Gabrovo

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Espoo facts & figures

The second largest and the fastest growing city in Finland

- 300 000 inhabitants with yearly population growth by 1,6 %
- The youngest population with highest level of education of the major Finnish cities

A big city close to nature

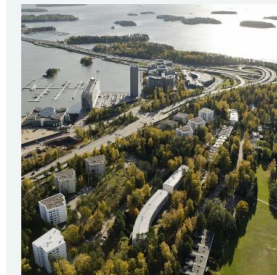
- Part of the Helsinki Metropolitan area
- Five city centers connected by rails
- Land area of over 300 square kilometers, 95 lakes and 58 km of seashore
- Nuuksio National Park, 95 nature reserves and 32 protected habitats

The innovation driver of Finland

- Home of Finland's most valuable companies with almost 50 % of the Helsinki Stock Exchange turnover
- 6th in patents in Europe (1 252 patents in 2021)
- 8th by capital invested in European tech hubs (2020)
- European Capital of Innovation Award finalist in 2019, 2020 and 2022



HOME FOR STARTUPS AND CORPORATIONS



Home for Finland's most valuable companies [🔗](#)



680 international companies [🔗](#)



Most of Finland's unicorns were born in Espoo: MySQL, Rovio, and Supercell

Espoo Story – the city strategy



1. Top city for culture
and education in Finland

2. Services together with
the entire Espoo community

3. Economically sustainable
and offers competitive
taxation

4. Internationally
attractive capital of
entrepreneurship and
innovation

5. Attractive city close to
nature and a safe place to
live

6. Carbon neutrality by
2030

7. Finland's best city
for integration of
immigrants

Gross-sectoral governance: Sustainable Espoo Development Programme

Co-operation for systemic change

- Shared vision and commitment
- Multi-level partnerships
- Concrete actions towards a climate neutral city
- Project portfolio with EU and national funding

Innovative cross-sectoral governance

- Launched first in 2013
- Supports the implementation of the city strategy, the Espoo Story
- Unites political leaders and city administration
- Owned by the Mayor and supported by a team of 25 experts in the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development
- Focus areas are especially in energy systems, transport and mobility, circular economy and sustainable living, sustainable land use and construction, nature and biodiversity

Sustainable Espoo goals 2021-2025

2. Espoo will achieve carbon neutrality by 2030

1. Espoo will be a pioneer in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals

4. Espoo will be a model city of sustainable urban development

3. The Espoo community and residents will act sustainably

5. Espoo is the best development partner for sustainable and smart urban solutions



Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

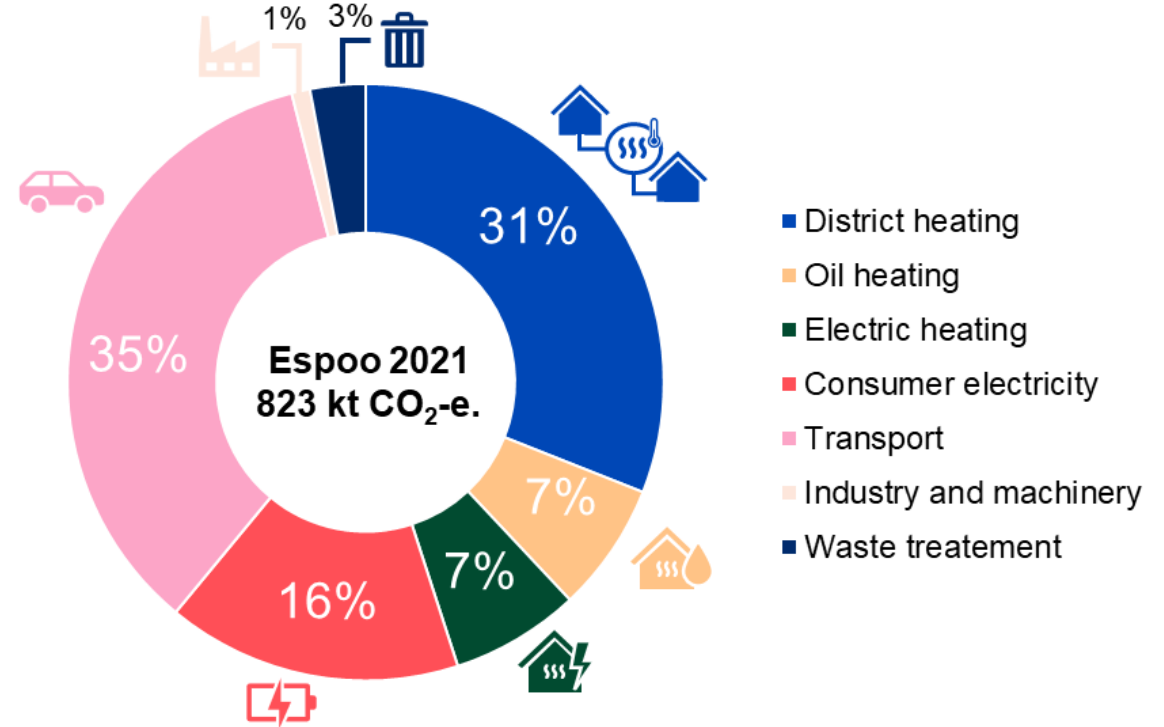
1. responsible for the promotion and steering the city level sustainable development and climate work,
2. responsible for supporting the Mayor's climate action steering group,
3. responsible for coordinating and implementing cross-sectoral Sustainable Espoo-programme,
4. responsible for forerunner work of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
5. responsible for partnerships for sustainable development and climate action, and for developing international visibility and cooperation.

Espoo Climate Ambition & Work

Climate-neutral Espoo 2030

- Our climate solutions focus on reducing emissions of energy, transport, construction and land use.
- In 2021, we were ranked by CDP as one of 95 leading global cities in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Part of Covenant of Mayors since 2010 (SECAP 2019)
- Part of the European Mission for 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities by 2030
 - we will prepare **Climate-Neutral Espoo 2030 Roadmap** and **Climate City Contract** in 2023 in a participatory process to engage local stakeholders and citizens
 - The roadmap will be based on SECAP and the Sustainable Espoo Programme and contribute to the city's target to be a forerunner in localizing the SDGs.

Distribution of greenhouse gas emissions in Espoo [%]

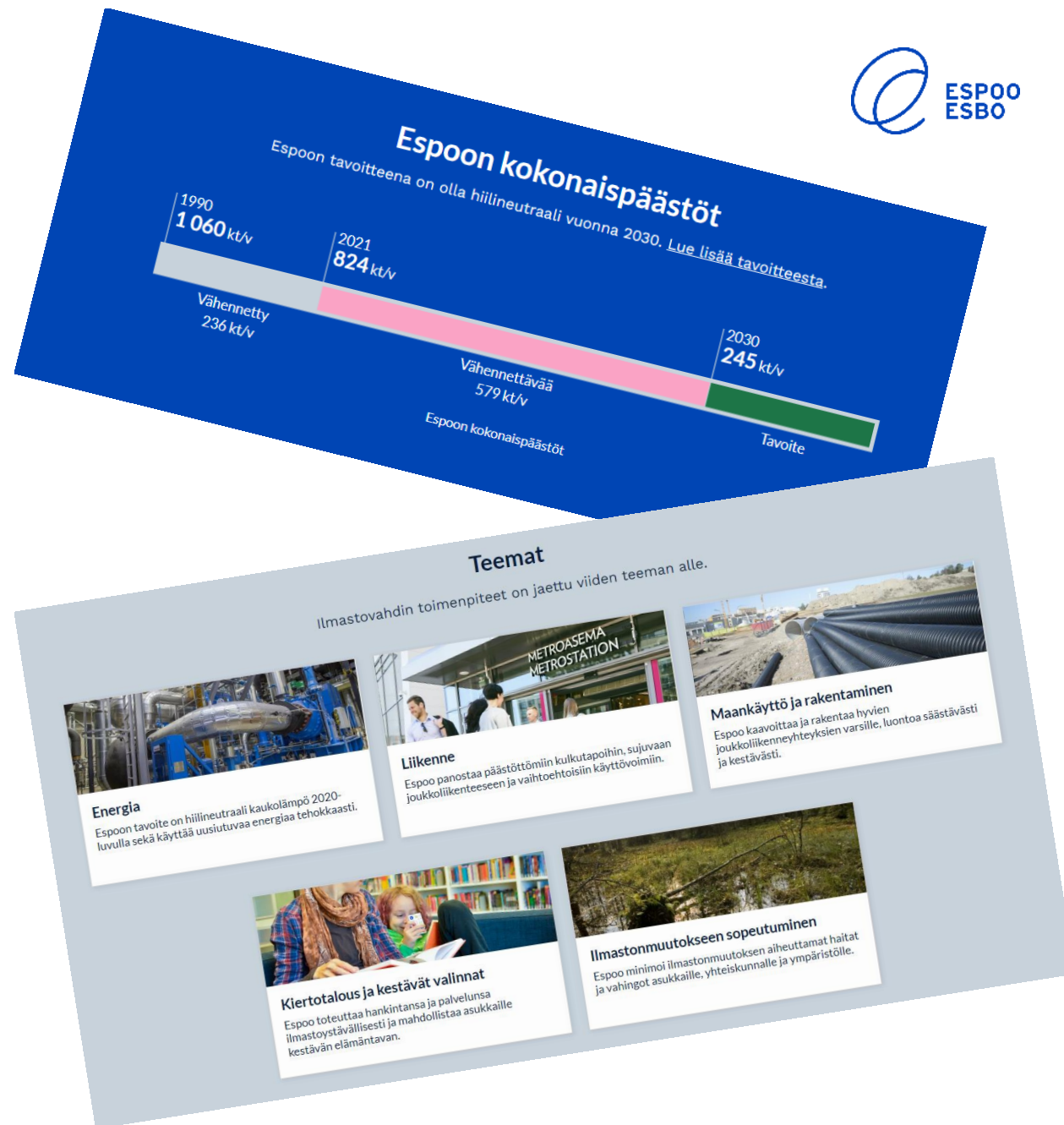


Source: Helsinki Region Environmental Services HSY 2022

Espoo Climate Watch

- Digital tool to communicate the progress of Espoo's climate action and manage the big picture
- Published in September 2022 (Finnish version)
- Five thematic areas of action:
 - Energy
 - Transport
 - Land use and construction
 - Circular economy and sustainable choices
 - Climate adaptation
- 111 individual climate actions
- Updated emission reduction scenarios currently being updated
 - Pessimistic Scenario
 - Climate-neutral Finland 2035 scenario (BAU)
 - Climate-neutral Espoo 2030 scenario

[Espoo Climate Watch](#)



Few examples of local solutions

1. SDG's will guide all of our work

1. Espoo will be a pioneer in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG's are implemented in all city functions and services in one way or another
 - still there is always a need to integrate them more actively
 - SDG's should also steer the whole Espoo community towards sustainable lifestyles
- The SDG's serve as indicators that allow us to assess and manage the effectiveness of our work
 - the framework is very useful also in understanding the holistictness and interconnectedness of sustainability dimensions
 - SDG's have to be localized!
- Espoo's aim is to have the SDG's as a foundation to the city strategy, goals and indicators
 - working together in a network of 9 European cities in an URBACT-project
- Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in 2020: [Espoo Voluntary Local Review \(VLR\) | City of Espoo](#) (new one coming this year!)



2. Espoo Clean Heat

2. Espoo will achieve
carbon neutrality by 2030

- District heating creates the largest share of climate emissions in Espoo *but* also the most rapid emission reductions in the past five years – already almost -50%.
- Espoo's and Fortum's commitment to carbon-neutral district heating during the 2020s.
- Fortum and Microsoft announced world's largest collaboration to heat homes
 - The new data centre in Espoo will produce zero-emission district heating
 - Reduces about 400,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.
 - 40% of all heating will be generated by the data centre in the region
- Measures in city-owned buildings:
 - all use carbon neutral electricity
 - nearly 300 properties use district heating produced with renewable energy sources
 - with the use of energy management system (eg. monitoring, remote inspection and reporting) it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of euros will be saved annually in water, electricity and heating



3. Leveraging public procurement for circular economy

3.The Espoo community and residents will act sustainably

- In 2022, Espoo introduced a new procurement contract for movable furnishings, and one section of the contract covers second-hand furniture
 - This enables procuring second-hand furnishings as both first time and additional furnishings
 - The furnishing procurements for the Lippulaiva Library (opened in 2022) and the Viherlaakso Library included used furnishings as well as re-upholstered and re-painted furnishings
- Espoo's Circular Economy report 2022 [Circular economy in 2022 | City of Espoo](#)

3.1 Promoting equal opportunities for cycling

- Free-of charge cycling courses for adults who did not learn to ride a bicycle as a child
 - Learning to cycle can help a person lead a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle and increase their independent mobility



4. New Kera

4.Espoo will be a model city
of sustainable urban
development

- Former industrial district of Kera is developed into a neighbourhood of sustainable development, circular economy, and digitalisation for 14,000 inhabitants in multi-stakeholder co-operation.
- During its transformation, the Kera district already works as a testbed for sustainable, circular and digital solutions
 - Reuse of buildings and materials
 - Urban food production, arts and crafts, piloting new business ideas
 - LuxTurrim 5G, a Nokia-led network of smart poles, provides a test platform for new data-driven services
- Sustainability commitment for land use with the city and local landowners
 - Measures to reduce emissions will result to emission 56 % lower than the average in a similar size area in Espoo



5. Creating future solutions with a handprint together

5. Espoo is the best development partner for sustainable and smart urban solutions

- Espoo's cooperation with universities, research organisations and businesses generates solutions with a significant handprint – positive impact elsewhere.
- Together with partners such as VTT Technical Research Centre, Aalto University, Kone and Nokia we are not only cutting our own emissions but piloting emerging smart and sustainable technologies to tackle global challenges
- We are looking to solve the systemic challenges piece by piece with innovations that are both sustainable and commercially successful
 - Focus areas include energy, mobility, circular economy, the built environment and nature-based solutions
 - Identified development environments such as Kera, Otaniemi-Keilaniemi and Kiviruukki

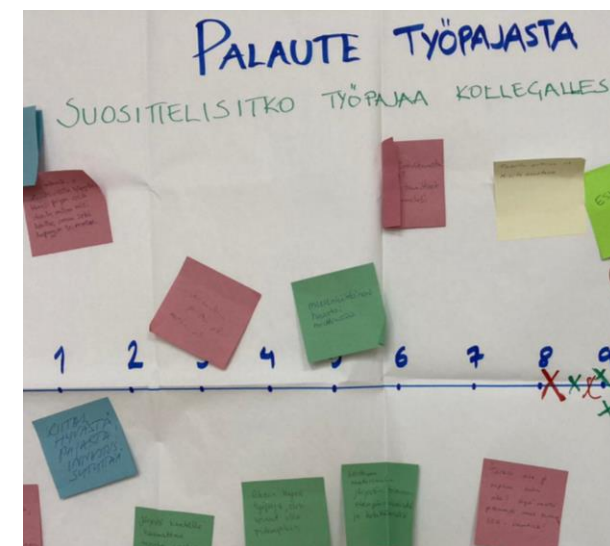


Working together

**”We succeed when we
have our residents,
companies and
communities involved”**



- Jukka Mäkelä, Mayor of Espoo



Engaging citizen
and co-designing
together



Thank you for your attention!

Ms. Suvi Jäntti, senior specialist

