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## Turku and its partners are committed to climate work

**Turku wants to be one of the world's leading climate, environmental and nature cities. Our goal is to become a carbon-neutral city by 2029. For this reason, we are engaged in progressive climate work in both Finland and globally, in cooperation with our major partners in the Turku region.**

In spring 2022, Turku was selected in the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities". All cities selected for the mission must conclude a **Climate City Contract** with the European Commission, which commits them to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. The 100 cities selected in the Mission programme pave the way to enable all cities in Europe to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

Local, national and EU authorities are involved in the Climate City Contracts. They also offer residents a new role as drivers of change. Examples of measures to be taken under the Contracts include new urban planning, sustainable urban mobility solutions and residential areas that use energy in a climate positive manner.

As a sub-goal, Turku has invited companies and other actors in the region to sign their own **climate commitments** as part of the Climate City Contract.

"In the early stages, the Climate City Contract involves around twenty major actors, and we are looking forward to welcoming more companies and organisations that are ready to contribute to the Carbon neutral Turku 2029 goal. The Climate City Contract will further strengthen Turku's climate work and its visibility in the European Union. The Climate City Contract will also intensify climate cooperation with regional actors," summarises Turku's Climate Director **Risto Veivo**.

### The Climate City Contract is a commitment to climate work

By signing the commitment, Turku's climate partners declare that they are committed not only to realising the Carbon neutral Turku 2029 goal and reducing emissions, but also to communicating about climate actions in their organisation, setting an example for climate work and participating in the activities of the Turku Climate Team.

Twenty-two actors from the Turku region have already signed up: Arkea Oy, Bayer Oy, Blue Industry Park Oy, Forum Marinum Foundation, Lounais-Suomen Jätehuolto Oy, Meyer Turku, Turku University of Applied Sciences, Turku Energia, Turun Kaupunginteatteri Oy, Turku Science Park Oy, the Lutheran Church in Turku and Kaarina, Turun kaupunkiliikenne Oy, Turun Satama Oy, Turun seudun puhdistamo Oy, Turun Vesihuolto Oy, Turun Seudun Vesi Oy, University of Turku, Turku Student Village Foundation TYS, TVT Asunnot Oy, Varsinais-Suomen Asumisoikeus Oy, the wellbeing services county of Southwest Finland and Visit Turku Archipelago Oy.

The wellbeing services county of Southwest Finland (Varha) is one of the signatories of the commitment. Varha has decided to continue the sustainable development work initiated by the Southwest Finland Hospital District and to extend it to all its fields of operation in accordance with the national climate objectives.

"It has been calculated that social welfare and health care causes 6.5% of Finland's carbon emissions, and there is much to do to reduce emissions. For this purpose, it is natural that we also cooperate with the leading climate city in our region," says **Leena Setälä**, Chief Strategy Officer of the wellbeing services county of Southwest Finland.

“Varha’s climate work includes taking the potential for reducing emissions into account in construction, energy usage and transport, measures to manage food waste and the promotion of the circular economy. Promoting well-being, health and healthy lifestyles are the best way to combat emissions, as using the heaviest social and health care services cause the most emissions,” Setälä continues.

The Lutheran Church in Turku and Kaarina has also signed its own climate commitment. The parishes have set the same climate goal as the City of Turku, i.e., being carbon neutral in 2029.

“We want to support the City of Turku in achieving its goal. For example, we have discontinued the use of fossil oil as a fuel in almost all our properties and our crematorium, we primarily purchase electrically powered machinery and equipment for cemeteries, we only buy green electricity, we organise green confirmation camps, we sometimes serve only vegetarian food at mealtimes at these camps, and we have calculated the overall carbon footprint of our operations using a calculation model adapted for the parishes,” explains **Pekka Sorri**, Head of Funeral Services and Environmental Officer of the Lutheran Church in Turku and Kaarina.

We intent to create more commitments in the coming years and to involve an increasing number of actors in building a carbon-neutral Turku. The City of Turku has already reduced climate emissions by more than half, for example by investing in renewable energy and circular economy solutions and is thus still on schedule in terms of reducing emissions.

In fact, residents, companies and communities should now get more involved in active climate measures to reduce, e.g., transport emissions more quickly and to create more business that produces sustainable solutions.

#### **Further information:**

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Turku Climate Report 2022 (in Finnish):

[https://www.turku.fi/sites/default/files/atoms/files/turun\\_ilmastoraportti\\_2022\\_saavutettava.pdf](https://www.turku.fi/sites/default/files/atoms/files/turun_ilmastoraportti_2022_saavutettava.pdf)

Turku Climate Plan 2029: [https://issuu.com/turunviestinta/docs/turku\\_climate\\_plan\\_2029](https://issuu.com/turunviestinta/docs/turku_climate_plan_2029)