

# **Climate Challenge - what is Helsinki City doing?**

## **Plan for carbon neutrality by 2035**

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Helsinki



# Helsinki's climate targets

- Helsinki takes its responsibility for the mitigation of climate change seriously
- Helsinki will strengthen its international activities with a special focus on combating climate change
- Climate goals in the city strategy
  - Carbon neutrality
    - 80 % emission reduction in 1990-2035
    - The remaining 20 % will be offset
- Interim goal: 60 % emission reduction 1990-2030
- Current emission reduction: 26 % since 1990

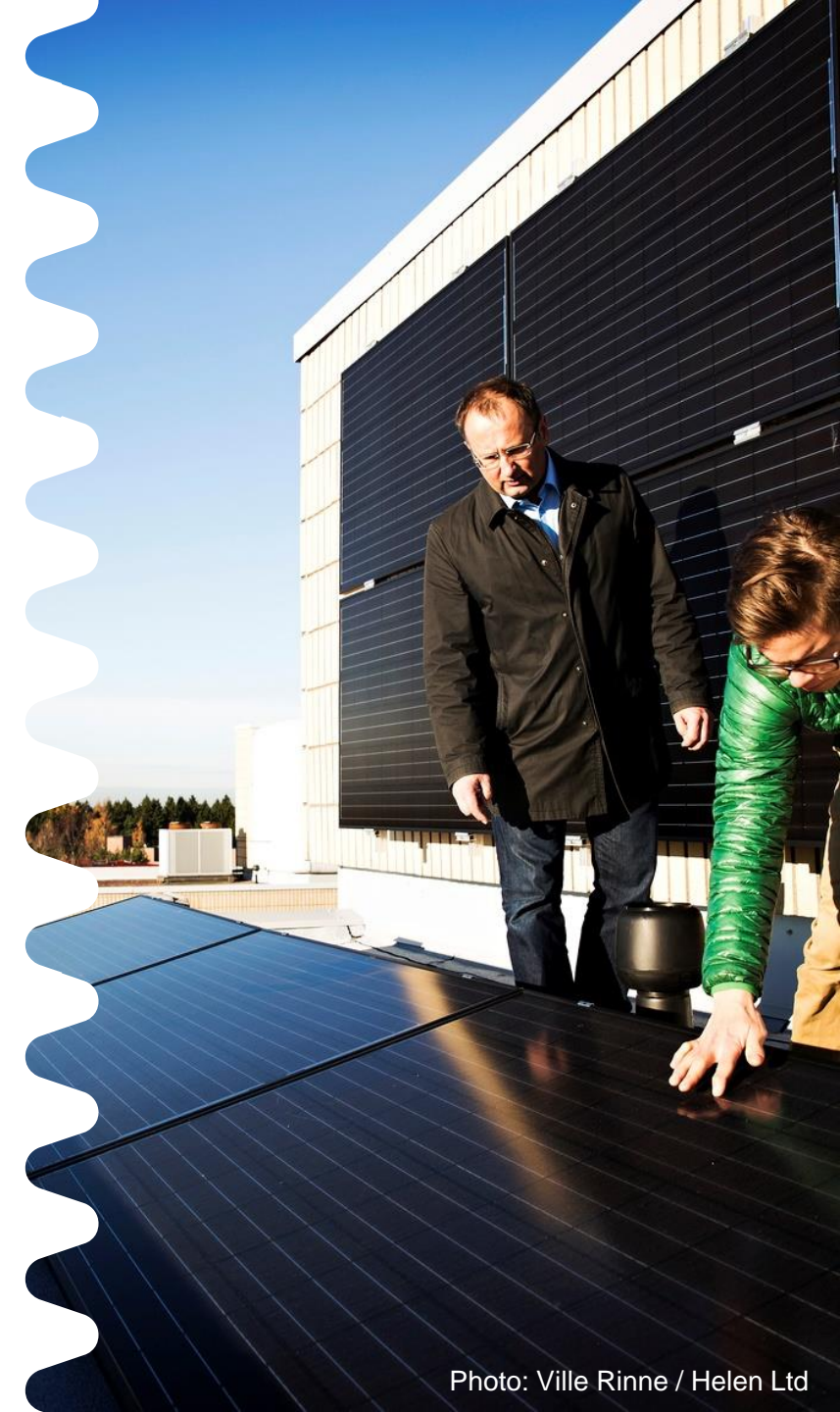
# Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2035 Action Plan

- 147 measures to set Helsinki on the right track to reach carbon neutrality
- Focus on the emissions that are produced within the Helsinki City borders
- Innovative co-creation of the plan: all documents were available to anyone interested for studying and commenting online
- 9 large open workshops and dozens of expert meetings to agree on the measures



# Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2035 Action Plan themes

- Transport
- Construction and the use of buildings
- Consumption, procurement, and the sharing and circular economies
- Smart & Clean growth
- Helen's Development Programme
- Carbon sinks and carbon offsets
- Communication and public participation
- Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of climate action



# Helsinki's climate action plan, transport

- Present work:
  - Sustainable modes prioritized in planning
  - Compact city structure connected with rail, fast bike network
  - Carbon neutral public transport 2020
- Action plan, proposals:
  - Traffic pricing
  - Fastening the technology change in heavy transport (environmental zones)
  - Support for electric cars
- Results
  - Emissions can be reduced 67 % 2005-2035
  - Many measures are cost-efficient

# Helsinki's climate action plan, buildings

- Present work:
  - Helsinki's building code stricter than national
  - Eco-friendly neighbourhoods
- Action plan, proposals:
  - “Energy-renessaince” retrofitting program
  - Local geothermal heating 10% and solar power 15%
  - Life-cycle costs as a principle in city construction
  - Negotiations with state to support building owners
- Results
  - Total heat consumption can be reduced by 20 %,
  - Emissions can be reduced with energy production by over 80 %  
1990-2035
  - Most measures are cost-efficient in the long run

# Main climate risks in Helsinki by 2050



**Urban and sea flooding**



**Biodiversity**



**Traffic and slipping injuries**



**The cross-border impacts**



**Heat-related health problems**



**Storm impacts**



**Tick-borne diseases**

# Lessons learned from international cooperation

- Frontrunner cities boost each others' climate work (positive competition)
- Benchmarking and learning from other cities
- Helsinki's climate solutions, precise data and knowhow internationally attractive (e.g. [Climate and Energy Atlas](#))
- International cooperation important for climate risk management: cross-border impacts





# Towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient Helsinki!

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