

City of Lahti – where the age of coal is already over

Lahti is a bold environmental city of 120,000 inhabitants in Southern Finland. Lahti is a forerunner in sustainability and internationally known for its water protection initiatives and innovative circular economy solutions. Lahti is also the first city in the world to launch a personal mobility emissions trading scheme for citizens in autumn 2019.

In June 2019, Lahti was nominated as the winner of the European Commission's prestigious European Green Capital Award for 2021. During the Green Capital year 2021, Lahti's environmental solutions will be applied to other cities around Europe and globally. Lahti has chosen carbon-neutral life, citizen engagement, circular economy as well as nature and water as the themes for the big year.

Towards carbon-neutrality by 2025

City of Lahti's strategic goal is to become a carbon-neutral city by 2025. Lahti's aim is to reduce the total production-based emissions in the region by 80% from 1990 levels by 2025. The city corporation's concrete measures, quitting coal use being the most important action, are reducing the region's climate emissions faster than anticipated. Among Finland's large cities, Lahti has the most ambitious goal and means that we will implement the goals of the EU 25 years ahead of schedule.

Complete green shift in energy production

Moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy has played a key role in Lahti Energy's strategy since the 1990s. Lahti has already made a significant shift in terms of energy production to tackle climate change.

Lahti's energy shift means replacing coal with renewable biofuel. Since April 2019, the age of coal has been over. Lahti is now heated with recycled fuel and, starting from the autumn, also with local, certified wood. The share of renewable and recycled fuels to over 85% in our energy production.



By 2020, the carbon dioxide emissions of Lahti Energy will only be 20 percent of the level they were in 1990. By closing our coal power plant, we are reducing our carbon dioxide emission by some 600,000 tons per year, which is equivalent to the yearly emissions of 60,000 Finns. Lahti Energy's electricity production will also become almost emission-free in 2020.

Extensive district heating network

Lahti Energy Ltd.'s district heating network is extensive, with over 90% of the population and 99% of the municipal buildings using district heating. Those citizens are all part of Lahti's energy shift by heating their homes with renewable energy. We also encourage other residents living on the district heating network area to make this choice. Other residents are offered zero-emission heat pump solutions, which are becoming more common together with solar panels.

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