




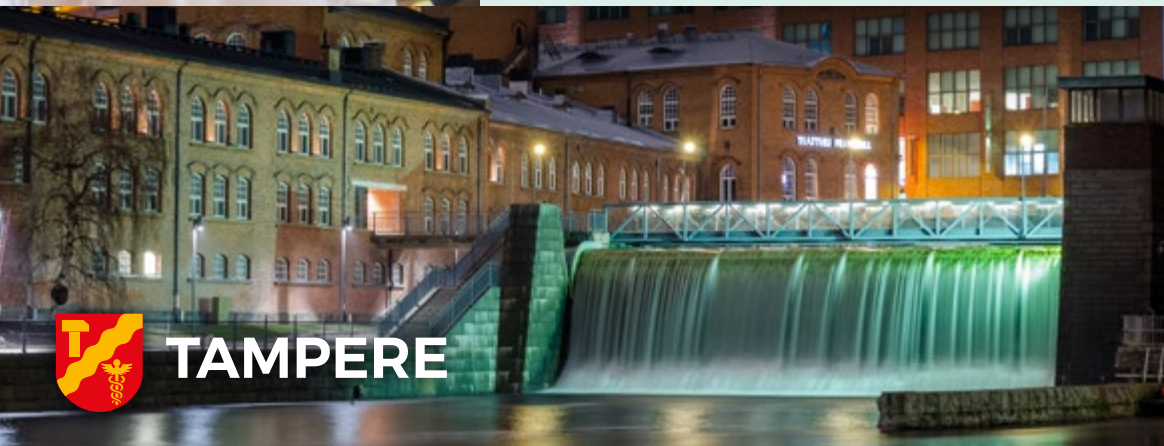
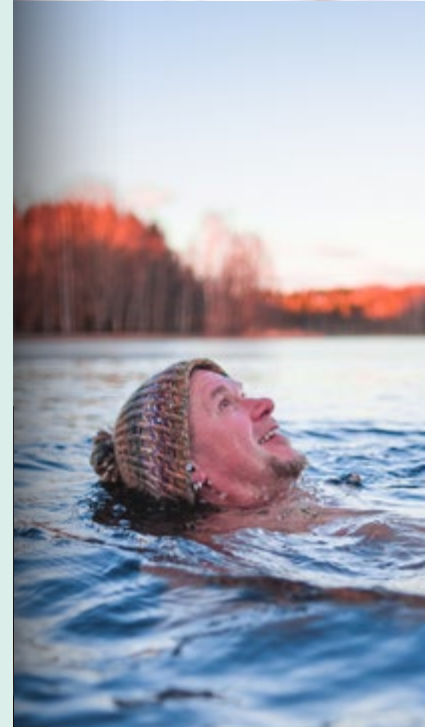
TAMPERE.
FINLAND



CITY OF SUSTAINABLE ACTION

The Voluntary Local Review of
the UN Sustainable
Development Goals in Tampere

2025





CITY OF SUSTAINABLE ACTION

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Mayor's greetings

Tampere committed to the local implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in its City of Action strategy in 2021. The 2022 Voluntary Local Review on these global goals and their local progress has aided our successful city development in recent years.

This second local review of sustainable development examines and evaluates what has been done. It also sheds light on the diversity of roles the city has in implementing the goals from a local perspective. The aim of the local review is to guide our efforts further and to support the understanding and desire of local people and communities to act towards a more sustainable future. This must ensure that the most vulnerable are also included in the development.

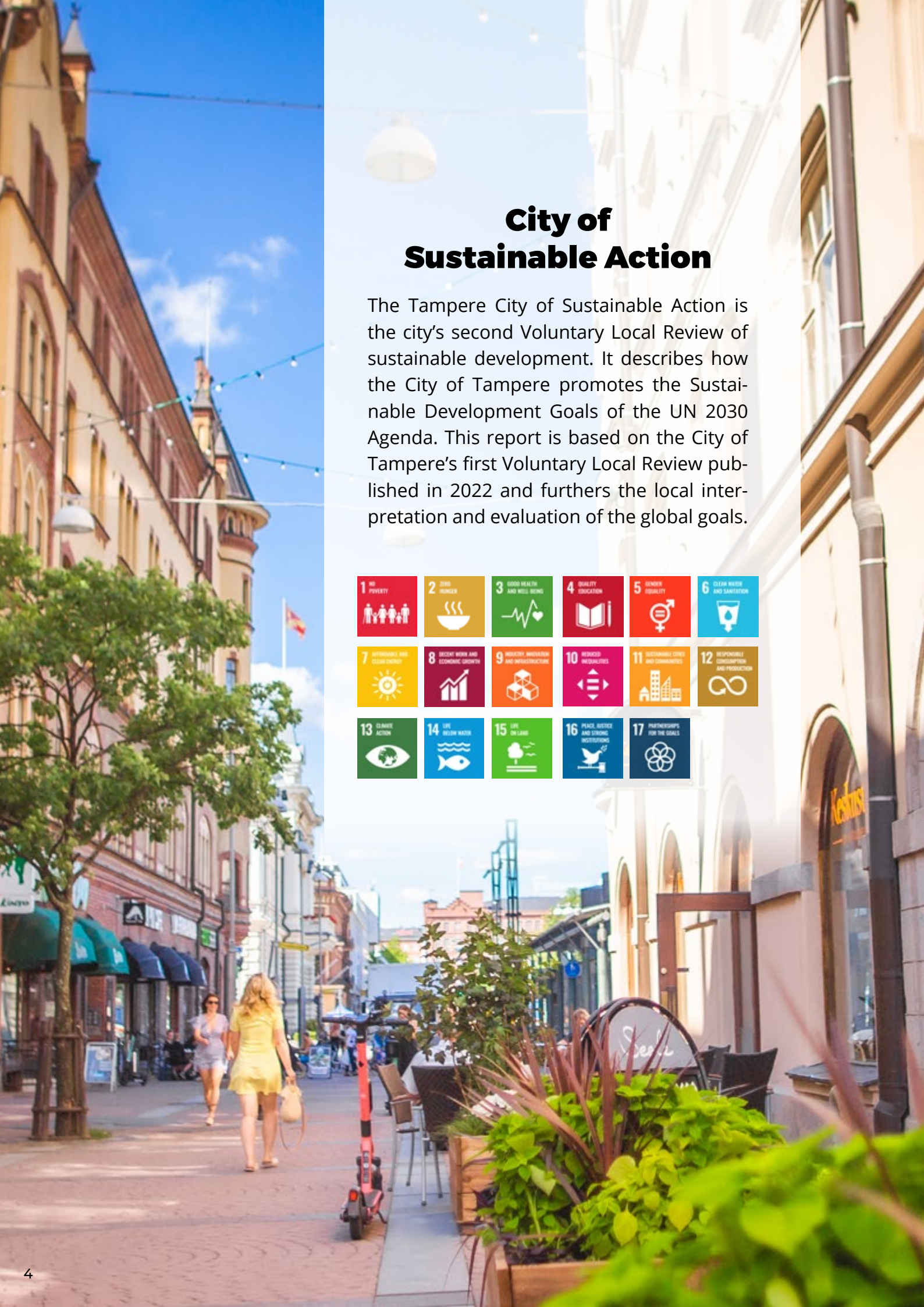
Cities have an important role in promoting the 2030 Agenda goals through their own activities, as well as being catalysts for other actors. The collective voice of cities as advocates for sustainable development and 2030 Agenda has strengthened recently while the multinational cooperation is facing challenges amid global turbulence. Commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has linked Tampere to numerous networks of responsible pioneering cities, where we have stood out positively both as Tampere and as a unique consortium of large Finnish cities.

The efforts of cities to achieve global goals always stem from the local questions of wellbeing, vitality, and resilient future, which often radiates more widely. We stand committed to the implementation of 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and will continue this work during the new council term towards 2030.

Tampere is known for its bold contribution to sustainable development, and as mayor, I want to ensure that Tampere continues to be a city that guarantees the conditions for a good life for current and future generations. By working together, we are the most attractive city in Finland now and in the future, sustainably.

Ilmari Nurminen





City of Sustainable Action

The Tampere City of Sustainable Action is the city's second Voluntary Local Review of sustainable development. It describes how the City of Tampere promotes the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda. This report is based on the City of Tampere's first Voluntary Local Review published in 2022 and furthers the local interpretation and evaluation of the global goals.



Agenda 2030 in Tampere

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agreed upon by UN member states in 2015. The goal of the action plan is to eliminate extreme poverty in the world and to safeguard well-being in an environmentally sustainable manner. The basic principle of the programme is that no one is left behind. The 2030 Agenda action plan includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a total of 169 targets. The goals are binding on each UN member state, including Finland. The achievement of the goals in each country is regularly reported to the UN with a Voluntary National Review (VNR).

The mid-term review of 2030 Agenda in 2023 revealed that only 15% of the goals are on track to be achieved by 2030. Almost half of the goals are slightly off track, and as many as 37% have stagnated or started deteriorating. At that time, the UN Secretary-General appealed for both national governments and local actors, such as municipalities and cities, to adopt an active role in promoting the goals.

Cities play a significant role in promoting the SDGs, as approximately two thirds of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda goals occur at the local level. Cities are close to their inhabitants and often more agile than nation states. Municipalities developing in an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable manner have the best opportunities to ensure the vitality of their region also in the future and creating preconditions for a good life now and in the future.

Local 2030 Agenda work accelerated in 2018 when the City of New York carried out its first city-level VLR. Helsinki soon followed with the first European VLR in 2019. Since then, VLRs have become the clearest indication of cities' commitment to implementing the Agenda. By May 2025, one or more SDG reviews have been carried out by 283 local or regional actors in 66 different countries. In addition to Tampere, VLRs have been prepared in Finland by, e.g. Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Turku, Joensuu and Ylöjärvi as well as the Region of Åland.

2030 Agenda in Tampere during the City Council term 2021–2025

The City of Tampere committed to the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda in 2021 in its City of Action strategy. The key goals of Agenda for Tampere were identified in the strategy process, and strategy guidelines are used to promote them. At the same time, it was decided that the city will promote the Agenda and its goals as a whole, drawing on its strategic management system. The group-level work to promote 2030 Agenda goals was launched accordingly.



Image: The focus areas of the City of Action strategy and the ten key SDGs that they promote.

The first Tampere VLR completed in 2022 began verbalising the Agenda goals in the context of the City of Tampere with the aid of strategy documentation. At the same time, Tampere's sustainability work was communicated to those outside the city using the 2030 framework. The VLR highlighted how, through its extensive basic task, the Tampere City Group can promote each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how much relevant work is already being done in the city.

When implementing the 2030 Agenda goals during the now ended City Council term, Tampere has further linked the goals with local activities, for example in cross-administrative discussions and by utilising tools and operating models co-created with other large cities. Various SDG analyses have been prepared for separate programmes, for example and the SDGs are illustrated in connection with the annual budget targets. The analyses have been also tested in e.g. strategic project development. It has become more common to boldly see sustainable development as something larger than ecological sustainability, and various SDG reviews have enriched our work together. The global framework has also offered Tampere new opportunities for international cooperation and visibility.

In addition to the city's basic functions, its group organisations have also been bound to SDG work during the City Council term, as defined in the strategy. Companies play a key role in achieving the sustainability goals in Tampere, and from the city's perspective, the importance and ability of companies to succeed will remain important. Sustainability work in companies has been encouraged in extensive cooperation, for example through group guidelines, training and annual budget targets, taking into consideration the tightened EU corporate responsibility regulations and reporting requirements. This work has helped the City to draw a bigger picture of the areas and emphases of SDG work in Tampere.

The most significant added value of 2030 Agenda in Tampere during the City Council term has been created by determining the interdependencies between goals. This has paved the way for a more systemic thinking and promotion of sustainability. Observations on the trade-offs and synergies of the actions and decisions, and the need to reconcile them, as well as increasingly complex challenges in the operating environment, have directed strategic discussion toward broader cross-administrative themes.

The national areas of change related to sustainable development that emerged from the strategic work of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, gave impetus to stronger systemic thinking in Tampere. Based on these, Tampere created its first own areas of change in 2024 together with Demos Helsinki. The aim was to reform the strategic management of sustainable development in Tampere toward a more system-level approach and to prepare the first inputs for the next strategy.

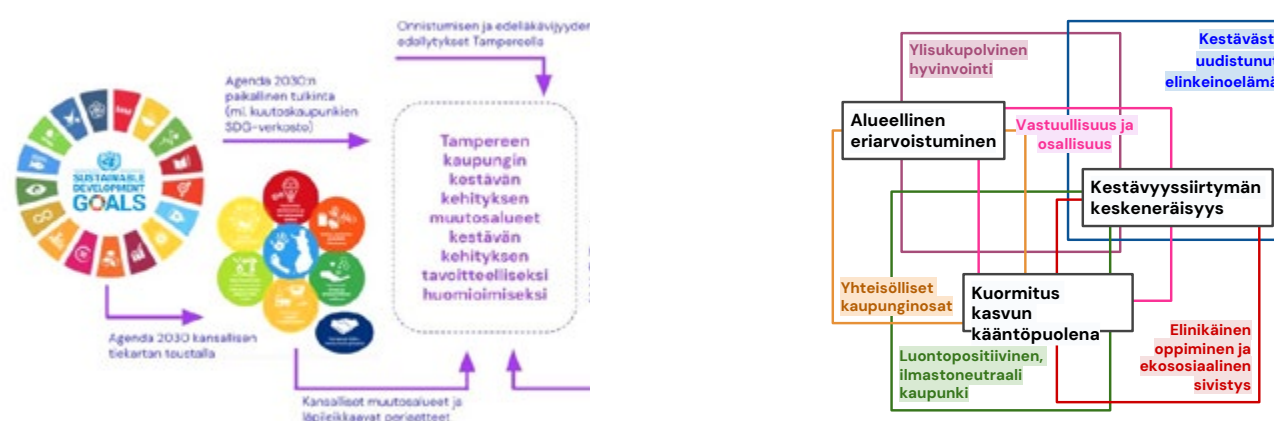


Image on the left: The starting points for work on areas of change related to sustainable development in Tampere (Demos Helsinki 2024).

Image on the right: A framework for areas of change related to sustainable development in Tampere and the three identified systemic challenges (Demos Helsinki 2024).

The importance of cooperation in promoting sustainability

Cooperation with stakeholders outside city organisation has been integral to Tampere's success in the local implementation of Agenda 2030. Strong cooperation has been carried out especially within the joint SDG network project between the six largest cities in Finland and the Association of Finnish Cities and Municipalities. Cities have shared their own genuine experiences, worked together to solve strategic sustainability management issues, developed tools and encouraged each other to continue working. Central government and civil society actors, such as ministries, the Prime Minister's Office and the UN Association of Finland, have also been involved in the cooperation. Sustainable development work has also been promoted by discussions with local actors, such as higher education institutions and sub-regional and regional actors.

At the international level, activities within the SDG framework have connected Tampere to the network of cities pioneering sustainable development. This has introduced valuable opportunities for international impact and cemented Tampere's status as a promoter of sustainable development. Cooperation with international partners, such as the UN-Habitat and other UN organisations and EU actors, has helped the city share its expertise and apply global practices to its own needs.

Tampere has also activated cooperation with its long-term Tanzanian twin city Mwanza in connection with sustainability work. Tampere has shared its own experiences of implementing the SDGs and supported the preparation of Mwanza's first Voluntary Local Review in 2023. Mwanza's community-based action has been a learning opportunity for Tampere and many other cities in promoting sustainable development.

Structure of the Voluntary Local Review

As in the first review, each of the 17 SDGs are reviewed separately in Tampere's second VLR. The key global content of the goals and the general situation of their national implementation in Finland are described. The national evaluation data is mainly based on a report on the implementation of 2030 Agenda submitted by the Government to Parliament on 14 November 2024. Finland's official national review (VNR) to be submitted to the UN will be finished in summer 2025, and was not yet available when this report was prepared.

The link between the goals and the actions taken by the City of Tampere as well as the relevant key priorities in the past City Council term are described for each SDG. The main source is the monitoring material for the implementation of the City of Action strategy and the programmes and evaluations relevant to the themes of each goal. For more information on the themes of the VLR, links are associated with each SDG.

The assessment is supported by the monitoring indicators selected for the City of Action strategy and supplementary indicator data used to assess the city's operations in other regular reports or documents. In addition to the data compiled by the City, statistics collected by, e.g., the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare and Statistics Finland are also used in the VLR. The examined development and monitoring data are mainly from between 2021 and 2025.

The VLR also includes the residents' perspective in the form of quotations from the latest resident and personnel surveys. These include the Tampere survey for residents and city personnel carried out in March 2025. There is a summary of both the implementation of the City of Action strategy and residents' views on the city's recent developments and future needs for change at the end of the VLR.



The status of promoting sustainable development in Finland

The United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has guided Finland toward a more sustainable future since 2016. Finland has already reported on the implementation of the SDGs twice, in 2016 and 2020, and will submit a third review in July 2025. The 2025 review will this time contain more information on the role of local administration in promoting sustainable development in Finland. This section has partly been prepared together with the six largest Finnish cities. In addition to Tampere, also Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Turku have compiled a new Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for 2025.

Finland has been among the pioneers in implementing Agenda 2030. In fact, Finland is estimated to best achieve the SDGs out of all countries according to the latest UN Sustainable Development Report. Based on the report, Finland has achieved just over 86% of all 17 goals set.

On the other hand, Finland’s estimated negative external effects (spill-overs) are significant, and Finland’s challenges include climate emissions and deforestation caused by our imports elsewhere in the world. When measuring the negative external and spill-over effects of different countries, Finland is ranked low at 139/166. This indicates the significant harm caused by Finland globally.



Finland has achieved the goals 1 No poverty and 7 Affordable and clean energy and progresses moderately or well in these areas. Finland faces the greatest challenges in the goals 2 Zero hunger, 12 Responsible consumption and production, and 13 Climate action.

Development has been on the right track, but challenges remain in the goals 3 Good health and well-being, 5 Gender equality, 6 Clean water and sanitation, 8 Decent work and economic growth, 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 Sustainable cities and communities, 14 Life below water and 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.

Finland's progress has stagnated and achieving the goal is still far away for the goals 4 Quality education, 10 Reduced inequalities, 15 Life on land and 17 Partnership for the goals.

Ecological sustainability

Finland has set the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2035, according to the Finnish Climate Act. Finland faces challenges with significant emissions from energy consumption, energy production and transport as most of Finland’s emissions are still generated by the production and use of fossil energy. However, the energy sector is getting low in carbon, and 52% of Finnish electricity was produced using renewable energy sources in 2023. Further measures are required quickly, as it is not possible to achieve the climate neutrality target at the current rate, especially as the carbon sinks are reducing.

As regards safeguarding biodiversity, Finland has achieved the target of conserving at least 10% of sea areas, but lags behind the 17% conservation targets set for land and inland waters. The conservation status of the most important species in Finland is much better than in most OECD countries. Finland still has room for improvement, especially in terms of the circular economy, as the current state of the circular economy in Finland is below the European average.

Social sustainability

Compared to other OECD countries, Finland has relatively low income inequalities and low poverty rates. Finland has also traditionally had a high employment rate among women, strong pillars of democracy and good non-parliamentary opportunities to exert influence. Social cohesion is at a very good level in Finland, but the loss of cohesion is among the risk factors.

Finland has managed to reduce inequalities well in an international comparison, and there is almost no absolute poverty. Relative poverty, however, remains a challenge. It prevents achieving a standard of living that is generally considered to be the minimum in the society.

Challenges for social sustainability include public health issues such as mortality associated with cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes. Health challenges include for example obesity and the prevalence of problems caused by alcohol. Other challenges include exceptionally rapidly decreasing learning outcomes compared to the international average, and the more segregated starting points for young people’s growth and development. However, young people’s faith in the future has not deteriorated in recent years despite various crises.

Economic sustainability

The greatest challenge for the sustainability of the Finnish economy is the general government deficit, which has led to an increased debt burden. General government expenditure is increased by a demographic shift, in which the number of older people increases and, at the same time, the number of working-age people decreases. The aim is to compensate for the situation by means of work-based immigration and by promoting the functional capacity of the ageing population.

Finland’s GDP per capita became negative in 2023. Securing the employment of citizens is a major challenge for the near future. Another challenge is the decline in productivity and the utilisation of investment rates and capital. However, the energy transition offers Finland opportunities to produce new business, investments and spearheads for export. Clean electricity, energy technologies and digitalisation open up markets for Finnish low-carbon solutions.



TAMPERE

TAMPERE.
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Tampere residents in numbers

- 261,617 residents
- over 5,000 new residents every year
- the largest age group 24-year-olds
- around 35,000 students
- 160 different languages spoken
- over 50,000 active companies

This is Tampere

The City of Tampere was founded by decision of King Gustav III in the kingdom of Sweden–Finland in 1779. The modest village built on the shore of Tammerkoski rapids, between Lake Pyhäjärvi and Lake Näsijärvi, has developed into a vibrant and growing city with more than 250,000 inhabitants in a period of over two centuries. Tampere is the third largest city in Finland after Helsinki and Espoo, as well as the largest inland city and the sixth largest urban area in the Nordic countries. Tampere is well connected both nationally and internationally. Up to 3/4 of the Finnish population live only 2 hours away from Tampere.

Tampere is known for bold action, achieving its goals and determined development. As a hub for local uniqueness, culture and experiences, Tampere has been selected as Finland's most attractive city for several consecutive years. Tampere is also known as Finland's most commended city for studying, the most desirable place to live and the sauna capital of the world.

Tampere residents

Tampere already has more than 260,000 residents (2025), and the Tampere City Region approximately 420,000. The growth rate of Tampere has accelerated in recent years; in 2024, the population of Tampere grew by more than 2%, or by around 5,000 inhabitants. The largest population group in Tampere are those aged 20–30. On the other hand, the numbers of pupils and 50–70-year-olds are low compared to the national age distribution. The population of Tampere is international, and the share of Tampere residents who speak a language other than Finnish as their mother tongue is increasing. More than 160 different languages are spoken in Tampere, of which Russian is the most common one besides Finnish.

Nature and the environment

The area of Tampere is 689.6 km², 24% of which is water. In addition to the built environment, the landscape of the Tampere inner city is dominated by two large lakes, Lakes Näsijärvi and Pyhäjärvi, and the esker sandwiched between them. The Tammerkoski rapids link these two large lakes, and the city also features small river basins and extensive forests. The large northern part of Tampere, Aitolahti-Teisko, is a rural area with a varying scenery of forests, fields and water bodies. There are approximately 160 lakes in the Tampere region, and their ecological status is mainly good or excellent. The city owns around a quarter of its land area, most of which is located in the inner city. The symbol species selected for Tampere include the very common White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), the highly endangered False Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea diamina*) and violet (*Viola*), a total of ten species of which are found in Tampere.

Education and skills

Tampere offers a wide and versatile range of education and training that is used to invest in education and lifelong learning. The level of education in Tampere is higher than the Finnish average. A total of 11 day-time general upper secondary schools operate in Tampere, as well as one upper secondary school for adults and Tampere Vocational College Tredue. Tampere University and Tampere University of Applied Sciences also form an international and diverse universities community with more than 35,000 students.

Work and entrepreneurship

Together with its neighbouring municipalities, Tampere is Finland's second largest economic area with more than 50,000 active companies. Most of the companies in the region are small companies with fewer than 10 employees. Most of the jobs in Tampere are in the fields of health and social services (18.7%), industry (11.9%) and trade (9.4%). The growth sectors in Tampere include the technology industry, information and communications sectors, the food industry and the experience economy. New opportunities for companies in the Tampere region are provided by the defence and chips industry.

City organisation, decision-making and strategic management

In 2007, Tampere became the first Finnish city to adopt the mayoral model, where the city is led by a full-time elected official, the mayor. The city's highest decision-making body is the City Council with 67 members. The members of the City Council are elected in municipal elections every four years, most recently in April 2025. The City Council is responsible for the operations and finances of the city, exercises decision-making power in the city and delegates its competence by means of the provisions of the administrative regulations. The City Board is responsible for the city's administration and financial management and implements the decisions made by the City Council. Other decision-making bodies include committees and their divisions led by deputy mayors (3), as well as boards and commissions.

At the end of 2024, the city organisation employed approximately 8,800 people. Most of the city's personnel (77%) work in education and culture services, which are responsible for early childhood education and care, pre-primary and basic education, sports and youth services and culture services. A total of 22 per cent of the city's personnel work in economic development, competence and real estate services. This service area is responsible for vocational education and training and general upper secondary education, employment and growth services, properties, housing policy, facilities and business services. Four per cent of all personnel work in urban environment and infrastructure services and another four percent in central administration. The share of Tampere City Transport that operated as a city organisation utility until the end of 2024 was 3 per cent.

From the beginning of 2025, the Tampere City Group includes 62 subsidiary companies, 14 associate companies and 2 foundations.

The strategy of the City of Tampere is implemented through a strategic management system. The strategy is the highest-level document steering city operations, and it lays the foundation for the city's strategic management and development. The contents of the strategy are specified in service plans created for actions under the committees and the City Board. Development programmes implemented under the City Board are also key tools for achieving significant strategic changes. The implementation of the strategy emphasises extensive cooperation with stakeholders and residents as well as setting goals, assigning responsibilities and monitoring within the City Group. The Tampere management model emphasises the effectiveness and impact of action.



GOAL

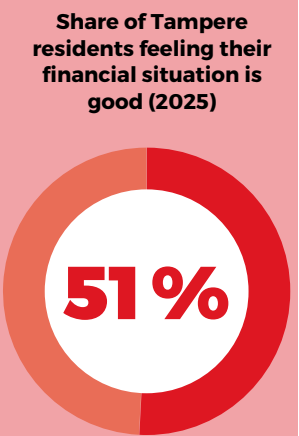
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Global goal
The aim is to end extreme poverty everywhere and in every form. The goal also covers the protection of equal rights and basic services for all citizens as well as developing the adaptation and preparedness capacity of the most vulnerable population groups.

In Finland
The income and wealth gaps are low in Finland when compared to international levels, and comprehensive social security means that there are no people in Finland who live in extreme poverty. However, there are people living in relative poverty in Finland. In this respect, there are particularly vulnerable persons in for example families with children, pensioners' households, among long-term unemployed and those with an immigrant background.

Situation in Tampere
The financial challenges of people living in Tampere have increased. The share of low-income households in Tampere is higher than the national average, and the low-income rate has grown slightly. It is particularly noteworthy that the share of low-income households with children has increased. More families with children have less disposable income due to cuts in subsidies and an increase in the cost of living. This makes it more difficult to cope with everyday life and weakens the living conditions of children.

Approximately half of the people living in Tampere feel that their financial situation is good or very good. However, **one in five reports that they have had to compromise on food, healthcare or hobbies constantly or often due to lack of money.** Especially those without work, students and those

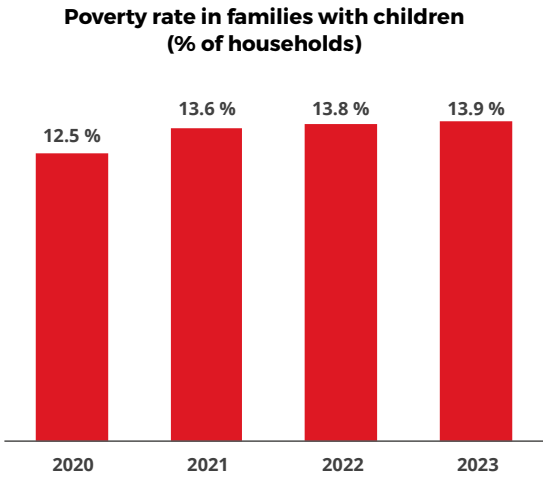


se living alone with children have financial challenges. The number of people unemployed or on social assistance is relatively higher in Tampere than the national average. There are clear differences by district in the level of income in Tampere, but the risks associated with it have been kept reasonable.

The City of Tampere Poverty Programme adopted in 2023 contains more detailed information on the current state of poverty in Tampere and proposes measures to reduce poverty and inequality. Tampere strives to provide its residents with equal opportunities regardless of their income level through accessible and low-threshold services. In addition to statutory services, the city offers its residents of all ages free sports and cultural experiences and service guidance for various everyday concerns. Children and young people can enjoy hobbies after school and park meals in the summer for free. In addition, Tampere promotes the realisation of the rights of the most vulnerable children in accordance with UNICEF's **Child Friendly Cities initiative**.

Let's ensure that also the children of poor families have the opportunity to enjoy hobbies and let's keep fees reasonable

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025



LEARN MORE:

[City of Tampere Poverty Programme \(in Finnish\)](#)
[Child Friendly Cities Initiative in Tampere \(in Finnish\)](#)



GOAL

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Global goal

The aim is to end hunger, improve nutrition and achieve food security everywhere. The objective also includes the promotion of sustainable agriculture and food production.

In Finland

In Finland, malnutrition due to economic reasons is rare, but obesity is a major problem affecting public health and health expenditure. People often also ignore the nutrition recommendations that take into account health and ecological aspects. According to studies, the number of people in Finland who need food aid has increased annually. Agricultural productivity is at a good level, but there are challenges in its profitability. The ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change must also be considered in the development of sustainable food systems.

Situation in Tampere

In 2022, **nutrition for children and young people** was highlighted as a development priority for well-being in Tampere. The city wanted to focus on food education and the quality and variety of food options in the meals provided at schools and educational institutions. Differences in nutrition and eating habits are increasing, and more children and young skip school meals in Tampere. The prevalence of obesity among children and young people has decreased slightly in Tampere. The share of significantly overweight people in the adult population is lower than the national average, but the share has been increasing. The city has provided more information on nutrition for older people through the city's sports counselling and cooperation with organisations, for example.

The Tampere of dreams is nicer because we have better school meals then.

4th graders' Impact! event, spring 2025

The increased price of food and cuts to social security have **increased the number of people who need food aid** in Tampere. A record-breaking amount of food aid was distributed in 2024, as nearly 15,000 packages were collected from food aid events each month. An increasing number of people were also left without food aid. The number of visiting customers has increased by more than 70,000 since 2021, and new groups, such as international students, have recently joined the service. The City of Tampere financially supports Ruokapankki (food bank), which coordinates food aid in the region.

The city launched a significant investment in social sustainability in 2022 by organising **free meals at parks for children in the summer**. The service includes daily activities for children and young people and a free, warm lunch in any weather. This gives children and young people something meaningful and fun to do during school holidays as well as trusted adults who will look after them in the summer weekdays. The Park meal can be an important part of a day's nutrition for many.

Park meals at Tampere 2022–2024

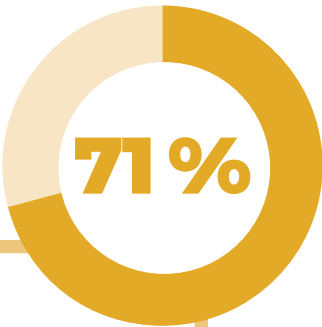
2022	4 locations	5 972 served meals
2023	5 locations	11 768 served meals
2024	6 locations	13 946 served meals

The city also develops the sustainability in nutrition and food system through its procurement for catering services. City rents food plant allotments to residents and associations at an affordable price. By signing an international Urban Food Policy Pact commitment in 2024, City commits to further developing food as a theme in its operations.

We must keep the free park meals for school children in the summer. Even though I don't have kids of that age, I've heard so much good about it. It might even be the only warm meal of the day for some children!

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

Domestic origin of food purchased by Pirkanmaan Voimia (2024)



LEARN MORE:

- [Pirkanmaan Voimia Ltd](#)
- [Food-related sustainability actions in Tampere Climate Watch](#)
- [Tampere Park Meals](#)



GOAL

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Global goal

The aim is to ensure a healthy life and wellbeing for people of all ages by improving healthcare, reducing illnesses and accidents and supporting people's mental wellbeing. Environmental issues are also important in the promotion of health.

In Finland

The organisation of healthcare and social welfare was moved from municipalities to wellbeing services counties in 2023. The aim is to make services more equally accessible and reduce health and wellbeing inequalities in Finland. There is room for improvement in the quality and availability of basic services. The prevention and treatment of diseases in Finland is at a high level in global terms, but lower than in the other Nordic countries. The problems caused by mental health disorders and substance abuse are significant in Finland. Also access to sexual and reproductive health services is at an adequate level. Deaths and diseases caused by chemicals, air, water and soil contamination are rare.

Situation in Tampere

Since the beginning of 2023, the Pirkanmaa wellbeing services county has organised the healthcare and social welfare services, such as medical and dental care, for Tampere and other Pirkanmaa residents. The city's role is now to support and promote the wellbeing and health of its residents. City services, such as early childhood education and care and teaching, cultural and leisure services, employment services, maintenance of streets and

sports facilities, housing and many technical services (including waste and water services), maintain and promote the health and wellbeing of residents. Successful **cooperation with various actors and the residents themselves is needed to promote wellbeing and health.**

Every four years, Tampere prepares a wellbeing account and a wellbeing plan. The latest wellbeing account was published in May 2025, and the welfare plan for the council term 2026–2029 will be prepared and approved during 2025. **According to the wellbeing account, the people in Tampere are doing well on average, but the differences in wellbeing have increased.** The share of those who feel that their health is good or very good has decreased slightly. Inactivity and overweight are significant challenges for young people and adults, and not everyone has the opportunity to have hobbies and participate in community activities. More people in Tampere feel lonely than before. Tampere residents fall ill at a rate of the national average, but more than in other large cities. Wellbeing challenges are often increasingly multidimensional, and socio-economic status clearly affects people's experiences of wellbeing. It is important to ensure that the wellbeing risk factors do not accumulate in individual groups and create intergenerational cycles of deprivation.

The experiences of children and young people regarding their own health have deteriorated in the long term. Substance abuse among children and young people has decreased. The risk of substance abuse is higher for those who experience other wellbeing challenges or problems with their family background. In this age group, more attention to physical activity and the quality of nutrition is needed, and the city can do its part through school. Approximately a third of 8th to 9th graders and 1st and 2nd year upper secondary students experience moderate or severe anxiety. Also the trend in young people's experience of inclusion is worrying, as more and more people do not feel that they belong to a group or community that is important to them.

Mental health challenges and mental strain among young adults, on the other hand, have decreased slightly since the coronavirus pandemic. Despite this, young people still experience various overlapping pressures in their lives. This age group experiences a lot of loneliness, in addition to which mental health challenges appear both as a reason for loneliness and as its result. In this age group, people have hobbies and exercise at a fairly good level.

Mental health problems and concerns related to income and coping at work are particularly challenging for the wellbeing of working age population. Many parents of families with children are exhausted. However, the majority of this age group feels that their quality of life is good and they feel joy, meaning in life and a sense of community, for example through work or hobbies.

We must invest in the wellbeing of children and young people now and in the future, especially proactively.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

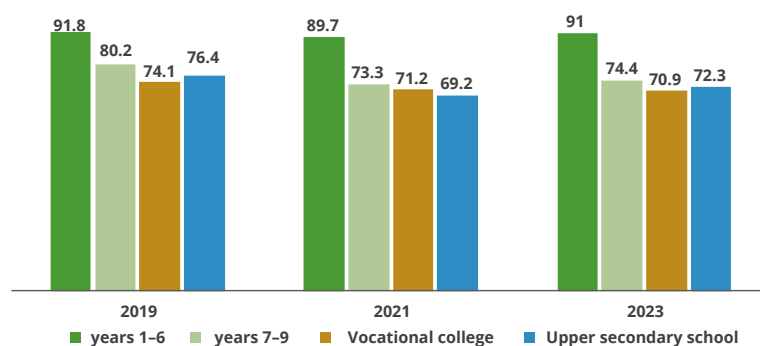




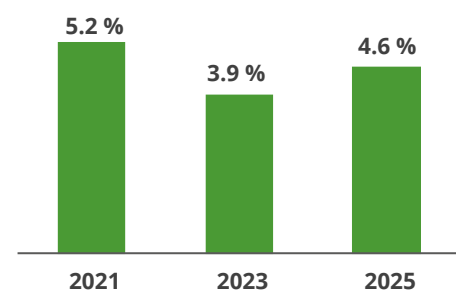
The 65–74-year-olds find their wellbeing the best, and one in five of them still have work-related earnings. However, 50 % of the people over the age of 65 live alone in Tampere, and the loneliness and lack of communality have increased in this age group. **People over 75 years feel that their health is poorer than in the rest of the population.** Their wellbeing is challenged by falling down, the need for assistive devices, living alone and loneliness. The city can strongly influence the functional capacity of older people through accessibility in services and in the public areas.

Intoxicants and mental health problems challenge wellbeing in Tampere. Overall, the frequency of substance abuse has decreased, but the polarisation of substance abuse is stronger than before. The use of e-cigarettes and snuff has increased, especially with children in lower secondary school. Approximately one third of adults consume alcohol every week. According to wastewater studies, the use of drugs has especially in 2023 and 2024. Deaths caused by mental health problems and substance abuse account for a significant proportion of the premature deaths of the people in Tampere, especially among young people and the working age population.

Proportion of children and young people who feel their state of health is very or fairly good, %



Proportion of residents who experience low mood, % in wellbeing survey



The welfare development programme launched in 2024 has set its focus on improving the wellbeing of residents and in increasing opportunities for physical activity. The development programme focuses especially on reducing wellbeing differences between residents, which are often related to the mental wellbeing challenges that children and young people face, older people's social and functional capacity, and loneliness and exclusion. The city strives to create opportunities for exercise and hobbies for everyone, regardless of their age or background. Increasing exercise and sports in Tampere is a matter that extends to all sectors and is shared by the entire city and other local actors. The city has made an effort to promote communality and exercising by organising international events, activities for children and young people under the Licence to Move (Lupa liikkua) programme and free daytime swimming for older people. In 2024, Tampere was awarded the most active municipality in Finland for this work.

Health services, including mental health services. Prevention. People make Tampere and without healthy people there is no healthy city.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

LEARN MORE:

[Wellbeing and support for everyday life in Tampere](#)
[Wellbeing account 2021-2025 \(in Finnish\)](#)
[Welfare Development Programme](#)
[The Wellbeing Services County of Pirkanmaa](#)



GOAL

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Global goal

The aim is to guarantee equal and high-quality education for everyone at different levels of education and to achieve education that leads to essential learning outcomes and employment opportunities. The aim is also to ensure that the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development are included in education and training in order to build a sustainable future.

In Finland

In Finland, the possibility to receive early childhood education and care, the right to pre-primary education and the objective of completing comprehensive and upper secondary education are well realised. Competence in basic skills is at a good level, but development has started to decline. Education policy focuses on ensuring equal education for all. In Finland, education is challenged by socio-economic differences and regional segregation, growing differences in learning outcomes between genders and the growing need for support for learning. Challenges related to continuous learning should also be noted.

Situation in Tampere

High-quality early childhood education and care and pre-primary education are the foundation for lifelong learning and strengthening learning capabilities. **The share of children participating in early childhood education and care has increased in Tampere** in recent years. More than 90% of children aged three or over and nearly two thirds of children under the age of three attend early childhood education and care. These services are provided

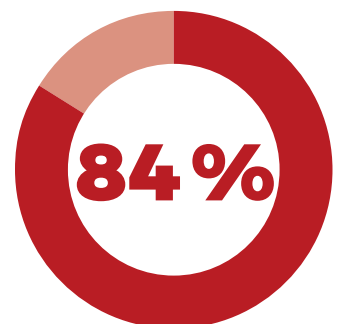
in both city-maintained and private early education centres and as open club activities. Education in grades 1–9 is offered in comprehensive schools maintained by the City of Tampere and in private schools. After comprehensive school, studies mainly continue in general upper secondary education or vocational education and training, which aims to promote general education among young people and strengthen the skills required for work and further education.

The majority of children and young people in Tampere feel good at school. However, the feeling of loneliness is common and increases with age. Young people feel less included than before, but the majority of children and young people still feel belonging their class or school community. Bullying at school has decreased slightly in lower grades, but increased in grades 7-9. Many young people experience exhaustion already in lower secondary school, which may also be reflected in later life.

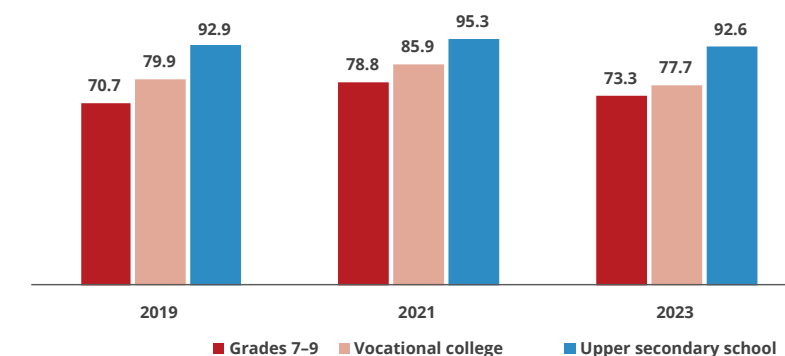
Safe and cosy early education centres with good job satisfaction and few staff changes. Schools with sensibly sized teaching groups, qualified teachers and a feeling of safety.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

Majority of children and young people feel like they can present their own opinions at school (2024)



Percentage of students reporting good working atmosphere in class or group, %



Learning outcomes have weakened both in Tampere and nationally. On average, children in Tampere still have a higher rate of literacy than in the whole country, and the differences in literacy skills even out during the school path. However, the development of mathematics skills is not as good, and the results of pupils who have Finnish as a second language (S2) are often weaker. The need for special and early support has increased in Tampere, partly due to changes in perceived wellbeing and social relationships. In addition, the increased need for special support is explained by the increase in public awareness, the change in the attitude of asking for help and, on the other hand, declining learning outcomes.

Tampere is attractive as a city of study, which reflects also in the increased number of students in upper secondary education to which many students from neighbouring municipalities and also further away apply. **Competition for admission to upper secondary education makes the admission criteria more difficult to**



We must invest in support for the growth and learning of children and young people. Especially the children and young people in socio-economically more fragile areas should be asked, what they would like to do in their free time. We should support these opportunities so that they learn that their opinion matters. On the other hand, offering alternatives is important so that the horizons of opportunities for children and young people can expand.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

vocational education by the age of 25, while for those in substitute care, the share is only 50%. **Tampere strives to help young people who are in substitute care to be on the same line as others regarding general upper secondary or vocational education through the Social Impact Bond (SIB) project.** In 2025, approximately 20 young people who participated in the SIB project graduated from an upper secondary education institution, and more than half of the young people in the project are studying to gain an upper secondary qualification.

The number of applicants to higher education institutions in Tampere has increased, and Tampere has maintained its leading position as the most recommended city to study according to the national survey. In addition to Finnish students, the number of foreign-language degree students has continued to increase in educational institutions. However, the challenge is to get the students stay in the Tampere region after graduation.

The progress of studies and employment after graduation are important factors for the wellbeing of young adults. Differences in the study culture may cause stress during the transition period, especially between general upper secondary school and higher education institution. According to a study by the Tampere Universities community, young people experience continuous pressure to succeed and find their place in society. According to a national study, **fewer and fewer young people are looking forward to emplo-**

reach, and puts young people under study pressure. This causes a risk of social segregation at a younger age. Vocational education and training faces a problem of students dropping out. In these cases, a concern over the young person being left without a study place or job, rises. Efforts have been made to respond to this by developing communal activities in educational institutions and by preventing school bullying. However, more work is needed to eliminate discrimination and different types of harassment in educational institutions.

The upper secondary qualification is significantly connected to how young people find employment throughout their lives. In general, approximately 80% of all young people have completed general upper secondary or



The most recommended student city

ment, and a growing number of people feel that worklife is too demanding. On the other hand, interest in entrepreneurship has increased, and an increasing number of young people feel they have sufficient skills for work.

During the council term, Tampere's key objective for the education and culture sector has been that children and young people grow into a generation that promotes sustainability. As a result, **the principles of sustainable lifestyle and ecosocial education have started to become part of everyday life in these services.** Schools can get support to strengthen phenomenon-based learning and, for example, nature, environmental and cultural education. For example, the Tampere Nature School Korento, which operates in the soothing forest and river environment in rural Tampere, reaches annually more than 5 000 children, young people and educators in its all-day multidisciplinary nature school days.

During the past council term, Tampere has also invested heavily in renovation and construction projects for early education centres and schools, that enable healthy, safe and modern learning environments in ecologically sustainable buildings.

A competent Tampere is built through education and promotes the economic and ecological sustainability of the city.

Tampere survey for city personnel, spring 2025



LEARN MORE:

[Early childhood education in Tampere](#)

[Education in Tampere](#)

[Ecosocial education activities in Tampere Climate and Nature Watch SIB-project](#)



Discrimination towards sexual or gender minorities is more visible in everyday life than before. I have experienced threatening situations, shouting and intimidation.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

The City of Tampere does not accept discrimination. The aim is that everyone, including those belonging to a sexual or gender minority, can feel accepted and use city services without fear of inappropriate treatment. **The City of Tampere is committed to complying with the principles of safer space.** City has produced the general principles for a safer space as a basis for its own units and for the use of other actors. The commonly defined and published principles for a safer space are relevant especially to the minority groups who have experienced discrimination and fear that they will face inappropriate treatment again.

Gender equality challenges in Tampere occur especially in the form of sexual harassment and domestic violence experienced by women. **Almost one third of young people have experienced disturbing sexual propositions or harassment.** This applies especially to girls and young people belonging to sexual minorities, but discrimination and sexual harassment are also significant problems among young adults. Almost half of the respondents to the city's safety survey in 2024 have experienced verbal harassment. Sexual harassment may affect the sense of security in public places and study communities. **The number of reported cases related to domestic violence has increased** and in approximately 75% of these cases in Tampere Region the victim was a woman in 2023.

GOAL

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Global goal

The aim is to strengthen gender equality, improve the rights and opportunities of women and girls and eliminate discrimination, violence and abuse against them. We must guarantee women equal opportunities for sexual and reproductive health, decision-making and financial resources, ownership and management. Aim is also to promote a shared responsibility for homes and families.

In Finland

Gender equality is mainly realised well in Finland, and Finland is committed to promoting gender equality through various measures. From an international perspective, women have good opportunities to participate in different areas of society in Finland, and the distribution of family leaves and care responsibilities between the genders is also at a good level. However, according to statistics, Finland is a violent country for women and girls. Gender pay gaps and discrimination against gender minorities in still require work in Finland.

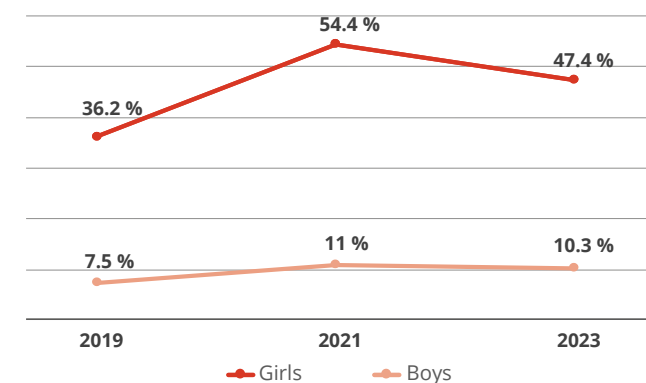
Situation in Tampere

At Tampere, **the promotion of gender equality is strongly linked to systematic equality and non-discrimination work**, which is based on Finnish laws and international treaties on equality, non-discrimination and human rights. Tampere has also signed the European Charter for Equality. In Tampere, equality work is coordinated by the city's non-discrimination coordinator. The equality and non-discrimination plan for the City of Tampere, which was completed in 2023, considers the different dimensions of equality and non-discrimination more extensively than before. In future, the state of equality and non-discrimination in Tampere will be regularly examined, for example, as part of the wellbeing survey of Tampere's residents.

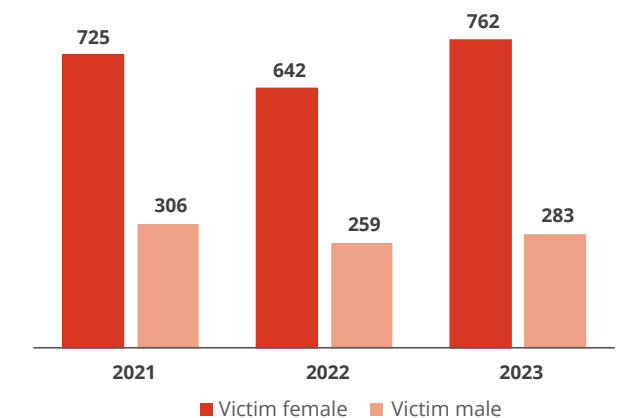
10 %

Every 10th respondent has experienced discrimination based on gender

Proportion of children and young people who have experienced sexual suggestions or harassment average share within grades 7-9, and secondary and vocational education



Victims of domestic and intimate partner violence reported to authorities in Tampere Region, cases



The City of Tampere has also prepared a personnel policy plan for gender equality and non-discrimination. At the end of 2024, the share of women in the city's personnel was 74% and 26% were men. The share of women working in a managerial position was 49%. According to a study, the City of Tampere does not have unjustified gender-related pay differences but 2.6% of the personnel report that they have experienced gender discrimination on the basis of gender. The amount of anonymous recruitment has increased in the city, and a total of 118 recruitment processes were conducted anonymously in 2024. The political decision-makers, local government officials and employees of the City of Tampere are expected to act in accordance with the city's ethical principles and promote ethical activities in Tampere.

LEARN MORE:

[Equality, non-discrimination and diversity in Tampere](#)
[City of Tampere ethical principles \(in Finnish\)](#)



GOAL

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Global goal

The aim is to ensure an adequate and sustainable supply and use of clean water and sanitation for everyone. This includes improving the efficiency of water use, ensuring that water resources are used fairly and guaranteeing the wellbeing of ecosystems related to water bodies.

In Finland

Finland has achieved the goals of ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water and ensuring adequate and equal sanitation and hygiene for all. Finland has also decided to ensure that water services remain publicly owned and controlled. In Finland, water supply and tap water quality are considered high globally. We need to focus more on the ecological status of water bodies and the protection of water ecosystems and further increase the efficiency and sustainability of water use.

In Tampere

Like everywhere in Finland, Tampere has exceptionally good water resources from the international perspective, and **the quality of domestic water meets health-related quality requirements**. The water supply and treatment, the supply of drinking water and the water infrastructure are mainly handled by Tampereen Vesi Oy, which is owned by the city. In addition, two smaller local water cooperatives operate in the sparsely populated areas of Tampere.

Three quarters of the tap water in Tampere is produced using local surface waters that have good ecological status. Occasional taste and smell defects are usually caused by the algae situation or temperature of the water body. Approximately 25% of tap water comes from local groundwater. Groundwa-

ter quality is monitored to ensure that domestic water is healthy and safe for its users. **Some local purity issues have been observed in the ground-water areas** of the city centre.

Water supply and sanitation are part of Tampere's critical infrastructure, and the city has invested in its safety in many ways in recent years. Water supply has been decentralised for a longer time. In addition, the city has paid attention to water storage, alternative power sources for the systems, cyber security, plant supervision and communication in exceptional situations. Rising temperatures and increasing heavy rainfall affect the quality of raw water and the management of water volumes.

The existing wastewater treatment plants in Tampere have reached the end of their service life, and they cannot meet the future permit requirements for nitrogen purification. Since 2018, Tampere has been running **a major regional water supply project to build a new wastewater treatment plant**. The Tampere central wastewater management plant (Tampereen Seudun Keskuspuhdistamo) starts operating at the end of 2025 and will meet the needs of a growing population and secure the wastewater treatment far into the future for Tampere and its neighbouring municipalities. It will improve the efficiency of wastewater treatment and the condition of Lake Pyhäjärvi and the water body below it. The central treatment plant will also include Tampere Region's largest biogas plant, which produces energy for the plant's own electricity and heating needs.

Although the water resources in Finland and Tampere are good, **responsible water use is part of sustainable action**. The production of clean water and wastewater treatment require energy, chemicals and infrastructure. The water consumption of households in Tampere has continued to decline and is below the Finnish average. In Finland and Tampere, tap water is considerably cheap. People can also fill up their water bottles in public spaces, and there is a recommendation to provide this opportunity in the event organiser's guide of Tampere.

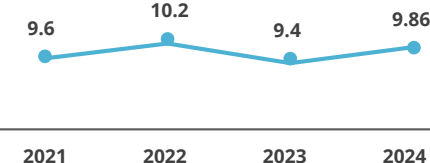
I hope for more climate action from the city, such as recommendations for reducing driving and meat consumption, and pressuring urban residents to save more water.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

Water consumption per resident l/capita/day



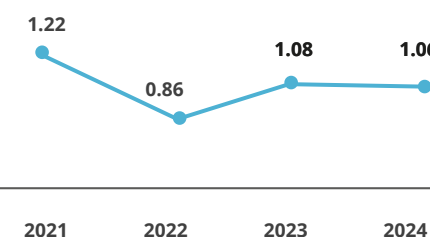
Total nitrogen load from municipal wastewater g/capita/day



LEARN MORE:

[Tampere Water Ltd](#)
[Vellamo water quality service](#)
[Tampere central wastewater management plant \(in Finnish\)](#)

Total BOD-load from municipal wastewater g/capita/day





GOAL

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Global goal

The aim is to ensure affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all, to increase the share of clean and renewable energy in a globally significant manner, and to double the pace of energy efficiency.

In Finland

Overall, this goal is achieved well in Finland. Finland has an extensive energy supply, and the entire population is covered by the electricity network. Finland has increased the share of renewable energy in energy production, although its share still remains below 50% of total energy consumption. Finland has achieved the EU's energy efficiency target. However, the energy sector continues to account for the majority of Finland's climate emissions, which means that the national climate neutrality target will not be achieved without a significant energy transition.

In Tampere

The energy company Tampereen Energia Ltd, owned by the City of Tampere, produces electricity and heat in Tampere mainly through an efficient cogeneration process. The electricity produced is sold on the electricity market, where consumers can buy it through different electricity suppliers in Finland. Locally produced heat is distributed to the properties in the area through the district heating network. Approximately 80% of people in Tampere either live or work in property with district heating. Tampereen Energia has also built a network for district cooling in the Tampere city centre that is based on renewable energy. Energy is also used in industry and transport sectors in different forms. **Despite the growth of the city, the total energy consumption has not increased in recent years**, which indicates an increase in energy efficiency in Tampere.

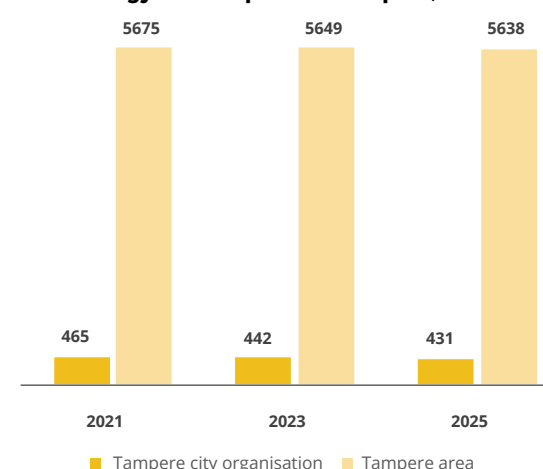
I would like Tampere to quickly move away from non-renewable energy sources in electricity production. Instead, we should favour solar and wind electricity.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

In connection with the repairs and renovation of the city's own building stock, the city has improved their energy efficiency. Also heat pump systems and solar power plants have been installed. The city has continued to phase out oil heating and has carried out numerous renovations of automation systems in buildings to reduce the carbon footprint and enable the utilisation of demand response. The energy efficiency of outdoor lighting has also been improved with LED technology and the amount of charging points for electric cars has increased.

Since the beginning of Russia's aggressive war on Ukraine in February 2022, Finland and Europe faced significant uncertainties concerning the availability, adequacy and price of energy supply. This also brought the concepts of energy shortages and energy poverty to the debate in Tampere. The sudden rise in electricity prices also affected the housing costs of many people in Tampere, but the price development of district heating remained moderate, thanks to the previous green investments made by Tampereen Energia. The city took various measures to reduce its own energy consumption and prepared for energy disturbances in its operations. Tampere also took part in the Down a degree campaign, which encouraged households to save energy and improve energy efficiency. **The energy crisis clearly increased the energy awareness of residents and different actors also in Tampere.**

Energy consumption in Tampere, GWh



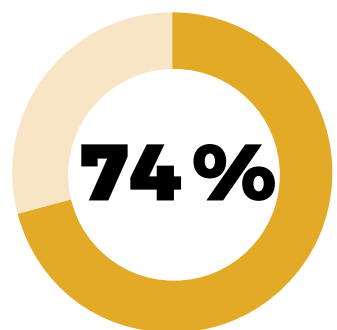
LEARN MORE:

[Tampereen Energia Ltd](#)

[Sustainable energy action in Tampere Climate and environmental watch](#)

[Energy shortage precautions](#)

Share of renewables in energy production by Tampereen Energia (2024)





GOAL

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Global goal

The aim is to promote sustainable economic growth everywhere, improve productivity, create added value and set apart economic growth and environmental degradation. The aim is also to guarantee everyone equal employment opportunities, equal and reasonable pay, a safe working environment and to protect occupational rights.

In Finland

In recent years, the Finnish economy has experienced many external shocks, and economic growth has been moderate and uncertain. The employment rate has developed favourably. The number of young people not in employment, education or training has decreased, but their share has remained relatively high. There are gender-related challenges in the labour market. Unemployment among men is more common, whereas women are clearly more likely to work on a fixed-term or part-time basis. Although Finland is a global pioneer in sustainable and resource-efficient bioeconomy, Finland has a lot of room for improvement in circular economy when compared with other EU members.

In Tampere

The economy and employment rate have varied both in Tampere and nationally in recent years. Digitalisation, sustainable growth and technologies are shaping business models, and the transformation of employment and business structure also requires new kind of expertise and entrepreneurship in Tampere.

Tampere has succeeded in maintaining its vitality, which also creates economic growth in the whole region. The municipalities in the Tampere city region cooperate closely in economic development, and the region has a joint economic strategy. A regional development agency Business Tampere, part of Tampere City Group, coordinates and develops the work. The competitiveness of the city area and its businesses is based on the ability to renew and to grow smart and sustainably.

Tampere is an attractive and developing city. Due to recent strong population growth, the city has invested a lot in new areas, and there are high investment needs in the coming years as well. While growth is pursued, it also challenges for the city's economy. **Due to the weakened economic outlook, Tampere needs to balance its economy,** which means adjusting services and activities as well as critically examining and prioritising investments. At the same time, however, the city must ensure that it maintains its vitality and improves sustainable competitiveness.

Tampere is a major employment hub, with a growing number of new companies established each year. Tampere's self-sufficiency with jobs is very strong, but the challenge is to make competent employees and companies meet at the right moment. The largest private sector employers are the technology companies that manufacture machinery and equipment, and the commerce companies. In the public sector, the majority of jobs are in healthcare and social welfare services, education and cultural services. The region's numerous educational institutions are also large employers.

It is important to ensure that all groups of people are employed. More employment opportunities and the opportunity to work in English for people with a foreign background.

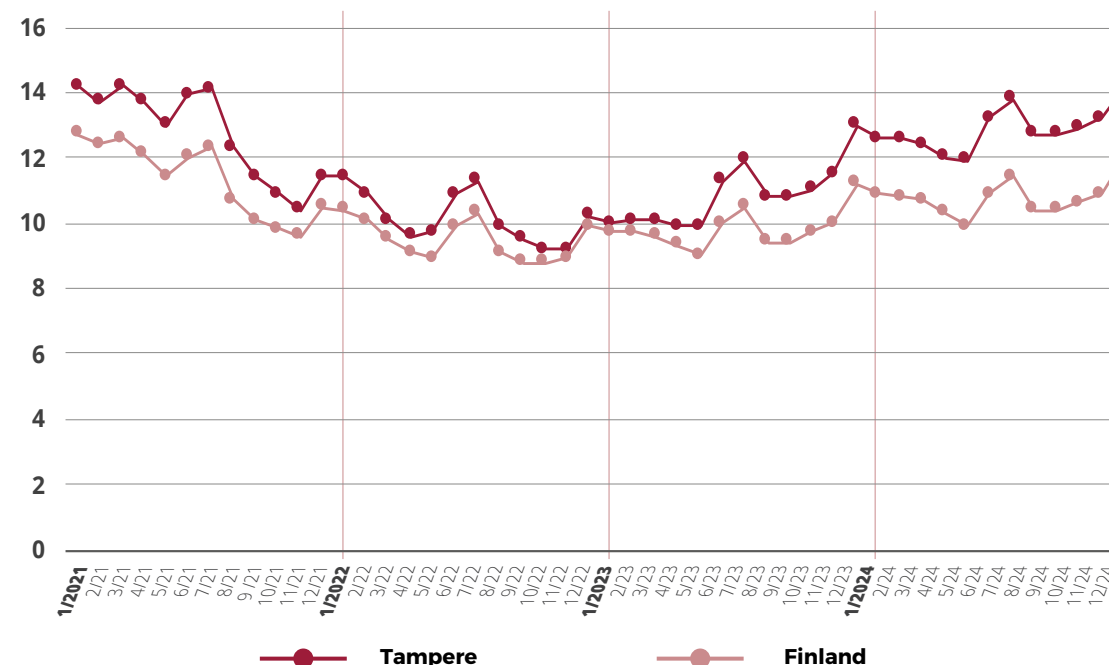
Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

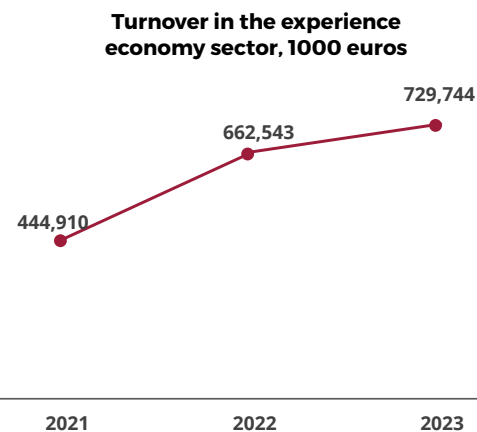
The number of employment condition measures

95

implemented in Tampere 2024

Unemployment rate in Tampere and in Finland, 1/2021-12/2024 (%)





New business spearheads and opportunities are sought from the defence and chips industry, the experience economy and the energy sector. **The employment prospects have however deteriorated recently, and unemployment has increased at a slightly faster rate than elsewhere in Finland.** The number of long-term unemployed, and the number of unemployed who are under the age of 25 or over the age of 50, have increased. As a new method, the city has promoted employment and work try-outs through an employment condition it has included in its procurement contracts. The new regional Culture Bank service promotes the employment of people in the cultural and artistic sector.

The responsibility for providing employment services was transferred from the central government to municipalities at the beginning of 2025. Tampere's aim with this reform is that the municipal-led operating model will provide more targeted and efficient services that will enable jobseekers to return to work more quickly. Services must also be more accessible and functional for employers and entrepreneurs. This is why **more measures to retain graduating students in the area are needed as well as to attract competent professionals, especially internationally.** Tampere has a lot of strategic and operational development going on relating to these themes.

Some central examples are the employment strategy for the region and the roadmap for the availability and retention of international workforce. Additionally, the Tampere Welcoming City development programme focuses on developing Tampere into an international city and ensuring that the city remains vibrant also in the future.

In the future, I would like to have a good job that I like in Tampere.

9th graders' Impact! event, spring 2025

[Business Tampere Ltd.](#)

[The Economic Development Strategy of the Tampere Region](#)

[Tampere Welcoming City development programme](#)





GOAL

Build resilient infrastructure and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Global goal

The aim is to develop high-quality, reliable and sustainable infrastructure, industry and innovations. The aim is to renew and enhance resource use, increase the uptake of clean and environmentally friendly technologies and production processes, encourage innovation and support scientific research.

In Finland

Education, research and development activities, technological expertise and innovations have supported Finland's success and international growth and created prosperity and preconditions for sustainable growth. Funding for research and development has turned to growth, and innovation support will be directed towards industrial renewal. Finland's goal is to leave an even larger global handprint by exporting zero-emission solutions to the world. Data economy and digitalisation are means to enhance competitiveness. However, factors such as the lack of financial steering continue to slow down the transition to circular economy, and maintaining the country's extensive transport network requires long-term investments.

Situation in Tampere

The driving forces of the city of the future are strong vitality and competitiveness, both nationally and internationally. Strengthening business ecosystems supports encounters between companies and experts and makes the region more attractive and desirable to stay in. Tampere aims to boost its **status as a city of science and high expertise** and to create the best conditions for future solutions. Tampere has strong position as a favourable growth platform for companies and finished third in the ranking of municipi-

palities by the Confederation of Finnish Industries in 2025. The study considers the business-oriented nature of municipal decision-making, public business services in the region and the opportunities for companies to participate in the provision of services. Tampere was also ranked 2nd in the Municipality image (Kuntien imago) survey, which is based on an assessment conducted by business managers operating in the region.

The Tampere region
was Finland's

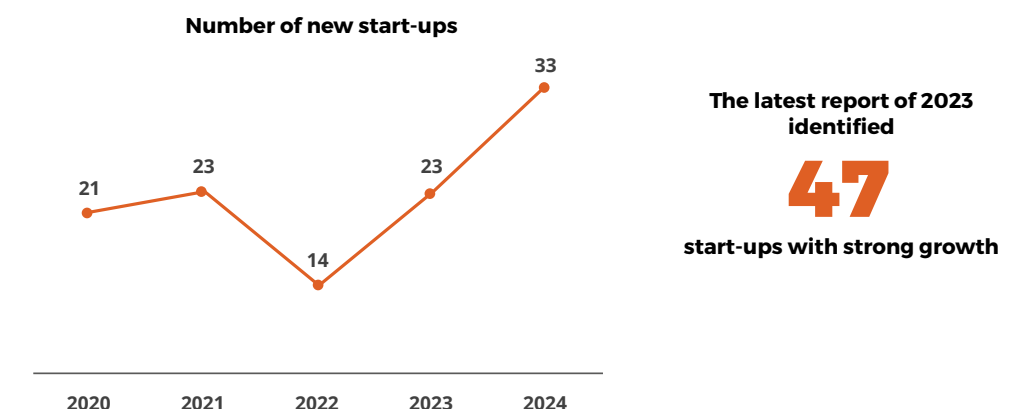
3.

attractive area for businesses
according to the 2025 ranking
of municipalities

Innovations play a key role in developing the city's competitiveness and sustainable future. The city's strategic **policies for innovation activities aim at national and international attraction**. Development projects are extensively promoted as part of the ecosystems and the smart city development facilitated by Business Tampere. Open innovation environments bring together higher education institutions, companies, communities and the city, allowing them to learn and create together. Tampere has test platforms in the fields of industry, health, smart city development, construction and circular economy. Cooperation and networking between actors are supported through **growth ecosystems in the fields of circular economy, wellbeing and smart and sustainable solutions**.

Microchips are vital part of Tampere's competitiveness, and growth companies, top researchers and experts form a centre of expertise for microchips. The Finnish Chips Competence Centre, FiCCC, was established in Tampere to accelerate the digitalisation of industry and other sectors with the help of chip technology. The Tampere region also has **versatile security and defence expertise**. The ecosystem formed by more than 350 companies creates international security innovations and solutions to secure the digitalising society.

Increasing the amount of start-ups and growth companies is an important part of Tampere's strategy. The number of start-ups has been declining in Finland, but Tampere has succeeded in strengthening its position as one of the most promising start-up centres in Europe. In 2024, the number of active **start-ups in Tampere increased to more than 200**. Business growth is particularly strong in software, scientific and technical innovation start-ups. Tampere supports the growth of start-ups throughout their life cycle through various business incubators, hubs and mentoring, for example. The city has also tightened the cooperation in this field with the Tampere University.





The digital transformation requires cities to have bold new solutions and the ability to respond to rapid technological development. **The Data-Driven City for Citizens development programme** has aimed to make Tampere a city that uses data and artificial intelligence ethically, safely and in a human-oriented manner to streamline, target and anticipate the future of services. Tampere also uses data innovatively to promote social equality, such as by collecting and using data on families with children to be able to better cater to their needs. A lot is ongoing in the development of digitalisation and smart cities, and the city has applied for and received EU funding to support the development during the funding period 2021–2027.

Tampere created the Metaverse Vision together with the London-based Metaverse Institute in 2023. The vision presents a city that utilises future smart technologies and whose key objectives are a good and happy life, efficient and reliable administration, effective climate action, and equality and wellbeing of people. **Citiverse** is the European term for this development, which emphasises human orientation, the strong role of cities and responsibility. In Citiverse, the virtual and physical world overlap and smart technologies are introduced for the benefit of people. Tampere already uses a shared IoT platform, has developed the Pulssi application for anticipating visitor flows in the city centre, and has sensors placed on the road surfaces that plan street maintenance measures. The international IMAGINE event that Tampere has already organised twice, presents the direction in which urban development is going globally and how technology can respond to common challenges. Tampere plays an active role in the global smart city networks, and also in the Citiverse development work of the UN International Telecommunication Union ITU.



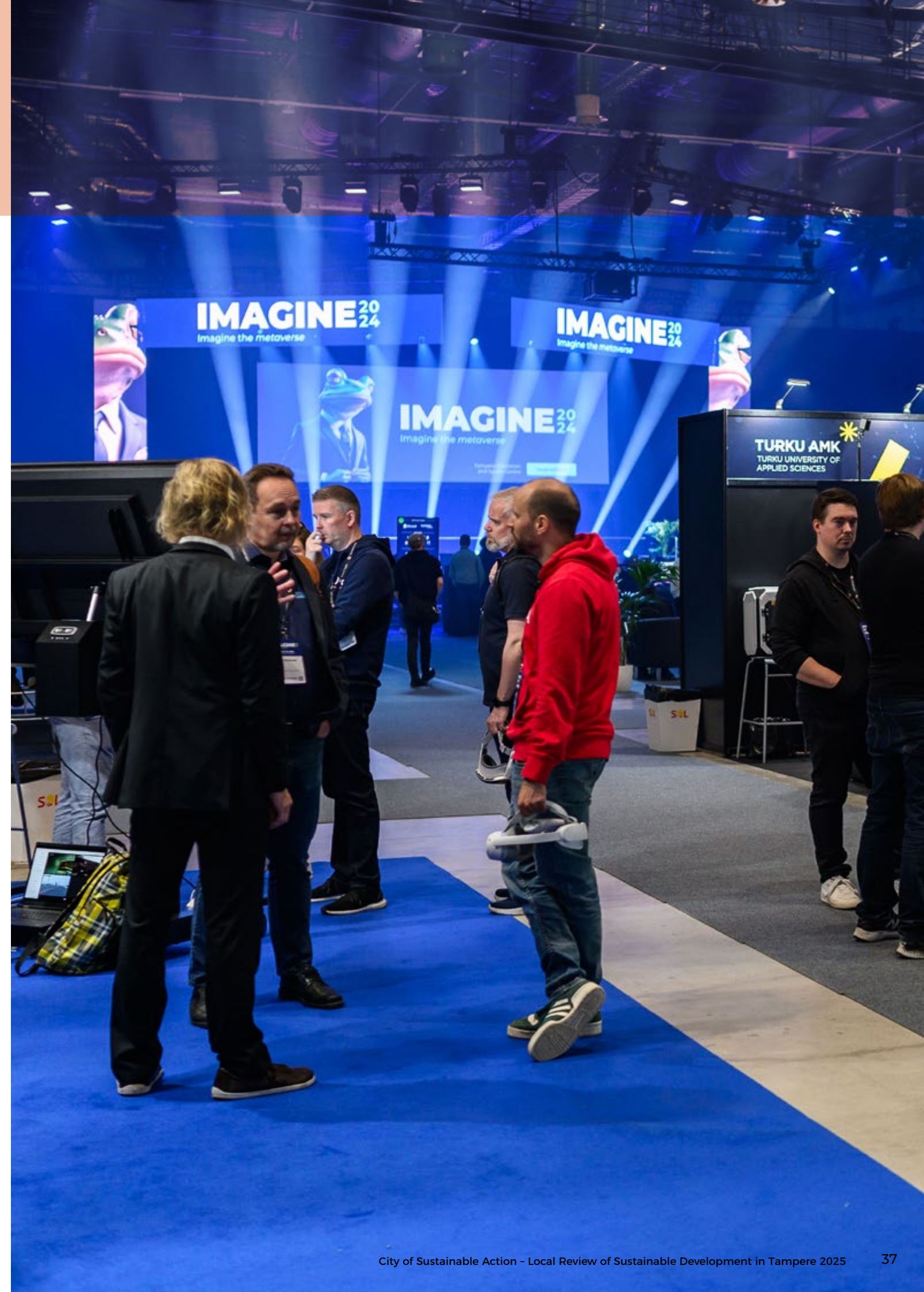
Tampere should focus on a future planned with a healthy economy, relying on expertise. A smart city should be at the centre, where digital systems play together to serve people.

Tampere survey for city personnel, spring 2025

The City Group comprises important actors in **more traditional infrastructure development and services**. Tampere commissions a wide range of urban infrastructure projects, and the Group companies are often implementing them. Examples of recent local infrastructure projects that promote sustainability include residential, business premises and street construction, water and waste management, energy production and distribution, and public transport. The city guides these activities in accordance with its own strategy, both in the role of the customer and the owner.

LEARN MORE:

[Tampere Citiverse](#)
[Smart Tampere](#)
[Digital development](#)





GOAL

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Global goal

The aim is to provide equal opportunities for a good life and equal treatment for all, and to secure the growth of income for the low-income population. The aim is also to make social, economic and political participation possible for everyone regardless of their age, gender, functional capacity, origin, background, religion or economic or other status.

In Finland

In Finland, people's right to participate in societal activities regardless of their background is realised well from an international perspective. The Finnish social security system and taxation have also been relatively effective in preventing the growth of income inequalities. Although the level of basic social security has improved in Finland until recent years, it is not usually possible to truly engage in societal affairs when living on basic social security. The promotion of equality still requires action in Finland, as discrimination and inequalities persist for a variety of reasons.

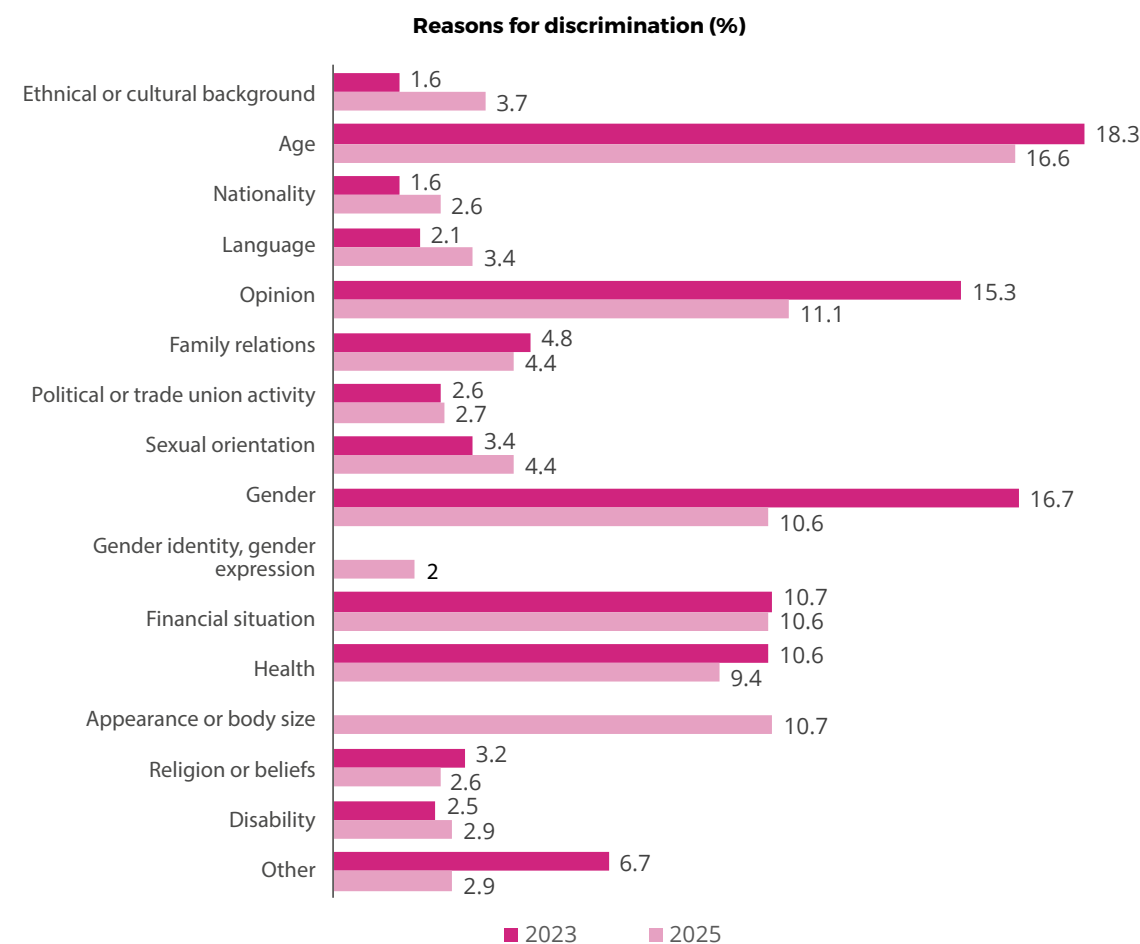
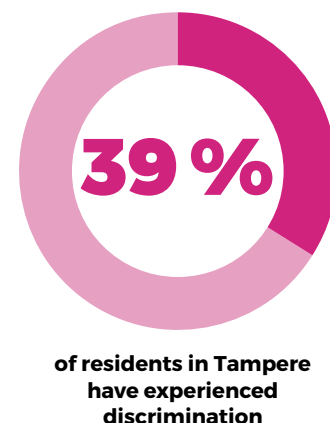
Situation in Tampere

Human rights are the foundation of the rule of law, and the promotion of equality, non-discrimination and human rights are a core values in Tampere. Equality and non-discrimination are promoted in many ways in the city operations, but their promotion and safeguarding requires continuous work. **The city promotes these themes through its equality and non-discrimination plan and the personnel policy plan for gender equality and non-discrimination.** Equality is also promoted through operational plans prepared for early education units, comprehensive education and general and other upper secondary education.

The city's equality and non-discrimination work is coordinated by the **non-discrimination coordinator**, whose task is to bring together actors from different fields to ensure the realisation of equality, non-discrimination and human rights. The measures of the city's equality and non-discrimination plan have mainly progressed as planned. However, ensuring preliminary assessments of human impacts should be carried out more extensively on the decisions from now on. This would help to identify better the needs for positive special treatment and reasonable accommodation, and to dismantle any hidden discriminatory structures. This would foster real equality and non-discrimination among residents. In future, Tampere's operational equality and non-discrimination plan will be combined with the wellbeing plan, and the state of equality and non-discrimination will be studied regularly e.g. through the wellbeing survey of Tampere's residents.

Experiences of discrimination have become more common in Tampere and, according to the wellbeing survey 2025, one in three respondents had experienced discrimination. Of those who responded to the 2024 safety survey, 39% had experienced discrimination or harassment. Almost all respondents belonging to minorities on different grounds of discrimination, felt that the level of safety had declined more than those not belonging to minority groups. People belonging to different minorities also reported having experienced a threat of violence or sexual harassment more often than other residents of Tampere.

Based on the feedback, the anti-discrimination and anti-racism campaign **'Tampere for everyone'** (Kaikkien Tampere) is received as a positive way of promoting human rights, non-discrimination and equality. **The principles of safer space** that aim to prevent inappropriate behaviour and discrimination, have been widely introduced in the various services provided by the city. The commonly defined and published principles for a safer space are particularly relevant to the minority groups who have experienced discrimination and fear that they will face inappropriate treatment again.



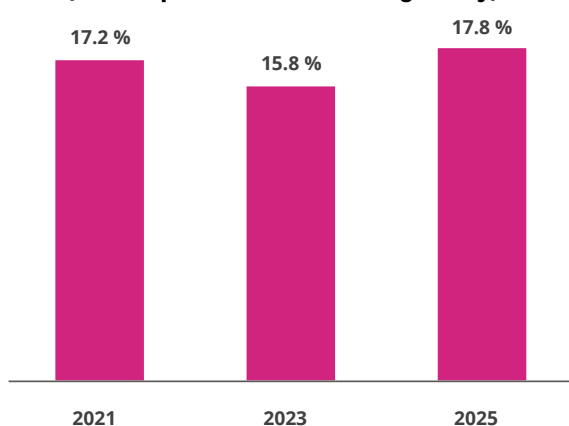


The preparation of the accessibility plan and the reform of the practices of accessibility work have progressed as planned. The plan's analysis of the current state of the built environment,, was carried out taking into account a wide range of expert, customer and stakeholder groups and people with different types of accessibility challenges. **The analysis pointed out concrete development needs for accessibility in the built environment, but also identified that the city organisation has a genuine intent and willingness to increase accessibility.** Resources reserved for accessibility development were seen as the greatest challenge. At the same time, however, it was noted that quick and affordable means for increasing accessibility also exist. In addition to issues related to the built environment, the accessibility working group in the city, also promotes social accessibility, taking into account the multiculturalism and diversity of the people in Tampere.

The population of Tampere is international and the proportion of people who speak a language other than Finnish as their first language is growing. About half of the population growth in Tampere in 2023 and 2024 was based on immigration. **Tampere wants to be a home for its residents with an international background.** The aim of the Tampere Welcoming City development programme is to make the city more international and to enhance the city's ability to retain international talents by strengthening the sense of belonging to Tampere and promoting integration into local communities. Another aim is to develop the City of Tampere as an international employer and make the city's services more international.

For five years, **International House Tam-**

Proportion of people who feel lonely
(% of respondents for wellbeing survey)



Tampere should improve equality by being more inclusive, promoting participation, preventing racism and discrimination and by providing services in English and other languages.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

pere has offered its international customers help with settling in Tampere, work, studies and meeting employers. Integration is supported by Tampere's multilingual guidance service Mainio, which assists in the everyday challenges of both immigration and settling in. In recent years, Tampere has received many war refugees from Ukraine. Those who arrive are offered assistance in Ukraine One Stop Shop in Ukrainian, Russian and Easy Finnish. **Children's integration in Tampere is supported in comprehensive schools through remedial and S2 teaching.** Seven comprehensive schools also have a project for helping pupils with an immigrant background with their language and school skills.

Stronger support for the more disadvantaged neighbourhoods and people in a vulnerable position. The best way to improve wellbeing for all is to lift and support those at risk of falling.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

Based on the Gini coefficient that represents income inequality, the growth of income inequality has decreased slightly since 2021, both in Tampere and nationally, **but income inequality is still higher in Tampere than the national average.** The share of those who feel that their financial situation is good has decreased slightly in Tampere between 2023 and 2025. Tampere has succeeded in curbing the growth and polarisation of differences in residential areas, but differences in wellbeing are increasing between the districts regardless. According to the 2025 wellbeing survey, the residential areas differ especially in terms of reputation, perceived safety and the functionality of services.

LEARN MORE:

[Equality, non-discrimination and diversity in Tampere](#)
[International House Tampere](#)
[Strategic Programme on International Talent Attraction and Migration](#)



GOAL

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Global goal

Ensuring and increasing security, sustainability and the protection of cultural and natural heritage as urbanisation progresses is at the core of this goal focused on cities. The goal includes targets concerning housing, transport systems and mobility as well as participatory urban planning. The aim is also to reduce the harmful environmental impacts of cities and ensure equal access to safe, inclusive, green and public spaces for all.

In Finland

In general, the goal is achieved well in Finland. Finland has succeeded in strengthening comprehensive planning, in which land use, housing and transport solutions promote sustainable urban structure, transport system and housing production in urban areas. The aim is also to support the digitalisation of the transport system, promote traffic safety and encourage cities to densify their urban structure, promote public transport, cycling and walking, and prevent segregation. Over a longer period, Finland has managed to reduce the number of homeless people, but it has taken a worrying turn in recent years. In cities, negative environmental impacts on people are low, and the aim is to reduce them even further.

Situation In Tampere

A strategic goal of Tampere has been to increase population by approximately 3,000 new residents each year. **However, population growth has been clearly higher than this, with up to 5,000–6,000 inhabitants per year over the past three years.** According to the population forecast, the annual growth of more than 3,000 inhabitants will continue still for several years.

Growth creates opportunities for the vitality of the city and the wellbeing of its residents, but uncontrolled growth may erode the strengths on which

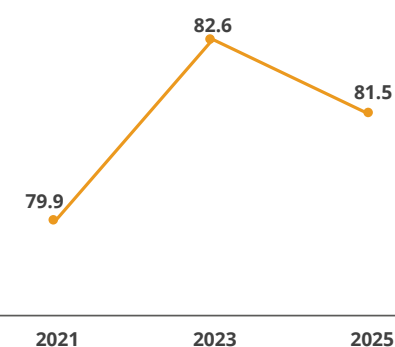
the city relies. Therefore, strong growth requires balancing between the different aspects of sustainability. Growing construction and transport put pressure on environment and recreational and nature areas that are important to the residents. This has sparked a **debate on the quality of growth** in Tampere. Local residents are also increasingly concerned about the social impacts of growth and the vitality of existing neighbourhoods.

Population growth may increase inequalities between groups of people and residential areas. The even distribution of wellbeing is therefore a key strategic goal in Tampere. So far, **people in Tampere are doing well in most of the residential areas.** The improved income and education levels and wellbeing have been fairly evenly distributed across the city. However, there are also residential areas where the development of wellbeing has been slower for a long time. People with low income, the unemployed and people with a lower level of education live in relatively cheaper areas dominated by blocks-of-flats and rental housing. There the residents' perceived wellbeing is also lower. The city tries to respond to the need for equal development and vitality of residential areas through **determined and systematic neighbourhood development.**

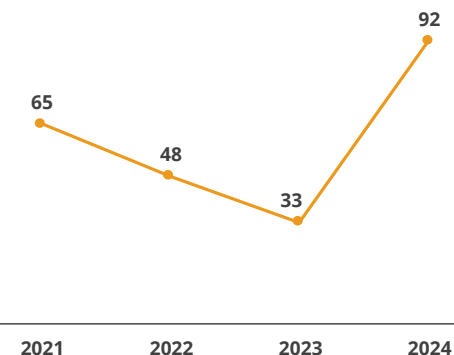
I think we should maintain diversity in residential areas and support housing opportunities for several types of residents and different life situations equally.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

Proportion of residents satisfied with the comfort of their residential area:



Long-term homeless population in Tampere, persons



The number of homeless people started to increase in Tampere in 2024. This has been particularly affected by stricter social security measures at the national level and increased rental costs. The housing costs taken into account in basic social assistance thus no longer correspond to the actual price levels in Tampere. The challenges in the availability of healthcare and social welfare services and the use of intoxicants and drugs have contributed to increasing the risk of homelessness. An increasing number of those receiving social assistance from Kela (the Social Insurance Institution of Finland), have been asked to move to more affordable housing. In 2024, the number of homeless people living alone increased by more than 100 people in Tampere to nearly 400 persons, and the amounts of long-term homelessness almost tripled to just under 100 persons.

The increased cost of construction makes it challenging to construct more affordable housing. The city does not own rental housing directly, but the City Group includes five companies and foundations that build and own affordable rental housing. Together they own approximately 15,000 affordable rental dwellings. There are also several other companies and organisations that construct and own state-subsidised rental housing (formerly



Ara housing) in Tampere. Some affordable dwellings are meant for people belonging to a specific group, such as older people or students.

The city's **Resident First housing advisory project organises low-threshold housing advisory services** for all residents. The aim is to respond to growing housing crisis situations by combining mental health and substance abuse services with housing advice work. The city also aims to create the preconditions for affordable production of rental housing, to work in closer cooperation with rental housing operators and to strengthen cooperation with the Pirkanmaa wellbeing services county. A working group on reducing homelessness has also been established in Tampere region.

With regard to housing, the city has managed to **direct growth to the public transport zone and to the district centres as planned**, but the zoning of business premises has not fully kept up with the strong growth. If the development continues like this for business premises, it may lead to urban sprawl and thus weaken ecological sustainability and the preconditions for entrepreneurship. Tampere has managed to keep the share of sustainable modes of transport at a high level. According to the 2023 passenger transport survey, **59% of all journeys were carried out in sustainable modes**. Year 2023 was also the first time that the limit of 50 million passengers was exceeded in public transport.

The Tampere tram, which started operating in 2021, expanded to Lentävänniemi in January 2025, and further construction towards Pirkkala and Linnainmaa districts began in December 2024.

Tampere promotes sustainable transportation through measures under **the cycling development programme and the walking and urban life programme**. Tampere aims to have a 69% modal share of walking, cycling and public transport by 2030. Tampere strives to build its city centre with an emphasis on walking and cycling, to promote themes of sustainable mobility in education, and to make it easier to use sustainable modes of transport. In recent years, the Tampere Accessibility Award has been awarded to the tram system and the first accessible beach in Tampere, for example.

The many cultural houses, libraries, museums and the **events and experiences** organised or supported by the city are part of the city's identity and sustainable attraction and retention power, which has been promoted through the Experience Economy Development Programme during the council's term. City also supports cultural actors with various grants. The number of events has increased in Tampere, and the number of visitors has exceeded the levels before the covid-pandemic. Tampere has established its role as a city of events with the help of new venues such as Nokia Areena and Tammela Stadium. There are more than 50 public saunas in the Tampere region, to enjoy throughout the year and **Tampere has been declared the world's sauna capital**.

The Tampere city centre development programme, which was updated in 2023, guides the determined development of the city centre with an aim for 2040. The programme aims to increase the number of jobs and residents

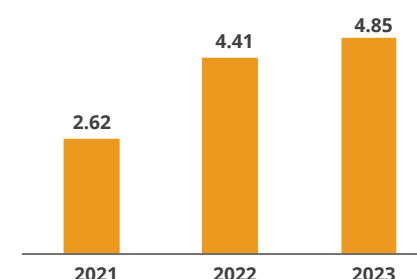
at the heart of the city, as well as to improve the quality of the urban environment. The vitality of the city centre has decreased slightly since 2021, but the Tampere has ranked number one in vitality studies two years in a row.

Ensuring sustainable growth also requires that **ecological sustainability is taken into account in urban structure planning**. The master plan work for the past council term has examined solutions for adapting to climate change and for taking the green environment and biodiversity better into account. The number of green areas is examined already in the planning phase using the green factor method. The aim is to keep forests and the blue-green infrastructure of the urban environment diverse and vibrant as the city grows. However, the amount green and blue area in the city per inhabitant has decreased during the council term, mainly due to strong population growth.

In addition to green areas, the city's attractiveness depends on factors such as air quality and noise. **The city's air quality has improved significantly over the years**, but the street dust season after every winter temporarily exceeds the limit of fine particles and remains a challenge. Road and rail traffic noise continues to cause significant environmental damage in the city. **More than one in three residents in Tampere is exposed to traffic noise**. Tampere committed to improving the above-mentioned matters through clear targets when joining the European Commission's Green City Accord initiative in 2022. Through the initiative, Tampere also commits to improving water quality, reducing water consumption, promoting biodiversity and developing the circular economy in line with the 2030 targets. More monitored information on the state of the environment (Ympäristön tila) in Tampere is collected to the web portal under the same name.

In recent years, Tampere has introduced **new channels for public participation**. The city consults its city-wide stakeholder networks (nine district networks) on ongoing local projects, changes and important themes raised by residents. Residents can participate or follow online e.g. in the residents' evenings and have discussions, networking, share experiences and take a stand on topical issues in the city. The popular Tampere in Change (Muuttuva Tampere) Instagram account shares information on how to have a say with the planning processes under preparation and about the renewal of the urban environment.

Number of visitors at key experience economy and cultural destinations



38 %

Share of residents exposed to noise of 55 dB or higher

Less space for cars, more space for people. Better cycling routes to the city centre and narrower roads for motor vehicles. I hope for more narrowed road crossings.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

Fast growth will probably create a temptation to build a lot more. I hope that this will be done with care, focusing on building areas where you can live well without a car.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

LEARN MORE:

[Housing and construction in Tampere](#)
[Neighbourhood Development](#)
[Sustainable mobility actions in Tampere](#)
[Climate Watch](#)
[Experience Economy Tampere](#)
[Nature and environment in Tampere](#)



GOAL

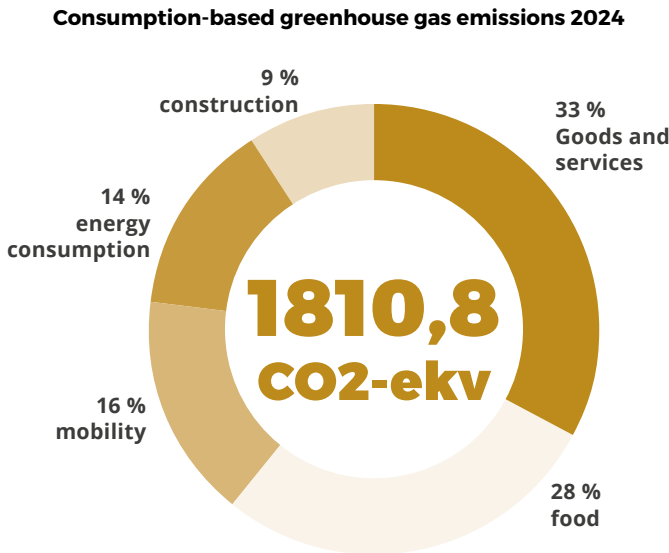
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Global goal
 The aim is to ensure the sustainability of consumption and production methods everywhere and to use natural resources in a sustainable and efficient manner. The subgoals focus also on food waste and minimising the health and environmental impacts of chemicals and waste. Additionally, the aim is to encourage sustainable business activities and related reporting as well as sustainable public procurement. Awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles that are favourable for nature should be increased everywhere.

In Finland
 Finland consumes clearly more raw materials than the EU average, and Finland’s material footprint is one of the largest in the world per capita. The national economy is material-intensive, and the country’s resource efficiency and rate of circular economy and recycling are low. Finland seeks to respond to these challenges through strategic programmes to promote a circular economy and bioeconomy. Finland promotes sustainable public procurement through multi-actor cooperation at different levels of administration, such as in municipalities. Sustainable development and ecosocial approach have been integrated into education at all levels of education.

Situation in Tampere
Municipalities play an important role in reducing emissions from consumption by supporting the sustainable choices of residents and stakeholders. In addition to the established calculation of area-based emissions, it is important to monitor consumption-based emissions as well. These indicate the amount of emissions arising from the residents’ consumption of goods, services and food, their transportation outside the area and the material use for construction locally. According to an estimate presented by the Finnish Environment Institute, it would be possible to reduce emissions by 40–70% through reduced carbon in the consumption of services and products.

In 2024, the consumption-based emissions in Tampere were 7.1 tonnes per resident (CO2-eq). In a comparison between municipalities, Tampere has the lowest consumption-based emissions, but still far from the target level. To achieve the Paris Agreement target, the emission level per capita should be 2.5 tonnes (CO2-eq) by 2030. In 2024, most of the consumption-based emissions in Tampere were generated by the consumption of goods, services and food. Emissions from energy consumption and construction decreased in 2024. The results of the calculation are indicative, as some areas lack municipality-specific data, and it is not possible to trace each product or service produced in the municipality.



The city’s key measures related to circular economy, food, procurement, services and transport that promote sustainable consumption of both the organisation and residents are included in the Climate Neutral Tampere 2030 Roadmap. With the help of the **Development Programme for Carbon Neutral Actions** (2022–2025), the city has looked for ways to support residents and companies in creating sustainable lifestyles. The carrying idea in the programme has been that “no one can do everything, but everyone can do something”. According to the programme evaluation, the awareness, interest, competence and motivation of residents has increased in terms of sustainable lifestyles. In addition, the local business environment of circular economy has improved.

Transport emissions account for the third largest share of consumption-related emissions, of which the most significant source of emissions are passenger cars. In 2023, the residents of Tampere chose either public transport, walking or cycling as their mode of transport in 59 % of journeys. Improving the conditions for walking, cycling and public transport through various programmes is a priority in the development of the transport system. The number of kilometres driven by car has decreased in Tampere since 2021, and the share of public transport has clearly increased. Despite this, approximately 40 % of journeys by car still happen in the intensive public transport zone, despite good transport connections.

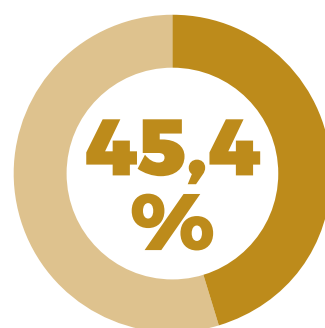
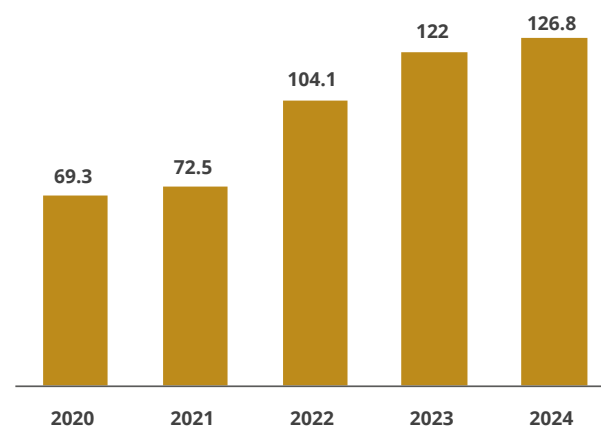
Supporting events that involve collecting litter after winter and spring would be a good way to get people to take responsibility for their own living environment, and I would be very interested in participating in such activities.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025



The level of circular economy in Finland reaches barely the European average, and is thus one of the weakest sectors in promoting sustainability nationally. Tampere also needs to develop its circular economy, even though the amount of mixed waste has decreased in recent years. The City Board approved the city **circular economy plan** in 2022 to guide the development work. The plan defines the

Number of public transport boardings per resident



The recycling rate of municipal waste in Tampere

focus areas and objectives of this work. The waste reduction actions have included e.g. making the collection of biowaste mandatory in district centres of more than 10,000 people, by adding more recycling opportunities and by increasing the efficiency of the collection of plastic waste and biowaste at educational institutions.

Emissions from infrastructure construction can be reduced by managing soil masses, such as their utilisation at the source and recycling. In 2025, **Tampere joined the Circular Economy Green Deal** as the first large city to promote the circular economy of infrastructure and building construction. Through this commitment, Tampere set a target to use the circular economy criteria in 50 % of infrastructure construction procurements by 2035 instead of the

current level of 20 %. The City of Tampere also joined the Green Deal for Zero-Emission Construction Sites, the aim of which is to reduce emissions at construction sites through long-term public procurement. In this context, for example Tampereen Infra and Tampereen Tilapalvelut are important actors within the City Group.

In cooperation with the University of Jyväskylä, the City of Tampere calculated the nature footprint of Tampere, creating a customised calculation method for cities. The first calculation is based on procurements and service purchases in 2021. **The majority of the city's nature footprint was caused by food procurement in 2021**, despite the fact that food procurement accounts for only 3% of all procurements. The nature and carbon footprint of foodstuffs was mostly caused by red meat and dairy products.

Most of the food procurements of the City of Tampere come from the catering services provided by Pirkanmaan Voimia. The city's early education centres, schools, general upper secondary schools and vocational institutions offer **a vegetarian food option every day**. Efforts have been made to make vegetarian food more attractive through food education. Food waste, which Tampere educational institutions monitor, also plays an essential role in the sustainability of food consumption. In 2023, the schools Pirkanmaan Voimia services generated a total of 40,000 kg of food waste.

The online **climate and nature guide of Tampere** also helps residents make sustainable everyday choices. This service maintained by Ekokumppanit, yet another City Group actor, provides expert tips on sustainable lifestyles related to food, housing, energy, transport, leisure time and procurements. The principles of a sustainable lifestyles are also an important part of the content, implementation methods and use of learning materials of education. Tampere libraries enable the local sustainability in many ways, as besides just lending books, many kinds of music and leisure equipment can be borrowed. Libraries also distribute information and arrange events on the themes of sustainability. **In 2024, 4.8 million items were checked out from Tampere City Libraries, and the number of customers was higher than in nearly 20 years, totalling 97,568.**

I always use public transport; I no longer own a car. I prefer recycling wherever it is possible. The food left over in schools and early education centres should be recycled to those who need it, not thrown away.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025



LEARN MORE:

Ekokumppanit Ltd
[Circular Economy in Tampere](#)
[Tampere nature and carbon footprint calculation](#)



GOAL

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Global goal

The aim is to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and mitigate its impacts. The ability of countries, their citizens and institutions to adapt to climate-related risk factors and disasters needs to be supported. Another aim is to increase knowledge, education and readiness related to climate change.

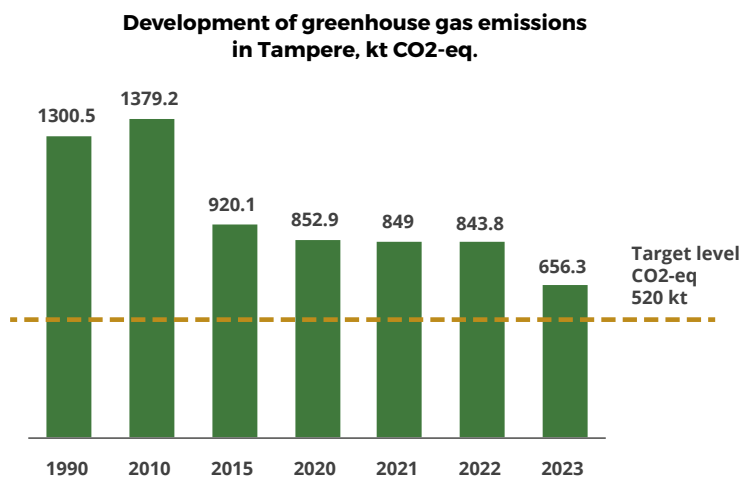
In Finland

Finland aims at achieving climate neutrality by 2035. The Climate Act ensures the coherence of climate policy in the long term. However, the obligation to draw up a climate plan for municipalities has been removed from the Climate Act. Finland's climate emissions have decreased significantly, especially in industry and energy production. Emission reductions in transport, housing and agriculture will not reach the target level at the current rate and thus need acceleration. The carbon sinks of forests have decreased, and forests have become an emission source due to increased logging of forests and slower forest growth. Adaptation to climate change is an essential part of Finland's climate policy, and it is promoted through the objectives of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Situation in Tampere

Global warming is a global crisis. Approximately 80 % of energy and natural resources are consumed in cities. Tampere's goal is to be climate neutral by 2030. To reach it, the city's aim is to reduce the area-based greenhouse gas emissions by 80 % from 1990 levels, and compensate for the remaining 20% of emissions. According to the latest confirmed emission calculations for 2023, **the area-based climate emissions in Tampere have decreased by half (50 %) from year 1990**. The reduction in emissions per resident is even higher, 66 %. In other words, the city has managed to increase in the number of inhabitants without increasing its emissions.

In recent years, the emission trend of Tampere has been in the right direction, with the exception of the energy crisis that temporarily increased emissions in 2022, when natural gas was replaced with oil in centralised energy production. However, district heating emissions have now decreased to a level lower than before in 2023 as the crisis subsided. **According to the current scenario, most of the emissions targets will be achieved in Tampere by 2030**. However, the decline in transport emissions has slowed down, which makes it harder to reach the emissions target. **Additional measures are needed to reduce transport emissions in Tampere**, especially regarding passenger car transport, as cars are the largest source of emissions from transport.



Without a very healthy environment, there are no prerequisites for long-term activities. We need a healthy environment and nature to live.

Tampere survey for city personnel, spring 2025

The clear recent reduction in emissions has been particularly affected by the new solutions for district heating production Tampereen Energia introduced in 2022, which alone resulted in an emission reduction of about 15 %. Despite this, **most of the emissions in Tampere are still generated by heating buildings**. According to preliminary data, emissions continued to decrease in 2024.

The consumption-based climate emissions in Tampere have now been measured three times. Emissions from consumption have decreased, which is mainly a result of more effective consumption of energy and the decarbonising energy production. The majority of consumption-based emissions come from food and transport. A significant share of emissions also arises from the procurement of goods and services by companies. It should be noted that the climate neutrality target is based on the calculation of area-based greenhouse gas emissions, in which the indirect emissions from consumption by the communities and residents of Tampere (scope 3) are not included.

Achieving the climate neutrality target still requires further efforts in all sectors. The city can promote the emission reduction target by giving up oil heating, favouring recycled construction materials, minimising the need for construction and developing transport infrastructure. Municipalities can influence consumer emissions by encouraging consumers to make low-carbon choices, such as to have a plant-based diet and travel with sustainable

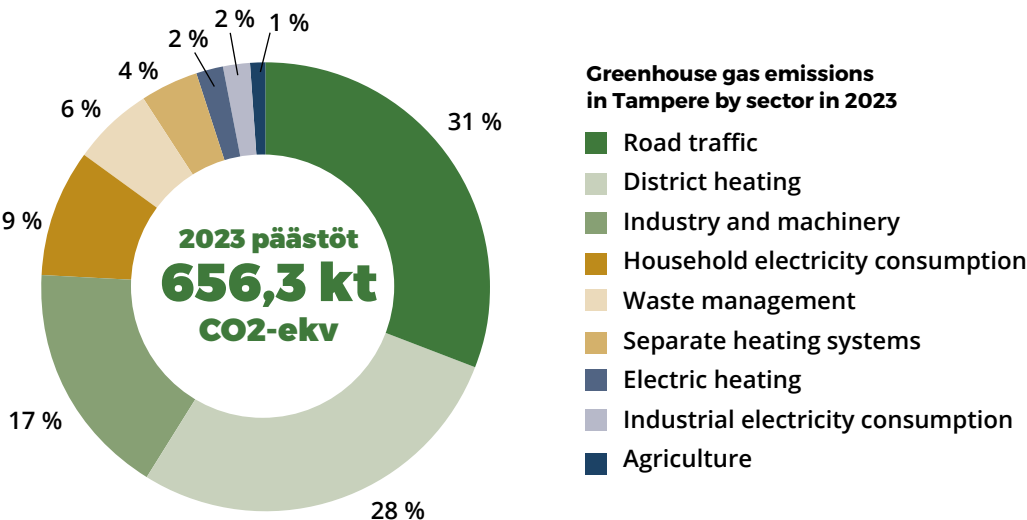


modes of transport. The city also communicates about sustainable consumption habits. This work has been successfully carried out through the Development Programme for Carbon Neutral Actions, for example.

Tampere has carried out ambitious pioneering work related to the management and implementation of climate work. For example, it has combined climate work with the city's budget and financial statements through climate budgeting. **The city's climate actions have been compiled into the Climate Neutral Tampere 2030 Roadmap**, which is updated every other year. After the 2024 update, the roadmap includes almost 400 measures from different parts of the city organisation. At the moment, 84 % of all measures are progressing according to plan. The measures include management, urban planning, mobility, construction, energy, consumption and urban nature. The progress of the roadmap measures is published in Tampere's Climate and Environment Watch, which is open to all. Tampere is part of the European Union's "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities" mission and has received the EU's official climate work label in spring 2024.

The impacts of climate change are already visible in Tampere and are expected to intensify in the future. While reducing climate emissions remains a top priority, it is also crucial to anticipate and adapt to changes in environmental conditions. The city has long

been implementing a wide range of adaptation measures, but in 2022, these measures were brought together and organised in a centrally coordinated manner. Climate change adaptation and preparedness measures have also been compiled in the Climate Neutral Tampere 2030 Roadmap. To determine



the risks of climate change in Tampere, the city examined factors affecting the vulnerability of society and their manifestations in different areas of the city using the 2024 vulnerability analysis. Through this the city identified the most vulnerable areas and development targets.

The greatest climate risks in Tampere Region are associated with severe temperature fluctuations. On average, the lowest temperature of a day has decreased by 0.6 degrees from 1991 to 2020, while the highest temperature has increased by 0.6 degrees. In addition, **rainfall and heavy rainfall have increased, which has increased the risk of stormwater floods.** In Tampere, the significant risks include floods, heavy rainfall, diseases and pests, changes in species and loss of biodiversity, storms, heat waves and droughts.

The increased warming-related risks are reflected to the number of municipal residents who live in an area affected by the heat island effect. The number has increased by as much as 15 % since 2021, and **in 2024, a total of 18,600 municipal residents lived in an area affected by the heat island effect.** Increased extreme weather phenomena affect the vulnerable groups the most, which increases inequality between the different groups of society. Due to this, the most vulnerable groups have been considered in the preparations for climate change in Tampere, and the potential risks have been identified. In addition to the population, climate change has a significant impact on livelihoods, the built environment and ecosystems. The rise in temperatures also requires financial investments to prepare for extreme phenomena. On the other hand, the rise in temperatures causes economic losses, especially in agriculture and forestry.

[Climate action in Tampere](#)
[Climate emissions in Tampere](#)
[Tampere's Climate and Environmental Watch](#)

More urban green, trees, plants and parks. Cities heat up more every summer because everything is covered by asphalt. The greenhouse effect must be taken into account in the city's zoning.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025



For me, Tampere is good when it is viable for both nature and people. There is a lot of green and the waters are in a good state so I can relax in nature."

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

GOAL

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Global goal

The aim is to preserve the seas and submarine life as well as to use water bodies sustainably. The goal guides us to prevent and reduce marine pollution due to waste and nutrient loading, for example, and protect and restore aquatic ecosystems. By regulating fishing and putting a stop to harmful fishing, we can restore fish stocks to a sustainable level.

In Finland

Finland's challenge is the eutrophication and pollution of the Baltic Sea due to nutrient loading and harmful substances ending up in the sea. There are several endangered, vulnerable or declining submarine habitats in the Baltic Sea. Fish stocks have deteriorated in recent years, which has led to more stringent fishing regulation measures. In its own marine areas, Finland has achieved the 10 % target for a conservation area as stated in the 2030 Agenda. Finland is also committed to increasing the amount of global nature conservation areas to 30 %, including inland waterways and sea areas.

Situation in Tampere

The Tampere Region and its water bodies are part of the extensive basin of river Kokemäenjoki that flows into the Baltic Sea. **Through local water protection and mitigating airborne loading, the status of the Baltic Sea is affected.** The aim is to ensure that water bodies remain viable and clean also for future generations.

Lakes dominate the landscape in many places in Tampere, and **the 160 lakes offer important recreational opportunities all year round for the people in Tampere.** In the summer, people engage in activities such as swimming, boating and paddling, travelling, fishing and in other recreational activities around the water bodies. Frozen waterways invite people to exer-

cise and enjoy the city in the winter. Tampere has 34 beaches, where the water quality and temperature are regularly monitored during the swimming season from June to August. The city also rents places for its residents to store boats of different sizes in shore areas.

The ecological status of a total of 64 lakes and ponds is monitored regularly in Tampere. Monitoring has been carried out since the 1980s when the lakes that had been heavily polluted by municipal wastewater began to recover. **Today, the ecological status of water bodies in the Tampere region is mainly good and also in the largest lakes, Lake Näsijärvi and Lake Pyhäjärvi.** The state of smaller lakes varies from excellent to poor. The ecological status of lakes is particularly weakened by nutrient loads caused by wastewater from residential areas, agriculture and forestry and by stormwater in the city centre. Construction puts a strain on waterways, especially in the inner city. The status of the organisms in larger and smaller water bodies, such as fish, benthic fauna and aquatic flora, is also monitored in a programmed manner.

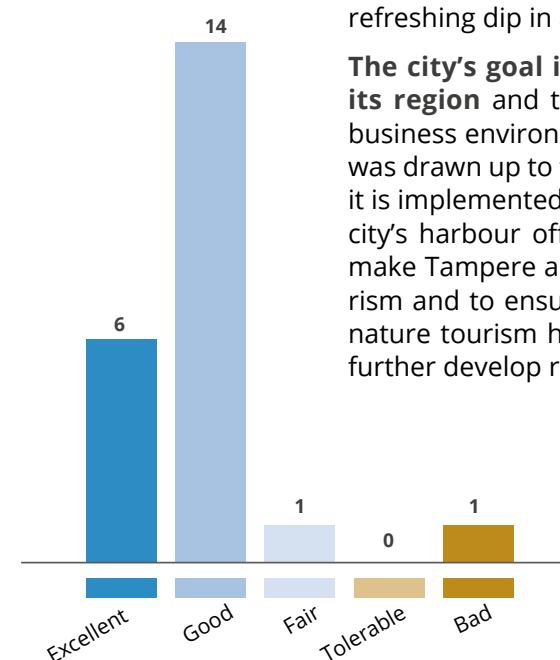
The new central treatment plant that opens in Tampere in 2025 will enhance wastewater treatment in the region and reduce the load on water bodies below Tampere. This will also increase the recreational value of the water bodies. **In recent years, Tampere has been involved in cooperation projects to develop nature-based solutions for delaying and purifying stormwater in basins and wetlands of green areas.** The updated stormwater programme of the City of Tampere was approved in 2023.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and urban densification threaten water bodies and underwater life in Tampere. The expanded area of impermeable surfaces and the rapid collection and discharge of water from roofs and asphalt significantly change the natural water cycles and pathways. The increasing rainfall caused by climate change create poorly absorbing stormwater floods in the city, inflicting economic damage, erosion, and loading of harmful substances and nutrients in water bodies.

Wellbeing lakes and small water bodies make the city more attractive and promote biodiversity. They are thus a valuable part of the city's ecological blue-green network. Nature and lake tourism is a key part of the experience economy in Tampere and one of its natural strengths. The city has many development projects for the sustainability of nature and lake tourism, which also supports Tampere's journey towards climate neutrality. **Waterways also play an important role for Tampere as the world's sauna capital,** and many of the city's public saunas offer a chance for a refreshing dip in a lake.

The city's goal is to strengthen lake and nature tourism in its region and to accelerate the development of a sustainable business environment for it. A lake and nature tourism roadmap was drawn up to function as a basis for further development, and it is implemented jointly by Visit Tampere, Ekokumppanit and the city's harbour office (Satamatoimisto). The roadmap's aim is to make Tampere an attractive destination for lake and nature tourism and to ensure sustainable access to nature sites. Lake and nature tourism has increased in Tampere, but the city needs to further develop reporting of this.

The distribution of lakes by ecological state (number of lakes)



LEARN MORE:

[Water protection in Tampere \(in Finnish\)](#)
[Lakeland Tampere](#)
[Sauna Capital Tampere](#)

Share of stream waters in at least in good ecological condition

56,2%



GOAL

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halt biodiversity loss

Global goal
The aim is to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems, including forests and soil, and to promote their sustainable use. The aim is to take urgent and significant measures to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt biodiversity loss, combat alien species and protect endangered species. The aim is also to combat desertification.

In Finland
The sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems has been integrated into legislation and various plans in Finland, but measures to achieve the objectives have not yet been sufficient. Finland is committed to implementing the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the EU Nature Restoration Regulation. Actions have been taken to halt biodiversity loss, but further efforts and increased investments are needed. Action programmes to protect the biodiversity of forests and nature and ecosystem services will be continued and further developed.

Situation in Tampere
Because of human activities, biodiversity is also deteriorating at an unprecedented rate in Finnish urban areas. The growing concern about the state of nature both globally and locally brought **biodiversity and other nature themes to a public debate in Tampere** just before the 2021–2025 council term. The city's growth, climate change and the pressure of land use threaten

biodiversity. The European Union's Nature Restoration Regulation lays down new obligations for protecting nature also in cities, and it guides Tampere to take measures to improve the state of nature.

Local activities visibly affect nature both locally and outside Finland's borders. The majority of the biodiversity footprint caused by the procurement chains of the City of Tampere is generated outside Finland, and in terms of land use, as much as **96 % of the impacts on nature are directed outside Finland**. In 2021, the greatest impacts of land and water use and pollution in Tampere were on Russia, China and India. As a result of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, procurement from Russia has decreased significantly.

Besides the protected areas, City of Tampere strives to preserve biodiversity in an increasingly dense urban structure in the surroundings of city residents. This work is guided by the **Tampere Biodiversity Programme (LUMO programme) adopted in 2022**. It is impossible to measure biodiversity as a whole, so the strategic metrics are based on indicators that depict biodiversity in a simplified manner. The development of indicators and metrics that measure the state of biodiversity as truthfully as possible is part of the LUMO programme.

Forests and green areas are an important part of the recreation of everyday life in Tampere and an essential part of the city's landscape. Hiking activities in the city's recreational and green areas have been clearly on the increase, and **the campfire sites of Tampere had roughly 220,000 visitors in 2024**. The City of Tampere plays an important role in the management of forests and green areas in the region, as the city owns approximately 7,500 hectares of forest. A significant part, around 3,800 hectares, is located in the inner city, very close to residential areas. They are areas meant for primarily recreational use. The management and use of forests owned by the city is guided by **the forestry operations model 2022–2030**. The aim is to have forest nature that is multi-functional, diverse and safe and offers experiences, promotes wellbeing and mitigates and adapts to climate change.

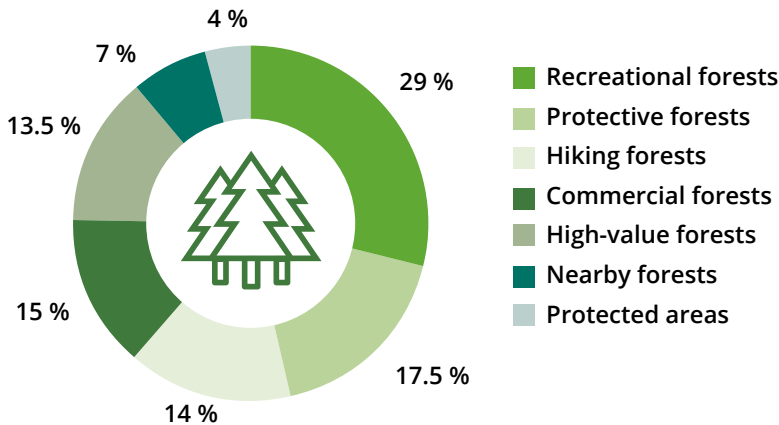
Actions taken so far in the Biodiversity programme

112

The amount of green land area per resident (m²)

2022	243.5
2023	238.8
2024	229.3

Classification of city forests in Tampere





It is also essential to **combat invasive alien species** that spread easily and take over living space from vegetation that is typical in the area. The City of Tampere combats invasive alien species, but it also needs help from the residents and associations, providing them guidance in this work. **As part of the protection of endangered habitats, the City of Tampere has protected valuable nature sites and habitats** and restored mire areas. The city has also examined local maintenance needs and considers e.g. bats and flying squirrels in planning.

In addition to the biodiversity programme measures, **the city promotes biodiversity by distributing grants to associations and communities.**

The small grants can be applied annually and are intended for organisations or private individuals for projects that promote environmental protection, nature care or biodiversity. **In 2025, the city granted over 7,500 euros in total.** Many of the associations that received the grant combat invasive alien species, such as the Himalayan balsam, large-leaved lupin and Spanish slug. There are also plans to organise volunteer maintenance of the traditional rural biotopes, host events that raises environmental awareness, environmental art projects, litter walks or workshops on how to identify alien species.

In 2024, **Tampere organised Finland's first Urban Nature Forum** to combat biodiversity loss. Together, the leaders of the ten largest cities in Finland committed to strengthening biodiversity through concrete and measurable actions and to setting an example to other cities. This declaration of the ten cities is linked to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy's objectives of halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and curbing it towards recovery.

[Nature and the environment in Tampere](#)
[Tampere Biodiversity programme](#)
[Declaration of the cities to halt nature loss and enhance biodiversity](#)



Total of
43
 nesting bird species in
 Tampere urban environment

I would like to see some of the areas "conquered" for humans returned to nature at Tampere. For example, a hillock close to my home that birds seemed to like was cleared and I can no longer hear birds singing as they used to. Before clearing, its consequences must be weighed very carefully.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025



We should improve urban comfort by increasing green spaces by planting trees and leaving grass fields unkempt. Replace them with meadows. Old trees must be preserved and zoning should be carried out on the terms of nature!

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025





GOAL

Promote peace, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions

Global goal

The aim is to improve societal peace, access to justice services and build responsible and transparent institutions at all levels. The targets include reducing all forms of violence, promoting equal fundamental rights and legal protection, eradicating corruption and bribery, and ensuring inclusive and representative decision-making.

In Finland

Finland's social stability is good, and the Finnish rule of law is on a solid foundation. In international studies and comparisons, Finland is estimated to have the best functioning administration in the world, and Finland is one of the least corrupt countries in the world. The amount of crime has mainly been declining in recent decades. However, the violence against children and young people has increased in recent years. The share of children and young people among all suspected offences is also increasing. Human trafficking, especially forced labour, has increased significantly, but it is also better recognised. The number of identified criminal groups has increased strongly in Finland over the past twenty years.

Situation in Tampere

International crises and geopolitical uncertainty are reflected in local insecurity. On the other hand, local phenomena, such as substance abuse, disruptive behaviour, polarisation of wellbeing and an increase in risks related to critical infrastructure and technology, play an essential role in the sense of security among the people in Tampere. The street safety index and the number of people who feel safe in their residential areas have decreased slightly.

However, street safety is at a good level in Tampere compared to other large cities. In addition, **the majority (77 %) of urban residents feel that their residential area is safe**. Respondents to the 2024 safety survey raised concerns about harassment, exclusion, racism, intolerance, political extremism and vandalism.



The clear increase in the number of crimes committed by children and young people is worrying. Street gangs formed by young people have increased in Tampere. The number of sexual abuse of children reported to the police has increased since 2021. However, a large proportion of sexual offences against children and young people are not reported or investigated because of the sensitive nature of the offences. According to the School Health Promotion Study, the number of people who have experienced sexual propositions and molestation has increased at all school grades. This development is partly explained by the rise of public debate, which has increased the willingness to report. In addition, **drug use has increased significantly in Tampere** compared to 2021 based on the wastewater studies.

The total number of traffic accidents has steadily decreased in Tampere in the 2000s. However, **the number of injuries and deaths in traffic has remained unchanged** for the past five years. Residents often find the traffic environment less secure than accident statistics. Pedestrians and cyclists feel that driving speeds are the most significant cause of the feeling of insecurity, and based on the responses to the safety survey, a clear majority are in favour of slowing down traffic speeds in residential areas.

Tampere has carried out long-term work to promote safety, and over the years, the city has created functional and systematic operating models for different situations. Extending **preparedness and security is based on extensive and effective cooperation** with other major cities and key stakeholders (Defence Forces, different actors of the City Group, wellbeing services county, police, organisations and private sector actors). In addition, the City of Tampere prepares for security threats through the measures of the city's safety plan.

The promotion of inclusion and communality are the city's basic tasks. Inclusion is a cross-cutting theme in the city's activities and it is promoted through different plans. In addition to this, the city has an inclusion and communality plan, which aims to strengthen and develop residents' opportunities to participate and promote a sense of community. At the moment, the city offers a wide range of opportunities for participation in the city's activities, for example through surveys, feedback and discussion events. In addition, advocacy bodies introduce different perspectives to the city's decision-making, and the city supports the independent activities of residents and communities through grants and by acting as a partner for communities.

The majority of residents know some way they could influence the city's operations. The most well-known methods are voting, giving feedback, citizens' initiative and discussion forums. There are also more children and young people who feel that they have good opportunities to have an influence at school. However, fewer people feel that they can influence the development of their residential area than in 2021. **The turnout in the municipal**

We must pay attention to safety, as you can encounter drug trafficking even in the middle of the day, for example. This is again a question of promoting wellbeing, as substance abuse problems are often the result of some kind of distress in the first place.

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

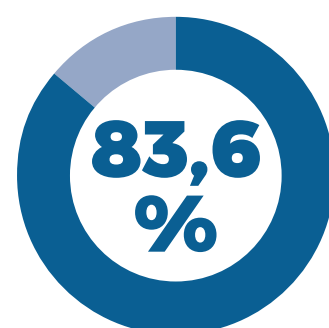
elections in Tampere remained at the same level in 2025 compared to 2021, 56.8 %. In 2025, 33.4% of the votes were given in advance. The number of invalid votes was considerably higher in both Tampere and the whole of Finland than in previous years. Of those elected in Tampere in 2025, 52% are women and 40% are new council members.

At the end of 2024, the number of employees at the city organisation was 8,809. Based on employee experience surveys, the particular strengths of the City of Tampere include the high level of personnel competence and the trust supervisors have in their employees. However, the recent years have demanded significant effort and continuous learning from personnel. Despite this, **the residents' experience of the city's services has remained at a good level, and the fluency of services has improved positively.**

Major changes and uncertainty during the council term 2021-2025 have also affected the city's finances. Tampere's economy has been in surplus, and the city has managed to improve its service level. These were a result of external factors such as the state's subsidies during covid pandemic and one-off sales of assets. As the city grows, the level of investment has been high, and the coming years will face a challenge where the city's income funding will not be sufficient anymore to finance investments. **This threatens to bring more debt to the city and requires measures to balance the economy.** In 2024, Tampere was able to draw down the amount of loans it needed through sustainable, green financial products. These green finance loans are cheaper than traditional loans and obtaining them in accordance to the loan criteria, requires cooperation between many entities and information on the fulfilment of the sustainable development.

With a healthy economy, towards a planned future based on expertise. A well-functioning smart city where digital systems work together, serving people.

*Tampere survey
for city personnel,
spring 2025*



**of respondents
consider their
interactions with City
of Tampere services to
be good or very good**

[Tampere City organisation](#)
[Participation and having an impact in Tampere](#)
[Safety and security work in Tampere \(in Finnish\)](#)





GOAL

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Global goal

The aim is to support the implementation of sustainable development by building effective partnerships between the public and private sectors and the civil society, especially globally but also at other levels. International cooperation can improve everyone's opportunities for sustainable development and comprehensive wellbeing.

In Finland

Finland is an active member of global and multilateral cooperation. Despite Finland's commitment to invest in development with a sum equivalent to 0.7% of GDP in accordance with the UN recommendation, the target has not been achieved. Also budget cuts have still been targeted at international development cooperation. However, support for the implementation of the SDGs has been included in development cooperation programmes and projects in a cross-cutting manner, and Finland has an established operating model for extensive cooperation with NGOs in different areas of development cooperation and development policy. Finland exerts influence through the EU on multilateral trade negotiations in a way that promotes the integration of developing countries into the international trade system and takes into account the special needs of the poorest countries.

Situation in Tampere

Partnerships and cooperation at different levels are an important and natural way of working for Tampere. The city promotes wellbeing, vitality and sustainable urban development through diverse partnerships locally, nationally and internationally. The recently changed international operating environment has also brought many economic, technological, political, social and security impacts to Tampere. The acceleration of the technology war, the effects of covid pandemic on global value chains and the economy, and the impacts of Russia's aggression against Ukraine have rapidly changed the dynamics of the international system. **Cities' international engagement and role in sustainability work**

have further intensified due to this.

Many global phenomena stimulate competition for experts and technology, in which case cities will also be increasingly dependent on international visibility and success. Tampere needs experts, export possibilities and investments as well as innovations to be a pioneer in the future.

As a result of recent changes in a municipality's duties, **an increasing number of services are produced in cooperation**, such as together with other municipalities and national actors as well as companies, organisations and residents. The City of Tampere grants more than 25 million euros annually to organise such activities and provides facilities for operators. Grants have remained more or less at the same level in recent years. Some of the healthcare and social welfare grants have been transferred to be distributed by the wellbeing services county. **General grants support the promotion of wellbeing and health, culture, exercise and hobbies for children and young people.** Targeted grants can be used for the implementation of a one-off events or projects. The City of Tampere may also grant stipends to professional artists from Tampere, students and the people with low income, as well as grants to promote employment, support audiovisual productions and the construction of new lifts or repairing private roads in the area.

I see challenges in getting the people who live here to care about our environment and future more and working together towards a sustainable future."

Tampere survey for residents, spring 2025

In the forthcoming council term, good cooperation with various parties, especially organisations and the wellbeing services county, will be essential."

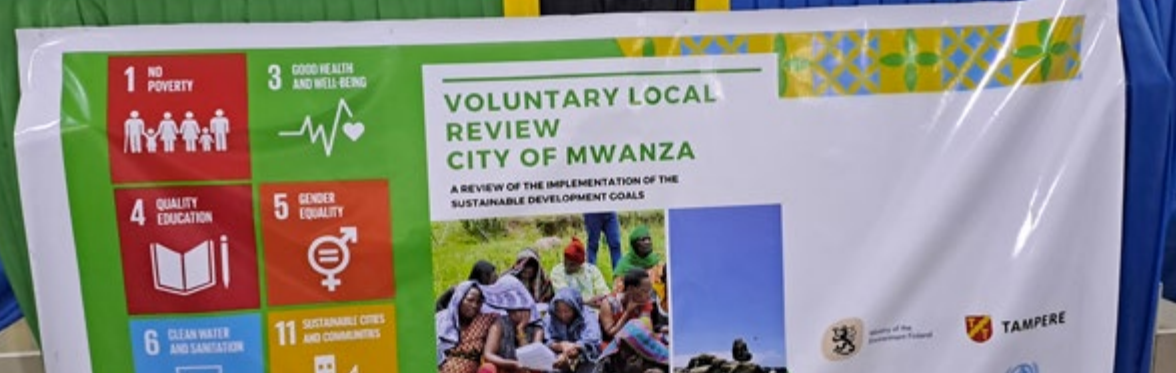
Tampere survey for city personnel, spring 2025

In 2024, the City of Tampere granted

over 25 milj. €

in financial support to various organizations.

The international activities of the City of Tampere have naturally focused on **cooperation and influencing at the European level**. In addition to thematic network cooperation, the city makes extensive use of various EU funding programmes. During the funding period of 2021–2027 so far, the city has applied for and received project funding especially for the themes of climate change mitigation and preparedness, digitalisation and smart city development, employment and competence, and international mobility. The Tampere Region EU office in Brussels serves the region's companies, business organisations, municipalities, the higher education community and other stakeholders in influencing at the EU level, and in partnerships, funding and by communicating current information.



The City of Tampere is a member of several **networks of cities that contribute to sustainable development** and the city aims to participate in their activities in a goal-oriented and active manner. In recent years, the city has also joined new networks, organisations and initiatives in themes such as urban security, healthy urban environment, the promotion of a sustainable food system, culture, museums and events. The City of Tampere also has **18 twin cities** around the world, mostly in Europe.

As a result of the Russian war on Ukraine, **Tampere has shown its support for its twin city Kyiv** and, more broadly, Ukraine by donating money and supplies. In 2024, Tampere and Kyiv celebrated the 70th anniversary of their cooperation, in honour of which various events and awards were organised in Tampere, and the tram was illustrated by the pupils of an art school in Kyiv. In 2025, the City of Tampere and Tampereen Kaupunkiliikenne Oy donated four decommissioned buses to Ukraine. The buses were also loaded with generators and hospital supplies.

Since 2022, Tampere has been one of the actors involved in the strategic partnership for the local promotion of SDGs concluded by the Ministry of the Environment and the UN Human Settlements Programme UN-Habitat. Within the framework of this partnership, Tampere has activated **cooperation with its long-term Tanzanian twin city Mwanza for the local implementation of the SDGs**. Tampere has shared its own experiences in implementing the SDGs and supported and encouraged the preparation of Mwanza's first local review of 2030 Agenda in cooperation between experts in 2023. The cooperation, which is exceptional in its context, has been welcomed with interest, and it has been presented in several international forums, bringing excellent international visibility to both cities. Sustainable development has been the main theme of cooperation between Tampere and Mwanza since the late 1980s.

The City of Tampere has

♥ **18** ♥

twin cities around the world. Tampere's twin city cooperation began in the 1950s.

[Grants and supports](#)
[International Affairs](#)
[Strategic Management of SDGs in Finnish Cities](#)





Summary of recent developments in Tampere in the light of the Voluntary Local Review

The council term 2021-2025 guided by the City of Action strategy in Tampere has been eventful and characterised by many changes and uncertainties, also from the perspective of sustainable development. In addition to changes, major advances have also been made during the council term, and new phenomena have been identified.

Sustainable growth

The population of the city has grown significantly during the council term, which has introduced challenges in addition to the desired vitality and economic benefits. Strong growth challenges the city by increasing welfare inequalities, calls for stronger nature consideration alongside growing construction pressures and by putting the sustainability of the economy under examination. Precisely these issues have led to a need for more systemic thinking that supports sustainable development. Also, the city has been forced to re-invent itself because of the reforms in well-being and employment services in the area. This has also opened doors to new ideas and ways of acting in a more sustainable manner.

Social sustainability

The challenges to the well-being of residents have become increasingly multidimensional in recent years, and welfare inequalities have increased. The situation of vulnerable Tampere residents has deteriorated, but most residents are still doing well. Reducing the harmful effects of substance abuse and supporting the mental health of children and young people will require more effective action in the future. Residents' well-being is promoted increasingly in cooperation with other regional actors, which requires a new approach.

Most Tampere residents feel they belong to a group that is important to them, even though loneliness affects more and more people. Segregation is moderate in Tampere, but some of the districts are lagging behind the rest of the city in socio-economic development. Addressing these challenges is key to sustainable urban development.

An international city of experiences

Immigration has accounted for half of the population growth in Tampere during the council term, and the number of international residents has increased considerably. This enriches the atmosphere in the city and helps to better respond to the growing need for skilled workforce. Internationalisation still requires determined action for Tampere to become a truly international city that both attracts and retains residents.

During the council term, Tampere has developed into a tramway city and a central city for events and experiences, where both residents and visitors have rediscovered culture and events. However, pioneering in these areas also in the future requires new actions.

Students and competence as strengths

Tampere has a strong status as a city for studying, and the retention of graduates is improving slightly. However, the learning outcomes of comprehensive school are declining worryingly, in line with the national trend. Employment prospects have deteriorated at the end of the council term, but the experience economy has recovered after the coronavirus years. The number of employed people, entrepreneurs and students has increased, even though the availability of labour poses challenges.

The number of graduates from vocational education is almost in line with the objectives, and the start-up community has grown despite difficult times. New economic spearheads, such as the defence and chips industry, will bolster the region's economy.

Renewing urban environment

The Tampere city centre has remained vital, and the tramway has been the success story of the council term. Additionally, a record number of passengers used public transport in 2024. Walking and cycling has also increased, but more moderately. The city's growth has been successfully targeted at the public transport zones and district centres. Tampere is still a safe city, but the feeling of insecurity among residents has increased.

Measures to achieve climate neutrality are progressing, but achieving the climate neutrality target by 2030 seems uncertain. Traffic emissions are the biggest challenge in the growing city. Climate change adaptation and preparedness have taken major steps forward during the council term. The emissions and environmental impacts of residents' consumption generated outside Tampere must also be better taken into account in the future, and the city must do its utmost to involve the entire urban community in building a sustainable everyday life. In this council term, Tampere has played a pioneering role in promoting urban biodiversity, but more action is needed.

Blind spots

Many of the tasks of the Tampere City's Group organisations are related to the living environment, such as housing, construction, mobility and public works, the solutions of which lay the foundation for the sustainable actions of individuals and communities. Local impacts on waters, air quality, soil and health and the consumption of natural resources are often thought to be well under control in Finnish cities. Therefore these are easily overshadowed by other perspectives on sustainability. Similarly, gender equality seems to have received very little attention in Tampere, and the goal has been overshadowed by general work on equality. Global goals related to food and life below water also deserve more attention and assigned responsibilities in Tampere. Other species and habitats found among us are also in danger of being overshadowed by the focus, as crucial as it is, on forests and urban green areas.

Me, us and others

As one opening to understanding our global impacts, Tampere has calculated the carbon and nature footprints of its consumption. The calculations showed that, as at the Finnish level, a significant part of the our nature footprint is generated outside our boundaries. By committing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Tampere is also committed to bearing its global responsibility. In addition to local impacts, we must ensure that the adverse effects of our actions are minimised in other countries and regions as well. The mid-term review of Agenda 2030 in 2023 emphasized that achieving the goals requires no more than ever efforts and cooperation at all levels. It is important that both national governments and local actors adopt an active role in promoting the goals.

Residents' views on the themes of sustainable development

In spring 2025, the City of Tampere collected extensive participation material to support strategy work in the next council term. The views on the sustainability work were also sought. The surveys, discussions and workshops reached more than 7,000 residents from different age and population groups. The participation package included a Tampere survey for residents, a personnel survey, discussions between advocacy bodies and councils, the Impact! events for pupils as well as discussions for silent groups of residents by associations.

The key priorities and concerns that emerged were related to a smooth everyday life, safety, communality, meaningful work, urban nature and smooth mobility. Tampere residents are generally satisfied with the developing and diversifying city. At the same time, there are reservations about the growth of the city; people fear that growth will negatively affect the local nature important to them and increase housing prices. Residents hope that the city will remain human-sized and foster the strengths it is known for. Residents consider Tampere's strengths to be the city's unique atmosphere, well-functioning public transport, diverse culture and leisure offerings and valuable local nature.

Residents' wishes and concerns reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, ecological and economic. From the perspective of social sustainability, Tampere residents would like to see improvements in the accessibility of social and health care services and the promotion of children and young people's well-being. On the other hand, residents were worried about the increasing issues with substance abuse and disruptive behaviour in the city centre as well as the increasing feeling of loneliness and exclusion. Ecological sustainability was highlighted especially in the desire to foster valuable local nature and increase the amount of urban green. Economic sustainability is reflected in questions like employment opportunities, housing prices and the transition of students to employment. Tampere residents speaking languages other than Finnish hoped that challenges related to the language barrier would be alleviated.

Based on the responses of residents, Tampere should focus on developing the following UN 2030 Agenda goals: Good health and well-being (3), Decent work and economic growth (8), Reduced inequalities (10), Sustainable cities and communities (11), Climate action (13) and Life on land (15).

A thriving Tampere of the future is a city that looks forward boldly but also takes care of the well-being of people and nature – in a sustainable and equal manner.



Closing words

Although achieving the goals of 2030 Agenda may seem overwhelming, it is, in the current global political context, most likely the best available joint agreement and compass toward the sustainable future. Achieving the goals by 2030 is possible, but it requires determined and swift action and extensive cooperation. The local measures described in this review are examples of how we can promote the achievement of global goals at the local level. The promotion of 2030 Agenda goals in Tampere will continue in the council term 2025-2029, in connection with the strategic management of the city. Tampere and cities around the world are obliged to continue promoting sustainable development, making every effort to create a future that is more sustainable and fairer to all of us, here and elsewhere.

CITY OF SUSTAINABLE ACTION

The Voluntary Local Review of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Tampere 2025

June 2025



TAMPERE