



## Climate City Contract

# 2030 Climate Neutrality Commitments

## Climate Neutrality Commitments of Helsinki

**Helsinki**

*The content of this document reflects only the author's view. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.*



Document history			
Date	Version	Author	Changes
January 2023	V1	ICLEI	/
June 2023	V2	ICLEI	The template was amended to include a front-page note “The Commitments template is for guidance only. Cities are encouraged to adapt it to their circumstances, while remaining mindful of the CCC Checklist and guidance documents”.
November 2023	V2.1	ICLEI	<p>The front-page note was amended to include additional text “The Commitments template is for guidance only. Cities are encouraged to adapt it to their circumstances, while remaining mindful of the CCC Checklist and guidance documents. Please consider limiting the Commitments document to 10-15 pages excluding signatory contracts”.</p> <p>Each section was amended to open with a summary of expected information. Guiding questions were included for each template field (to be replaced with writer’s text).</p> <p>Footnotes were introduced throughout the template to provide definitions for uncommon terms and references to additional (external) guidance.</p> <p>Section 1 (Introduction): „Opportunities created through the Mission” was added as part of the opening section.</p> <p>Section 4 (Process and underlying principles): “climate justice” was added to key principles.</p> <p>The sample contract form was edited to encourage the signatories to adhere to specific, time bound and measurable commitments that reference the 2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan and 2030 Climate Neutrality Investment Plan.</p>



## 2030 Climate-Neutrality Commitments





## Table of contents

Table of contents .....	4
1 Introduction .....	5
2 Goal: Climate neutrality by 2030 .....	5
3 Strategic priorities.....	6
4 Process and underlying principles .....	6
5 Signatories .....	8
6 Sample contract with signatures .....	<b>Virhe. Kirjanmerkkiä ei ole määritetty.</b>
Appendix 1: Individual / Cluster Signatory Commitments (to be added before submitting the Climate City Contract).....	10



# 1 Introduction

## Introduction

Helsinki is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 and joining the 100 Climate neutral and smart cities mission supports our work and the ability to learn with and from others.

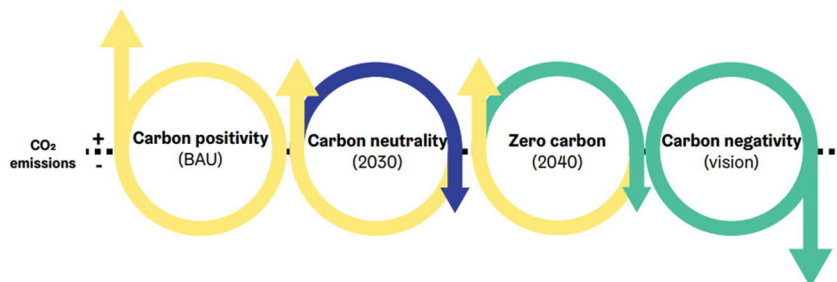
# 2 Goal: Climate neutrality by 2030

## Goal

Helsinki has been active and target-oriented about achieving carbon neutrality for over ten years. It has been a journey of learning and iteration, from understanding which actions will deliver biggest emissions reduction to how to involve stakeholders, decision-makers and employees in the most impactful and inclusive ways. The city’s goal is to reduce the direct scope 1 & 2 emissions of the reference year 1990 by at least 80 percent by 2030. The path to the carbon neutrality target in Helsinki is clear. The investments done by the energy company Helen and the long-term investment plans by the city on major infrastructure work together with the impact-oriented action plan for carbon neutrality ensures that the target will be achieved with a 80-83 % reduction in emissions by 2030 from the 1990 level.

“The goal is a carbon-neutral Helsinki that is able to not only meet its environmental objectives, but also act as an example, going beyond its part to play in responding to the crisis. We will zero in on the fastest measures for reaching carbon neutrality, and we will actively seek out big picture oriented solutions that set us on the path to social justice. Environmentally friendly options will be made more readily available to residents. We will move our deadline for achieving carbon neutrality up five years to 2030 and renew our Carbon-neutral Helsinki Action Plan with measures to reduce construction and traffic emissions, in addition to other changes that are seen as necessary and feasible. The city’s energy company Helen will be required to update its development plan during the council term, with due consideration for the new Urban Heating Road Map. Preparations will also need to be made for the closure of the Salmisaari coal-fired power plant by the year 2029. Helsinki will not undertake any new investments in bioenergy facilities. A goal to attain carbon zero status by 2040 will also be set, and we will map out a series of scenarios for achieving this milestone. Helsinki will also start planning for a carbon-negative future. We will produce an ambitious Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Road Map that encourages people to repair and reuse items, reduce service life emissions and create jobs. The goal is to prepare Helsinki well for extreme weather phenomena and their indirect effects.”

Helsinki City strategy, A Place of Growth, 2021-2025



The city’s goal is to reduce the direct scope 1 & 2 emissions of the reference year 1990 by at least 80 percent by 2030. The emission reduction achieved by 2023 is 45 % and 60 % per capita as the city has grown significantly since 1990.



Helsinki is now in the second iteration of the climate plan. The first iteration (2017-2021) set the goal for carbon neutrality to 2035. A large stakeholder participation was organized with 9 workshops and over 300 people collaborating with an additional online tool for those who wanted to participate digitally. The ideas were analyzed and 147 actions were selected, a steering group to oversee the actions was established with participants from all city sectors, city owned companies and external members representing academia, companies and the state. The city also widened its collaboration with the business community through the Climate Partners partnership (established already in 2012) and shared networking events, ideation processes and pledges signed with over 100 companies. However, when the plan was analysed after the first four-year period it was clear that the actions were not sufficiently impactful for achieving carbon neutrality - only 6 out of the 147 actions directly cut emissions - and the second iteration was planned accordingly. Also the monitoring and governance model were adapted to drive change in a faster pace and the carbon neutrality goal was set to five years earlier, to 2030 in the new city council approved strategy for 2021-2025 period.

Helsinki is a rapidly growing city which sets challenges to carbon neutrality work. New houses have to be built in order to house the new inhabitants but while doing that the city doesn't want to lose its green areas which work both as a carbon sinks and as places of relaxation and enjoyment for the population. The population growth is coming mostly by people moving into the city which gives new opportunities and challenges to citizen and stakeholder engagement. For example the future transport scenarios are discussed with dedicated citizen panels that represent the population in the city.

The emission reduction plans cover the entire administrative territory of Helsinki.

### 3 Strategic priorities

#### Strategic priorities

As the emissions from the currently biggest source of emissions, heating, are going to go down rapidly in the next years Helsinki is going to concentrate on three main topics:

1. Transport sector. A thorough scenario work is being done together with a large-scale impact assessment and a dedicated citizen panel working alongside it.
  2. Residual emissions. The city conducted three separate research reports into the possibilities of dealing with residual emissions, including natural and technical sinks, compensation programs but also a cost-analysis of each possible action with a look into additional actions of emission reductions.
  3. Construction sector. While construction emissions are largely scope 3 emissions the city has lots of possibilities to work with them as a big land- owner. The city has already done quite a lot but will look into further actions.
- Each three systems have stakeholder engagement, with researchers, consultants, companies and citizens

### 4 Process and principles

This section aims to briefly describe:

•

**Process and principles**

The carbon neutrality target in Helsinki has been set by the city council in 2021. It thus has a high level political mandate and also guides the whole city, including all divisions and departments towards the goal. The city subsidiaries, including the energy company Helen, the Metropolitan transport ltd, which builds and operates the trams, metros, ferries and light rails, and the Port of Helsinki have all also set the same goal. Helsinki also works closely with the Sustainability partners, a network of over 100 companies all looking into reducing their emissions and working together with the city. The city also works closely with the universities in the city and has many dedicated collaboration projects with them where climate change is a continuous theme of common projects.

The plan is evaluated annually and additional actions are added to the city budget.



## 5 Signatories

The table below enlists the signatories<sup>1</sup> who are committing to this CCC, and thereby to help the city achieve its goal to reach climate neutrality by 2030. Specific agreements that articulate the details of the climate action(s) between the municipality and signatories are added to the individual contracts in Appendix 1 (see sample in section 6). The number and relevance of signatories' commitments is likely to increase over time.

Name of the signatory (organisation)	Sector / Domain / Level of operation <sup>2</sup>	Legal form	Name of the responsible person	Position of the responsible person
City of Helsinki	Local government	Municipality	Juhana Vartiainen	Mayor
Helen Ltd	Energy company	Business entity	Olli Sirkka	CEO

---

<sup>1</sup> Climate City Contract signatories may be individuals or organisations. They ideally include national and/or regional governments, for example concrete agreements/ commitments made through the multi-level governance engagement processes supported by NetZeroCities, CapaCities, and other emerging national level initiatives.

<sup>2</sup> Please mention if the organisation is active at local, regional, national, or international level.





2030 Climate-Neutrality  
Commitments



We, the undersigned, hereby commit to help make the city of Helsinki climate neutral by 2030. We agree on the joint ambition and commitments, as formulated in the Climate City Contract of Helsinki.

Date of signature

Name

Signature

---

Juhana Vartiainen, Mayor of Helsinki



## Appendix 1: Cluster Signatory Commitments

**Sustainability Partners of Helsinki (separate set of signed commitments by 100 different companies)**