

Lahti – European Green Capital 2021

Plastics in carbon-neutral and biocircular economy webinar, Dec. 16th 2020
Milla Bruneau, Executive Director



WHAT IS EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL?

AN ANNUAL COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

Applicants for the European Green Capital Award 2021 were assessed on their performance in 12 key environmental indicators:

1. Climate change: Mitigation
2. Climate change: Adaptation
3. Sustainable urban mobility
4. Sustainable land use
5. Nature and biodiversity
6. Air quality
7. Noise
8. Waste
9. Water
10. Green growth and eco-innovation
11. Energy performance
12. Governance

Lahti's application : greenlahti.fi/facts

HOW DID WE DO IN THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE FINALIST CITIES?

The jury compared competing cities using twelve indicators.

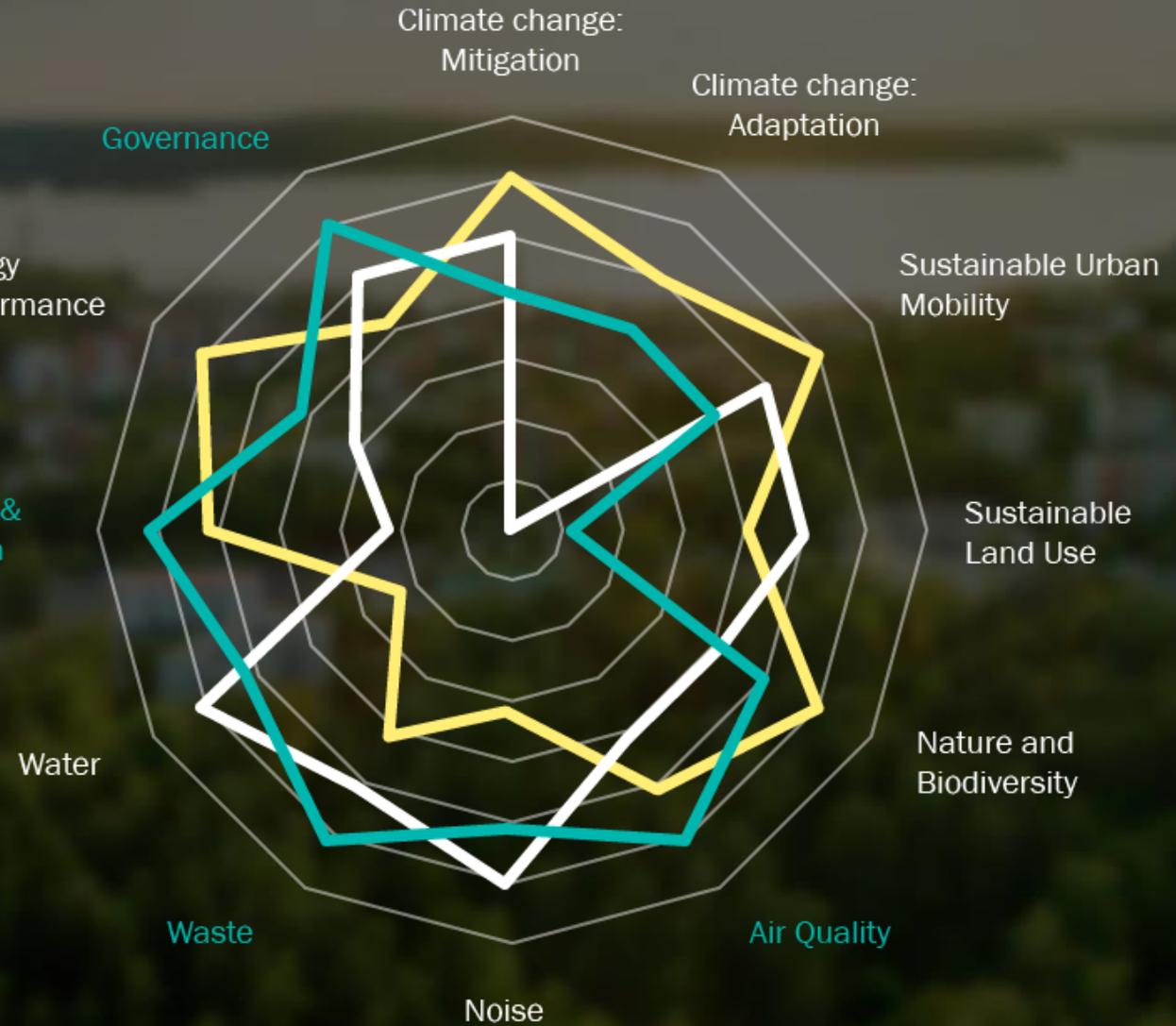
2021 finalists were:

Lahti, Finland

Strasbourg, France

Lille, France

- Lahti
- Strasbourg
- Lille



BENEFITS OF THE GREEN CAPITAL

- Residents' are proud of their city
- Clarifying environmental goals and ambitious implementation
- International media visibility
- The reputation of the city, networking and cooperation opportunities
- Increase in the demand of tourism
- Creating new jobs and solutions that can be packaged, implemented and scaled
- New funding opportunities

European Green Capitals

2010 – Stockholm

2011 – Hamburg

2012 – Vitoria-Gasteiz

2013 – Nantes

2014 – Copenhagen

2015 – Bristol

2016 – Ljubljana

2017 – Essen

2018 – Nijmegen

2019 – Oslo

2020 – Lisbon

2021 – Lahti

2022 – Grenoble



**HOW LAHTI BECAME THE 2021
EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL**



ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LAHTI REGION

- Reduction of CO2 emissions
 - 1990: 11 tons per capita
 - 2021: 2,6 tons per capita
- Encouraging sustainable mobility in Lahti
- Municipal waste solutions: the city currently utilizes more than 99% of household waste.
- Decreasing phosphorus content in Lake Vesijärvi from the 1970's thanks to an effective lake restoration program.
- Decreasing energy consumption in schools, day-care and office buildings
- Reducing Lahti's energy carbon emissions by 600,000 tons per year by removing coal from district heating production
- Improving air quality in Lahti city center due to the reduction of traffic congestion

CO₂ emissions (tons per capita)

1990

2017

2021

11.0

5.8

2.6

LAHTI

Specific energy consumption (kWh/m³)

City's schools, kindergartens, sports facilities and office buildings

2001

2011

2021

70

61

54

LAHTI

District heating production (GWh)

2010

2018

2021

60

100

650

860

600

630

50

550

Energy waste

LAHTI

Utilisation of municipal waste

2007

2021

25%

Recycling

55%

Landfill

3%

47%

20%

Energy utilisation

50%

LAHTI

Share of sustainable urban mobility 2030



Air quality in the city center (NO₂ annual mean $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)



Phosphorus concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ meter depth)



Conservation areas (ha)



GREEN CAPITAL OBJECTIVES & CARBON-NEUTRAL CITY 2025

GREEN CAPITAL YEAR 2021 THEMES



CARBON-NEUTRAL LIFE



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



NATURE AND WATER

MEASURES OF THE GREEN CAPITAL AND THE CITY OF LAHTI

Implementation by 12/2021

CARBON-NEUTRAL LIFE

- Launching city bikes
- Electric buses for the Niemi-Liipola route
- Introducing a development center for low-carbon construction

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- A Green Capital project funding model for communities
- Participation channels for children and adolescents

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Circular economy development program
- Group-level circular economy collaboration
- Development of an operating model for waste food

NATURE AND WATER

- City streams
- Routes and signposts; in particular, for mountain biking
- Potential projects: development of a green factor tool, ecological compensations

GREEN CAPITAL OBJECTIVES IN SHORT

SMOOTH EVERYDAY
LIFE CONTRIBUTING
TO WELLBEING

FUNCTIONING AND
SUSTAINABLE
CITIES

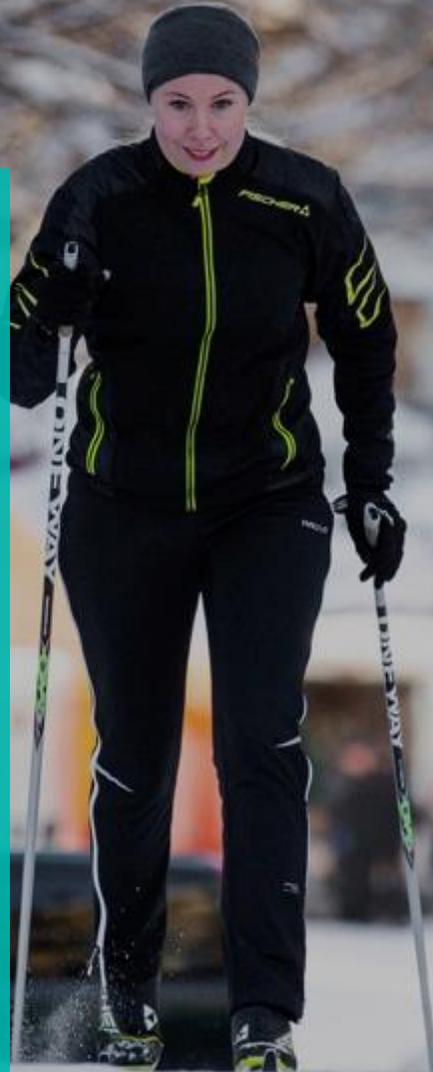
VISIBILITY OF THE
GREEN CAPITAL

FUTURE: CARBON-NEUTRAL LAHTI 2025

The Lahti City Strategy outlines how it intends to develop as an environmental city. Lahti's main environmental goals are to become carbon-neutral by 2025 and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2025 compared to 1990 levels

This will be done by e.g.

- Compensating the flight emissions of city workers and city decision makers.
- Promoting wood construction.



MOST SIGNIFICANT PARTNERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE LAHTI FOUNDATION

- City of Lahti
- The State of Finland /
Ministry of the Environment
- Cities of Heinola and Orimattila
- Municipalities of Asikkala and Hollola
- Häme Chamber of Commerce
- LUT University
- University of Helsinki
- Association of Finnish Municipalities
- The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

- The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
- Osuuskauppa Hämeenmaa
- Lassila & Tikanoja Ltd
- Sitowise
- LähiTapiola Vellamo
- Fujitsu Finland
- Niemi Services Ltd
- OP Päijät-Häme
- Wipak
- CGI Finland

GREEN CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING – HOW TO GET FUNDING FOR YOUR PROJECT?

GREEN CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Need funding for your project?

Cooperation project of at
least two partners

Themes include carbon-
neutrality, citizen
participation, circular
economy, nature and water

For innovations, technologies
and experiments in the Green
Capital region

WHO DECIDES WHAT PROJECTS GET FUNDED?

An assessment team
assesses project ideas
four times a year



The Foundation's Board
decides which projects will
be funded

**HOW TO BE A PART OF THE GREEN
CAPITAL YEAR?
UPCOMING EVENTS OF 2021**

LET'S CREATE THE GREEN CAPITAL TOGETHER

Would you like to participate?
Here's how:

Discuss on social media:

#enduringchange
#greenlahti
#egca2021

**Organize
events and
projects**

**Plan and
submit your
own ideas**

**Find your daily action that
makes a difference**
greenlahti.fi/en/participate

Apply for project funding and
get involved in a project that
implements themes of the
Green Capital

**Submit your project or event
for the official event calendar!**

**Participate in
projects for local
residents**

**Become a
future maker**

LAHTI RESIDENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

EXAMPLES:

- Responsible entrepreneurship seminar
- Nastola Summer Exhibition 2021: Nature Trip
- Electric car sharing service
- Model for everyday circular economy: communal town house
- Litter picker borrowing
- Microplastic filtrating from waters
- Kaarisilta Biennale 2021 Goes Green
- Recycled instrument workshop for children

32 projects funded so far

Total funding 612 000 €

LAHTI RESIDENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS INVOLVING PLASTIC:

- Sustainable development workshop for young people
- Borrow trash pickers for free
- Circcu circular economy and urban center
- Everyday circular economy
- Tyres and plastics to efficient use – Zero pollution
- Haavi-Heikki – Filtration of microplastics from water bodies
- Construction waste from new projects and its potential for use in end products

Read more about the funded projects: <https://greenlahti.fi/en/projects>

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Total funding 612 000 €

EVENT CALENDAR 2021

OVER 40 UPCOMING EVENTS

**European Green
Capital of 2021:
Grand Opening**

15. January
2021 | Lahti
Virtual event

**Green Design
Week**

May 2021
Lahti

**International
conferences**

**Local events
for citizens**

**Events for
industry
specialists and
companies**

**Sustainable
Tourism Seminar**

18. January 2021
Virtual event

**European
Dialogue for
Sustainable
Cities**

3. February 2021
Virtual series

**Lahti Lakes
symposium**

June 2021
Lahti

.. and much more!

LAHTI – EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2021

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<p>Opening Ceremony 15.-16.1.</p> <p>Lakeland Finland – Sustainable Destination Congress 22.1.</p> <p>Smash Lahti 22.-24.1.</p> <p>Lahti Ski Games 22.-24.1.</p>	<p>Children's Winter Carnival 30.1.-14.2.</p> <p>European Dialogue For Sustainable Cities TBC.2.</p>		<p>Greenlahti – City of Champions 24.4.</p>	<p>Green Design Week 3.-9.5.</p> <p>Biking week TBC.5.</p> <p>Horta 2021 14.-15.5.</p> <p>EU Green Week TBC.5.</p>	<p>Lahti Lakes Symposium 7.-9.6.</p> <p>International summer school for bachelor and master students 7.-18.6.</p> <p>Nastola Summer Exhibition 13.6.-17.8.</p>	<p>UCI Grand Fondo World Series 23.-24.7.</p> <p>Nastola Summer Exhibition 13.6.-17.8.</p>	<p>Anttilanmäki Village Party 7.8.</p> <p>Nastola Summer Exhibition 13.6.-17.8.</p> <p>District heating conference 25.-26.8.</p>	<p>European Green Capital Awards 8.-10.9.</p> <p>Green Growth Forum 14.-15.9.</p> <p>EU Mobility Week 16.-22.9.</p> <p>Lahti region Environmental Week 20.-26.9.</p> <p>National Stormwater Seminar TBC.9.</p>	<p>VeloFinland 1.-2.10.</p> <p>Environmental Crime Seminar 7.-8.10.</p> <p>European Congress on Rural Tourism 6.-8.10.</p> <p>Green Future Makers seminar TBC.10.</p> <p>European Week of Regions and Cities</p>	<p>Ecocity Forum 1.-2.11.</p> <p>Planetary Health Conference 9.-10.11.</p>	<p>Logistics Summit 2.12.</p> <p>Closing Event 4.-5.12.</p>



Up-dated list of events:
<https://greenlahti.fi/en/events>

LAHTI

**Change is an endurance sport.
It takes time and resolve to see it through.**

**Change is scary. It's easy to cling to the past and seek security in the
current ways of doing things.**

**It takes guts to ask for more. A new approach, higher goals and a brighter
future. Each crisis is a test that shows our capacity to endure change.
Forward looking leaders are the first to identify and take on future
challenges.**

**No one knows this better than a city that has faced tough challenges by
making everlasting decisions that promote a more sustainable tomorrow
and lead the way for sustainable living with an enduring attitude.**

Lahti – Enduring change



GREEN
LAHTI

LAHTI

ENDURING CHANGE

Greenlahti.fi | [@GreenLahti2021](https://twitter.com/GreenLahti2021) | [#enduringchange](https://hashtage.com/#enduringchange) | [#egca2021](https://hashtage.com/#egca2021)

LAHTI