

# Lahti

Lahti is an international university and environmental city. We work together with businesses, local residents, and universities, to find solutions for future challenges. The things that Lahti residents appreciate in their hometown are the services of a big city, a smooth everyday life, and closeness to nature. Lahti – Enduring Change.



## General information on Lahti



**Founded  
in 1905**



**Area 517 km<sup>2</sup>, out of which  
74% green areas and 11%  
waterways / inland waters**



**Number of residents  
about 122,000; in Lahti  
region about 205,000**



**Finland's first  
European  
Green Capital**



**Location close to  
the capital city of Helsinki  
(100 km / 50 min)**



**The fastest growing  
university city  
in Finland**

## Unique and local specialties

- Lahti aims to become the first major city in Finland to achieve net-zero emissions.
- Lahti aims for nature-positivity by 2030.
- LUT University is among the world's 300 best universities (Times Higher Education 2025) and the most reputable university in Finland (Luottamus& Maine 2025 – Trust&Reputation study 2025).
- In 2029, Lahti will organize the Nordic World Championships for the 8th time, which is a Nordic record.
- Lahti has hosted international winter sports competitions for 100 years.
- Lahti City Museums is the Museum of the Year 2025.
- Sibelius Hall is one of the world's best concert halls and home to the world-famous Lahti Symphony Orchestra.
- Lahti is the European Green Capital 2021.
- Salpausselkä Geopark has been designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark. The Salpausselkä terminal moraine, which runs through the Lahti region, is visible from space.
- The tap water filtered from the Salpausselkä groundwater is known for its excellent quality. The area's extensive groundwater resources are also utilized in the food industry.

**L**ahti is highly motivated to build a more sustainable future, and its priorities are circular economy, electric vehicles, and new energy production solutions. The growth of the region is accelerated by the significant investments in the food industry and digital infrastructure, LUT University, and Lahti's logistically ideal location as part of the growth center of southern Finland.

Lahti is known as the winter sports capital of Finland. The nature surrounding the city and its event expertise strengthen the reputation and attractiveness of the entire Finland as a country of sports events and sports tourism.

## Growth and internationality through cooperation

Several regional business networks and clusters operate in Lahti. Universities in Lahti work in close cooperation with local businesses.

Lahti GEM – Green Electrification of Mobility Cluster develops green electrification technologies and carbon-neutral energy systems. LUT University offers master's studies in electric transportation systems. The Lahti campus also houses the LUT University and Kempower Electric Mobility Research Center. The University of Helsinki conducts environmental science research in Lahti.

The city is rapidly evolving into a globally significant food industry hub. Fazer will start their chocolate production in Lahti in 2028. The Päijät-Häme grain cluster employs 3,000 experts in turning local grains into world-class exports. The research laboratories of LAB University of Applied Sciences offer companies and organizations expert support for product development, testing, and research. The food laboratory develops beverages and grain products in particular.

The Lahti region offers an interesting operating environment for companies in Cleantech sector. Almost 5,000 experts are employed by the sector in Lahti region. A number of Lahti-based businesses are creating innovative, replicable approaches to production and consumption in the spirit of circular economy. Lahti aims to become a completely waste-free circular economy city by 2050.

→ **Ladec**

## A modern international university city

Home to LUT University, LAB University of Applied Sciences and departments of the University of Helsinki, Lahti has rapidly developed into an attractive student city. The goal is to achieve 20,000 students studying in Lahti by 2035. Lahti, LUT, and LAB are investigating the location of a new large campus area in Ranta-Kartano as part of the developing city centre.

The higher education offering will grow significantly in Lahti in the coming years:

- 2026: LUT Business School launches its English-language Bachelor's programme, and LAB opens a laboratory analyst training.
- 2027: LUT University launches a bachelor's programme in chemical engineering and expands its civil and construction engineering education to cover Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral levels.
- 2029: LUT Business School will launch a new Bachelor's programme in digital business in Lahti.

In Lahti, you can progress from a Bachelor's degree to a Master's degree and even a doctoral degree in an increasing number of fields as part of a growing, multidisciplinary and international campus community.

→ **[www.lut.fi](http://www.lut.fi)**

## Leading environmental city

Lahti became the first Finnish city to win the European Commission's European Green Capital Award (EGCA) in 2021. The recognition is a testament to Lahti's long-term and successful environmental work.

The trend as a pioneer in sustainable urban development will continue in the coming years. Lahti is one of six Finnish cities participating in the EU's Climate-neutral and Smart Cities Mission. A total of one hundred European cities are participating, aiming to achieve carbon neutrality in the coming years.

Lahti encourages its residents to sustainable mobility. The goal is for sustainable modes of transport to account for more than 50% of all transport by 2030. The city's residents have access to an electric city bike system and an extensive 570-kilometer network of pedestrian and bicycle paths. Sustainable mobility is also being promoted by increasing the share of emission-free vehicles in local transport.

Lahti city made an energy transition when Lahti Energia abandoned the use of coal in 2019. Homes in Lahti are now heated with recycled fuel and local, certified wood. Lahti strives for climate-neutrality in the coming years. In 2023, Lahti generated approximately 64 per cent less emissions than in 1990.

→ **GreenLahti**

## Pioneer in nature work

The journey of Lahti becoming the internationally recognized environmental city began with the restoration of Lake Vesijärvi already in the 1970s. Cleaning up the polluted lake laid a foundation for environmental expertise and research in Lahti. Water resources protection is still carried out actively, as human activities and climate change lead to nutrient pollution in lakes and, consequently, eutrophication.

Lahti aims for nature positivity by 2030. The nature positivity roadmap has compiled 38 city and 16 stakeholder measures that will lead towards the goal. Nature

positivity means that biodiversity increases rather than declines. This is achieved when the benefits produced for nature exceed the harms. Nature positivity requires close cooperation between the city, businesses, and residents.

Lahti is also a strong promoter of planetary health. Finland's only planetary health doctor works in the Päijät-Häme welfare region. The ten-year Nature Step to Health program combines the health and environmental goals of the Päijät-Häme region. The Kintterö Health Forest, located next to the Päijät-Häme Central Hospital, offers a place for recreation and relaxation for the hospital's customers and staff.

#### → Environmental city

### Famous winter sports city

Events play an important role in the city's cultural heritage and tourism appeal. Lahti hosts several international sports competitions every year.

The reputation is strengthened by the Lahti Ski Games, which have been held for over a century, and the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in 2029, marking a record-setting eighth time the city has hosted this event. The annual event offering also includes Finlandia Ski Marathon, Nordic Gravel Series, Spartan Race and Lahti Historic Rally.

Thanks to decades of competition tradition, the region has developed significant expertise in sports, major events, and tourism, as well as international tourism business.

### A vibrant and distinctive cultural scene

Lahti City Theatre and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra provide a high standard of cultural experiences for all. For music lovers, the options are endless. Lahti has a long-standing music tradition as well as a wide range of live-music clubs, jams, and festivals to appeal to the younger generations.

Lahti City Museums brings together local and international culture. They offer all kinds of experiences from the history of winter sports and local culture to art, design and media development.

Lahti City Museums is the Museum of the Year 2025. Among the attractions is the Lahti Museum of Visual Arts Malva, which boasts an impressive collection of both classical art and contemporary design. Malva is nominated for European Museum of the Year 2026.

### World-class setting for outdoor activities

With almost a third of its residents living within 300 meters of a recreation area, in Lahti, nature starts right in your front yard. The Salpausselkä ridge system from the Ice Age is at its most spectacular in the Lahti Region, providing a world-class setting for

skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer.

The system consists of ice-marginal formations that were laid down by ancient meltwater streams at the end of the last glacial period, and it is Finland's most widely recognised geological feature. The Salpausselkä Geopark, which tells the story of the ridge system, has been designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

#### → Salpausselkä Geopark

### Decision-making

The highest decision-making body in the City of Lahti is the City Council. The 59 councillors are elected by the community. The current President of the City Council is Francis McCarron (National Coalition Party). The City Board is responsible for the City's day-to-day administration and for executing the City Council's decisions. The City Board has ten members. Chair of the City Board is Pekka Komu (Social Democrats). Mayor of the City of Lahti is Niko Kyynäräinen.

The Lahti City Corporate Group consists of approximately 60 businesses, organisations, local authorities, and foundations. The Group employs more than 10,000 people.

#### → Decision-making

### Strategy

The City of Lahti's vision for 2035 is: Lahti – Enduring Change. In a modern university and environmental city, businesses thrive and life is meaningful. Lahti's vision sets the city an ambitious goal to promote ecological, social, and economic sustainability alike. The goal is for Lahti to have 20,000 students in 2035, for Lahti to be nature-positive by 2030 and for Lahti to be the first major city to be carbon-neutral.

#### → The Strategy of Lahti

### Major companies

Fazer	Polttimo
Halton	Raute
Hartwall	Sandvik
ISKU	Stora Enso
Kempower	Teerenpeli Yhtiöt
Kemppi	Teknoware
Koskisen	UPM
LSK Group	Versowood
Luhta	Wipak
Oilon	
Peikko	

## Investment plans for the near future

- Fazer to start chocolate production in a new factory in 2028
- Data center to start operations in 2027
- A new university campus is being located in the Ranta-Kartano area
- Finland's next Clarion hotel planned for Lahti
- A new water sports center is planned as part of the Lahti Sports Center

## Social media



@cityoflahti, @greenlahti



@LahdenKaupunki



@Lahden kaupunki / City of Lahti

Lahti.fi  
Greenlahti.fi  
Visitlahti.fi

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