

Lahti



Lahti Nature-Positivity Roadmap

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1 – Mayor's foreword

Lahti has long made ambitious efforts to protect the environment. We are already engaged in climate work and circular economy, building a solid foundation for our efforts to support the environment. However, an even broader approach must be adopted to address biodiversity. To this end, the City Board set our city a nature-positivity target for 2030 in autumn 2024. Nature-positivity means that biodiversity is enhanced without any decline. This roadmap sets out measures that take us a step closer to building a nature-positive Lahti.

Lahti is a pioneer city at global level. This means that Lahti is the first city to take certain actions. We must consider how to measure nature-positivity and which measures we must take to achieve a state of nature-positivity. We must also identify the stakeholders we wish to partner with.

We want companies in the Lahti region to gain more expertise in nature-positivity

and take action to protect the nature. Active involvement also helps companies prepare for the ever-changing legislative framework and customer demands.

We recommend all organisations include biodiversity considerations in their strategies and operations. With this in mind, we have included measures implemented by the city's various stakeholders in this roadmap, alongside the city organisation's actions.

Lahti's goal is to protect and do good for nature.

Thriving nature also benefits our residents. Human well-being and the state of nature are closely entwined. Enjoying nature in the woods and spending time in Lahti's numerous outdoor recreation areas reduces stress and helps people stay active. Nature-positive Lahti brings people to nature and helps us support our environment.

Niko Kynnäräinen
Mayor of Lahti



2 – Roadmap summary

Nature-positive Lahti 2030:
In a nature-positive city,
biodiversity increases and doesn't
decline.

38 city measures

Land use and natural environment	16 pcs
Information, education and competence	4 pcs
Global impacts on nature	3 pcs
Nature-positive business	6 pcs
Well-being and health	5 pcs
Management and communication	4 pcs

Additionally, **20 stakeholder organisations** have committed to the measures they have proposed.

Environmental Watch

Follow the progress of Lahti's nature work at:
lahdenymparistovahti.fi

3 – Nature-positive Lahti 2030

Lahti's council agreement for 2025–2029 has set nature-positive Lahti 2030 as a key objective.

Nature-positivity means that biodiversity is increasing and not decreasing. This state is achieved when the benefits generated for nature are greater than the harm caused.

In practice, we promote nature-positivity by improving the state of the natural environment, reducing the stress on biodiversity caused by land use and enhancing biodiversity in the built environment. We are also developing our procurement processes.

In nature-positive Lahti, ensuring biodiversity and human well-being as well as sustainable growth go hand in hand. Cooperation and a preventive and systematic approach are needed to coordinate these objectives.

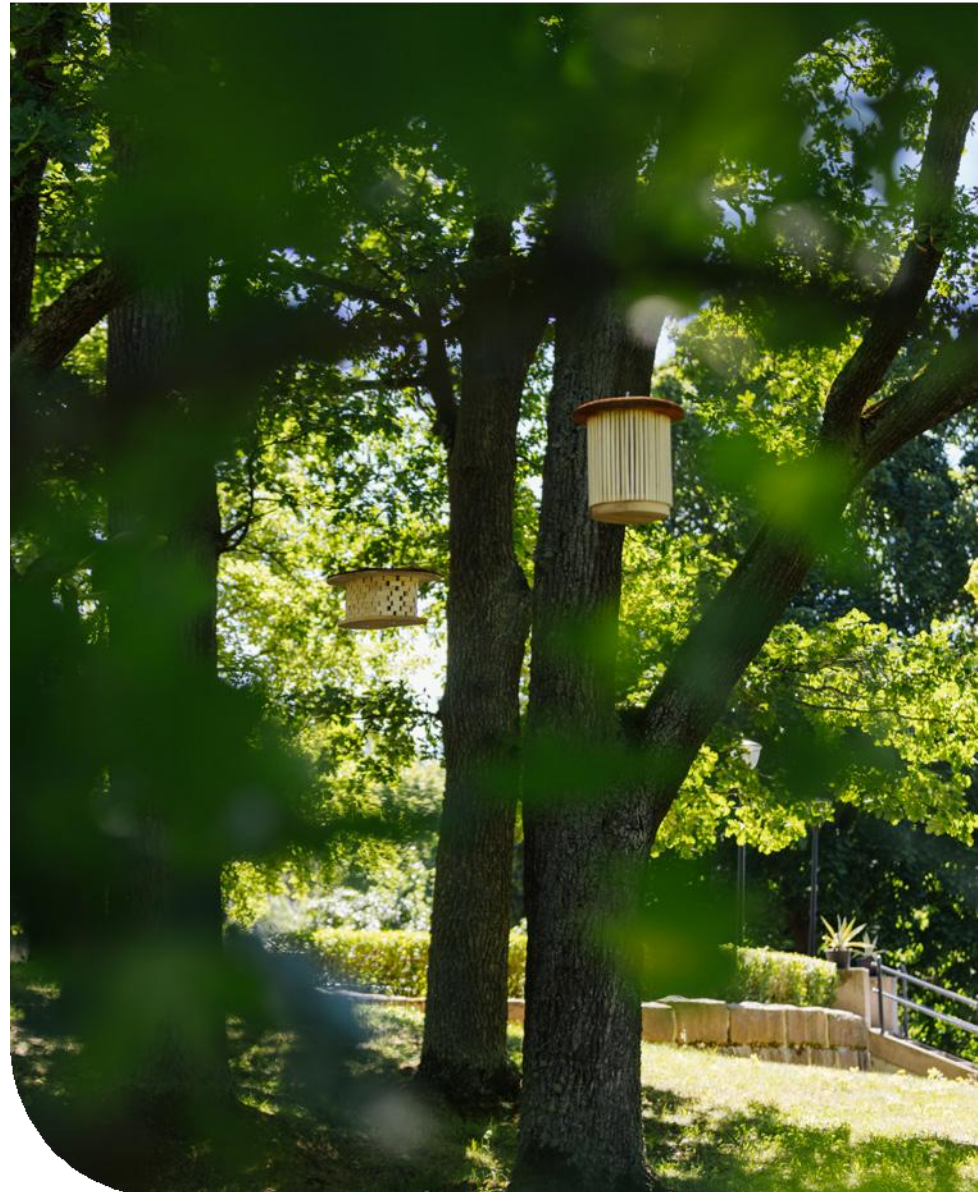
For example, we support sustainable business by ensuring the availability of plots through mindful city planning. Simultaneously, we ensure that the decline of biodiversity in one area is compensated by improving biodiversity in Lahti or its surrounding areas. We are committed to driving a positive change on biodiversity.

The measures included in this roadmap take us closer to the goal set for 2030 but they alone do not help us achieve the objective of nature-positivity. We must work closely together with local residents and companies. In the coming years, we will continue to build partnerships with companies and involve residents in our nature-positivity work.

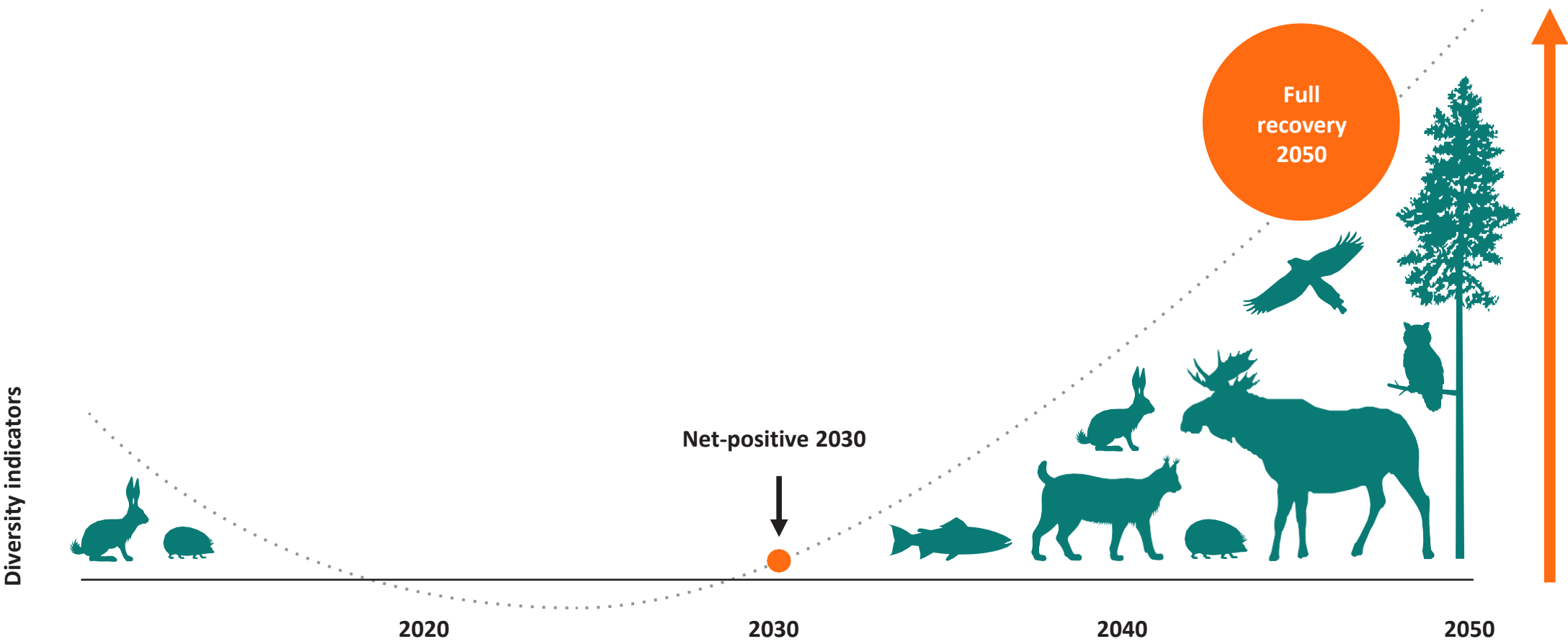
For companies, nature-positivity is a competitive advantage of the future. Many financiers already require companies to adopt a systematic approach to reducing their impact on nature. Companies can compensate for the harm caused or develop their business in a more nature-positive direction. Local residents can enjoy the benefits of nature-positivity in the form of urban green and quiet spaces or improved opportunities to spend time in nature. Green solutions help mitigate the negative impacts of extreme weather events, such as hot weather.

Every action contributes to the state of nature here in Finland and around the world. For example, a single household's green solutions in the garden help build favourable habitats for organisms or passages from one habitat to another.

At global level, the nature can be supported by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, as the climate change accelerates biodiversity loss.



Nature-positive Lahti 2030



To get closer to nature-positivity, we must:

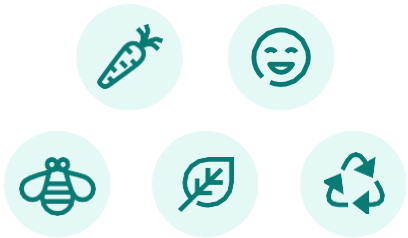
Reduce



Land use and changes in land use, use of natural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, invasive species

Drivers of biodiversity loss

Support



Pollination, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, recycling of nutrients, production of raw materials, landscape and amenity values

Ecosystem services

4 – Roadmap preparation

The measures included in the roadmap have been prepared in cooperation with various city organisations and stakeholders. The city is responsible for

some of the measures and stakeholders for the rest.

To prepare the roadmap, the city has organised meetings, events, webinars and workshops for brainstorming and development. At the time of publication, the message of nature-positivity has been shared at over 200 events.

Around 300 people have participated in nature-positivity workshops and 450 in other nature-positivity events.

Lahti was one of the first cities in the world to calculate its nature footprint. The greatest contributors to Lahti's nature footprint are investments, food products, ICT services and equipment, and heating. The nature footprint is one way to assess the impact on nature within the city's operations and in the region.

The City of Lahti launched its nature-positivity efforts in spring 2023 together with Sitra and the Sustainable Lahti Foundation. The project is based on the UN biodiversity convention concluded in 2022.

5 – Roadmap implementation

The nature-positive Lahti 2030 objective is closely linked to other sustainable targets of Lahti, including the climate neutrality target.

The measures defined in the nature-positivity roadmap help allocate resources and promote nature-positivity in decision-making. The roadmap measures are incorporated into our daily work.

For example, the nature-positivity objective is taken into account in planning. We are also developing new working methods and building the necessary knowledge base.

To become nature-positive, we must ensure the timely implementation of the roadmap in the coming years. Our journey, however, has only just begun. We will likely identify new measures as our understanding of nature-positivity work expands. For example, air and water quality is crucial to supporting biodiversity. This roadmap does not yet include separate measures for air and water.

The roadmap will be implemented in practice within the limits of the annual budget and



with possible external funding. The implementation will be monitored annually.

The city's Climate Programme (incl. adaption), Nature Conservation Programme and Nature Step to Health Programme are included in the roadmap, because their implementation is key to reaching the objective of nature-positivity.

The objective is also advanced through other programmes, roadmaps and policies, including the Circular Economy Roadmap, Environmental Programme, Green Space Programme, Urban Tree Policy, Principles for Forest Management, Lahti Groundwater Conservation Plan, Storm Water Programme, Environmental Education Programme in Basic Education, Programme for the Control of Invasive Alien Species, Vesijärvi Programme, and the objectives of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

6 – City of Lahti's measures

Measures in six themes:



Land use and natural environment



Nature-positive business



Information, education and competence



Well-being and health



Global impacts on nature



Management and communication



Land use and natural environment

The measures alleviate the stress on biodiversity caused by land use, improve the state of natural environments and increase biodiversity in the built environment.

Our land use planning follows a mitigation hierarchy. In practice, this means that harm to nature is avoided, minimised, prevented and, as a last resort, compensated for.

In land use planning and zoning, the typical means of mitigation is harm minimisation. When compensating for harm caused, the localness of the situation should be considered: compensating for harm far away from the original site is not meaningful for local residents or organism populations. Ecotype inventories are conducted for land use planning to assess the plans' impact on nature and adjust the plans as necessary to mitigate any harm caused. The application of the mitigation hierarchy will be documented in the plan report as part of the assessment of impacts on nature.



1 – Assessment of the work programme for city planning with the mitigation hierarchy

City planning promotes the building of a sustainable urban structure in line with the Lahti master plan, enables urban growth and supports business. The preparation of the work programme for city planning will be developed by adopting assessment criteria. These criteria shall concern, for example, the location or zone of a planning area, land use changes, urban planning economics, and the mitigation hierarchy (prevention or minimisation of harm to nature).

Responsibility: Urban Environment, Urban Planning

Timeline: 2026–2028

2 – Development of regional nature footprint calculation

A – Nature footprint calculation could be incorporated into the *ex ante* evaluation of land use planning and used to prepare a preliminary master plan for unplanned zones. This requires obtaining nature information from multiple sources.

The calculation tool would give insight into the nature footprint of land use projects and allow the comparison of alternative solutions.

B – Further development of regional nature footprint calculation that links nature footprint calculation to urban planning economics. The calculation tool must be piloted for different types of areas – both in changing urban areas and completely new areas.

Responsibility: Urban Environment, Urban Planning; Nature Conservation, Master and City Planning

Timeline: 2026–2027

3 – Modelling of population and industrial change and change scenarios

The scenarios generated for the city strategy should include trends and developments that do not require the expansion of urban structures into natural areas (e.g. changes in migration, fading growth momentum, industrial change).

Responsibility: Development Services, Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026–2027

4 – Development of a toolkit for promoting nature-positivity in different urban zones

Key measures that are the most effective in increasing nature-positivity should be identified for different urban planning zones in the master plan. A toolkit for planners, operators and residents will be released.

The most effective measures are also discussed under measure 2 – Development of regional nature footprint calculation.

The possibility of adopting the toolkit in cooperation with educational institutions will be assessed.

Responsibility: Urban Environment: Master Planning; Business and Environmental Development unit, Environmental Advice

Timeline: 2026–2028

5 – Establishing an approach to developing construction projects that maximise nature-positivity

The key planning stages of the urban environment service area will be identified. Related processes will be illustrated as a flowchart and stages that allow the promotion of nature-positivity will be indicated. Launch with one pilot project and flowchart (e.g. urban infrastructure).

Responsibility: Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026–2030

6 – Reinforcement of the Lahti ecological network

A map showing gaps in ecological corridors, i.e. deteriorated natural values, will be prepared. Work programmes will be scouted to find suitable projects that can help reinforce weak areas and safeguard existing working connections. Various operators, including companies, will be involved in the work.

It is important to note that parts of the land may be privately owned.

The maintenance of the ecological network will be considered in the granting of landscape work permits.

Responsibility: Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026–2030

7 – Assessment and improvement of the state of different natural ecotypes and their restoration

Existing information about the natural areas in Lahti from sources such as the ecotype inventories conducted for master planning as well as geographic information from national databases will be collected and combined. Planners will be provided with extensive information and material about natural ecotypes, and this material will be updated with information about the quality of different natural ecotypes.

Restoration plans will be prepared for declining areas. Declining areas are restored through project funding and private funding, in particular.

Responsibility: Urban Environment, Environmental Control

Timeline: 2026–2030

8 – Lahti’s model for ecological compensation

In its nature declaration, Lahti has committed to implementing the mitigation hierarchy in its land use planning activities. The application of the mitigation hierarchy requires Lahti to develop methods for facilitating ecological compensation. The city has already engaged in analysis and development work on this topic and it continues to make progress through the seven measures laid down in this roadmap.

Ecological compensation reinforces biodiversity through various means. For example, traditional conservation areas can be expanded, natural areas can be protected temporarily and the state of local aquatic ecosystems can be improved. This measure contributes to Lahti’s objective of increasing biodiversity and improves companies’ ability to respond to increasing regulatory demands and meet financier’s sustainability requirements.

Responsibility: Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026–2030

9 – Nature conservation efforts in Lahti

The surface area of conservation areas in relation to the city’s total area is one of the key indicators of nature-positivity. Currently, conservation areas make up approximately 2% of Lahti. The city could expand its conservation areas by taking action and collaborating with the private sector. The expansion of conservation areas is one of the objectives set out in Lahti’s council agreement for 2025–2029. The location, number and type of conservation areas will be determined separately.

Responsibility: Environmental Services

Timeline: 2026–2030

10 – Migration-facilitating watercourses in Lahti

Obstacles preventing migratory fish from migrating will be removed by adjusting the height of culverts, removing dams and building submerged weirs. The Immilänkoski rapids will be restored in cooperation with its owners. The city continues to facilitate the cross-over of eels and expand it across the Kymijoki dams to support spawning migration to the Sargasso Sea.

Responsibility: Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026–2030

11 – Incentives for reconstruction

In line with the Circular Economy Roadmap, property owners will be encouraged to favour reconstruction over demolition and invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions through information and advice services.

According to the Lahti Architectural Policy Programme, efforts will be made to renovate and maintain old building stock and adapt it to the objectives of climate-neutrality.

Responsibility: Urban Environment, Business and Environmental Development unit, City Cultural Services, Facilities Centre

Timeline: 2026–2030

12 – Including biodiversity considerations in the upcoming Planning Guideline for General Planning of Municipal Engineering

The purpose of the guideline is to harmonise the content and visuals of street and building plans produced by consultants. The guideline serves as a reference book for urban planning. The guideline addresses the functional aspects of planning and highlights factors valued by the client.

Responsibility: Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026

13 – More urban green infrastructures

A – Greener day-care and school grounds A planning guideline for day-care centre grounds will be prepared to boost biodiversity on day-care grounds. Greening will be piloted through partnerships between the public and private sector and joint funding.

Responsibility: Facilities Centre

Timeline: 2026–2030

B – Introduction of a green factor A plot-specific green factor (Building Code 1.1.) will be adopted in new building projects (terraced houses and larger buildings). An approved draft yard plan that meets the green factor requirements must be presented in connection with the transfer of a plot. A model for the application of the green factor will be developed to steer plot use towards the objectives of increased biodiversity, sustainability, and storm water control. These objectives are achieved by, for example, using permeable surface materials, favouring Finnish wood, considering the placement of trees carefully, diversifying vegetation, and building various natural habitats (nesting boxes, decayed wood).

Responsibility: Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026

C – Promotion of nature-based solutions and materials in the construction of parks, playgrounds and school and day-care grounds The city’s internal flow of information and operating model will be developed to facilitate the use of nature-based solutions and materials, such as trees and branches from forestry areas. Wood soil and rivulets of storm water will be utilised in construction. Innovative equipment-free play areas for children will be created with an open mind. Nature-based solutions will also be used in parks, playgrounds and school and day-care grounds, where equipment has been removed for safety reasons and which will be renovated in the future.

Responsibility: Facilities Centre, Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026–2030



14 – Removal of invasive alien species

The Programme for the Control of Invasive Alien Species will be updated in line with the Green Space Programme. The units responsible for the control of invasive alien species will be specified.

Invasive alien species will be eliminated in built green spaces and natural environments. The elimination of invasive alien species should be considered in the planning of investment projects and they should be removed accordingly at the construction and renovation stage and replaced with other structures or vegetation.

Volunteers will be involved in the removal of invasive alien species. Companies and residents will be encouraged to organise community events to remove invasive alien species. The possibility of developing a reformative tourism product will be explored.

Efforts will be made to obtain additional resources and coordinate city-wide operations to control and eliminate invasive alien species with the help of volunteers.

Responsibility: Urban Environment: Urban Infrastructure/Maintenance Unit and Construction Supervision and Environmental Control/Water and Environmental Management Unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

15 – Reduction of light pollution

Light pollution will be reduced in Lahti by decreasing the amount of light harmful to organisms within the city. The sources of obtrusive light and means of ecological lighting will be taken into account in lighting planning.

Priority areas with a need for ecological lighting solutions will be mapped out. A map of areas sensitive to artificial light will be prepared. Residents will be informed of the need to reduce light pollution and possible alternatives.

This measure will included in the Planning Guideline for General Planning of Municipal Engineering (measure 12).

Responsibility: Urban Environment, Lahti Energia

Timeline: 2026–2030

16 – Establishment of an edible garden in Lahti

An edible garden produces food and other goods and improves the state of the environment through carbon sequestration, for example. An edible garden has trees and bushes that produce food (e.g. fruit, berries and nuts) and herbaceous plants. The garden could also have plants that fertilise the soil and contribute to pest control. An edible garden may be built in place of a decommissioned playground, for example.

Responsibility: Urban Environment

Timeline: 2026–2030



B

Information, education and competence

Both the city personnel and local companies and other stakeholders need more information (incl. local information) about biodiversity and the assessment of impacts on nature. Enhancing their knowledge and competence is crucial at the initial phase of roadmap implementation, when new approaches, processes and tools to promote nature-positivity are being developed. It is important that everyone understands the impact of their work and organisation on biodiversity.

Measures to promote biodiversity generate many kinds of benefits. They often have a positive impact on human health and contribute to emission reduction. They can also boost the habitability, attractiveness and vitality of the city.



17 – Environmental Education Programme in Basic Education

The content of the Environmental Education Programme for grades 1 to 9 focuses on maintaining a sustainable lifestyle and promoting children’s relationship with nature. The programme includes visits to important natural sites in the region and provides instruction on how to utilise nature as a learning environment. The programme provides practical learning on topics such as circular economy, sustainable nutrition and sustainable mobility in cooperation with local partners. The programme strengthens students’ local knowledge and shows them how to take an active role in the environmental city.

Responsibility: Education Services Area

Timeline: 2026–2030

18 – Information pack on nature-positivity for city personnel

A nature-positivity training course will be prepared for all city personnel. Videos and simple exercises help increase personnel’s knowledge in biodiversity and the impact of their work on the promotion of nature-positivity.

Recommended for all personnel.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026

19 – Nature training for gatekeepers

Gatekeeper professions will be identified. A new operating model will be developed and materials inspiring people to promote nature-positivity will be prepared. Both informative training and training and support that make speaking on issues easier will be provided to personnel who interact with local residents, who are in the middle of a lifestyle change, in customer service situations. These professions include children's health clinic workers, exercise counsellors, teachers, and Palvelutori Service Centre employees.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2027

20 – Assessment of companies’ nature-positivity needs

Companies’ need for nature-related information will be assessed. In addition, the ways the city can reinforce its role as a partner and better support companies in their nature-positivity efforts will be explored.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030



Global impacts on nature

Procurements have the greatest effect on global impacts on nature. The impacts of goods and services used in Lahti but produced elsewhere on nature and greenhouse gas emissions are global.

In Finland, public procurements amount to tens of billions of euros every year. For Lahti, public procurements are a means to achieve the objectives set for the environmental city in the city strategy. When biodiversity is taken into account in procurements, providers are inspired to develop more environmentally friendly solutions. Companies can also promote biodiversity by ensuring the sustainability of their own procurements and supply chains.



21 – Procurement processes are developed with the aim of reducing the city’s nature footprint and boosting biodiversity through procurements and increasing resource knowledge

Operating models for different stages of the procurement process will be developed and requirements and criteria related to biodiversity and wise use of resources will be adopted.

This work will focus on infrastructure, maintenance and housebuilding procurements due to their great impact. Biodiversity, use of natural resources, and emissions will be taken into account in the development. Procurement processes will be developed in cooperation with the LUMO biodiversity network formed by the ten largest cities of Finland.

A – Investment project for piloting nature footprint calculation Piloting could help identify the procurement process stages that best enable promoting biodiversity and determine the ways biodiversity could be incorporated into decision-making. The results of Lahti’s nature footprint report will be utilised in the development.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit, Urban Infrastructure (Infrastructure and Landscaping, Maintenance), Urban Planning, Procurement Services unit, Facilities Centre

Timeline: 2026–2028

B – Early market dialogue to create a greener urban environment Events will be organised to identify the city’s objectives and companies’ solutions and facilitate the exchange of information with the aim of creating greener day-care grounds and temporary spaces (with no immediate plans for construction), taking into account possible emissions from temporary construction.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit, Innovation Network of Carbon Neutral Construction, Procurement Services unit, Urban Environment (Urban Infrastructure: Infrastructure and Landscaping, Maintenance, Urban Planning), Facilities Centre

Timeline: 2026–2030

22 – Nature and circular economy event

A heavily marketed event showcasing nature and circular economy will be organised for local residents. In addition to second-hand services, the event will highlight repair, maintenance, loaning and public use services as well as solutions promoting sustainable consumption and natural values. The event will be advertised frequently in multiple channels. The concept will be developed into an annual event based on guest feedback.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit, Environmental Services. Implementation requires a significant contribution from stakeholders.

Timeline: 2027

23 – Lahti Climate Programme

The Lahti Climate Programme plays a key role in implementing measures that promote nature-positivity. (Lahti aims to become carbon-neutral, i.e. to reduce emissions from production by 80% from the 1990 emissions level. As a member of the Fisu (Finnish Sustainable Communities) network, Lahti aims to cut emissions from consumption by 50% by 2030.) The measures set out in the Climate Programme aim to reduce emissions from both production and consumption through the following measures:

climate management, energy, traffic, circular economy and sustainable consumption, carbon sinks, and ecological compensation. The programme also includes measures for adaption and contingency. Measures to maintain and increase the number of carbon sinks and storages also support biodiversity when appropriately planned.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: Continuous

D

Nature-positive business

Increasing companies' expertise in nature-positivity and supporting nature-positive business are key objectives of Lahti's nature-positivity work.

Nature-positivity makes Lahti an attractive location for companies and climate-neutrality gives the city a competitive advantage in climate matters.

Since greater emphasis is likely to be placed on nature work in the future, investing in biodiversity gives companies a competitive edge. Higher customer demands, tightening regulation and the effects of deteriorated ecosystem services on various industries across the globe also impact companies operating in the Lahti region either directly or through their value chains.

Companies need more information and knowledge on biodiversity and their impacts on nature. Companies' opportunities to reduce the impacts on nature of their operations should be supported. In the Lahti region, opportunities for developing services and products that reduce the harm caused on nature and boost positive impacts must be created.



24 – Raising awareness of the importance of nature-positivity on sustainable business and providing training services for companies to develop their business in a more nature-positive direction

The city will ensure that companies operating in Lahti will have access to nature-positivity training and guidance to help them improve nature-positivity. These services include webinars, events, projects and networks.

The promotion of nature-positivity will be included in the priority targets of any additional Ladec purchase contracts.

Responsibility: Growth Services, Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

25 – Inclusion of biodiversity considerations in the climate partnership model

The City of Lahti offers companies and communities an opportunity to join its climate partnership network.

The partnership network will be developed by adopting nature considerations. For example, questions and objectives related to nature could be added to the initial evaluation of new climate partners.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

26 – Reduction of group companies’ nature footprint

Group companies will identify their operations’ key impacts on nature and prepare roadmaps for promoting biodiversity.

Then, group companies will determine the measures needed to promote nature-positivity in their roadmaps and implement them.

Responsibility: Group Companies, Ownership Steering of the Central Administration, Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

27 – Participation in the development of the natural value market

The development of nature-positivity in urban environments requires innovative financial cooperation and methods of financing. The City of Lahti will contribute to the development of a natural value market in line with its nature declaration in cooperation with national operators and the largest cities of Finland. Lahti will help voluntary companies adopt ecological compensation models, take advantage of the nature value market and participate in local nature conservation in a verifiable manner.

Responsibility: Growth Services, Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

28 – Creating a service and partnership model for implementing concrete and effective measures to promote nature-positivity

The city will help companies implement different types of nature-related measures. The city will establish a business-oriented service and partnership model that enables companies to implement measures enhancing biodiversity together with the city. A company may choose to participate in any measure defined by the city that best suits them. Nature-related measures include nature restoration

and removal of invasive alien species. The city will also develop its climate partnership network to strengthen its cooperation on nature topics with companies. This measure promotes the city’s nature-positivity objective and improves companies’ abilities to meet the sustainability requirements of their industry.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

29 – Supporting business opportunities that enhance biodiversity

The city acts as a breeding ground for innovation and provides piloting areas for experimentation as well as a simple pilot pact model for the development of biodiversity-enhancing solutions. The aim is to set a low threshold for companies, universities and other operators to test their biodiversity solutions. The city will also provide more opportunities for piloting through its procurements. The objective is to accelerate the development and up-scaling of products and services that support biodiversity through pilots.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

E

Well-being and health

Human well-being and the state of nature are closely entwined. Biodiversity has positive impacts on human well-being and health. Higher well-being improves work ability. Exercising and spending time in nature supports mental health and the body's resistance.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution have a negative impact on human health. We can support our own and the nature's health and well-being through simple daily choices from diet to mobility.



30 – Let’s enjoy the local nature:
Lahen luontoon! campaign

The city will launch a long-term campaign to inspire people living and working in Lahti to enjoy and spend time in nature and discover places that support their mental health.

The campaign encourages people to be active and use their body. This benefits not only people but also the environment: walking and cycling do not generate emissions, make noise or take as much space as cars.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit, Environmental Advice; various stakeholders must be involved.

Timeline: 2026–2030

31 – Inspiring the international community to discover and enjoy the local nature in Lahti

A – A 2-hour module (KOTO 24) to be included in the municipality’s statutory obligation to organise multilingual social orientation for all immigrants as part of their integration process.

B – A similar 2-hour module to be provided for migrant workers and students.

Responsibility: International House of Lahti

Timeline: 2026–2030

32 – Familiarising decision-makers with the local nature and nature work in Lahti

New city councillors were elected in spring 2025. They were organised a nature excursion to familiarise them with the nature and environmental objectives of the City of Lahti and concrete ways to achieve these objectives.

Similar excursions will be organised for decision-makers in future and they will be continuously informed of the versatile nature work done in Lahti.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

33 – Supporting the nature relationship, well-being and work ability of the long-term unemployed through methods involving nature

A – Raising awareness of natural areas in Lahti, sustainable living and the health benefits of nature and supporting the development of the nature relationship of unemployed job seekers through experiences, excursions and group activities.

B – Establishing a working model for assessing the work ability of partially disabled people and supporting the transition to working life as part of employment services. The model will take into account the health benefits of nature and utilise nature-related methods to promote the clients’ work and functional ability.

Responsibility: Employment Services, TOTTA! Project

Timeline: 2026–2030

34 – Nature Step to Health Programme

The programme will be implemented in cooperation with the Päijät-Häme Wellbeing Services County and Lahti University Campus. The aim is to build services that enhance sustainable living and well-being and promote well-being by taking advantage of the local nature and green spaces in Päijät-Häme.

In the programme, healthy, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable structures and practices that facilitate sustainable lifestyle choices and planetary health in Lahti and Päijät-Häme will be developed.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: until 2032

F

Management and communication

Cities and municipalities play a key role in nature work. Various city units and spheres of operations engage in work that has a positive impact on nature. We need holistic and determined nature work management in order to halt the loss of biodiversity, increase biodiversity and achieve a state of nature-positivity.

Nature-positivity is pursued as part of a wider environmental and industrial policy. The city manages nature work in Lahti and implements measures in cooperation with its stakeholders, such as universities and companies. Effective management and pursuit of nature-positivity boost the vitality and appeal of Lahti.



35 – Expansion of the climate budget to include nature appropriations

Lahti introduced climate budgeting in its 2025 budget. The climate budget is a management tool that incorporates environmental objectives more closely into the preparation of the city’s budget and monitoring of budgetary developments.

The climate budget helps the city identify climate actions in its service areas and gives decision-makers an overview of the costs and impacts of the city’s climate efforts. One of the themes of the climate budget is urban green infrastructures and adaptation. From the 2027 budget onwards, this theme will be expanded to also cover nature-positivity. This enables more precise nature work budgeting in the budget process.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

36 – Active communication of nature-positivity

Different target groups of the roadmap will be informed of the concept of nature-positivity in an easy to grasp way. They are explained what the term means and what kind of measures have been taken to pursue nature-positivity in practice. They are informed about the efforts made to promote nature-positivity in the city and the entire region.

Responsibility: Communications

Timeline: 2026–2030

37 – Ensuring that nature-positivity work is closely linked to existing management and guidance structures

The responsibilities for managing and guiding the city’s nature work at the strategic level will be assigned. The progress of the city’s nature work will be monitored and the implementation of the roadmap will be ensured.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030

38 – Supporting the city personnel’s ability to implement the roadmap

Awareness of nature-positivity is also raised within the city organisations and the personnel’s ability to implement the roadmap are enhanced. This measure ensures that the roadmap is actually implemented.

Personnel’s competence and involvement in implementing the roadmap are supported through communication and building a common understanding. This measure is implemented with the help of the One Health Gov project.

Responsibility: Business and Environmental Development unit

Timeline: 2026–2030



7 – Stakeholder measures

In addition to the city's own measures, involved in nature-positivity work a number of stakeholders are committed to supporting nature-positivity in the Lahti region through their own actions.

Lahti will become nature-positive under the management of the city in cooperation with local businesses, organisations and residents. Many local operators are already pioneers in taking actions that support nature work and enhance biodiversity.



1 – LUT University, Lahti Science Park and Sustainable Lahti Foundation

Nature footprint calculation is being actively developed and businesses are interested in the tool to calculate their operations' impact on nature, set targets and monitor change. The Sustainability Transformation research group at LUT University is developing nature footprint calculation and produces information about the subject.

The Sustainable Lahti Foundation funds projects to expand and deepen business cooperation. Companies operating in the Lahti Science Park are invited to participate in a collaboration related to nature footprint calculation. LUT University calculates companies' nature footprints through thesis work and in cooperation with students. Companies in the Lahti Science Park will be organised an event during which the results and implementation of nature footprint calculation will be reported and discussed. All companies in the region are welcome to participate in this event.

2 – Päijät-Hämeen Ateriapalvelut Oy

In cooperation with the City of Lahti, Päijät-Hämeen Ateriapalvelut Oy will provide all its customers (15,000 children and young people) a delicious meal including cyprinids from Lake Vesijärvi on one day in autumn 2025. Eutrophication caused by nutrient loading is one the main factors behind the loss of biodiversity, especially in freshwater and marine ecosystems. Eutrophic waters are an excellent spawning ground for cyprinids. By removing cyprinids, excess nutrients can be eliminated.

The removal of cyprinids also has other positive impacts on eutrophic waters.

Meals that include cyprinids are in line with the new dietary recommendations, according to which 300–450 g of fish should be eaten in a week. This should include multiple fish species and sustainable caught or raised fish should be favoured.

The aim is to include fish from Lake Vesijärvi in the annual lunch rotation.

According to a nature footprint analysis commissioned by Päijät-Hämeen Ateriapalvelut Oy, organic bananas have a smaller nature footprint than regular bananas.

The possibility of increasing the use of organic ingredients across product groups in catering services will also be explored.

3 – Salpaus Further Education

Sustainable development is part of all vocational training. Environmental, economic and social sustainability as well as sustainable future in working life are all included as themes in every degree programme. Studies in twin transitions combine sustainable development and new technologies.

Sustainability and sustainable development are among the priorities of strategic development at Salpaus. Salpaus has applied for the Sustainable Development Certification of Educational Establishments issued by the OKKA Foundation for its teaching and training activities. This is in line with Salpaus' sustainability roadmap.

The catering services of Salpaus serve food consisting of plenty of vegetables and locally produced food. We are also reducing the amount of food waste and developing a food waste distribution model. The catering services of Salpaus have been awarded the EcoCompass certificate. Our property services have for some time been improving energy efficiency with excellent results.

4 – Lahden Seutu – Lahti Region Oy

Lahden seutu – Lahti Region Oy (Visit Lahti) in liaison with Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark coordinates the national Sustainable Travel Finland programme in the Lahti region. Together with their stakeholders, they have drawn up a regional sustainable travel plan for 2023–2030. In 2025, Lahti Region reached the destination level of the Sustainable Travel Finland programme, meaning that over 51% of the major companies seeking to grow internationally, operating in the region, have been awarded the Sustainable Travel Finland label. To demonstrate their development in line with the label requirements, including the promotion of nature-positivity, Visit Lahti and Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark have agreed to organise annually at least one training/coaching event on sustainable travel for regional tourism organisations and improve their abilities to adopt considerations of biodiversity and sustainable travel in their business operations.

5 – Lahti University Campus (coordination unit)

The objective for the coming years is to promote the inclusion of considerations of planetary health, including biodiversity, in university education and postgraduate education. There are plans to establish university modules focusing on planetary health in cooperation with the universities in the Lahti region and obtain funding for a professorship in planetary health. In addition, the new dietary recommendations will be put into practice and the benefits of local nature and nature conservation for people and well-being will be communicated.

6 – Lahden 4H-yhdistys ry

Supporting nature-positivity with an exercise bank. The 4H organisation has developed the toptehtavat.fi website, which it uses for all group activities and shares with other operators. The organisation is involved in developing a national exercise bank. It strives to take into account perspectives of nature-positivity in the planning of the exercises.

The Yli-Marola 4H farm is a site of considerable culture historical significance supported by the City of Lahti. The farm provides nature-positive education and maintains sustainable building heritage.

Supporting education to nature through projects. For example, the objective for 2024–2026 is to build a camp site in a forest, including a kitchen, to challenge local residents to spend more time in nature, learn and hold classes in nature.

7 – LAB measures

LAB University of Applied Sciences develops education and research, development and innovation (RDI) activities related to nature-positivity based on needs for development and promotes the resilience of nature, sustainable and responsible growth, and human well-being.

- Training: e.g. urban greening module, summer school related to planetary health, further education related on the health effects of climate change.
- RDI projects: e.g. promoting the importance of nature footprint calculation and impacts on nature among businesses, natural green infrastructure solutions, adapting to and preparing for the impacts of climate change, and business involving local nature.

LAB promotes communication supporting nature-positivity to companies and other stakeholders in the form of public service announcements, for example.

Together with Päijät-Häme municipalities, LAB is developing the climate partnership model with the aim of including impacts on nature in the model.

Our Carbon-Neutral LAB 2025 commitment supports and promotes the nature-positivity work of the City of Lahti.

8 – Luova project, Avainsäätiö Foundation and Lahti Diaconia Foundation

The Luova project is creating a model for nature-based inclusiveness work by organising courses, where a variety of nature-based functions are planned and implemented in close cooperation with clients. In the project, the experience of well-being and inclusiveness is measured with a survey that includes an indicator measuring inclusiveness and questions about well-being as well as through group discussions.

The activities are intended for 18–64-year-old Päijät-Häme residents who are not employed or studying. Project period 8/2024–12/2026.





9 – Lahti museums

Museums in Lahti hold exhibitions that support nature-positivity. Nature-positivity will be taken into account when choosing future themes for exhibitions. Upcoming exhibitions themes include snow and people's relationship with snow at the Ski Museum, Lake Vesijärvi at the Lahti Historical Museum, and forests at the Lahti Museum of Visual Arts Malva. The Radio and TV Museum Mastola's exhibition "Retro or rubbish" focuses on recycling and repair work.

The Lahti City Museums favour vegan catering in their guest events.

As the regional museum of Päijät-Häme, the Lahti City Museums provide advice and guidance for building renovation, encouraging reconstruction over demolition. The renovation advice service also communicates that renovation is a more nature-positive solution than demolition and new construction.

One of the most popular collection services are information enquiries about personal furniture and objects. When a user learns about the designer and history of a piece of furniture they own, they are motivated to refurbish and reupholster it instead of replacing it. The collection services aim to emphasise that repairing is a better choice for the nature.

10 – University of Helsinki

Faculty of Science and Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences Preparing plans for the Lahti campus and applying for funding to improve the state of biodiversity and green spaces, support the green transition, circular economy and sustainable food systems, and reduce pollutants in built areas.

Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry Promoting science-based solutions to develop a sustainable food system for the region through education, research, projects and interactive cooperation with stakeholders.

11 – The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme helps projects and actions supporting biodiversity to access financing. Maintaining the cleanliness of nature and water is one of the key priorities set out in the regional strategy and the Regional Programme for 2026–2029. The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme organised a nature event for decision-makers in November 2025 and will continue to involve municipal decision-makers in nature work in cooperation with other operators. A regional biodiversity report will be completed in 2026. Identified

needs for development include a plan for reinforcing diversity, promotion of the nature value market, and adapting to and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

12 – Lahti Region Development LADEC

Defining the concept of nature-positive business together with the Nature-Positive Life project. The aim is to communicate about nature-positive operations as a clear and distinct concept as part of other environmentally sustainable business models (such as circular economy).

A description of services related to promoting nature-positivity among regional operators/stakeholders will be provided for companies. These services help companies develop their own nature-positive business operations.

Identification of companies interested in nature-positivity and helping them access nature-positivity information and services. Case stories will also be utilised in communications.

13 – Nature association Salpausselän luonnonystävät ry (SSLY)

SSLY highlights biodiversity in all its operations through the following means, in particular:

SSLY will organise every year 3–4 nature excursions for both members and non-members. Special consideration will be given to biodiversity in the planning of these excursions.

Topics related to the nature-positivity objective of the City of Lahti will be discussed in the SSLY newsletter. SSLY has approximately 440 members in Lahti and they receive 7–10 newsletters annually.

SSLY cooperates with, for example, the Environmental Association of Hollola in communicating the significance of local woods to biodiversity and the well-being of local residents. The aim is to provide additional resources for the conservation efforts of the City of Lahti, including mapping and taking care of relatively old recreational forests and other high-value forests. For example, SSLY could organise forest excursions, where experts discuss species that serve as important indicators of the forest's value.

SSLY will organise open events in the city library auditorium and at the Palvelutori Service Centre, where people can meet experts. Biodiversity and the objective of nature-positivity will be highlighted at these events.

SSLY supports collaboration with local associations that have a strong relationship with nature. These include the orienteering club Lahden Suunnistajat 37 and the ornithological society of Päijät-Häme PHLTY.

14 – Häme Chamber of Commerce

Organised an event on nature and climate in 2025. The event focused on the perspective of business and industry as well as nature and climate work solutions.

15 – City of Lahti, Event Industry Finland, Finnish Olympic Committee, LUT University

Assessment of the nature-positivity of sports events. Participation in the Sustainability Challenge Project Work course organised by LUT University. In early 2025, the course participants were given a problem to solve. The problem related to the nature-positivity of sports events. The course outcomes will be utilised in future events.

16 – Päijät-Häme Grain Cluster

The Päijät-Häme Grain Cluster is a regional cooperation network consisting of grain farmers, grain-processing companies, educational organisations, interest groups, and trade organisations. The Päijät-Häme Grain Cluster is the largest food industry cluster in Finland.

The Päijät-Häme Grain Cluster and its members promote a sustainable food

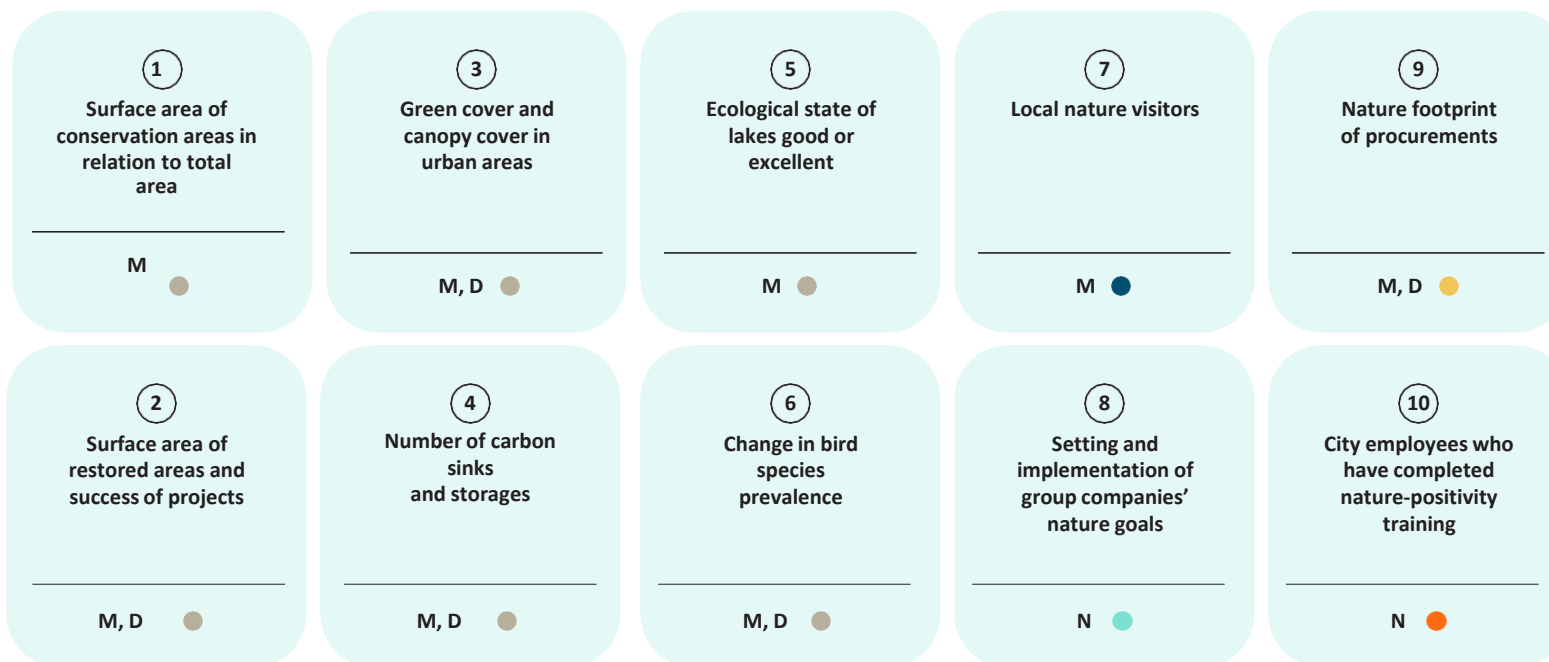
system that supports biodiversity. The Päijät-Häme Grain Cluster supports the adoption of science-based solutions enhancing biodiversity among the members of its network.

8 – Indicators, monitoring and reporting

Common indicators for nature-positivity are being developed internationally, for example, in the Science Based Targets for Nature network. Currently, there is no generally adopted measuring method for nature-positivity, like the CO2 equivalent used for measuring greenhouse gas emissions.

The development of nature-positivity can be monitored with various indicators illustrating the state of nature. The City of Lahti has adopted the indicators herein to measure nature-positivity in Lahti. The suitability of these indicators is reviewed together with the roadmap and more indicators could be added or they could be adjusted.

The measures and indicators will be reviewed annually in connection with annual climate reporting. The measures included in this roadmap will be updated every two years. The measures will be added to the Lahti Environmental Watch website, where their progress can be followed on an annual basis.



● Land use and natural environment

● Global impacts on nature

S = Already monitored

● Well-being and health

● Information, education and competence

U = New indicator

● Nature-positive business

K = Monitoring under development

9 – Definitions

Value chain	A value chain or supply chain consists of all the stages from raw material production to manufacturing the final product.
Ecological compensation	Ecological compensation means a procedure in which harm caused to biodiversity as a result of economic activity is compensated for by improving the state of a natural habitat in another location.
Ecological network	A network through which organisms move and spread from one area to another. It consists of core natural areas and the ecological connections between them.
Ecosystem services	Benefits of nature, such as clean water, pollination, climate regulation and opportunities for recreation, that create significant value for people and society. Ecosystem services can be divided into production services, regulation and maintenance services and cultural services.
EU Nature Restoration Regulation	The EU Nature Restoration Regulation is based on the EU Biodiversity Strategy aiming to restore environmental systems. The Nature Restoration Regulation sets out objectives for urban green infrastructures and canopy cover, for example.

Invasive alien species	A species that has spread outside its natural range as a result of human intervention and that can cause harm to the local ecosystem. An invasive alien species can replace native species, cause biodiversity losses, spread diseases or cause economic and environmental damage.
Climate partnership	A partnership network for companies and organisations operating in Lahti. An organisation joining the network must present a plan including measures that it will take to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and combat climate change.
Urban green infrastructures	A generic term for all vegetation and natural areas in a dense urban environment, such as parks, kerbside trees, gardens, and green roofs.
Circular economy	Circular economy is an economic model, in which products, materials and other resources are utilised in an efficient and sustainable manner. In practice, this means that materials and their value are kept in circulation for as long as possible when products are reused. The objective is to keep production and consumption within the limits of the Earth's loading capacity. Circular economy is a way to combat climate change and halt the loss of biodiversity.

Canopy cover	The share of the area covered by canopy in a defined surface area.
Mitigation hierarchy	Harm to nature is primarily prevented and mitigated. Ecological compensation is a secondary resort.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity covers the full range of life from the genetic variation of species to the abundance of different species and habitats.
Nature value market	The nature value market refers to an activity in which a land owner implements environment-supporting measures, for example, supports pollination or water absorption, and sells the benefits generated.
Biodiversity loss	Loss of biodiversity by human intervention. It is caused by five drivers of biodiversity loss: land and sea use, use of natural resources, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species.
Nature-based solutions	Nature-based solutions depend on nature and imitate natural processes. They are based on ecosystem services. Nature-based solutions include green roofs, storm water wetlands, and meadows.

Nature-positivity	A situation in which the combined effect of human actions has been positive on biodiversity, i.e. the actions have improved the well-being of nature. A state of nature-positivity is achieved when the benefits are greater than the harm caused. In practice, nature-positivity means that biodiversity is enhanced and it does not decline.
Natural ecotype	Natural ecotypes are land or water areas with specific environmental conditions and typical flora and fauna.
Net-positivity	Net-positivity refers to a situation, where an organisation's actions enhance biodiversity and the positive effects are greater than the harm caused.
Planetary health	Planetary health means that human health and the state of the environment are interdependent. Environmental and human well-being have been proven to be strongly connected.
Green factor	A method for assessing the greenness and ecological functionality of a built environment in relation to its surface area. The green factor indicates the share of green spaces or natural elements in a built area.

10 – Programmes and planning tools supporting Lahti's nature work

PLANNING TOOL	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION	MORE INFORMATION
Lahti Climate Programme	2023–2030	Steers the entire City Group's climate work.	https://www.lahti.fi/uploads/2023/06/f6892f41-lahden-ilmasto-ohjelma-2023.pdf
Lahti Environmental Programme	2018–2022, to be updated, objectives valid.	Guides the City Group's environmental work at strategic level. Objective for 2030: protected areas will make up 5% of the total area.	https://www.lahti.fi/tiedostot/lahden-ymparistohjelma-2018/
Green Space Programme	2025–2035	A strategic plan outlining the city's common approaches to green space planning, construction and maintenance.	lahti.fi/tiedostot/viheralueohjelma-2035-pdf-2
Nature Conservation Programme	2025–2030 (approval procedure pending)	The Nature Conservation Programme guides the city in preparing a proposal for the establishment of conservation areas and planning the management and use of these areas.	
Lahti Environmental Watch	2020–	A website for monitoring the achievement of the City Group's environmental targets.	lahdenymparistovahti.fi
Circular Economy Roadmap	2022–2030	The roadmap helps the city transition from a linear economy to a circular, zero-waste economy.	lahti.fi/tiedostot/lahten-kiertotalouden-tiekartta
Urban Tree Policy	2025–	Provisions on the city's trees. The Urban Tree Policy is part of the strategy of the City of Lahti and the Lahti Direction project.	
Principles for Forest Management and Use	2013–2025, to be updated	The city's principles for forest management and use. Implement the Green Space Programme.	
Nature Step to Health Programme	2022–2032	The Nature Step to Health Programme is the health and environmental programme of the Lahti region for 2022–2032. The programme combines the health and environmental objectives of Päijät-Häme.	https://www.lahti.fi/kaupunki-ja-paatoksenteke/ymparistokaupunki/luontopositiivinen-lahti/luontoaskel-terveyteen/
EU Nature Restoration Regulation	2024–	The EU Nature Restoration Regulation is based on the EU Biodiversity Strategy aiming to restore environmental systems.	

Lahti Direction	2021–2025, four-year cycles	Master planning combined with the sustainable urban mobility programme.	https://www.lahti.fi/kaupunki-ja-paatoksenteko/strategia-ja-kehittaminen/lahten-suunta/
Lahti 2035 – Enduring Change	Adopted in 2025.	Guides all city operations.	https://www.lahti.fi/kaupunki-ja-paatoksenteko/strategia-ja-kehittaminen/kaupungin-strategia/
Lahti Procurement Programme	2023–2026	The city’s procurement policy, including circular economy and climate considerations.	
Climate partnership	2015–	An opportunity offered to companies and organisations to join the city’s climate work.	
Lahti Urban Ecosystem Agreement	2021–2027	Promotes regional innovation related to circular economy and carbon-neutral construction.	Lahti Urban Ecosystem Agreement (tem.fi)
Lahti Preparedness Plan	2022	A strategic preparedness plan aiming to maintain a safe living environment and ensure uninterrupted provision of public services in all circumstances.	
Invasive Alien Species Target Setting Programme	2018–2021	Control of invasive alien species and related objectives.	
Planning Guideline for General Planning of Municipal Engineering	Updated in 2025	A tool that supports and guides the planning of the city’s municipal engineering.	
Vesijärvi Programme	2024–2027	The Vesijärvi Programme promotes the management of Lake Vesijärvi and waters in the Lahti economic area. The Vesijärvi Programme has been prepared in cooperation between the Päijät-Häme Vesijärvi Foundation, City of Lahti, Municipality of Hollola and Municipality of Asikkala.	https://vesijarvi.fi/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Vesijarvi-ohjelma_2024-27_2024.10.04.pdf
Storm Water Programme	2011–	Guides the management of storm water in Lahti.	lahti.fi/tiedostot/lahten-kaupungin-hulevesiohjelma/
Architectural Policy Programme	2022–2035	The Architectural Policy Programme guides the city towards sustainable architecture. The programme sets out measures to develop architecture and the cityscape and support the appeal and vitality of Lahti.	https://www.lahti.fi/uploads/2022/11/9d69d3d5-apoli-2022-final.pdf
Building Code	2025–	The Building Code lays down local provisions for ensuring systematic and appropriate construction, taking into account cultural and natural values in constructions, and building and maintaining a healthy living environment in Lahti.	

Lahti