

Lahti

Lahti is Finland's leading green city and a trailblazer among European sustainable metropolises. The city has been taking determined steps to promote sustainability for decades. Lahti strives for net-zero emissions as the first major city in Finland.

Lahti Facts

-
- **City of Lahti was founded in 1905.**
 - **Lahti is the ninth largest city in Finland and the capital of the region of Päijänne Tavastia (Päijät-Häme) Lahti is situated on a bay at the southern end of lake Vesijärvi.**
 - **Located about 100 kilometres (50 min) north-east of the capital city Helsinki.**
 - **Population 121 300.**
 - **Area 517 km², 74 % land and 11 % water.**
 - **The European Commission awarded Lahti the European Green Capital Award 2021 as the first city in Finland.**
-

Unique and local specialties

- Lahti will host the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships for a record eighth time in 2029.
- 100 years of FIS Nordic World Cups.
- Lahti is European Green Capital 2021.
- Salpausselkä ridges can be seen from space.
- UNESCO Global Geopark designation to Salpausselkä Geopark in 2022.
- Lahti was listed as one of the best destinations to go – by CNN travel (2022).
- Lahti will be nature positive by 2030.
- Lahti competes to be European Capital of Smart Tourism 2025.
- Lahti is one of the EU Mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities.
- Sibelius Hall is rated as one of the best concert venues in the world and the home of world famous Lahti Symphony Orchestra.

Lahti has always been an important logistical route and marketplace, because of its great location close to the capital Helsinki, airports, and harbours. The City of Lahti is the governmental, business, and cultural centre of the Lahti region. City of Lahti is the ninth largest city in Finland with a population of 120 000 inhabitants and in the Lahti region approximately 200 000.

Lahti is highly motivated to build a more sustainable future, and its current priorities are circular economy, electric transportation, and new energy production solutions. Recent sizeable investments in the food processing industry, LUT University and Lahti's logistically ideal location in southern Finland are driving growth in the region.

Lahti is the capital of Finnish winter sports. Lahti's stunning natural surroundings and experience in hosting major public events boost the image and appeal of the whole of Finland as a home of sustainable sporting events and a sports tourism destination.

As most Europeans live in cities the size of Lahti, the city sets an excellent example to an enormous number of people.

Strategy

The City of Lahti's vision for 2030 is 'Lahti – enduring change'. Lahti's status as Finland's leading green city gives it the ability to deliver a comfortable standard of living and success for local businesses. The vision sets Lahti an ambitious goal to promote ecological, social and economic sustainability alike. In line with the strategy, the city of Lahti is aiming for carbon neutrality. In addition, the City Government has set a goal of being nature-positive by 2030. In the same timeframe, Lahti also aims to increase the number of university students to 10 000.

→ Lahti city strategy

Finland's leading environmental city and the European Green Capital 2021

Lahti became the first Finnish city to win the European Commission's prestigious European Green Capital Award (EGCA) in 2021. Winning the EGCA is a recognition of the long-term environmental work of Lahti as the leading environmental city in Finland.

Lahti's Green Capital year further strengthened the city's profile also as a global pioneer in environmental sustainability. Lahti was selected as one of Europe's top one hundred climate-neutral and smart cities in 2022.

→ GreenLahti

Local solutions to global environmental challenges

Lahti's green journey began with the rehabilitation of Lake Vesijärvi back in the 1970s. The city's largest lake had become visibly eutrophied, and the solution was to launch an ambitious water resources management programme. The investment paid off, and Lake Vesijärvi is now one of the world's best known examples of successful aquatic ecosystem restoration operations. Decades of

conservation and restoration efforts have made Lahti an expert in cleantech.

Lahti also excels in other areas of water conservation, such as groundwater protection. The city lies atop exceptional groundwater resources. The tap water in Lahti is pristine groundwater filtered by the Salpausselkä ridge system. Access to fresh groundwater is also a major asset for local businesses.

Lahti is a trailblazer in combating climate change. The city abandoned the use of coal in 2019 and now heat our homes with recycled fuels and locally sourced, certified wood. The energy transition has allowed Lahti to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 67% from the 1990 level.

Lahti has turned its circular economy expertise into a growth-orientated business, and more than 99% of the city's solid municipal waste is now either recycled or converted into energy. A number of Lahti-based businesses are developing innovative, replicable approaches to production and consumption in the spirit of circular economy. The cleantech sector employs almost 5,000 experts in the region. Lahti aims to have a zero-waste circular economy by 2050.

Lahti-based Carbon Neutral Construction Innovation Network develops solutions for renewable energy and energy efficiency in construction.

Sustainable mobility is high on the agenda in Lahti. The goal is that, in 2030, half of the journeys will be made by sustainable means of transport. The city has already introduced an e-bike scheme that allows residents to lease electric bikes. Sustainable mobility is also being promoted by increasing the number of local buses that run on biogas or electricity.

A new ten-year Health and Environment Programme, subtitled Nature Step to Health, coordinates the health and environmental goals of the entire Päijät-Häme region. The programme is designed to identify ways to improve public health while also reducing harmful impacts on the environment. One example is the so-called health forest in Kintterö next to the Päijät-Häme Central Hospital. The health forest provides a calming and re-energising environment for the hospital's patients and staff to enjoy.

→ Nature Step to Health

One of Lahti's goals is to designate at least 5% of the city's area as nature reserves by 2030. Designated nature reserves in Lahti currently amount to around 1,200 hectares, accounting for approximately 2% of the city's area.

Lahti aims to become climate-neutral as a first major city in Finland

Lahti aims to be climate-neutral as one of the first major cities in Finland. The city has prepared a list of one hundred climate and environmental actions that it believes will take it to its goal.

Growth driven by electric mobility and the food processing industry

The Lahti region is home to a cluster of businesses and research organisations that are focused on developing and experimenting with electric mobility solutions. The Lappeenranta–Lahti University of Technology (LUT University) runs a master's degree programme in electric transport systems. LUT University was ranked the world's tenth-best university for climate action in 2024. The University of Helsinki's Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences also operates a laboratory in Lahti. Lahti's universities work in close cooperation with local businesses.

The city is rapidly evolving into a globally significant hub of food processing industry expertise. The Päijät-Häme Grain Cluster employs 3,000 experts in turning local grains into world-class exports.

The LAB University of Applied Sciences is getting ready to open a new food processing laboratory at the start of 2024. The new resource will combine with LAB's circular economy laboratory to create a unique research, development, and innovation ecosystem. The food processing laboratory will initially focus on developing plant-based food products and identifying new uses for food-industry side streams.

Host city of international sporting events

In addition to its green prowess, Lahti is renowned for hosting prestigious international winter sports events. There are a number of globally orientated businesses in the region that excel in sports, fitness, major public events and tourism.

Lahti's reputation in the world of winter sports has a solid foundation in the annual international Nordic skiing tournament Lahti Ski Games, which has been running for one hundred years. In addition, the city will host the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships for a record eighth time in 2029. These events play an important role in the city's cultural heritage and tourism appeal. The year 2025 sees Lahti hosting the Spartan European Championship along with several other international sporting competitions.

A vibrant and diverse 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's museums offer interactive experiences, such as seeing the city from the top of a radio mast and ski jumping off Lahti's largest ski jumping hill. The Lahti Historical Museum opens a window into the everyday life of the Lahti region from the Ice Age to the present. A former brewery complex in the heart of the city, known as Malski, has been turned into a vibrant hub of art and culture and become a favourite spot for urban encounters.

Among the attractions is the Lahti Museum of Visual Arts Malva, which boasts an impressive collection of both classical art and contemporary design.

The year 2025 will be a year of celebration in the city.

Lahti will celebrate its 120th jubilee year, the Lahti Symphony Orchestra will celebrate its 75th anniversary, the Lahti International Poster Triennale will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and the birth of painter and sculptor Olavi Lanu will be 100 years ago.

World-class setting for sports and recreation

Nature is on our doorstep, and the Lahti region is known far and wide for its excellent facilities for sports and fitness. Almost one in three of our residents live within 300 metres of a green space.

The Salpausselkä ridges system is at its most spectacular in the Lahti region and provides 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. Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark tells the story of the best-known geological entity of Finland.

→ **Salpausselkä Geopark**

Administration and politics

The highest decision-making body in the City of Lahti is the City Council. The 59 councillors are elected by the community. The three largest parties are the Social Democratic Party of Finland, the National Coalition Party and the Finns Party. 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. The City Board is chaired by Pekka Komu (Social Democratic Party of Finland).

The 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**

List of Lahti companies

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

Contacts

Director of Economic Development, City of Lahti, **Elina Laavi**, elina.laavi@lahti.fi

Communications Director, City of Lahti, **Veera Hämäläinen**, veera.hamalainen@lahti.fi

Director of Growth Services, City of Lahti, **Henna Eskonsipo-Bradshaw**, henna.eskonsipo-bradshaw@lahti.fi

Business Manager, City of Lahti, **Miikka Venäläinen**, miikka.venalainen@lahti.fi

Climate Manager, City of Lahti, **Aino Kulonen**, aino.kulonen@lahti.fi

Managing Director, VisitLahti, **Raija Forsman**, raija.forsman@lahtiregion.fi

Event Coordinator, City of Lahti, **Suvi Mononen**, suvi.mononen@lahti.fi

On Social Media



@cityoflahti, @greenlahti



@LahdenKaupunki



@Lahden kaupunki / City of Lahti

Questions?

Get in touch!

→ viestinta@lahti.fi

Lahti