

# The case study of Helsinki

# Helsinki: documents

- **Sustainability Action Plan (SD Action plan)**
  - Local Agenda 21 Programme
  - Based on Aalborg Charter (sign by City Board in 1995)
  - Long term programme: 2002-2010
  - 7 overall targets
  - 160 projects were carried out by residents and NGOs
  - more than 4000 citizens participated actively in Helsinki's LA21 work
  - the first European capital with a completed comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan
- **Helsinki Ecological Sustainability Programme (HEKO)**
  - Tool for environmental protection
  - Based on SD Action Plan
- **Assessment documents**
  - Mid-term report 2002-2006 (implementation of SD Action Plan)
  - Core Indicators for Sustainability
  - Annual Environmental
  - Report on citizen participation and cooperation between local stakeholders

# Helsinki: SD Action Plan targets

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
2. Protecting and fostering biodiversity
3. Strengthening the city's competitiveness and industrial structure in order to safeguard stable economic development
4. Including life cycle thinking in the city's physical planning, purchasing practices and construction
5. Increasing interaction and citizens participation and strengthening partnership
6. Preventing exclusion and social segregation
7. Fostering cultural diversity and the built-up environment

# Helsinki: HEKO targets

1. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
2. Enhancement of urban nature and biodiversity
3. Sustainability of land use and transport system
4. Ecological sustainability in construction
5. City procurements
6. Environmental management and environmental
7. Education

# Helsinki: the core indicators for sustainable development

## Compilation of indicators:

- A. Macro-level policy-oriented core indicators
- B. Indicators related to specific activities

Groups of indicators	Examples
Global sustainability	<i>emission of greenhouse gases</i>
The state of local environment and environmental pressure	<i>air quality, water consumption, traffic levels</i>
Socio-economic factors	<i>demography, education, health, housing conditions</i>
Pleasantness and service level of the neighbourhood	<i>comfort &amp; safety, opinions on municipal services</i>
Participation and responsibility	<i>number of voters, opinions on environmental protection</i>

# Helsinki: the core indicators scheme (water consumption example)

1. **The theme:** water consumption
2. **Its key concept:** reduction of water wastewater charges, reduction of energy require to pump or heat water
3. **Why the them was chosen:** commonly used means of assessing SD (comparative studies)
4. **What the theme describes and measures:** The theme describes the overall water consumption in Helsinki by consumer group (Domestic users, The service sector, and Industry) and by specific water consumption, i.e. average water consumption per citizen per day
5. **Calculation principles:** calculations take account of the amount of water sold in Helsinki (**NUMBERS AND GRAPHS**)
6. **Interpretation:** Overall water consumption in Helsinki decreased by 40% from 1976 to 1999. Between 1992 and 1999 consumption also decreased 25 % per inhabitant. (**REASONS AND CONSEQUENCES**)