City of Oulu
From Climate Strategy to Practical Measures

The City of Oulu has actively carried out climate policy since the 1990’s. Over the years, issues related to the climate have been closely connected to practical measures, such as the joint production of electricity and heat, the collection and utilisation of landfill gas, and the extensive cycling route network.

According to the climate strategy of the Oulu region, adopted in 2009, the City of Oulu is committed to doing its bit to slow down climate change by permanently cutting down greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Oulu signed the Covenant of Mayors in 2011. It then pledged to curb its greenhouse gas emissions by a total of 20% by 2020.

Facts about the City of Oulu

- Population 190,695 (2013), 5th largest city in Finland
- Surface area 3,000 km²
- One of the fastest growing urban areas in Finland
- Has the youngest population of all cities in Europe, with an average age of 34 years – growing by 2,000 inhabitants per year
- Founded by King Charles IX of Sweden in 1605
- The name Oulu comes from a word in the Sami language, meaning floodwater

LOCAL AGREEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

1995 European Sustainable Cities and Towns, the Aalborg Charter.
1997 Joining the municipal climate campaign City of Oulu, Sustainable Development Policy.
2007 City of Oulu, Urban Strategy 2015
2009 Climate Strategy for the Oulu Region.
2010 Climate strategy adopted as one of the five development programmes of the City of Oulu.
2011 Energy policy framework of the City of Oulu.
2012 EnergySmart Built Environment 2017, Oulu’s ERA17-roadmap.
2013 Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) submitted to CoM.
Climate change mitigation in Oulu

Oulu Region Climate Strategy: Permanent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions

- **Energy efficiency pact**
  - The target is to save 9% in the City's consumption of heat, electricity, and transport fuels (16.64 GWh).
  - Energy efficiency surveys of buildings, implementation of measures
  - Energy-saving competitions for schools and kindergartens

- **Climate Network of Mayors**
  - Ten joint climate initiatives related to building, supporting climate protection activities of residents and the operations of the cities themselves.
  - Proactive quality control for new buildings
  - Low-emission cars
  - Ecosupport activity

- **Covenant of Mayors**
  - The target is to curb emissions by 20%
  - Efficient land use and traffic planning
  - Better utilisation of waste
  - Cutting down energy consumption through counselling

- **ERA 17**
  - Energy maps: wind power and geothermal energy
  - Climate impact assessment of alternative zoning plans
  - Training for builders and renovators

- **Cooperation projects**
  - Climate counselling for residents
  - Launching of eco-support activity
  - Increasing the use of renewable sources of energy

- **Cooperation projects**
  - Climate programme of the City of Oulu

**Environmental policy: environmental goals**

- **Urban strategy**
- **Environmental programmes and systems**
- **Annual eco balance sheet**

- **Environmental programmes and commitments supporting environmental policy**

- **Strategies, programmes and cooperation projects**

- **Climate related communications and advice**
  - Participating in campaigns and events: Earth Hour, European Mobility Week, Energy Saving Week etc.
Greenhouse gas emissions in Oulu

**Total emissions**
The greenhouse gas emissions of the City of Oulu in 2011, if converted in CO₂, made up a total of about 1,700,600 tonnes (CO₂-equivalent), which amounts to 11.8 tonnes per capita. Total emissions consist of the emissions by industry, residents and services. Industrial emissions are regulated by international treaties and the emissions trading system.

**Greenhouse gas emissions by residents and services**
Greenhouse gas emissions without industrial emissions in 2011 totalled approximately 797,000 tonnes, which amounts to 5.5 tonnes per each resident.

The largest part of emissions is caused by district heating, followed by transport and the consumption of electricity.

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A representation of weekly CO₂ emissions in the city of Oulu can also be found in the form of weekly statistics on our climate pages.