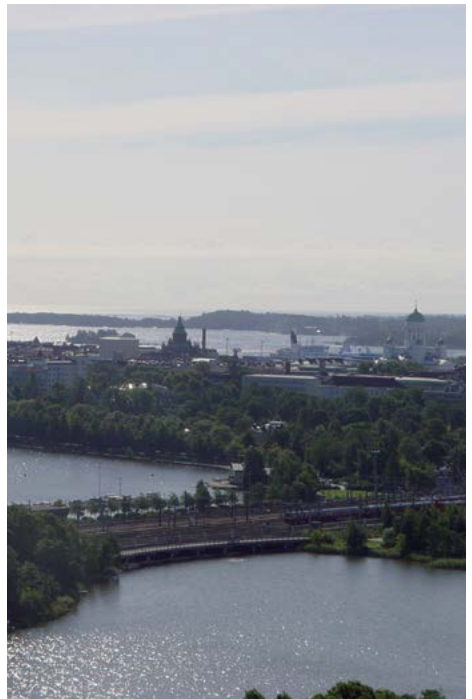


Helsinki's climate change adaptation policies for 2019–2025

Helsinki's climate change adaptation policies for 2019–2025 are a strategic plan, with which the City can adapt to the changing climate. With these policies, the City intends to mitigate the harmful effects that climate change has on society's effective functioning, economy, nature and peoples' everyday lives, and to take advantage of any benefits brought on by the changing climate.

A longer-term vision indicates that in 2050 Helsinki will be a climate resilient and safe city that took precautions against the changing climate well in advance, preparing itself for extreme weather phenomena and the global effects of climate change. The adaptation has been made part of Helsinki's other planning work, and the City will be comprehensively monitoring the long-term costs and benefits of this adaptation. The City will provide businesses with



Töölönlahti (photo: Mika Lappalainen)

an operating environment that facilitates effortless experimentation and the implementation of solutions promoting adaptation. Helsinki will be known as one of the global forerunners in climate change adaptation.

Helsinki has analysed the risks caused by climate change and the weather. The most significant climate-related risks in Helsinki will most likely be floods and extreme winter conditions. In addition to these, the risks to nature are considerable, particularly because nature in Helsinki is already under notable pressure. Furthermore, the number of risks caused by heat, such as health problems, will increase.

Helsinki has several plans, steering mechanisms, tools and projects with which it is already working towards adaptation. Therefore, the new adaptation policies primarily contain methods that cannot be found in the existing plans or programmes. In addition to implementing the new methods identified in the policies, the City must review its

current plans, instructions, tools and procedures that pertain to adaptation in terms of how effectively they can reduce climate risks.

The key methods in the adaptation policies have been divided into four themes: preparation, integration, development and business opportunities. Certain elements in each theme have been prioritised, and these will be implemented first. A number of concrete actions have also been determined for the current council term. When the next council term begins, the plans will be updated, determining new concrete actions for 2021–2025.

The adaptation policies will be monitored as part of the City's environmental reporting activities.

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