



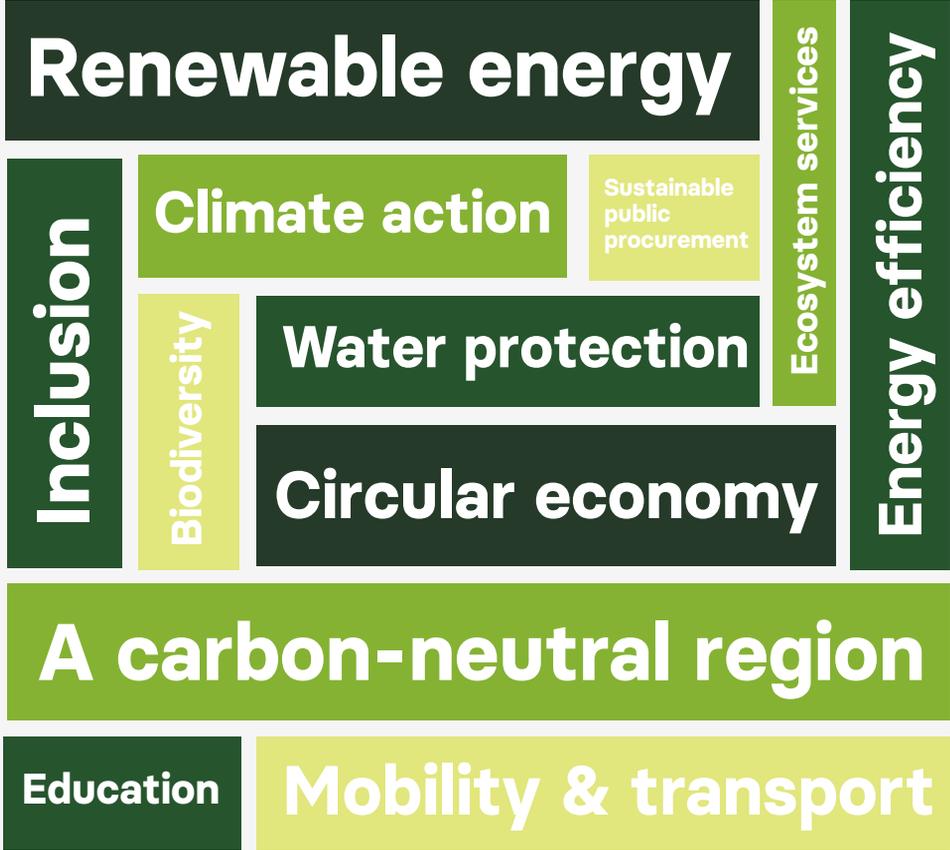
# Programme for 2030

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Carbon-neutral Southwest Finland  
Biodiversity  
Sustainable use of natural resources



Updated in 2025



# Why do we need a programme for 2030?

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**Mankind is facing the unprecedented challenges of the global sustainability crisis, the deterioration of the natural environment and global warming. This decade, we must build the foundations for our wellbeing on a new basis that respects the limits of the Earth's capacity. This will also lead to changes at a local level – among municipalities, businesses and individuals.**

To bring our lifestyles into line with the Earth's capacity to sustain us, we will need to make decisive changes to our mindsets and learn to do things differently. The key is to identify how our choices affect global environmental problems and find new means and perspectives for solving them.

Addressing the challenges posed by climate change will require resources to be used more efficiently. These challenges must be tackled while creating wellbeing and a better future. Cooperation and participation are important aspects of sustainable decision-making. The transition towards a more sustainable society must take place in a fair and socially sustainable way.

Municipalities are natural platforms for taking various sustainable development measures. The testing of solutions aimed at bringing about change and of new experiments always takes place regionally and locally. Valonia is helping municipalities in Southwest Finland on the journey towards a more sustainable society.

# Starting points for the programme

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**Southwest Finland has a long tradition of regional cooperation on sustainable development. Valonia is an impartial and wide-ranging expert that has been responsible for cooperation for more than twenty years. Regional cooperation has become a recognised national and international example of a good operating model. However, the most significant factor in solidifying Valonia's activities has been the desire of municipalities to work together on sustainable development.**

Valonia's new programming period will run to 2030. This is an internationally acknowledged reporting year by which significant progress must be made in the fight against climate change, in arresting the decline in biodiversity and in using natural resources more sustainably. The objectives of the programme and Valonia's activities are interlinked with regional, national and EU-level strategic objectives for sustainable development and climate policy. The objectives and activities will be continuously developed and updated throughout the programming period.

The programme for 2030 is an evolving strategy that aims to realise a sustainable municipality, and thereby also a sustainable region, in 2030. The broad structure of the programme allows for the world to change and for municipalities to have differing needs and starting points. The structure enables regular updates to the programme and critical reviews of measures and pathways in cooperation with municipalities.

A regional review is important because many of the solutions are shared and based on regional strengths and challenges. By working together, the region becomes more than the sum of its parts.

# Sustainable Municipality 2030 – Palette of Solutions and Objectives

Examples of actions municipalities must take in order to meet the objectives:

Update and implement the **climate plan**.

Plan, allocate resources and monitor actions as part of **budget preparation**.

Reduce **harmful nature impacts of construction** in the area.

Promote activity among local entities in matters such as **water protection**.

Implement solutions that **support sustainable mobility** for residents.

Guide municipal forest management with a **multi-objective forest programme**.

Adopt solutions for generating **renewable energy**.

Contribute to promoting the **reduction of agricultural emissions**.

Identify sites with **restoration and protection potential**.

Improve energy efficiency in all operations and accede to an **energy efficiency agreement**.

Use procurement to promote e.g. **the circular economy in construction and sustainability in food chains**.

Offer **opportunities for participation** and break down polarization.

Increase connectivity of **green and water areas and enhance biodiversity** also in built environments.

Strengthen **sustainable educational communities** comprehensively.

Prevent **harmful substances and nutrients** from running off into water bodies.

Seek the most suitable means of **reducing traffic emissions**.

Create frameworks for **reducing material consumption and efficient circulation**.

## Municipality 2030

Objectives that Finland is committed to:

Carbon neutrality by 2035

Climate-smart agriculture and forestry

Halved emissions from transport

Biodiversity strengthened

Circular material use doubled

Reduced consumption of non-renewable natural resources

Good ecological status of waters

The palette of solutions and objectives has been updated in 2025.

# Valonia's role and duties

**Valonia is committed to supporting municipalities in achieving the objectives. Over the course of longterm work, Valonia has built up a strong reputation and position as an established, wide-ranging expert in sustainable development. Valonia strengthens the sustainability development resources available to municipalities, links together the different departments within municipalities and also reinforces cooperation between municipalities. Valonia contributes to ensuring that the transition towards a more sustainable society takes place fairly, while hearing different voices within society and providing opportunities for participation.**

Valonia is actively involved in various types of national and regional preparatory work for sustainable development. In these processes, Valonia makes the voices of municipalities heard – even in the context of wider-ranging entities – and contributes to the creation of local solutions. Being a member of the Regional Council of Southwest Finland also strengthens Valonia's role in general regional development and advocacy activities.

## How can Valonia help municipalities achieve their objectives?

Testing new development projects and experiments and implementing good operating models and examples in municipalities in Southwest Finland

Various experiments to enable participation, such as residents' forums and themed discussions, as well as habitat restoration

Direct expert assistance to municipalities, for example, when working on climate programmes

Advice, communication and training tasks in various subject areas, such as energy advice, procurement training, and environmental education in schools and nursery schools

Wide-ranging communication: gathering, analysing and disseminating reliable information, producing new information and highlighting good examples

Coordinating networks, strengthening cooperation between different entities and partnerships

Monitoring the realisation of regional sustainable development

# The needs of municipalities are the starting point of Valonia's work.

Cooperation typically proceeds as follows:

## 1. The municipality identifies a need

Often, Valonia is needed to help with ideation, especially when the municipality does not have a natural choice of employee to promote expert work or implementation. Feel free to contact Valonia!



## 2. Let's consider a suitable solution!

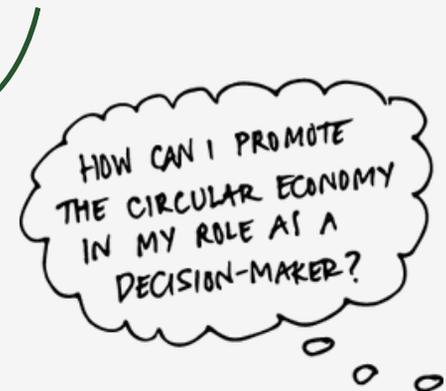
Valonia helps to think of solutions, potential implementations or testing. Municipalities have access to Valonia's expertise and experience in fields such as projectisation and investigating financing, as well as wide-ranging cooperation networks.

## 4. The municipality puts the new lessons into practice

Once the solution has taken on its final form, all that remains is for the municipality to look after further implementation. Valonia can help in areas such as communication and reaching out to target groups, disseminating effective models to other municipalities and planning further steps.

## 3. Take action!

The practical implementation can be almost anything: mapping, experimentation or a training package, an inclusive campaign or testing a new operating model with companies and municipal operators.





Cooperation with municipalities is at the heart of Valonia's work. The implementation requires municipalities to take an active role and have the courage to conduct various experiments aiming for changes in the operating methods of municipalities.

# Cooperation

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**In addition to municipalities, Valonia's important partners include regional and national entities, such as universities and other educational institutions, research institutes, associations and interest groups. Cooperation with many entities is well established, including activities such as joint projects, information exchanges, expert cooperation and arranging joint events.**

Extensive cooperation enables resources to be used efficiently – efforts are made to avoid overlapping activities and make use of existing processes and information that has already been collected. It is important to identify the most appropriate role for Valonia in each process.

In the new programming period, cooperation is more important than ever. In particular, we will strengthen cooperation between Valonia and personnel in positions of trust in municipalities so that sustainable development solutions are more effectively incorporated into municipal decision-making and the preparation of strategies.

# Funding and steering

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Valonia has a wide-ranging funding base. Municipalities finance approximately one-quarter of the annual budget, and this money is used to form the self-financing proportion of projects when seeking project financing. The main source of funding is national and EU-level projects. Joint projects provide municipalities with a good opportunity to supplement their sustainable development resources. This funding model enables Valonia to provide services to member municipalities in a substantially higher quantity than their payment contributions would indicate. Valonia's activities are guided by a steering group consisting of municipal representatives and key stakeholders.



## Implementation and monitoring

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**The programme runs until 2030, and implementation of the programme is a shared objective for Valonia, the municipalities and other partners. Valonia is responsible for planning the activities, project funding and monitoring, but it works in close cooperation with municipalities.**

The measures are defined in annual action plans, which are based on the programme's palette of solutions and objectives. Municipalities are regularly consulted on their needs and wishes in relation to the measures.

Two official interim evaluations will take place during the programming period: one in 2024 and one in 2027. The interim evaluations examine the implementation of the measures, the progress of work and the impact. The evaluations also consider whether it is necessary to alter the operating methods or approaches and whether the objectives have changed or been updated. The interim evaluations also represent an opportunity for municipalities to assess the progress of the work and the continuation of cooperation.

# The interim evaluations cover the implementation of the Municipality 2030 objectives and Valonia's activities



Indicators to be updated as necessary and monitored in the interim evaluations:

## Municipality 2030

Municipalities committed to networks and agreements

The amount of renewable energy generated

The status of biotopes and species

Climate programmes and procurement strategies

The ecological state of bodies of water

Regional and municipal greenhouse gases

Solutions that promote sustainable mobility

## Valonia

Feedback from municipalities and stakeholders

Indicators of communication

Training, advice, events

Experiments and events that promote inclusion

Operating models implemented for municipalities

Actual budget and financial data

Projects initiated

Active networks



## The national objectives were compiled from the following sources:

GreenComp: the European sustainability competence framework (2022)

Helmi Habitats Programme 2021–2030 (2020)

Carbon Neutral Finland 2035 – National Climate and Energy Strategy (2022)

Climate Act (2022)

National energy and climate strategy (2016)

National Fishway Strategy (2012)

National Forest Strategy 2035 (2023)

Medium-term Climate Policy Plan (2022)

Leading the cycle: Finnish road map to a circular economy 2016–2025 (2016)

From recycling to a circular economy – The National Waste Plan 2030 (2018)

Strategic programme to promote a circular economy (2021)

The Climate Plan for the Land Use Sector (2022)

Strategy for Protection and Restoration of Small Water Bodies. Reports of the Ministry of Environment 27/2015.

Ravinteiden kierrätyksen toimenpideohjelma 2019–2030. Kokeiluista tuloksiin – ravinteiden kierrätyksen arkea (2019) [*Programme to promote the recycling of nutrients 2019–2030. From experiments to results – everyday recycling of nutrients.*]

Archipelago Sea Programme (2021)

The 2019 Red List of Finnish species

Threatened habitat types in Finland 2018. Red List of habitats, part 1 and part 2.

The Finland we want by 2050 – Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development (2016)

Migratory Fish Programme NOUSU (2020)

Vaikuta vesiin. Vesien tila hyväksi yhdessä – vesienhoitosuunnitelmat, toimenpideohjelmat, merenhoidon julkaisut sekä tulvariskien hallintasuunnitelmat. [*Help the waters. Together towards good status of waters – water management plans, programmes, marine management publications and flood risk management plans.*]

Government Report on Medium-term Climate Change Plan for 2030 – Towards Climate-Smart Day-to-Day Living (2017)

Southwest Finland's Climate Roadmap (2023)

Improving the state of waters and marine areas (Ahti Programme) 2023–2027 (2023)

The UN Agenda for Sustainable Development – Agenda 2030 (2015)



Valonia 2020 (Updated 2025)