

Circular economy in 2022

The City of Espoo's report on the circular and sharing economy in 2022

Collaboration on circular economy with **more than 60** partners

40 news articles related to the circular economy

We promote the five circular economy priorities through the **Sustainable Espoo** development programme

We develop the **measuring and monitoring** of the circular economy

There are **142 companies** in Espoo whose business operations or a part of them follow the principles of the circular economy

Circular economy highlights in 2022

We promote **10 circular economy objectives** with the Circular Cities Declaration

We engage residents in the promotion of the circular economy

The capital region service map includes **circular economy services** in Espoo

We cooperate at **national and international** levels

We develop **Kera** and **Kiviruukki** as the pioneering areas of the circular economy

“Our goal is for Espoo to be a carbon-neutral city that adheres to the principles of the circular economy and protects local biodiversity.”

SUSTAINABLE ESPOO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021-2025

Circular economy in Espoo

At the end of 2020, we signed the Europe-wide circular economy commitment [Circular Cities Declaration](#). So far, 69 European cities have signed the commitment whose ten objectives promote the implementation and development of the circular economy in the cities. The circular economy commitment supports our goal of being [carbon-neutral by 2030](#) and achieving the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#) as a pioneer city.

The circular economy is an effective means to achieve the carbon neutrality objective by reducing the use of virgin raw materials and emissions from the production of materials. The circular economy is of great importance for the sustainable use of natural resources and the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity. The transition to the circular economy will also create new business and jobs in Espoo.

Sustainable development goals

We are committed to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2025.

The shift to the circular economy promotes the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the goals 8, 11, 12, 13 and 17.



We report on the progress of the circular economy objectives on a yearly basis

This report is based on the **ten objectives** of the Circular Cities Declaration, the promotion of which we are committed to.

The report contains information on how the objectives have been promoted in Espoo in **2022**.

- 1 Establishing clear circular economy goals and strategies
- 2 Raising awareness of circular practices
- 3 Engaging local stakeholders
- 4 Embedding circularity principles in urban planning and asset management
- 5 Leveraging public procurement
- 6 Applying economic incentives to encourage circular behaviour
- 7 Fostering an enabling local regulatory framework
- 8 Collaborating with national governments and European institutions
- 9 Monitoring the progress made
- 10 Reporting on progress

1. Establishing clear circular economy goals and strategies

What are the objectives to which we committed in 2022?

■ **Circular economy priorities:** In line with the [Espoo Story](#), we promote the circular economy in Espoo. Cross-administrative development programmes are one of the key means of implementing the Espoo Story. The [Sustainable Espoo programme plan](#), drawn up in 2022, specifies five circular economy priorities for 2021–2025:

1. Circular economy solutions during the construction life cycle
2. Towards a waste-free Espoo: Reusing materials and increasing their circulation
3. Biocircular economy
4. Sustainable public procurement
5. Circular and sharing economy services for residents

Read more about the [circular economy priorities](#).

■ **Corporate governance:** In 2022, Espoo set for the Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority (HSY) the performance targets for 2023. They were prepared in cooperation with the other municipalities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. The targets include increasing environmental responsibility, which is measured through things such as the annual recycling rate of municipal and domestic waste. The target level for 2023 is at least 56%. In 2021, the recycling rate in Espoo was 48%.

2. Raising awareness of circular practices

How did we improve awareness of the circular economy in 2022?

- We launched the [Espoo Climate Watch](#).
- We organised the [Climate action exhibition](#).
- We compiled the [circular economy services](#) on the Helsinki Metropolitan Area service map.
- We organised the Story of Plastic exhibition on the circulation of plastic and published an [interactive online brochure](#).
- We organised events and workshops for the residents about the circular economy and sustainable way of life.
- During the year, we published 40 news articles related to the circular economy. Current news about [sustainable development](#) are available on the city's website throughout the year.
- We educated children and young people on themes related to sustainable development:

Schools and early childhood education approach the perspectives of the circular economy through examples from daily life, such as sorting or recycling materials. Sorting is gradually increasing in Espoo. In 2022, indoor sorting was introduced at nine day care centres and schools, and five other sites are being planned. In 2022, HSY and Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Centre organised a total of 478.5 hours of lessons about the circular economy in Espoo's day care centres, comprehensive schools and upper secondary schools.

3. Engaging local stakeholders

How did we engage residents, city employees and different organisations in the promotion of the circular economy in 2022?

- **City employees:** The thought patterns of the city employees and the obstacles they have experienced in relation to the implementation of the circular economy were surveyed in a thesis entitled 'From Barriers Towards the Most Impactful Levers for Circular Economy Transformation with the Help of Systems Thinking - Promoting the Circular Economy Work of the City of Espoo' published in 2022. We also organised a city-wide internal training session 'Reaching sustainable development targets through the circular economy'. As part of the training, employees shared their experiences of how the circular economy is present in their work and daily life and how that could be enhanced.
- **Residents:** We organised several events and workshops for residents about the circular economy and sustainable way of life. Some examples of the events in 2022:
 - In the [Future Workshops for Sustainable Development](#), a group of residents from different backgrounds resolved issues of the circular economy, food waste and sustainable way of life in cooperation with the city.
 - [Ninth-grade pupils in the Mainingin koulu school](#) implemented their own dream maps of the circular economy, in which they considered promoting the circular economy in their daily lives through the goals set and promises made by the pupils themselves.
 - In a [workshop](#) aimed at residents, the participants used reused and recycled materials to build a Bluetooth speaker.
- **Partners:** The results of the collaboration in 2022 included the results of [joint projects](#), workshops organised for residents, communications campaigns, and collaboration groups. According to the survey we carried out in 2022, there are 142 companies in Espoo whose business operations involve the circular and sharing economy. Furthermore, there are 20 companies whose business operations are based entirely on the circular and sharing economy.

4. Embedding circularity principles in urban planning and asset management

What changes did we implement in city development to improve the implementation of the circular economy?

- **Urban areas based on the circular economy:** In collaboration with our partners, we will develop the [district of Kera](#) into a pioneering urban development area where a carbon-neutral circular economy is implemented. In 2022, the temporary use of the former logistics centre located in the area was selected as [one of the finalists among the most interesting initiatives taken by municipalities to support the circular economy](#). At the same time, we are developing the [Kiviruukki district](#) into an innovation cluster of the circular economy.
- **We promote the longevity of buildings, enabling new uses for them and sustainable demolition as part of city planning:** In 2022, the intended use of the [Åminne manor house block](#) was changed in the detailed plan from the previous area of public services to one that could also be used for housing and/or business activities. The aim of this change is to ensure that the protected building has a long life and remains in good condition by enabling a wider range of uses. In 2022, we carried out preliminary investigations related to the temporary storage and processing of soil masses. In addition, some of the detailed plans prepared in 2022 included plan regulations that support a circular economy, such as efficient recycling of materials generated during construction, temporary storage and processing of soil, and use of materials from demolished buildings in the construction of local recreational areas.

5. Leveraging public procurement

Existing resources and recycled materials are utilised through procurements that support the circular economy, products are procured second-hand and services are purchased instead of physical items.

In 2022, we introduced a new procurement contract for movable furnishings, and one section of the contract covers second-hand furniture. This enables procuring second-hand furnishings as both first-time and additional furnishings. The furnishing procurements for the Lippulaiva Library (opened in 2022) and the Viherlaakso Library included used furnishings as well as re-upholstered and re-painted furnishings.

At the same time, we are developing our procurement activities: in 2022, we prepared responsibility requirements to be included in the next procurement contract for work clothes, developed procurement criteria that promote the circular economy and lower emissions in the competitive tendering for infrastructure projects, and implemented as an innovative procurement a [design competition](#) that was used to find concepts for the reuse of materials and parts from the buildings in the Kera area.

6. Applying economic incentives to encourage circular behaviour

What financial incentives or tax treatment did we use to influence the circular economy in 2022?

There is no parking fee for [shared cars](#) in the City of Espoo's paid parking spaces. In 2022, the following areas were added to the list of areas with road-side parking spaces for shared cars: Olari, Tontunmäki, Niittykumpu, Soukka, Espoonlahti and Kivenlahti. Carsharing services increased in Espoo and a new company also started its operations in the area.

7. Fostering an enabling local regulatory framework

How did we use regulation to promote recycling, repairing and reuse?

The [development commitment between the City of Espoo and the Kera operators](#) promotes close cooperation, the aim of which is to be a pioneer district in sustainable development, the circular economy, and digital transformation. The pioneering can be seen, for example, in resource-efficient construction, innovative and low-emission energy solutions and new digital services and applications. The development commitment encourages Kera operators to implement the objectives of sustainable development in a sustained manner. In 2022, the Kera development commitment won first place in the Espoo Mayor's innovation competition and an honourable mention in the municipal innovations series of the national Quality Innovation Award competition. The northern part of the Leppävaara centre, the area around the Kivenlahti metro station, and Espoon keskus will be developed using a similar development commitment tailored for each area.

8. Collaborating with national governments and European institutions

What kind of national and international cooperation did we carry out to promote the circular economy in 2022?

- We participated in the [preparation of the national Green Deal](#). The cooperation with over 80 operators began in 2022 and aims to achieve a national Green Deal agreement to boost the circular economy nationally.
- We participated in the preliminary survey project of the Uusimaa Circular Economy Valley. We contributed to the planning of the circular economy work that connects Uusimaa, and in the upcoming Uusimaa Circular Economy Valley project we will implement plastic recycling. The recycling of plastic will be implemented through the [Closed Plastic Circle](#) collaboration coordinated by the City of Espoo.
- Through Europe-wide cooperation, we promote the achievement of carbon neutrality, in which the circular economy also plays a significant role. In 2022, Espoo was selected to implement [the EU Mission on climate-neutral and smart cities](#) in cooperation with other pioneer cities. In addition, we use the new [Alliance](#) cooperation to share good practices and lessons learned between European cities and local partners.
- We work with seven European cities to [reduce the carbon dioxide emissions of construction and to improve the recycling of organic materials](#). In 2022, we shared practices with our collaboration cities and prepared the coming replication stage in Espoo.

9. Monitoring the progress made

How do we measure and monitor the impacts of the circular economy?

We report on the development of the circular economy and sustainable way of life in Espoo to the City Council every six months as part of the reporting of the Sustainable Espoo development programme. As part of the reporting, we monitor the indicators for the realisation of the circular economy in line with the programme plan. As the circular economy develops, we will introduce new ways of measuring and monitoring the current state and development of the circular economy in Espoo.

In 2022:

- We investigated, for the first time, [the carbon foot print of consumption in Espoo](#).
- We introduced [the Espoo Climate Watch](#) in the monitoring of our measures and in measuring how effective they are.
- We mapped out the circular economy and sharing economy companies operating in Espoo. The map also serves as source information for monitoring in the coming years.

How we developed our measuring and monitoring:

In the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, HSY produces a lot of data for the measuring and monitoring of the circular economy. In addition to regional data, in 2022 we discussed the production of city-specific data with HSY so that we could better monitor our progress in Espoo. During the year, HSY used the 2021 data to calculate for the first time the [amount of domestic waste and the domestic waste recycling rates](#).

Circular economy in 2022

– summary

2022 successes: In 2022, we carried out extensive circular economy measures, increased awareness of the circular economy and developed the measuring and monitoring of the circular economy. We organised several circular economy events in Espoo and published 40 news articles related to the circular economy.

Lessons learned: Since Espoo is a big city, our challenge is obtaining data, especially numerical data, that covers the entire city – for example, the number of residents' events that have promoted the circular economy in Espoo. In the future, the Espoo Climate Watch will also be used in the monitoring of circular economy measures, and we will develop the collection of city-wide data for the purposes of reporting. Reporting gives us up-to-date information about the circular economy in Espoo and supports the planning of our activities. We carried out the 2022 reporting on the circular economy as a city-wide report for the first time. We will develop the reporting and presentation of the next year's data on the basis of the feedback we receive.

The steps that were taken towards a circular economy in 2022 are compiled in this report. Read more about the [circular economy](#) and [sustainable development](#) in Espoo.

Tell us your opinion on the 'Circular economy in 2022' report!

FEEDBACK SURVEY

Through our feedback survey you can give us feedback and share your development ideas for promoting the circular economy in Espoo.