

Building a Green Future

Municipal elections campaign manifesto for 2021
Approved in the candidate meeting of 7 January.

Our campaign manifesto addresses four areas: combating climate change, defending education, reducing poverty, and sustainable economy.

We want to leave our children a city that is the most advanced climate fighter in the world and where everyday life is sustainable and easy. As Turku is developing, we dare to renew and build a sustainable urban environment while protecting nature and the Baltic Sea. In our beautiful city every resident sees green nature from their window.

We will strengthen our educational possibilities, regardless of the residential area, background and income level. In the future we will not be cutting our investments, we will be increasing them in giving everyone a good start in life and learning. The Greens want to guarantee the opportunity to study in diverse and high-quality secondary schools and in six complementary universities. We will invest in lifelong learning here, in the cradle of Finnish civilization.

The tightened economic situation of the people is reflected in the municipalities. It is typical that poverty is passed on from one generation to the next. Poverty is diverse. There may be situations in everyone's life where their own powers may be depleted, and help is needed. The situation of those in difficulty should be treated as a whole rather than making people run from one door to another for help. Early intervention and timely and low-threshold, customer-driven services can lift people out of poverty. We want to provide services to these situations in life and take care of those in lesser circumstances.

The Greens want to ensure that the voice of the citizens is heard in decision-making, and to make up for the losses caused by the corona pandemic without compromising the well-being of people. In our vision, Turku with its sustainable economic policy will not leave unreasonable human, ecological or financial debt for future generations.

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1. The best climate city in the world is green and vibrant

1.1. Climate change is being fought now

Turku's goal is to be carbon neutral in 2029. We want to make Turku the best climate city in the world, a city that turns promises into ambitious actions. We have already managed to reduce emissions, in line with the targets, by 35% from 1990 level. However, the pace needs to accelerate, especially for transport emissions. Turku needs to move to renewable energy, sustainable transport and circular economy. We want to make climate-friendly choices easy for people and involve all citizens and communities in the work.

- We will introduce emissions budgeting, which, like financial planning, monitors and reduces emissions. Reducing climate emissions must guide every decision.
- We will explore the potential of geothermal energy and invest in zero-emission district heating.
- The use of fossil coal for energy will be phased out during 2022.
- We will enable residents to become small producers of renewable energy themselves in cooperation with Turku Energia.
- We will protect forests and parks that act as carbon sinks. We will build densely, but with respect to green spaces.
- We will provide vegetarian food as a priority in educational institutions and city food services, and increase the share of local and organic food. We will minimise food waste.
- We will prepare for climate change and its risks in land use with urban nature that mitigates flood peaks and cools heat waves.
- We will increase the share of zero-emission mobility by investing in a light rail system, trunk line network and walking and cycling routes.

- We will also increase the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce emissions from construction. We will use ecological, long-lasting and recyclable building materials.

1.2. Preserving biodiversity and nearby nature

In a condensing city it is important to take care of the green spaces. We want to preserve and protect urban nature and forests, as well as add new ways of landscaping, such as green roofs, green walls and plantation ponds. In Green Turku, everyone can see lush greens from their window and can go outside to enjoy the city's nature.

- We will increase the role of urban nature with new means of landscaping. We will build green roofs, green walls, green hydrogen, plantations, flowering meadows, cozy yards and city parks together with the residents.
- We will build accessible nature walks and living areas all over the city, especially near schools, kindergartens and assisted living facilities for the disabled and the elderly.
- A new nature reserve will be established in the Mälikkälä-Kuninkoja evergreen forest.
- We will introduce an ambitious blue-green factor and ecological compensation in all construction and increase timber construction.
- We will also increase and improve opportunities for allotment and container farming in different parts of the city.
- We will maintain the Kupittaa allotment garden in its current use.
- We will also maintain the green animal corridors and make sure that they are not cut off by construction.

1.3. Maritime Turku protects the Baltic Sea

Turku must be a pioneer in restoring the Baltic Sea to good health. This work is done in collaboration with farmers and landowners in the area. We want to make Turku's maritime character, clean beaches and sustainable nature tourism the new attraction that gives people the opportunity to experience the Baltic Sea and its diversity from our beaches, islands and waters.

- We will promote sustainable farming practices in the Turku area and help protect the Baltic Sea. Phosphorus and nitrogen will be removed from the sea and rivers, for example by precipitating phosphorus, by fishing and by cutting reeds.
- We will stop dumping dredged material into the sea.
- We will expand Föli's water transport and make the islands of Turku more accessible. We will also make Ruissalo more accessible by public transport, bike and on foot.
- Spawning grounds will be built in the habitats of migratory fish. We will dismantle barriers and dams.
- The sea and river shores will be opened for everyone's use from the Archbishop's residence to the railway bridge, around Turku Castle, in the port area and around the Hirvensalo bridge.

- We will build decent piers, showers, toilets and sorting facilities will for the beaches.
- A floating swimming pool and sandy beach will be built on the Aura River, and piers for swimming will be built upstream.

1.4. We are building an attractive and vibrant city

Comfortable neighborhoods, accessible local services and a vibrant city centre make Turku a city for the people. We want to develop the city centre into a good living environment and meeting place, as well as emphasise the good features of our residential areas. We want to promote a sustainable, condensing urban structure with good public transport links, respect for history and interesting architecture. In Turku that we envision, new buildings and protected historical sites co-exist in harmony, and instead of parking spaces, urban space is maintained as public living spaces.

- We will increase the enjoyability of the city centre by adding pedestrian streets, seating areas, bike paths, green spaces, sorting facilities, playgrounds and terraces.
- We will build sufficient housing of different price levels in different areas, so that the residents of different areas will not be in an unequal position with one another.
- We will develop the neighbourhoods of Turku together with the residents. We will emphasise the distinctive features of the neighbourhoods and develop urban cultural centres in the suburbs by opening new public spaces for residents.
- We will preserve, protect and renovate valuable wooden buildings.
- We will build and repair safe buildings with long life cycles. We will repair rather than disassemble.
- We will increase contacts between the generations through hybrid building, by placing services for the elderly and kindergartens in the same buildings and blocks.
- We will build the city upwards where it fits into the cityscape. We will encourage diverse construction that fits into the existing building stock. We will open up more opportunities for residents to influence their neighbourhoods.
- We will reduce sound and light pollution by lowering speed limits, using automatic lighting, and disabling bright flashing advertising lights. However, we will also ensure adequate street lighting for cycling and walking paths to ensure safety.

1.5. Making traffic sustainable

Residents, health and climate appreciate zero-emission traffic. In Green Turku, walking, cycling, buses and electric kickboards are a more attractive option than a private car, which is affirmed by political decisions. Accessibility must be taken into account in every decision so that the everyday life of every citizen is easy.

- A light rail system will be built and complemented by a fast and smooth trunk line network. We will start the expansion of the light rail system. We will make the public transport system electric.
- We will also make electric car charging plugs available to everyone and encourage housing companies to adopt shared cars.
- We will build a comprehensive cycling path network and make it safe for everyone by separating the different modes of transport into their own paths. One-way bike lanes, cycling paths, a dedicated cycling coordinator, and secure bike parks are all parts of a modern city.
- We will free up street space from parking lots for other uses.
- Construction requirements for parking will be reduced and we will add other means of transport. We will encourage housing companies to convert some of the existing parking spaces into use for goods and electric bikes.
- We will add disabled parking spaces to areas under private parking surveillance.
- We will explore the options for parking spaces around public transport hubs.
- We will build the One Hour Train and create a functional commuter train service for Southwest Finland.
- We will make the school environment and the school trip to the local school so safe that children can be encouraged – not forbidden – to cycle to school in the lower grades already.
- We will move the market events from the main walking and cycling route by the river bank to the Old Market Square, the Cathedral Square and Vähätori.
- We will implement the planned walking and cycling bridge to Hirvensalo.

2. Equal rights to quality education

2.1. Early childhood education is a good start for learning

High-quality early childhood education is key to preventing inequality. Early childhood education teaches the learning skills and working with people, all under the guidance of professionals. Access to early childhood education also improves parents' access to employment.

- Let's make sure day care facilities are close to home for every family.
- We will include private day care centres as complementary partners for municipal day care as needed and monitor the quality of both.
- We will ensure adequate resources for children in need of special support and strengthen the opportunities for parents to choose a daycare centre regardless of its service producer.
- We will maintain the subjective right to day care. We will promote the establishment of four hours of free early childhood education for all families.
- In day care, we will experiment with different opening hours and hourly rates to support those parents whose jobs include shift work.
- We will ensure adequate training for early childhood education staff in the prevention of bullying and in the early identification of children's challenges.

2.2. Primary education that offers quality and equality

Basic education is the cornerstone of the Finnish success story. The world's best-trained teachers and staff provide every child with a good start in life, as long as they are provided with adequate resources. The school network plan needs to be updated as a matter of urgency, and safe and healthy facilities must be found for schools. Now is the time to bring indoor air problems under control.

- Education must not be cut. Adequate resources and the smallest possible teaching groups ensure that both school staff and students can cope.
- We will anticipate the space requirements of schools and kindergartens. We will prevent indoor air problems in advance by repairing moisture damage immediately and checking air quality regularly. We will provide appropriate facilities especially for Swedish-speaking and other educational institutions in particularly difficult situations.
- Psychologists, curators and school counsellors will be permanently assigned to schools to meet the needs of children and young people at an early stage. We will standardise and correct personal assistant allocation practices.
- We will provide additional support to schools in areas where family poverty or native language affect school attendance.
- We will support school focus classes, club activities and other affordable hobbies and after-school functions.

2.3. The best city to study in Finland

Turku is a city of lifelong learning. In cooperation with universities and companies, we will develop the attractiveness of the campus and the city, and ensure that students and jobs meet. We need to take care of students' coping and study guidance at both secondary and tertiary levels.

- We will increase to cross-over from vocational training to courses in secondary school and vice versa. We will co-operate with higher education in all the secondary level schools in Turku.
- We will enhance our cooperation with Study in Turku and genuinely involve students in the planning of the campus area.
- We will ensure that schools have adequate contact teaching and appropriate support from study counsellors, youth counsellors, curators and psychologists. Special emphasis will be placed on directing young people from minority backgrounds to further education.
- We will offer internships and summer jobs to young people and students in all industries of the city, and establish summer entrepreneurship vouchers alongside summer job vouchers.
- We will also offer a student discount on city services and make applying for the discount easy.
- We will offer affordable and well-maintained housing and subsidised housing for domestic and international students. We will also ensure an adequate

supply of housing by zoning student housing and by cooperating with the Turku Student Village Foundation.

- We will improve the opportunities for liberal arts educational institutions to act both as in-service and further adult educators and as co-operation organisations with upper secondary and vocational education.

3. We fight poverty and promote prosperity

3.1. Making social and health services available to all

After the reform of the social and health sector, the city will take care of the well-being of its residents with well-planned service paths and preventive services. High-quality social work and child protection functions make people's lives easier. Securing these services creates security for all residents. We will prevent underprivilege from being inherited with adequate services.

- We will increase the number of social workers so that they can meet clients more often to map the overall situation.
- We will prevent housing shortages with affordable housing production of at least 300 homes per year.
- We will eliminate homelessness by building support homes that meet different needs. We will set a warranty period for getting a home for the homeless youth under the age of 29.
- We will recognise the work done by organisations and the other third sector entities in supporting, for example, the unemployed, migrants, the chronically ill, their next of kin, and the lonely. We will provide funding for organisations and develop cooperation with congregations and diaconal work.
- Discretionary income support will be granted according to the individual situation. In addition, support will be provided for participation in sports and cultural services as well as in courses provided by institutions for free adult education.
- We will ensure the functioning of food distribution communities and develop co-operation with them.
- We will expand the provision of health services for the paperless.
- We will introduce speech recognition programs everywhere in social and health services.
- The queues for primary health care and oral health care will be dismantled and the care debt caused by the corona will be taken care of.
- We will guarantee quality health care, assistance and housing services for the disabled. We will improve the inclusion of people with disabilities, for example by organising disability panels and involving people with disabilities in the design of services.
- Combating loneliness throughout the whole life of a person is set as one of the key goals of the city, to be implemented together with organisations, especially during a pandemic.

3.2. Mental health and substance abuse services provide humane and economic benefits

Mental health and substance abuse services are too difficult to access and problems have time to accumulate before access to treatment. This unnecessarily increases human and financial costs. We will invest in preventive and low-threshold services. In acute situations, a safe place and support must be available so that the customer is not repatriated alone without a follow-up plan. In addition, co-operation with social services, special health care and substance abuse services must be smooth. It must be possible to start psychosocial treatments and psychotherapies in health care and social centres, as long as the activities are decided on and supported at a specific level.

- We will promote the implementation of the therapy guarantee at the municipal level.
- We will enable the treatment of and services for mental health and substance abuse problems simultaneously. We will find out the root causes of substance abuse problems and support voluntary seeking of treatment.
- We will add low-threshold treatment places that can be quickly accessed for initial assessment.
- The future mental health and substance abuse unit must actively collect customer feedback and provide counter-feedback. We will add low-threshold suicide prevention support to the unit.
- We will train staff in substance abuse work and in working with addiction problems through systematic and evidence-based practices.
- We will involve experienced experts in the design and development of services. Relatives and their well-being will also be taken into account in care processes.
- We will focus on intensive and short-term therapeutic interventions in addition to individual therapy through family therapy and group therapy.
- We will ensure that the staff is adequately sized and resilient.

3.3. Turku for children, youth and families

A growing city must also be attractive to families with children and those who dream of having children. We will create a functioning safety net in the city, where children, families with children and young people are not left alone. We will provide functional services and leisure facilities. This work involves organisations, social services, youth services, urban planning and sports clubs. The aim of youth work must be to increase young people's participation, well-being and opportunities while listening for their needs and wishes.

- We will invest in youth work and implement services as accessible solutions.
- We will provide safer leisure facilities for young people from minority backgrounds and for rainbow youth.
- Young people in institutional care are consulted on matters concerning them.
- More open playgrounds will be built in the suburbs and also in the city centre. Local sports facilities that encourage voluntary exercise will also be taken care of outside the city centre, especially in the suburbs and northern Turku.

- We will introduce a hobby guarantee model in which every young person is guaranteed at least one meaningful hobby. This work is being done in collaboration with the third sector, schools and families.
- We will intensify interprofessional co-operation between early childhood education, youth services, police, hobby clubs, mental health professionals, families and schools.
- We will address bullying and school violence by creating new avenues for children and young people to share their experiences, such as a curator-based or a WhatsApp child welfare service.
- We will strengthen the child's right to both parents, for example by allowing two addresses for school trips. Cultural practices must not restrict the rights of the child.
- The gems of the city's youth work must be maintained. Rock Academy, Game Academy, Adventure Park, Cube and extensive youth activities in the city centre are the pride of Turku's youth work.
- We will ensure the availability of family services at a low threshold. In crisis situations, the opportunity to visit home and receive other support is provided.
- We will develop multi-professional support for children with special needs and aim to keep the same workers with the same families. Adequate and timely support will prevent the need for taking children and youth into custody.

3.4. Wellbeing through the ages

Everyone has the right to a quality childhood and old age. We must remember that the elderly can be in very different life situations and physical conditions compared to each other. Services and support should be available for different situations and needs. The adequacy and need for services will be assessed with those in care and their relatives, respecting the right to self-determination. We will ensure better consultation with the wishes and needs of those in 24-hour institutional care on issues that are important to them, such as leisure and diet.

- Everyone has the right to visit their family and relatives, regardless of their form of residence. Particular attention will be paid to this right during and after the corona pandemic.
- We will improve opportunities for independent living, for example through accessible construction and through providing diverse housing options with care services for different needs.
- Elderly people will be guaranteed access to a 24-hour housing service within two months. We will add more places for enhanced assisted living.
- The needs and quality of home care must be redesigned so that operations make sense for employees and provide quality for customers. The needs must be met and planned for together with next of kin.
- We will guarantee the right to statutory leave for carers, so that potential children also have access to appropriate substitute care. We will create methods and pathways to monitor one's own coping and consult with both parties of the care relationship as individuals.
- We will improve resources for both home care and support for carers. Too few and too busy appointments impair the quality of care and the assessment

of fitness. We will also guarantee statutory benefits and services for carers of children.

- Valuable and professional hospice care is guaranteed and will be made more home-like.

3.5. An inviting city for those moving from elsewhere

Growing Turku welcomes domestic and foreign migrants and supports their settling down. We will modify and adapt the city's services so that it is as easy as possible for those coming from elsewhere to adapt to their new everyday life and find their own place while working and studying. The effectiveness of integration work is improved by continuous, permanent operating practices. Service providers must be required to cooperate and to identify and eliminate overlapping.

- We will better monitor the quality and effectiveness of integration. We will make available interpreting services at the beginning of integration and settling down.
- We will invest in the acquisition of everyday language, especially for women. We will increase language teaching and provide it early. We will remove barriers to learning by providing childcare and bringing education close to home.
- We will provide opportunities and lower the threshold for participation in trauma therapy.
- We will also provide opportunities to get to know the new hometown and its services in cooperation with Föli and local companies and hobby and sports clubs.
- We will use the expertise of immigrants' own communities to support integration and to assist the authorities in integration work.

3.6. A living city of culture

Culture increases the well-being of citizens, creates a creative economy and enlivens the city. The heritage of the Culture Capital must be taken care of by supporting the diversity of art in the city. Green Turku is known as a living centre of diverse cultural offerings, where a good framework is created for the work of art and culture professionals, and grassroots cultural activities produce active urban experiences.

- We will deepen cooperation between cultural actors in the city and the third sector. We will ensure that there are affordable facilities around the city for organising cultural activities and workspaces.
- The working conditions of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra must be bettered. We will actively promote the construction of a new music hall in Turku.
- We will support independent artists and groups as well as living urban culture. We will make organising events as easy as possible.
- Free admission campaigns and guided tours will be offered in the city's museums.

- We will develop libraries as public spaces and active neighbourhood actors that provide the citizens with the opportunity to study, work and enjoy themselves. We will also improve the opening hours of libraries by expanding self-service functions.
- In new construction projects, we will set aside one percent of the cost for art. We will ensure access to cultural events and services throughout the city.

3.7 Well-being from exercise for all ages

Every euro put into exercise pays for itself. Exercise belongs to all age and population groups. It is important to design the urban environment to promote mobility and to ensure that different species have space in sports venues in different areas. In Activating Turku, it is easy to move around and enjoy exercise. Like culture, exercise activates and enlivens the city.

- We will encourage everyday exercise through a comprehensive network of cycling and outdoor routes, as well as good winter maintenance and lighting of streets and schoolyards.
- We will maintain and support new ways of working and exercise conditions to increase exercise activity for all age groups together with sports clubs. For example, we will study the options for the summer use of the Hirvensalo Ski Centre.
- We will provide free sports facilities such as jogging trails, beaches, skating rinks and playing fields. More skate parks, mountain biking trails and outdoor gyms will be built across the city.
- We will ensure the operating conditions of sports clubs by providing appropriate facilities for recreation and offer support for their operation. We will guarantee affordable and free recreational opportunities for children and youth.
- When designing new sports venues, care is taken to ensure that they are appropriate and accessible in a sustainable way.
- The focus will be on encouraging physical education and introducing different sports. We will utilise the expertise and equipment of the third sector as an enabler of diversity in physical education.

4. Sustainable economy, open decision-making

4.1. Bettering municipal finances sustainably

Public finances are a tool for the Greens: a means to promote the well-being of people, nature and the environment. We want to create an economic policy that aims to balance the city's finances in the long run. The city's finances must be conducted responsibly and transparently.

- Prevention is good financial management as well as humane and sensible. We will shift the focus from remedial services to problem prevention.

- We slow down the growth rate of operating expenditure through structural reforms and more efficient services so that we can continue to provide services and take care of the well-being of our citizens.
- We will aim to resuscitate, not cut. We will invest in increasing Turku's attractiveness, combating climate change and further increasing the well-being of Turku's citizens.
- We will raise taxes where necessary to guarantee the conditions for a good life for all.
- The majority of service production will be managed cost-effectively as the city's own production. We will provide transparent monitoring of operations in both the city's own and procured services.
- We will promote adequate and fairly distributed state contributions by working with the government.
- We will update the procurement strategy to take into account ecological, ethical and social sustainability in the city's public procurement. Emphasis in the procurement criteria will be placed on locality and zero emissions.
- We will define the budgetary framework of the contracts precisely so as to not pay unnecessarily. We will prevent the unnecessary expansion of investments through careful planning and joint responsibility models.
- Turku will publish all its purchase and procurement invoices. Citizens have a right to know for what common funds are being used.

4.2. Better governing and participation in Mayoral Turku

The best city is built together. We want to involve the residents and organisations in building the Turku of the future. We will improve the transparency and comprehensibility of decision-making, add new opportunities for participation and strengthen democracy as Turku enters the era of mayors. By working together, the knowledge of Turku residents increases, and decisions become better in quality when the best local knowledge is obtained to support the decisions.

- We will create citizen panels and other forms of democratic debate. Open hearings and municipal consultative referendums will be held on the most talked-about topics.
- We will ensure the continuation of participatory budgeting and develop more effective resident budgeting.
- We will ensure that consultations and inquiries genuinely influence decision-making. We will invest in the transparency of decision-making in everything and involve politically elected decision-makers from the beginning.
- In addition to the city council, the representative of the youth council will be granted the right to speak to all boards and the right to attend the city board.
- We will ensure the availability of services in accordance with the one-stop-service principle and reform the city's management system from the customer's point of view.
- We will assess impacts of decisions on the minorities, different genders, and children.
- We will develop the city's communication in plain Finnish. We will provide advice in everyday matters in the resident's own language.

- We will improve the transparency of decision-making in municipally owned companies and improving the influence of decision-makers elected by the residents of Turku.

4.3. Vibrant business activity and new work

An entrepreneur is an experimenter – one who dares to come up with ideas that are different from the mainstream. In Green Turku, business activity is vibrant, and entrepreneurs are supported so that they can develop new solutions to meet the challenges of the future. A growing city needs more new and diverse jobs. The modern, developing city attracts companies and investments in various fields and provides jobs for the residents.

- We will increase funding for wage-subsidised employment.
- We will promote the employment of disabled and other partially able-bodied and hard-to-employ people. The city itself will be a pioneer in hiring lesser-skilled and those in work experience programmes.
- We will create a new, encouraging culture of experimentation for the city. We will provide facilities for organisations and entrepreneurs; for example, vacant premises in the summer for temporary use, where activities can be started and tried out affordably.
- We will shift towards paying for effectiveness in employment services – towards paying for people to be employed. We will actively seek new solutions to improve the situation of the unemployed and involve organisations.
- Turku is Finland's gateway to the world. The Port of Turku will be developed into the world's most ecologically sustainable, vibrant port complex.
- We will improve the opportunities for graduating students to stay in Turku for work or entrepreneurship. We will collaborate with universities and increase support and incentives for entrepreneurship.
- We will make the city a more responsible and attractive employer. Well-being employees are the most efficient and motivated in the long run.
- We will enable small and local actors to participate in the city's tenders with sufficiently small sub-entities and by clarifying the procurement system.