

## Finland environmental sustainability

The Finnish parliament first discussed the 2030 Agenda and the parliament's role in December 2016 and since then has received the government's yearly progress reports and has made recommendations to the government. The Committee for the Future is responsible for the 2030 Agenda in the Finnish parliament. (Prime Minister's Office Finland, 2016).

The latest strategy for sustainable development "Finland We Want, 2050" was adopted in December 2013 and updated in April 2016 in line with the 2030 Agenda. It has eight aspirational objectives. In addition to the strategy, in February 2017, the government adopted its Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development has also been integrated into the state budget since 2018. Special focus has been on budgetary allocations to measures supporting carbon neutrality and resource wisdom (Prime Minister's Office Finland, 2020).

Finland provides regular national reports on its progress towards achieving the SDGs. An external independent evaluation was published in March 2019 to assess the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both in domestic and international policies (Berg et al., 2019).

The enabling factors included long-term national work on environmental and nature protection through legislation, economic instruments, voluntary measures, and environmental institutions and governance. Sustainable development is a widely shared and mainstreamed aim in Finland and nature is a highly valued ecosystem service, including the public's right of access to it. International environmental agreements and EU legislation also provide a solid and binding framework for national policies and measures.

For further progress, Finland aims to create more knowledge on the externalities of its consumption and production to better understand and measure the environmental impact (footprint and handprint) in other countries. It also recognises that the work towards environmental goals must be coupled with work to combat inequality to achieve a just transformation. To this end, the country acknowledges the need for integrated impact assessment tools for national legislation, strategies and action plans.

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Drawn up by the National Commission on Sustainable Development, the strategy extends from 2022 until 2030. The Commission is chaired by Prime Minister Sanna Marin, and its members represent a broad range of different sectors in society.

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Web: <https://sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

