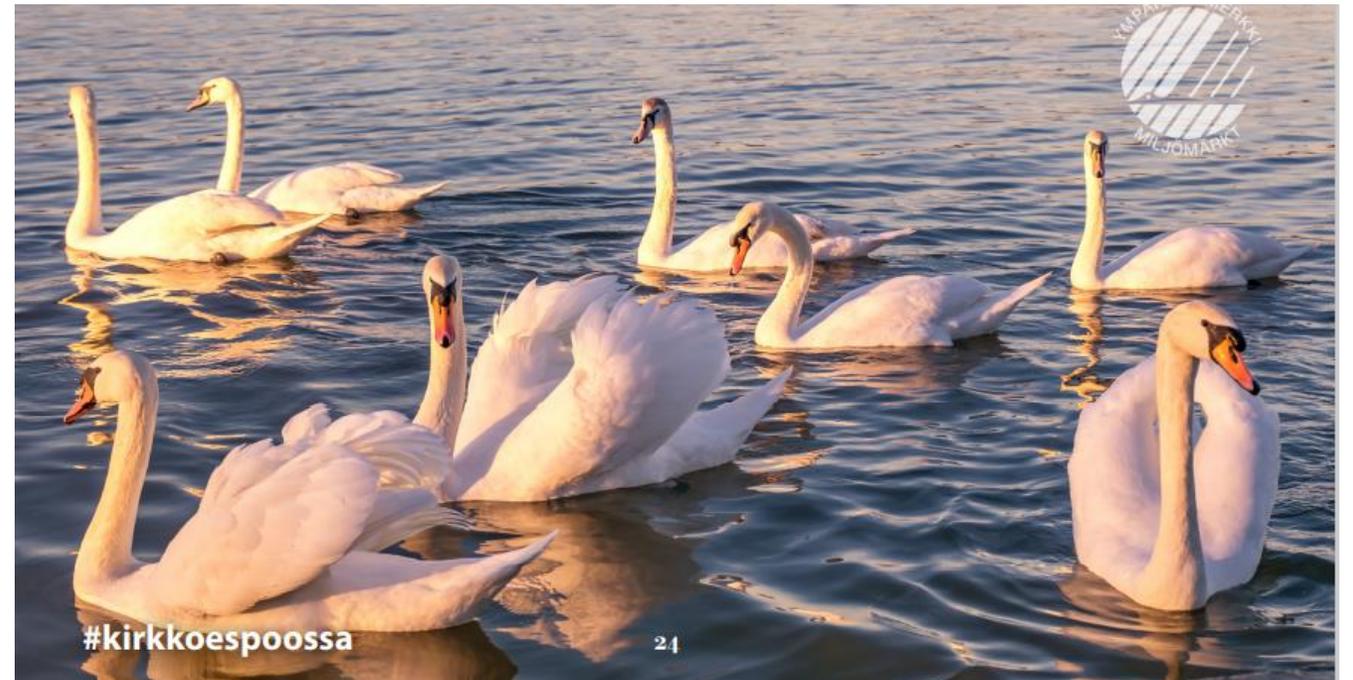


Espoo Parish union:

Environmental policy and plan 2020–2030 Climate action examples

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- October 22nd, 2020

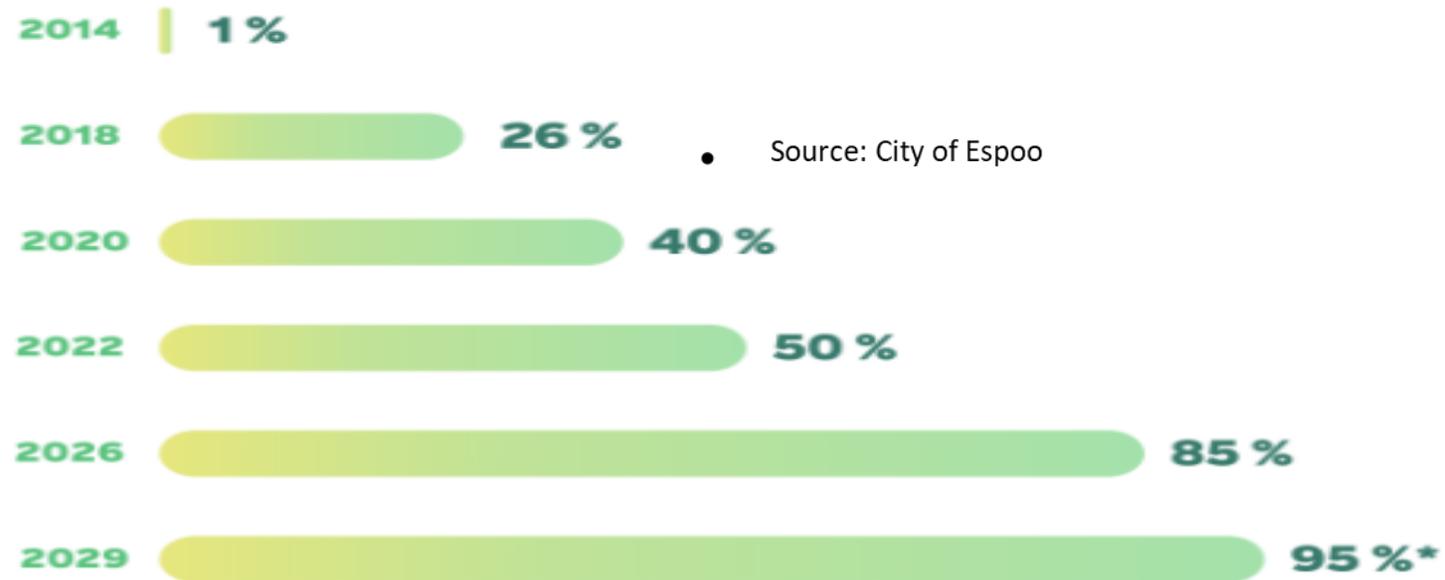


City of Espoo – a pioneer in sustainable development



- 2nd biggest city in Finland with 290,000 inhabitants
- 312 km² with 5 local city centres, suburbs, archipelago, a large national conservation area and forests
- City of Espoo aims to become carbon neutral by 2030 and to be the first municipality in Finland to join the Commitment 2050.
- Fortum, the Finnish partly state-owned energy company, and the City of Espoo have committed to **carbon-neutral district heating**. The goal is to discontinue the use of coal in 2025.
- District heating will be based on replacing fossil fuels with smart and flexible solutions, e.g. by **utilising waste heat, renewable electricity, geothermal energy, and bioenergy**. Artificial intelligence optimises the district heating system's operations.
- New bio-heating facility with two **wood pellet boilers** already produce district heat.
- **The world's deepest geothermal heat wells** are planned to be used.
- A heat pump facility, where one unit will utilize **the excess heat from treated waste water and sea water in the summer**.

Share of carbon neutral district heating in Espoo (forecast)



• Source: City of Espoo

*Due to security of supply, there will be some natural gas capacity left. This share will be compensated.

Why this is important for Espoo parish union?

Espoon parish union is/has

- the second biggest parish union in Finland with 165,000 members (57% of the local population)
- 6 parishes, 5 churches, 23 chapels, 5 graveyards, 3 camping centres; almost 50 buildings in total
- 550 employees
- a yearly budget of 44 million euros.

Our environmental plan bases on win-win partnerships.

The main sources of CO₂ emission in the Espoo parish union are

- real estates and premises: heating, maintenance, renovating, the whole life cycle and the use of electricity and water
- business travelling within the city of Espoo on a daily basis ("from chapel to chapel")
- parish work – ceremonies, events, happenings, longer/shorter trips and camps
- production in its various forms; products and services.

The Espoo parish union environmental policy and plan are based on the ISO 14001 standard requirements

- Espoo parish union is the first parish union in Finland to build and create its environmental plan solely according to the requirements of the ISO 14001 standard instead of the Finnish church's own standard.
- This decision bases also on the feedback from the members of the parishes.
- The ISO 14001 is more widely and commonly known and easily comparable with similar plans of any other organization with approx. a similar size of personnel and the level of distribution.
- The 14001 structure seemed to suit a bit better to our parish union than the Finnish church standard - mainly because it allows the organization to place the focus of the actions on where their effectiveness is at its highest.
- Some of the goals of the Finnish church environmental program will also be included in the plan.

Examples of climate actions in Espoo parishes

- The focus of the actions lies on real estate and premises: to reduce the CO₂ emissions and avoid fossil energy sources.
- Part of the strategy relies on partnerships and shared actions with city of Espoo or other partners, e.g. developing the district heating network towards a fossil free district heating network or in e.g. renovating projects.
- Geothermal heating well implementations.
- The Espoo parishes also aim at reducing travelling by using Teams meetings and webinars, streaming worship services and e.g. providing family counselling by Teams.
- Using gas fuel vans.
- Consuming less products and services -> less purchases -> less manufacturing, logistics and waste.
- Forest plans; an new area of 50 hectares into a public national conservation area.
- The covid-19 pandemic has speeded up some decisions and actions.

KIRKKO ESPOOSSA⁺
KYRKAN I ESBO

“The future is in
our hands”

Espoo parish union environmental
policy and plan.

