

Executive summary



The first voluntary local review of Joensuu has been completed in cooperation between different city departments. The report examines the sustainability of Joensuu from strategic and indicator-based perspectives.

While the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) is the responsibility of the government, municipalities and cities have a major role to play in the practical implementation. The responsibility of Finnish municipalities in sustainable development is highlighted through basic services and land use solutions. Joensuu is aiming for a population of 80 000 by 2025, which means an increasing number of services and changes in land use. This will highlight the importance of sustainable urban development.

Local voluntary review (VLR) of Joensuu has been reviewed in the light of the city strategy. The review exposes that social, economic and environmental sustainability are broadly reflected in the city strategy, although the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals have not been the starting point for the strategy. The report highlights the objectives and measures of the city strategy, in particular the programmes that complement it. Ambitious goal of Joensuu is to be carbon neutral by 2025. The VLR has been prepared under the measure set out in the climate programme of Joensuu.

The report has been carried out as an internship in the City of Joensuu Environmental Protection Department, with input from experts from different city departments. The first VLR of Joensuu describes the baseline situation in city of Joensuu and serves as a tool for examining the sustainability of various activities of the city.