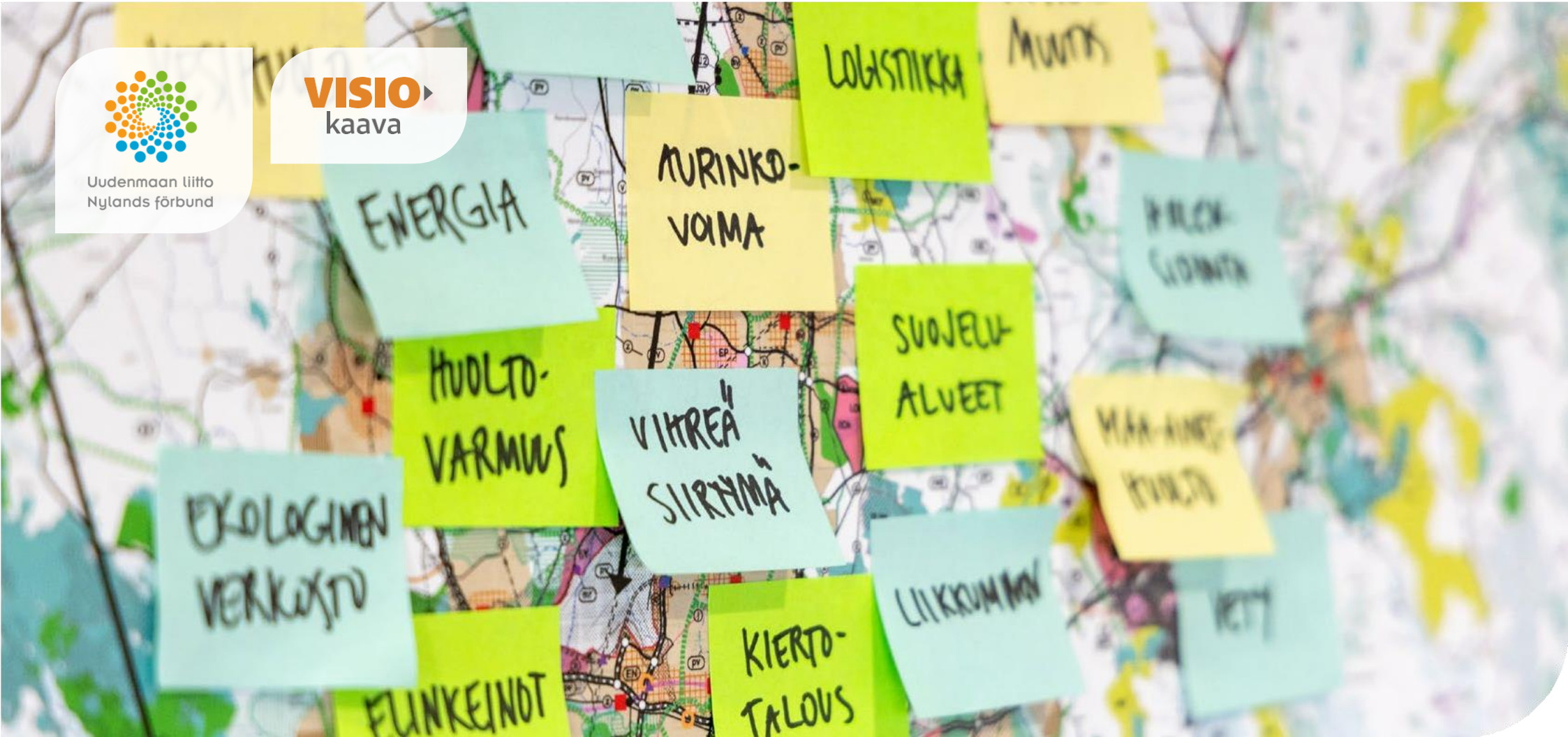




Uudenmaan liitto  
Nylands förbund

**VISIO**  
kaava



## Participation and Evaluation Plan VISIO

– Innovative Green Transition, Uusimaa  
5th Regional Land Use Plan

Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council 3/2025

Updated 6/2025 (extension of the plan area to the Östersundom regional plan area) Updated 2/2026

**Uusimaa Regional Council // Nylands förbund**

Esterinportti 2 B • 00240 Helsinki • Finlandtoimisto@uudenmaanliitto.fi  
• uudenmaanliitto.fi

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2. What is a regional plan?</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Legal effects of the regional plan .....	7
<b>3. Starting points for planning work</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Operating environment and key drivers of change .....	8
Future challenges underpinning the planning work .....	9
The regional plan implements the regional programme .....	10
The overall picture of regional development in Uusimaa .....	11
Status of the regional plan .....	12
Current regional plans by municipality .....	13
<b>4. Plan and impact area</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>5. Contents and background information of the regional plan</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Definition of a green and clean transition .....	15
Themes of the plan .....	16
Cross-cutting perspectives .....	20
Amendments to the current plan .....	22
Background information and completed reports .....	23
Identified needs for further studies .....	24
Parallel planning processes .....	24

<b>6. Objectives and planning principles of the VISIO plan</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Strategic overview of objectives by level .....	26
Objective 1. Responding to climate change and enhancing biodiversity .....	28
Objective 2. Strengthening sustainable and innovative competitiveness .....	28
Objective 3. Promoting operational reliability and safety .....	28
<b>7. Impacts to be assessed</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>8. Interaction</b> .....	<b>30</b>
Participation and decision-making .....	30
Tools and platforms .....	31
<b>9. Timetable and process</b> .....	<b>32</b>
Target schedule .....	32
Opportunities for interaction .....	33
<b>10. Further information and contact details</b> .....	<b>34</b>

# 1. Introduction

The Participation and Assessment Plan (OAS) is a plan drawn up in accordance with Section 63 of the Land Use and Building Act, which provides information on the progress of the regional plan, the impact assessment and opportunities to participate in its preparation. The OAS is updated as the planning work progresses and is available in its latest version on the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council's website at [uudenmaanliitto.fi/visio-kaava](https://uudenmaanliitto.fi/visio-kaava) throughout the planning process.

This participation and assessment plan concerns the 5th phase regional plan for Uusimaa, entitled 'Innovative Green Transition', or the VISIO plan. The Uusimaa Regional Council decided to launch the new regional plan on 13 May 2024.

The participation and assessment plan outlines the topics covered in the regional plan, the plan's objectives, and how the plan's impacts will be assessed. It also explains the opportunities for stakeholders to influence the plan's content at different stages of the planning process.

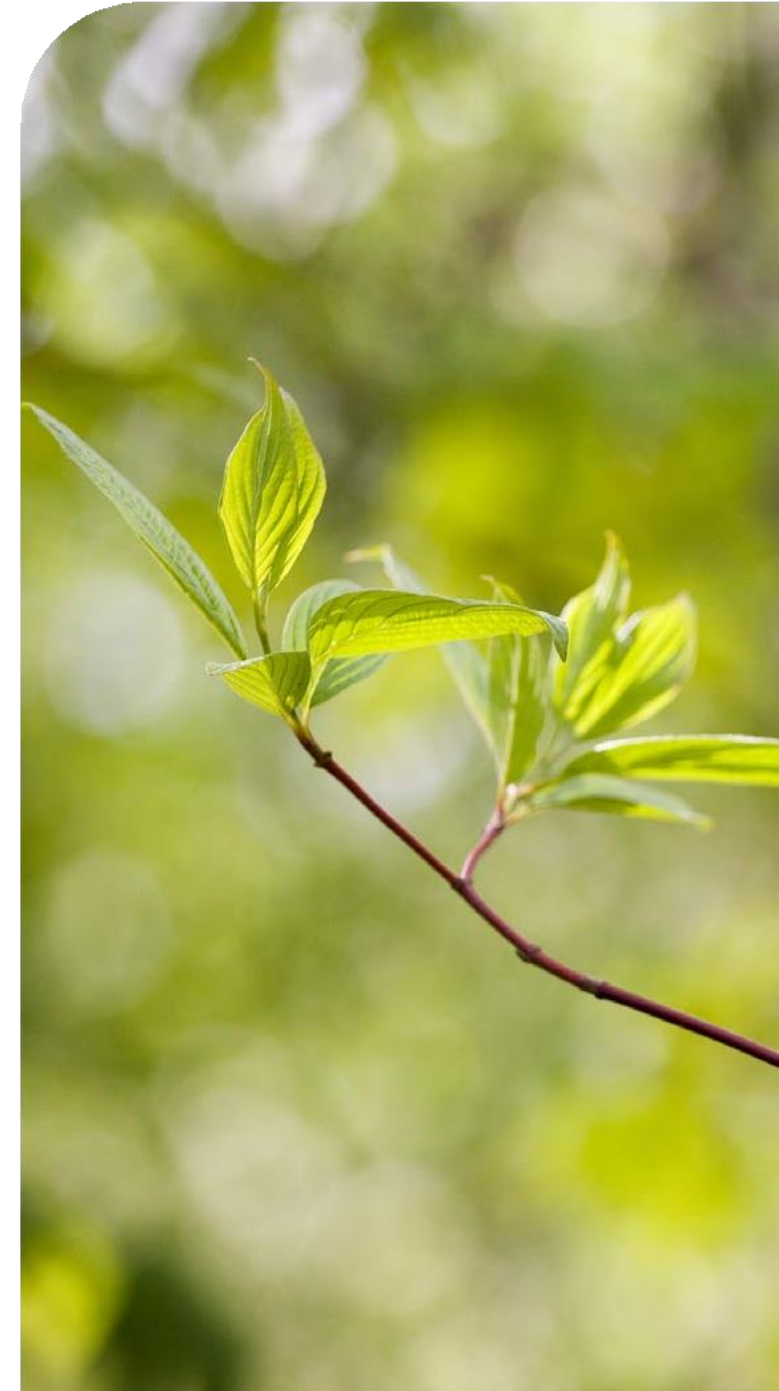
The plan currently being drawn up is a phased regional plan, with a target year of 2050. Geographically, the plan covers all municipalities in the Uusimaa region.

The regional phase plan supplements and updates the existing and legally binding planning framework with regard to themes related to the green transition:

- Energy
- Logistics and long-distance passenger transport
- Nature and carbon sequestration
- Industrial production, the circular economy and soil resource management
- Water supply and water resources
- National defence

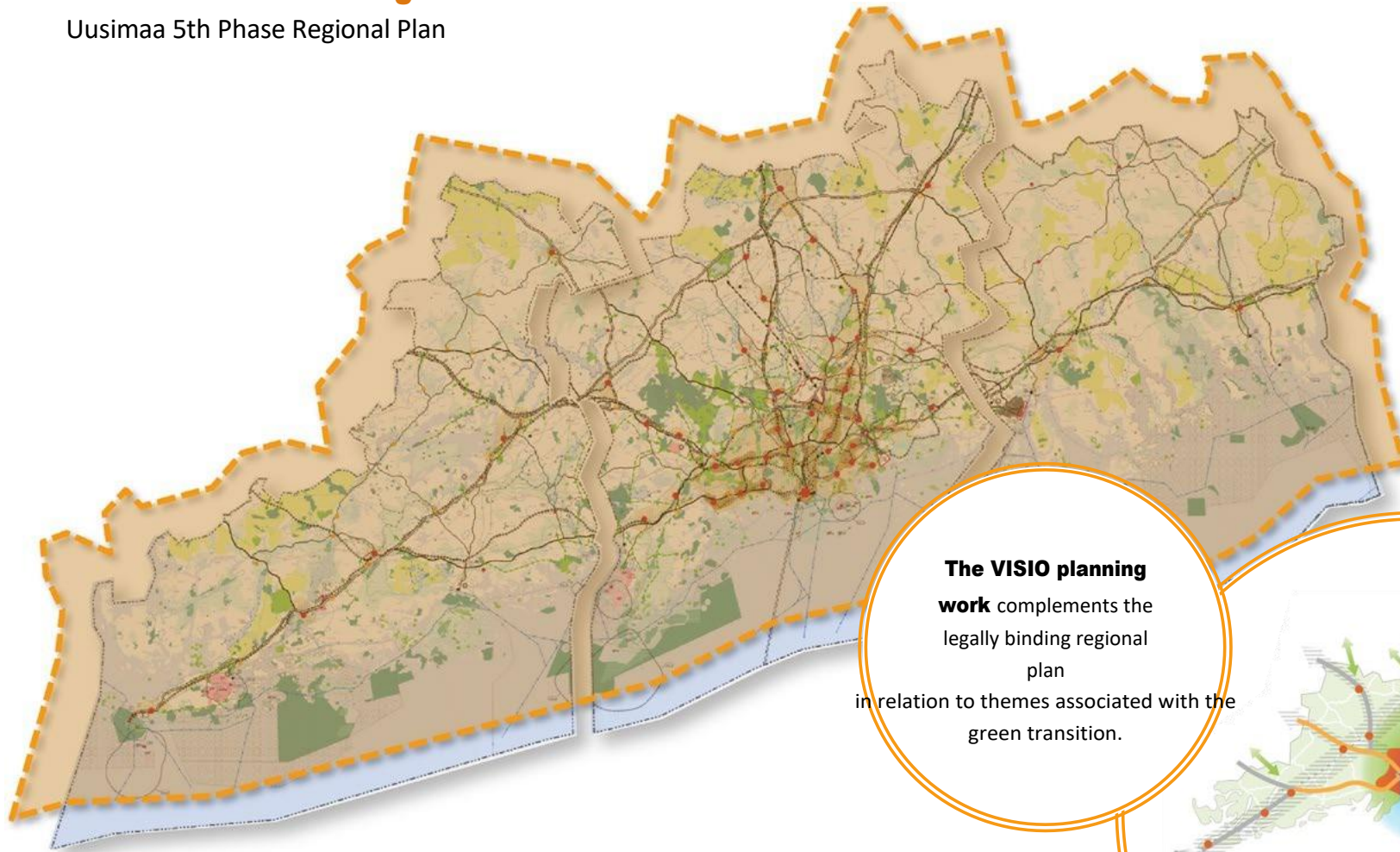
The current regional plans will largely remain in force, but some designations relating to the themes of the VISIO plan are proposed to be repealed.

It is not possible to address all the issues that arise through the means of the regional plan; instead, background studies may be carried out on the topics, clarify the interpretation of the legally binding regional plan regarding the topic, or support the implementation of the legally binding regional plan's objectives and solutions, for example through regulatory work or projects.



# VISION – Innovative green transition

Uusimaa 5th Phase Regional Plan



**The VISIO planning work** complements the legally binding regional plan in relation to themes associated with the green transition.



The Uusimaa Structural Plan, drawn up in connection with the Uusimaa Plan 2050

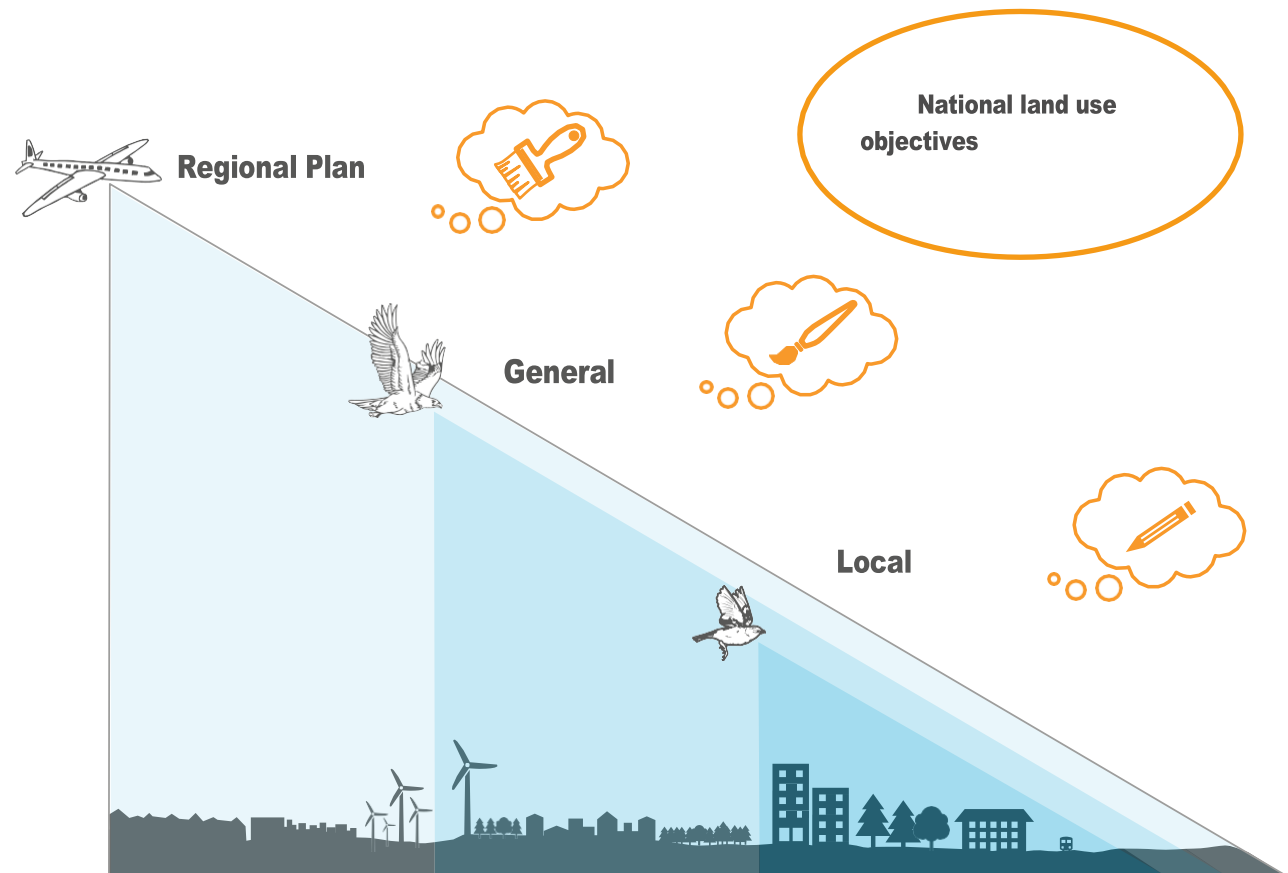
## 2. What is a regional plan?

In accordance with the Land Use Act, the land use planning system comprises four levels: municipal land use objectives, the regional plan, the master plan and the local detailed plan. In addition, municipalities may draw up a joint master plan.

The regional plan is legally binding and the most general of the planning documents. The plan serves as a guideline for municipal planning and other land use planning. The general guidelines of the plan are specified in the general and local plans drawn up by the municipalities.

The regional plan sets out the principles of land use and settlement structure and designates land reserves necessary for the development of the region, as well as general locations for functions of regional significance. In particular, the plan reconciles national and regional perspectives and objectives.

The preparation of the regional plan is guided by national land use objectives and the region's own objectives. The Land Use Act defines the content requirements for the regional plan.



The regional plan is presented on a map and consists of plan symbols and the associated planning regulations. The plan report clarifies and provides background to the solution presented on the plan map and in the planning regulations. The maps attached to the regional plan may be used to illustrate, clarify, specify or provide background to the plan's solutions. In addition to maps, the report may also include other appendices.

The regional council, which is a intermunicipal association owned by the municipalities in its area, is responsible for drawing up the regional plan. The regional plan is approved by the regional council.

The legislation governing the planning system is currently being reformed. The update to the Land Use Act is due to come into force 2026. The implications of the reform will become clearer during the planning process and will be incorporated into this OAS in due course.

i

## Legal effects of the regional plan

The regional plan serves as a guideline when drawing up and amending the master plan and local detailed plan, as well as when taking other measures to organise land use. When planning measures concerning land use and deciding on their implementation, the authorities must take the regional plan into account, endeavour to promote the implementation of the plan, and ensure that the measures do not hinder the implementation of the plan. The regional plan shall not be valid within the area of a legally binding general plan or local detailed plan, except in respect of the effect concerning the amendment of plans referred to in subsection 1. (Section 32 of the Land Use Act)

The regional plan is subject to a conditional building restriction designed to ensure its implementation. The building restriction applies, in principle, to areas designated as recreational or conservation areas, areas designated for the purposes of the Defence Forces or the Border Guard, and areas designated for transport or technical service networks or areas. (Section 33 of the Land Use Act)

***The regional plan is presented on a map and consists of plan symbols and the associated planning regulations.***

”

# 3. Starting points for the planning work

## Operating environment and key drivers of change

The key starting point for the new VISIO phased regional plan is to promote the green transition in Uusimaa through land use measures.

The need for a phased regional plan that complements and updates the legally binding regional plan has emerged due to rapid changes in the operating environment and feedback received from stakeholders.



***The key objective is to promote the green transition in Uusimaa through land use planning.***

The climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity are progressing faster than predicted, so land use must be planned to meet the challenges of this changing operating environment. Regional planning promotes the green transition within the constraints of environmental conditions by seeking solutions for the energy transition, the circular economy and other uses of natural resources.

Changes in the geopolitical situation and security environment also have an impact on Uusimaa, and international and national policy, regulation and commitments – particularly EU and Finnish industrial policy – are influencing land use planning more directly than before. It is also likely that regulation will continue to increase and become stricter in the coming years.

The challenges of the green transition in Uusimaa have been identified as including, for example, energy sufficiency and the space requirements of new types of industries. In a growing and densely populated region, finding suitable areas for activities that require a lot of space can be difficult.

As regards the natural environment, the many different interests affecting the region have led to fragmentation and a decline in the ecological network and biodiversity.

Uusimaa's strengths in terms of the green transition include a skilled workforce, good logistics connections and opportunities to connect to energy networks.

Promoting the green transition, which is broadly linked to energy, business and transport, also involves strengthening the region's ecological networks, carbon sequestration and adaptation to climate change. The VISIO regional land-use planning process focuses on solutions for land-use planning related to biodiversity, climate, the energy transition, natural resources and the circular economy, as well as transport and other critical infrastructure.

## Future challenges underpinning the planning work

The VISIO plan aims to address current and anticipated factors of change and challenges deemed important in Uusimaa.

During 2023, the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council conducted surveys to ascertain the views of municipalities and other stakeholders

**A) regarding the future challenges facing Uusimaa** and

**B) the effectiveness of the regional plan and the need for updates.**

The most important future challenges for Uusimaa mentioned were effective regional public transport, mitigating and adapting to climate change, halting the loss of nature, steering growth in a sustainable manner, and ensuring the operating conditions for business. In addressing these challenges, the Uusimaa Regional Council was particularly expected to play a role in knowledge-based management and the development of broad-based cooperation.

The energy theme and the green transition, the circular economy, and the ecological network were specifically proposed as areas requiring updates and additions to the regional plan.

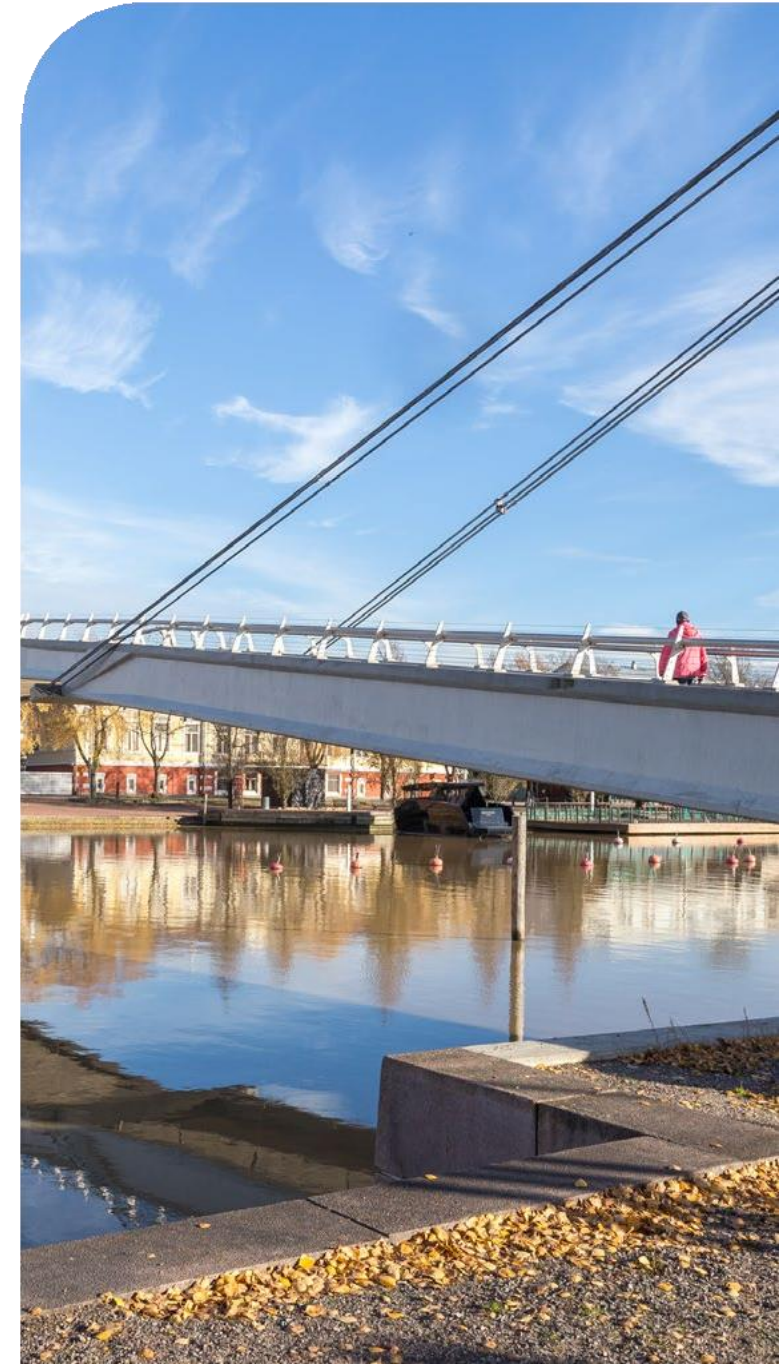
The results of the surveys on future challenges and the regional plan highlighted the theme of a green, clean transition in a broad sense: energy production and transmission, the circular economy, public transport, and the framework conditions for nature and a sustainable community structure.

In addition to the survey, the VISIO regional plan is also informed by extensive visits to member municipalities in 2023 and 2024.

[» Read more about the stakeholder survey and the municipal tour](#)

”

*The VISIO plan aims to address to current and anticipated factors of change and challenges deemed important in Uusimaa.*



## The regional plan implements the regional programme

The starting points for the development of Uusimaa are set out in the Uusimaa Regional Programme. Approved by the Regional Council in 2025, the regional programme—based on long-term strategic guidelines—sets the direction for the region’s development in the coming years. The regional programme is titled ‘Uusimaa of Solutions – A trailblazer for Finland, a pioneer in Europe’.

The programme, which will be in force from 2026 to 2029, sets out development objectives and a vision extending to 2050: “Europe’s most environmentally wise, innovative and happy region”.

The programme’s priorities are Environmentally Smart, Innovative and Happy Uusimaa. The new programme also includes smart specialisation priorities that guide research, development and innovation activities.

The regional programme is implemented by Uusimaa’s development actors, the most important of which are municipalities, universities, vocational colleges and associations. Implementation takes place primarily through projects. The programme guides project funding allocated to the region.

» [Find out more about the new regional programme](#)

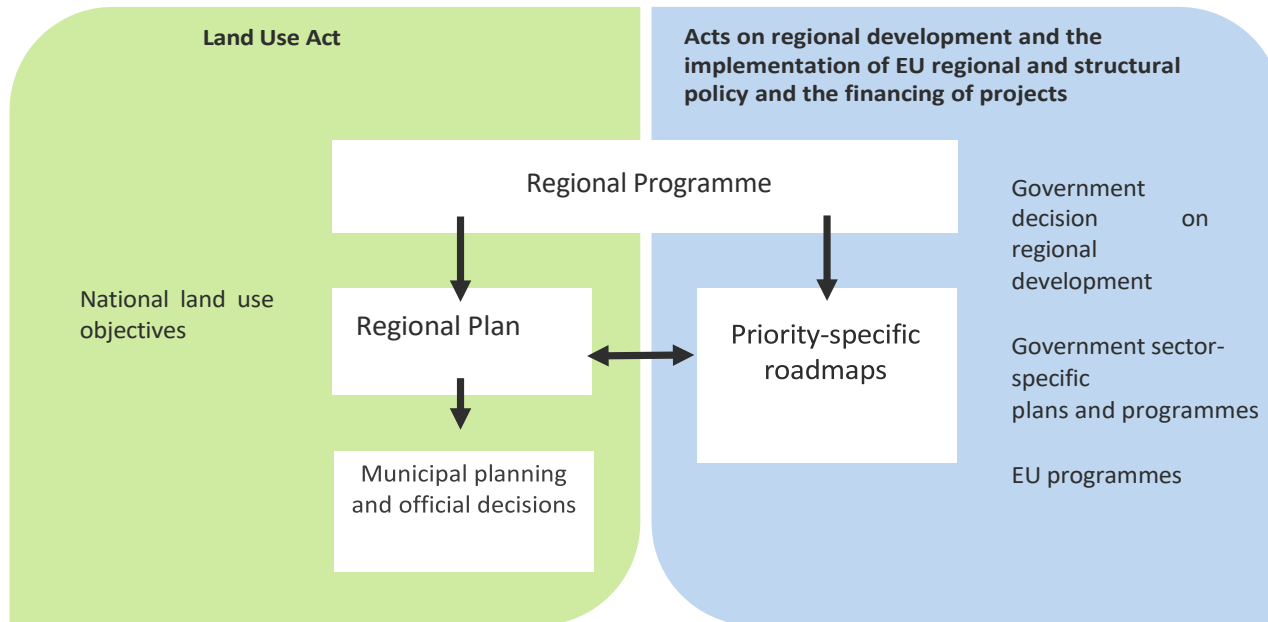
Programme and planning work is carried out at the Uusimaa Regional Council in close cooperation. Preparation of the VISIO plan began whilst the previous regional programme, the Uusimaa Programme, was in force. The priorities and objectives of the Uusimaa Programme guided the preparation of the plan’s objectives and planning principles, but the work also took into account the guidelines of the new regional programme that was under preparation.

The VISIO plan contributes to the implementation of the new ‘Ratkaisujen Uusimaa’ regional programme across all its priorities, using the tools and methods of the regional plan.

It is important that land-use planning also supports the goals of the green transition, smart specialisation and an environmentally wise region, as set out in the regional programme. At the same time, the regional plan also supports the Uusimaa Climate Roadmap and its action programme.



## The overall picture of regional development in Uusimaa



*The relationship between regional programme work and regional planning work, and the legislation governing them.*



## Regional planning status

In Uusimaa, several regional plans are in force as work on the new VISIO plan begins: the Uusimaa Plan 2050 package, the Östersundom regional plan, and the wind power solution of the fourth phase regional plan.

**The Uusimaa Plan 2050 package** consists of three legally binding plans:

- the Helsinki Region Phased Regional Plan
- The Western Uusimaa Phase Regional Plan
- The Eastern Uusimaa Regional Plan

The strategic, non-legally binding Uusimaa Structural Plan serves as the underlying vision for these plans. The plan package covers the entire Uusimaa region, with the exception of the Östersundom area in Helsinki, Sipoo and Vantaa, and extends to the year 2050.

The Uusimaa plan as a whole became legally binding following the decisions issued by the Supreme Administrative Court on 13 March 2023. Following legal proceedings, the part of the planning regulation for the urban development zone in the Western Uusimaa Plan that governs regionally significant retail trade was overturned.

**The Uusimaa 2nd Phase Regional Plan, Östersundom area**, covers the area stretching from Östersundom in Helsinki to Söderkulla in Sipoo, as well as part of Länsisalmi in Vantaa. The regional plan became legally binding in May 2021 following a decision by the Supreme Administrative Court. The plan addresses all key themes relating to regional and community structure and forms part of the Uusimaa 2nd Phase Regional Plan.

**The 4th phase regional plan for Uusimaa** covers the whole of Uusimaa, with the exception of the Östersundom area. The regional plan came into force in May 2020 following a decision by the Supreme Administrative Court. The regional plan has otherwise been repealed, but the regional council's decision to retain the plan's wind power solution remains in force: four areas suitable for wind power production in Porvoo, Loviisa and Lapinjärvi, as well as a planning recommendation concerning local wind power.

i

When interpreting the current planning situation, all valid regional plans, including their designations and regulations, must be taken into account simultaneously.

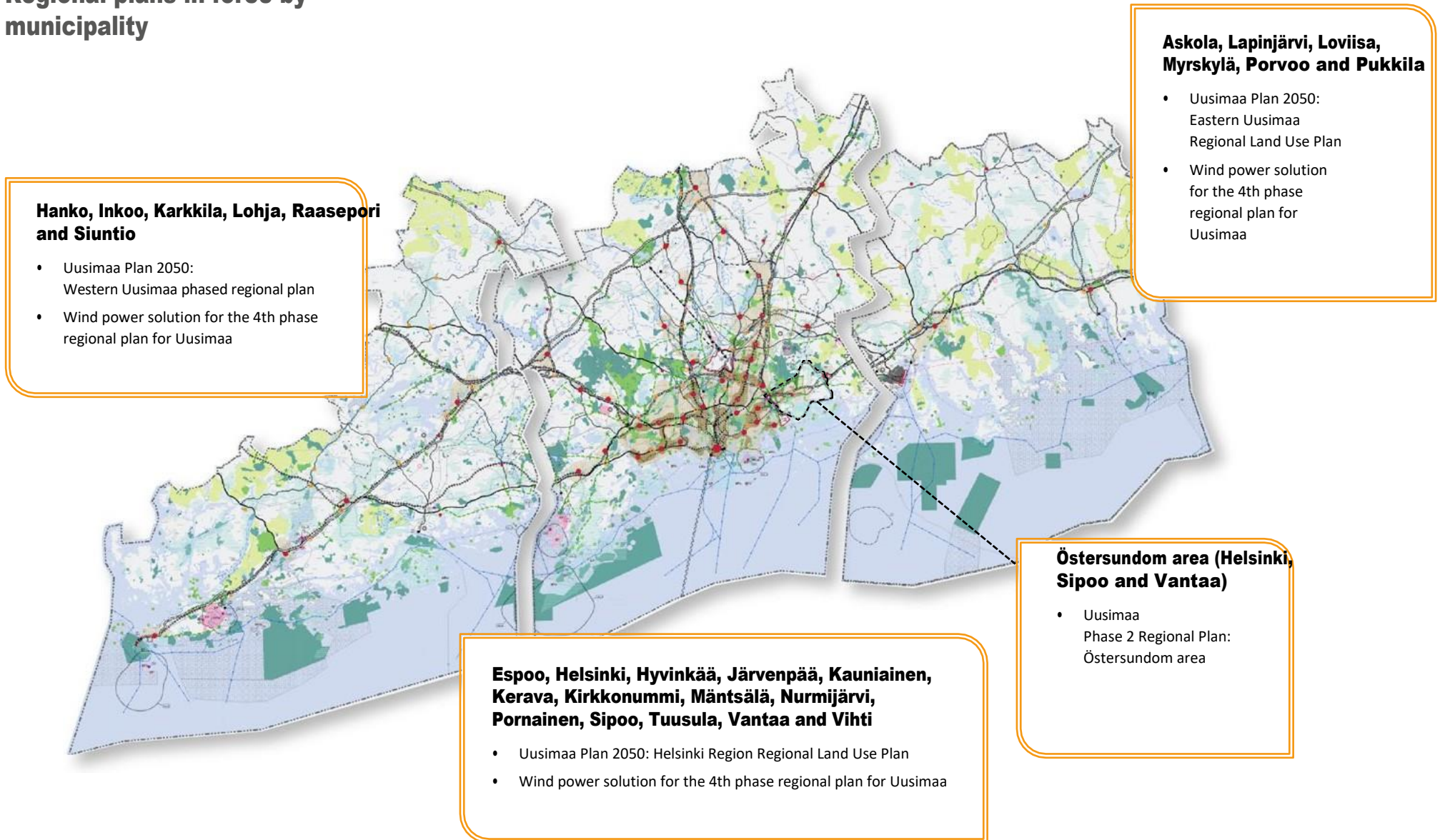
Interpretation is facilitated by an unofficial composite map of the current regional plans, along with their designations and regulations:

[uudenmaanliitto.fi/maakuntakaavatvoimassa](https://uudenmaanliitto.fi/maakuntakaavatvoimassa)

”

*At the start of the VISIO plan's preparation, several regional plans are in force in Uusimaa.*

## Regional plans in force by municipality



## 4. Plan and impact area

The VISIO plan is being drawn up for the entire Uusimaa region and covers all municipalities in the region.

There are 26 municipalities in Uusimaa: Askola, Espoo, Hanko, Helsinki, Hyvinkää, Inkoo, Järvenpää, Kauniainen, Karkkila, Kerava, Kirkkonummi, Lapinjärvi, Lohja, Loviisa, Myrskylä, Mäntsälä, Nurmijärvi, Pornainen, Porvoo, Pukkila, Raasepori, Sipoo, Siuntio, Tuusula, Vantaa and Vihti.

The area of influence of the VISIO plan includes, in addition to the main plan area, those areas outside it where the land use planned in the plan may have significant impacts. The significance and extent of the impacts depend on the issue in question, and the impacts may range from inter-municipal to inter-regional and national, and in some cases even international.

If a regional plan is likely to have significant environmental impacts on the territory of another Member State of the European Union, the Finnish Environment Institute must ensure compliance with the notification procedure laid down in the European Union's EIA Directive and conduct consultations with the other Member State. The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council must notify the Finnish



of the status of preparations for the VISIO plan (Land Use Act, Sections 206a and 206b).

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council shall consult with the Finnish Environment Institute on the procedure.

# 5. Content and background information of the regional plan

i

## Definition of a green and clean transition

*The definition has been formulated by the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council based on [the Ministry of the Environment's definition](#). The definition forms one important starting point for the VISIO plan work.*

The green and clean transition is an essential shift towards an ecologically sustainable economy and vitality. A sustainable economy is based on low-carbon solutions that promote the circular economy and biodiversity, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.

The transition enables the building of a carbon-neutral society, improves ecological balance, mitigates climate change and promotes adaptation to it, and secures future livelihoods.

Clean energy is an integral part of the transition. Replacing fossil fuels with clean energy solutions is a key objective of the transition.

In Uusimaa, the green and clean transition emphasises innovation, resource wisdom, the limits set by nature and the environment, the development of sustainable transport, logistics and infrastructure, as well as fairness and social acceptability.

This change is driven by EU-level regulation, international and national climate targets, and the Uusimaa region's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council also aims to be a pioneer in promoting a green and clean transition, both nationally and internationally.

## Themes of the plan

### The regional plan for the green transition addresses six thematic areas

- Energy
- Industrial production, circular economy and soil resource management
- Nature and carbon sequestration
- Logistics and long-distance passenger transport
- Water supply and water resources
- National defence

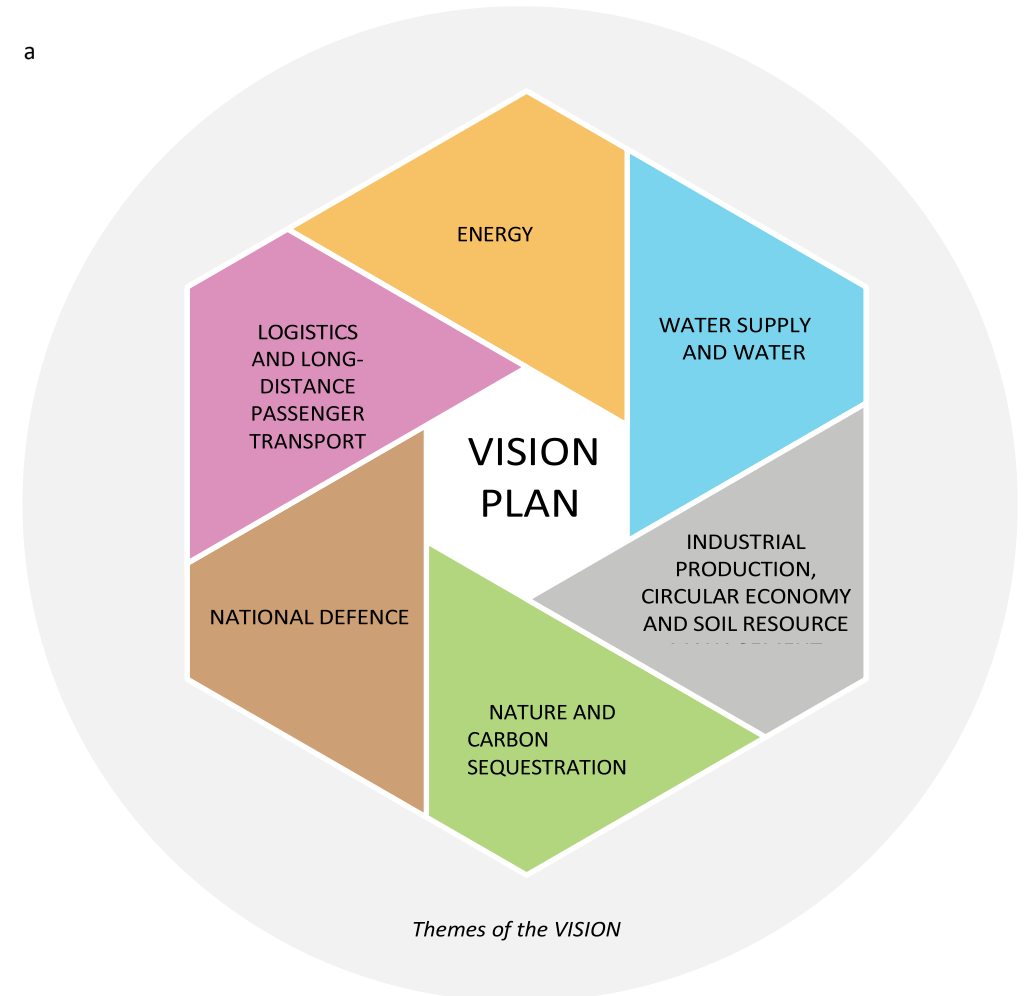
The themes have been selected for consideration on the basis of a broad assessment of interactions and the need to supplement and update the legally binding plan. The national defence theme has been added as a new element following feedback from the OAS.

As a starting point for the planning work, the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council produced development scenarios for the regional plan's themes during the initial phase of the planning process. Based on extensive source material, these development scenarios compile key information on the current state of each theme and the development trends that have led to the current situation. In addition, the development scenarios assess future prospects.

[» View the development scenarios on the VISIO plan website](#)

In addition to the main thematic areas, the following cross-cutting perspectives are taken into account in the planning work:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Safety, resilience and security of supply<sup>a</sup>
- Acceptability and fairness
- Innovative green transition





## Energy

The electrification of society's functions and the energy needs of green transition projects are becoming increasingly prominent now and in the future. The regional plan helps to determine how green transition projects can be coordinated with the environment and settlements.

The plan addresses:

- Energy transmission networks (electricity transmission, natural gas, hydrogen)
- Nuclear power (conventional and small modular reactors)
- Solar power
- Waste heat, geothermal energy and energy storage



## Industrial production, the circular economy and soil management

Green industrial production refers, for example, to investments in clean energy production and new technologies. Circular economy solutions and land resource management are particularly prominent in Uusimaa, where there is a high level of construction activity.

The regional plan aims to promote green transition projects and investments in a way that takes environmental constraints into account.

The plan addresses:

- Clusters of industrial production, logistics, soil resource management and/or the circular economy



## Nature and carbon sequestration

As biodiversity loss progresses, biodiversity needs to be strengthened in the face of intense land-use pressure in Uusimaa. The plan utilises new information on natural values and ecological connections. The solutions emphasise the conservation and restoration of habitats and the improvement of connectivity.

The plan addresses:

- Protected areas
- Green corridors
- Areas important for biodiversity (LUO)
- Ecological compensation and improving the state of nature
- Cultural environments
- Valuable geological formations
- Carbon sequestration



## Logistics and long-distance passenger transport

The development of the transport system is being carried out at many levels. In Uusimaa, the focus is on the functionality and security of supply of international travel and transport chains, as well as the efficient utilisation of the existing community structure and transport infrastructure.

The plan addresses:

- National and international rail projects (the Eastern Railway, the Airport Railway, and the Tallinn Tunnel freight railway, terminal and depot)
- Logistics transport links and ports
- Distribution and rest areas for alternative power sources in heavy goods transport
- Public transport interchanges and transfer points for long-distance passenger transport



## Water supply and water resources

The situation regarding water resources in Uusimaa is good, but future water supply needs present challenges. Climate change and increasingly frequent extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, are having an impact on water resources and water supply. The regional plan aims to ensure the development of water supply to meet the needs of the growing region.

The plan addresses:

- New water supply sites and routes of regional significance
- Up-to-date information on groundwater areas



## National defence

The national defence section examines the impact of the changed security situation on land use planning. Uusimaa plays a strategic role as part of the national defence capability.

The plan addresses:

- Defence Force areas, Defence Force firing ranges, firing and training noise zones, and protection zones

## Cross-cutting perspectives

In addition to the main thematic areas, the VISIO planning process examines four cross-cutting perspectives:

- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- security, resilience and security of supply
- security of supply, social acceptability and equity
- innovative green transition

These cross-cutting perspectives tie the themes of the VISIO plan together into a coherent green transition. They inform both the planning process and the planning decisions. The cross-cutting perspectives can also benefit local authorities. For example, in municipal planning, impact assessments can draw on the observations and questions raised by the cross-cutting perspectives that emerge during the planning process.

In VISIO planning work, cross-cutting perspectives are used to enhance the effectiveness and quality of the planning framework, as well as to foster a shared understanding both within the Uusimaa Regional Council and amongst stakeholders, across different levels and roles.

These perspectives are utilised particularly in impact assessments. During the planning preparation phase, the planning solution has been assessed from a cross-cutting perspective, primarily from the viewpoint of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For other cross-cutting perspectives, the focus is on the draft plan stage. At this stage, the plan report is supplemented with more detailed descriptions of the cross-cutting perspectives, as well as an impact assessment of the VISIO plan themes through these perspectives.



***The cross-cutting perspectives tie the themes of the VISIO plan together into a coherent green transition.***

## Cross-cutting perspectives of the VISIO plan



### Climate change mitigation and adaptation

The VISIO plan creates land-use conditions to achieve the region's climate targets. Responding to climate change in planning work means solutions that, on the one hand, mitigate emissions and, on the other, promote carbon sequestration. It also means strengthening the region's climate resilience, i.e. preparing for and adapting to changing climate conditions. Key measures for responding to climate change include the spatial planning of land uses and, in particular, regional solutions for transport, logistics, energy production, the use of natural resources and green infrastructure.



### Acceptability and fairness

Acceptability in planning emphasises the clarity of the planning process and the identification of stakeholders. It has been recognised that the opportunity for participation increases fairness. Participation is both direct and indirect: the Regional Council and executive board represent the residents and stakeholders of Uusimaa. They play a key role in assessing and promoting, for example, distributive justice, such as the identification and distribution of the benefits and disadvantages enabled by the themes of the VISIO plan.



### Safety, resilience and security of supply

Through our planning work, we are building a crisis-resilient society by combining the needs of physical security, system resilience and security of supply. We promote structural safety by protecting critical infrastructure and locating facilities in such a way as to minimise the risk of accidents. We strengthen regions' ability to recover from disruptions by creating flexible and alternative solutions for both energy supply and logistics. At the same time, we ensure the availability and self-sufficiency of vital resources, such as clean water and raw , under all circumstances.



### Innovative green transition

The VISIO plan can promote innovation in Uusimaa by helping to turn solutions born of new ideas into successful businesses, exports and new jobs, for example through the green transition and cluster-based concentrations of R&D&I activities, in close cooperation with municipalities and other stakeholders across municipal boundaries. The VISIO plan and the related specification and profiling work can support the planning of municipalities in Uusimaa, help to reserve potential areas for green transition activities, and attract related investments to the region.



## Amendments to the current plan

Section 204 of the Land Use and Building Act provides for the repeal of plan designations. The provisions of the Land Use and Building Act concerning the preparation of plans also apply to the amendment and repeal of plans.

The VISIO plan is intended to supplement and, in some respects, replace the current set of regional plans in force with regard to green transition themes. The plan covers the entire Uusimaa region and has the same target year of 2050 as the current Uusimaa plan.

The current regional plans will largely remain in force, but some designations relating to the themes of the VISIO plan are proposed for repeal.

For some of the VISIO plan's themes, it is proposed that all existing designations and their regulations relating to the theme be repealed; for others, only the regulations will be updated; and for others still, only certain designations or parts thereof will be removed from the map.

Once the VISIO plan comes into force, everything that is not specifically decided to be repealed in connection with the plan's approval will remain in force from the existing regional plans.

The designations to be repealed are described in more detail in the plan report, the document on the provisions of the designations to be repealed, and the map of the designations to be repealed.

”

***The VISIO plan is intended to supplement and, in some respects, replace the current set of regional plans in their entirety with regard to the themes of the green transition***

## Background data and completed studies

The preparation of the regional plan is based on a rich and diverse knowledge base. The plan's knowledge base utilises the latest data on various subject areas and is supplemented with new studies as required.

The key starting points for the VISIO plan are the interaction with the municipalities of Uusimaa and other stakeholders, the existing regional plans and their studies, the assessment of the need to update and supplement them, and the monitoring of the implementation of the regional plans. Strengthened cooperation with, among others, international networks, neighbouring regions and actors within the region itself also provides a basis for the planning work.



*The preparation of the regional plan is based on a rich and diverse knowledge base.*

**The Regional Council has produced several background studies relating to the plan's various themes and changes in the operating environment:**

- [Uusimaa population and employment projections to 2060](#) (Uusimaa Regional Council 2025)
- [Scenario work prepared by the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council in collaboration with the Regional Council of Northern Ostrobothnia](#) (Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council 2025)
- [Report on the land use requirements of green transition projects in Uusimaa](#) (Uusimaa Regional Council 2024)
- [Assessment of the Uusimaa Plan 2050 regional plan from the perspective of carbon sequestration](#) (Uusimaa Regional Council 2024)
- [Uusimaa Logistics Study](#) (Uusimaa Regional Council 2024)
- [Study on the distribution network for alternative energy sources for heavy goods transport](#) (Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council 2025)
- [Southern Finland Transport Strategy](#) (joint publication by the regional councils 2020, updated 2024)
- [Uusimaa Regional Water Supply Master Plan to 2050](#) (South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment 2024)

- [Terminal arrangements for the freight railway and the north side of the airport, and depot planning for the purposes of the regional plan](#) (Uusimaa Regional Council 2026)
- [Review of the current status of ecological connectivity for green corridor requirements in the Uusimaa Plan 2050. Background study for the VISIO Plan](#) (Uusimaa Regional Council 2026)
- Carbon sequestration and carbon neutrality targets for Uusimaa (forthcoming)
- Ecological connections of Sipoonkorpi to the north and east. VISIO Plan nature survey 2025 (forthcoming)
- Site-specific reviews of the Uusimaa Plan's production and logistics functions, soil resource management, and circular economy and waste management clusters (forthcoming)

[» Development scenarios for the themes of the VISIO plan](#)

## Identified needs for further studies

Needs for further studies have been identified regarding the themes of the VISIO Plan, and these will be refined as the planning work progresses. New studies will be carried out to the extent required by the level of detail of the regional plan.

Studies are already underway on these topics, or a need for new studies has been identified, including:

- The landscape, nature and carbon sequestration impacts of solar power
- Profiling and refining the plan designations for production and logistics functions
- Nature and carbon sequestration studies for the regional plan
- Opportunities for ecological compensation
- Planning of the airport cargo railway, terminal arrangements on the north side of the airport and the depot to meet the needs of the regional plan
- Uusimaa energy balance

The topics and detailed content of the studies will be finalised during the planning process. Completed studies will be updated [on the plan's website](#)

## Parallel planning processes

Alongside the regional plan work, other regional planning projects have recently been completed or are currently underway, with which close cooperation is taking place

, for example by utilising a shared knowledge base and reports. These include:

- [The new regional programme](#) and the linked ['Carbon-neutral Uusimaa' roadmap](#) and its [action plan](#)
- The Uusimaa Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan, i.e. [the Climate-Resilient Uusimaa 2030 Roadmap](#)
- [Updating the Maritime Spatial Plan](#)
- The Helsinki region's MAL work 2027 and the updating of the action programmes for the transport system plans for Western and Eastern Uusimaa



# 6. The objectives and planning principles of the VISIO plan

The objectives of the VISIO plan address current and anticipated factors of change and challenges and define, at a general level, what the plan aims to achieve.

The plan's objectives are set out in this document; they will first be refined into planning principles and later translated into concrete planning solutions as the planning process progresses.

The purpose of the objectives is to guide the planning principles, planning solutions, the assessment of their impacts and the comparison of alternatives, as well as, at a later stage, the monitoring of the plan's implementation.

## The VISIO plan has three main objectives relating to the green transition:

1. Addressing climate change and increasing biodiversity
2. Strengthening sustainable and innovative competitiveness
3. Promoting operational reliability and safety

The main objectives are further specified by 20 sub-objectives.

The plan's objectives have been drawn up on the basis of the plan's development visions, building on the priorities of the Uusimaa Regional Programme, in close consultation with the plan's stakeholders. The objectives have also been aligned with current population and employment projections for Uusimaa, as well as scenario work.

Through this interaction, efforts have been made to take into account the objectives of the plan's key stakeholders and the challenges in Uusimaa that they consider important.

## Planning principles

While the objectives describe what the plan aims to achieve, the planning principles describe the means by which the set objectives can be achieved and how planning issues are to be resolved within the plan.

The principles have been compiled on the basis of the plan's objectives, studies carried out and interaction, such as feedback from the OAS. The Regional Council approved the plan's planning principles on 25 August 2025.

Read the planning principles in their own publication here:

[» VISIO Plan planning principles](#)



***The objectives of the VISIO plan address current and anticipated factors of change and challenges.***

## The strategic framework of the objectives by level

The plan's objectives and planning principles are underpinned by national land use objectives, the priorities and objectives of the Uusimaa Regional Programme, the objectives of the current regional land use plan, and other national and regional objectives and strategies. The Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have also been taken into account, as well as European and Finnish objectives, strategies and regulations relating to the transition to a green and clean economy.



## Priorities of the Regional Programme



Environmentally Smart



Innovative Uusimaa



Happy Uusimaa

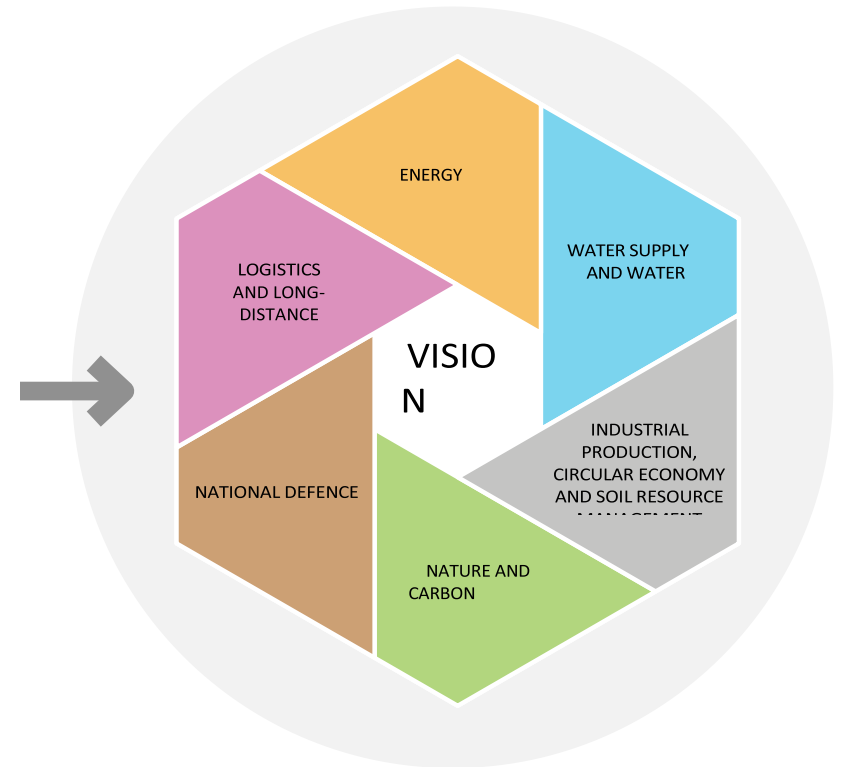
## The VISIO Plan's objectives

1. **Responding to climate change and increasing biodiversity**

2. **Strengthening sustainable and innovative competitiveness**

3. **Promoting operational reliability and safety**

## Planning principles and planning solutions



## **Objective 1. Addressing climate change and increasing biodiversity**

- 1.1** Reducing climate emissions and supporting carbon sequestration
- 1.2** Promoting the ecologically sustainable use of natural resources
- 1.3** Improving the provision of ecosystem services
- 1.4** Promoting the circular economy and resource efficiency
- 1.5** Promoting a climate- and environmentally-sustainable energy system
- 1.6** Supporting adaptation to climate change
- 1.7** Strengthening ecological networks
- 1.8** Improving the state of the sea and water bodies
- 1.9** Supporting the shift to alternative modes of transport

## **Objective 2. Strengthening sustainable and innovative competitiveness**

- 2.1** Supporting the sustainable competitiveness of business and the conditions for its operation
- 2.2** Taking into account and utilising technological developments and new operating models
- 2.3** Improving sustainable accessibility at regional, national, Baltic Sea and European levels
- 2.4** Ensuring opportunities for the location of logistics operations and sustainable transport links for logistics
- 2.5** Promoting the formation of green transition hubs based on regional strengths
- 2.6** Securing sufficient, clean energy to meet the needs of businesses and residents
- 2.7** Promoting long-distance public transport
- 2.8** Integrating green transition activities into existing structures and networks

## **Objective 3. Promoting operational reliability and safety**

- 3.1** Promoting the operational reliability and safety of critical infrastructure
- 3.2** Securing water resources
- 3.3** Promoting a healthy and safe living environment

# 7. Impacts to be assessed

The Land Use Act and the Land Use and Building Decree set out how and what impacts must be assessed when drawing up a regional plan. When drawing up the plan, an assessment must be made of the significant direct and indirect impacts of implementing the plan

- on people's living conditions and living environment
- soil and bedrock, water, air and climate
- plant and animal species, biodiversity and natural resources
- on regional and community structure, the community and energy economy, and transport
- the cityscape, landscape, cultural heritage and the built environment
- the development of effective competition in business and industry.

The overall impacts of the plan solution are assessed in relation to the content requirements for regional plans under the Land Use and Planning Act, national land use objectives, the prohibition on deterioration of Natura sites under the Nature Conservation Act, and the objectives set for the plan. In addition, the impacts are assessed in relation to existing regional plans and other regional objectives and programmes.

In the assessment of the VISIO plan, particular attention is paid to climate impacts and opportunities to respond to climate change adaptation. When assessing the plan's impacts, its role and purpose are taken into account.

The impact assessment is carried out by the council's own experts, but external expertise is also utilised in the assessment.

Impacts are assessed throughout the entire planning process to ensure that the assessment supports the preparation of the plan as effectively as possible. Through the impact assessment, the plan's drafters, stakeholders and decision-makers receive information on the impacts of implementing the plan, their significance and distribution, as well as the possibilities for mitigating adverse impacts.

The plan's impacts are assessed across the entire area where the plan is expected to have significant impacts. The immediate impacts will primarily affect the Uusimaa region. The impact area will be refined as the planning work progresses and following, for example, stakeholder consultations and the completion of studies.

The results of the impact assessment can be viewed as part of the plan documentation.

# 8. Interaction

## Participation and decision-making

The VISIO plan is being prepared as openly and interactively as possible. It is important to gather views on the plan's content, impacts and other key issues from everyone who may be affected by regional land use planning. Feedback received at various stages and external evaluations received at different stages will be utilised in the preparation and planning process. Participation and cooperation provide important input for the planning process and form the basis for political decisions.

The Land Use and Building Act sets out provisions on participation procedures and public information. The participation process begins when the participation and assessment plan is made available for public inspection. Feedback on the plan is gathered from stakeholders on an ongoing basis throughout the planning process.

## Stakeholders

Everyone who wishes to be involved in the development of the region and to influence matters affecting them has the opportunity to participate. According to the Land Use Act, stakeholders in the planning process include all those whose housing, work or other circumstances

the plan may have a significant impact. In addition, stakeholders include authorities and organisations whose areas of activity are addressed in the planning.

## Stakeholder cooperation

In addition to the Council's own experts, the planning process involves a wide range of local authority officials and decision-makers from the region, as well as external experts from universities and research institutes, various ministries and organisations related to the themes of the plan. Feedback from residents is also an important part of the plan's preparation.

The regional plan work is presented, and discussions on the plan's solutions take place throughout the planning process, both in permanent working groups and in workshops and seminars organised as required. The regional plan's preparation is supported primarily by the Councils's permanent municipal expert groups from various sectors.

In addition, cooperation groups will be established as needed, bringing together experts from various stakeholder groups to complement the Council's own expertise.

For example, to promote the green transition in Uusimaa and to provide input for the Council's planning and programme work, a Green Transition Cooperation Group has been established, comprising representatives from various sectors of the green transition within municipalities and other organisations. Furthermore, existing regional cooperation groups across different sectors are utilised as widely as possible in the planning process.

## Decision-making

Decisions relating to the planning process are made by the Regional Executive and Regional Council, which are composed of politicians from the municipalities of Uusimaa. The Regional Executive Committee decides on the initiation and commencement of the regional plan's preparation, approves the participation and assessment plan, puts the draft plan on public display, approves the plan proposal and its public display, and submits the final plan proposal to the regional council for approval. The regional plan is ultimately approved by the regional council.

## Tools and platforms

The Uusimaa Regional Council's website, [uudenmaanliitto.fi](https://uudenmaanliitto.fi), provides updates whenever there is a significant development in the planning process.

Notices regarding the initiation of the plan, consultation periods and public display periods are published on the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council's website, on the official notice boards of member municipalities, and in the newspapers designated by the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council (Helsingin Sanomat and Hufvudstadsbladet).

The plan documents available for public inspection are on display for review and comment on the Uusimaa Regional Council's website and at its office (Esterinportti 2 B, Helsinki). The plan documents will also be submitted to the official notice boards of the Uusimaa member municipalities' official notice boards. The exact dates of the public display periods will be confirmed as the planning work progresses.

The plan's participation and assessment plan was available for all stakeholders to review and comment on in March–April 2025, at the same time as the VISIO plan was announced as being in progress. Following changes to the plan area, the plan will be re-announced as being in progress in June 2025.

During the preparation and proposal stages of the plan, statements on the planning documents will be sought from the municipalities of Uusimaa as well as other key authorities and stakeholders.

Consultations with the authorities will be held during the initial and proposal stages of the plan. The Uusimaa Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and those ministries whose areas of responsibility include matters of national significance addressed in the plan will be invited to the consultation. Other authorities whose areas of responsibility may be affected by the matter will also be invited to the consultation.

You can also follow current regional planning issues via a newsletter sent by email. You can join the mailing list on the Regional Council's website at [uudenmaanliitto.fi/uutiskirjeet](https://uudenmaanliitto.fi/uutiskirjeet).

Furthermore, feedback can be provided at any time during the planning process via [an online form](#). From the draft stage of the plan onwards, feedback can also be submitted via the map service, allowing it to be targeted at a specific location.

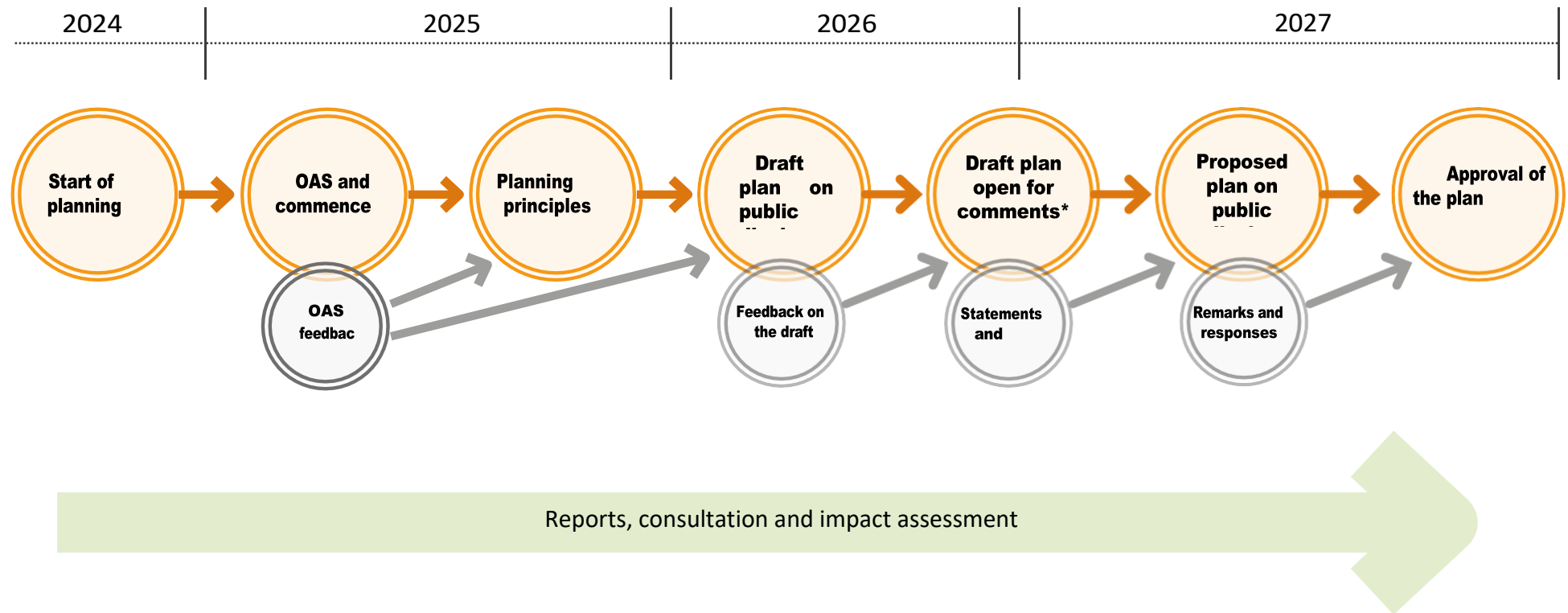
Furthermore, feedback can be provided at any time during the planning process. If necessary, you can also contact the planners directly. The best way to do this is by email.



***The Uusimaa Regional Council's website, [uudenmaanliitto.fi](https://uudenmaanliitto.fi), provides updates whenever there are significant developments in the planning process.***

# 9. Timetable and process

## Target timetable



*\* Legislation may be subject to change regarding the consultation phase of the proposal.*

## Opportunities for engagement

<b>Launch and target phase</b>	<b>Preparation phase</b>	<b>Proposal phase</b>	<b>Approval phase</b>	<b>Monitoring and implementation phase</b>
<p>Spring 2024–Spring 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Council decides to launch the planning process</li> <li>• The necessary background studies are initiated</li> <li>• Development scenarios for the plan’s themes are drawn up</li> <li>• The plan’s objectives are developed in consultation with stakeholders</li> <li>• Information is provided on the initiation of the plan and the OAS, and the OAS is made available for public inspection.</li> <li>• The first consultation with the authorities is held</li> <li>• The planning principles for the plan are approved by the regional council</li> </ul>	<p>Spring 2025–Spring 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background studies to continue</li> <li>• Preparation of the draft regional plan will begin on the basis of studies, development scenarios, objectives and planning principles, as well as feedback received from the OAS, in collaboration with stakeholders</li> <li>• Impact assessment of the preparation phase</li> <li>• The draft plan will be made available for public inspection, and anyone submit their views. At the same time, comments on the draft plan are sought from municipalities and other authorities, as well as from key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Processing of feedback on the draft and assessment of the need for amendments.</li> </ul>	<p>Spring 2026–Spring 2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft plan is prepared based on feedback received during the preparation phase and any additional studies, in collaboration with stakeholders</li> <li>• The impact assessment is refined during the proposal stage</li> <li>• Opinions on the draft plan are sought before it is made available for public inspection *</li> <li>• The Regional Council will consider the comments received on the draft documents and issue responses to them</li> <li>• A second consultation with the authorities will be held</li> <li>• The draft plan is approved by the Regional Council and put on public display</li> <li>• If the draft plan is substantially amended after the public display period, it will be put on public display again</li> </ul> <p><i>* Legislation may be subject to change regarding the consultation phase of the proposal.</i></p>	<p>2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Council will consider the comments received on the proposal and provide responses</li> <li>• The proposal is finalised on the basis of the feedback received, any additional studies and the consultation process</li> <li>• The plan is approved by the Regional Executive, and the Executive proposes that the Regional Council approve the final draft plan</li> <li>• The plan is approved by the Regional Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council monitors and promotes the implementation of the plan in various ways and also monitors the need for amendments to the plan</li> </ul>

# 10. Further information and contact details

## **Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Regional Planning Department**

Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council  
Esterinportti 2, 00240 Helsinki  
Tel. 09 4767 411

Regional Planning Director Mari Siivola  
+358 40 559 4119  
Head of Planning Ilona Mansikka  
+358 40 524 9186

**Emails addressed to the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council should be sent to**  
toimisto@uudenmaanliitto.fi (registry)

**Individual email addresses are in the format**  
etunimi.sukunimi@uudenmaanliitto.fi

## **VISIO Plan website**

[uudenmaanliitto.fi/visio-kaava](https://uudenmaanliitto.fi/visio-kaava)

## **Social media channels**

- » [LinkedIn](#)
- » [Facebook](#)
- » [YouTube](#)
- » [Instagram \(MyUusimaa\)](#)



**Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council //**  
**Nylands förbund**

Esterinportti 2 B • 00240 [Helsinki@uudenmaanliitto.fi](mailto:Helsinki@uudenmaanliitto.fi) •  
[uudenmaanliitto.fi](http://uudenmaanliitto.fi) @Uudenmaanliitto