

# Detailed Energy Planning Case Study

# City of Helsinki, Finland

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## Summary of the case

The City of Helsinki has acquired throughout the years great expertise in energy planning. Already in 1974, the city administration created the Energy Savings Board. This public body is responsible for coordinating, supervising and steering the energy savings projects and initiatives developed in different city departments.

The City of Helsinki has committed to several agreements and initiatives regarding energy planning at regional, national and European level. Those include: the National Energy Efficiency Agreement (2008-2016) between the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the City of Helsinki, the Energy Policy Lines for Helsinki, the Climate Strategy for Helsinki Metropolitan Area 2030 and the EU Initiative Covenant of Mayors.

As a result of such commitments, the city aims to achieve a 9% energy reduction over the period 2008-2016 (implementation of the Energy Services Directive), and a 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2020. To reach such targets, the city counts with a highly developed energy monitoring and auditing systems which make possible to identify the highest potentials for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions' reductions. In that way, the city is able to concentrate on those measures that are expected to have a greater impact.

80 % of the City's total energy consumption is used in buildings. For this reason, energy planning in Helsinki is targeted to public buildings owned by the city administration. To implement energy efficiency measures in the existing building stock (over 7 000 000 m<sup>2</sup>), the City has two budget lines: The first one covers the costs of energy audits and research work and the second one is mainly dedicated to energy efficiency projects in public buildings. These include for example the implementation of energy efficient measures recommended in energy audits or other surveys, or the installation of solar panels in public schools (the later one as a pilot project). The construction of new low energy / passive houses or major refurbishment projects have their own budget allocations. The city administration also provides trainings for maintenance personnel and employees of the municipality, and organises awareness raising campaigns on sustainable energy targeted to schools and the civic society.

Although public buildings play a key role in energy planning, the city also works on other activities to improve energy efficiency focused on street lighting, vehicles and traffic, land use and procurements. Planning concerning energy production and distribution is done by the Helsingin Energia, the energy company owned 100 % by the city which produces and distributes electricity and district heating. Helsingin Energia has its own voluntary agreement with the National government aimed at improving energy efficiency in the production and distribution of electricity and district heat in Finland. The Helsinki City Transport Department also has its own National Agreement to promote energy efficiency in the transport sector.

Finally, the City of Helsinki cooperates with all actors involved in the energy planning process, including the above mentioned Helsingin Energia as well as with several highly qualified SMEs and national associations, Motiva Oy (an expert energy company who operates as an affiliated Agency to the National Government) and Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council.

## Step 1. Context of Energy Planning

### *National context*

Finland is one of the leading countries committed to fight against climate change with a long tradition in energy planning. For more than twenty years, Finland has been producing as much electricity as possible in co-generation plants of electricity and heat (CPH) and has also managed to set up a decentralised and reliable energy system based on large and small energy production plants and a diversification of energy sources, including a big portion of renewable energy, especially bioenergy.

The Ministry of Employment and the Economy of Finland is the national authority in charge of energy policy and integration and also coordinates the National efforts to comply with the climate policy set by the European Union. This new Ministry, in operation since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, assumed among others the responsibility for the duties of the existing Ministry of Trade and Industry.

At this moment, the main national strategies related to energy planning are the following:

### National Energy and Climate Change Strategy

The Finnish Government prepared a long-term National Energy and Climate Strategy firstly adopted in 2001 and further revised in 2005. On 6 November 2008, the Government approved a new ambitious climate and energy strategy for Finland, with detailed insights into climate and energy policy measures up to 2020, and suggestions up to 2050. This strategy, submitted to Parliament in form of a report, is the basis for the Government's statements, both in European Union negotiations and other international contexts, and in domestic policy preparation and decision-making.

This report was developed by the ministerial working group for climate and energy policy led by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and composed by representatives from other ministries. The strategic objective set by the Government involves halting and reversing the growth in final energy consumption so that, by 2020, final energy consumption is approximately 310 TWh, i.e. over 10% less than the baseline. The goal is also to increase the share of renewable energy to 38 per cent by 2020, in line with the obligation proposed by the EU for Finland.

In order to meet these objectives, the efficiency of energy consumption must be improved, particularly in housing, construction and transport. The Ministry of Employment and Economy set up an Energy Efficiency Committee to define which measures needed to be implemented in all sectors of society, from trade and industry to private consumption. The City of Helsinki, via its PWD Construction Management Division participated in Committees' work

### National Energy Efficiency Action Plan

The first energy efficiency programme was launched in 1992 and since then it has been reviewed on a regular basis (1995, 2000, and 2002). The latest Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (26.6.2007) defines energy efficiency measures for the period 2008–2010. This Action Plan is part of the implementation of the Energy Services Directive. It also includes an assessment of the effects of current and planned measures aimed at improving energy efficiency with special emphasis on those measures that can be calculated and presented in energy units.

### Voluntary Energy Efficiency Agreement

In order to implement the measures required by the targets of the Finnish Energy and Climate Strategy and the Energy Services Directive, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy has signed energy efficiency agreements with various municipalities of Finland, including the City of Helsinki, and other actors such as industries, public transport companies, housing properties or

energy production and distribution companies. Such agreements aim to promote energy efficiency in a voluntary basis resulting as an alternative and complementary method to regulations and taxation. The target of these agreements generally is an indicative energy saving of 9% for the period 2008–2016. The government subsidises energy audits, analysis and energy efficiency investments for companies and communities signed up to the agreement scheme. Since its launch in 1997, Finland's ongoing voluntary agreement scheme covers 56 % of the municipal sector building volume, nearly all government owned buildings, one fifth of the private service sector building volume and 85 % of the total energy use of Finnish industries.

Finally, the last two policies relevant to energy planning are:

- The Building code of Finland, which provides national guidelines for building thermal insulation, indoor climate, ventilation and energy efficiency (including energy certificates), developed by the Ministry of the Environment;
- And the Finland's Energy Auditing Programme (EAP), which is one of the oldest national energy grant schemes in place.

### *Local context*

The City of Helsinki has more than 570.000 inhabitants and belongs to a metropolitan area of over 1 million inhabitants. The city administration signed its first energy conservation agreement (Voluntary Energy Efficiency agreement) in 1993 as a pilot city and since then, the City has been developing and implementing different sustainable energy policies and action plans. At this moment, the City of Helsinki has committed to the following agreements and initiatives regarding energy planning:

1. The National Energy Efficiency Agreement (2008-2016) between the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the City of Helsinki - Helsingin Energia and the Helsinki City Transport have their own agreements with concerned ministries
2. The Energy Policy Lines for Helsinki (2008)
3. The Climate Strategy for Helsinki Metropolitan Area 2030
4. The EU Initiative Covenant of Mayors

With the Energy Efficiency Agreement, the City of Helsinki agrees to cooperate with the National Government in the implementation of measures required by the Finish Energy and Climate Strategy and the Energy Services Directive. This agreement primarily focuses on energy efficiency but also includes actions and targets related to renewable energy. According to this agreement, the first task for the city administration is to develop an Energy Efficiency Action Plan. In addition, as a part of the implementation of these commitments, the City of Helsinki is developing an Eco-construction programme.

The Energy Policy Lines of Helsinki, approved by the City Council in January 2008, are mainly implemented by the city departments responsible for each of the actions stated as part of their regular daily work. The progress or development of the work is reported annually.

The Climate Strategy for Helsinki Metropolitan Area 2030 is now in its implementation phase. The Metropolitan Area of Helsinki is formed by the cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen. Its statutory cooperative body is Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council (YTV). YTV produces services for transport system planning, regional public transport provision, waste management and air quality monitoring for its four member municipalities. It also maintains regional databases and conducts studies on different issues affecting the region. YTV is, in cooperation with the cities of the YTV area, in charge of the development and monitoring of the climate strategy for the region

and is currently developing agreements and projects with the 4 municipalities in order to implement the measures defined in the Climate Strategy.

Finally, the City of Helsinki has recently signed the Covenant of Mayors. This EU initiative is a commitment by signatory towns and cities from all over Europe to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions' reduction through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use. The first action is to prepare a Sustainable Action Plan. The City of Helsinki is planning to link this plan with the Energy Efficiency Action Plan foreseen in the Energy Efficiency Agreement. For this initiative the city administration is collaborating with the cities of Stockholm, Riga and Tallinn (Baltic Sea Region).

The City of Helsinki created the Energy Savings Board in 1974. This public body is responsible for coordinating, monitoring, supervising and steering the energy savings projects and initiatives developed in different city departments. The projects defined and approved by the Energy Savings Board are mainly carried out by the Public Works Department / Construction Management Division of the City of Helsinki. This Department is also responsible for the implementation of energy saving measures in public buildings and coordinates for example the development and implementation of the Energy Efficiency Agreement, the Eco-construction programme and the Covenant of Mayors.

## **Step 2. Design of local Energy Planning**

### *Overview of the scope of Energy Planning*

The City Council is the highest decision-making organ in Helsinki in charge of the most important financial decisions as well as those related to the city administration. In terms of competences, the City Council is responsible of various policies including environment, public works, housing or education. The city administration is structured in different departments, offices and centres that are coordinated by the City Board, various committees and boards, and individual officials.

In terms of energy planning, the City of Helsinki has signed several commitments with the National Government as well as with EU. Such agreements concern specific departments or offices from the city administration and do not have a direct effect towards private companies or households as this is mainly regulated by the National Government legislation and guidelines.

In its metropolitan area, the City of Helsinki collaborates with Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council (YTV) in the areas of transport system planning, regional public transport provision, waste management and air quality management together with the 3 other member municipalities (Espoo, Kauniainen and Vantaa).

The Public Works Department / Construction Management Division of the City of Helsinki cooperates with other city departments such as the Real Estate, Education, City Planning, and Environment Departments and the City of Helsinki Service Centre Palmia. Other actors involved in the energy planning process are: 1) Helsingin Energia, the biggest public energy company owned directly by the City who has its own voluntary agreement with the National government aimed at improving energy efficiency in the production and distribution of electricity and district heat in Finland; 2) Helsinki City Transport Department who also has its own National Agreement to promote energy efficiency in the transport sector; and 3) Motiva Oy, an expert company, who operates as an affiliated Government agency, responsible of promoting efficient and sustainable use of energy and materials and providing expert advice to the public administration, businesses, communities and consumers

## *Links to other programmes and policy*

Energy Planning is visible in many strategies and policies developed by the City of Helsinki.

Helsinki's participatory Local Agenda 21 (LA21) which started in 1995 and culminated in 2002 identified "reducing greenhouse gas emissions" as number 1 target for its Sustainability Action Plan (2002 – 2010). Also Helsinki's programme for Ecological Sustainability (HEKO) (2005-2008) refers to energy consumption reductions as a means to fight against climate change.

As a result of the Energy Efficiency Agreement scheme launched by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, other sectors involved in the energy planning process of Helsinki have signed their own bilateral agreements. Some examples are: the Energy Efficiency Agreement with Helsingin Energia, the city owned energy company responsible of the energy production and distribution or the Energy Efficiency Agreement with the public transport operator in Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

Finally, within the Climate Change Strategy for the Metropolitan Area of Helsinki, the city administration collaborates with the Metropolitan Council as well as with 3 other cities in the region in their work on climate change.

## *Overview of co-ordination of energy planning*

The Energy Savings Board of the City of Helsinki coordinates, monitors and supervises the energy policies implemented in the city and in particular, the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Agreement and its Action Plan and the Covenant of Mayors. This steering committee is currently chaired by the head of the Public Works Department / Construction Management Division and groups 17 representatives from different departments in the city administration.

At technical level, the PWD-Construction Management Division manages the construction of Helsinki's public buildings and public spaces and coordinates the implementation of the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency. This Division offers services to the Real Estate Department (owner of all public buildings in the city) and other City departments on energy efficiency management. Some of these services are: energy audits, energy monitoring or energy saving investments. The PWD-Construction Management Division, which belongs to the Public Works Department, has a staff of over 100. 6 people work full-time in energy issues, mainly concerning energy efficiency in public buildings, energy audits and other tasks such as environmental reporting, monitoring and development work.

## **Step 3. The Energy Planning Process**

### *Participation and commitment*

The energy planning process in Helsinki mainly concerns the city administration who aims to promote sustainable energy amongst its citizens by leading with the example. At local level, the city administration is so far not entitled to ask for higher energy standards to its residents or private companies than the ones required by the national government. Nevertheless, it does promote energy efficiency and a better use of energy through awareness campaigns.

At national level, City cooperates with: the National Government and its affiliated Agency Motiva Oy, the Finnish Energy Agencies, other "Agreement Cities", the association of municipalities and regions, the energy company Helsingin Energia and the Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council.

At European level, under the Covenant of Mayors initiative, the City of Helsinki is collaborating with Stockholm, Riga and Tallinn as main cities within the central Baltic region committed to sustainable energy as well as with JCT, Energie-Cites and EUROCITIES.

## *Research and analysis*

The City of Helsinki has been monitoring energy consumption since the 1980's. As a result, the city counts with a solid report of energy statistics. For the preparation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan, the city subcontracted a private company to conduct a research of the main potential for energy savings in the City's building stock. Such research led to the development of different scenarios based on different energy saving potentials and percentages of building renovation by 2020. Former studies concerning the energy saving potential in office equipment, street lighting and vehicles were also used as basic documentation for this research.

In the Climate Change Strategy for Helsinki Metropolitan Area (YTV area), emissions were studied from the point of view of energy consumption for each resident. The aim was to identify those choices that affect the energy consumption of residents and that have a major impact on greenhouse gas emissions. In 2004, the total estimated emissions of Helsinki Metropolitan Area were 6.2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>, which is about 8 per cent of emissions for the whole Finland. A large proportion, 43 per cent, was due to heating buildings. Electricity consumption caused 28 per cent and transport accounted for nearly one quarter of emissions. The most rapid growth in emissions occurred in electricity consumption and transport in recent years. The analysis concluded that if this trend continued as expected and no special measures were taken, the overall greenhouse gas emissions of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area would remain at the levels of 2004 by 2030. This trend calculation takes into consideration international conventions and its targets on emissions reductions as well as current national legislation. It also considers an improvement in the energy efficiency of existing buildings as energy prices increase and legislation becomes stricter.

## *Target Setting*

The City of Helsinki has different targets depending on each of the agreements.

The Energy Efficiency agreement is being used as a tool to implement the Energy Service Directive in Finland which establishes a target of 9% energy savings over the period 2008-2016. At the same time the Covenant of Mayors sets a target of 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2020. Such European targets have also been included in the Energy Policy Lines of the City of Helsinki and therefore have been assumed as the main targets to be achieved.

At metropolitan level, the Climate Strategy for Helsinki Metropolitan Area establishes a target to reduce energy consumption per capita over the period 1990-2030 with a view to minimising greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to cut per capita emissions from the level of 6.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2004 to a level of 4.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030. This means an emissions reduction of 39 per cent based on the levels of 1990 by the year 2030.

## *Actions identified within the energy planning process*

The Energy Efficiency Agreement with the Ministry of Employment and the Economy establishes a series of operational targets and measures aimed at promoting energy saving and the use of renewable energy sources. Some of these actions are already being implemented by the City of Helsinki while others will need to be developed during the lifespan of the Action Plan (2008-2016).

Some actions already being implemented include:

- Energy monitoring system and the definition of key indicators describing energy efficiency in the municipality;
- Energy audits (80 % from the City's service building stock) and the implementation of the measures recommended by the energy audits or other surveys;
- Programme to follow up audits' recommendations and undertake audits in new buildings;
- Development of guidelines for low energy and passive house planning and construction (the first in Finland in tertiary building sector);
- Display label initiative (voluntary energy certificate) for public buildings. This label is already in 120 buildings ([www.display-campaign.org](http://www.display-campaign.org));
- Life Cycle Costs calculations for building projects;
- The promotion of the use of renewable energy sources in the area of the Municipality and especially in its own operations. One example of that is the installation of solar panels at schools;
- The organisation of training sessions to ensure that employees of the Municipality have the necessary information and skills related to their own tasks and operations for efficient use of energy and energy saving (e.g. efficient use of computers and IT equipment); Eco Supporters training (1 person/100 employees);
- The installation of energy efficient street and traffic lighting;
- Pilot projects (7 day nurseries) concerning energy saving guarantees procedure;
- Communication campaigns to raise awareness both within and outside the organisation on matters concerning energy efficiency and saving; One example is the annual energy saving week campaign, organised since 1995;
- The development of an eco-construction programme for the City of Helsinki in cooperation with other city departments. This programme was approved by the City Board on 15.6.2009.

Future actions will involve at least:

- The introduction of energy efficiency guidelines in all public procurement and the instruction of the personnel responsible for procurement in the use of these guidelines;
- The development of a planning control that takes into account energy efficiency in the decision-making processes related to construction of buildings, land use and traffic management. For example, the future energy consumption and other operating costs of a building will need to be taken into account in addition to the investment costs in the selection of appliances, construction parts and systems of the Municipality's new construction and renovations;
- To ensure that the Municipality is able to and can use new saving guarantees and/or funding procedures in the implementation of investments as for example the use of ESCO service, and remove obstacles in the introduction of these services;
- To introduce new operating models to promote energy conservation via pilot projects and joint development projects with other municipalities and to develop cost-effective schemes to promote efficiency of its energy use as for example in the management of the electricity consumption of its office and lightning.

As a result of the voluntary Energy Efficiency Agreement, the City will develop an energy efficiency action programme to implement the measures identified in the Action Plan. Such programme will include project descriptions, specific targets, responsible department of the city as well as other actors involved, time plan and funding needed (city's own budget).

### *Involvement of Citizens*

Energy planning in Helsinki mainly focuses on the city administration operations; therefore citizens are not directly involved in the process although they do receive information. The participation of

the wider public is more visible at public schools and social housing. At schools, the city administration undertakes energy audits and organises several awareness raising activities such as the Energy Saving Week, energy competitions or information sessions. Helsingin Energia is also running an Energy Advisory Centre which offers information about domestic appliances, including: latest market surveys, brochures, advice on different types of appliances, etc.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that as a result of the involvement of the City of Helsinki with the Covenant of Mayors initiative, the City is currently looking for different strategies to get citizens to participate in the energy planning process. In relation to that, the City of Helsinki is a partner in an EU's EIE-programme proposal aimed at engaging citizens and stakeholders in the energy planning process.

### *Interaction between the different stakeholders of the programme*

Since the creation of the Energy Saving Board in 1974, the different departments of the city administration have been working together in energy issues. With the signature of the Energy Efficiency Agreement with the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, this level of cooperation between different departments has been reinforced.

The City also works with developers, private consultant companies and other associations to promote energy efficiency.

### *Issues arising and co-ordinating body's reactions*

Throughout the years, the city administration has been implementing numerous activities aimed at achieving higher energy efficiency and conservation. The different city actors have learned to work together and even though at the beginning some sectors may oppose to the introduction of a new measure, it is clear for all actors that such measures are the result of the local politicians' commitment with the National Government and the EU.

### *Length of time taken for the energy planning process?*

Energy Planning in Helsinki started in 1974 with the creation of the Energy Savings Board. Since then, the City has signed successive energy conservation agreements with the National Government, the last one covering the period 2008 – 2016.

In 2007, the City signed the Energy Efficiency Agreement with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (2008 – 2016). The preparation of the Action Plan lasted 1.5 years and involved intensive collaboration between the different departments of the City (Energy Savings Board), Motiva Oy and 6 other Finnish cities. This Action Plan has been approved by the City Board on 15.6.2009.

As a result of the rapid changes in the energy sector and the review of National and European legislations, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy has established a Board of Directors (experts) to supervise the implementation of the voluntary energy efficiency agreement on the municipal sector. This Board includes representatives from the ministry, the association of municipalities and regions and cities. City of Helsinki represents the Finnish cities in the Board. The task of the Board is to monitor and provide guidance on the progress of the Energy Efficiency Agreement. This Agreement is then reviewed whenever it is deemed necessary.

## Step 4. Outcomes and results

### *Achievements*

The City of Helsinki counts with an optimal situation in terms of energy production and distribution. Heat and electricity is mainly produced in the city's own co-generation plants (Helsingin Energia) which then is distributed via its extensive district heating network. By 2005, district heating was provided to 95% of the building stock in the city and nowadays almost 100% of the public buildings are connected to the grid. Such favourable circumstances have enabled the City to focus its efforts on energy efficiency.

One of the main successes of Helsinki is that energy efficiency has been on the top of the political agenda since the 1980's. The City counts with a Energy Savings Board who is responsible for supervising and steering any project related to energy efficiency that is being developed by the city administration. The city's Public Works Department, through its PWD-Construction Management Division, carries out and coordinates the implementation of the voluntary Energy Efficiency Agreement and its Action Plan.

As a result of such a long tradition, the City has been able achieve (*in relation to the actions listed in section 3*) the following results:

- A solid energy monitoring system and energy audits for all public buildings in Helsinki;
- A set of energy certificates (Display labels) in public buildings in Helsinki;
- An energy investment programme to grant energy efficiency projects in public buildings;
- Low-energy house building projects (6 on-going projects);
- A great level of cooperation between the city, the energy company, the national government (Motiva Oy) , the Metropolitan Council, Finnish Energy Agencies, other "Agreement Cities" and the association of municipalities and regions;
- A training scheme for efficient energy consumption of public buildings, including social houses and schools;
- Awareness raising campaigns on sustainable energy.

One of the main challenges the city is currently facing is the raise on energy consumption in electricity due to the increasing number of electric appliances in public buildings (computers, audiovisual material, cooling systems...). This trend will continue over the next few years although the city is already working on minimising such raise with new guidelines for building planning, information for building users, efficient controlling systems, the use of energy efficient lights (led) in public buildings, installation of solar energy in public schools (pilot projects) and efficient street and traffic lighting.

### *Monitoring*

The City of Helsinki has a well established structure to monitor energy use. As a result, the City counts with first hand data to measure the achievements made and to react when a measure or an action is not resulting as planned.

The Energy Savings Board supervises and monitors the implementation of the Action Plan and results are reported annually (already since 1980). Also the progress on the development of Helsinki Energy Policy Lines is reported on a yearly basis. The implementation of the Climate Strategy for Helsinki Metropolitan Area is monitored by a semi-annual review. Such report highlights good examples of progress in climate work in the region and in the different municipalities.

Finally, since the City of Helsinki has committed to several agreements at regional, national and European level, the City, through its PWD-Construction Management Division, is looking at synergies between plans and actions in order to save resources and avoid duplications.

## Step 5. Analysis and conclusions

### Analysis

SWOT Analysis	
<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimal energy context with local energy production and distribution</li> <li>• Solid monitoring system and energy auditing</li> <li>• Political priority since the 1980's</li> <li>• High level of cooperation with the national government</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not too integrated, different agreements but no overarching policy or strategy</li> <li>• Local Energy planning is quite limited to the premises of the public administration</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covenant of Mayors integrated approach which requires an active involvement of citizens</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity consumption is raising</li> <li>• The current situation is quite good, so it is difficult to achieve notable improvements</li> </ul>

### Conclusions

The “savoir-faire” in energy planning showed by the City of Helsinki is a result of its national energy context based on local energy production and distribution and the city’s long tradition on energy efficiency and savings.

Throughout the years, the City of Helsinki has been able to create a solid structure within the municipality which supports the work of energy planning through its Energy Savings Board and the work of the different city departments.

By identifying the highest potentials for CO2 emissions’ reductions, the City is able to concentrate on those measures that are expected to achieve a higher impact. Such approach is possible thanks to a well developed energy monitoring and audit systems.

Helsinki’s policy context, based on the new Energy Efficiency Agreement and Action Plan, the Energy Policy Lines for Helsinki, the Climate Strategy for the Metropolitan Area of Helsinki and the Covenant of Mayors, presents new challenges and opportunities for the city. These new commitments set higher targets on emission reductions and also require a more integrated approach to energy planning, by involving different policy areas (energy, transport, land use, economy) and promoting an active participation of the civic society.

So, even though the city of Helsinki has already done a lot in terms of energy planning, the city is willing to improve and continue setting the example for its citizens as well as for other European cities.

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