

Sustainable sport and carbon-neutral orchestra



The Lahti Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1910 and came under the control of the Lahti Municipality in 1949. The orchestra is distinguished by its diverse and extensive portfolio of symphonic concerts and high quality performances of popular music. An important part of their work is also aimed at children and young people in the Lahti area. The orchestra is based in the renowned Sibelius Hall, whose acoustics have won acclaim as one of the best in the world, praised by publications such as The Guardian, Wall Street Journal and Die Welt.

The Lahti Symphony Orchestra plans to be the first orchestra in the world to achieve carbon neutrality. To this end, LUT University in Finland has carried out calculations of the orchestra's carbon footprint and has been actively managing the orchestra's energy consumption, water consumption, waste management and travel since 2015.

The way in which the orchestra encourages and contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions:

- The Symphony Orchestra actively encourages concert-goers to consider choosing a green mode of transport to reduce their carbon footprint. The introduction of a 'green button' when purchasing tickets online makes it easy to offset the emissions associated with travel. By making voluntary contributions to green projects, everyone can offset their environmental impact and thus support environmentally friendly initiatives
- The scores are packaged in certified packaging instead of plastic
- Sibelius Hall in Lahti strictly manages lighting, recycling, heating and water consumption
- Issuing digital brochures to visitors (instead of traditional paper ones)

The Lahti Symphony Orchestra is not only one of the oldest ensembles in Finland, but also an exceptional example of environmental care. Through its initiatives, the Orchestra not only rises to the heights of musical achievements, but also becomes an example of harmony between art and environmental protection.

The Lahti Symphony Orchestra is not the only institution in the city involved in the fight against CO₂ emissions. The Pelicans hockey team has also made efforts to contribute to the fight against carbon emissions.

The Lahti Pelicans' project to achieve carbon neutrality has been 100% successful. Thanks to the measures taken, the Pelicans team is officially the first hockey team in the world to achieve carbon neutrality. Pelicans' carbon footprint has been reduced by more than 70 per cent, with the remaining emissions offset by involvement in projects certified by the internationally renowned 'Gold Standard'. Emissions calculations were carried out for different periods, starting from 2017-2018 and ending with the most recent measurement for the period 2020-2021.

The way in which the hockey team encourages and contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions:

- Giving up air travel
- Encouraging fans to arrive at matches by public transport, bicycle or on foot
- The clubhouse uses green energy in its entirety

The achievement of carbon neutrality by the hockey team is an important achievement not only in a sports context, but also in a scientific context, as there is little information on the climate impact of sport and how it

can be reduced. The Pelicans' success should inspire other sports teams to take action to reduce emissions and protect the climate.

Both the Lahti Symphony Orchestra and the Pelicans hockey team show that different fields of culture and sport can contribute to reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment. Their initiatives are examples of how to act in harmony with nature, even in artistic and sporting activities. This shows that every walk of life can and should take responsibility for its actions and strive for sustainability, contributing to climate and environmental protection.

Sources:

- <https://greenlahti.fi/en/story>
- <https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/09/24/this-small-city-in-finland-is-leading-the-way-as-a-model-sustainable-city>
- <https://www.sinfonia-lahti.fi/orchestra/?lang=en>
- <https://greenlahti.fi/en/lahti-pelicans-is-the-worlds-first-carbon-neutral-ice-hockey-team>



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