

Emission trading

Lahti is one of the cities in Finland confirming the Scandinavian countries' reputation as leaders in green initiatives.

As a pioneering city, **Lahti** has introduced an innovative mobile application called CitiCAP, which is revolutionising the approach to environmental awareness and CO₂ reduction. Thanks to this app, residents are able to track and visualise their personal carbon footprint in real time. By registering in the system, they are given an individual carbon limit, which they must obey each week. However, reaching this limit not only brings the satisfaction of protecting the environment, but also rewards that provide additional motivation for residents.

The CitiCAP app analyses and monitors, for example, how users transport themselves, automatically calculating the CO₂ emissions resulting from their mobility. In this way, residents are encouraged, among other things, to choose more environmentally friendly modes of transport such as buses or bicycles instead of individual cars. Those who are successful in staying within a certain emissions limit receive rewards, which can include free bus tickets or discounts on local products. It is worth noting that the CitiCAP system does not penalise residents for exceeding the emission limit, but failure to achieve it, results in the loss of the opportunity to win awards. This positive motivation and rewards for green transport choices contribute to changing residents' behaviour, improving air quality and creating a more sustainable and friendly urban environment.

Lahti's climate protection activities, the implementation of the CitiCAP app and rewarding residents for reducing CO₂ emissions are an inspiration for other cities all over the world. The example of **Lahti** shows that innovative technological solutions and positive incentives can make an effective contribution to combating climate change and promoting green choices in society.

The City of **Lahti** is not only a pioneer in terms of mobilising residents to reduce their carbon footprint, but also in terms of a closed-loop economy. It has made significant progress in energy transition and recycling. With the introduction of the new Kymijärvi III bioenergy power plant, the city has shifted away from coal to recycled fuels and locally certified wood for heating. This change has reduced **Lahti** Energia's annual carbon dioxide emissions by 600,000 tonnes, equivalent to the emissions of approximately 60,000 Finnish citizens per year.

Lahti has also achieved impressive recycling rates, recycling more than 99% of household waste. The big part of this waste (approximately 1/3) is recycled and transformed into new materials. The remaining part (2/3) is used for energy production. The new plant in **Lahti** burns certified biomass, providing 100% renewable energy which provides electricity and heating for the majority of the population. This revolution in the energy and recycling sector not only brings environmental benefits, but also economic ones. Companies in **Lahti** are working together, providing products, knowledge and expertise, which fosters the growth of the local economy.

The example of **Lahti** shows that innovative technological solutions and positive incentives can effectively contribute to combating climate change and promoting green choices in society. What's more, achieving impressive recycling rates and the city's energy transformation have environmental, economic and social benefits.



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Sources:

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