

Finnish National Platform - MRV good practice -

HINKU: Towards Carbon Neutral Municipalities

European municipalities often face a heavy burden in preparing reliable GHG emission inventories, developing climate action plans, and monitoring progress. Many cities lack in-house expertise, technical capacity, or funding, and frequently rely on external consultants, resulting in fragmented and inconsistent approaches. In Finland, this challenge is addressed through the **HINKU programme**, coordinated by the **Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)**, which supports municipalities in GHG monitoring, mitigation planning, and implementation of local climate actions.

What services does it provide?

- **Municipal GHG inventories** covering all major sectors (energy, transport, buildings, waste), aligned with national reporting standards.
- **ALas Tool:** A municipality-specific online GHG calculator for monitoring emissions and tracking reductions.
- **Capacity-building** workshops on MRV, climate action planning, and mitigation strategies.
- **Networking & mentoring:** Facilitates peer-to-peer learning and sharing of pilot projects among municipalities.
- **Action planning support:** Guidance on setting targets, planning mitigation measures, and reporting progress.

Why is it a good practice? What is new or innovative?

- **Reduces municipal burden:** Cities can rely on nationally provided tools and guidance instead of hiring expensive consultants.
- **Ensures standardisation:** All municipalities follow consistent methodologies, improving data comparability and benchmarking.
- **Supports local mitigation:** Goes beyond monitoring by helping municipalities implement effective climate actions.
- **Strengthens coherence:** Municipal data and plans are aligned with national climate targets and Finland's NDC commitments.

In many European countries, municipalities are fully responsible for MRV and mitigation planning, often without sufficient support, leading to uneven quality and higher costs. HINKU stands out by combining technical tools, guidance, and peer networks, creating a supportive national-local framework that enhances both data quality and practical mitigation outcomes.

HINKU demonstrates how a national programme can enable municipalities to measure, plan, and implement mitigation effectively, reducing the need for external consultants while ensuring coherence with national climate objectives. This is a scalable and replicable model for supporting local climate action across Europe.

Hinku municipalities and Hinku regions are committed to striving for 80% reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

■ Hinku municipalities
□ Hinku regions
Hinku municipalities 1/2024.
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Base map: National land survey of Finland, Statistics Finland.



Tools

ALas tool

As mandated by the Finnish Climate Act, the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE maintains a free and annually updated GHG monitoring system ([ALas tool](#)), available also in English.

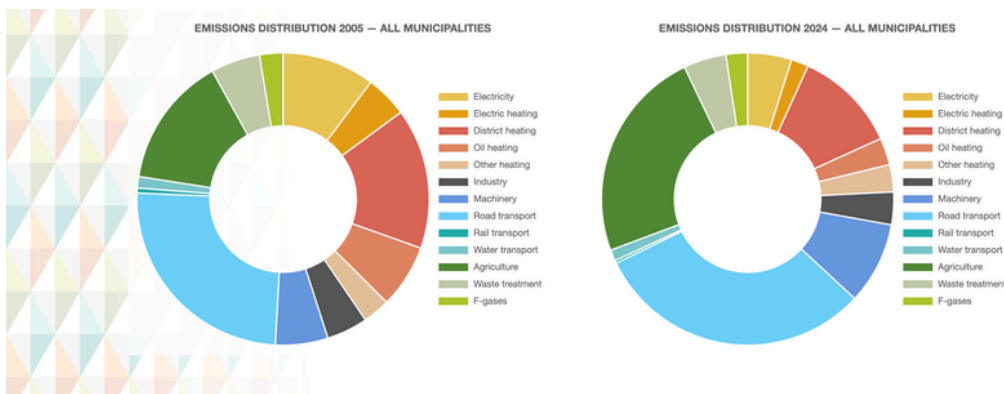
- Covers years 1990, 2005-2024
- For all 308 municipalities
- Over 90 emission sectors
- Follows GPC GHG protocol calculation principles, and aligned with national GHG inventory
- Provides alternative ways to examine emissions (e.g. separation to ETS and effort sharing sectors)
- Published twice a year (preliminary and final results)

Skenaario

Scenario tool to help municipalities draft their climate plans. The tool is available [here](#).

KILTOVA tool

A tool for assessing the greenhouse gas emissions, and the economic and health impacts of municipal measures. The tool is available [here](#).



Further readings:

- This one reports on interviews on the benefits of the HINKU network ([here](#))
- This one more generally on Finnish cities' climate action, including targets, actions, monitoring, barriers, multilevel collaboration ([here](#))
- [Kuntaliitto](#)