

The rampant loss of nature and what Åland can do about it [p34](#)

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"It was better before" - Should we recycle the past? [p62](#)



Status Report 5



ÅLAND
100



THE SEVEN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 
1 | Well-being
- 
2 | Trust and participation
- 
3 | Good water quality
- 
4 | Biological diversity
- 
5 | The power of attraction
- 
6 | Significantly reduced climate impact
- 
7 | Sustainable consumption and production



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The Development and Sustainability Council. Birgitta Eriksson-Paulson and Martha Hannus are missing from the picture.

The Development and Sustainability Council **Look into the future**

On the islands of peace - in the midst of uncertainty

We now find ourselves in an uncertain period once again. Just when we thought we had come through the Covid19 pandemic and society was slowly opening up once again, the next crisis came - a war in Europe with one of our neighbors as the aggressor.

In the same way as when the Covid19 crisis began, we see how it is possible to make difficult decisions that only a few months earlier would have been unthinkable. The EU has for the first time activated the directive on temporary protection to make it easier for Ukrainian refugees at the same time as Finland and Sweden are, as we write, completing an application to join NATO. Despite these changes in the world around us, we will not let go of our vision and our strategic development goals, but instead will need to work even harder in certain areas.

”

The focus can now be on reducing carbon dioxide emissions, so that by 2035 Åland will be climate neutral.

”

We must focus on the agenda's sub-goals and prioritise preventive social work.

Ålanders have opened their homes, wallets and hearts to refugees from Ukraine. Repercussions of the war, as well as climate change, will also force others to flee due to lack of food and energy as areas become uninhabitable. How can we prepare to share our common resources to an even greater degree and include more in the security that the islands of peace can offer? We need to strengthen our local community; nurture the social sustainability and the trust we have and build peace in our everyday lives. Many people have been harmed during the pandemic, which in turn can lead to an increase in mental illness and marginalization. We must focus on the sub-goals of the agenda and prioritize preventive social work.

This year's status report repeats the facts about our work for the environment. The effects of nutrients which cause eutrophication has not decreased to any appreciable extent in recent years. We want more people to live and work on Åland. At the same time, migration needs to take place in balance with existing ecosystems and biodiversity. The gratifying development we saw in the spring of 2022 is that Åland's capacity for renewable energy increased from approximately 20 percent to 65 percent when the wind farm in Långnabba, Eckerö began operation. With this in place, the focus can now be on reducing carbon dioxide emissions, in 2035 Åland will be climate neutral.

We live in a somewhat challenging time that requires good self-leadership around our own role. We must cope with the fact that reality is complex and systemic looking for neither convenient scapegoats nor simple solutions to our collective problems. Among other things, self-leadership means understanding, acknowledging, taking responsibility for and allowing our emotions, the hard ones as well as the easy ones. Feelings like sadness. Grief for the lost lives, lost species and lost homes as so many people have been forced to flee.

We also need to mourn the need to leave it that which has been good and simple in our lives, but which is now neither. There is no cure for grief, but we grieve because some things are important. Khalil Gibran writes in "The Prophet" that "when you are happy, look deep into your hearts and you will find that only that which prepared you for sorrow, now gives you joy. When you are sad, look back into your heart, and you will see that you in reality weep over what once gave you joy".

Emotions and existential reflections are important parts of our humanity and something we can achieve through art and culture. We must safeguard the value of the cultural arenas and cultural practitioners who can give us joy and power, but who can also set words, tone and visualize what is difficult and challenge our worldview.

In self-leadership, looking inwards, reflecting and taking time for that which is difficult does not mean passivity. Rather, it provides the necessary rest, strength, and understanding for the challenges we must face. We in the Council are leaders in various sectors, and we are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that the work on the Development and Sustainability Agenda progresses. Nothing else is acceptable. After all, it is a golden opportunity to not only reduce our negative influence but increase our positive contribution to the world around us. The EU strengthens its ambition for nature conservation, and its willingness to reduce dependence of Russian oil and gas opens new opportunities for green energy conversion and energy-saving initiatives. Consumer awareness has increased and more and more Ålanders state that they often or always have a resource-efficient and reusable lifestyle. Citizens are clearly ready for change. What is needed now are long-term decisions that go beyond daily policies, quarterly reports and trends but which forge the way for 10, 50 and 100 years ahead. This requires willpower, money and the correct priorities. If we are not ready for the difficult decisions now, when will we ever be?

Development and Sustainability Council, May 2022

- **Head of Government Veronica Thörnroos (President-in-Office of the Council)**
- **Rebecka Eriksson (Vice-President of the Council)**
- **Martha Hannus (Vice-President of the Council)**
- **Johanna Boijer-Svahnström**
- **Josefine Egenfelt**
- **Permanent Secretary John Eriksson**
- **Birgitta Eriksson-Paulson**
- **Niclas Forsström**
- **Speaker of the Parliament Bert Häggblom**
- **Therese Karlsson**
- **Marcus Koskinen-Hagman**
- **Niklas Lampi**
- **Julia Lindfors**
- **Minister for Development with responsibility for environmental and energy issues Alfons Röblom**
- **Micke Larsson (Secretary General of the Council)**

The Development and Sustainability Council is part of the Sustainability Network and was established at the same time as the network was formed in early 2016. The council consists of leading figures from all sectors of society and is responsible for the vitality and long-term existence of the sustainability network. The council works on the trust of the sustainability network's co-actors. The members are elected for periods of two calendar years and the council shall consist of a minimum of nine and a maximum of fourteen people. The Premier of Åland is, like the chairman and the head of administration, a permanent member of the council and also the chairman of the council. The Council elects two Vice-Presidents from among its members.

A word from the editor

Next year, in 2023, it is half time for the Development and Sustainability agenda. Seven years have passed since the agenda was created and there are seven years left until it is to be in place. So, what has happened in seven years?

When the Status Report 4 was published in the autumn of 2020, the Development and Sustainability Council decided that current data linked to the indicators for development and sustainability goals did not provide a long-term overall picture. The decision was made with reference to the corona crisis. The report was therefore of a different nature than its predecessors Status Report 1–3. This report is more reminiscent of the predecessors, where the common thread is that a great deal of focus is on the indicators.

Regarding the current Status Report 5, the Council would have had the opportunity to make similar decisions as for Status Report 4, but in this case refer to the fact that the data does not provide a long-term overall picture due to the war in Ukraine. We do not know how the war with all its related events and decisions will affect us. What is becoming increasingly clear, however, is that we must learn to live in a world that is uncertain. We cannot postpone work in anticipation of quiet times if, despite the uncertainty, we know what it is we want to achieve. The development and sustainability agenda can be seen as the strongest social contract we have on Åland, a contract with goals that we want to achieve.

Prior to this report, sub-goals, indicators and measurements have been refined. This means that the report can provide an overall picture of the work regarding the realization of the development and sustainability agenda. Each goal is presented together with a number of indicators that are intended to measure the current situation and the picture of the current situation is supplemented with reflections from goal managers. Of course, it is important to choose the right indicators. This is a constant question, as the choice of indicators and how they are measured are choices made by us humans. But otherwise, the indicators themselves reflect nothing more than the results of neutral collections. Water samples, emission measurements or if a certain number of people answer a, b or c in a survey is neutral but also completely irrelevant if there is no recipient who interprets, analyzes and chooses that the results which are important for you, me and our society. You can fill page up and page down with clichés and powerful sentences like What is measured is done! or If we do not know where we are, how do we know when we arrive? I can happily tune into the choir, but in reality, most of the messages are about knowledge. They are about how we live, in the midst of an uncertain and difficult-to-assess future and how we must grasp what



can be grasped. I hope the knowledge can support the decision-making processes for all decision makers on Åland, whether you sit on a local association board, on the municipal council, run a company or are a member of the Åland Parliament.

What has happened in seven years? With six years of trials behind us, we have moved forward, taken steps backwards and taken new steps. In some cases, with success, in others with lessons that have contributed to us next time taking three, four or five steps forward before it was time for a step back. And finally, to the big question, will we reach our goals by 2030? We do not know. We can revise intermediate goals, change indicators, complain, shout and rejoice, but we still do not know. But we know more than we knew six years ago. We have more knowledge. For every step, regardless of direction, we can rejoice that we know more today than we knew yesterday. I hope the knowledge imparted in this report through indicators, reflections and examples can contribute to being what knowledge should be; a true, well-founded belief.

*Karin Rosenberg-Brunila,
editor and leading sustainability pilot **

** Within the sustainability network on Åland (bärkraft.ax) whose members consist of organizations that are co-actors in the network. The purpose of the association is to promote a durable and sustainable development on Åland. Since May 2019, the association has employed staff with the aim of providing a pilot function for inspiration, coordination, advice in working methods, development and management of commitment, competence development and concrete tools for realizing the agenda.*

3.

Current situation regarding the **SEVEN** strategic development goals

In the development and sustainability agenda, you can read texts which provide guidelines for what we as a society aim to achieve within the respective strategic development goals. It is important to regularly ensure that the goals in the agenda reflect the present. The agenda was developed in 2016. When it comes to something as societal as development and sustainability, six years is a long time.

The entries in the agenda have been scaled down to intermediate goals. Many of the sub-goals have been revised during 2021–2022 and further revisions will take place. The revision does not mean that ambitions are lowered or that the messages in the agenda are reinterpreted, rather it is about refinements in the process to make the goals as clear and accessible as possible. In this chapter you can read the current sub-goals.

The current situation for each target is intended to be measured by a number of indicators. The indicators are followed up, among other things, in the status reports. Everything from the ecological status of the water to life expectancy, unemployment, proportion of locally produced fossil-free electricity and waste volumes are measured. Together, the results say something important about the development within each goal. In this chapter you will find out what the indicators are and the most current measurements that we have available. Since we know where we want to be and how to measure success, analysis and societal anchoring are also needed. Goal managers for each development and sustainability goal provide an important perspective linked to analysis and societal abutment. They give a picture of what is happening and what should happen in order for ambition and reality to align.

Like all ongoing processes, nothing is finished and complete, but in this chapter, it is possible to read of the current situation as it can be described right now, during the early summer of 2022.



3.1. Strategic development goal 1:

Happy people whose inherent resources increase

To flourish is about something deeper than material welfare and having fun all the time. In Åland society, conditions are created for people to come to their right and to thrive.

Sub-goal for goal 1:

- 1.1 All adults have access to meaningful work, paid or not, with decent working conditions and compensation levels / wages that enable self-sufficiency.
- 1.2 All children are healthy and have access to safe childhood environments which promote good physical and mental health. All children have access to a school where they learn to be a part of a sustainable society¹. Compulsory schooling up to and including upper secondary school must be at the forefront of national and international comparison.
- 1.3 All adults take, to the best of their ability, responsibility for their own health and wellbeing - exercise, refrain from using tobacco and in the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.
- 1.4 Everyone, regardless of gender and age, has access to a conversation partner / support person
- 1.5. Healthcare and nursing are individually adjusted so that medical treatment and sick leave days are minimized.
- 1.6 The community structure: welcoming safe local environment, recreation, service points and more - a good and attractive living environment.²
- 1.7 All adults, regardless of whether they grew up on Åland or moved here later in life, have the chance to acquire knowledge, wherever possible, about sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles, the promotion of peaceful relations and more.³

¹ <https://www.barkraft.ax/sites/default/files/attachments/page/media/utvecklings-och-hallbarhetsagenda-for-aland.pdf> sid.11

² <https://www.barkraft.ax/sites/default/files/attachments/page/far-dig-statusrapport2.pdf> s. 32-33

³ <https://www.barkraft.ax/sites/default/files/attachments/page/media/utvecklings-och-hallbarhetsagenda-for-aland.pdf> s.11

Everyone should have the opportunity to acquire those assets, and as far as possible to use them In order to flourish while contributing to sustainability. This includes knowledge about sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns, human rights, gender equality, democracy, active citizenship, and the promotion of peaceful relations. This applies to children and young people as well as adults, regardless of whether they grew up on Åland or moved to the island community later in life.

3.1.1. Indicators

- Proportion of the population that is currently flourishing
- Life expectancy
- Proportion of the population who have a post-secondary degree
- Proportion of the population who state that they have funds or high opportunity to create meaningful conditions / activities in their life right now.

Proportion of the population that is currently flourishing

About measuring flourishing people
Text: ÅSUB

Åland's sustainability work has introduced the vision of "flourishing people". There are several different definitions and thus possible measures of "to flourish". The concept has been linked in research to a more lasting well-being, vitality and ability to function, and in a broader perspective, to flourish can also be interpreted as the person's opportunity to reach his or her full potential (see American Psychological Association⁴ and Britannica⁵).

Since the opportunities to flourish are affected by

⁴ <https://dictionary.apa.org/flourishing>

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/eudaimonia>

both inherent resources and external circumstances, the researchers strongly recommend that the economic aspect be taken into account when people's prosperity is discussed and investigated.^{6,7} During 2022 ÅSUB (Ålands statistic and education bureau) will, for the first time, measure the proportion of Ålanders who experience prosperity.

The measurement takes place in an internationally comparable and accepted way using a validated measuring instrument created at Harvard University.⁸ The instrument covers the following areas: (1) satisfaction with life, (2) mental and physical health, (3) meaningfulness, (4) character traits, (5) social relationships, and (6) financial security.⁹ The collection of data will be done in the autumn of 2022 in connection with the survey Trust Study for Åland 2022. The results will provide new, exciting knowledge about "thriving people" on Åland.

Life expectancy

The table presents the expected life expectancy at birth (five-year average)¹⁰

YEAR	TOTAL	WOMEN	MEN
2001-2005	80,58	83,56	77,59
2006-2010	82,01	83,76	80,11
2011-2015	81,87	84,27	79,53
2016-2020	82,91	85,46	80,44

Källa: ÅSUB

Proportion of the population who have a post-secondary degree

The table presents the number of people in the population who have a post-secondary degree (in percent)¹¹

YEAR	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN
2016	23,6	21,7	25,4
2017	23,8	21,7	25,8
2018	24,0	21,8	26,2
2019	24,4	22,0	26,8
2020	24,4	21,8	26,9

Källa: ÅSUB

⁶ <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.1702996114>

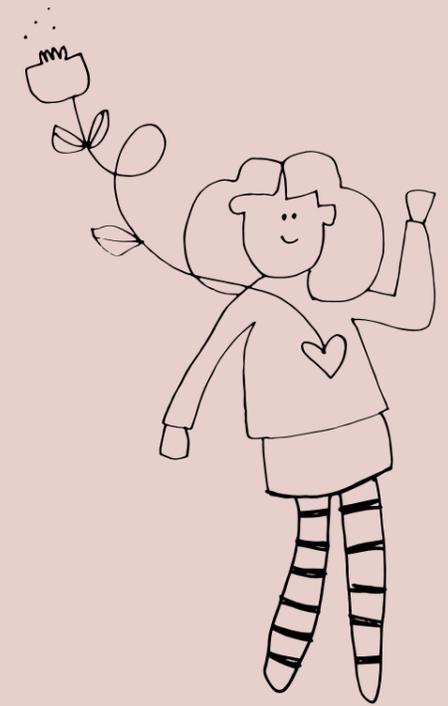
⁷ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666560321000578>

⁸ <https://hfh.fas.harvard.edu/measuring-flourishing>

⁹ <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.1702996114>

¹⁰ <https://www.asub.ax/sv/social-hallbarhet-5-forvantad-medelliv-langd-vid-fodseln>

¹¹ ÅSUB Examensregistret, befolkningsstatistik



Proportion of the population which state they have the means or high opportunity to create meaningful conditions / activities in their lives right now

The proportion which is satisfied with their own leisure time in 2021¹² was at a much lower level than what was measured in ÅSUB's leisure habits surveys in 2013¹³ and 2008¹⁴, **65 per cent** of the respondents in the survey stated that they were very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their own leisure time. The survey was conducted in the spring of 2021 and the answers cover the corona year in the spring of 2020 - the spring of 2021, which has affected the result. The corresponding proportions in the previous surveys were **80 per cent in 2013 and 76 per cent in 2008**.

Of those who answered the question, 33 percent were very satisfied with their free time, half were quite satisfied, 15 percent answered that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and three percent were quite dissatisfied. Factors that limit the pursuit of leisure time were measured in all leisure time surveys. In 2021, the most common factors were the corona situation (77 percent), lack of time (28 percent) and money (13 percent). In 2014, the most common factors were lack of time (47 percent), money (24 percent) and health (13 percent). In 2008, the most common factors were lack of time (42 percent), money (22 percent) and health (15 percent).

¹² https://www.asub.ax/sites/www.asub.ax/files/reports/alanningarnas_kultur-och-fritidsvanor_2020_0.pdf

¹³ https://www.asub.ax/sites/www.asub.ax/files/imported_files/rapport_201_6.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.asub.ax/sites/www.asub.ax/files/reports/xrapport2009.1.pdf>



We implement ^{3.1.2.}

Tabita Nordberg

Tabita is the goal manager for the goal
Happy people whose inherent resources increase

Open questioning as the propellant

What does healthy or wellness really mean? What do we need to feel good and what makes us feel bad? What is the wisest thing to invest in so that we humans feel as good as possible inside, in relation to each other and in relation to our surroundings?

I have lived with and worked with these questions for thirteen years. When Micke Larsson (Secretary General, Development and Sustainability Council) called me in October 2021 and asked if I would consider taking on the task of goal manager for the Network's "well-being goal", I was given the opportunity to continue working with the same question as before but in a more comprehensive way. Instead of concentrating from one to twenty people at a time, I was invited into a network that cares for the well-being of thirty thousand people. The feeling that affects you, me and all of us on Åland in a common vision of "flourishing people". The vision has its roots in the UN's seventeen sustainability goals. A local and global well-being work that is about working together for the support that is needed so that both humans and the earth we live on will always be as healthy, in every way, as possible.

The well-being goal, goal 1, is one of seven strategic sustainability goals that work with sustainability from a human perspective. The human condition is constantly influenced by internal and external factors. Inner impressions in the form of thoughts, emotions, moods and physical sensations and external stimuli



It's not always
so easy to be human.

that are perceived and interpreted using all our senses. Something that means we live under a constant flow of changing internal and external phenomena. Something that, to the best of our ability, on our own initiative and with the help of others, we gradually learn to live and deal with, with the support of external structures and internal tools.

The well-being work is largely about cross-border relationships when the person is not some isolated or fixed phenomenon, an object, without a sensitive and receptive subject in constant interaction with itself, other people, animals and nature. An insight that became even more clear during two years of a pandemic with mandatory isolation and anxiety that pushed many people's well-being to the breaking point. At the same time as clearly stated restrictions in some cases and the situation itself constituted the demarcation that was needed to make room in a well-filled calendar for good seclusion and rest from social noise. With Covid-19 hanging over us for a longer period and by asking questions about what affects our well-being negatively and positively so the words isolation and community have run through the majority of conversations as an overarching theme. A theme that tells us how important this relationship, meetings, contact, and community is to us people.

In the newly formed well-being team, which has only been in existence for three months, we have come to the conclusion that we need to work for community(s) as an antidote to division, fragmentation, isolation, loneliness and exclusion. We want to work for everyone who experiences periods of insecurity, fear, vulnerability, hopelessness and meaninglessness.

”

There is a place for everyone in a viable society.

In order to pave the way for work more concentrated around people’s vulnerability, there is a desire to scale down the seven existing sub-goals in connection with the main goal “Happy people whose inherent resources increase” to three clear tracks. Three sub-goals with the theme of livelihood, security and well-being. Three key words that can give the well-being work a clearer direction without it happening at the expense of scope.

Livelihood

We want to work so that all people on Åland have a home to return to every day. A home that is equipped with everything we need to live and to feel good. A home that gives joy and peace. No one should be involuntarily homeless, cold or hungry on Åland. The social protection system on Åland should be a stable and reliable system where no person ends up outside the support system that may be needed periodically when the life situation is under pressure and the inner life is out of balance. We must work to ensure that everyone feels trust in the authorities that represent social support functions on Åland and that everyone who is in contact with these authorities is met with humanity and understanding.

Security

We want to work to ensure that all residents and all those who step ashore on Åland as a visitor or as a new resident, experience an island world that inspires security. A society where all public and private buildings and spaces offer an atmosphere of safety. We want to promote safe interpersonal relationships. Not only

the relationship to ourselves and each other but also the relationship to animals and surrounding nature. We will also invest in gathering, compiling and sharing knowledge that helps cultivate everyone’s ability to find inner security so that we can live and operate from an inner personal safety zone.

Well-being

We want to work so that all people, at all stages of life, find a place, activity, service, group or person that makes everyday life easier, more pleasant, more fun and richer. We want to help everyone at all stages of life, to find meaning and purpose.

If our basic needs are met, if we live in a safe environment and if we have access to that which gives each of us physical health and mental well-being, it is a breeding ground for us to flourish together. A sustainable starting point where “we’re all in this together” and no one is left out. A stable and common breeding ground for everyone’s creativity, desire, commitment, learning, creation, play, will, development and maturity. What flourishing is, how it feels and how it expresses itself is up to each of us to reflect on. What does flourishing mean to you?

For me, flourishing is something I would like to experience together with all of you in a society where everyone has a place and task. A society where everyone’s personal inherent resources are cultivated, illuminated, affirmed, encouraged and confirmed.

And with that, I say thank you.
Live well dear fellow man. ✕



3.2. Strategic development goal 2:

Everyone feels trust and has real possibilities to participate in society

No lasting progress can be achieved in a context characterized by conflict and violence. Well-founded interpersonal trust and peaceful relations form the basis for long-term sustainability.

Sub-goals for goal 2:

- 2.1 Everyone, regardless of age or gender, feels trust in both people and social institutions.
- 2.2 Society is characterized by peaceful relations. All work actively to abolish all forms of physical, sexual and verbal violence, especially in close relationships.
- 2.3 The society is characterized by a democratic leadership where it is possible to have control of our own lives and in bringing up our children.
- 2.4 Society systematically includes all people in the social, economic and political life, regardless of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, origin, religion, other beliefs or economic status.
- 2.5 No households live in an economically vulnerable position. Income growth is higher for the 40 percent who have the lowest incomes.
- 2.6 Equal pay for equal work.
- 2.7 All young people and immigrants, regardless of age, either study or earn their own living.
- 2.8 Equality and parity have been achieved in so far as both women, men and immigrants are represented in decision-making bodies in both the public and private sectors. The household work is divided equally between the adults.
- 2.9 Power, influence and resources are equally distributed, corruption does not occur. High electoral participation.

- 2.10 Society is accessible to everyone, and both residents and visitors with any form of disability are included in all areas of society.
- 2.11 Influence and participation in all community building and planning at all levels are given high priority, with a continuous and inclusive dialogue.
- 2.12 Association life/civil society acts as an engine for new solutions that in turn contribute to the realization of the vision.

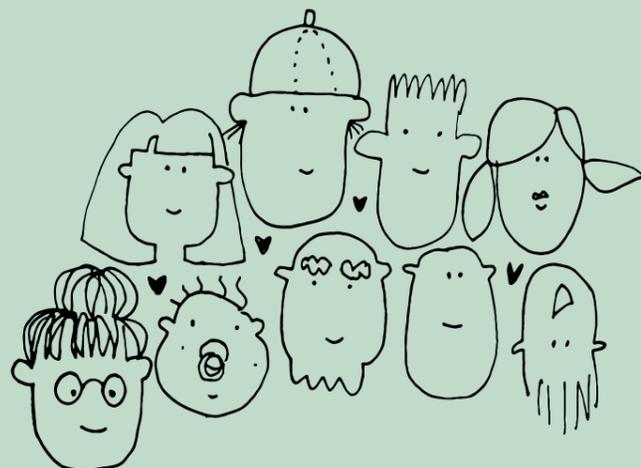
In this society, power, influence and resources are equally distributed and corruption does not occur. Association life offers a great variety of opportunities for commitment and community. At the same time, association life is an engine for new solutions that contribute to the realization of the vision. The society is further characterized by high electoral participation.

3.2.1. Indicators

- Proportion of the population indicating high interpersonal trust
- The Gini coefficient
- Proportion of the population that has experienced violence in close relationships during the past 12 months
- Share of the population that experienced discrimination and/or corruption in the last 12 months
- Equality indicator

Proportion of the population indicating high interpersonal trust

In order to be able to measure trust between people, the respondents had to estimate whether or not one can generally trust most people. The results showed that the percentage of Ålanders with high interpersonal trust is **63 percent**¹⁵ trust is a relatively large percentage and is approximately at the same level as in the Nordic countries generally. The background factors that had a significant relationship with the reported trust were education, unemployment and one's own financial situation. Interpersonal trust was stronger for respondents who had university or college education, who had not been unemployed and for those who experienced their financial situation as unchanged or improved. At the individual level, self-rated health and satisfaction with life are also important factors for interpersonal trust – satisfaction with life can even be a stronger indicator of interpersonal trust than the level of education.



Gini-koefficienten

YEAR	CITY OF MARIEHAMN	ÅLAND COUNTRYSIDE	ÅLAND ARCHIPELAGO	ÅLAND
2016	30,90	24,42	27,95	27,40
2017	30,17	23,97	28,18	26,80
2018	30,30	24,40	26,80	27,00
2019	30,90	25,70	27,50	27,90
2020	30,30	24,70	29,10	27,20

Källa: ÅSUB

The Gini coefficient¹⁶ is the most common key figure which describes income differences. The higher the value of the Gini coefficient, the more unevenly the income is distributed. The highest possible value of the Gini coefficient is one. Then the income earner with the biggest income gets all the income. The lowest possible value of the Gini coefficient is 0, when the incomes of all income earners are the same. In the income distribution statistics, the Gini coefficients are given as percentages (multiplied by 100). The Gini coefficient describes relative income differences. There are no changes in the Gini coefficient, if the incomes of all income earners change by the same percentage.¹⁷

¹⁵ https://www.asub.ax/sites/www.asub.ax/files/reports/rapport_2018_5_tillit_r.pdf

¹⁶ https://www.stat.fi/meta/kas/gini_keroin_sv.html

¹⁷ <https://www.asub.ax/sv/ekonomisk-hallbarhet-10-inkomstskillnader-gini-koefficient>

Proportion of the population who have experienced violence in a close relationship during the past 12 months

The results in 2017 showed that **12 percent of the respondents in the sample had been exposed to violence in close relationships during the past twelve months**. Women's proportion (16 percent) was markedly greater than that of men (9 percent). Psychological violence was the most common form of violence and approximately one in three of the respondents who had been exposed to violence in close relationships in the past twelve months lived in a household with one or more children.¹⁸

Proportion of the population that experienced discrimination and/or corruption during the past 12 months

*In a democratic society, all people must have the same rights, be treated equally before the law and be protected against discrimination. Discrimination means that one person is treated differently than another in a similar comparable situation. Ethnic origin, religion or other beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, gender identity, age or disability must not affect a person's ability to participate in society.*¹⁹

Experienced discrimination in the last twelve months

2007	55 % ²⁰
2010	49 % ²¹
2020	40 % ²²

Equality indicator

Gender Inequality Index – the index for lack of equality

2016	0,054
2017	0,027
2018	0,027
2019	0,055
2020	0,011

Source: ÅSUB

¹⁸ <https://www.regeringen.ax/sites/www.regeringen.ax/files/attachments/guidedocument/vald-i-nara-relationer-webb.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.ombudsman.ax/>

²⁰ <https://www.asub.ax/sites/www.asub.ax/files/reports/rap20077do.pdf>

²¹ https://www.asub.ax/sites/www.asub.ax/files/reports/rapport_2010_8_0.pdf

²² https://www.asub.ax/sites/www.asub.ax/files/reports/diskrimineringsundersokning_2020_0.pdf

UNDP – the UN's development agency – annually measures human development in the countries of the world, taking into account health, education and income - HDI - Human Development Index. In 2010, a new index was introduced: GII, Gender Inequality Index, which also takes gender equality into account. These are therefore very basic parameters based on welfare and politics. The index must be read in such a way that the lower the value, the better, more equal is the region, an index of 0.000 is completely equal and an index of 1.000 is as unequal as possible. An index of, for example, 0.075 means a 7,5 percent loss in performance across the three dimensions of health, empowerment and labor market.

Åland normally ranks very high in an international comparison of the Gender Inequality Index (GII), largely due to the low fertility in the age group of 15–19 amongst women on Åland. What normally speaks in Åland's favor regarding the Gender Inequality Index (GII) is the low maternal mortality, the low fertility, the high level of education and the relatively high labor market participation. On the other hand, the key figure normally deteriorates due to the low proportion of women among members of the Legislative Assembly. **In 2020, the calculated Gender Inequality Index (GII) for Åland was approximately 0.011**, i.e. approximately a 1.1 percent loss in gender equality performance. An average for the years 2002–2020 gives Åland a GII key figure with a value of 0.044 according to ÅSUB's calculations.²³

²³ <https://www.asub.ax/sv/ekonomisk-hallbarhet-9-gender-inequality-index-gii>

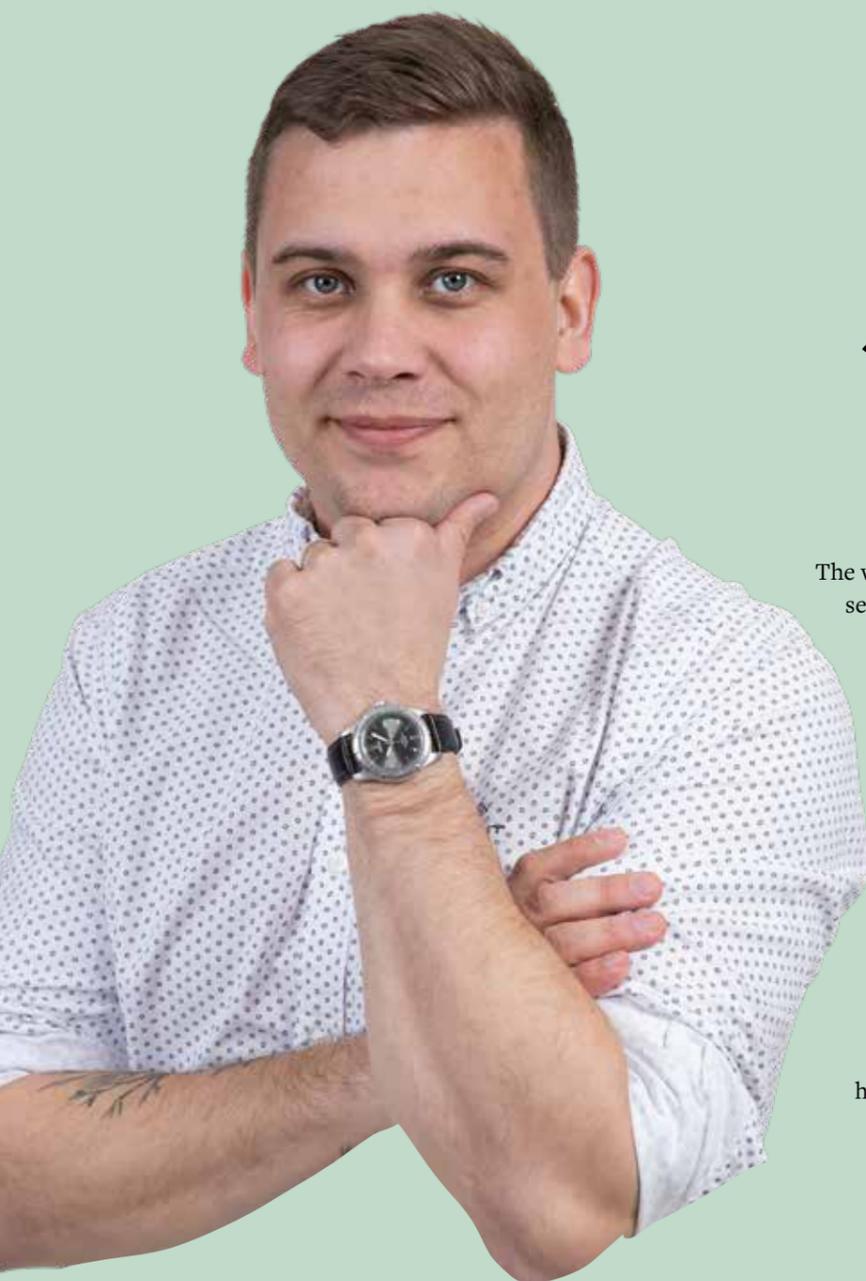


3.2.2.

We implement

Dan Sundqvist

Dan is responsible for the goal *Everyone feels trust and has real possibilities to participate in society*. As it was written the process-leader Kristin Mattsson acted as a sounding board.



The work to realize and reach goal 2 is in full swing on several levels - it is bursting with initiative to fulfill the goal. Despite having come a long way, there are still some challenges to overcome. Below are some examples that have been carried out to reach the sub-goals within objective 2.

During 2021, a working group was appointed to work more closely with issues concerning the goal and its realization. During several meetings, the working group has discussed the possibilities of partly revising the sub-goals, and which measures can have the greatest effect in order to reach goal 2. The working group consists of individuals with varying experiences and different perspectives who all contribute to help visualize how we can achieve goal 2 on Åland.

Åland's Parliamentary Group Leader Forum

The Åland Parliament has the overall political responsibility for realizing the development and sustainability agenda. There is a group leader forum within parliament in which all government parties are represented. The group leader forum has already started working on issues that specifically concern their area and has shown a great interest in goal 2. The synergies are many and the work continues both on an overall, general level and in more specific concrete issues.

The children are heard

On March 25, 1991, the Åland parliament adopted the Finnish accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention on the Rights of the Child). Almost exactly 30 years later, Rätts Barnen presents "Civil society's work report on children's rights on Åland". A work report which, in 2022, is expected to be Åland's alternative report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Solid work has been carried out by the association to listen to children and young people as well as organizations and actors who work with children. The report not only provides an overview of Åland society from a children's rights perspective, but also contains fact boxes to make the text more understandable from a child's perspective.²⁴

NordicCiv

The corona crises saw the emergence of stronger Nordic civil society network. Within the Nordic countries civil society has played a historically important role in supporting democratic development, public education and regional cooperation. In the strategy for the Nordic region to become the world's most sustainable and integrated region, the Nordic cooperation ministers have established a Nordic civil society network with 40 representatives from the Nordic countries. Åland is included in the network and is represented by the Finnish Red Cross Åland district and The Åland Chamber of Commerce. The network is cross-sectorally composed based on various parameters, such as thematic focus and geographical representation. The network is called NordicCiv and is coordinated by Global Challenge in Sweden.²⁵

Planning Equality

Equality is profitable for all of us in society. We all stand to gain from conscious and goal-oriented equality work. A survey carried out in 2019 by the Åland ombudsman authority of the then equality plans of authorities, municipalities and schools on Åland indicated shortcomings in equality planning. Active follow-up, information and support from the ombudsman's authority has now led to many updating or in the process of updating their equality plans. At the same time, all businesses also need to think about how gender equality work really looks like in their business.

Combating violence

Social sustainability on Åland means a society where basic human rights are respected. Not being subjected to violence is a human right, but we know, through numerous studies, that it is a right that is violated on a daily basis. To achieve our goal we must actively strive towards gender equality, which means also towards zero tolerance to violence in close relationships and striving for the universal adoption of values, norms and attitudes that reject violence in any form. According to the Åland mapping of violence in intimate relationships, it is more common for women to seek support and help from friends and relatives than for them to turn to one of society's help agencies.

Åland has committed to the Istanbul Convention on the prevention and combating of violence against women and of domestic violence. According to the convention, society must take the necessary measures to prevent, investigate, punish and remedy domestic violence. A coordinating body shall be responsible for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the policy and measures. Åland's regional government has appointed a committee for the implementation of the convention. The committee consists of authorities that meet people exposed to violence. The committee's task is to draw up action plans, take measures for to raise awareness, inform and collaborate to enable comprehensive handling of violence in close relationships. Support must be offered to people who have been exposed to sexual violence, as well as protection and help for child witnesses. It is also important to ensure that the professional silence code, in place for certain professional groups, does not become an obstacle when it is felt a report of suspected violence is advisable.

²⁴ <https://raddabarnen.ax/app/uploads/2021/03/civilsamhallets-arbetsrapport-om-barns-rattigheter-pa-aland-mars2021.pdf>

²⁵ <https://globalutmaning.se/nordiskanatverket/>

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To achieve our goal, we must actively strive towards gender equality, which means also towards zero tolerance to violence in close relationships and striving for the universal adoption of values, norms and attitudes that reject violence in any form.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In 2019 - 2022, the Åland Association for the Disabled (Ålands Handikapp förbund) has educated municipalities and other authorities on Åland on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Åland Association for the Disabled has also established a youth council with the aim of improving the situation for young people with disabilities. The report "How do people with disabilities experience their situation on Åland?" from the year 2020 forms a basis for the work on implementing rights for people with disabilities and for the new disability policy action program for Åland.

Biodiversity and democracy

The Åland society for Nature and Environment (Ålands Natur & Miljö), Goal 4 and Goal 2 have a cooperative project within "Åland 100" to nominate new landscape species in five categories: butterflies, beetles, amphibians, macrophytes and trees. The purpose of the project is to spread knowledge about Åland's biological diversity and at the same time implement a democratic exercise for everyone on Åland. For each category there are three candidates and the voting takes place during the month of May at libraries all over Åland. The libraries have "candidate posters" with "interviews" of each candidate and provide ballots and ballot boxes. The people's vote for new landscape species is then submitted to Åland's government, which is asked to make a political decision establishing the voted species as Åland's newest landscape species.

Goal managers reflect on the status of the sub-goals

Text: Dan Sundqvist

The media reports that democracy is weakening, of "fake news" and western democratically elected leaders increasingly look towards authoritarian regimes, but how are we affected? What opportunities does Åland have to create a society where everyone is included in the social discussion and where we value the democratic conversation?

In recent years, the Åland Peace Institute has organized the Kastelholm Talks on Peace – which are recurring talks on the topic of peace. This year the conversation was back in its original setting inside Kastelholm Castle and the theme was "Breakthrough or collapse? About building trust and Enhancing Disarmament Today". It was particularly relevant given the aggressive invasion of Ukraine that took place just weeks before the talks. During the talks, Mikael Wigell came to explain that which frightens authoritarian regimes - democracy. Dictatorships and authoritarian regimes do everything possible to prevent democracy from taking hold. It is, according to Wigell, our best weapon against regimes and dictatorships. Well, what does that mean for the headstrong Ålanders and goal 2?

Åland has very good conditions for creating a society characterized by local democracy, high trust and participation. Studies show that Åland, like the rest of the Nordic region, has high interpersonal trust and trust in institutions - popularly called Nordic gold - higher than other countries in the world. Trust has been built up over many decades or even centuries

through various processes and is not a resource that can be taken for granted. We simply have confidence in what it is to be Nordic!

It should not be interpreted that other countries lack trust, but that there are few who come close to the same levels as the Nordic countries. ÅSUB's trust study (2018) shows that as few as approximately one third of everyone on Åland do not experience a high level of trust. We know that there are groups that are excluded and these understandably have less trust in society which can also be said of the way society regards these groups. We also know that there are individuals in our society who do not enjoy full participation in society. They stand outside and look in, without opportunities to influence or participate.

How can we increase trust in society? According to the Nordic Council of Ministers²⁶, there are some concrete steps we can take. We can act with openness and transparency, challenge promptly all signs of corruption, counteract social exclusion in society, support association life, raise the education level of the population and invest in those who risk of not completing all years of basic education. We can counteract unemployment, especially long-term unemployment. This particularly points to the need for effective integration of refugees and immigrants into the labor market.

The indicators for goal 2 show that we do not yet have the visionary society that we strive for with the development and sustainability agenda. We still have work to do. Fortunately, the indicators can give us guidance on how we can deal with these challenges. The challenges are at different levels and of different scope. Some are simple while others are incredibly complex and difficult to navigate. Sometimes it can even be beyond our ability to influence! Below I list some examples of challenges that I see in the work to achieve goal 2.

Today, not everyone is involved in society.

Unfortunately, we have structures that maintain that everyone on Åland cannot be involved and feel secure. It is about people who are on the periphery of the norms that we are surrounded by in society. As in many other places in the world, it is difficult to participate in society if the majority does not invite participation. In addition, if the norm is maintained by legislation that is old fashioned and not revised and updated, this can only reinforce exclusionary norms. We need to take that into account if we are to achieve the agenda's goal

of involving everyone in society. There are no simple "quick fixes" to the problem, but we need to look after ourselves and the structures we have built. Trust and participation are linked, and if we make society more inviting to participation, we can create more trust. When we discuss trust and participation, we should keep in mind an African proverb - "until someone tells the lion's side, the hunter's story will always be the best". Surveys show that approximately one third of Åland residents have experienced discrimination. Women state significantly more often than men that they have experienced gender discrimination. Almost every second person with a mother tongue other than Swedish has experienced discrimination on Åland, and several have experienced that it happened more than once in the past year. Through educational initiatives and making changes in diversity issues, we can increase understanding of our fellow human being and hopefully also reduce discrimination in society.

Perhaps the most important cornerstone for achieving the vision in the development and sustainability agenda is to demonstrate our respect for human rights. An equal society, free from violence in any form, is essential. The work to prevent violence and systematic vulnerability should be at the center of our measures. Above all, we should work systematically with preventive measures that should be available to everyone. Back to Mikael Wigell and the idea that democracy is the best weapon against authoritarian regimes and dictatorships. Åland is incredibly well placed to resist these forces. But we also have challenges that I have partially explained above. I believe that if we are true to the agenda and work for a more viable society where everyone is included, is involved, feels real trust in their fellow man and society, we will go far. But I want to emphasize that sustainability work is not easy; if it were we would already be living on an island where everyone can flourish. Sustainability work requires us to consider and implement new solutions to existing challenges and problems. We have all the possibilities and conditions! ✕

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We all have to gain from conscious and goal-oriented gender equality work.

²⁶ Tillit – det nordiska guldets (2017) Nordiska ministerrådet, <http://dx.doi.org/10.6027/ANP2017-731>



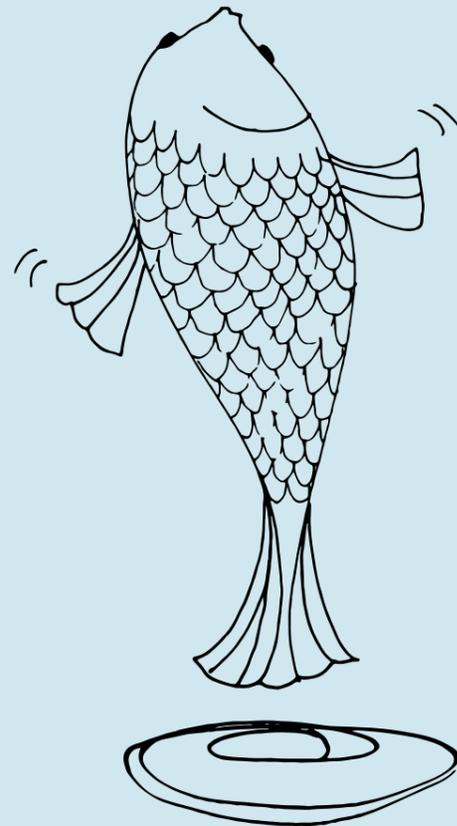
3.3. Strategic development goal 3:

Good water quality

Water is a basic requirement for all living things on the planet. On Åland, there is a widespread understanding of the importance of a healthy Baltic Sea with all its bays, deep areas and surface water, as well as access to healthy lakes for clean drinking water.

Sub-goals for goal 3:

- 3.1 Everyone on Åland has knowledge of and takes responsibility for that Åland water achieves good quality.
- 3.2 Åland's voice in the Baltic Sea is proactive. Åland organisations and individuals collaborate with other Baltic Sea regions to influence and achieve good quality water.
- 3.3 Business life on Åland uses sustainable circular solutions and contribute to at least halving emissions of nutrients by 2030 (compared to 2015).
- 3.4 Consideration of climate change and its consequences is integrated into all development and planning processes affecting aquaculture and marine use.
- 3.5 Net anthropogenic discharges of phosphorus and nitrogen to water are at least halved by 2030 (compared to 2015).
- 3.6 The internal load of phosphorus in lakes and bays has been identified and measures are underway for reductions.
- 3.7 Man-made cycles of nutrients are mostly closed cycles. Åland is a leader in the Baltic Sea region in terms of circular management of nutrients in 2030 and an exporter of nutrients in 2051.
- 3.8 Leakage of dangerous substances, such as pharmaceuticals, plant protection products, household chemicals, microplastics and toxins into the aquatic environment has been reduced to non-harmful levels. The pollution of the water environment has stopped.
- 3.9 An overall holistic perspective on water use that ensures that action plans and measures lead to improvements in water quality.



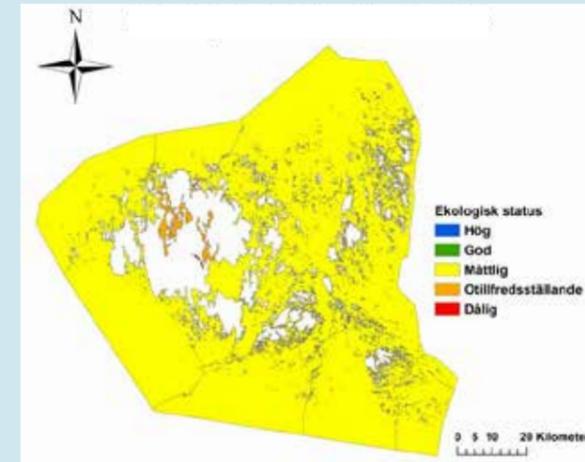
3.3.1. Indicators

- Water quality
- Emissions of phosphorus and nitrogen
- Degree of implementation of water conservation measures

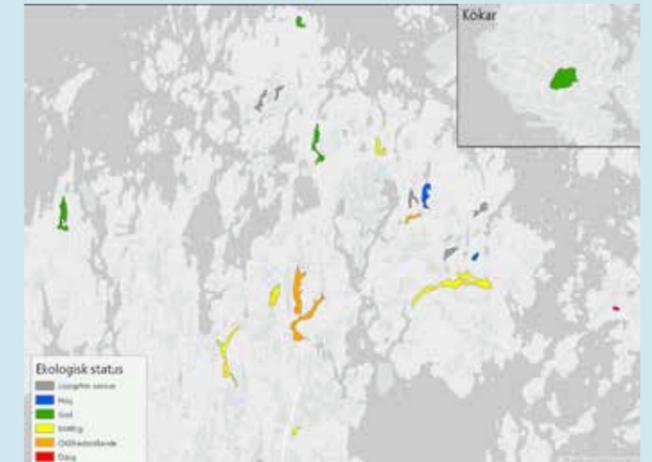
The water quality

The ecological status of the water 2012–2018 is presented for coastal waters and lakes in separate maps, and the maps are updated every 6 years. The next update for the indicator is 2022.²⁷

²⁷ <https://aland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=94a8b34b974647aba92e1ebb860cd5bb>



Ecological status of Åland's coastal waters 2012–2018.



Ecological status of Åland's lakes 2012–2018.

Emissions of phosphorus and nitrogen

The strain on coastal waters originates from settlement, agriculture, fish farming, industry, tourism and in addition natural runoff and atmospheric deposition. Phosphorus comes largely from the fish farms on Åland, while nitrogen comes largely from agriculture, fish farming and natural runoff. Lakes on Åland are mainly burdened by settlement, agriculture, forestry and natural runoff. High readings can in some years be due to high precipitation.²⁸

Change of stress models for emission calculations is underway, where Åland will apply SMHI's model. The calculations for 2021 are thus incomplete and no data can be presented.

²⁸ <https://www.asub.ax/sv/ekologisk-hallbarhet-4-vattendragsbelastning-en-pa-aland>

Degree of implementation of water conservation measures

According to EU requirements, all member states must draw up action programs for water with the aim of achieving good water quality²⁹. In the Åland action program for groundwater, lakes and coastal waters, there are 21 measures for improving the state of the marine environment, supplemented by 39 measures for the entire water environment³⁰. Some of this work is ongoing and in progress, but many measures are also completed. At a reconciliation on 20 April 2022, it was found that 14 out of 21 measures for the state of the marine environment have been implemented³¹. For example, mapping of underwater nature and the production of marine plans for water areas to communicate to the public about valuable marine environments and species are completed. Initiated water conservation measures include reduced nutrient leakage from agriculture and wastewater, reduced emissions of harmful substances and climate adaptation measures. Work still remains with legislation, emissions from aquaculture, agriculture, shipping and individual sewage, sustainable fishing and protection of our fish stocks.

²⁹ <https://aland-paverkavattnen.demos.fi/atgarder-inom-havsvarlden/>

³⁰ https://www.regeringen.ax/sites/www.regeringen.ax/files/attachments/guidedocument/3-vattenatgardsprogram_remiss_2020_0.pdf

³¹ <https://aland-paverkavattnen.demos.fi/atgarder-inom-havsvarlden/>



3.3.2. We implement

Ann Nedergård

Ann is responsible for the goal *Good water quality*.

Our waters on Åland are teeming with life. Both figuratively along shorelines and in wetlands, but also in action with various initiatives for our waters. It is incredibly gratifying and indeed is needed, as unfortunately there is little likelihood of achieving the goal of good water quality by 2030.

The subgoals within goal 3 are about being the voice of the Baltic Sea, both locally and internationally. It is about getting more people to take responsibility for and contribute to the work for water quality in different ways. In order to reduce the supply of nutrients to our waters, circular solutions in sewage, industry and food production are important. Really difficult challenges are the internal load from sediment in lakes and sea bays as well as what we call old sins – the high levels of nutrients from previous fertilizers which remain in our soils. There is also the problems of hazardous substances which, as long as they are used, also end up in our waters.

The work for water quality engages many people, and in order to inspire even more, here is presented a string of pearls of the various activities taking place on Åland.

Trade and Industry works for sustainable solutions. The food industry is constantly looking for new circular models and support farmers in this challenge; Dahlmans, ÅCA, ÅTH, Chipsen/Orkla to name just a few. Let yourself be inspired by their work in Axganpodden³². Also read more about the project Hungry for Saltvik³³. Many companies and organizations have also chosen to brand themselves³⁴ - another way to help the work to move our waters forward.

³² <https://landsbygd.ax/axganpodden/>

³³ <https://www.hungryforaland.fi/haringshjalten/>

³⁴ <https://vattenskydd.ax/kranmarkt/>

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The food industry is constantly looking for new circular models and supports farmers in this challenge in various ways.

The authorities huge tasks include, among others, a management plan and action program for our waters so that monitoring can take place and thereby be able to measure the changes. Community planning, legislation, various project initiatives, international collaborations, modeling tools for nutrient load and plastic strategy for Åland³⁵ are other important activities.

Within the municipal sector, the VA cooperation for Åland has been an established collaboration for several years and is now a force to be reckoned with. Vattenskydd.ax³⁶ is another very positive element, an important piece of the puzzle for spreading information and inspiration about what can be done to protect our waters.

The third sector is responsible for enormous plan of action action for our waters. Save Lumparn (Rädda Lumparn) are struggling to achieve better water quality, The Åland society for Nature and Environment (Ålands Natur & Miljö), which protects the joy of nature, and Åland's fisheries management association, which works with water conservation and the release of fish fry, are three examples of associations whose efforts make a big difference. What a force you are, thank you so much!

³⁵ <https://www.regeringen.ax/nyheter/strategi-forhinda-plast-mikroplast-sprids-miljon>

³⁶ <https://vattenskydd.ax/>



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Let yourself be inspired by the numerous wetlands: Nabben in Mariehamn, Söderbergs in Ämnäs, Wallins Oasis in Sund, Hammarudda farm, Granlids in Vårdö, Storängsdiket dam in Jomala, Södergårds in Lillbollstad, Gloet in Sund and the new wetland that is planned in Svibyviken.

Dams and wetlands are planned and built in every municipality and in almost every village. The measures are partly a consequence of climate change, which has focused on an increasing need for irrigation water for agriculture. Multifunctional wetlands reduce the nutrient load on our waterways, but they also contribute to many other things. The wetlands are resistant to climate impacts as they protect in the event of drought, reduce the risk of flooding, maintain biodiversity and increase groundwater formation. Let yourself be inspired by the numerous wetlands: Nabben in Mariehamn³⁷, Söderbergs in Ämnäs³⁸, Wallins Oasis in Sund, Hammarudda farm³⁹, Granlids in Vårdö⁴⁰, Storängsdiket dam in Jomala, Södergårds in Lillbollstad⁴¹, Gloet in Sund⁴² and the new wetland planned in Svibyviken, a collaboration between Mariehamn and Jomala.

The LEADER program⁴³ is a gem in the action work for our waters. An example is the fishing team in Brändö and their reed cutting project⁴⁴. Another is Åland Water's Leader-funded work to reduce nutrient losses from agricultural land⁴⁵ – a win-win concept for the crops and for the water environment. Rural development's quest for a sustainable food supply benefits many sectors and ultimately also our waters. Part of that work can be listened to in the aforementioned Axganpodden. On the food strategy's website⁴⁶, you can also read about, for example, bream-burgers, fried Norwegian flounder and minnow fishing. ALL initiatives are great and today we can also see that there are those who see a commercial benefit in action for our waters. To mention a few examples, I choose the Fällman family who offer reed cutting services and the young entrepreneurs who have started a boat hull cleaning service in the Western Harbour.

³⁷ <https://www.mariehamn.ax/trafik-och-miljo/vatmarker>

³⁸ <https://leader.ax/vatmark-amnas/>

³⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukWxUTT8JDC>

⁴⁰ <https://vattenskydd.ax/granlids-vatmark/>

⁴¹ <https://vattenskydd.ax/win-win-for-johan-och-vattenmiljon/>

⁴² <https://leader.ax/restaurering-av-vatmarksomrade-i-gloet-sund/>

⁴³ <https://leader.ax/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/sainivassen/>

⁴⁵ <https://vattenskydd.ax/lantbruk/>

⁴⁶ <https://landsbygd.ax/livsmedelsstrategin/>

Goal managers reflect on the status of the sub-goals

Text: Ann Nedergård

What does water mean to you? Water is a necessity for all of us. The human body is 60% water. The food we eat requires water in its production and processing. The drinks we drink are or consist largely of water. We travel on and in water and most of us enjoy swimming. The world's ecosystems, indeed all living things, need water.

For me, water is my profession, but it is also a big part of my identity. For me, water quality means that I can swim in the summer and that I can drink the water in the tap without worrying that it contains something dangerous. Water is an obvious source of joy and positive experiences. I accepted the responsibility for goal 3 because water is such an integral part of what I consider important in life.

I think of water as part of the Ålanders' headstrong spirit. We are surrounded by water and often take it for granted. But if we run out or have poor quality water, we Ålanders are even more vulnerable than people in our neighbouring regions, not least because of our insular location. If our waters are not in good condition, it affects both Åland's development and its soul.

So, where do we stand? Given the time it takes to make changes, goal 3 is an incredible challenge. We have elaborate targets and roadmaps for water. We have a clear vision of good quality water - and it can be measured. We have many committed people and organisations, and a lot is being done. Just look at the many examples under We realise.

Structure, goals and roadmaps create the conditions for continuous improvement, and that's a good thing, because most of our waters have a moderately good status. The maps showing the status of our waters are yellow with orange and even red highlights. Several of our inland bays and lakes also have unsatisfactory status.

The status of water bodies varies from year to year and for some water bodies we sometimes see deterioration. In other words, improvement is slow, but at least we can say that we are moving in the right direction. The nutrient load that causes eutrophication has not decreased significantly in recent years and we also have difficulties in measuring the reductions in emissions, which makes it difficult to follow up. What we can say with certainty, however, is that emissions need to continue to decline. Emissions from households, agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, industry and wastewater; both nutrients and hazardous substances.

We need to reduce both point and diffuse pollution and try to influence what we can in terms of atmospheric deposition.

The goal of good water quality depends on progress in the other target areas as well. In a natural way, the goal of biodiversity and balanced ecosystems is close to the objective of good water quality and our objectives also interact strongly. Another objective on which many depend is the objective of sustainable consumption and production patterns. How goods and services are produced and consumed obviously has an impact on our waters.

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Support, cooperate and help each other to flourish.

What would happen if nothing is done? If we don't follow action plans, developed from science and evidence, we won't see significant improvements in water quality either and we will not achieve the goal of good water quality.

What should we do then? Of course, we should keep working in the right direction. We should continue to move forward, with all committed people and in those sectors where there are opportunities to succeed. We will highlight the good examples and thus engage more people.

We have a great team working on the water quality objective. Those of us involved in the water quality objective have a role to play in making the status of water visible in a good way. We need to make our roadmap, our achievements and all the actions that are being carried out visible in such a way that inspires more people and gets them involved. We need to draw on experience and work to get new forces. We also need to pat each other and everyone else working for our waters on the back. We can help each other celebrate successes and it would be great if we could also help each other flourish in this way.

A few more words of encouragement and a few more cheers:

POLITICIANS

- Long-term development requires timely legislation that provide good conditions for water and anticipates future requirements for industries
- There is a lot to prioritise in different sectors, but I ask you to take a strategic approach to the vision of getting more project funding from the EU to Åland. These are resources that would not burden the Åland budget, but would create jobs and open up more opportunities to meet our sustainability goals more quickly.

CIVIL SERVANTS

Åland has the same obligations to meet EU requirements as other much larger countries and regions, despite our small size. Meeting the requirements of the Water Management Plan and Action Plan, the Marine Directive, the Floods Directive and so on is no small task. Thank you for the work you are doing! Keep up the work on mapping and action plans so that we can prioritise the right actions based on need. This will enable us to achieve our objectives.

Work actively to help the whole of Åland's society to take part in the action. Work to ensure that Åland takes greater advantage of the funding available under the various EU programs.

TRADE & INDUSTRY

See the possibilities! Circularity and resource management may be buzzwords, but they are here to stay. Rules are tightening and demands are increasing. If you can stay ahead of the curve, there is much to be gained. Not least through cost savings, goodwill and attracting new workers. Get on board!

ALL ÅLANDERS

Praise positive environmental behaviour and set an example yourself. Don't wash your car in the street. If you need medicines, see if you can choose those that are better for the environment⁴⁷. Cycle instead of taking the car. Consider sailing as an alternative to motor boats. For more tips on what you can do to protect our waters, visit vattenskydd.ax.

Support, cooperate and help each other flourish. ✂

⁴⁷ <https://vattenskydd.ax/nya-infoblad/>

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If we run out or have poor quality water, we Ålanders are even more vulnerable than people in our neighbouring regions, not least because of our insular location.

- Ann Nedergård -



3.4. Strategic development goal 4:

Ecosystems in balance and biological diversity

Biodiversity is a crucial foundation for the Earth's life support system and our present and future well-being rests on this foundation. Biodiversity contributes to the resilience of ecosystems.

Sub-goals for goal 4:

- 4.1 Everyone living and working in Åland is aware of that animals, plants and ecosystems have an intrinsic value in themselves. Knowledge of biodiversity, balanced ecosystems and particularly valuable species and biotopes is high in all sectors of society.
- 4.2 Ecosystems and biodiversity are integrated in all development and planning processes for land and sea use (so-called regional greening) and are used as a tool to mitigate effects of climate change, counteract habitat fragmentation and degradation and ensure green corridors
- 4.3 The environmental impact of invasive species is so low that naturally occurring species and biotopes in Åland are not threatened.
- 4.4 Marine, coastal and terrestrial areas and particularly the coastal, marine and terrestrial areas and species of special conservation interest in Åland are protected at least to the level and extent required by EU legislation.
- 4.5 Nature loss has been halted. Areas where biotopes or species of special conservation interest previously existed have either been restored or these species and biotopes have been reintroduced or re-created in areas particularly suitable for these occurrences.

3.4.1. Indicators

- Proportion of protected land
- Percentage of water protected
- Public attitudes towards biodiversity

Proportion of protected land

Åland's nature reserves (including Natura 2000 areas with conservation decisions and/or agreements) amounted to approximately 3 057 hectares of land area in 2020. Expressed as a percentage of Åland's land area, nature protection areas cover about 2.0% of the land area.⁴⁸

YEAR	LAND	% OF ÅLAND
2016	2 777	1,79
2017	2 777	1,79
2018	2 799	1,80
2019	2 808	1,81
2020	3 057	1,97
2021	3 105	2,00

Source: ÅSUB

This data includes the area covered by protected species where these are located within nature reserves (including Natura 2000 areas with conservation orders and/or agreements). Comparison between 2016 data for area covered protected species that are not located within nature reserves (including Natura 2000 areas with conservation orders and/or agreements) can be made in SkogsÅland 2027.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ <https://www.asub.ax/sv/ekologisk-hallbarhet-9-aland-naturreservat-hektar>

⁴⁹ https://www.regeringen.ax/sites/www.regeringen.ax/files/attachments/page/skogsaland_2027.pdf s. 39 tabell 7.

Proportion of protected water

In 2020, Åland's nature reserves (including Natura 2000 areas with conservation orders and/or agreements) amounted to 33,049 hectares of water area. Expressed as a percentage of Åland's surface area, nature protection areas cover about 2.8% of the water area.⁵⁰

YEAR	WATER	% OF ÅLAND
2016	32 948	2,80
2017	32 953	2,80
2018	32 953	2,80
2019	32 953	2,80
2020	33 049	2,81
2021	33 049	2,81

Source: ÅSUB

Public attitudes towards biodiversity

On average, 87.4% of respondents agree that ensuring biodiversity is important.⁵¹

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE (%) OF RESPONDENTS AGREEING/STRONGLY AGREEING, BY SUB-QUESTION

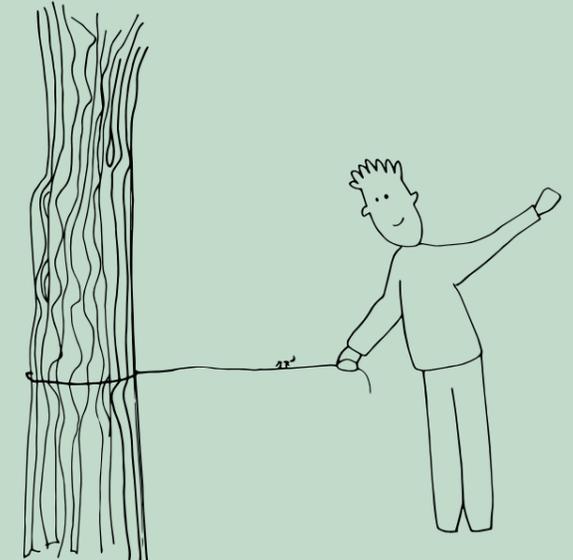
	Agree / Strongly agree	
	Number	Percentage (%)
It is worth protected nature	490	89,4
Our health and well-being depend on nature and biodiversity	475	87,3
Biodiversity and a healthy environment are important for our long-term economic development	446	84,0
Animals, plants and ecosystems have an intrinsic value	481	88,8
Average		87,4

Source: ÅSUB

Note: The results include respondents who answered according to the scale 1 = strongly agree... 5 = strongly disagree. The total number of respondents in the survey is 560, weighted responses have been used.

⁵⁰ <https://www.asub.ax/sv/ekologisk-hallbarhet-9-aland-naturreservat-hektar>

⁵¹ ÅSUB. Rapport publiceras under försommar 2022.





3.4.2.

The rampant loss of nature and what Åland can do about it

Petra Granholm & David Abrahamsson

Petra is responsible for the *Biodiversity and Ecosystem Balance target*
David is the process leader for the objective.

Åland joins Finland's major initiative to protect species and habitats in the Baltic Sea.

LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA is a project that started at the end of 2021 and will run for eight years in order to protect our marine nature. The aim of the project is to develop the network of marine protected areas but also to develop nature tourism and inform the public about the importance of the Baltic Sea's biodiversity and how nature protection will affect people. So far, a project coordinator has been appointed and needs mapping and objectives for the project have been identified. Previous mapping of the Åland marine environment has also been carried out in connection with Åland Seemap and Vikarlife, and this will be continued under LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA. The Baltic marine environment is both diverse and rich in species, but major pressures from everything from maritime traffic to climate change risk damaging or in the worst case wiping out this diversity, something that we as Ålanders will be very badly affected by. The project is an important step towards safeguarding the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea in the long term by ensuring that more areas are protected from anthropogenic pressures and development, but also by restoring damaged biotopes.



New landscape species for the centenary celebrations

Åland's biodiversity will be celebrated as a part of Åland 100 by designating new landscape species in five categories: butterflies, beetles, amphibians, macrophytes and trees. Åland Nature and Environment together with the network bärkraft.ax is doing this in cooperation with municipalities and libraries around Åland. Each category has three candidate species and this highlights that biodiversity is about different species with different niches in nature, and that all are needed. By allowing all who wish to participate the right to vote, the project is an exercise in democracy and biodiversity at the same time, which is why goal 2 and goal 4 are working together on the implementation. As in a political election, interviews are conducted with the candidates and an election debate held.

The rampant loss of nature and what Åland can do about it

We are in the midst of a sixth global mass extinction. It is usually compared to the extinction of the dinosaurs. Humans have wipe out 60% of the world's wildlife populations in the last 40 years. Åland is no exception, species are disappearing here too. Biodiversity is about variation in living nature, and how this variation is woven into the ecosystems of which humans are also a part. Why should we protect non-human nature? Because all living things have intrinsic value, but biodiversity and ecosystems also provide the conditions for our own survival and flourishing. We know this from science. The IPCC, the UN Panel on Climate Change, and the IPBES, the UN Panel on Biological Diversity, have together concluded that biodiversity loss and climate change are driven by human economic activities and are mutually reinforcing. At the global level, conservation summits are held biodiversity, just as for climate change.



we need to protect much larger areas than are protected today in order to protect ourselves.

The conclusions of the Global Dialogue are that we need to protect much larger areas than are protected today in order to protect ourselves. The EU Biodiversity Strategy, launched at the end of 2021, paves the way for increasingly ambitious nature conservation targets.

The solution may lie in what one of the main indicators of the biodiversity target represents, namely the attitude of humanity, in this case the Ålanders, towards nature. From ÅSUB's recent environmental attitude survey from February 2022, we know that this is the closest of the three main indicators of the goal to being met. A clear majority - the vast majority of Ålanders, have come to realise that it is important to ensure biodiversity. Respondents agree that it is our responsibility to protect nature, that our health, well-being and long-term economy depend on nature and biodiversity.

As a specific sub-goal, we have added the issue of intrinsic value, i.e. that something, in this case plants, animals and ecosystems, has intrinsic value in itself. ÅSUB also asked for the opinion of Ålanders on this question, and here it turns out that the respondents have an opinion that can be seen as something of a break with the anthropocentric view of life: a full 89% agree with the statement that plants, animals and ecosystems have an intrinsic value. The fact that a full 60 per cent believe that biodiversity is a very important environmental issue indicates strong public support for policy action.

Looking instead at the other two main indicators, the share of protected land and the share of protected water, we have a long way to go. Precisely because the EU is ambitious on this issue, we have set the intermediate target for 2030 for the share of protected land and water at "at least the level and extent required by the EU regulations require". At present the EU strategy envisages 30% protection and of this 10% strict protection. Åland has about 2% protected land mass and about 2.8% protected marine area and is therefore far behind the EU's ambitions.

What is the discrepancy between global, European and Ålandic insight on the one hand, and Ålandic policy measures on the other? No study has (yet) been carried out on this issue, but it is clear that the bio-ecological map of Åland is becoming increasingly fragmented: habitats for different species are being cut, species split up by settlements and cut by roads. We know that there is a lack of political will to adopt the long-overdue revised Nature Conservation Ordinance, that the Nature Conservation Act is 24 years (too) old, and that only scarce budgetary resources for the purchase of new nature reserves are provided. Do our decision-makers need more knowledge? For the sake of knowledge, we have therefore dedicated one of our sub-goals to the level of knowledge in all sectors regarding biodiversity, ecosystem balance, particularly valuable species and biotopes.

Are financial incentives for biodiversity needed like the promise of money for developing green energy? Rarely is the "if you don't do this, you die" argument effective. The link between human survival and nature protection at the local level should be sufficient, but the solutions cost initially, instead of being lucrative business. It costs to leave it alone, it costs to change habits, it costs not to build, not to exploit.

There are some things we need to do. One such thing, which is essential for all the sustainable development goals but particularly for the biodiversity goal is planning. We have included so called 'green corridors' in a sub-goal on planning. Through holistic planning that also takes ecological aspects into account, we can ensure that creatures other than human beings have a chance to survive. Since they cannot plan for themselves, the 'living areas' of trees, insects, amphibians, macrophytes and birds also need to be planned like our own. They thank us by continuing to provide the vital ecosystem services, or natural benefits, that we have so far had the audacity to take for granted: pollination, clean water and air, beauty and recreation. As the Norwegian biologist Anne Sverdrup Thygeson

says: nature is a farm shop and a pharmacy, a caretaker and a cultural centre all in one!

One could see modern man and his destructive lifestyle as an invasive species whose destructiveness needs to be limited, e.g. through planning and the setting aside of areas free of buildings and traffic. There are also other invasive species, introduced by human action into habitats that are not their own, which need to be limited to avoid harm to other species. Then there are species that have already disappeared from a site, which need to be reintroduced to achieve a balance as close to the natural as possible. That is why we now have sub-goals specifically for the control of invasive species and the reintroduction of native species and habitat restoration.

We do not need to only see nature as a victim in need of protection from our over-exploitation. We can find solutions to various problems simply by mimicking nature. By studying natural ecosystems, methods of agriculture and forestry are being developed, such as regenerative agriculture, which is also gaining ground in Åland by improving soil health, nutrient circulation and so on. If we think about it, the solutions to many of the key problems of well-being, context, water quality, attractiveness, the climate crisis and consumption and production are to be found in the very goal of biodiversity.

According to the ÅSUB survey, a large majority of Ålanders support the idea that nature has an intrinsic value and that it is our duty to preserve it and all the ecosystem services it provides for future generations of Ålanders. Those of us who are committed to the biodiversity goal call for a new Nature Conservation Regulation and Act to be adopted as soon as possible, for more money to be allocated to conservation work such as the establishment of nature reserves, rewilding, restoration and inventory, and that regional planning for green infrastructure and green corridors be seriously addressed. This is not only the will of the people, but also the future of the people. ✂

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One could see
modern man and
his destructive lifestyle
as an invasive species
whose capacity for destruction
needs to be limited

- Petra Granholm -

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3.5. Strategic development goal 5:

Attractive for residents, visitors and businesses

Attractiveness requires forward movement.

Another prerequisite is the use of the word "we" in a welcoming way: it is a "we" that is for everyone who wants to live and work in Åland, and it is a "we" that opens to the world.

Sub-goals for objective 5:

5.1 Åland will have 35,000 inhabitants.

5.2 Åland will have 14,000 jobs in the private sector.

5.3 Åland will have 300 000 overnight visitors annually*.

* In commercial accommodation. Visitors mainly from neighbouring regions.

In 2030, Åland will have a high level of attractiveness for both residents and non-residents, as a destination and for investment. Preservation of and access to nature is ensured with a focus on coastal areas.

Stimulation and encouragement are provided for a vibrant association life and a viable cultural and educational sector. Art, design and architecture are highly valued and cultural heritage is preserved, made visible and developed.

The public sector is cohesive, service-oriented and financially stable, offering skilled and developing employment opportunities. Physical and digital venues are accessible to all.

Business is successful locally and internationally and offers qualified job opportunities. We use our smallness to advantage and businesses promote the rapid implementation of new innovations and technological solutions.

Mariehamn and the surrounding area is a vibrant centre for the whole of Åland. The local public transport system creates the conditions for resource-efficient and sustainable transport and sustainable means of transport are used for contacts with the outside world. Good interaction with other communities around the

Baltic Sea; deepened relations especially with Stockholm/Uppsala and Turku/Helsinki.

Action programs and measures to resist and the ability to adapt to the effects of amongst others, climate change, are established and implemented.

The pursuit of high-quality development and planning processes enhances the attractiveness and optimises synergies between nature, culture, infrastructure and transport. Focus on; good infrastructure for businesses, good living environments, multi-functional places and accessible services.

Development and planning processes for land and sea use, which are at the forefront in terms of quality in the Nordic perspective, are a key factor in achieving a gradual strengthening of attractiveness. Development and planning processes optimise synergies in the interaction between nature, culture, infrastructure and transport. Good infrastructure for businesses and a good living environment are given priority. Multifunctional places create a vibrant local environment with high attractiveness and accessible services.

3.5.1. Indicators

- Population change (births, immigration and emigration)
- Number of jobs in businesses and companies
- Number of overnight guests in commercial accommodation establishments

Population change

Population change (births, deaths, immigration and emigration)⁵²

YEAR	BIRTHS	DEATHS	IMMIGRANTS	EMIGRANTS TOTAL	CORRECTION	WHOLE CHANGE
2016	293	297	1024	790	1	231
2017	279	235	1030	796	-3	275
2018	280	272	1080	789	1	300
2019	267	266	847	764	11	95
2020	261	291	957	742	60	245

Source: ÅSUB

Number of jobs in companies

Number of jobs in companies⁵³

2016	8 919
2017	9 070
2018	8 859
2019	8 627

Source: ÅSUB

Number of arriving overnight guests in commercial accommodation

Number of arriving overnight guests in commercial accommodation; hotel, guest house/guest house, cottage village and camping⁵⁴

YEAR	TOTAL
2016	200 444
2017	204 742
2018	207 644
2019	189 490
2020	83 724
2021	163 827

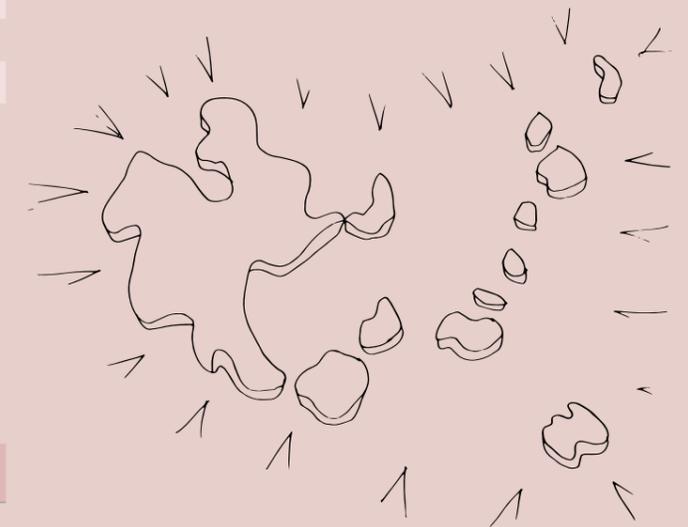
Source: ÅSUB

⁵² ÅSUB. befolkningsrörelsen. https://pxweb.asub.ax/PXWeb/pxweb/sv/Statistik/Statistik__BE__Befolkningsr%C3%B6relsen/BE012.px/table/tableViewLayout1/?loadedQueryId=d3b973e3-7f6a-4b69-bfcf-0923dab-f9186&timeType=from&timeValue=1971

⁵³ ÅSUB. Inom området arbetande (arbetsplatser). https://pxweb.asub.ax/PXWeb/pxweb/sv/Statistik/Statistik__AR__Arbetsplatser/AR017.px/table/tableViewLayout1/?loadedQueryId=63ddd623-fe1f-4492-bfb2-6f8d5dcefc0&timeType=from&timeValue=2008

⁵⁴ ÅSUB. Anlända gäster till inkvarteringsanläggningarna. https://pxweb.asub.ax/PXWeb/pxweb/sv/Statistik/Statistik__TU/TU008.px/table/tableViewLayout1/

ATTRACTIVE FOR RESIDENTS, VISITORS AND BUSINESSES





3.5.2.

We want to grow!

Johanna Backholm

Johanna is responsible for the goal
Attractive for residents, visitors and businesses

The strategic development goal "Attractive for residents, visitors and businesses" aim to **identify, initiate and synchronise sustainable and forward-looking projects** that work towards Åland having more residents (35,000), more jobs (14,000) in private industry and more overnight visitors annually (300,000), by 2030. In short – **we want to grow!**

The quantitative targets raise some questions and concerns along the lines of "Why 35 000 inhabitants?". In any change process, it is important to know where you are going and here we are given the direction and level of ambition. We want more inhabitants in Åland to help be less insular and to be able to look at our society from the outside. The desire to have a larger population give us forward momentum and contributes to the vitality of our society both now and in the future, a society where we can maintain a good level of service and infrastructure for those of us who live in Åland.

A key factor for living in Åland, and for Åland to attract residents is that there are **opportunities to earn a living**. This is not only about more jobs in existing companies, but also encouraging and making it simple to set up new businesses. There is some work to be done here, as we see that the number of jobs is not increasing in line with the ambitious target. Is it possible for a major investment initiative, such as a wind farm project, give us the boost we need to boost Åland's attractiveness? There are several examples around the world where major investments have boosted the coordination of all the elements that need to work together to attract immigrants, new workers and the knock-on effects this brings. Åland Living is already working to actively portray Åland as an attractive place to live. They regularly receive requests to help individuals move to Åland, find work and get in touch with the right agencies. Developing and investing more resources in Åland Living in close cooperation with the business community and the labour market would be a move in the right direction.

The corona pandemic has been a challenging time, and its consequences are taking its toll on the world. But we but we have learned to think differently and adapt to new circumstances. Digitalisation has created new opportunities, where companies today are less tied to meeting customers physically, even willing to hire qualified workers remotely. It is now possible to work from Åland with contacts all over the world. It is possible to bring the job with you when you move here. We also see trends such as "workation", where people choose to work remotely for a few weeks or even months in a new location to combine it with travel experiences and hobbies.

We want to grow, with more diversity – people with different backgrounds, experiences, histories, etc. The attractiveness of Åland will be determined by our ability to welcome people with different backgrounds and new perspectives, where we can network, interact, influence and together create our future in all different sectors. Promoting diversity, but also the exchange of experience and ideas across sectors within Åland while welcoming new collaborations between existing actors.

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Developing and growing
is our only option
as we work together
to build the attractive,
sustainable island
community of the future.



”

The desire to attract more people give us forward momentum and contributes to the vitality of society now and in the future, a society where we can maintain a good level of service and infrastructure for those of us who live in Åland.

A brilliant example of collaboration is Grit:lab, where the Åland Government, Åland Vocational College and Paf (A Nordic gambling company) have taken a completely new approach to IT education and rapidly launched a brand new training for coders. The aim is **to contribute talent and skills to Åland and to create conditions and opportunities for start-ups in the tech cluster**, but also to strengthen the local business community. Within Grit:lab it has succeeded in creating commitment and activating companies to interact directly with the students, who live and study in Åland and hopefully create ties to the community and choose to settle here after completing their studies.

Åland University of Applied Sciences is also an important part of Åland's attractiveness. Educational possibilities play an important role in an attractive society, and the University is continuing to work in the direction set out in the final report "Strategy for strengthening the role of higher education in social development" published during the pandemic. It describes their vision of Åland as a knowledge society and acting as a magnet for knowledge. To be a disseminator of knowledge, an innovative meeting place with networks to all activities in society and thus a catalyst for society's development.

Åland boasts a rich cultural and associative life. It is a key factor for to **creating meaningful leisure time** and promoting various interests, but also to attract visitors to Åland. Here, too, we see fine and recurring initiatives with various forms of sports tourism with major events organised by active associations, where

participants' families combine holidays with competitions, training camps, etc. Åland's rich association life is also a wonderfully inclusive and can be a help with integrating newly arrived Ålanders into society.

The objective of increasing the number of people also makes demands, especially in terms of the sustainable development of the physical structure, which is important for new arrivals in Åland. In this regard, the government has drawn up a programme, "**Physical structural development of Åland 2030**" (Fysisk strukturutveckling Åland 2030), with the overall objective of "contributing to a settlement and regional structure that enables a socially and environmentally sustainable, and for people and businesses attractive, future Åland society. The overall objective is divided into three sub-objectives: - a developable social environment, - a living countryside and archipelago, - efficient land use, safeguarding protection needs and climate considerations."

It will be important to understand and discuss **what Åland's "ecosystem" is able to handle over time**. Ecosystems include the environment, community structures, planning, services, transport, employment, livelihoods, enterprise, public sector, third sector, etc.

The attractiveness objective is in many ways directly linked to the other strategic objectives of our sustainability as set out in "Bärkraft" and needs to focus on dialogue, cooperation and networking to avoid sub-optimisation and contradiction.

We succeed when we work together and extend the concept of "we" across sectors. Developing and growing is our only option as we build together the attractive, sustainable island society of the future. ✕



3.6. Strategic development goal 6:

Significantly reduced climate impact

Åland will be climate neutral by 2035. * The aim is to live up to the Paris Agreement and take responsibility for future generations. At the same time, new growth opportunities and strengthened competitiveness will be created. To achieve this goal, Åland should meet the following sub-goals by 2030.

Sub-goals for goal 6:

- 6.1 80% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions (excluding external shipping **) compared to 2005
- 6.2 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from road transport compared to 2005
- 6.3 100% of electricity use comes from fossil-free energy sources
- 6.4 No fossil-based heating of buildings

* Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced and sequestration in carbon sinks is increased so that by 2035 emissions are at most equal to sequestration. Thereafter, sequestration will continue to increase while emissions continue to decrease.

** All shipping except the archipelago ferries.

3.6.1. Indicators

- Total carbon dioxide emissions
- Amount/percentage of locally produced fossil-free electricity
- Amount of total fossil and fossil free energy use

Total carbon dioxide emissions

YEAR	TOTAL CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS IN ÅLAND, 1000 TONNES OF CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT
2016	255,9
2017	244,7
2018	250,5
2019	237,8
2020*	213,3

*) Preliminary data

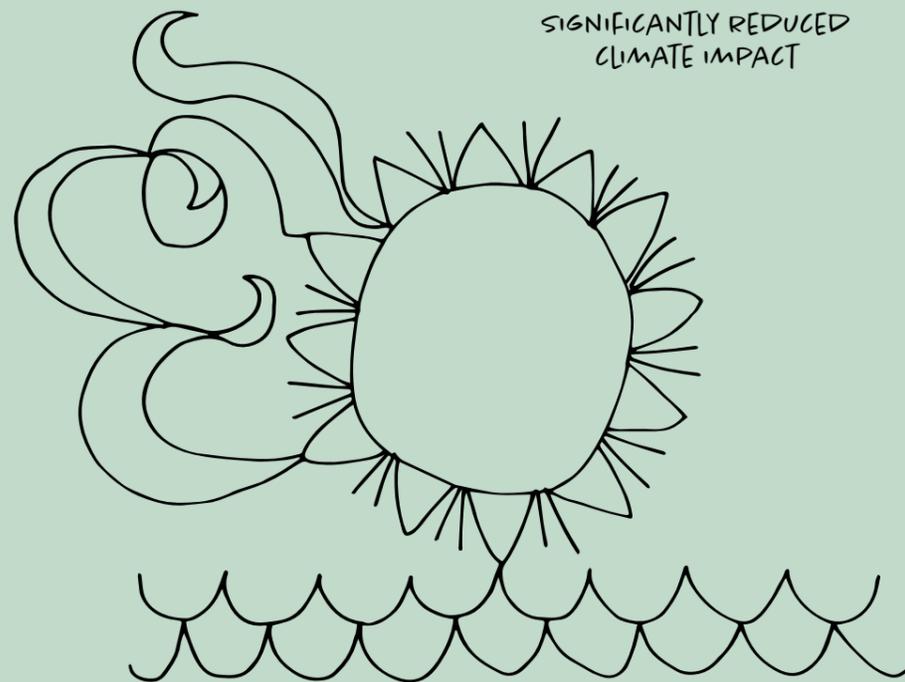
Total carbon dioxide emissions in 2020 were about 213.3 million kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalents, a reduction of about 10.3 percent since 2019. Compared to 2005, when emissions were around 288.9 million kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions have decreased by a full 26.2 percent. The main source of carbon dioxide emissions is estimated to be road traffic with about 62.7 million kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (more than a quarter of total emissions), followed by agriculture (41.3 carbon dioxide equivalent) and maritime transport (33.8 carbon dioxide equivalent).

In 2020, estimated carbon dioxide equivalents per capita of the population of Åland were about 7.1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent, a reduction of about 11.0 percent compared to 2019.

The relatively large reduction in 2020 (preliminary) is mainly due to maritime traffic, largely because of the reduction in traffic during the corona pandemic. A decrease is also visible in electricity consumption, electric heating, district heating and oil heating and can be attributed to the high average temperature in 2020

At the beginning of 2020, the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) presented a new system for calculating emissions for all municipalities in Finland. It concerns an internationally unique calculation system that enables the reading of municipality-specific emissions data based on the targets for both the EU and the municipalities. The new emissions system includes all emissions in the inventory of greenhouse gases in Finland apart from process emissions from industry and the land use sector. The calculation builds on use, based on emissions from production in the area, but some of the activities that cause emissions are calculated based on consumption, regardless of their geographic origin.

- International shipping is not included in the calculation system, but domestic shipping is. This means that the municipalities Lumparland and Mariehamn, which both have ports with domestic traffic, have high emission data originating from maritime traffic, while Eckerö, whose port only has foreign traffic, has low emission data.
- Air traffic is not included in the calculation system.
- Emissions from electricity consumption are calculated on average consumption of electricity produced in Finland, imported electricity is not included (those emissions are considered to belong to the country where the electricity is produced). Åland imports most of its electricity from Sweden (closer to 75 percent of electricity consumption), the corresponding share for Finland's net import of electricity is about 23 percent.⁵⁵



⁵⁵ <https://www.asub.ax/sv/ekologisk-hallbarhet-16-beraknade-utslap-pet-koldioxidekvivalenter>

Amount/share of locally produced fossil-free electricity

YEAR	WIND POWER GWH	SHARE OF WIND POWER IN ANNUAL CONSUMPTION IN ÅLAND (%)	SOLAR ENERGY, GWH*	SHARE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ANNUAL ELCTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN ÅLAND (%)*
2016	56,9	18,6	..	..
2017	57,0	18,1	..	..
2018	54,0	16,9	..	..
2019	58,1	18,6	..	..
2020	57,2	19,1	..	..
2021	56,2	17,1	1,0	0,3

*The solar energy data above only includes the excess energy that customers have supplied to the grid when they have had surplus production.⁵⁶

Data for the indicator will change from 2022 onwards due to a significant increase in locally produced fossil-free electricity from wind power. This is due to the commissioning of the Long-Life Project during the year. Project Långnabba consists of ten wind turbines in the 4 MW class on the southern tip of Eckerö. The wind farm is expected to produce over 130 GWh of energy per year. The actual outcome for 2022 regarding the amount/percentage of locally produced fossil-free electricity can be presented in 2023.

Amount of total fossil and fossil free energy use

Data not available.

⁵⁶ Ålands landskapsregering



3.6.2.

Climate policy has become security policy

Niklas Lampi

Niklas is responsible for the goal to *significantly reducing climate impact* and a member of the Development and Sustainability Council

The move from Russian fossil fuels is accelerating the transition in Europe and could also provide a tailwind for offshore wind power in Åland.

Even before the war in Ukraine broke out, the latest report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had highlighted the climate issue as never before.

Summits demanded action. The EU stepped up the pace of change with 'fit for 55'. In Åland, the Development and Sustainability Council agreed on tougher climate targets, all in response to the IPCC figures that showed the urgency of the situation. According to the IPCC, it is only a matter of ten years before the 1.5-degree target from the Paris Agreement is passed. Climate change is already visible in all parts of the world. If the world is to avert even more serious consequences the IPCC urged that things must start happening now.

Then came the war and changed everything - including climate policy.

Overnight, the pursuit of fossil-free energy has now also taken on an increasingly security policy dimension. How to produce our electricity, how we power our cars and how we heat our homes is no longer just about curbing temperature rise. It is now also about breaking free from an equally heavy and unhealthy dependence on Russian fossil energy. A dependence that gives Putin power over European democracies and finances Russia's war against Ukraine.

”

How we produce our electricity, how we power our cars and how we heat our homes is no longer just about curbing temperature rise.

The influx of oil, natural gas and coal from Russia to the EU are, simply put, enormous. 38.1% of all imported natural gas, 25.7% of all imported oil and 45.6% of all imported coal came from Russia in 2020.⁵⁷

The situation varies from country to country. Thanks to its energy mix of nuclear, hydro and wind power, the Nordic countries are not as dependent on Russian fossil fuels as many countries on the continent. But Europe's economic locomotive Germany, for example, has integrated its energy system with Russia for decades.

Natural gas from Russia is not only used to heat homes in Germany, it is also used for electricity generation and industry. When nuclear power was phased out in Germany, it was partly replaced by solar and wind power, but also by even more natural gas from Russia. The driving force behind all this has been to secure cheap energy for the German economy. But there have also been an explicit hope that far-reaching economic cooperation with its eastern neighbour will promote peace and stability in Europe.

This whole post-war strategy now lies in ruins. Instead, the EU, including Germany, is trying, as fast as it can, to break away from being dependent on Russian energy.



⁵⁷ Europeiska kommissionen, mars 2022

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The race towards "fossil free" has now, if possible, intensified. It is reasonable to assume that even more capital will move into these sectors. The quest for increased energy independence has become a national security and defence policy issue in European but also in Nordic countries.

This historic shift will, according to most analysts, greatly accelerate the pace of change.

It was already well under way before the war. It is now expected to accelerate further, as investors and politicians frantically look for ways to replace the loss of Russian energy. Part of the answer will be fossil fuels from other countries. But another, likely large part will be EU-produced carbon-free energy of all kinds. The EU has talked extensively this spring about the importance of speeding up the shift to green energy. New programmes for the green transition have been launched. All manner of ways to promote the deployment of wind and solar power are being discussed in European countries.

An Åland and target 6 - our own, local target of significantly reduced climate impact? Yes, it is also possible that everything that is currently happening in Europe and the world can also influence Åland's climate work in the right direction.

Plans for wind turbine farms in the maritime areas around Åland began to emerge some years ago. This is actually a continuation of several decades of gradual expansion of wind power in Åland. During the year, these plans have become more concrete and have attracted interest from investors. The situation already looked promising even earlier but now, with unprecedented pressure for conversion, the fair wind may increase further. The race towards zero fossil fuel has now, if possible, intensified. It is reasonable to assume that even more capital will move into these sectors. The quest for increased energy independence has become a national security and defence policy issue in European but also in the Nordic countries.

All of this also benefits local hopes of making Åland a hub for green energy, with everything from exporting wind power to metropolitan areas and selling hydrogen to ferry traffic in the Baltic Sea. ✕



3.7. Strategic development goal 7:

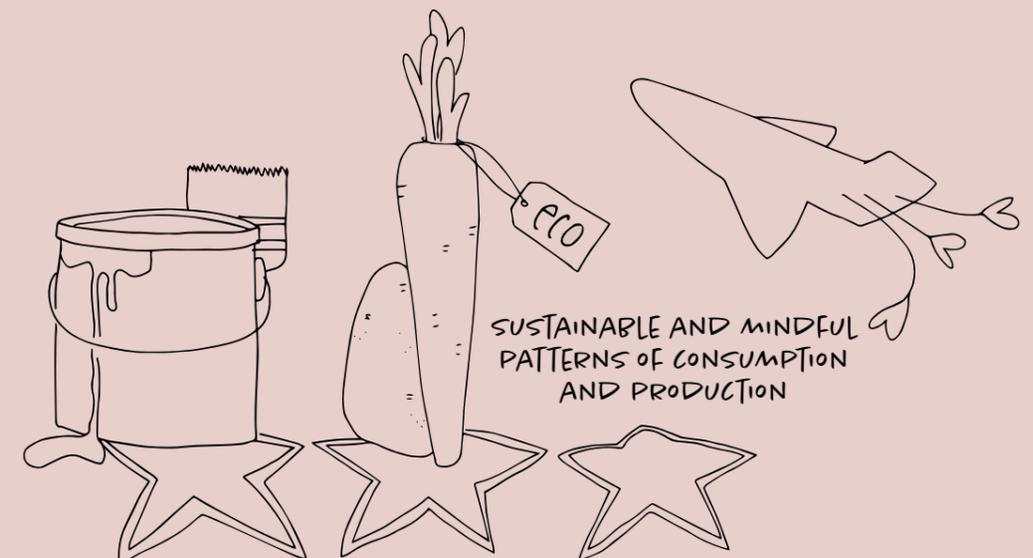
Sustainable and mindful patterns of consumption and production

Sustainable and conscious or deliberate consumption and production patterns are a transversal issue, contributing to the achievement of all six other Strategic development goals. Consumption refers to the consumption of both goods and services by individuals, the public sector, businesses and other organisations.

Sub-goals for goal 7:

- 7.1 The amount of waste generated in Åland has been reduced to a maximum of 1.2 tonnes per person per year
- 7.2 All organisations are working towards products, services and purchases within the four sustainability principles

- 7.3 All public organisations practice sustainable public contracting
- 7.4 Everyone builds and renovates in a sustainable way
- 7.5 The natural behaviour of beneficial animals is promoted through their natural needs such as food and exercise are met
- 7.6 At least 80 percent of the population has a resource-efficient and recycling lifestyle
- 7.7 At least 80% of the population eat a healthy diet according to current nutritional recommendations
- 7.8 At least 80% of the population eats a high proportion of locally produced food
- 7.9 Everyone travels and stays abroad in a sustainable way
- 7.10 At least 80 percent avoid buying goods containing harmful chemicals



3.7.1. Indicators

- Percentage of population living a low-waste lifestyle
- Number of companies, associations and organisations reporting their sustainability performance in their annual report
- Amount of waste generated per person

Percentage of population living a low-waste lifestyle

On average, 50.1% of respondents often/always have a resource-efficient or recycling lifestyle.⁵⁸

NUMBER AND PROPORTION (%) OF RESPONDENTS WHO OFTEN/ALWAYS HAVE A RESOURCE-LOW OR RECYCLING LIFESTYLE, BY SUB-QUESTION						
	Often		Allways		Often/allways	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
I invest in products that have a longer lifespan	287	52,0	155	28,2	442	80,2
I leave goods for reuse (e.g. Emmaus)	185	33,4	179	32,3	364	65,7
I sell second-hand goods, e.g. at the flea market	92	16,7	49	8,9	141	25,6
I try to have goods repaired than buy new ones	190	34,4	71	12,9	261	47,4
I think carefully about if I need a product before I buy	239	43,2	219	39,7	458	83,0
I buy second-hand	186	33,5	26	4,6	212	38,1
I buy eco-labelled goods	203	38,4	30	5,7	233	44,1
I buy eco-labelled services (e.g. hotel, hairdresser)	65	13,9	11	2,3	76	16,2
I avoid buying goods with warning text regarding the environment	169	34,9	108	22,3	277	57,2
I save electricity	228	41,6	113	20,6	341	62,2
I save with heating	191	35,9	105	19,8	296	55,6
I am careful with water use	195	35,5	107	19,5	302	55,0
I invest money in companies/funds with an environmental focus	60	14,0	30,0	7,0	90	21,0
						50,1

Source: ÅSUB

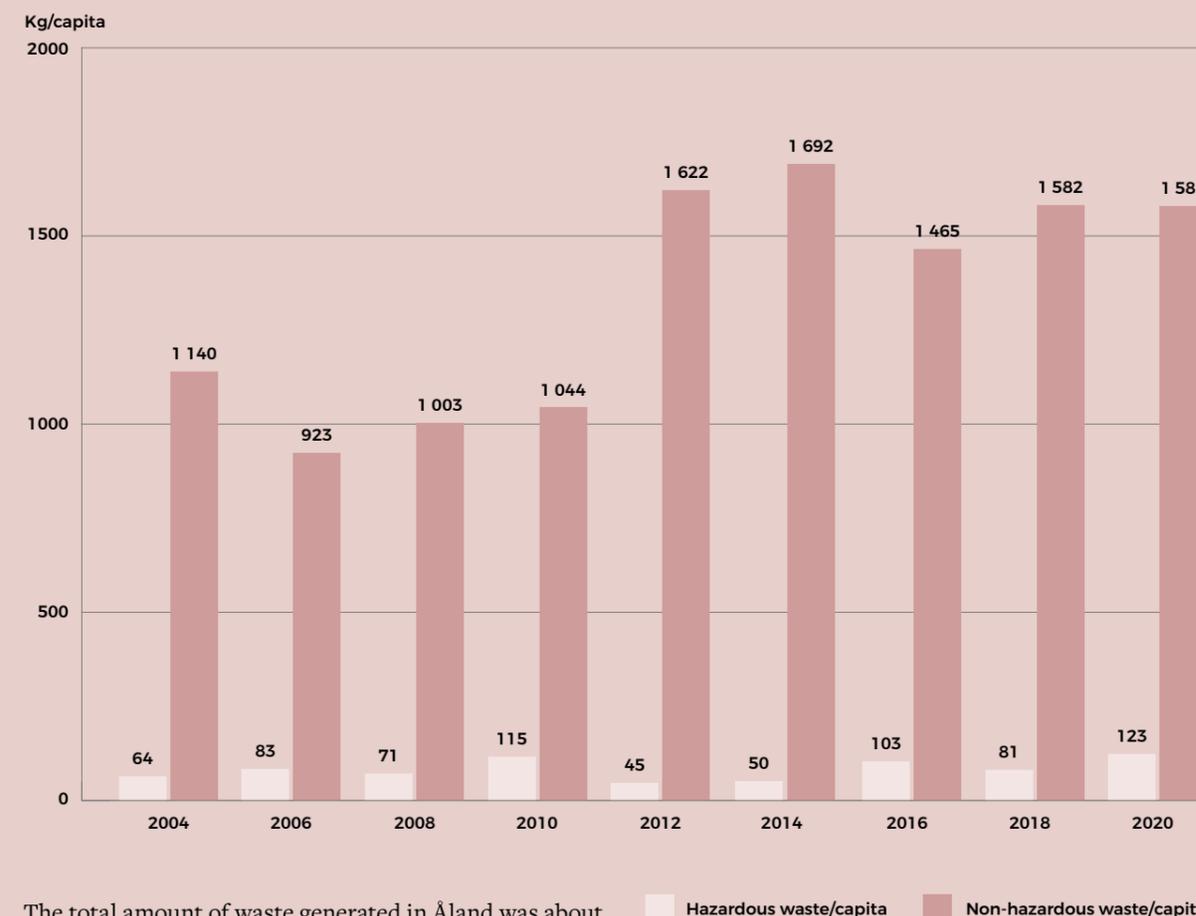
Note: The results include respondents who answered according to the scale 1 = always, 2 = often, 3 = sometimes, 4 = rarely, 5 = never. The total number of respondents in the survey is 560, weighted responses have been used.

58 ÅSUB. Rapport publiceras under försommaren 2022.

Number of companies, associations and organisations that report their sustainability work in their annual report

Data not available.

Generated amount of waste per person



The total amount of waste generated in Åland was about 51,100 tonnes in 2020, more than 1,700 kg per capita. In 2020, about 47,400 tonnes of non-hazardous waste were produced. Of the non-hazardous waste, animal waste and mixed food waste accounted for the largest share with more than 16 800 tonnes. Other major items are household and similar waste, ordinary sludge and vegetable waste. The amount of hazardous waste generated was just under 3 700 tonnes, of which mineral construction and demolition waste was the largest item at almost 2 600 tonnes.⁵⁹

59 <https://www.asub.ax/sv/statistik/avfallsstatistik-2020>



3.7.2. We implement

Fredrik Rosenqvist

Fredrik is responsible for the goal
Sustainable and mindful patterns of consumption and production

The starting point for those of us working on the implementation of Goal 7 is to put our energies where they are most needed. That's why we choose to focus on sub-objectives where we either see progress going in the wrong direction, where we are far from achieving the goal, or where relatively small efforts can lead to big results, both for our strategic development goal and for the other strategic development goals.

One of the most important things going on right now is all the efforts to create better conditions for Åland companies, regardless of sector, to adopt sustainable business models, strengthen their sustainability work and increase their range of eco-labelled products and services. We are doing this, for example, by highlighting good examples of companies that have adopted sustainability certification via Bärkraft.ax website, by giving lectures on sustainable business to participants in Business Lab Åland and the Åland Business School in cooperation with the Åland University of Applied Sciences and Åland Chamber of Commerce, and by supporting, educating and informing companies that want to work more sustainably in various ways.

The area under goal 7 that both we and the rest of society are currently putting the most effort into, is sustainable construction and renovation. In particular, increasing the share of renewable materials used in new construction and renovation as this is critical to achieving several sub-objectives, including

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The area related to goal 7 that both we and the rest of society are putting the most effort into right now is sustainable construction and renovation.



the one on waste reduction. The Åland Government is developing a strategy for sustainable construction, the project "Building in wood - ÅLAND" by the Public Works Agency aims to achieve large-scale construction in wood in Åland and together with private operators, we hope to educate, inform and inspire all Ålanders to build and renovate more sustainably. We see that there is a lot happening in this area and we expect to see concrete results in the near future.

Waste quantities are another priority under goal 7, which is, however, somewhat more difficult to work with. We believe that an effective way to reduce waste is to encourage companies to work more sustainably and getting both the construction industry and developers to choose sustainable materials and reuse in new construction and renovation.

At the same time, we believe that so-called "gameification" can be an effective way of reducing waste, i.e. a method where the whole of Åland, different companies, organisations, neighbourhoods, individual households etc., challenge each other and themselves to produce as little waste as possible. This is a tool that has proved successful in several other areas.

When it comes to creating sustainable and conscious consumption patterns, the public sector in Åland, thanks to its size, is very important. By practicing sustainable procurement, Åland municipalities, authorities and other public organisations can contribute directly to the achievement of a number of sub-goals, as well as creating better conditions for companies and other producers that work sustainably and have a wide range of products and services. The Åland Guide to Sustainable Public Procurement is our most important tool in this ongoing work.

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During the coming year, Åland households, businesses and other organisations should be very receptive to different types of measures such as sharing, recycling and general thrift that leads to both lower costs and reduced resource use.

We also see an opportunity to be a bit opportunistic in taking advantage of the changes the pandemic has brought to the way we work and travel. During the pandemic, many business trips have been cancelled and meetings have been held remotely, while many people have either been forced or chosen to work from home. We are therefore actively working both on sustainable business travel - with the aim of continuing to meet remotely - and on increasing the use of sustainable modes of transport as we return to our workplace.

On our roadmap, we also have a number of measures that we hope will create better conditions for a more developed sharing economy in Åland, both in terms of private households but also for businesses and other organisations. There should be good opportunities for more sharing and reuse among businesses and organisations in Åland, where we want to explore the interest in a digital resource that can act as a kind of Åland “Buy and sell”, but for businesses and organisations. We also envisage a market survey to find out what new sharing and reuse services there might be support for in Åland.

The pandemic meant, as previously mentioned, that in some ways saw our consumption and production become more sustainable, at least for the moment, which creates an opportunity for us to cement or nurture at least some of the good new habits we adopted during the pandemic. In our efforts to create sustainable consumption patterns, what is happening in the world in general and the world economy in particular, also presents an opportunity to create new, sustainable consumption patterns.

The sharp price increases we are currently seeing, while putting household finances under pressure, also present a great opportunity to move forward, particularly with regard to the sub-goal of at least 80% of Ålanders having a resource-efficient and recycling lifestyle. In the coming year, both Åland households and businesses and other organisations are likely to be very receptive to different types of measures such as sharing, reuse and general thrift that lead to both lower costs and reduced resource use. We are unlikely to have a better chance of taking a major step towards more sustainable and conscious consumption until the target is reached in 2030, and we should therefore make sure to take advantage of this opportunit. ✖

Sub-goal status

Text: Fredrik Rosenqvist

As the objective of sustainable and conscious consumption patterns is such a cross-cutting issue that contributes to either achieving or failing to achieve the other six Strategic Development Goals, the status of this objective is of particular interest. Should we move towards more sustainable consumption and production, we can expect this to already have had or will soon have a positive impact on the other Strategic Development Goals and their indicators. Moving in the wrong direction is a problem indicator for the whole agenda, eventually leading to the other objectives also developing ominous difficulties and problems.

Without doubt one of the most encouraging signs that the whole sustainability effort is in good shape and that we can expect almost all targets to move in the right direction in the future is that an increasing proportion of Ålanders at least say that they always or often adopt a resource-efficient and recycling lifestyle. According to ÅSUB's survey Ålanders and the Environment 2022 (Ålänningarna och miljön 2022), more than half of the respondents say that they often or always have a resource-efficient or recycling lifestyle.

Compared to the last survey conducted in 2015, i.e. seven years ago, Ålanders' interest in environmental issues and their way of life has changed significantly. The proportion of people who save and invest in an environmentally friendly way has doubled and the proportion of Ålanders who buy eco-labelled services has increased by more than 50%. There has also been a sharp increase in the proportion of people who buy longer-lasting goods, return goods for recycling and buy second-hand goods.

The 80% of Ålanders have a resource-efficient and recycling lifestyle is in itself a sub-goal of Goal 7, but the fact that we look set to achieve this goal also has positive implications for a number of other sub-goals, both for Goal 7 and the other strategic development goals. It is reasonable to expect that this positive trend in the lifestyle of Ålanders should have positive consequences for, among other things, the amount of waste generated, the proportion of companies working on sustainability, sustainable construction and a reduction in the amount of goods containing harmful chemicals.

While many of the milestones are moving in the right

direction, there are several areas of concern where we either do not know if we are moving in the right direction or where we see clearly that we are even going in the wrong direction. In the latter category is the sub-target to reduce the amount of waste generated to a maximum of 1.2 tonnes per capita. This should not be a difficult target to achieve - for example, we were below 1.2 tonnes of waste per person from 2006 to 2010, so the target is by no means particularly ambitious. Unfortunately, every year since 2012 we have been above 1.2 tonnes of waste per person, and the amount of waste per capita has also increased constantly since 2016.

If we are to have a chance of achieving the waste reduction target, Åland as a whole and the municipalities in particular need to work both strategically and actively on this issue in the coming years. We need to identify where we have the greatest potential to reduce our waste and ensure that households, businesses and other organisations have both the tools and the incentives to reduce their waste. For example, it would be important for households, businesses and organisations to be able to monitor more easily how much waste they produce by equipping their waste collection vehicles with scales.

Waste volumes are likely to be closely linked to two of the other sub-targets where we have some cause for concern, largely because we do not really know how where we stand. One of these is 'everyone builds and renovates sustainably'. In both new construction and renovation, there is a lot of focus on energy efficiency, but not as much on using sustainable materials and ensuring that waste volumes are reduced by both practicing and creating conditions for recycling. For example, at present, mineral construction and demolition waste accounts for more than 70% of the total amount of hazardous waste in Åland.

Another sub-goal we know little about - but where we can assume we have a long way to go - is the goal that all organisations work towards having their goods, services and purchases fall within the four sustainability principles. The indicator for this sub-goal - which is also one of the main indicators for Goal 7 - is the number of companies, associations and organisations that report on their sustainability work in their annual reports. For the next progress report, the ambition is to produce data for this indicator by creating a self-reporting tool.

4.

Networking groups within the network bärkraft.ax today

The network bärkraft.ax is the hub for coordinating the implementation of the development and sustainability agenda. Bärkraft.ax is open to participation by operators in all sectors of society and all people who want to actively contribute to a viable and sustainable Åland.⁶⁰

A network for everything and everyone is basically a good thing. In a community journey, there is really no alternative but to do your utmost to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to become involved, to gain an understanding of what is happening and to contribute along the way.

When it comes to participation and contribution, for many it is most natural to gather in those contexts where one can create an additional level, a common ground in just that which is mine and yours. In what contexts are you and I able to jointly contribute in order to strengthen each other in the development and sustainability journey? Over the years, several operators have asked themselves this question and together formed groups and forums, which are presented in this chapter.

In addition to the groups and forums listed below, a network group for the arts and culture is also being set up.

4.1. Working group for coordination and reporting

Text: John Eriksson, Lotta Nummelin and Henrika Österlund, preparation team of the Coordination and Reporting Working Group

The task of the working group is to coordinate the implementation of the seven strategic development objectives of the Development and Sustainability Agenda and to be responsible for reporting on the implementation.

Implementation is coordinated by means of roadmaps for the achievement of each strategic development goal. The roadmaps are continually updated and the latest version is available on the website bärkraft.ax.

Reporting on implementation is done partly by continual reporting the current status of indicators, and partly by participating in the preparation of status reports.

The working group works in such a way that creates broad support for the roadmaps in the sectors of society and among the general public. Each strategic development goal has a working team consisting of people from across the the Ålandic community, contributing knowledge, commitment and ownership.

The achievement of the seven strategic development goals is interdependent. The working group is expected to ensure that the implementation of each strategic development goal takes into account the implementation of the other six strategic development goals, with a view to avoiding or managing sub-optimal and conflicting goals.

The working group consists of a target manager and a process manager, as well as a process manager and a responsible official for each strategic development goal, and a preparatory group which leads the working group and prepares the joint meetings.⁶¹

4.2. The Parliamentary Group Leaders' Forum

Text: Jörgen Petterson and Ingrid Zetterman, convenor of the Group Leaders' Forum

At the beginning of 2020, a Group Leaders' Forum was set up in which the group leaders of all the parliamentary party groups are represented. The purpose of the forum is to help the Parliament take long-term political responsibility for the implementation of the development and sustainability agenda. It does this by providing a platform for dialogue and information exchange, and for the Parliament's work to promote trust in society and the institutions of democracy, as well as greater gender equality.

We build trust together

The Åland Parliament's Group Leaders' Forum has committed itself to goal 2, which is about trust, participation and a constant striving for good dialogue. We have engaged Professor Emeritus Göran Djupsund to deepen the members of the Åland Parliament and other elected representatives and officials' understanding of what trust is and what we can do to become better at listening and understanding each other. Our conclusion from this first action in our work on goal 2 is that trust and confidence never happen automatically. It takes effort from everyone and a willingness to listen to all points of view.

⁶⁰ <https://www.barkraft.ax/sites/default/files/attachments/page/media/utvecklings-och-hallbarhetsagenda-for-aland.pdf> s. 18

⁶¹ <https://www.barkraft.ax/natverket/arbetsgruppen-koordinering-och-rapportering/arbetsgruppens-mandat-uppdragsbeskrivning>

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In civil society, we support each other and help many to have a meaningful life.

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The war in Ukraina shows that we Ålanders can quickly work together for peace and humanity.

4.3. Network Group for sustainable large companies

Text: Anders Wiklund* and Caroline Lepistö, Chair

The main purpose of the network group for large sustainable companies is to promote the work of the larger Åland companies in implementing the Åland development and sustainability agenda.

The group actively works on both environmental and social sustainability. This is done through two major annual meetings complemented by regular thematic meetings and various campaign initiatives. The purpose of these meetings is to educate, inspire and share knowledge. The group has, among other things, made a joint climate commitment, within which the group has jointly made CO₂ calculations, created the don't waste food campaign "Eat don't waste", running the Sustainable Travel to Work Challenge and organising company lunches on topics such as the Well-being of children and young people and Business travel. Leadership development and employment are recurring themes for the group through the AxLead leadership programme and regular integration and recruitment initiatives. The foundation is built around the global and local objectives and the group's common stated commitment to sustainability.

* Wiklund's term as chairman of the group expired in April 2022

4.4. The network group for sustainable municipalities

Text: Gustav Blomberg och Julia Lindfors, chairperson

The main purpose of the network group for sustainable municipalities is to promote, strengthen and bring the municipalities together and thereby realizing Åland's development and the sustainability agenda.

The group is inspired by the network group for sustainable large companies, and had its initial meeting in October 2021. The network group sees a need for the municipalities to exchange experiences and ideas, learn from each other, find common synergies and work together towards the Åland climate and sustainability goals and resource efficient. The network group focuses on activities, dissemination of information (for example, different types of measurement tools for sustainability and emissions and monitoring of new legislation) and meetings that promote these needs.

4.5. Civil society network group

Text: Josefine Egenfelt, Martha Hannus and Niclas Forsström, representatives of civil society in the Development and Sustainability Council

The network group's main purpose is to bring Åland civil society together and strengthen its capacity to work with sustainability issues and collaborate on advocacy work to ensure that Åland's development and sustainability agenda is realized. The civil society's network group consists of idea-driven and non-profit organisations, also called the third sector, which are part of the bärkraft.ax network.

Civil society creates community and commitment where everyone is welcome. The war in Ukraine shows that we Ålanders can quickly adapt and work together for peace and humanity. Volunteers have arranged accommodation, food, logistics and provided human support. Our preparedness, community and our values are fundamental prerequisites for also being able to tackle the climate crisis and other challenges.

The Red Cross is prepared for emergencies. The Martha district works on sustainability and the smart use of resources. Art and culture help us express joy, anxiety and sorrow. The Church is a support throughout life. Sport offers community instead of exclusion.

Social associations create employment and community for all. Nature and environment associations show

how we can better manage our planet. In civil society, we support each other and help many more to live a meaningful life. Together we strive for a diverse, equal and attractive Åland with room for everyone.

4.6. The network for sustainable knowledge development in Åland

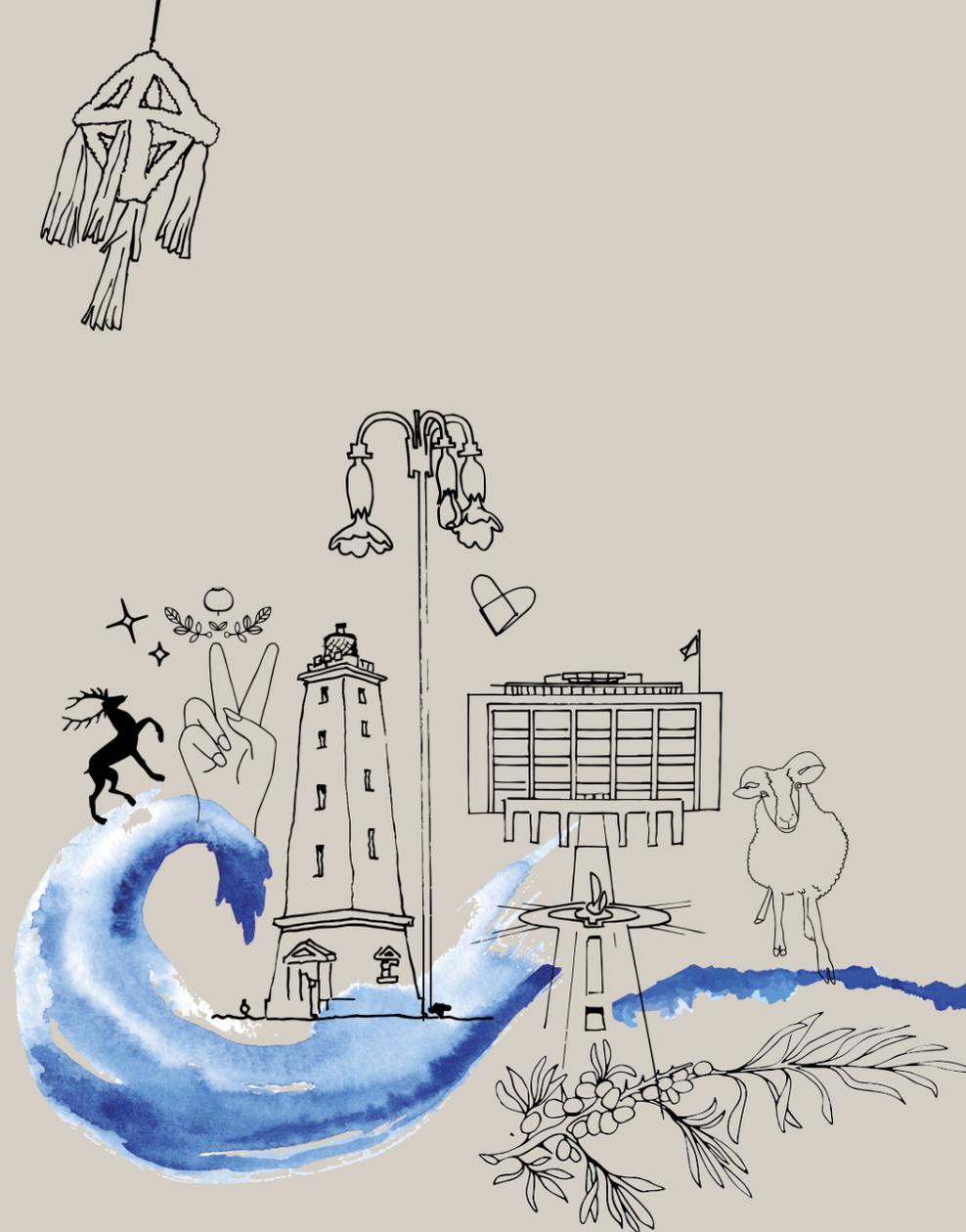
Text: jointly for the Network for Sustainable Knowledge Development

The Network for Sustainable Knowledge Development in Åland (KUT) was initiated in 2018 by the Åland Islands Peace Institute, ÅSUB, Åland University of Applied Sciences and the Åland Maritime Museum. Today, the Åland Government, the Central Library of Åland (Mariehamns Stadsbibliotek) and leading sections from within bärkraft.ax network are also part of KUT. KUT in society aims to create interest and understanding of the facts, knowledge and research and to promote the position of research in Åland. KUT works through events and debate. KUT holds regular meetings. ✕

5.

Three hundred years of development

In 2022, it will be 100 years since Åland was granted self-government. Åland's vision since 2016 is everyone can flourish in a viable society on the islands of peace. That all are able to flourish, that is providing good conditions in which to flourish, is a challenge in itself. But all isn't simply referring to single human being who lives on Åland. All also include animals, our nature, our seas and our lakes. We are also parts of a context. Our flourishing thus does not come at the expense of people or the environment at home or somewhere else. Our flourishing cannot be permitted to create problems that will be up to future generations to find solutions to.



Living on an island leaves its mark. Like the stunted pine tree of the Nordic countries, we Ålanders have had to adapt to living environment. The crooked, hardy little tree is still the same species as a tall pine tree in the forest. They have just been given different conditions in which to survive. In us who live surrounded by the sea there is a deep-rooted desire to go our own way and do things our own way. To proudly assume the role of the great in words even though we are small on earth. A knotty, hardy, free and somewhat wild sense of self.⁶² There are many lessons to be learned if we look back. There is also much that we can sense the outlines of if we look forward. To honour, reflect on and grow in the centenary of Åland, this chapter focuses on 300 years of development.

⁶² <https://campaign.visitaland.com/aland100-egensinne/>

5.1.

Looking back "It was better before"

Should we recycle the past?

Text: Åland Museum of Cultural History**

Moving towards a sustainable society is seen as venturing into uncharted territory and requires us to learn entirely new ways of living. But many of the ecologically sustainable solutions we seek today were a reality in farming society in the early 19th century.

The way people lived in Åland 200 years ago had far less of a negative impact on nature. Almost everyone lived in the countryside or in the archipelago and made their living mainly from farming and fishing. Self-sufficiency was the basis of their own economy and for most people resources were scarce and had to be used sparingly.

People in the past lived more ecologically sustainable lives because they had no other choice. Today, we have the opportunity to choose how we live and consume. Today's industrial and consumer society has created an abundance of everything from food, clothing, technology and toiletries to fast transport, tempting holidays and large heated homes, but with increasing consequences for nature. The choices we make in our own daily lives may seem small, but our combined consumption has far-reaching effects both locally and globally - especially when there are nearly 8 billion of us on the planet compared to around 1 billion at the beginning of the 19th century.

Some of what are considered sustainable consumption patterns today are based on older traditions from the past. Sustainability is not always about inventing something new, but relatively often about "recycling" sustainable uses and ways of thinking from the past and adapting them to the present.

Food

The diet of the peasantry 200 years ago was largely based on self-sufficiency. The availability of food depended on the season, the year's harvest and your lot in life. Porridge, gruel and bread formed the basis of the diet, and rye and barley were the most commonly used grains. In addition, potatoes, turnips, cabbage, peas, fish, meat, and dairy products were eaten. Variation in diet was limited, especially for the poorest. Crop failure was a constant threat, leading to starvation, disease and in the worst cases, death.

Opportunities to preserve food and keep it fresh were also limited. Modern conveniences such as fridges and freezers only became standard equipment in kitchens in the 20th century. To prevent food from spoiling, folk resorted to other preservation methods such as salting, drying, pickling and smoking.

Sustainable in the past:

- The food eaten was mainly home-grown or local. Salt and coffee were the most commonly purchased foods.
- Chemical pesticides were not used on crops, nor was chemical fertilizer used. Weed control was done by hand.
- The amount of meat eaten was much less than today and came either from animals that had grazed outside or from hunting local game.
- Fish was available all year round.
- Food was largely seasonal as the season largely determined which foods were available to eat.
- Food waste was minimal, with almost everything being used up.
- There was little packaging and, to as often as possible they would be reused, such as wooden barrels.

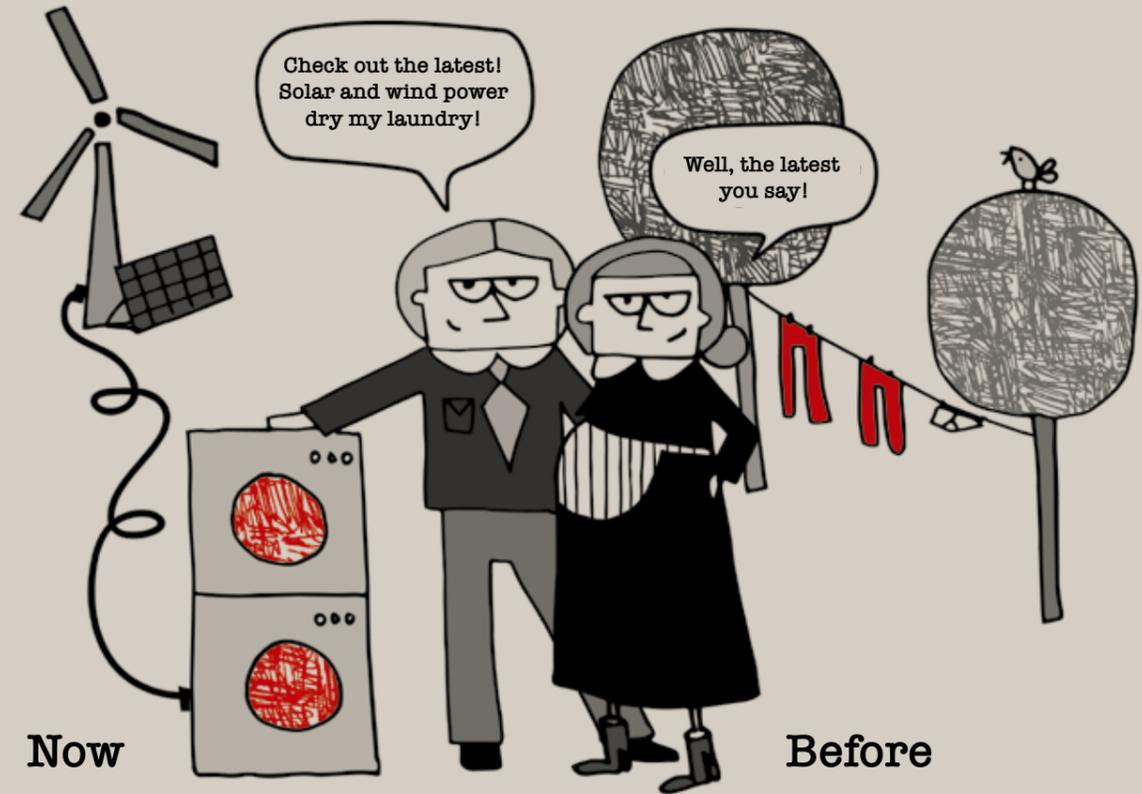


Illustration: Sandra Törnroth

Clothing

A large part of textile production in the peasant society 200 years ago, took place in the home, where garments were sewn from home-woven fabrics and the raw materials came from the farm. Wool from the sheep was carded and spun into yarn, which was then woven into woollen fabrics. Flax was grown in the fields, harvested and prepared for weaving into linen. Occasionally, fabric or ready-made garments were purchased and used primarily as fine clothing. Fabric and clothing were also paid as wages to the farm's servants.

As the production of clothes was labour-intensive, people owned only a few garments. New garments were worn on more formal occasions, but as they aged or became worn, their function changed. Over time, the fine skirt became a petticoat and was then used in the sheepfold and finally cut into rags or used as a filling in a quilt.

Sustainable in the past:

- locally produced materials and garments
- fewer garments
- clothes were patched, inherited or re-sewn

- clothes were produced from natural materials (linen, wool, etc.)
- worn-out garments were repurposed, for example as filling material for bedding or cleaning cloths.

Water and hygiene

Good hygiene is a fairly modern phenomenon. It was only in the 19th century that hygiene was introduced in the Nordic countries. Before then, dirt, smells and vermin, with their consequent ill health, were something that both rich and poor had to contend with. One important reason why dirt was part of everyday life was the difficulty in accessing fresh water. Water had to be drawn from a well or from the lake, then carried in and heated. As the water supply was limited and heating was laborious, the whole household often bathed in the same water. Soap was an expensive commodity that few had access to. Cleaning the home usually consisted of trying to keep the floors clean by sweeping with a broom made of birch brush. Major cleaning was done at feast times. The floors were scrubbed with water and sand, the windows were cleaned and cooking utensils were cleaned.

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Some of what are considered sustainable consumption patterns today are based on older traditions from the past.

Today, hygiene and cleanliness have become an integral part of our modern lifestyle. The availability of running water together with a huge range of hygiene and cleaning products has made us take cleanliness for granted. In the quest to keep our bodies and homes clean, we pollute our environment and our waterways with discharges of chemicals and microplastics found in the personal care and cleaning products we use. These products are not always healthy for us either and may contain substances that are allergenic and endocrine disrupting.

Sustainable in the past:

- less water consumption (even a little too economical given the poor hygiene conditions)
- chemical- and plastic-free cleaning products and toiletries

Travel and transport

In pre-industrial society, transport and travel were time-consuming by today's standards. In the 18th century, the steam engine was invented, revolutionising the way people travelled and the way goods were transported to and from all corners of the globe. Although the development of transport was rapid in the 19th century, communications in Åland were for a long time characterised by more traditional means of transport. On land, people usually travelled on foot, on horseback or in carts, wagons or sleds pulled by horses. At sea, sails or oars were used. The boat or cart was usually made of wood from the local community.

What was sacrificed in travel and transport time in the past was saved in emissions. Since the means of propulsion was either muscle power or wind power, emissions from journeys and goods transport were minimal, regardless of how often they were undertaken, how much was transported or the length of the journey. Today, the transport sector accounts for a significant share of the world's total climate impact as it is almost exclusively powered by fossil fuels.

As goods from distant countries are no longer exclusive or exotic features of our daily lives, our perception of them has also changed, moving from being considered luxury goods to becoming part of the consumer's 'throwaway' consumption.

Sustainable in the past

- No emissions from fossil fuels
- No air pollution from motor traffic and from wear and tear on road surfaces and car tyres

Building and living

Housing in the 19th century was both draughty and cramped. Even in the mid-19th century, most of the population in the countryside lived in timber-framed semi-detached or single cottages. The main living space in both types of house consisted of a room called the parlour or living room. The cottage was the room where everyone on the farm, often 10-20 people, lived during the winter and the only room that was kept heated. Other rooms were heated only when they were used, such as the hall, which was used for parties and readings. The dwellings were heated by wood burning in stoves and tiled stoves.

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Sustainability is not always about inventing something new, but 'relatively often about "recycling" sustainable uses and ways of thinking from the past and adapting them to the present

The indoor temperature was much cooler than we are used to today and it was not uncommon on cold winter mornings to start the day by chopping holes in the ice in the water bucket.

Sustainable in the past:

- Wood was the main building material. Often the material was taken from the nearby forest.
- Houses were often constructed in a way that the timber could be reused.
- Heating consisted of wood burning and limited the number of common rooms to one in winter.
- Self-draught ventilation with extraction through the chimney and sparse insulation ensured good ventilation (at the expense of efficient heating) and reduced the risk of moisture and mould problems in the buildings.

Was it better before?

Our consumption affects the environment. Living in a sustainable society means meeting our needs without destroying for future generations. But sustainable development is not just about a good environment, it grows out of the interplay between three equally important elements - ecological, economic and social sustainability.

The subsistence farming society of Åland in the early 19th century may have been more ecologically sustainable than today's society, but socially and economically it was all the more unsustainable, with poverty and wide social disparities. From that perspective, it was not better before. Today the problem is the

reverse. We have more widespread prosperity and a more equal society, but our consumption and living habits are endangering our nature. In addition, we have now managed to 'export' some of our environmental problems and social inequalities to poorer parts of the world, by relocating dirty industries and demanding low prices for mass-produced goods, among other things.

In order to track ecological sustainability in our daily lives, we can look back and find uses and ways of thinking that were actually more sustainable in the past and that can inspire our consumption choices today.

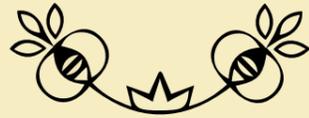
** The text is based on the exhibition on sustainability past and present that was the Åland Cultural History Museum's exhibition from 23 January - 17 March 2019. The aim of the exhibition was to playfully activate the visitor in order to awaken thoughts about and inspire sustainable choices in everyday life around five main themes - food, clothing, water and hygiene, travel and transport, and building and living.*

5.2.

The Flourishing Age

Micke Larsson

Micke is Secretary General for the Development and Sustainability Council of Åland



In 2122, children born in 2022 will celebrate their hundredth birthday. Their children are then in their 70s. We are that close to a new era in our history – the Flourishing Age. In our time, we are standing by a half-open door to a new kind of room – the atmosphere and contours of which we have slowly, little by little begun to create today.

If we play with the idea that we, here and now, stepped into this age of beautiful, colourful growth and development, which we will call the Flourishing Age, who would we meet? We will partially recognize ourselves, the big difference compared to today is that so many more of us will be flourishing.

At the same time, we will meet grief and sorrow since humanity failed to limit the warming of the climate to around 1.5 degrees and to prevent the planet's rapidly decreasing biodiversity. Overall, this led to loss of lives, conflicts and extensive refugee flows. Out of the ongoing crisis management a cultural and material transformation was able to emerge.

*But let's start by asking ourselves a question.
What does it mean to flourish, to bloom?*

For me, to flourish means to be satisfied with who I am and what I have, while at the same time holding onto both desire and longing - with satisfaction on one side of the coin and intention and movement on the other. At the same time, I am open to both sadness and pain. I dare to release a dynamic combination of masculinity and femininity.



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When I feel good, I like to help others who are not currently flourishing. At the same time, I joyously accept gifts, see the beauty of being dependent.

When I flourish, I know where fertile ground and potential lie, know how I can gently nurture the first tender shoot. Then let the bursting flower bud unfurl its petals and burst into full bloom. I take time to marvel at the beauty of flowers in the moment, it doesn't last forever. I wither and reconcile with defoliation and death.

As a flourishing human being, I learn to know and accept my colours, cycles and emotions of my personal traits. I trust my own innermost voice and even though it's frightening, I try to show my vulnerability. Through this I learn to know others deeply. I cherish our similarities while at the same time respecting that which separates us from each other.

With a kind of loving respect for myself and others, I let a sunflower be a sunflower. I try to look gently at my shortcomings and weaknesses. I allow myself to show weakness and feel inadequate. I exist in the freedom that comes from me being who I am and you being who you are.

I hold what I know in one hand and all I don't know in the other. With humility, I am open to what surpasses the abilities of my mind. I realize that I carry powerful desires and try to deal with them. When I feel good, I like to help others who are not currently flourishing. At the same time, I joyfully accept gifts from others, see the beauty in being dependent. I feel a solidarity with people around the world. I am one with nature and all its creatures.

Now don't believe for a second that I think this flourishing idea is a bed of roses or something for a select few. I see it more as an aspiration. Sometimes

I succeed, sometimes I don't. But it's inspiring to at least try.

As stated above, flourishing is something very personal. In addition, we all have widely varying pre-requisites. For me, who has been very lucky so far in life, it is not possible, for example, to understand what it would be like to live without financial security or with chronic illness and pain. Thus, it is difficult, and perhaps not even essential, to come up with a definition of flourishing that we can all identify with.

At the same time, in order to flourish there must be a certain framework and structure. A person who flourishes is free, especially in the sense of choosing his or her own way in which to flourish. But it is a freedom with responsibility. It may never override someone else's freedom.

In 100 years

Now we leap forward one hundred years and visit the Flourishing Age of the future. The people we meet know that it is possible for everyone to flourish but know too that it requires both regular practice and support from others. They are aware that the responsibility to help extends into society, out into the world. The flourishing time only became possible when the local communities of the world united around a common cause.

Over the course of the century, people have recorded descriptions of knowledge, insights and habits that have created a shared understanding of the ways in which the individual can flourish. The recorded material lays the groundwork for a living, constantly evolving document - under constant discussion and gradual refinement.

The descriptions inspire many, both young and old. They are divided into three areas, the first of which deals with human abilities and characteristics. The second area deals with how these abilities and characteristics are expressed in relationships and communities. Work and livelihood are in focus in the third area. Next, we look at some extracts from the living document:

Wonder, contentment and reconciliation

The miracle of living, which we share with all living creatures, is something to marvel at. If we are able to marvel, it is likely that we carry within us a deep-rooted insight that the human is a part of nature and abdicate the role of being creations crowning glory. At the same time, we realize that humanity's forces are now so strong that our actions affect planetary systems, such as oceans,

climate and biodiversity. This in turn means that we are duty bound to shoulder the responsibility as stewards of the planet.

However, the road to wonder can be long, and there is nothing wrong with us if we do not feel wonder. It may even be that the intention, the desire to wonder, is the important thing.

We can take it step by step by taking a deep breath and closing our eyes. Let the silence work. Somewhere within us, we may find a touch of stillness. There we can stop and take note of all which cannot be described in words. That which is there in everyday life, whether that is our focus for the moment or not. A kind of joy of nature that can be found in the sea and in the woods, on the horizon and within us - all at the same time.

Wonder can act as a portal to contentment. If we are not satisfied with who we are and what we have, we can never be satisfied with more. But if we give ourselves time to marvel, contentment will grow within us. Contentment is not about passively accepting the status quo, but about a positive state where we no longer need to chase more of everything.

A state where we see the carrot dangling in front of our eyes, but where we have realised that no matter how fast we run, we will never catch up. Contentment does not come from catching up with the carrot, which in any event is impossible to catch. Contentment is there all the time, available to anyone who stops running. With the ability to be content, we open the door to peace.

The difficult art of reconciliation complements wonder and contentment. The road to reconciliation is in practice both difficult and painful. Reconciliation with ourselves, the years of our lives that are now behind us, our ageing, our passing and with other people is a long journey which, if pursued, is likely to end in our seeing our shortcomings and weaknesses with kind eyes. However, reconciliation does not mean accepting lightly what we perceive as wrong. On the contrary, it is about putting an end to negative spirals with integrity.

Wonder, contentment and reconciliation together form an invaluable whole.

Rest, compassion and generosity

Rest is something solemn and very precious. The day begins with rest, the week begins with rest, the year begins with rest. Rest has simply been moved first because it is as we rest that things happen. Rest as something greater than indulging in a short lie down

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We make a difference by committing ourselves to something bigger than ourselves and those around us. The local community, the global society and democracy are created by us.

after an intense period of activity. There is a realisation that what is effective can be what prevents the important.

A rest with simple home-cooked food and friendship, with fun and games. But also, with silence and reflection. Perhaps a moment on the sofa looking out of the window. There's space in the rest for grief when needed. Rest is an atmosphere, while at the same time being very concrete. Something we need to give status and time in our days of the week. Rest is a space where active time is filled with meaning and pleasure. It is as if the word recreation takes on its literal meaning in rest. A space where creativity and enterprise are nurtured and begin to flow.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a state of complete lack of energy, of powerlessness. Rest is a place to return to, a context where we can slowly rediscover pleasure. At the same time, we know that suffering exists. With chronic illness and pain, the loss of energy can be permanent. Rest may provide relief, but it cannot work miracles.

The important thing being efficient can impede is compassion. Are you in touch with yourself? Are those we meet in our daily lives cardboard dolls acting as extras in our lives? Or do we think that those we meet have needs and desires as valid as our own?

If we learn to cultivate compassion, this is quite enough. It is entirely possible to actively cultivate more of our inherent compassion for ourselves as well as others. An overwhelming sense of our own and others' well-being. However, this requires that we make a regular, almost daily, effort to practice. A simple



In the Flourishing Age, we have little of material value to give away, yet still manage to be very generous – with our time, our knowledge, guidance and practical efforts.

practice is to express every morning or evening a wish for the well-being of all living beings.

If we succeed, our compassion for ourselves and other beings will influence our habits. Among other things, we see ourselves and those we meet as important individuals with desires, needs and concerns. As a result, we never stoop to exploiting others as objects even in the most subtle ways. Especially in the sexual sphere, where we are perhaps at our most vulnerable.

When loving compassion fills our senses, generous actions become a natural part of our existence. This includes ceasing to take what is not ours for the taking, including refraining from any form of exploitation. By extension, compassion and generosity mean that we do not use or threaten violence, either physically, verbally or sexually.

Generosity is primarily about more than money and material things. In the Flourishing Age, we have little of material value to give away, yet still manage to be very generous – with our time, our knowledge, guidance and practical efforts. Even trying to stay wise and calm, for example in stormy situations or in a group with a lot of shared anxiety, can be a very valuable gift to others.

Relationships and community

We build relationships with words. Everything we say and the way in which we say it, immediately affects the person we're talking to. In difficult or tense situations, the spoken words touch us even more. Thus, there are good reasons for all of us to think about the way we speak. Careless and harsh words can result in uncertainty and discomfort. In general relationships tend not to thrive with sarcasm. Moreover, the displeasure of the recipient tends to spread to others like a virus.

In the same way, thoughtful and kind words also spread like ripples on water. With practice, we can develop our ability to express ourselves so that we, more or less, are able to weigh our words before we

speak. It gives us the chance to develop a way of speaking that is both truthful and kind using words which promote both understanding and harmony. This also helps us develop close friendships, which are among the greatest joys of life.

It also means that we deliberately avoid lies and expressions that can cause division, contradiction and disharmony. But it's also about being able to be silent, to make room for active listening – a courageous listening where we dare to listen to other people's stories, even if we have a different opinion and perspective.

Listening opens the door to the good conversation. And for the conversation to be considered fruitful we not only need to listen, but also speak up and make our own views heard. There is also room for the uncomfortable, for anger and despair. By extension, good conversation also requires companionable silence – even a wordless exchange of glances can be profound communication.

Practicing this way of speaking is far from easy. We've probably all walked away from the kitchen table or the coffee room at some point and realized that what we just said caused concern or irritation in the people we were talking to. But by being aware of our words, we slowly improve. Our mind is calmed by a conscious, careful selection of words. The words and the mind form an upward spiral that then also spills over into our actions.

A conversation where one listens as well as talks, is one of the mainstays of society. We have all gone through difficult periods. Before and during these times, we all need someone to talk to. A person with whom it is possible to create a safe space where we can try to put our feelings into words.

As a complement to close friendships, in the Flourishing Age, we have a dialogue partner. A neutral voice with whom we have no family or friendship ties. It helps us, so that in our close relationships we can, more often than not, contribute positive energy. At the same time, we ourselves are interlocutors to a third person. In

this way, we regularly practice true conversation and at the same time weave a social fabric that strengthens our trust in each other.

Everyone's involvement and participation are needed. Our compassion can be extended to include not only those we know, but also those whom we've never met. Both to the weak and to the strong. To humanity as a whole and to other living creatures. We can use the word "we" in a welcoming way. A "we" that is for everyone, a "we" that opens to the world.

We make a difference by committing to something bigger than ourselves and our loved ones. Our local society, global society and democracy are created by us. By getting to know our neighbour, we make an important contribution to the community. By getting involved in an association, we build further. We are all equals and expected to participate in the dialogue about society's development. Regardless of economic or social background, we are all important branches of the tree that constitutes the community.

Work and livelihood

Work and livelihood are two sides of the same coin. What role does work play in our lives?

Our work is an opportunity to share both our knowledge and our time. A context where we can refine our skills. Our achievements are gifts, not status symbols. Studies and work that are essential for the functioning of society are valued very highly. This makes it natural that we look with reverence at our teachers, whether the teacher appears as a parent, as a mentor at work or an educator in a school.

At the same time, basic provision is disconnected to work. Everyone is guaranteed a basic income which means that no one is forced to take a job they don't really want. This has resulted in our being able to choose not to work in businesses that exploit people, animals and nature for the sake of financial gain. We

also opt out of jobs which more subtly fuels desire as well as jobs where the pace of work is so stressful that it becomes impossible to maintain peace of mind.

We are aware that when we support ourselves with goods and services, we affect others' opportunities to flourish. Gone are the days when possessions like cars and boats conferred social status. A conscious, needs-based consumption is what is worth striving for. We therefore prioritize basic needs such as healthy food, a pleasant home, clothes that keep us warm and good health care for everyone. The means-tested consumption leads to a decrease in our individual demand for raw materials.

We carefully consider what food we eat, what clothes we wear, how we live and how we transport ourselves. We make sure that the food we eat that which causes minimal damage to the environment, animals and people. This probably means that we eat vegetarian, with the occasional exception of meat that we, or someone we know, has hunted.

The clothes we wear last a long time because we made sure of their quality. Either someone we know has sewn the clothes, or the company we bought from has guaranteed that the garment has been made by adults with good employment conditions. We repair the items of clothing and pass them on when we no longer need them. We are keen to live in homes that are sustainably built and furnished in ways which do not exploit forests, oceans, the climate or biodiversity.

We rarely travel and when we do, we stay away for a long time. A slow journey that usually takes place in the immediate surroundings. A few times in life the opportunity to visit cultures further away may arise. The short and longer trips have in common the contact with the local population and the small scale. The trips become insightful meetings that, like our good conversations at home, weave the fabric of community around the globe. We are all one.

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I feel solidarity with
people all over the world.
I am one with nature and
all its creatures.

– Micke Larsson –

Conclusion

The extracts from the living document above arouse curiosity about the flourishing society. What does its structures look like? It is clear that the social structures have undergone significant cultural and material transformational changes compared to today. This transformation was by no means without conflict, but the broader and deeper understanding of the flourishing of the individual, which in our time we have slowly begun to lay the foundation for, formed a stabilizing platform in the crisis-like and evolving century that led up to the Flourishing Age.

Many flourishing people change the social structures while it is true that it is the social structures which allow individuals to flourish. A tricky the chicken or the egg situation. It is most likely a combination, like two communicating vessels: with sustainable social structures, more people flourish, and if more people flourish, the sustainable social structures are strengthened. The societal structures of the time of flourishing have sprung from our present-day desire for everyone to flourish.

A few examples of the structural changes that have taken place during the past century:

The global warming has stopped at around two degrees. Humanity was unable to keep the warming around 1.5 degrees. When this fateful point was passed around the year 2030, a popular frustration was aroused that gained such force that there were no other options for the decision makers of the time but to introduce a global ban on the use of fossil fuels.

The oceans and biodiversity on land continue to be under pressure from human activities. There are bright spots, but it will take more than a century for nature to recover from the great acceleration from the year 1950 onwards. The effects of global warming exceeding 1.5 degrees and the rapidly decreasing biodiversity have led to lost lives, conflicts and extensive refugee flows. A grieving process is also a part of the Flourishing Age.

The UN has changed its form and the United Nations has become the United World. It is no longer states that are members of the organisation, but all the people of the world. Local communities made common cause and reshaped the organization's membership model, power sharing and financing. Among other things, the United World is responsible for taxation of international companies, legislation around the production of goods and services and monitoring the ban on military units to ensure it is complied with.

Production of goods and services takes place in an environmentally and socially sustainable way thanks to global legislation. Science forms the basis for the legislative boundaries that are introduced. When new goods and services prove to be unsustainable, rapid regulation and phasing out takes place. It has become very easy to do the right thing as a consumer.

An inclusive society is more important than an efficient society. The work of the inclusive society's elected politicians involves regular citizen dialogues, where politicians' main role is to listen. The local communities guarantee basic material security for its inhabitants. A guaranteed monthly income for all has been introduced. Even in the Flourishing Age, injustices, contradictions and conflicts arise. Many of the social conflicts continue to be caused by unequal access to limited material resources. But through basic income, the individual has been given financial independence, which evens out the balance of power between individuals.

The selection of examples above, which is far from a comprehensive list, signals that the flourishing time in a hundred years is far away, but still close. In this context, it may be worth remembering that we humans often overestimate what is possible to accomplish within a year. But at the same time, we tend to underestimate what can be achieved in ten years. Not to mention in a hundred years.

It is quite possible to start flourishing right here and now. By choosing a flourishing path through life, it is you who, together with many others, create the Flourishing Age that is to come.



**EVERYONE CAN FLOURISH
IN A VIABLE SOCIETY
ON THE ISLANDS OF PEACE**





**EUROPEAN
SUSTAINABILITY
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