

GREEN QUARTER — A GREENER OULU



CARBON-NEUTRAL OULU 2040 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

The city of Oulu is committed to meeting its responsibilities in tackling climate change with an environmental programme to make Oulu carbon-neutral by 2040.

Construction is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases. Rakennusteho Group's Vihreä Kortteli (Green Quarter) concept will help Oulu meet the goals of its environmental programme.

Environment programme priority 1: WE GROW SUSTAINABLY

Green Quarter responses

Urban planning and zoning

are the cornerstones of construction that reduces the emission of greenhouse gases – the Green Quarter concept creates a coherent and dense urban structure.

The carbon footprint during construction

can be reduced by using circular economy material solutions, recycling construction waste more efficiently and reducing waste throughout the construction process.

Quality housing should not be cramped

but it can be based on intelligent space solutions, shared spaces in the housing company, guest rooms, circular economy services and overall reductions in consumption.

Public transport and light transport are supported

in Green Quarter solutions in various ways, for example, in plot design, by enabling environmentally friendly mobility, and heated service areas for bicycles.





Environment programme priority 2: WE ARE RESOURCE-SMART

Green Quarter responses

Simulated energy models during the planning phase

enable optimal solutions for reducing the carbon footprint. The effectiveness of different solutions is explored with architects and life-cycle consultants. Methods of saving resources include reducing the amount of concrete and steel used, optimising cladding structures and cutting down on wasted space.

Resource smartness is based on science and research,

and for this reason we are participating during the planning phase in a research project on low-carbon construction at the University of Oulu. During the planning, a master's thesis will be completed on the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in construction.

The carbon footprint of the quarter is largest when in use,

due to the long lifespan of the buildings. The Green Quarter concept nudges residents to reduce their total energy and electricity consumption, and encourages environmentally friendly living. At the same time, it favours the use of renewable energy for heating and cooling.

A circular economy is the right economy—and the right way to think,

because it has been estimated that it offers Finland a potential annual increase in value of three billion euros by 2030. The Green Quarter concept promotes the circular economy by introducing new recycling solutions and services.

Environment programme priority 3: NATURE IS OUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH

Green Quarter responses

Green construction creates a sustainable environment

and living solutions where residents play an active role both at home and in the courtyards. The Green Quarter concept enables urban cultivation, composting, organic markets and local food collaborative projects. The inhabitants of the quarter are gently nudged in the direction of sustainable mobility: light traffic, public transport, electric vehicles and bicycles, and new transport services.

Green Quarter is beautiful

because its design and implementation take account of the positive impact of lawns, tree and shrub plantations on the pleasantness of residential areas. The Green Quarter concept uses as much green surfacing and green elements as possible in a way that promotes climate change management. The Green Quarter concept strengthens the natural biodiversity of the city, and even restores plant species that have disappeared from the urban area. In short: the Green Quarter is truly green.





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