

Lahti

***Local
leadership everyday and
in times of crisis***

Niko Kyynäräinen, Mayor of Lahti

8.12.2025

Nordregio Forum

Lahti

122 000

residents

9th

largest city

2021

European Green
Capital



***We are a city of
sports, culture,
and innovation.***

Lahti – Enduring Change

In the university and
environmental city
of a new era,
businesses thrive
and life is
meaningful.

Lahti



An aerial photograph of a modern urban development. On the left, a large building features a prominent green roof with a grid of solar panels. To its right is a red running track with white lane markings. Further right is a tall, modern building with a glass facade and a dark roof. The foreground shows a paved area with some greenery and a small yellow circular structure. The overall scene is a mix of urban infrastructure and green spaces.

***Private sector is a
crucial building
block of
resilience.***



***Nordic Ren-
Gas Hydrogen
Plant project***

***DayOne's €1.2
billion data
centre***

***Fazer's €400
million
chocolate
factory***

The European Green Capital year 2021 clarified the city's image in the business world.

– Compared to other cities of a similar size, I would assume that Lahti's reputation as an environmental city is better known than the profiles launched by its peer cities.

Jarkko Majava, Development Manager at the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

1970's

- No more wastewater into Lake Vesijärvi

1980's

- Launch of the Vesijärvi I Project

1990's

- The Department of Environmental Ecology established in Lahti
- A new waste management system

2000's

- The Grain Cluster
- The Lake Vesijärvi Foundation

2010's

- Goodbye to coal

2020's

- The European Green Capital 2021
- Europe's 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities



***Inclusion is a key part
of Lahti's
environmental work.***

***Participation builds
trust, ownership and
psychological resilience.***

Vital functions of society





Preparedness is a culture, not a checklist.

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The trees are mostly green, with some brown trunks visible. A small, dark, irregularly shaped body of water is located in the center-right of the image. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

***Regional, national, and
Nordic partnerships –
crises don't care about
city borders.***



Collaboration isn't optional. It's our strongest tool.

TÄÄLLÄ
LAHTI