Towards a Sustainable Finnish Re-Manufacturing Industry

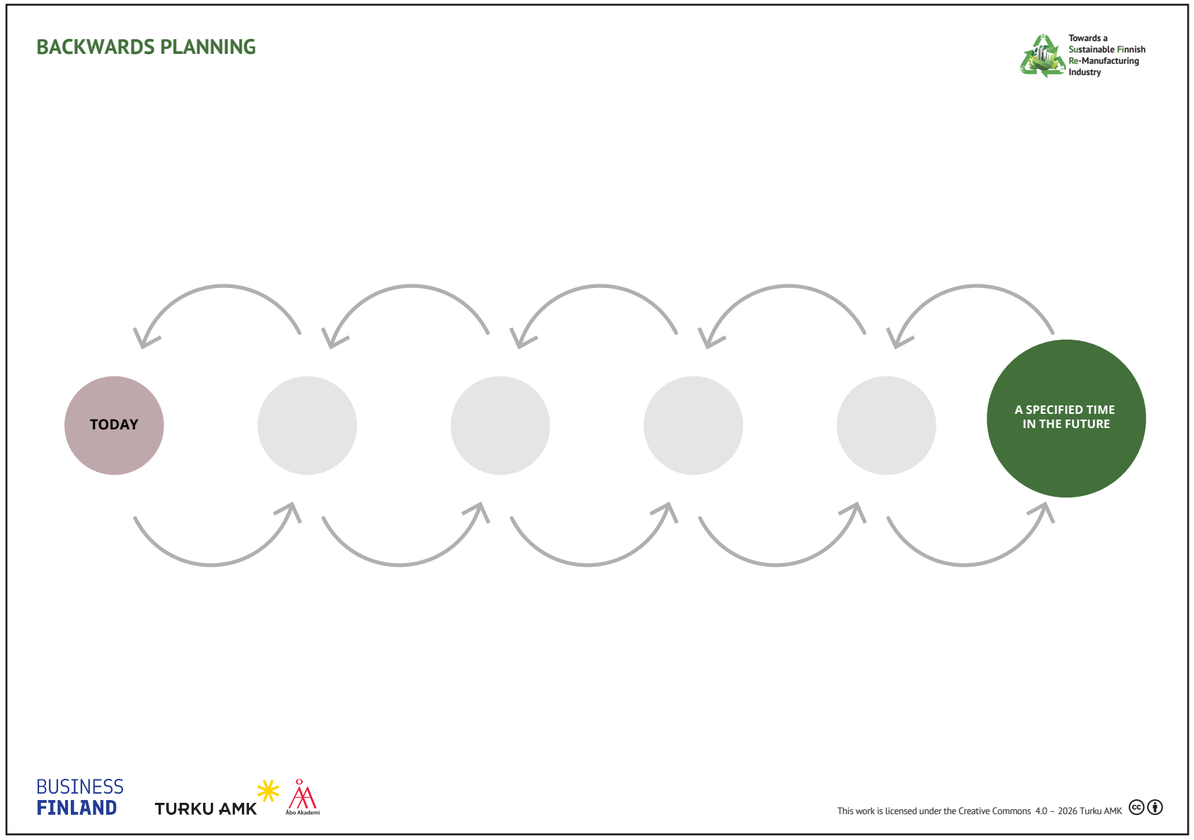
Backwards Planning Canvas

INTRODUCTION

The Backwards Planning Canvas helps participants identify what **actions must be taken** to reach a defined vision or future state. By working **backwards** from the future to today, participants create a clear, step by step action path that makes the vision achievable.

OVERVIEW

TIME: approx. 40-60 min
PEOPLE: 3-5 people per team from different departments or disciplines up to 6 teams
CREATOR: Johanna Liipola / SuFiRe- project / Turku University of Applied Sciences
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HOW TO USE

Start by bringing together participants from different roles and positions to ensure diverse perspectives and a shared understanding.

This canvas helps participants identify what actions are needed to reach a defined vision. By starting from a specified future state and working backwards to today, participants break the vision into clear, logical steps that make it achievable.

STEP ONE: Define the future state

Participants clearly describe the vision or desired outcome at the specified time in the future. This should be concrete, realistic, and easy to recognize when achieved.

STEP TWO: Identify the last step

Participants identify what must be true just before the vision is reached. Describe critical results, conditions, or achievements needed.

STEP THREE: Working backwards

For each circle moving left:
• Ask: “What must happen before this?”
• Identify key actions, decisions, or milestones required.
• Keep each step clear and actionable.
The canvas ensures that sustainability and green transition actives support the business direction rather than remain as separate initiatives.

RESULT

The completed canvas provides a clear action roadmap from today to the desired future, showing what needs to happen and in what order. It turns the vision into concrete, achievable steps that can guide planning, responsibility, and execution.

- You can also use this canvas to explore alternative paths to the vision, test the feasibility of actions, and identify where adjustments or enhancements are needed.

NEXT STEPS / RECOMMENDATION

- Recommended to use together with Green Transition – canvas.

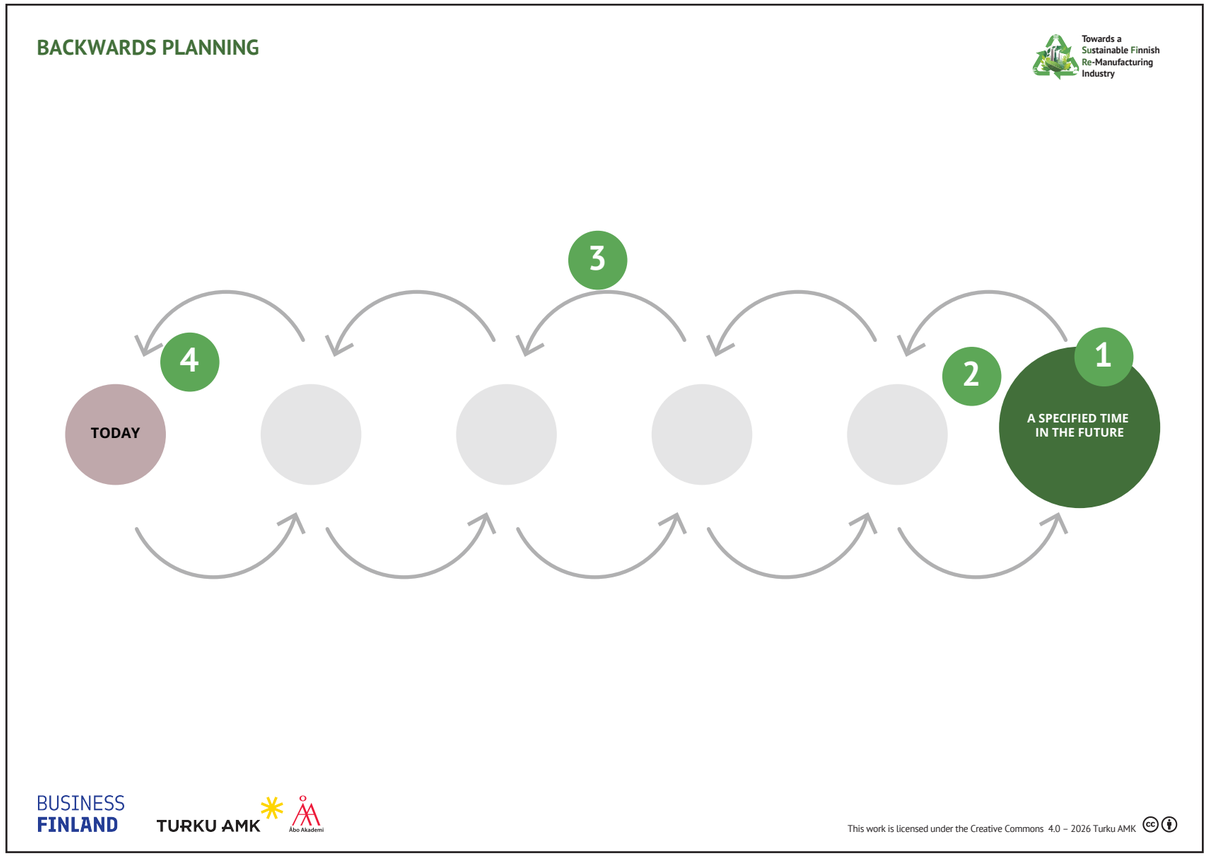
BUSINESS FINLAND TURKU AMK

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Backwards Planning Canvas

HINT

Use different colors to highlight priorities, dependencies, risks, or opportunities to enhance clarity.



1 DEFINE THE FUTURE STATE AND TIME FRAME

Work together to describe the future vision or desired outcome you want to achieve within the selected timeframe. Discuss what success would look like in practice and create a clear, concrete picture of the desired future state. Aim to make the vision specific, realistic, and easy to recognize when it has been achieved.

2 ONE STEP BEFORE

Think one step back from the future vision and discuss what must already be in place just before the vision is achieved. Identify the critical results, milestones, conditions, capabilities, or achievements.

3 WORKING BACKWARDS

Work backwards from the future vision and identify the key actions, decisions, milestones, resources, or changes required to make the next step possible. Focus on the most important enablers that move the organization closer to its desired future state.

Ensure that each step clearly leads to the next step. Remove gaps, overlaps, or unrealistic jumps.

4 NEAR FUTURE ACTIONS

Identify the actions that need to start now or in the near future to move toward the vision. Keep them specific, realistic, and actionable.

As a group, look for opportunities where:

- Actions are unclear, missing, or too vague.
- Responsibilities are not clearly assigned.
- Milestones need to be broken into smaller steps.
- Timing or assumptions are unrealistic.
- Key dependencies or risks are missing.
- Earlier actions could accelerate later progress.
- Small actions today could create greater future impact.
- Alignment with the vision could be strengthened.