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Turku UAS' procurement policy for reducing carbon emissions



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The sustainability programme of Turku University of Applied Sciences 2026–2030:

At Turku UAS, sustainability is a part of our everyday activities. Our work on sustainability is based on promoting ecological, social, economic and cultural sustainability. We reduce the harmful impacts of our operations, strengthen our positive handprint and develop solutions which contribute to building a sustainable and equitable future.

Turku University of Applied Sciences published its first procurement policy for reducing carbon emissions in 2023. In 2026, the procurement policy has been updated to support our sustainability programme.



Procurements are the biggest emission source in our carbon footprint

The annual calculation of our carbon footprint highlights the importance of procurements in how the emissions are formed. For example, in 2025, the emissions from Turku UAS' **procurements contributed to 68 percent of the entire carbon footprint of Turku UAS.**

In 2025, the key emission source in procurements was IT equipment (computers and telephones) and software. Especially the emissions from IT expert services and software have increased due to the growth in the number of personnel and increases in prices.

We have tried to reduce the emission impact of IT equipment in several different ways: by issuing procurement guidelines, by lengthening the service life of equipment and by ensuring that the equipment is reused and recycled.

The other key emission sources were related to procurements of devices, tools, expert services, marketing and communications.



The carbon footprint is calculated annually

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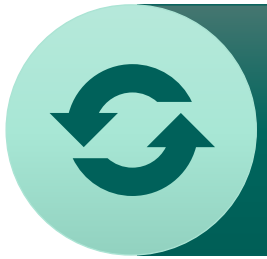
The carbon footprint is monitored according to international standards, such as the carbon footprint calculation method of the Rectors' Conference of Finnish Universities of Applied sciences Arene, which is based on the GHG protocol (Greenhouse Gas Protocol).



Sustainable development is considered in the annual operating planning of Turku UAS' units and the Power BI report, which is distributed to the entire staff, enables real-time monitoring of our carbon footprint and e.g. different procurement categories.



The joint carbon footprint calculation method of Arene, which is shared by Finnish universities of applied sciences, covers Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions which include e.g. the heating and electricity consumption of campus buildings, business trips and procurements.



The carbon footprint calculation is automatized to the extent that it is possible.



The calculation results guide our operations (e.g. travel practices and procurement guidelines). The results and actions are reported internally and in part also externally.



Whenever possible, the aim is to increase the use of primary emission information from suppliers and partners who belong to the value chain to enable an increasingly accurate calculation of the carbon footprint.

Low-carbon public procurements

Low-carbon public procurements refer to public service and goods procurements and building contracts which produce the lowest possible amount of greenhouse gas emissions during their life cycle. They can be implemented by directly procuring a low-emission solution from the market or by setting criteria which promote a low level of emissions in the competitive tendering process.



Source: Vähähiilisten hankintojen pelikirja
Keino, Kestävien ja Innovatiivisten julkisten hankintojen verkostomainen osaamiskeskus

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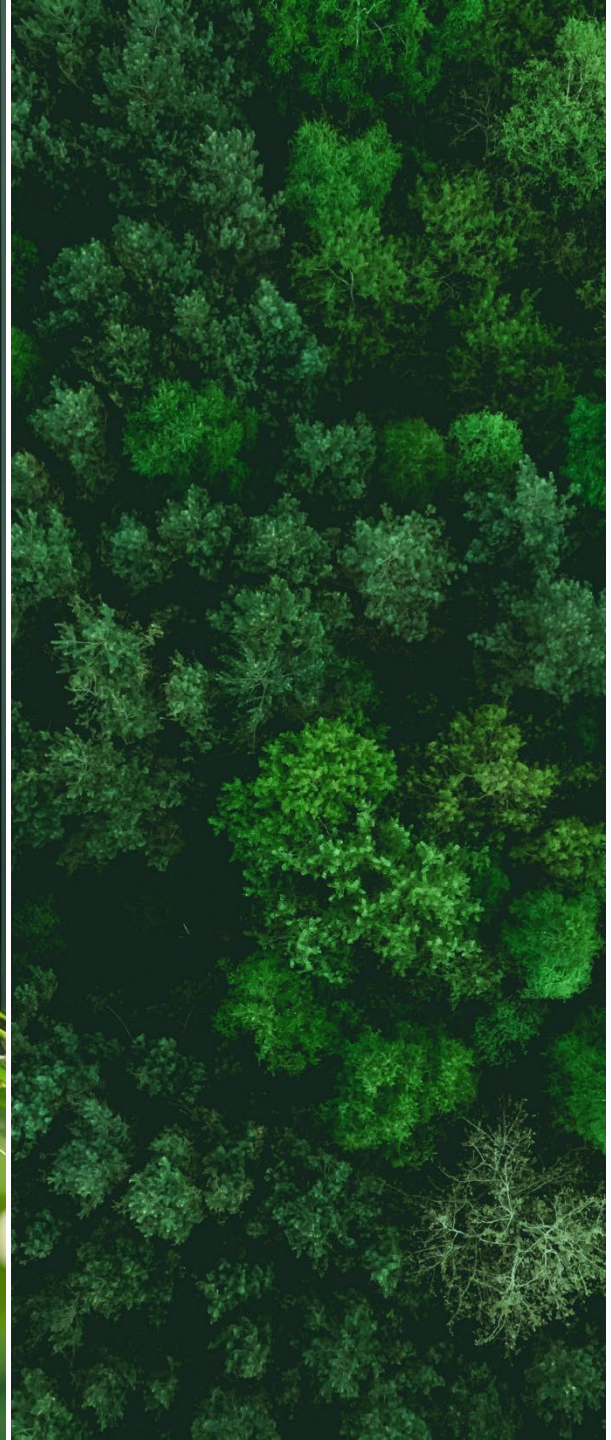

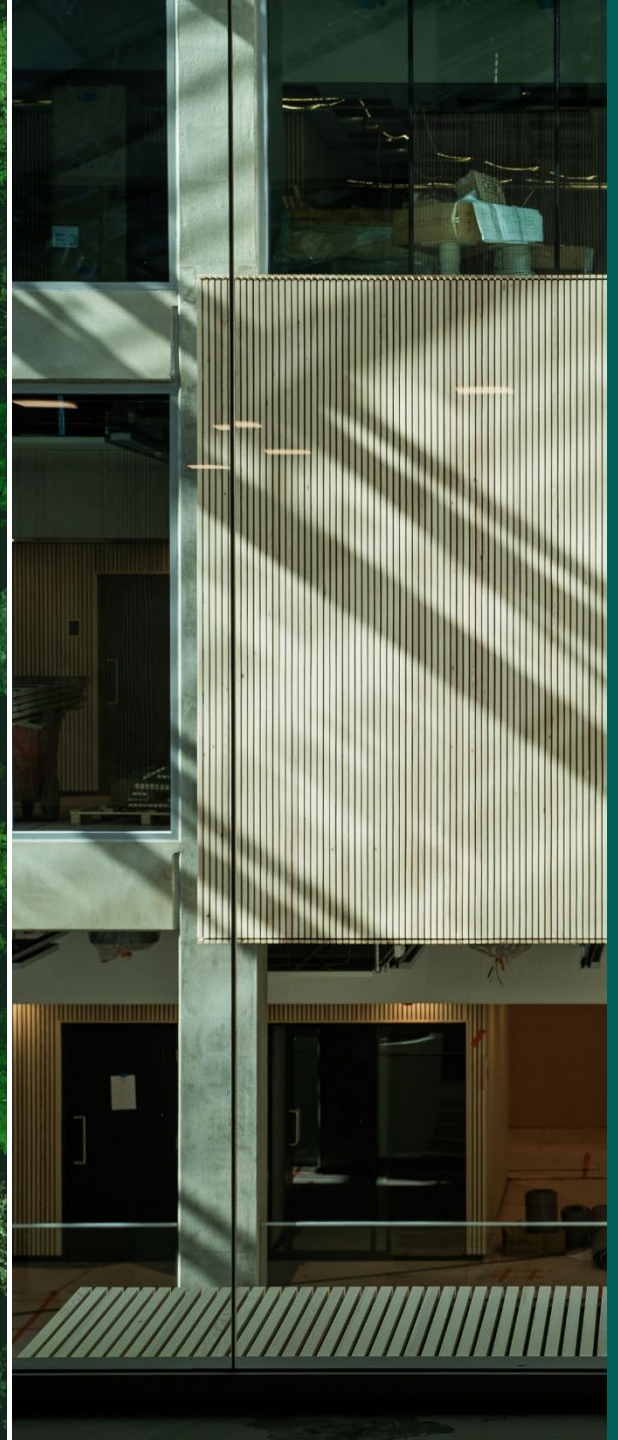

Low-carbon procurements support nature positivity

At Turku UAS, aiming for nature positivity shows as follows:

- We identify the impacts of Turku UAS' operations on nature
- We systematically avoid and reduce the harm to nature
- Whenever possible, we repair damages already caused
- We increase solutions which are beneficial to nature
- In particular, we utilize research and teaching
- We integrate nature-positive choices in the everyday campus life, such as low-carbon procurements

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Reducing harmful substances in procurements

Turku University of Applied Sciences has drafted a **Baltic Sea Commitment**, including activities, for the years 2024–2028. In the commitment, we highlight procurements as a means to support the well-being of the environment and the Baltic Sea:

> *Turku UAS examines its procurements from the perspective of harmful substances as part of its low-carbon procurement policy and uses requirements/criteria that restrict harmful substances when appropriate from the perspective of the procurement. The aim is to reduce and prevent the transfer of harmful substances into the environment and the Baltic Sea.*




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Our actions to
reach the goal

Towards low-carbon procurements

Stage 1: Objectives of the procurements

Stage 2: Recognizing the low-carbon potential of procurements in different categories

Stage 3: Competitive tendering of the procurement and the related low-carbon factors

Stage 4: Prognosis on the results of the procurement contract

Stage 5: Monitoring the contract and cooperation

Stage 6: Confirmed impact

Source: Vähähiilisten hankintojen pelikirja Keino, Kestävien ja Innovatiivisten julkisten hankintojen verkostomainen osaamiskeskus



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Procurements according to the principles of circular economy

We favour **the most low-carbon products and services**.

Whenever possible, we consider **the costs and carbon emissions during the life cycle** of the product or service.

We aim to comply with **the principles of circular economy**.



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Utilization of used goods

At the planning stage of the procurement, we establish the necessity of the procurement: we find out whether Turku UAS already has the needed good or services or whether we can meet the need by repairing existing goods.

In principle, we favour using used and repaired goods whenever possible.

We map opportunities and operating models to procure used goods. After having found the operating model, we record the procurement rules and principles and instructions for the staff.



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Prolonging the life cycle of purchased goods

In procurements, we favour **long guarantee periods** and **explore repair opportunities** and the availability of spare parts if it is possible and economically sensible in terms of the procurement in question.

In procurements, we find out whenever possible whether the procurement can be made according to the **Product as a Service** model. In this case, instead of goods, we procure the output itself (printer vs. printout) and the supplier takes care of that the products themselves are in good condition and will be reused.



Market survey and criteria

Whenever possible, we will consider in the market survey and will include in the invitations to tender existing sustainable development criteria which guide the procurement to a more low-carbon direction, such as:

- **Kriteeripankki maintained by Motiva**
- **Criteria for Sustainable Public Procurement by the European Commission**

We continuously develop the policy on low-carbon procurements and renew the procurement criteria. Thus, in the future, increasingly low-carbon operating models are required in procurements.

Whenever applicable, we use procurement criteria which promote low-carbon procurements when carrying out mini-competitions within Hansel's framework arrangements for Turku UAS' customer-specific agreements.



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Automatization of the calculation and procurement categories

We promote the automatization of the carbon footprint calculation in procurements.

We identify procurement categories with which we can have a significant impact on reducing Turku UAS' carbon footprint. The categorization is based on Turku UAS' carbon footprint calculation, which is calculated with ARENE's model.



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Procurement guidelines and cooperation



- We create **procurement guidelines and instructions** for the most important procurement categories.
- We examine the low-carbon alternatives and solutions on the market.
- For example, we try to reduce the emission impact of machines and devices in several different ways: by issuing procurement guidelines, by lengthening the service life of equipment and by ensuring that the equipment is reused.
- **We examine Hansel's contracts from the low-carbon perspective** and cooperate with Hansel to be able to minimize emissions in upcoming joint procurement contracts.

Communications, development and monitoring

- **We communicate to the personnel on a regular basis** about how we try to reduce our carbon and nature footprint with procurements.
- **We link** Turku UAS' RDI projects and theses to reducing emissions with procurements.
- **We participate** in the sustainability working group of Hankinta-Suomi and will immediately introduce the lessons learned in our procurement procedures.
- **We create** a monitoring model with indicators for the procurement policy.

