



Union of the Baltic Cities

Cooperation to improve water management in the Baltic Sea region

UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

SUSTAINABLE CITIES
COMMISSION

Björn Grönholm
Head of Secretariat

Union of the Baltic Cities – Sustainable Cities Commission

Working together to foster sustainable, smart and safe cities



1991

Since

10

Countries

90

Cities

7

Commissions

UBC operates through commissions, working groups and networking



- Cultural Cities
- Inclusive and Healthy Cities
- Planning Cities
- Safe Cities
- Smart and Prospering Cities
- Youthful Cities
- Sustainable Cities

Union of the Baltic Cities

Sustainable Cities Commission

Focus areas:

- Sustainability management
- Local climate work
- Water management
(waste water, storm water)
- Sustainable urban mobility and planning
- Maritime and port policies

Hosted by the City of Turku,
Finland, since 1997

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1.11.2017

Etunimi Sukunimi

Guiding strategies for UBC smart sustainable development



The **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region** coordinates the activities to promote a more balanced development of the region. UBC Coordinates the HA Capacity.



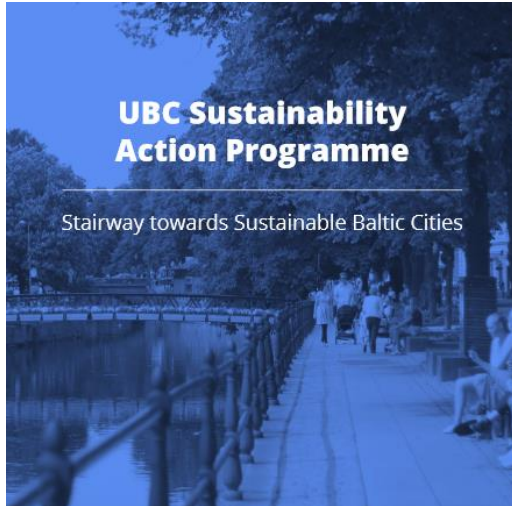
HELCOM's (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission) Baltic Sea Action Plan

Helcom is the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, known as the Helsinki Convention.



UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals are cross-cutting theme in UBC's work connection also to CBSS's Baltic 2030 Group

Guiding strategies for smart sustainable development



UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021

The programme gives strategic direction to the realisation of our vision of the UBC cities in the future – ***creating a smart, safe and sustainable Baltic Sea Region.***

Coordinated by the Sustainable Cities Commission, in City of Turku

UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016–2021:

Our vision for Sustainable UBC cities until 2020 and beyond:

“UBC cities will be climate-smart, providing a good ground for green economy to grow, while being resource-efficient and sustainable in all their activities as well as protecting the environment and waterbodies in the Baltic Sea Region.

They will increasingly be known as global forerunners when it comes to creating inclusive, diverse, democratic, gender equal, high quality living environment for their inhabitants.”

**Green urban
economies**

**Sustainable
urban
ecosystem
and natural
resources**

**Baltic Sea
and its
catchment
area**

**Climate-
smart Baltic
cities**



Our Goal:

To make the UBC cities global green economy leaders providing good opportunities for innovative green and clean tech businesses and enable resource efficient economic activities. To support UBC cities on the way to a circular economy. To make UBC cities sustainable in their own economic activities.

Green urban economies

Municipalities and cities have an important role in fulfilling the **EU 2020 targets** and have a clear role for enabling **green growth**.

Circular economy
Share economies
Industrial symbiosis

Our Goal:

To make UBC cities leaders in resource efficiency, sustainable urban planning and biodiversity.

To have UBC cities that are not toxic and have a rich biodiversity.

**Sustainable Urban
Ecosystems and Natural
Resources**

Attractive and prosperous UBC cities have clean and safe environments and they use all **resources efficiently**.

**Integrated Management
approach**

**Integrated urban planning
Decreasing hazardous
substances**

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Our goal:

To make UBC cities leaders in integrated water management

To improve the ecological state of the Baltic Sea



Baltic Sea and its catchment area

Due to alarming state of the Baltic Sea, improved water management has become an important goal for the countries around the Baltic Sea.



Our goal:

To make the UBC cities climate change leaders in Europe and globally, to initiate and implement climate smart urban development (incl. climate smart-sustainable districts, mobility models, energy efficient transport – building planning)

Climate-smart Baltic Cities

Climate change aspects into consideration in their entire decision making e.g. in **urban planning, mobility planning, energy related actions** (efficiency, production), **buildings**.

Attractive and livable cities
Carbon Neutrality by 2040

Examples of running projects autumn 2017

The themes and actions in the projects are tailor made for the needs of the project partners to assist the ongoing process in the local authorities towards the sustainable development



IWAMA

Improving **Wastewater Management** in the Baltic Sea Region; **EUSBSR Flagship PA Nutri**, 17 partners and 12 associated partners incl. Russia, Belarus



iWater

Improving urban planning by developing integrated and multifunctional **storm water management** in the Central Baltic cities **EUSBSR Flagship Clima** Central Baltic Region Cities



BALTIC URBAN LAB

Improving **urban planning and energy efficiency** by developing and testing new integrated models for brownfield regeneration **Central Baltic Region Cities**



CIVITAS ECCENTRIC + SUMPS Up

Improving **Urban mobility** by tackling the mobility challenges in suburban districts. Creation of clean, silent and CO2 free city logistics **European partners including Munich, Madrid, Stockholm, Ruse**

IWAMA supports PA Nutri (EUSBSR)

- **Managing nutrients more efficiently** – through performing energy and sludge audits, collecting and evaluating energy and sludge key figure in relation to N and P removal; optimized plants' performance after the pilot investments (especially optimized oxygen regulation) for higher nitrogen removal potential;
- **Improving waste water treatment** – through promoting cost- and energy-efficient nutrient removal and sustainable sludge handling at urban WWTPs e.g.:
 - audits and investments resulting in optimized energy performance,
 - better managing reflux of phosphorous from the sludge treatment contributing to the phosphorous balance in the plants,
 - improved sludge water treatment contributing to the reduced nitrogen effluent loads,

IWAMA supports PA Nutri and HA Neighbours

- **Improve nutrient load data** - benchmarking for energy demand and sludge handling in relation to the nutrient removal, collection and evaluation of key figures in energy and sludge, audit concept for smart energy and sludge management
- **Investigate cost-efficient nutrient reduction mechanisms** - pilot investments for improved energy efficiency and enhanced nutrient removal (enhanced nitrogen control) at operating WWTPs, pilot investments to improve sludge management quality and enhance nutrient removal through sludge water treatment and new solutions for sludge hygienisation, stabilisation and drying.
- **Cooperate with non-EU Member States** – involving associated partners from Russia and Belarus (WWTPs of Minsk and Slonim, environmental center EKAT Kaliningrad and St Petersburg Academy of Science)

Keys to successful actions for better state of the Sea

**Strategic and long term goals
and Activity Plan connected
to EUSBSR and Flagships**

**Involving all the Baltic Sea
Region countries including
Russia & Belarus**

**Working with relevant
stakeholders**



THANK YOU!



www.ubc.net

www.ubc-sustainable.net

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