Centre for Economic Development,
Transport and the Environment
ely-centre.fi

Photo: Kimmo Härjämäki

Nutrient neutral municipality 2015 – 2017

By recycling nutrients, the use of non-renewable, mined phosphorus can be reduced, the amount of energy required for the manufacture of artificial fertilisers can be decreased, and nutrient self-sufficiency can be improved. Simultaneously, the nutrient load on the environment in general and the eutrophication of the aquatic environment can be reduced.

The nutrient neutral municipality project aims to step up the utilisation of organic waste as close as possible to the municipality or larger area in which such waste originates. The operating models under trial in Southwestern Finland will be developed to make them applicable to the whole of Finland. Such models represent steps towards creating a new brand – the nutrient neutral municipality – and thereby raising the visibility and attractiveness of the municipality or area as a whole. Products originating in the area can be associated with the brand, benefiting local entrepreneurs and the economy.

The project is managed by ELY Centre for Southwestern Finland. The project is part of the Ministry of Environment's RAKI programme aimed at promoting the recycling of nutrients and improving the condition of the Archipelago Sea.

The role of partner municipalities and other parties

While the nutrient neutral project is based on collaboration between municipalities in particular, various organisations including agricultural and other enterprises are also involved. Account will be taken of the applicable results and experiences gained from other projects, particularly the Raki programme. The participation of active citizens will also be necessary. The criteria for a nutrient neutral municipality, including the verification of measures seeking to meet such criteria and the impact on the environment, will be specified through broad-based cooperation. Opportunities and shortcomings related to the recycling of organic waste originating in the area will be mapped out in the pilot municipalities. Practical solutions that support local economic activity, contribute favourably to employment and promote the networking of entrepreneurs will be planned. Also funding opportunities will be clarified in.

The project will promote the creation of services and service combinations in an effort to recycle and/or dispose of nutrients originating in various sources. The objective is to create regional services and partnership models based on the principle that "one man's waste is another man's raw material", and to disseminate such models widely while improving the quality of the aquatic environment. Partners will play an important role in the project's implementation.

The labour input of personnel at the ELY Centre and municipalities will constitute the self-financing portion of the project. Municipalities will be charged with the task of providing a picture of the current status of their waste recycling, the provision of expert help, the contribution of ideas and participation in planning, the provision of information and the promotion of various measures within municipalities. New pilot municipalities will be able to join the project after its launch.

Themes related to nutrient recycling

- Options for making the best use of sludge from municipal sewage processing plants, in the form of fertilisers or soil improvement material.
- Alternative ways of processing sewage originating in sparsely populated areas outside municipal drainage networks.
- Reduction in the amount of biowaste, recycling of such waste and making good use of surplus food from canteens and stores.
- Cooperation between livestock farms and those growing crops on issues such as manure and fodder, environmentally friendly use of manure, and the use of measures enabled by the new rural development programme.
- Good farming practises; growth condition of farmland, structure of soil, drainage, nutrient balance, fertilisation and the implementation and targeting of measures seeking to further agricultural water protection.
- Possibilities for the downstream processing of organic nutrients originating in industries outside drainage networks, as well as any obstacles to such processing.
- Management of sewage and food waste originating from sailing.
- Utilization of final products from biogas plants, including services for recipients.
- Taking account of environmental aspects and food produced close to the consumer as public procurement criteria.
- If necessary, other themes can be added to the above list.

The themes to be addressed and their order of priority must be agreed by work groups representing the municipalities and other local parties operating in the locality, in accordance with the special characteristics of the targeted area. In addition, the development of environmental technology related to the themes in question, as well as entrepreneurship focusing on the environment, should be promoted. Within the scope of the project, any problems which emerge related to administrative and public sector practices and economic policy instruments, including any proposals for improvement and development, will be recorded.

Photo: Minna Nummelin

Photos: Ympäristöhallinnon kuvapankki (Riku Lumiaro and Minna Nummelin)

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Southwest Finland
Itsenäisyydenaukio 2
PL 523, 20101 Turku
telephone. 0295 022 500, www.ely-keskus.fi
e-mail: first name.last name@ely-keskus.fi

VISIO
Rikkaasta ympäristöstä voimansa ammentava,
resurssiviisas
Lounais-Suomi

More information:

Sanna Tikander, Coordinator
+358 295 023 019

Janne Heikkinen, Senior Specialist
+358 295 023 029

www.ymparisto.fi/ranku

Nutrient recycling forms part of a resource-smart approach. Such an approach is one of the development paths adopted by the ELY Centre for Southwestern Finland for inclusion in its environmental programme, scheduled to extend until 2030.

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
ely-centre.fi

Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment