



CBC  
IN MY REGION

# ANNUAL EVENT 18.12.2018

VOICE OF THE REGION  
*Kimmo Jarva, Mayor of Lappeenranta*

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the city administration, I have the great pleasure to welcome you all to Lappeenranta, the Lappeenranta University of Technology and this 1st Annual Event of the South-East Finland – Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme.

Today we celebrate the operational start of the cross-border cooperation programme 2014-2020. I think we all agree that it was about time! What can you expect from today's event? I hope and believe that we will hear inspirational views about:

- best project practices,
- new ideas for the future and
- information on what is going to be achieved in CBC projects during the years 2018-2022

Joint financial input of the programme is about 77 million euros from the European Union, Russia and Finland. What are we going to achieve with that amount? The programme has four priorities, which are summarized in the following goals:

1. Lively, active and competitive economy
2. Innovative, skilled and well-educated area
3. Attractive, clean environment and region
4. Well-connected region

From Lappeenranta City's point of view, these priorities are excellent, because they are also included in our strategy. While many traditional industrial jobs have been lost in Finland, innovations and future-oriented investing specifically in environment will ensure that Southeast Finland holds its position as an important player in European and global business. Environmental business can create new start-up companies, attract skilled people to the area and provide them with an attractive and clean place to live. The key strength of Lappeenranta since the late 1960s has been its university. Cooperation on an international level -between companies, the city and the university is intensive, especially in environmental issues, such as:

- sustainable development,
- combating climate change,
- recycling waste and
- restoring water bodies.



CBC 2014-2020  
SOUTH-EAST FINLAND - RUSSIA

Funded by the European Union, the Russian Federation  
and the Republic of Finland.



CBC  
IN MY REGION

Earlier pulp and paper was considered a sundown industry, with focusing on mass production efficiency and struggling with trends like paperless offices. Now, with the trend to replace plastics, we find our industrial backbone once more to be a growing, innovative and globally interesting sustainable industry. Desire or even pressure to improve environment, accelerates innovations and forces both companies and public sector to think differently and develop their operations in a sustainable manner.

I would like to give you some examples of our Greenreality actions in Lappeenranta:

- The city of Lappeenranta belongs to the network of carbon neutral municipalities. The aim is to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions by 80% from the 2007 level by 2030. The city uses and encourages other organizations and residents to use renewable energy. As an example Finland's first inland wind farm has been constructed in Lappeenranta and our energy company is also constructing a solar power plant on its site.
- We were the first municipality in Finland to participate in the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Earth Hour City Challenge. The candidate cities are assessed on the basis of their contributions to climate protection. Lappeenranta has made it to the finals twice: 2014 and 2016.
- Our energy company together with a private forest industry company has established joint power plant, which produces process steam and electricity for the paper mill and electricity and district heat for the city. The fuel used in the plant consists of forest industry by-products (bark and sawdust), wood energy (tree stumps and logging residues) and peat. Biofuels cover approximately 80% of the plant's annual fuel demand, with around half of those being leftover materials from the on-site factories. This power plant guarantees that the majority (85 %) of the district heating used in Lappeenranta is based on renewable energy.
- The world's first bio refinery producing wood-based renewable diesel from forestry residue, is located in Lappeenranta and has attracted worldwide attention.
- Our waste management company uses environmentally friendly waste treatment methods and contributes to the development of waste recycling. Its recycling rate is one of the highest in Finland, at around 90% in Lappeenranta. Company is also building bio refinery, which turns household bio waste into gas vehicle fuel.
- Lappeenranta is located on the shore of the fourth largest lake in Europe, Saimaa. It attracts a lot of tourists and that's why we are investing in sustainable tourism. To reduce the load on the waters of Lake Saimaa, our regional environmental office is constructing wetlands for the treatment of storm water runoff.
- In Lappeenranta we have three schools and one day-care center, which have received the Eco-Schools Green Flag certificate. Environmental issues and sustainable development are part of their everyday activities. Our city promotes cooperation between residents, schools and the university. Soon many households are calculating their carbon footprint and thinking of sustainable ways of living. We want to find 100 pioneer households who want to reduce their carbon footprint.
- The city of Lappeenranta is investing more than 2 million euros on making its street lighting more energy efficient. The investment will be paid back in five years.
- Lappeenranta has also started an experiment of hiring shared electric cars. City personnel uses cars during of-ice hours and city residents and tourists may hire them on evenings and weekends. The experiment is intended to enhance the efficiency of the city's use of cars during office hours while at the same time lowering the threshold for using electric cars.

And last, but not least:

- Lappeenranta has the most advanced green university in Finland. Our Green Campus has also been awarded internationally.



CBC 2014-2020  
SOUTH-EAST FINLAND - RUSSIA

Funded by the European Union, the Russian Federation  
and the Republic of Finland.



CBC  
IN MY REGION

The aim of all our actions is to seek and develop means of making Lappeenranta waste-free and carbon-neutral by 2050. Green Lappeenranta is a key strategic goal, which can be achieved in cooperation with companies and the university.

Project financing, such as CBC programme financing, is also needed to test innovative ideas. By implementing CBC projects, we can try to solve challenges that note no geographical borders. Urban run-off rainwater and floodwater form an environmental issue and their proper treatment, especially with green technologies are under high interest and favor by EU.

Lappeenranta is the Lead Partner in an innovative, chemical free, cost effective, green technology CBC project, which is based on Effective Micro-organism (EM) and Shungite mineral. The project will build test fields in Lappeenranta and in St. Petersburg to experiment what happens when an Effective Micro-organism (EM) and Shungite mineral are combined. EM is a micro-organism, which promotes natural environment itself to utilize nutrients before they reach open waters. Shungite is a certain type of activated carbon, but better. Shungite has identified to be efficient in removal of various metals and contaminates as well as odor. I hope that the project outcome is an innovation, which can be commercialized.

Lappeenranta takes also part in the Large Infrastructure Project, which is aiming to reduce harmful emissions into the waters of the Gulf of Finland. The project finances reconstruction of existing networks, such as centralized water supply and sewerage of the Petrovsky district in Vyborg. The budget is 3,5 million euros. Leningrad Oblast State Unitary Enterprise Vodokanal is the lead partner.

As I mentioned earlier, sustainable tourism and lake Saimaa are also our priorities. Lappeenranta is a partner in Tourism Promoting project "St. Petersburg-Saimaa Lakeland Travel corridor". The project combines the two unique destinations: St Petersburg and Lake Saimaa into one any-season tourism experience. The project budget is 670.000 euros and it is executed together with South Savo, South Karelia, St. Petersburg and Leningrad region.

---

In Lappeenranta, we believe in close cooperation with companies in pursuing our ecologic and sustainability goals. A key network is the green reality network, which sustains a dialogue linking city activities, research and newest business ideas.

Once again, welcome to the border of the European Union and Russia.

Welcome to border town Lappeenranta!

I wish you all a very inspiring evening!



CBC 2014-2020  
SOUTH-EAST FINLAND - RUSSIA

Funded by the European Union, the Russian Federation  
and the Republic of Finland.