

# DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA FOR ÅLAND



**THE VISION AND THE SEVEN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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## INTRODUCTION

# ÅLAND IS A SOCIETY IN FORWARD MOMENTUM.

Viable social development has long been a part of Åland society. Throughout the centuries, the people who have lived in the Åland archipelago have taken care of their fellow humans and the natural environment. The ambition has always been to hand over the baton to the next generation in as good condition as it was when it was received. Their efforts have, in many ways, created a fantastic welfare society. It is with good reason, therefore, that we direct thoughts of gratitude to earlier generations.

# AT THE SAME TIME, NEITHER LOCAL NOR GLOBAL SOCIETY IS TODAY SUSTAINABLE.

With the understanding that nature constitutes the foundation of human existence, the elected members of parliament and government, in 2014, chose to adopt a collective goal of total sustainable development in Åland no later than 2051. This is in accordance with an internationally used definition of the term sustainable development, which consists of four so-called Sustainability Principles.

The collective pursuit of this goal requires a development and sustainability agenda for Åland. This document describes that agenda, which consists of a vision, strategic development goals for 2030, examples of possible indicators for monitoring these goals, and supporting structures for the realization of the agenda. The supporting structures are intended to help all contributors to progress from thought to action.

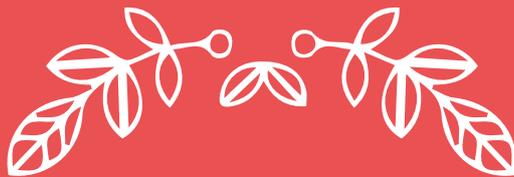
The agenda has been developed by hundreds of people and was manifested in the Forum for Social Development in September 2016. The process was launched through the Forum for Social Development in February 2016, when everyone living and working in Åland was invited to be part of the definition of a collective vision. From this vision seven strategic development goals have been defined, each to be fulfilled by 2030 at the latest. Fulfillment of the development goals will contribute to the realization of the vision.

In parallel with the definition of an agenda for Åland, the rest of the world has done the same. In September 2015, UN member states formally adopted the Agenda 2030 with 17 sustainable development goals for the world. The realization of the local agenda is at the same time the Åland contribution, albeit small, to the implementation of Agenda 2030.

With dedication and purposeful action in everyone's daily life, and the thorough refinement of the working practices of operators in all sectors of society, the conditions exist to allow us, step by step, to realize the vision:



**EVERYONE CAN FLOURISH  
IN A VIABLE SOCIETY  
ON THE ISLANDS OF PEACE**



## 1.

# VISION FOR ÅLAND

The vision is a picture of the best Åland we can imagine. It is a picture that inspires and motivates and which gives the strength and desire to make sustainable decisions, great and small, even when it might be easier to do as before. Now, we shall build the society we want, not just for ourselves but also for our children and their children - how can it not be worth the effort?

If we wish to create something we must first be able to see it in our mind's eye, otherwise it is difficult to believe that it is possible. We need to dismiss what we think we know about what is "realistic" and what "usually works". Instead we begin at the other end: This is how we wish things to be when we are finished! Then comes the next stage: to find smart and bold ways to get there.

The vision can be summed up in one sentence. Every word has been carefully chosen for its meaning and to inspire people who live and work in Åland - or who are interested in moving here. Here are described the thoughts behind the vision. It is intended to affect both mind and heart: "This is the goal. I like it. I want to help. How can I contribute by what I know and do?"

## Everyone can flourish...

**To flourish is about something deeper than material well-being and that everything should always be fun. Åland society has the conditions that allow people to thrive and to be happy. To know that we are seen and accepted, that we have the room to develop and to express our opinions and talents, and that we feel that we are needed and that we belong.**

*Awareness, openness, curiosity, trust, meaning, stimulance, relaxation, reflection, lifelong education, culture and balance are a few of the words that were mentioned when the vision was developed. What do we humans need in order to feel good in, and to feel motivated to contribute to, a sustainable society? And how can the vision be formulated so that everyone can feel included, but also understand that each individual has the responsibility to make use of what is being offered? That everyone can flourish is a summation of all this.*

Åland society intentionally creates structures that help people to flourish, from education and care to security and a variety of meeting places. But every individual also has personal possibilities and responsibilities. We need both to give and take in order to feel good and to develop. Each one of us contributes in some small way to the social climate. We cultivate a climate where we encourage bravery, diversity and innovation in those we meet every day, instead of holding each other back.

Flourishing people manage to live more consciously. They follow their values, reflect over their roles in society as a whole, and make good choices in small and large questions. Flourishing people feel secure in themselves and can show tolerance, openness and generosity to their fellows, but can also speak up and stand firm when necessary. This is a good starting point for a sustainable and viable society.

## ... in a viable society ...

**Viability is about providing for our needs without future generations, poorly treated cheap labour, or other living things in the form of animals and nature having to pay the price. Åland is also a society in forward momentum. Just as with a company or a ship, society needs viability in order to stay afloat, maintain steerage, to reach its goals. Meaningful work, paid or unpaid, helps to realize the potential of people's inherent resources and builds viability.**

*How can we define that which we shall live on and live off; everything needed to provide for Åland's population in a sustainable way? Development, innovations, democracy, inclusion, enterprise, education, equality, the local economy, recycling, renewable resources, increased self-sustainability, cooperation, spatial planning. These are some of the concepts that were discussed when the vision was formulated.*

Åland has good leadership with bravery and integrity and the ability to navigate in changing times with the possibility of shifting reference points. We live in a time of major external changes, including climate change, waves of refugees and economic crises. Åland as a viable society is adaptable and resistant even when faced with unexpected events and external upheavals. Holistic thinking gives security and integrity and is a part of sustainability.

Sustainability is complex and it requires a consensus so that everybody might contribute. Therefore, work with sustainability in Åland is tied to four so-called Sustainability Principles. They function as a language and a tool, common guidelines for that which is important. As long as we keep to these guidelines, everything is possible. What first was thought to be limiting has instead accelerated creativity, leading to business ideas, technical inventions and social innovations.

## ... on the Islands of Peace

**Åland is an island society with pristine nature and a unique history; rich and diverse with many different habitats in a small area. We make use of the landscape, the entrepreneurial spirit, the traditions, the business sector and new technology to facilitate for all who wish to live and work here. We create a society where the sea, as in the time before private car-ownership, is a connector, creating new possibilities for prosperity and viability.**

*“The Islands of Peace” represents our place on Earth, our context and that which is unique for just Åland. Åland society wasn’t built in a day and we cannot take security for granted. Behind today’s welfare and comfort we can glimpse the legacy of past generations: their knowledge, their work and continuous interaction with nature. We manage this legacy, working with what we have, and we proceed from local conditions. And we use the word “we” in a welcoming way: it is a “we” that is there for everyone who wishes to live and work in Åland, and it is a “we” that opens up the world. Åland is part of a larger whole.*

Peaceful relations, democracy, social equality, gender equality and human rights are cornerstones of Åland society. One of Åland’s special conditions is its status as a demilitarized zone. We use both demilitarization and work with sustainability as stepping stones out into the arena of international cooperation, for example, with regard to the Baltic Sea as a strife-free zone and an ever-cleaner body of water.

### **“Everyone can flourish in a viable society on the Islands of Peace.”**

Flourishing people value both themselves and their society, wishing and managing to contribute to the whole. A viable society does not cut through the branch on which it is built, rather it takes care of its resources with care and creativity. And by beginning where we are today, by making use of that which is unique for Åland, we can both take energy from our history and be sufficiently secure to think in new ways.

This is our best opportunity to build the world’s best sustainable society – on 6757 scenic islands in the midst of the Baltic Sea.

*To make use of the knowledge, ideas and commitment of all people who live and work in Åland is an important part of our collective journey to sustainability. In the network, [barkraft.ax](http://barkraft.ax), open to all who wish to take part, the public sector, the business community and non-profit organizations have for the first time agreed on a collective goal. This vision is the result of that work. Have you noticed that this document, to a large part, is formulated as if we had already achieved our goal? That is the idea. It is a way to show the vision’s strength.*

We are almost 30,000 people living and working in Åland. We are inspired and motivated by the same vision and we all pull in the same direction, which means that we, together, possess an incredible power to act. By living as if the best possible future is already a reality, we create a social climate that drives the change to a sustainable society much more quickly than anyone thought possible. Come with your passion and let it be your contribution.

## WHAT DO THE SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES MEAN?

An internationally used definition of the term sustainable development is the basis for sustainability in Åland. The definition consists of the four Sustainability Principles, which are listed below. Around 1990, led by Professor Karl-Henrik Robért, ecologists, chemists, physicists, doctors and other experts from around the world agreed on a definition of the four principles of sustainability, which define a sustainable society, or rather what is needed in order to maintain life on our planet in the long term.



# THE FOUR SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

In a sustainable society, **nature is not subject** to *systematically increasing*...

### **1 ... concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust**

(fossil fuels, metals and minerals)

### **2 ... concentrations of substances produced by society**

(synthetic substances, chemicals that contain persistent substances; or natural substances that are in use in larger quantities than nature can handle)

### **3 ... degradation by physical means**

(over-exploitation of natural resources, including water, forests, fish-stocks or farmland; the usage of important natural environments for, for example, building, the introduction of alien and invasive species, production that results in refuse rather than being a closed substance cycle)

**4 And, in that society, people are not subject to structures that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs, including health, influence, skills development, impartiality and creation of meaning.**



# THE GOALS

## THE SEVEN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1.

**Happy people  
whose inherent resources increase**

2.

**Everyone feels trust and has real  
possibilities to participate in society**

3.

**All water is of good quality**

4.

**Ecosystems in balance and biological diversity**

5.

**Attractive for residents, visitors and businesses**

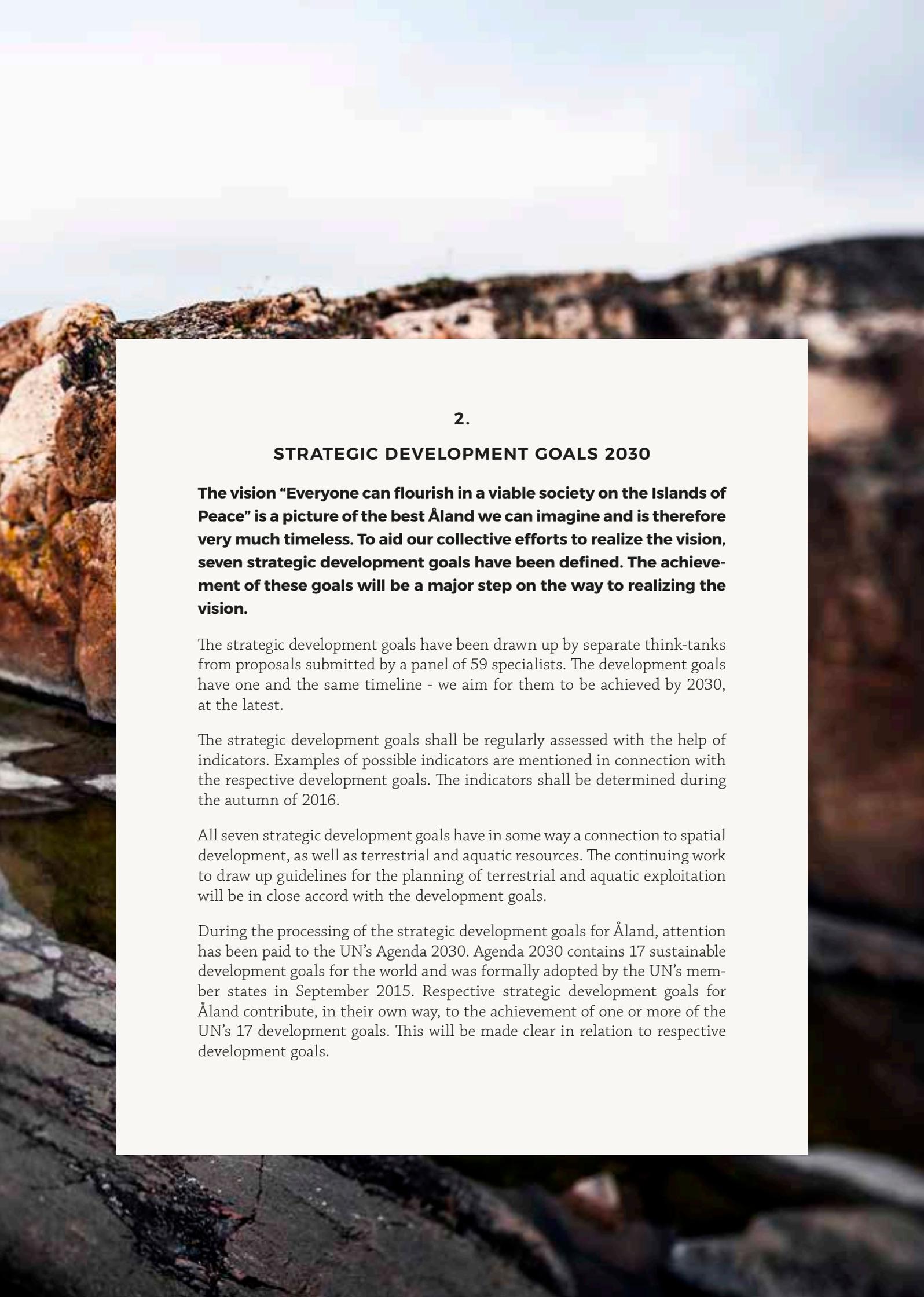
6.

**Significantly higher proportion of energy from renewable sources,  
plus increased energy efficiency**

7.

**Sustainable and mindful patterns of consumption  
and production**





## 2.

### STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030

**The vision “Everyone can flourish in a viable society on the Islands of Peace” is a picture of the best Åland we can imagine and is therefore very much timeless. To aid our collective efforts to realize the vision, seven strategic development goals have been defined. The achievement of these goals will be a major step on the way to realizing the vision.**

The strategic development goals have been drawn up by separate think-tanks from proposals submitted by a panel of 59 specialists. The development goals have one and the same timeline - we aim for them to be achieved by 2030, at the latest.

The strategic development goals shall be regularly assessed with the help of indicators. Examples of possible indicators are mentioned in connection with the respective development goals. The indicators shall be determined during the autumn of 2016.

All seven strategic development goals have in some way a connection to spatial development, as well as terrestrial and aquatic resources. The continuing work to draw up guidelines for the planning of terrestrial and aquatic exploitation will be in close accord with the development goals.

During the processing of the strategic development goals for Åland, attention has been paid to the UN's Agenda 2030. Agenda 2030 contains 17 sustainable development goals for the world and was formally adopted by the UN's member states in September 2015. Respective strategic development goals for Åland contribute, in their own way, to the achievement of one or more of the UN's 17 development goals. This will be made clear in relation to respective development goals.

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1:

### Happy people whose inherent resources increase

*To flourish is about something deeper than material well-being and that everything should always be fun. Åland society has the conditions that allow people to feel happy and to thrive.*

In order to, by 2030 at the latest, achieve *happy people whose inherent resources increase*, everybody in Åland has the possibility to flourish, and also the chance to receive knowledge and skills that allow one to flourish. Meaningful work for all adults, paid or unpaid, makes use of and refines people's inherent resources and contributes to their well-being. Working conditions are decent, with remuneration levels that allow self-sufficiency.

**Happy children** live in secure environments with the possibility of harmonic and varied development. Included in this is good physical and psychological health. All children have access to a school where they can learn to be people in a sustainable society. Apart from the fundamental skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, the focus is on leadership, conscious consumption, ethics, life philosophy, aesthetics, the ability to analyse, take initiative and communicate, language and information and communication technology. Primary and secondary education shall be at the forefront in comparison with national and international standards.

**Happy adults** take responsibility, to the best of their ability, for their health and feel themselves to be flourishing. To take responsibility for one's health means, amongst other things, to eat healthily, to exercise and to refrain from the use of tobacco and misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

By the year 2030, everybody, regardless of sex and age, shall have access to a conversation partner and support person. Health and social care is adapted to suit the needs of the individual and negative cycles are broken early. Days of sick-leave are minimized in the working population.



The community environment is welcoming and available for all. Security, well-planned housing and service points, proximity to greenery and surroundings that encourage socialising, culture, outdoor exercise and play are prioritized in spatial planning.

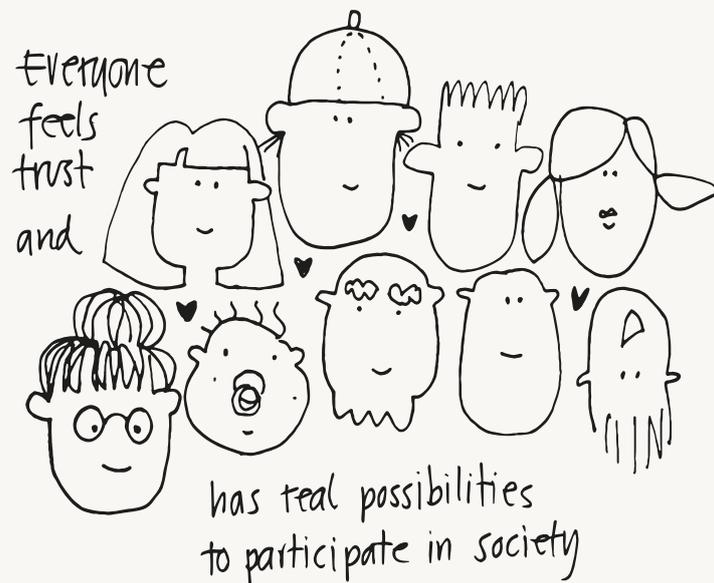
Everyone should have the chance to obtain the resources, insofar as they are able to do so, that are needed in order to flourish and at the same time contribute to viability. These resources can include knowledge of sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles and patterns of consumption, human rights, gender equality, democracy, active citizenship and the pursuit of peaceful relations. This applies to children and youths as well as adults, regardless of whether they have grown up on Åland or moved here later in life.

#### Examples of possible indicators:

- Average healthy life expectancy
- Proportion of the population that has completed secondary and post-secondary education
- Duration of sick-leave

#### The development goal contributes to the achievement of the following of the UN's 17 development goals:

3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education for all



## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2:

### **Everyone feels trust and has real possibilities to participate in society**

*No lasting progress can be achieved in an environment dominated by conflict and violence. Well-founded trust and peaceful relations between people form the basis for long-term viability.*

In Åland society of the year 2030 everyone, regardless of age or sex, feels trust and has real possibilities to participate. We work actively in every part of society to abolish all forms of physical, sexual and verbal violence and abuse, especially in close relationships.

This society is characterized by a democratic leadership that proactively and systematically includes all people, regardless of age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, origin, religion, other belief or economic standing in social, economic and political life. The conditions to act as leaders in our own lives and as parents are good. Society is also characterised by a good level of service with regard to access to consumer goods, energy, elderly care, healthcare, schools and transport.

No household, in particular pensioners and families with children, lives in an economically vulnerable position. Equal work shall receive equal pay, and wage growth is higher than average for the 40 % who have the lowest incomes. All adolescents and immigrants study or make their own living.

Gender equality and social equality have also been achieved in society, amongst other ways through women, men and immigrants being represented in decision-making authorities in both the public and private sectors. Household and care work is divided equally between adults.

Society in 2030 is accessible to all, and the needs of residents and visitors with some form of disability are considered in every area of society. Influence and participation in all spatial planning, designing and forming of physical structures is prioritized through an ongoing and including dialogue.

In this society power, influence and resources are also equally distributed, and corruption does not occur. Associations offer a large variety of possibilities for engaging activities and fellowship. At the same time, associations are a motor for new solutions that contribute to the realization of the vision. Society is further characterized by high voter turnout.

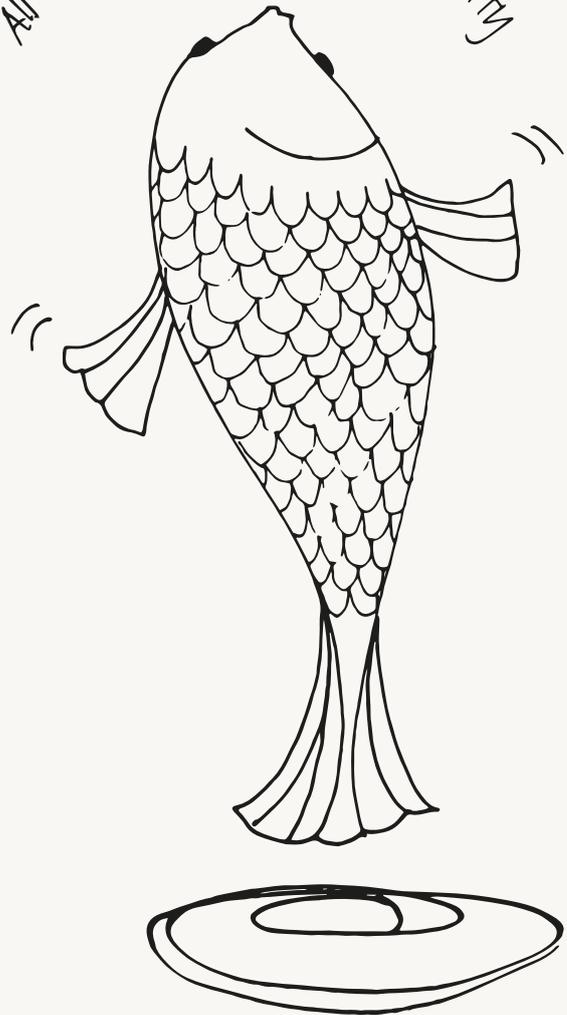
#### **Examples of possible indicators:**

- Income distribution and Gini coefficient
- Risk of poverty amongst families with children
- Employment and unemployment
- The wage gap between genders

#### **The development goal contributes to the achievement of the following of the UN's 17 development goals:**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. No poverty            | 2. Zero hunger                             |
| 5. Gender equality       | 8. Decent work and economic growth         |
| 10. Reduced inequalities | 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions |

All water is of good quality



### STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3:

## All water is of good quality

*Water is a fundamental condition for all life on this planet. In Åland there is a broad consensus on the importance of a healthy Baltic Sea, including all of its bays, deep basins and surface waters, as well as access to clean lakes for drinking water.*

In the year 2030, all water in Åland, drinking water, groundwater, lakes, coastal and sea water, is of good quality. The ideal scenario is that the water quality is so good that we can drink directly from our lakes.

In working for a healthy Baltic Sea Åland takes responsibility for ending all types of pollution from local operators. At the same time, a proactive cooperation with other communities around the Baltic Sea is needed. Åland has both an obligation and right to be the Baltic Sea's voice.

A number of measures are used to guarantee that all water is of good quality by 2030. Cycles, in amongst other things agriculture and aquaculture, are for the most part closed. There is no leakage of the nutrients phosphorus and nitrogen, and nutrients from treatment plants and sewers are recycled into the production of food. Work with these measures prioritizes those water bodies, 61 coastal waters and 14 lakes, identified by the EU's water directive.

A unified holistic perspective regarding water usage guarantees that measures, action plans and directives can together enable a continuous improvement of water quality, plus that all necessary measures are considered.

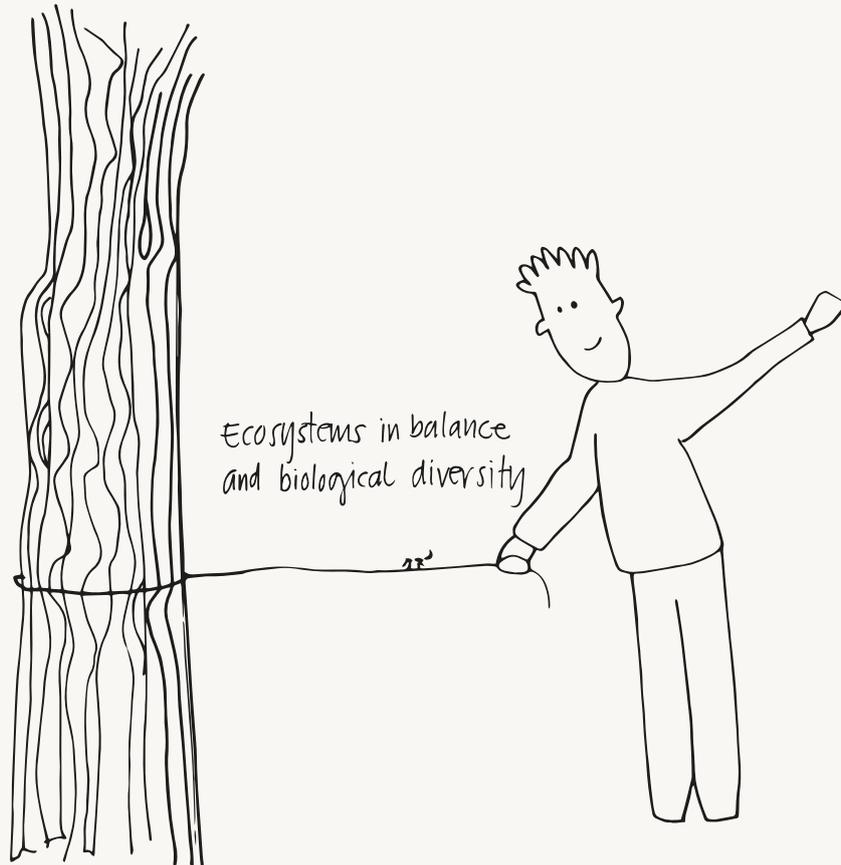
All causes of reduced water quality, for example toxins and plastics, have been phased out or have been collected or neutralized in another way. In 2030, all areas that can be of importance for access to drinking water (surface and groundwater) are protected.

#### Examples of possible indicators:

- Discharge levels in coastal and sea waters
- Quality factors of the lakes
- Number of protected drinking water sources

#### The development goal contributes to the achievement of the following of the UN's 17 development goals:

- 6. Clean water and sanitation
- 14. Life below water



## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4:

### **Ecosystems in balance and biological diversity**

*Biological diversity is a crucial foundation for the Earth's life-supporting systems and our present and future welfare rests on this foundation. Biological diversity contributes to increased resilience in ecosystems.*

To promote Åland's ecosystems, they shall be protected and used in a sustainable way by the year 2030. This applies especially to the sea, woodlands and wetlands. Everyone, from private individuals to users of farmland, woodland and water, cares for the ecosystems and biological diversity. The value of ecosystems and biological diversity is well integrated in development and planning processes for terrestrial and marine exploitation and is used as an instrument to ameliorate the negative effects of climate change.

In 2030, there is no loss of biological diversity on land or in the sea. Instead, biological diversity, in particular the most threatened species and biotopes, is rich and protected. At least 10 % of coastal and marine environments are protected in accordance with goal 14 of the UN's Agenda 2030. Even the effect of harmful invasive species, which threaten biological diversity and ecosystem services, is low, thanks to combatting and control.

Åland is by 2030 self-sufficient in fish. Fish stocks are vigorous thanks to the fact that all who exploit the common resource that fish constitute do so in accord with scientifically based management plans. Aquaculture increases and occurs without negatively affecting the aquatic environment.

Woodlands are also used sustainably and contribute positively to the climate and to our livelihood.

#### **Examples of possible indicators:**

- Catch-size and spawning stocks in fish stocks
- Changes in the index of common birds
- Yearly felling of woodland and woodland plant diversity

#### **The development goal contributes to the achievement of the following of the UN's 17 development goals:**

- 14. Life below water
- 15. Life on land

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5:

### Attractive for residents, visitors and businesses

*Attractiveness requires forward progress. Another requirement is the use of the word “we” in a welcoming way: it is a “we” that is for everyone who wishes to live and work in Åland, and it is a “we” that opens the doors to the world. A high degree of attractiveness leads to viability.*



In the year 2030, Åland is a highly attractive place both for those who live here and those who don't. This is also the case for different sorts of investment. Åland as a destination is highly attractive and is continuously developing. Generally speaking, the achievement of the other six strategic development goals, with all that is implied, will significantly contribute to promote and strengthen Åland's attractiveness.

One of the greatest assets that contributes to Åland's attractiveness is *nature* and access to areas of natural beauty, in particular coastal. Therefore, protection of and access to nature is ensured in 2030. Additionally, *the cultural and educational sector* in Åland, as well as *associations*, are major assets that create attractiveness. Therefore, continued commitment and vitality will be stimulated and encouraged. Even the *cultural heritage* will be preserved, presented and developed. *Art, design and architecture* are also highly valued.

*Mariehamn*, in its capacity as regional capital, influences attractiveness amongst residents, visitors and businesses. Therefore, Mariehamn's development is a matter for Åland as a whole. Additionally, *the business community*, which has functioned successfully both at home and abroad for a long time, is a major asset. The same is true for a harmonious, service-minded and economically stable *public sector* in its role as community builder. Both the private and public sectors offer qualified and developing employment opportunities.

The ability to identify and apply new innovations and technical solutions, which contribute to a sustainable and viable society, is good. The small scale of Åland society makes it possible to implement solutions quickly, which reinforces attractiveness. Public transport, based on local conditions and available new technology, creates conditions for resource-effective and sustainable transport.

The ability for collaboration, locally and with communities around the Baltic Sea, is good. Physical and digital meeting places are developed. Sustainable transport is

used to provide contact with the surrounding world. A special focus is placed on strengthening relations with the regions of Turku and Helsinki, and Stockholm and Uppsala.

In the near future, measures will be taken to strengthen resilience toward, and the ability to adapt to, climate related dangers and changes to every part of Åland society.

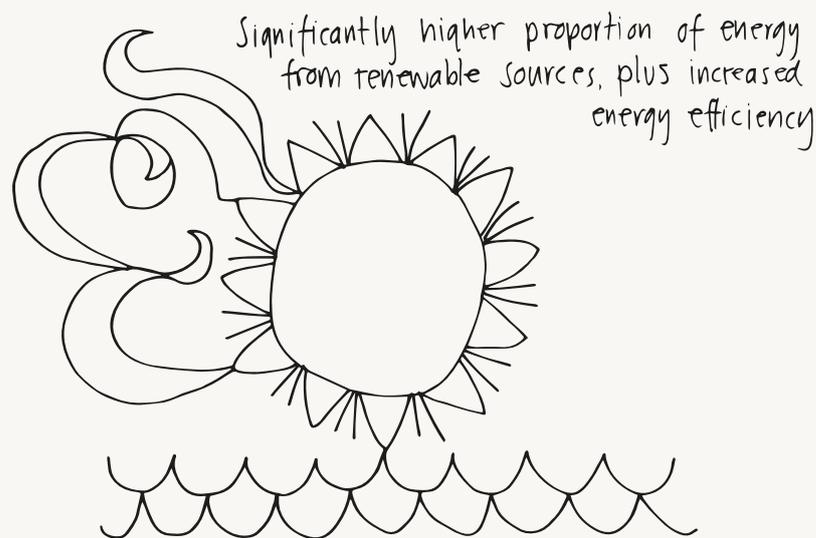
Development and planning processes for terrestrial and aquatic use, which qualitatively are at the cutting edge in a Nordic perspective, are key factors in attaining a gradual reinforcement of attractiveness. With the help of development and planning processes, the synergy effect between nature, culture, infrastructure and transport will be optimized. Good infrastructure for businesses, as well as good residential environments, will be prioritized. Multifunctional places create a living local environment with a high level of attraction and accessible services.

#### Examples of possible indicators:

- Natural population growth and immigration and emigration
- Proportion of land and water that is classed as recreational areas or nature reserves
- Cultural heritage
- Number of cultural and creative activities, educational subjects and qualifications
- Use of public transport
- Revenue from tourism
- GDP per capita

#### The development goal contributes to the achievement of the following of the UN's 17 development goals:

8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
11. Sustainable cities and communities
13. Climate action



## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6:

### **Significantly higher proportion of energy from renewable sources, plus increased energy efficiency**

*Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Due to the emission of greenhouse gases we face the risk of a global warming that exceeds two degrees celsius, which would have serious consequences for ecosystems, acidification of seawater, human security, food production, access to water, health and an increased risk of weather-related catastrophes. A large part of the increased emission of greenhouse gases comes from the use of fossil fuels.*

In the year 2030, significant advances have been made regarding the proportion of energy usage from renewable sources. A high degree of energy efficiency has also been achieved within all transport by land and sea (occurring in Åland waters), individual households and the production of goods and services in the public and private sectors.

Local conditions for energy production, such as sun, wind, wave and biogas, are utilized and increase society's viability.

In the year 2030, all new cars and vans are powered by means other than fossil fuels, and, as far as possible, fossil fuels are avoided in industry. Buildings are heated without using fossil fuels and the emission of carbon dioxide from ferries has ceased. The woodland of Åland is an essential carbon sink and offers alternative products to fossil fuels. An energy-smart social environment looks to the interaction between buildings, development, transport and supply chains to reduce energy usage within the respective sectors

and work toward a transition to sources of renewable energy.

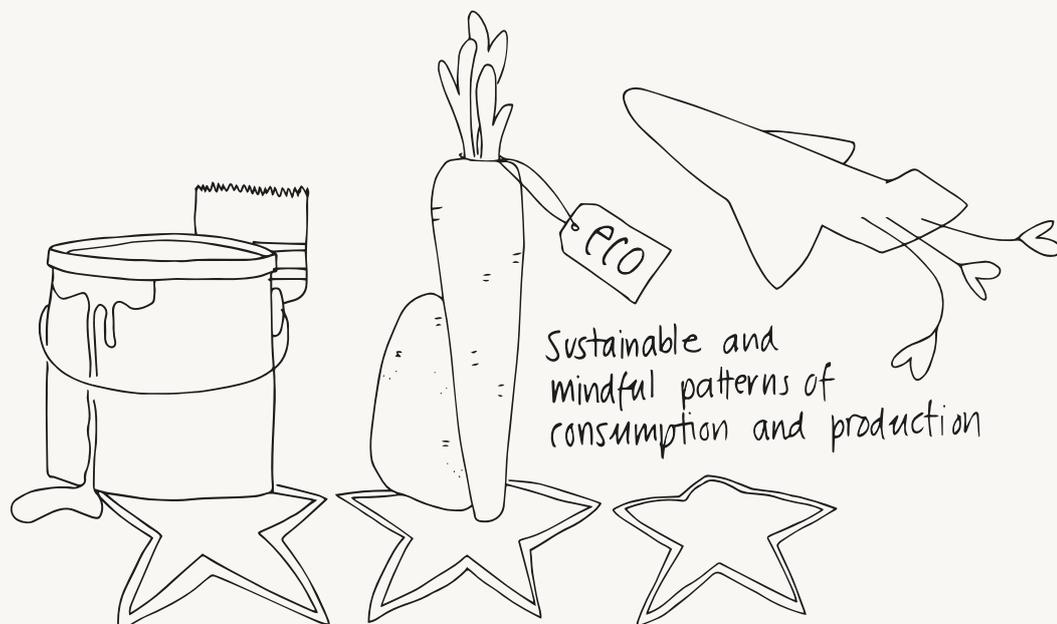
In the vision for Åland the aim is to achieve a society that uses only renewable energy and clean fuels, and where essential improvements regarding energy efficiency and storage are achieved.

#### **Examples of possible indicators:**

- The proportion of renewable energy in gross energy consumption
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Total energy consumption
- Total local energy production

#### **The development goal contributes to the achievement of the following of the UN's 17 development goals:**

- 7. Affordable and clean energy
- 13. Climate action



## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7:

### **Sustainable and mindful patterns of consumption and production**

*Sustainable and mindful patterns of consumption and production is a lateral concept, which contributes to the achievement of all six of the other strategic development goals. Consumption here includes both goods and services consumed by private individuals, the public sector, businesses and other organizations.*

A step toward achieving sustainable and mindful patterns of consumption and production is of course to only consume sustainable goods and services. Accordingly, in the year 2030, only sustainable consumption will take place. Reuse and reprocessing are equally obvious. All businesses and the public sector have charted their production of goods and services in relation to the four Sustainability Principles with the ambition to, step by step, move production within these four frameworks. The concept of waste has been replaced and instead all materials are seen as resources.

The food that is consumed and produced is both tasty and healthy. Locally produced food is both appreciated and sought-after. The range of ecological products from Åland has, by the year 2030, increased significantly and primary producers receive a fair payment for their products.

As well as the food industry and the energy sector, which are crucial sectors and lead the drive toward sustainable practices, even the health, construction, transport, forestry and tourism sectors are proactive in this work. In the construction industry usage of timber grown on Åland has increased significantly.

The exploitation of land and water is based on an effective utilization of natural resources with regard to ecosystems and biological diversity.

Among the essential measures for the achievement of the goal are the public sector's contracting practices, which guarantee sustainable public consumption, as well as the systematic phasing out of harmful chemicals.

#### **Examples of possible indicators:**

- Sales of ecological foods
- The number of sustainability certified businesses and public operators
- The number of businesses and public operators that have adopted the Sustainability Principles for production
- Amount of waste
- Proportion of reuse

#### **The development goal contributes to the achievement of the following of the UN's 17 development goals:**

12. Responsible consumption and production

### 3.

## REALIZATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

*In the previous chapters the vision, strategic development goals and examples of possible indicators have been presented. But with all respect to planning, it is the realization of the plans that is ultimately crucial. The single most important factor is everyone's attitude and willingness to achieve a change.*

# THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE – IN THE HOME AND IN ORDINARY OPERATIONS

The realization of the vision “Everyone can flourish in a viable society on the Islands of Peace” and the seven strategic development goals is made possible by joint action. Through a combination of commitment and conscious actions amongst operators in every sector of society, we shall step by step realize the vision and achieve the development goals.

Not just decisiveness but also structured coordination and monitoring is needed to achieve the goals. Realization requires cooperation between citizens, public, private and third sector operators. The implementation also requires the mobilization of economic resources controlled by public financiers and private investors.

In the following subchapters the support structures and coordinating bodies that contribute to realization will be described.

### **3.1 Support structures, method and monitoring**

*The network **bärkraft.ax** is the hub for the coordination of the work to realize the Development and Sustainability Agenda. The network was established in the beginning of 2016 at the initiative of operators from the public sector, the business community, associations and the educational sector. Bärkraft.ax is open for the participation of operators from all parts of society and all people who wish to contribute actively to a viable and sustainable Åland. Through active dialogue the network contributes to increased coordination and competence between and within society's various sectors. Comprising both physical and digital meeting places, bärkraft.ax is a platform for dialogue and contact point for all who live and work in, or visit, Åland.*

The mode of cooperation in and around bärkraft.ax is transparent and in constant development. It is the participants, both individuals and organizations, that continuously provide and transform the network's content.

A special council, the Development and Sustainability Council, has been appointed to take responsibility for bärkraft.ax. The council consists of leading people from various sectors, and is responsible for the network's vitality and long-term existence. The council members are appointed by the government of Åland and hold two ordinary meetings per year. The term of office of a council member is two years, and the council shall consist of at least eight and at most fourteen members. The Premier of the government is both member and chair of the council. The council shall regularly monitor Åland society's work with the Development and Sustainability Agenda.

For the period 2016-2017, the following people have been appointed members of the council.

Head of Government **Katrin Sjögren** (the council's chair)  
Deputy Head of Government **Camilla Gunell**  
Head of Administration and Development, Government of Åland, **Dan E Eriksson**  
Deputy CEO, Eriksson Capital Ab, **Rebecka Eriksson**  
Chair, Åland Agricultural Producers, **Tage Eriksson**  
Vice-Chair, Åland Society for Nature and Environment, **Petra Granholm**  
President and CEO, Viking Line Abp, **Jan Hanses**  
Mayor, the Town of Mariehamn, **Barbara Heinonen**  
Manager, Emmaus Åland, **Robert Jansson**  
Principal, Åland University of Applied Sciences, **Edvard Johansson**  
Children's Convention Adviser, Save the Children Åland, **Danielle Lindholm**  
Chair, the Åland Chamber of Commerce, **Peter Wiklöf**

The realization of the Development and Sustainability Agenda for Åland is a multi-faceted challenge and therefore demands *systematic methods*. All operators are recommended to use *back-casting*, a method used to plan for success. The method is based on the desired state where we wish to be in the future, in this case, the agenda's vision and strategic development goals. From the vision we look back to today, charting the gap between the situation today and the desired state. Following this, we identify what needs to be done today and in the future to steer the right course toward the vision.

The realization of the agenda requires a *systematic monitoring and reporting*. Consequently shall an annual status report, which includes the indicators of the seven strategic development goals, be published. The status report identifies progress, challenges and critical success factors with the aim to provide decision support for all of society's operators.

In addition to the status report everyone on Åland shall be invited to take part in the annual *Forum for Social Development*. The forum's purpose is to contribute to the realization of "Everyone can flourish in a viable society on the Islands of Peace" by enabling as many people as possible from all over Åland to meet in one place. During the Forum for Social Development good examples of working for the realization of the agenda, from all sectors of society, will be presented.

### 3.2. Cooperating operators and their role in the realization

The following text describes the function of operators with a central role in the realization of the agenda.

**The Åland parliament** has the overall political responsibility for the realization of the agenda.

**The Åland government** is responsible for acting proactively as the catalyst and coordinator for the realization of the agenda. A team-builder that gathers the energy of the public sector and, in the long term, of all Åland society.

The process of drafting the regional government's budget takes into account the Development and Sustainability Agenda. The government provides parliament with an annual report regarding the status of work with the Development and Sustainability Agenda.

The government acts as an example by thoroughly applying the principles of sustainability to its own working practices. The government is responsible for maintaining a fundamental infrastructure, including digital and physical forums, for the network *bärkraft.ax*.

The government ensures that a comprehensive coordination of land and water exploitation takes place.

**All municipalities, authorities and other public sector operations** are expected to take active part in the realization of the agenda and to act as examples by thoroughly applying the principles of sustainability to their own working practices. The Åland Health Service (ÅHS) plays a key role in the realization of the agenda.

**All businesses** are expected to take active part in the realization of the agenda. The hope is that businesses, from the smallest to the largest, are willing to use their creativity and innovative energy to create profitable business models that contribute to the agenda's implementation. Businesses are expected to act as examples by thoroughly applying the principles of sustainability to their own working practices. The business community's organizations for cooperation have key roles and are expected to support companies with knowledge and inspiration.

**All associations** are expected to take an active part in the realization of the agenda. Associations can contribute solutions to many of the challenges that arise in the gradual transition to a sustainable and viable development. At the same time, associations provide the focus to gather large groups of people to perform collective efforts for the agenda's realization.

**All operators within the cultural and educational sector**, including day-nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, centres for adult education, libraries and other cultural organizations, are expected to take an active part in the realization of the agenda and to act as examples by thoroughly applying the principles of sustainability to their own working practices.

## **Annual cycle for the agenda's implementation and monitoring**

Description of a selection of milestones in the annual cycle for the agenda's implementation.

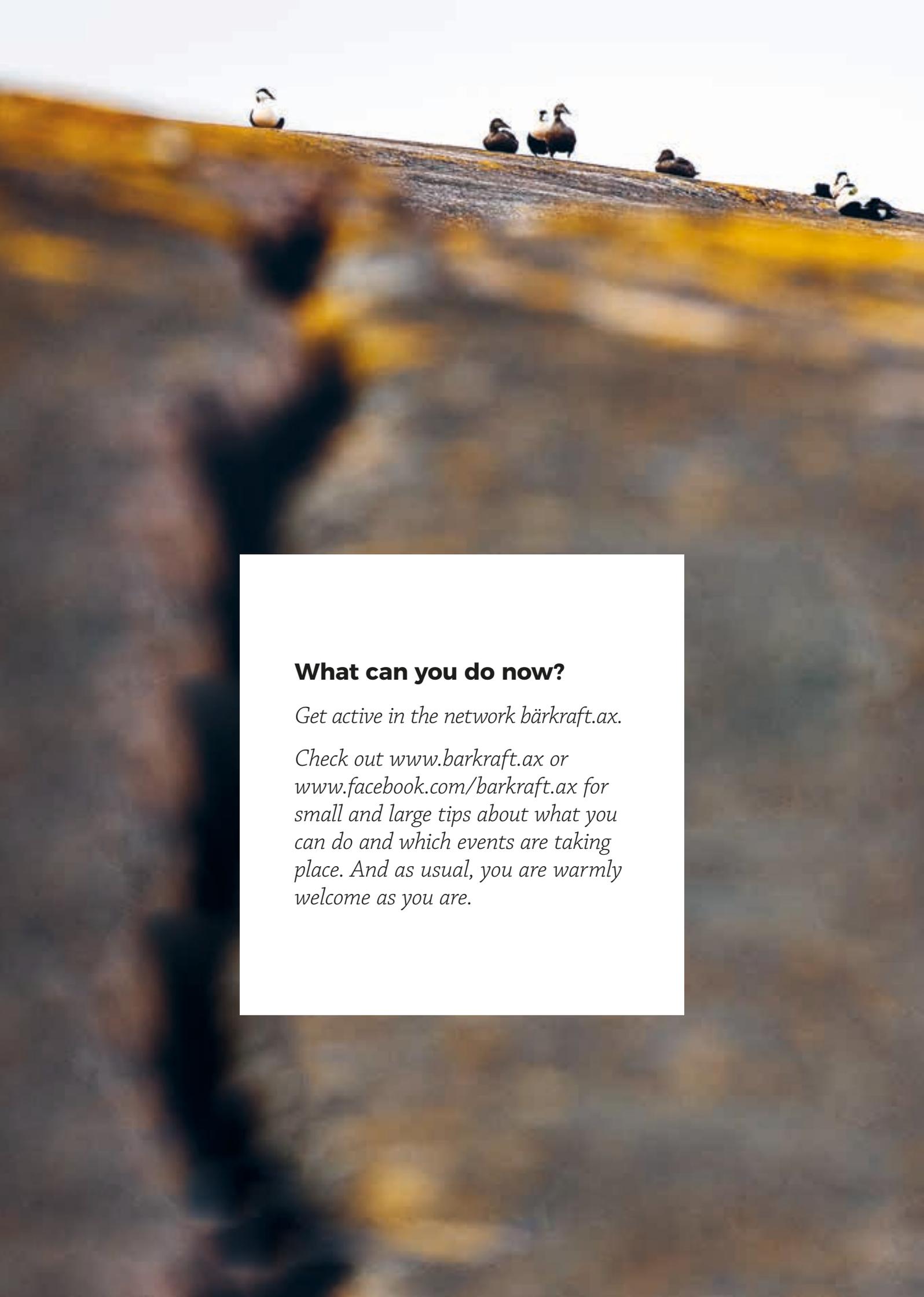
April/May	Development and Sustainability Council convenes
May/June	Forum for Social Development
Nov/Dec	Development and Sustainability Council convenes

## **Eight process areas support the implementation in ordinary operations and households**

The daily implementation of the agenda is supported by eight interacting process areas, which have been identified as appropriate while working to define the seven strategic development goals. Respective process areas exist in order to contribute to the achievement of one or more strategic development goals. Employing an agile way of working in network form, the conditions for cross-boundary processes are created, which overcome the limitations inherent in a traditional silo mentality. The objective is to promote synergy effects between the resources that are mobilized for the realization of the agenda.

- Education, health, work and care
- Structures for influence, impartiality and creation of meaning
- Nature, culture, infrastructure and transport
- Energy and climate
- Consumption, production, financing and investment
- Land and water
- Ecosystems and biological diversity
- Business community and tourist destination





### **What can you do now?**

*Get active in the network [barkraft.ax](http://barkraft.ax).*

*Check out [www.barkraft.ax](http://www.barkraft.ax) or [www.facebook.com/barkraft.ax](https://www.facebook.com/barkraft.ax) for small and large tips about what you can do and which events are taking place. And as usual, you are warmly welcome as you are.*

## 4.

### BACKGROUND, PROCESS AND CONTEXT

# BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

A sustainable and viable social development is part of the origin of Åland society. Throughout the centuries, the people who have lived in the Åland archipelago have taken care of their fellow humans and their natural environment. The ambition has always been to hand over the baton to the next generation in as good condition as it was when it was received. Their efforts have, in many ways, created a fantastic welfare society. It is with good reason, therefore, that we direct thoughts of gratitude to earlier generations.

As a result of *the great acceleration*, which gained momentum in the 1950s, even Åland society has been dragged into a global social development that, in parts, is unsustainable, both socially and environmentally.

Thanks to sustainability's natural place in Åland's history, relatively early initiatives were taken to counter the unsustainable elements of social development. Agenda 21, the UN's global action plan for environmental sustainability that was adopted by the UN in 1992, had a significant impact in, amongst other things, municipal and government operations, as well as in legislation, thanks largely to broad popular support. The project A Green Åland in a Blue Baltic Sea showed that a large part of the business community in Åland, known for entrepreneurship, has, for a long time, tried to combine sustainability with business development and profitability.

A milestone in Åland society's efforts for sustainable development came when parliament and government in 2014 chose to adopt a common pursuit of total sustainable development in Åland no later than 2051. This is in accordance with an internationally accepted definition of the term sustainable development. The definition consists of four so-called Sustainability Principles. This was preceded by the publication of the report Åland in Transition - Strategic Planning for a Sustainable Future 2013-2051, on behalf of the Åland government.

The Development and Sustainability Agenda for Åland takes as its starting point the above history and background.

The creation of the Forum for Social Development in February 2016 initiated intensive work to create the agenda. Everyone in Åland was invited to take part in a vision-workshop, where 96 people put forward proposals on which the vision would be based. Following this, an expert panel consisting of 59 people was requested to formulate suggestions for strategic development goals that were deemed to be essential for the realization of the vision. This material was then analysed thoroughly. Based on these proposals, a draft of the vision and the strategic development goals was written. The draft was discussed in several different groups, including open meetings for everyone in Åland. Following this, a new draft was written, and this was assessed in June 2016 by the Development and Sustainability Council. This resulted

in the adoption of the vision and the seven strategic development goals. Following this, all texts and additional material were analysed once again. The culmination of all this is the document you are holding, the visualization of the agenda in words, images and feelings, which was made manifest in connection with the Forum for Social Development in September 2016.

The formulation of the Development and Sustainability Agenda for Åland has been a teamwork. Below are presented the people who have taken part in the various forums. Additionally, other people have contributed in other forms. If you or someone else who took part is missing from this list, contact [barkraft.ax](http://www.barkraft.ax) ([www.barkraft.ax/kontakt](http://www.barkraft.ax/kontakt)) and the list shall be updated on the homepage.

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Vivan Nikula	Viveka Löndahl	Wille Valve
Yvonne Österlund	Zacharias Pettersson	Åsa Andersson
Åsa Mattsson		



## Context

As noted in the introduction, the process relating to the Development and Sustainability Agenda for Åland coincides with the decision by the UN member states regarding Agenda 2030, with 17 sustainable development goals. In addition to the 17 goals are 169 associated targets.

Read more at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

1. No poverty.
2. No hunger.
3. Good health and well-being.
4. Quality education.
5. Gender equality.
6. Clean water and sanitation.
7. Affordable clean energy.
8. Decent work and economic growth.
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure.
10. Reduced inequalities.
11. Sustainable cities and communities.
12. Responsible consumption and production.
13. Climate action.
14. Life below water.
15. Life on land.
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions.
17. Partnerships for the goals.

Agenda 2030 provides the world with a common roadmap for the period 2016 - 2030, and this shall be gradually implemented in the EU, in the Nordic countries and nationally.

The implementation of the Development and Sustainability Agenda for Åland is continuously coordinated with developments in the EU, the Nordic countries and Finland. Åland is part of the Nordic cooperation for sustainable development and Åland is represented in Finland's commission for sustainable development.



The Agenda is produced within the remit of the network [barkraft.ax](http://barkraft.ax)  
[www.barkraft.ax](http://www.barkraft.ax)