

THE BALTIC SEA CITY ACCELERATOR CLUB

INFORMATION PACKAGE FROM DIGITAL WORKSHOP OCTOBER 2021

Workshop
October 5-7
2021

Keynote speeches

- Esa Nikunen, Director General of Helsinki Environment Services
- Ville Valkonen, Deputy Mayor the City of Turku

Presentations

- NEFCO
- Sustainability reporting, Västervik municipality
- Klara Vatten
- Baltic Fish
- Guided tour of WWTP Blominmäki in Espoo
- Stormwater management

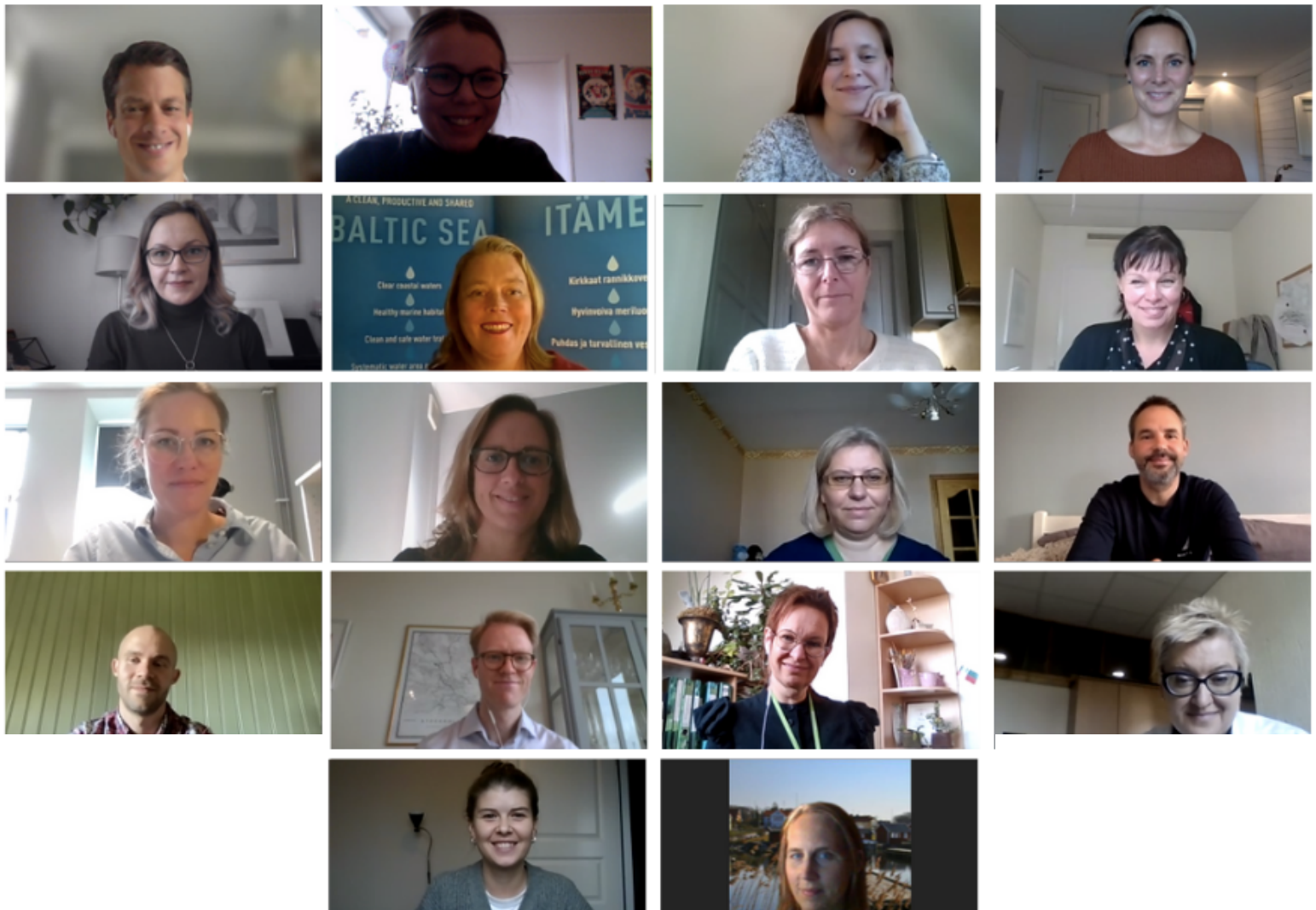
Group work

- Funding opportunities
- Reporting actions
- Common obstacles
- New solutions

Organizers

- Race For The Baltic
- The Baltic Sea Challenge





PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES IN THE CLUB

- 🔹 **Paide**, Estonia
- 🔹 **Kirkkonummi**, Finland
- 🔹 **Helsinki**, Finland
- 🔹 **Turku**, Finland
- 🔹 **Klaipėda**, Lithuania
- 🔹 **Panevėžys**, Lithuania
- 🔹 **Neringa**, Lithuania
- 🔹 **Kalmar**, Sweden
- 🔹 **Vaxholm**, Sweden
- 🔹 **Värmdö**, Sweden
- 🔹 **Karlshamn**, Sweden
- 🔹 **Västervik**, Sweden
- 🔹 **Katrineholm**, Sweden
- 🔹 **Simrishamn**, Sweden
- 🔹 **Blekinge Archipelag**, Sweden

**Next BSCAC
meeting**
26-28 april 2022
in Helsinki

The BSCAC workshop consisted of:

- 3 days
- 15 municipalities
- 8 presentations
- 4 group work sessions

Day 1

After introducing words from the organizers Race For The Baltic and the Baltic Sea Challenge, the workshop was kicked off with a keynote speech from Esa Nikunen, Director General of Helsinki Environment Services.

This was followed by a presentation on the Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund (NEFCO).

Threats to the Baltic Sea

Eutrophication

- Decreased water quality
 - 97 % of the Baltic Sea suffers from eutrophication
- Oxygen deficiency



Helsinki TURKU

Pollution

- Hazardous substances
- Marine litter
 - ~70 % of litter items in the Baltic Sea is plastic



Climate change

- Multiple threats, e.g. acidification
 - Up to 3 times increase in acidity by the year 2100
- Changes in water temperatures
 - Sea surface water temperature has increased ~1.2 °C since 1990

Esa Nikunen, Director General of Helsinki Environment Services



Dennis Hamro-Drotz,
Senior Investment
Manager NEFCO

"We want to be a part of solving the problems of eutrophication in the Baltic Sea"

The Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund (NEFCO). How does the fund work and who can apply?

- All Baltic municipalities can apply for funding from NEFCO.
- Main focus of the fund - eutrophication
- Looking for projects that can scale up activities or replicate projects at other locations.
- Hot topic right now is projects working with improving nutrient recycling.
- 50-70 % of a project budget can be funded.
- "If you are used to EU funding and reports, NEFCO will be a piece of cake."

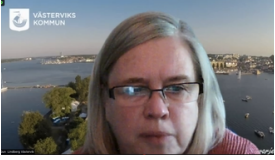
Next call for applications October - November 2021

Break Out Room Discussions

1. What type of funding works best for you and why?
2. Best practice or tips to share with other municipalities looking for funding?
3. Do you have any ideas to collaborate on funding?

Day 2

How to link sustainability reporting and eutrophication



Gun Lindberg, Sustainability Strategist from Västervik's

municipality, presented how they work with sustainability reporting and how they link it to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their vision is to do their share to achieve HELCOM's goals in the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

"To make a difference we need to work together locally - on farm level."

Emphasized the importance of collaborating on a local level working 'Farmer to Farmer', where the landowners are engaged from the beginning in the step by step implementation of measures to decrease eutrophication.



What do we report ?

- Local goals
- Indicators
- Achieved (year)
- Trends
- (Comparison with National result and or Eco municipalities)



Break Out Room Discussions

How your municipality can strengthen the link between sustainability reporting and eutrophication.

1. What do you do in your city/municipality?
2. Nutrient calculation - load or input and actions?
3. How can these be updated or added to?

Digital guided tour: Waste Water Treatment Plant Blominmäki in Espoo



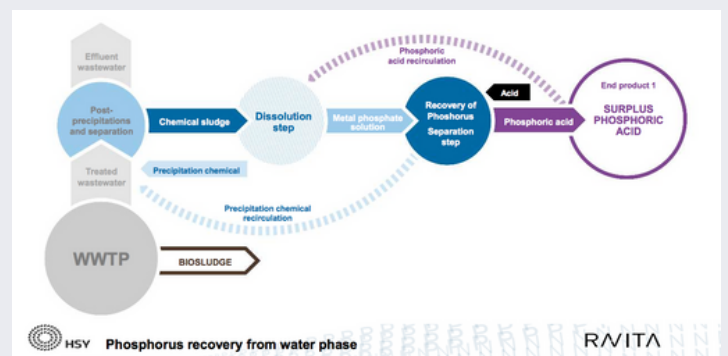
Blominmäki will manage the wastewater of 400,000 residents.



Marina Graan, Production Manager at Helsinki Region Environmental Services (HSY) took us on a guided tour in Blominmäki's WWTP. The treatment plant uses a phosphorus recovery process called RAVITA, which generates a very high level of phosphorus cleaning from waste water. The scalability of the RAVITA process entails that it can also be used in smaller plants to recover phosphorus.

"It's absolutely achievable to reach these high levels of phosphorus recovery in other plants."

Marina Graan, HSY



Day 3

New stormwater management projects in Helsinki

Currently the City of Helsinki are working with two new projects to protect natural waters in densely populated city areas:



1. Adjustable filters in stormwater wells aimed to catch contaminants which are attached to suspended solids from stormwater.

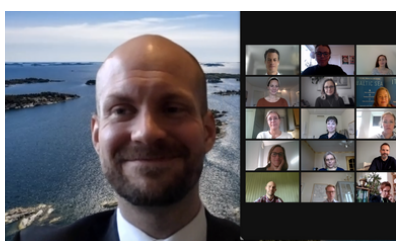
2. Increasing knowledge and methods for water cleaning at construction sites.

Miitta Rantakari from the City of Helsinki



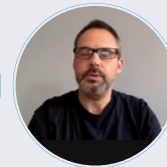
An interactive session followed Miitta Rantakari's presentation. The discussion covered various aspects of challenges within stormwater management. For example Simrishamn's municipality points out the problems with droughts as a driver to find methods to clean and make use of the stormwater. Whilst Katrineholm's municipality faces difficulties to manage the large amounts of stormwater.

"The reason why we are interested in stormwater now, is because there are so many changes happening. Climate change is obviously one of them... drought and flooding, but also demographically, I think a lot of cities are booming and we're building where the water used to go. I think changes are the reason for why it has come up as such an interesting topic." Karin Lofström, Kalmar



Deputy Mayor Ville Valkonen from the City of Turku gave the closing words of the workshop and invited us all in the BSCAC to come visit Turku and its beautiful archipelago.

Baltic Fish & improvement of water quality



Jesper Björk Rengbrandt & Magnus Böklin, Klara Vatten

The last presentation of the workshop focused on how fishing for cyprinid can be beneficial in lakes and along the Baltic Sea coast. Two representatives from Klara Vatten (Clear Waters) introduced their work with fish population reduction, which has the purpose to:

- reduce phosphorus levels
- improve water quality
- improve visibility

They work with selective fishing for cyprinid fish and their methods are gentle towards the marine ecosystem, no fish get stuck in the nets and predator fish are sorted out by hand.

Fishing for cyprinid is a cost-effective method to achieve clearer waters.



Lake restoration by fish removal

[Klara Vatten](#)



Building upon the presentation from Klara Vatten, Emma from RFTB presented the Swedish project Baltic Fish that started in 2019. The goal of the project is to make use of an untapped resource for food - the cyprinid fish. By fishing these species, the abundance of nutrients along the coast can be circulated from sea to land so that eutrophication in the sea is reduced. Furthermore it is both a sustainable and healthy food choice.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- Beneficial to collaborate with municipalities that share similar challenges.
- Applying for funding is complicated & time-consuming – lack of human resources is a hindrance for several municipalities.
- Inspiring to listen to how Västervik municipality works with sustainability reporting – several municipalities want to follow.
- Dialogue between landowners and municipalities is important and needed.
- New ideas for collaboration.
- More time for knowledge exchange.
- Looking forward to doing excursions together with the Club.



RaceForTheBaltic.com/baltic-sea-city-accelerator-project
linkedin.com/company/race-for-the-baltic/
[@BSC_network](https://twitter.com/BSC_network)
facebook.com/raceforthebaltic
facebook.com/TheBalticSeaChallenge

Thank you for your
participation in the
Baltic Sea City Accelerator Club
and see you next time!

