

# LOHJA 2050 – The Lake City: Rediscovering kinship of people and nature

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## Vision of Lohja 2050

In the future Lohja belongs to the people. They are a valuable asset to the Lake City and create their own community through self-initiated activities encouraged and enabled by the city. Public spaces constitute a physical place for sharing expertise and skills, thus supported by an inclusive participation platform for a wider community. A ferry runs throughout the region, delivering both people and goods in between the city centre and newly established waterfront neighbourhoods, whereas the train station connects the Sustainability Living Lab to the world. Carbon-neutrality is manifested in both extensive public transportation networks and self-sufficient energy production. In their daily life Lohjans recreate on the lakeside, grow their food, do voluntary work, interact with other locals and participate in discussion on common matters. Visitors and locals spend time in a green, livable and attractive city that offers both action and stillness alike. Therefore they are able to rediscover kinships to nature and humankind, near and far.

## Intervention Ideas

### Project Waterfront

- Electric ferry and micro-canal delivery system
- New lakeside communities are developed
- Lohja becomes renowned for its peaceful nature and countryside-like atmosphere
- Sustainability School of Lohja is established

### Participation Platform

- A digital platform connects and engages residents to participate in decision-making
- Skills and best practices on sustainable lifestyles are shared
- Physical spaces for different sustainability activities are opened
- Residents spend one day per week actively involved in the local activities

### Allotment Garden Experiment

- Allotment gardens and public green spaces replace large parking areas
- Connectivity of green infrastructure is improved
- Efficient public transportation network enables a car-free city centre
- Residents are encouraged to take ownership and propose new interventions

## Challenges of Lohja

### City-centre lacking vitality

The centre of Lohja appears to be quite sleepy with few people and many shops, restaurants and cafes closed. The lakeside is undervalued as an asset to the city.

### Limited participation of residents

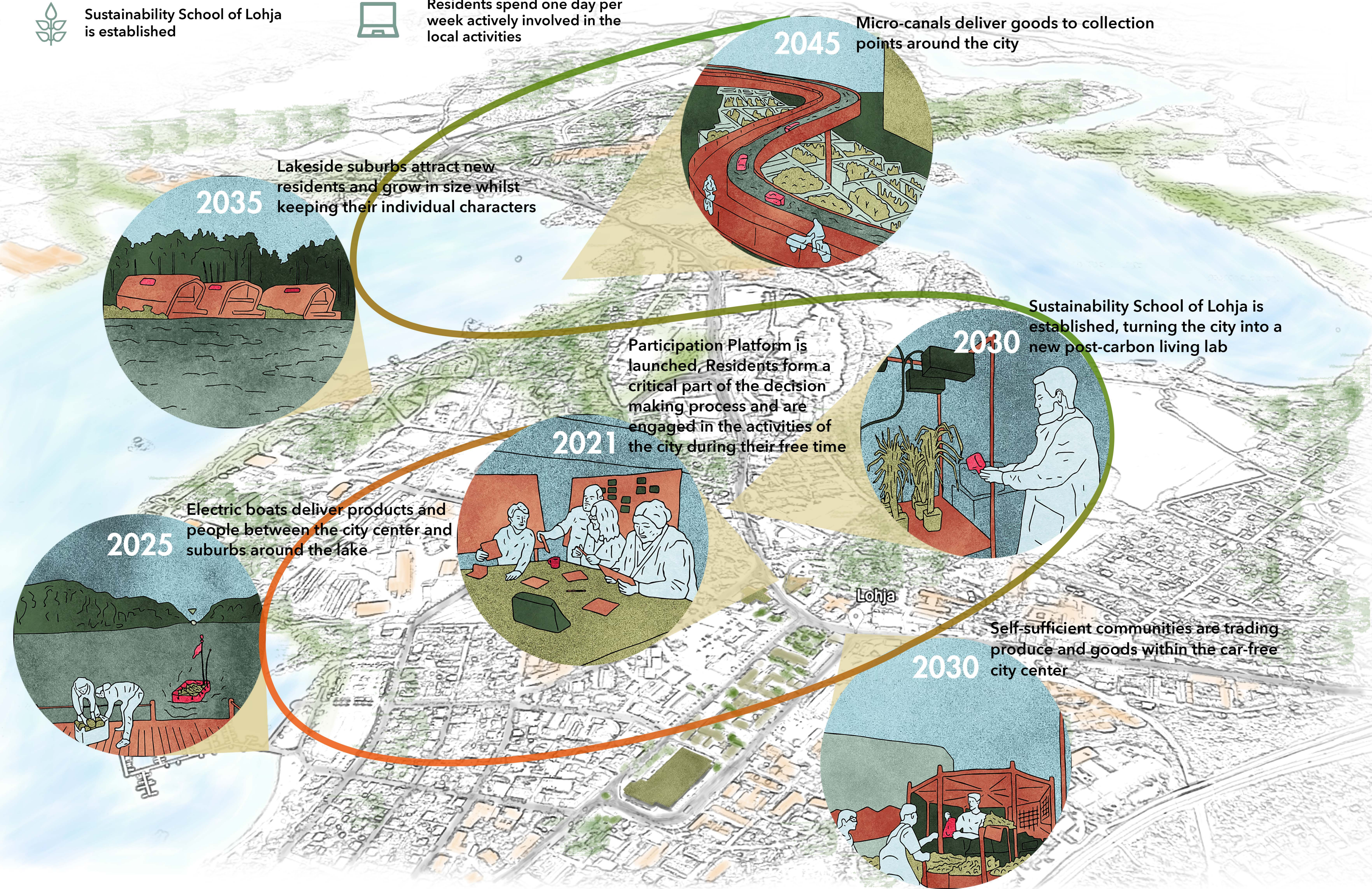
Existing participation processes are falling short. There are limited opportunities for citizens to share and co-create ideas for the city, or be involved in the visioning of a post-carbon Lohja.

### Car-centric urban planning

Currently over 40% of trips made by car are less than 5km and cars dominate the city centre. Despite improvements, pedestrian and cycling routes suffer from poor connectivity.

### Lack of connected green areas

There is a lack of public green spaces in the city centre. This also results in a lack of connectivity between wider green infrastructure networks and ecosystems.



## Milestones

2020	2021	2022	2023	2025	2030	2035	2045	2050
Plan and establish a platform with the help of already active community members. Establish a new channel of communication between residents.	First community Garden is installed.	The allotment gardening experiment ends and the residents are encouraged to take over the activities.	New public docks, promenades and beaches are established.	4-day working week is implemented in Finland. First automated buses start operating in the city. Electric ferry experiment is established.	Each housing unit in the city center is given a place for gardening. The center of Lohja becomes totally free of cars.	Carbon Neutral Finland. The first experiment with the delivery canals, Water-channels are run through allotment areas as a trial for distance food delivery.	Lohja becomes self-sufficient in food.	Lohja is selected as a most liveable post-carbon city in Finland.