

HOURS OF LOHJA VISION

URBAN TRANSITONS AND FUTURES
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Currently Lohja has the ability to transform the internal processes within its socio-technical regime to functional post-carbon alternatives by 2050. Lohja must still address issues arising from negative externalities, representing, defending and making viable an alternate lifestyle and set of values challenging growth-oriented capitalism and its inherent social injustices and overexploitation of natural capital. We propose a restructured growth-critical local economy challenging the prevailing work-life dualism and consumerist regime. It values a lifestyle consisting of less conventional work and more time for meaningful goals. This creates a local economy promoting sharing, repairing and creating.

INTERVENTION

The hours is a local currency providing opportunities to work less and engage more in meaningful activities. Employers in Lohja must be flexible to the needs of Lohja residents to reduce working time and allow residents to instead pursue socially and environmentally beneficial goals currently not valued by the capitalist regime, but valued by our local currency. The exchange of hours will occur locally through a digital tracking system. Hours can be obtained by doing beneficial services for a post-carbon community: such as repairing consumer goods or lending out personal items to neighbors. Hours can be used to acquire any such services and make purchase at the community market where only locally produced goods may be bought and sold. Eventually, each member of the community would find their "sweet spot" – balancing participation in both the global economy and local economy at a ratio that fits their lifestyle.

