



# HELSINKI MILL'S SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2021

*Puhtaasti parempaa jokaiseen päivään*



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# Overview of the CEO



The environment and sustainability have been important points for our company for a long time, long before they became a significant trend. We have worked hard to reduce our carbon footprint and Helsinki Mills is the first carbon-neutral mill in Finland. We have made it our objective to make our supply chain carbon-neutral by 2034.

An example of our long-term climate work is our biopower plant, introduced in Vaasa in 2013, where we use oat hull waste to produce the heat energy required by the factory. In addition, since 2010, all our production plants have used electricity produced using hydropower.

Helsinki Mills has reduced and compensated its carbon footprint during two years. Next, we shall further invest in products' life cycle calculations. It has been clear to us from the very beginning that we can only succeed with safe and high-quality products as well as operations that respect nature and people.

We carry out business operations according to terms of environmental sustainability. The minimization and compensation of our environmental effects as well as their further measurement and management is important. From a sustainability perspective, we aim to be a net-positive operator.

*Niklas Kumlin, CEO, Helsinki Mills*





# Helsinki Mills is a Finnish grain company

Helsinki Mills, which produces Myllärin products, is Finland's largest processor of organic grain products and gluten-free oat.

The Finnish family business, in its fourth generation, is known for its high-quality grain products and sustainability. Our production process has been carbon-neutral since 2020.

In addition to consumers, our customers include, e.g., restaurants, hotels, bakeries and industries.

We export oat products to approximately 50 countries. Globally, we are known under the name Helsinki Mills (in Finland Helsingin Mylly).



*In the photo, CEO Niklas Kumlin and his family. In the back right, Chairman of the Board Maret Puhk.*

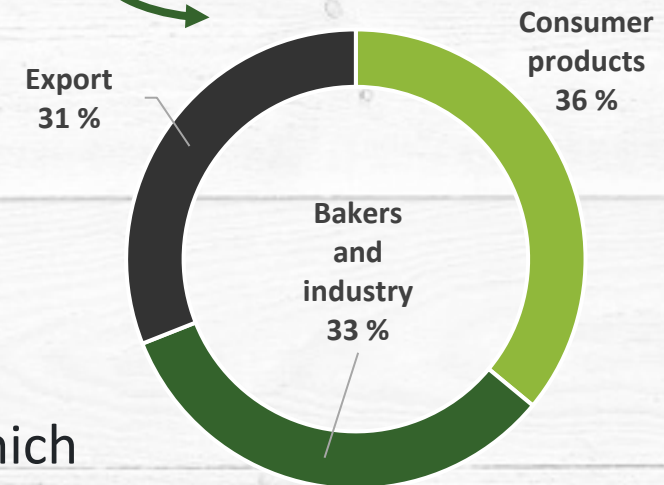




# Helsinki Mills in figures 2021



- turnover **47.7** million euros
- number of employees **98**
- number of launched new products **8**
- the selections include approximately **60** consumer products of which **21** are organic products and **24** are gluten-free
- Oat products are exported approximately around **50** countries worldwide





# Highlights of 2021 1/2

- We prepared a sustainability programme for Helsinki Mills, which was based on the UN's sustainable development objectives
- We started the development of an environmental and sustainability programme in cooperation with contractual farmers, which allows harvest levels to be increased and environmental effects of cultivation to be reduced
- The expansion of Vaasa's production plant was completed, we invested a total of 2.1 million euros in Finland
- We became members of FIBS and Biocode
- We developed our quality system and we were granted the highest level International Food Standard, i.e. the IFS certificate
- We compensated for our carbon footprint with a reforestation project in Humbo, Ethiopia





# Highlights of 2021 2/2

- On our website, we launched the Oat food generator, which home chefs can use to find tips on how rice- and pasta-based homemade meals can be made into climate-friendlier oat versions.
- The Finnish Coeliac Society chose Myllärin Meal Oat Vegetables as the Best Gluten-Free Product of 2020.
- We launched four new gluten-free products and two new domestic cereals and flour mixtures.
- We participated in three oat-related research projects.
- We increased our cooperation with sprinter, Lotta Kemppinen.
- We participated in Lappeenranta's and Kuopio's Business Villages in addition to the Helsinki-Vantaa Business Village.



# Helsinki Mills' sustainability programme

Environment and society

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Sustainable acquisition

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



People

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH





# ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



# What kind of environmental choices have we already made?



Our operations in Finland began, and we started producing plant-based food with Finnish grain being the main ingredient.

1934

1997

We started producing organic products.



We chose an environmentally friendly form of energy, and we use 100% renewable electricity.

Since 2010, all our production plants have used electricity produced using hydropower.

2010

2013

Our own biopower plant was built in Vaasa.  
We produce the heat energy required by the factory using oat hulls.

We are Finland's first carbon-neutral mill.

The company's own operations are carbon-neutral (Scope 1 + 2 emissions).

2020

2021

We joined Biocode Collective and FIBS ry.

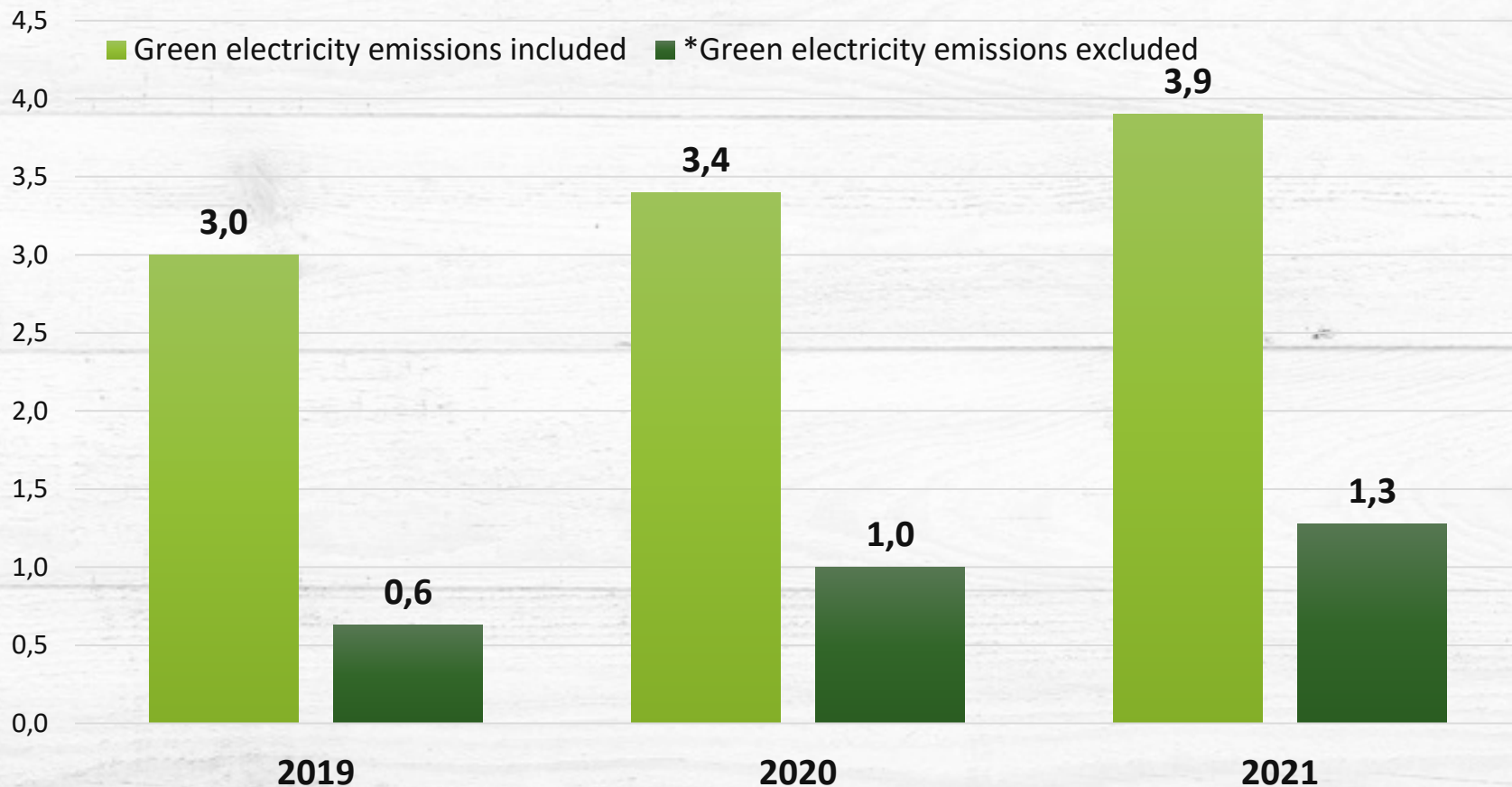
We launched the Oat food generator on our website.

We started to plan the environmental and sustainability cultivation programme.



# Our carbon footprint

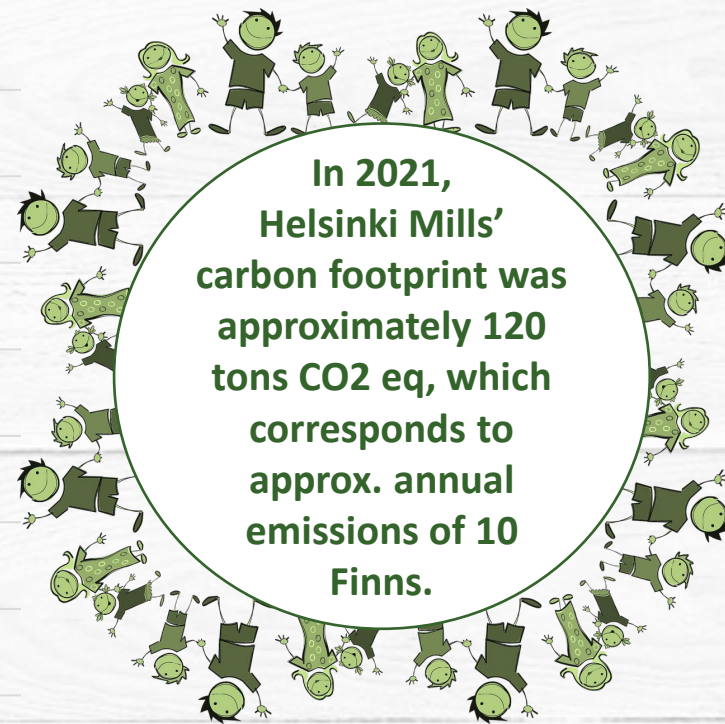
(carbon dioxide equivalent per production tonne)



In 2019, our carbon footprint included annual electricity consumption and the emissions caused by heating.

Also waste management included.

Also emissions generated by the use of company cars and company's van included.



\*In previous years, we have also calculated the indirect emissions of green electricity in our carbon footprint, but since they should only be included in scope 3, our carbon footprint including scope 1 and 2 is about 200-250 tons smaller than what we previously reported.



# Sustainable, domestic grain products - organic for already 25 years



- We produce healthy products, which are suitable for as many diets as possible
- Myllärin products are produced carbon-neutrally using domestic, locally cultivated grain
- Our products are suitable for many diets. In our product development, we also take into account special diets.
  - All our products are vegan
  - 30 % of our products have been produced using gluten-free oat, i.e. they are suitable for coeliacs
  - 30 % of our products are organic
  - 22 Myllärin products have the Heart Symbol
- Our products are produced at our production plants in Järvenpää, Närpiö and Vaasa.
  - Myllärin product selection currently has almost sixty different consumer products, which are all, excluding the cereal mueslis and gluten-free cereals, produced in Finland. The production of these products in Finland is currently being studied.



# Packaging and printing

- All our packaging is produced using recyclable materials, and consumer packaging includes clear instructions on their recycling.
- We have replaced the shrink plastic packages used to pack sales batches with carton versions, and we have committed to further reduce the use of plastic.
- In the printing of packaging, we have moved to use a more environmentally friendly EGP printing method as new packaging is printed. The GreenerPrinting symbol on the packages also indicates sustainable printing.
- We are seeking solutions to utilize plant-based films in packaging materials





# As part of a circular economy



- We utilize side streams
  - Oat hulls are used at Vaasa production plant's bio power plant to produce heat energy
  - Parts of grain, which are unsuitable for food, are sold to farms for feed use
- Any waste is sold to, for example, Fiksuruoka, or donated for the people in need



# Social choices

- We take part to three Business Villages in which pupils have the opportunity to practice, e.g. the work of a miller or sales manager, and learn how food reaches the dinner table from the field.
- We donate products to the poor through charity organizations.
- We donate a share of our profits to charity. In 2021, we donated to the Save the Children Fund and Nose Day.
- We share information about healthy, grain- and plant-based diets, e.g., by distributing product bags to new students in cooperation with HOAS and VOAS.
- Our products are included in Kesko's 'Thank the Producer' campaign.



# SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION



12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION





# Acquisitions and contractual farmers

- Our main raw ingredients are domestic grains
- Domesticity and transparency are important issues to us. Our vision is sustainable agriculture, which is beneficial to both people and the nature. Together with contractual farmers, we want to ensure the future of food production
- We have approximately 100 long-term contractual farmers with whom we carry out long-term cooperation. We observe agreements and agreed prices and we pay quality premiums as well as contractual bonuses for long-term contractual relationships.
- A share of the 'Thank the Producer' campaign is paid to our contractual farmers
- We observe ethical principles for suppliers





# PEOPLE

8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH





# Let's operate together

- Skilled and healthy staff is the heart of our almost 90-year-old family business, and also a requirement for continuity.
- We employ a total of approximately 100 people at our production plants in Järvenpää, Närpiö and Vaasa.
- We offer our employees a fair and equal work community, all our employees are within the scope of an incentive system

## In 2021

- We strengthened our organization with new skilled persons and we recruited, e.g. a communications manager, purchasing manager and a quality specialist
- We improved internal communications and introduced Teams and the information displays located in the production plants' break rooms
- Helsinki Mills became a smoke-free workplace
- Helsinki Mills was a significant employer in its main municipality in Järvenpää and Järvenpää's second largest taxpayer





# Our objectives for 2022-2023

- We shall bring out the environmental acts carried out by our contractual farmers and start closer cooperation with pilot farms to establish best practices
- We shall initiate a sustainability programme, which main subjects are the environment and society, sustainable acquisitions and people.
- We shall establish a working group, which coordinates sustainability issues
- We shall carry out an essentialness analysis and questionnaire for stakeholder groups
- We shall regularly tell about our sustainability acts
- We shall seek new environmentally friendly packaging solutions



**In 2034**

**Our aim is that Helsinki Mills' entire value chain will be carbon-neutral and Myllärin's consumer products will be carbon-neutral**