

# Suupohja

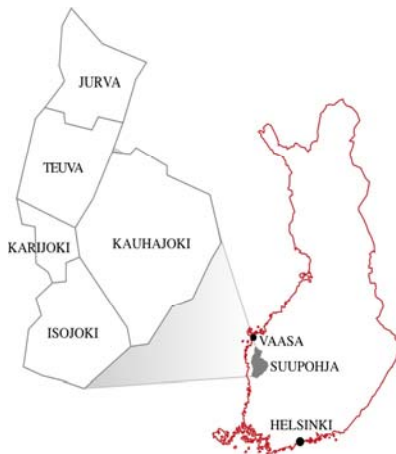


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Achieving Energy Sustainability in  
Peripheral Regions of Europe

Intelligent Energy  Europe

## About Suupohja Region:



[Suupohja](#) is a five-municipality area in the county of South Ostrobothnia in Western Finland. It is located 300-350 km from the Finnish capital, Helsinki, 60-100 km from the centre of the county, Seinäjoki and 50-100 km from the coastal city of Vaasa. The municipalities of Suupohja are [Kauhajoki](#), [Teuva](#), [Jurva](#), [Isojoki](#) and [Karijoki](#). All in all, the area (3126 km<sup>2</sup>) has about 30 000 residents, about half of whom reside in Kauhajoki.

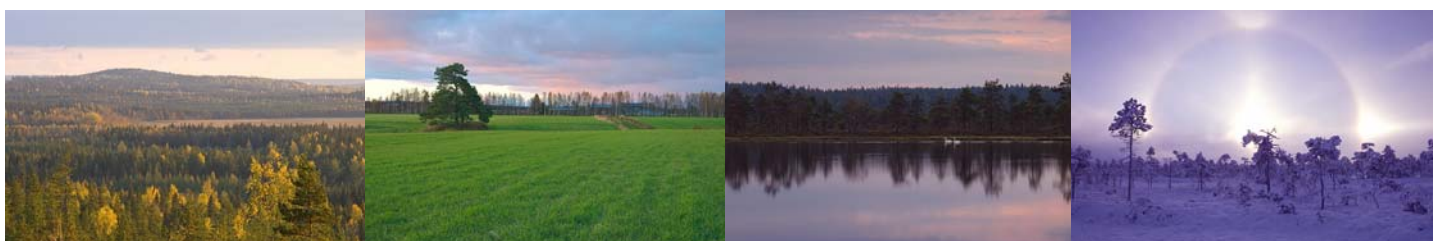
Suupohja's main areas of agricultural production are potato, milk, beef and pork production. The main industrial sectors are small-scale food processing and furniture, timber, engineering and materials handling industries.

## Suupohja produces:

- approximately 50% of furniture produced in Finland
- approximately 50% of material handling systems
- 50% of food potatoes eaten in Finland
- Finland's largest linseed flax cultivation area,
- approximately 500 hectares
- Finland's largest concentration of seabuckthorne,
- approximately 100 hectares
- Finland's largest spelt cultivation area



The scenery of Suupohja varies from flat open terrain and farmlands to the more hilly areas in the southern parts of the region. In Suupohja region there are also forests, peatlands and small river valleys. Travellers and guests are particularly fascinated by the area's nature. The area's two national parks, [Kauhaneva](#) and [Lauhanvuori](#), offer many scenes that reinforce feelings of mankind's relative insignificance and brevity. In the region's various bogs can be found plant life as well as fascinating birding areas. The many forest areas offer a network of trails for an assortment of purposes. The winter nature can in many ways be reminiscent of Lapland.



## History:

The history of the area goes back an exceptionally long time, as [Susiluola](#) (Wolf Cave), the oldest site of human habitation in Northern Europe, is located in the area. 120 000 years ago Neanderthal man lived at the site using his stone tools.

## Aims:

Suupohja Region (Finland) is aiming at putting into practice the energy related objectives of the County Plan of the County of South Ostrobothnia and the State Regional Environmental Administration for being 100 % self-sufficing in energy production by RES and RUE. It would also be the first region in the country in realising a whole approach, and it is hoped that Suupohja can provide the country with a stimulating example. The ASPIRE model will be brought into both political and practical level in all municipalities in Suupohja Region.



## Partners:

The Suupohja Region is represented in ASPIRE by the University of Vaasa.



**UNIVERSITY of VAASA**  
LEVÓN INSTITUTE

The University of Vaasa has 5 000 students, 440 staff members, four faculties and five different institutes: carrying out research and providing training in the fields of business, languages, culture and communication, social sciences and technology. The University works in close cooperation with businesses, municipalities and regional officials in Western Finland.

The University of Vaasa has experience and know how in the fields of energy production and technology, especially decentralised production of energy as well as renewable energy production and sustainable development. Vaasa EMG, a research group at the University of Vaasa is the world's only university-based research centre specialising in electricity, gas & related utilities marketing to end customers and one of Europe's leading experts of consumer behaviour and psychology relating to energy marketing. Moreover, the University is organising its energy expertise through the concept of an energy institute, which also integrates other local and national experts in Vaasa.

## Contact:

The University of Vaasa, Levón Institute

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