

# ASUKASVIESTI 3

2022

A photograph of children riding a piggy bank-themed roller coaster. The piggy banks are pink with large blue eyes and pink mouths. The children are wearing various hats and jackets. The text 'FUN IN SÄRKÄNNIEMI' is overlaid in yellow.

## FUN IN SÄRKÄNNIEMI

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## LET'S SAVE ENERGY TOGETHER

**THE** Finnish government recently announced the 'A degree lower' campaign for saving energy. The campaign challenges us all to reduce our energy use by one degree. VTS-kodit is strongly taking part in this campaign, which will kick off in October with Energy Saving Week.

For many months, there has been talk in Finland about the increase in energy prices and the challenges ahead this coming winter. The strong fluctuation in prices and the risk of larger power outages affects us all. That is why it is important for us to work together to save energy. Every single one of us benefits from keeping our electricity and water bills at a reasonable level. This is also a way for us help each other, our neighbours and our entire country. So let's start saving energy together!

Fortunately, saving energy in daily life does not require major changes. Spending less time in the shower and turning off the tap while brushing your teeth are just two ways of ensuring that no hot water is wasted. One example of a way to save electricity is to disconnect chargers after use. Small, concrete actions have a major impact when we all contribute.

At VTS-kodit, we are currently planning how to respond to challenges posed by the energy situation. We are also keen to

hear about our tenants' ideas for saving energy. However, we prioritise the comfort of our tenants and the safety of our buildings, and we will not make any changes without also consulting the tenant representatives. We will notify the tenants of all measures well in advance.

As a counterbalance to the concerns regarding energy, we were once again able to wholeheartedly enjoy summer events this summer. This summer's Day in Särkänniemi was a success, and we also had the chance to enjoy neighbourhood events, such as the 10th anniversary of Muinais-*haudankatu 3 C-D*.

Fortunately, we still have more joint events scheduled even though autumn has arrived. In the near future, we will hold an Eco Meet-up to explore daily acts for the environment and ideas for saving energy in a practical way. Towards the end of this year, we will also hold the traditional Day at Doghill Fairytale Farm, which is popular among the youngest members of the family in particular. See you there!

**Satu Eskelinen**  
CEO, VTS-kodit

## THE FUTURE OF VILUSEN RINNE WILL BE DECIDED THIS AUTUMN

**THIS** summer, we were able to enjoy good weather. Summer events also brought us joy now that they are back after being on pause because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting other people through tenant activities is important for many people.

In contrast, the situation in society is challenging. The costs of living are increasing and inflation is in full swing. Fortunately, the Finnish government has been able to alleviate the coming winter's energy situation by reducing the value-added tax on electricity to ten per cent from December to April.

This year, VTS-kodit Board members have also been busy with negotiations about the future of Vilusen Rinne Oy. The Corporate Section of the Tampere City Board has decided to divide Vilusen Rinne into two separate limited liability companies. One of the two companies will incorporate the state-subsidised ARA housing stock of Vilusen Rinne, while the other company will incorporate the soon-to-be-vacant housing stock not subject to ARA restrictions.

The Board is of the opinion that the entire housing stock of Vilusen Rinne should be transferred to the management of Tampereen Vuokralosäätö sr. We have discussed this matter with the Corporate Section in good cooperation, but the final decision is up to them,

so we will have to wait and see what type of proposal the Corporate Section decides to make. The final decision about the sale will be made by Tampere City Council by the end of this year.

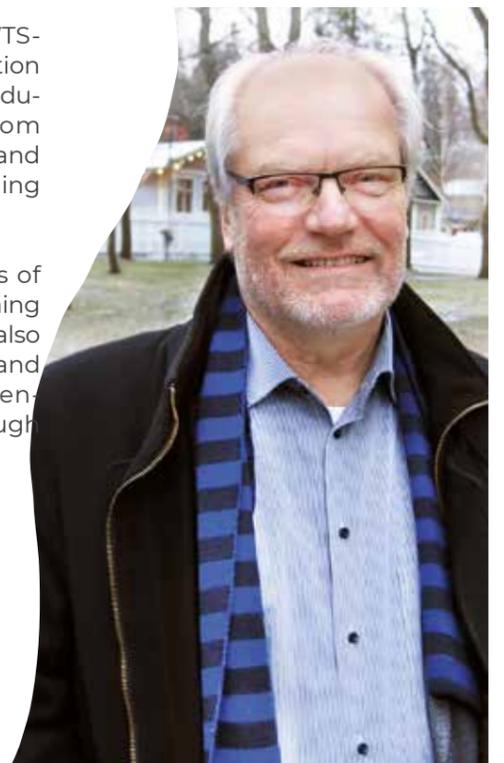
The environmental programme that is part of VTS-kodit's new strategy defines objectives regarding such things as construction and renovation, waste management, energy matters and development collaboration. The tenant committees and personnel of VTS-kodit have jointly prepared a plan on implementing the strategy among tenants. VTS-kodit will not compromise on comfort of living, but the plan is to reduce the costs of living.

Despite facing challenges, VTS-kodit's construction and renovation projects are progressing on schedule. The feedback received from tenants is important both now and in the future, particularly regarding renovation projects.

There are plenty of elements of uncertainty ahead of us this coming autumn, but I hope that we will also see beautiful autumn weather and other enjoyable things. Challenges can also be overcome through cooperation.

**Pekka Anttila**  
Chair of the Board

**|| DESPITE FACING CHALLENGES, VTS-KODIT'S CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS ARE PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE."**



**|| AT VTS-KODIT, WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING HOW TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES POSED BY THE ENERGY SITUATION."**

# SAVING ENERGY ONE DROP AT A TIME

**THIS** autumn will see the start of the 'A degree lower' campaign launched by Finnish government agencies. Its purpose is to inspire at least 75 per cent of Finns to save energy. VTS-kodit will also take part in the campaign.

Saving energy is necessary because the Russian invasion of

Ukraine has changed the energy situation in Europe. The availability and price of energy impact the daily lives of the entire population of Finland. Through small everyday actions, we can all help improve the energy situation in Finland, and doing so will also generate savings in our living costs.

At VTS-kodit, we encourage all of our tenants to take up the challenge: let's reduce our energy use together by one degree!

## Turning attention to domestic hot water

Did you know that domestic hot

water costs up to approximately twice as much as cold water? Most VTS-kodit buildings are equipped with apartment-specific water meters, meaning that the tenants pay exactly according to how much water they use. So you should make sure not to waste hot water.

There are many easy ways to save

water in daily life. You should wait until the washing machine and dishwasher are full before running a wash cycle. You can put leftover water used in cooking aside to cool and then use it for watering the plants or flushing the toilet, for example.

When washing up, water easi-

ly goes to waste if you leave the tap running while you brush your teeth or lather up with shampoo. So turn off the tap and shower when you do not need them. You can reduce your water consumption simply by spending a few minutes less in the shower and lowering the water pressure.

## GUIDE CHILDREN IN SAVING WATER

THE youngest members of the family often linger in the shower to play with water. You should teach children not to waste water. Supervise your offspring when they are washing up and teach them to be efficient about it. This will also lower the water bill.



## SMALL THINGS MATTER

THINGS that seem minor in daily life may be major at annual level. For example, spending slightly less time in the shower may lead to considerable annual savings.

- ▶ 15 minutes in the shower per day = approx. EUR 450 per year
- ▶ 5 minutes in the shower per day = approx. EUR 150 per year

This calculation is based on the assumption that energy costs EUR 0.10/kWh and water costs EUR 3.4/m<sup>3</sup>.

Source: Motiva



## GOOD PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SAVES ENERGY

"VTS-kodit has been working to save energy for many years. We try to select energy-efficient solutions in the construction and renovation phases," says **Raimo Leskinen**, building services manager at VTS-kodit.

"We monitor the operation of all of our properties and the condition of their air conditioning and heating equipment. We make sure not to heat our buildings too much, and we continuously develop ways to optimise the use of electricity," explains building services expert **Petri Kotomäki**.

Also of importance is our quick response to fault notifications. By fixing problems and faults quickly, we prevent them from escalating. This allows us to prevent energy from being wasted.



## A QUICK FAULT NOTIFICATION IS AN EASY WAY TO SAVE ENERGY

A LEAKY tap, a front door that does not close properly, and other small faults in the building may actually waste a lot of energy.

If a tap leaks a couple of drops per minute, it could be wasting several litres of water per month. A gap in the front door constantly lets heat escape.

So submit a fault notification as soon as you notice an issue in need of fixing in your building. This will allow us to fix any faults quickly, without wasting water and heat.





**MORE TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Visit the VTS-kodit website at <https://www.vts.fi/asukkaalle/ukk/> to find more information (in Finnish only) on the energy and water savings campaign and practical tips for saving energy in your daily life.



Cut here and stick this checklist on your fridge door, for example!



**Small savings will turn into large savings over time. Here are some easy tips on how to save energy at home.**

## LET'S SAVE ENERGY TOGETHER – EVERY SMALL ACTION COUNTS

# SAVE ELECTRICITY – WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON COMFORT

**THE** fluctuation in the price of electricity has caused concern in the last few months. VTS-kodit is also currently considering ways to save electricity.

However, VTS-kodit will not compromise on safety and the

comfort of living. The objective is to save electricity by eliminating unnecessary consumption and optimising electricity use.

Tenant committees can help identify potential savings by monitoring how their buildings opera-

te. For example, do shared sauna hours see little use? Eliminating unused sauna hours helps save electricity.

### TIPS FOR SAVING ELECTRICITY AT HOME

- ▶ Lower the apartment temperature by a degree.
- ▶ Turn off the lights in rooms when no one is there.
- ▶ Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED lamps.
- ▶ Disconnect chargers after use.
- ▶ Turn off the television and other entertainment equipment when you are not using it.
- ▶ Do not linger too long in the sauna. Do not keep the sauna heater heated for no reason.
- ▶ When purchasing new electrical equipment, choose the more energy-efficient option.

## Monitor your electricity consumption and save on your electricity bill

**MANY** people are now considering ways to keep their electricity bill at a reasonable level. It is easier to identify savings opportunities if you know how much electricity you use at home and when you use it.

Monitoring your electricity use is easy with the help of services offered by power companies. For example, the Sähkis service of Tampereen Sähkölaitos allows you to monitor your consumption by the hour. Many other major power companies offer similar services that are also available as handy mobile versions.

- ▶ [www.sahkolaitos.fi/koteihin/sahkis--palvelu/](http://www.sahkolaitos.fi/koteihin/sahkis--palvelu/)



Picture: Tampereen Sähköverkko

### HOUSING

- ▶ Quickly report any leaking equipment and other issues in your apartment to the maintenance company.



- ▶ Turn off the lights when you do not need them.
- ▶ Disconnect chargers from the outlet after use.
- ▶ Turn off the television, computer and gaming equipment when you are not using them.



### KITCHEN

- ▶ If you have a dishwasher, avoid washing dishes by hand.
- ▶ If you wash dishes by hand, wash them in the sink rather than under running water.
- ▶ Try recipes that you can cook in a single pot.
- ▶ Use cooled potato cooking water to water the plants.



### BATHROOM

- ▶ Keep the tap turned off while brushing your teeth.
- ▶ Spend a couple of minutes less in the shower.
- ▶ Keep the shower turned off while lathering up with soap.
- ▶ Wash full loads of laundry.





Ida and Juha Vaintola waited on dry land while their son was enjoying the Log River.



Otso Oinasmaa was feeling nervous about some of the rides. His father Eetu went on rides while the family mother Elsa preferred to sit back and watch.



Sonja Tuominen loved to go on rides. Her mother Krista Asplund wishes she could live in Doghill Fairytale Farm.



## Electric scooter skid marks are costly

**IMPROPER** use of electric scooters has been noted in several VTS-kodit buildings. In some buildings, braking in stairwells has caused the electric scooter's rotating tyre to burn through the hallway carpet. Similar marks have also been found on the lower parts of walls and lift floors.

Children and young people in particular may think that playing with electric scooters is fun, however, repairing the damage often costs thousands of euros.

We would like to remind our tenants that riding an electric scooter in the stairwell is prohibited. When parking a scooter, make sure not to block doorways. Please also remember to supervise children and young people's use of electric scooters.



# JOY AND EXCITEMENT IN SÄRKÄNNIEMI

THIS YEAR, THE ANNUAL DAY IN SÄRKÄNNIEMI ORGANISED BY VTS-KODIT FOR ITS TENANTS TOOK PLACE IN MID-JUNE. THE EVENT ATTRACTED ALMOST THREE THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE PHOTOS, THE DAY WAS FULL OF MERRIMENT.

**JUHA** and **Ida Vaintola** waited on dry land while their son went on the Log River with family friends. The couple considered the Day in Särkänniemi to be an excellent event.

"We've participated in the event a few times before, first just us and then with the grandparents. We've had fun each time."

Juha's favourite ride is the Trombi rollercoaster, while Ida preferred to go on the smaller Whirling Worm rollercoaster with the boys.

**Otso Oinasmaa**, age five, had visited Särkänniemi before but this time was feeling a little nervous about going on some of the rides for some reason.

"He really enjoyed himself last year, but something is holding him back this time. His father has had to lead him by example," Otso's parents **Eetu** and **Elsa Oinasmaa** said, puzzled.

Eetu prefers the wilder rides,

such as Hype and Tornado, but his offspring will not be old enough for them for several more years. Elsa was happy to simply sit back and watch the antics of her boys.

"This is a really nice event that people look forward to every year. We've lived at VTS-kodit for eight years now, and we've participated in the Day in Särkänniemi on many occasions," **Krista Asplund** remarked.

"The rides are the best part, especially Motogee and Boom," said **Sonja Tuominen**, age 11.

The mother and daughter had clearly defined roles: Sonja enjoyed the rides, while her mother supervised from the side.

"If the child is happy, the mother is happy."

A visit to Doghill Fairytale Farm was also a must for the mother and daughter because the mother particularly likes the park's setting.

"These buildings are wonderful. I've always said that I wish I could live here," Krista laughed.



Thank you to everyone who participated, let's go have fun again next year!