

Land use planning in Finland is based on the Land Use Act (Lag om områdesanvändning [132/1999](#)) and the Land Use and Building Decree at all planning levels (Markanvändnings- och byggförordning [895/1999](#)). Regional land use planning is part of the land use planning system in Finland defined in the Land Use Act, which is specified by plan level. Provisions on the planning procedure and interaction are laid down in Chapter 8 of the Act. The consultations during the preparation and proposal phases are open to all parties involved at all levels of planning. The public consultation on the proposal phase of the regional energy and climate plan for North Ostrobothnia was held on 23.9.-24.10.2025. The public proposal material to be made available for viewing was processed by the Regional Government on 17 September 2024 ([§ 145](#)).

The procedure for an international consultation in accordance with Chapter 26a of the Land Use Act (Sections 206a, b and c) was held in Sweden 27.9.-25.10.2025. Feedback was received from eight parties. The feedback given during the hearing in Sweden was processed by the Regional Government on 19.11.2024 ([§ 185](#)).

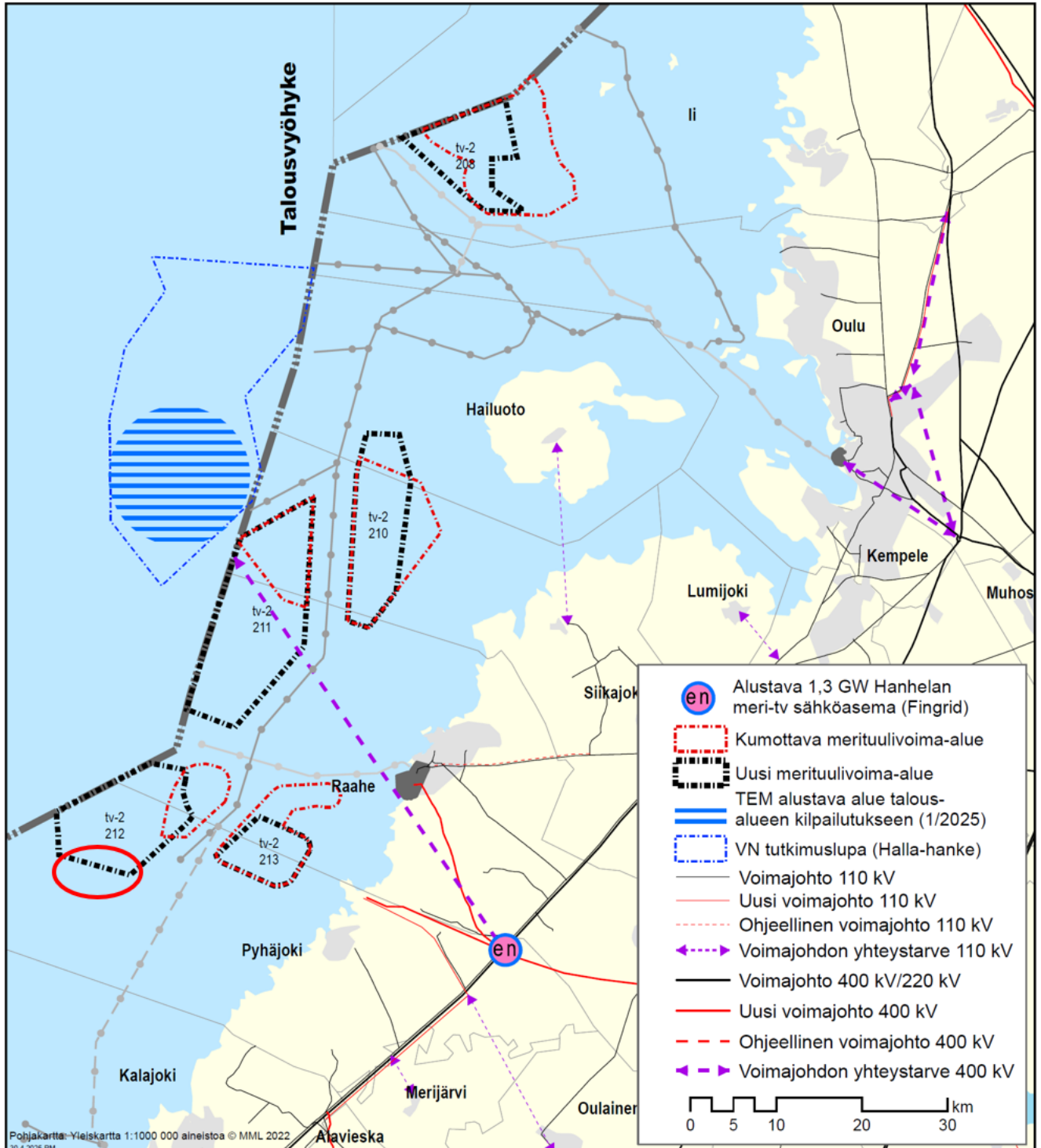
The responses to the Swedish feedback were processed by the Regional Government of North Ostrobothnia on 7 April 2025 ([§ 34](#), the decision clause is attached in Swedish). After the approval process by the provincial government, the responses have been translated into Swedish and are now submitted to the Finnish Environment Institute, which will forward them to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket):

- Sweden's feedback highlighted international cooperation between countries and the cumulative effects of offshore wind power throughout the Baltic Sea region. This cooperation is not defined in the regional land use plan for North Ostrobothnia, but it requires communication between the countries of Finland, Sweden and the other countries bordering the Baltic Sea, both in terms of the exclusive economic zone and territorial waters.
- The feedback from the international consultation did not reveal any new entities affecting the planning solution that would not have already been discussed with the Finnish authorities and taken into account in the plan solution due to the interaction of the previous planning process. Sweden also did not present the need to negotiate on the phased regional plan as a whole.
- At the beginning of the summary of responses, there is a general response, which explains in more detail Finland's land use planning system in land areas, territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone, as well as the explanations of the markings in the phased regional plan and the content of the general regulations.
- A response has also been prepared for each feedback, which can be found in the response summary.

The themes of the phased regional plan for the energy and climate of North Ostrobothnia are: energy (production, storage and transmission), green structure and ecosystem services, regional structure and accessibility, transport system, energy transition and climate impact assessment. As a significant theme in the phased regional plan, it examines the region's wind power as a whole, new potential of wind power areas and electricity transmission in the region. In addition, the phased regional plan indicates nationally valuable landscape areas ([2021](#)), groundwater areas in accordance with the new classification (North Ostrobothnia ELY Centre), traditional biotopes mapped and updated in 2019–2023 (North Ostrobothnia ELY Centre and Metsähallitus), the future need for a gas pipeline connection as a development principle marking, and nationally significant archaeological sites ([2024](#), Finnish Government. 7.11.2024).

The preparation of the plan and extensive background studies began already in 2020 ([TUULI-hanke](#) ja [EMMI-hanke](#)). The phased regional plan was announced and the consultation of the initial phase (participation and evaluation plan) was organised in October–December 2022. At that time, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment was the authority responsible for the international consultation, but did not require the launch of that. The consultation for the preparatory phase was held in August–September 2022 and the round of official statements in January–February 2024. In June 2024, the Ministry of the Environment announced in a speech in official negotiations with the authorities that the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) requires an international consultation procedure in accordance with Chapter 26a of the Land Use and Building Act due to the potential environmental impacts on the Swedish state. SYKE has acted as the competent authority for the international consultation since the beginning of 2023.

With regard to the regional waters of North Ostrobothnia, the phased regional plan revised the already legally valid offshore wind power areas tv-2 (Figure 1). The legally valid tv-2 areas will be repealed when the regional plan for the energy and climate phase of North Ostrobothnia enters into force.



Kuva 1. The new tv-2 212 (Ebba project) was reduced after the proposal phase from the southern part ($166 \text{ km}^2 > 136 \text{ km}^2$). The area of change is indicated in the figure with a red oval. Other offshore wind power areas will remain unchanged after the international consultation on the tv-2 area boundaries, excluding minor technical amendments. The repealable boundaries of the legally valid regional land use plans have been presented on the red dotted line area delimitations. At its meeting on 5 May 2025 (§ 59), the County Executive Board proposed to the County Council that the plan be approved on 27 May 2025.

6.5.2025

Based on the update of the Natura 2000 risk assessment, changes were made to the regionally significant wind turbine areas (tv-1) located in the land areas of the phased regional plan, based on which the need for a Natura assessment in accordance with section 35 of the Nature Conservation Act ([Naturvårdslag 9/2023](#)) was ruled out. The result of the update of the risk assessment ensured that the plan solution to be approved for the energy and climate phase regional plan will not cause significant adverse impacts on the Natura protection criteria and the Natura 2000 network. New regionally significant wind power areas in land areas (tv-1) do not exceed the significant risk limit with the criteria for distance or area reduction in Natura areas.

Only minor technical changes were made to the wind turbine areas (tv-2) located in the territorial waters of the Bay of Bothnia in North Ostrobothnia after an international consultation.

- The only significant change to the offshore wind power areas in the territorial waters of North Ostrobothnia is the reduction of the tv-2 212 area (Ulkonahkiainen uusi) on its southern edge. In these respects, international environmental impacts are reduced.
- The explanations and regulations of the markings in the phased regional plan, which are explained in the general response, provide guidance for implementation planning.
- The obligation of international consultation is also included in more detailed planning if international environmental impacts are expected from the implementation.

The Regional Executive Board approved the responses to the consultation of the second proposal phase at its meeting on 5 May 2025 (§ 59). In the same section, the Regional Board decided to propose the phased regional plan for the energy and climate of North Ostrobothnia for approval by the Regional Council on 27 May 2025.

Information on the approval will be delivered to the members of the municipality and those who submitted the objections, the ministries to which the plan applies, as well as to the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, the National Land Survey of Finland, the regional councils of the regions bordering the regional plan area, and the municipalities in the regional plan area. According to the Local Government Act ([Kommunallag 140 §, 10.4.2015/410](#)), the approval decision is appealable and does not require previous involvement in the planning process (opinion or objection), but the appeal can be filed by any member of the municipality, or a member municipality of a joint municipal authority.

The Regional Council of Oulu Region shall immediately notify the Finnish Environment Institute of the approval of the plan referred to in section 206 b. The responsible authority shall notify the State with which the negotiations in accordance with Article 206 b have taken place of the approval of the plan and submit the information and documents required by Article 9 of the SEA Directive to the State with which the negotiations referred to in Article 206b have taken place.

The documents of the phased regional plan for energy and climate phased plan for Northern Ostrobothnia, including background studies and previous planning phases, are available on the website of the Council of Oulu Region at <https://www.pohjois-pohjanmaa.fi/ilmastomaakuntakaava>.

Best regards for cooperation,

COUNCIL OF OULU REGION

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