

VISION, CORE VALUES AND STRATEGIC

DEVELOPMENT GOALS – RAW WATER

1

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# A SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY FOR ÅLAND

CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR EVERYONE

*"Åland Water / Ålands Vatten produces and supplies drinking water to 75 percent of Åland's population from the treatment plant at Dalkarby träsk. Today we have a very good starting position and a high water quality in our raw water resources, the lakes Långsjön, Markusbölefjärden and Dalkarby träsk. But the water quality is deteriorating. We live in a time of climate change, increasing population and declining natural resources. Therefore, we chose to begin new work towards a sustainable water supply, and are already off to a good start. "*

CHRISTIAN NORDAS, CEO ÅLAND WATER



Åland Water has put new focus on our strategic and sustainable development work since the autumn of 2016. Our work process has been linked to two ongoing processes in Åland- the work with a sustainable food strategy for Åland and the Åland Development and Sustainability Agenda, where Goal 3 reads "All water is of good quality" ([www.barkraft.ax](http://www.barkraft.ax)).

The process has also developed into a best practice experience within the Central Baltic WATERCHAIN project where Åland Water used this strategic approach to be able to identify suitable measures to reduce nutrients and hazardous substances.

A great effort to lay the foundation for a sustainable drinking water supply for Åland has already been done and we at Åland Water are very pleased with the result.

We have documented our process to help and inspire other actors who want to do similar sustainability work within their organization. A clear vision and defined targets are a prerequisite to be able to start analyze, plan, develop and cooperate for sustainability. Here we describe our vision, our core values and our strategic development goals.

## SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY FOR ÅLAND

### OUR VISION – RAW WATER:

“Independent of human impact, our raw water is of excellent quality, and ecosystems in the lakes are in balance. At the same time the production and distribution of drinking water is made in a sustainable way.”

## THE VISION EXPLAINED:

### ” Independent of Human Impact”

Human activities include wastewater, use of pharmaceuticals, hazardous substances and harmful particles. In the precipitation area human activity does not affect the raw water in a negative way.

### ”Raw water”

Lakes and ground water; and in some cases sea- and coastal water.

### ” Excellent quality”

The water Complies with all regulatory requirements and is clean and healthy.

### ”The ecosystems in the lakes are in balance”

Lakes with ecosystems in balance can withstand more and manage to recover at temporary loads.

### ”Sustainable drinking water production”

Water production within the framework of the four sustainability principles. :  
In a sustainable society, nature is not subject to systematically increasing...

1. ... concentrations of substances from the earth's crust.
2. ... concentrations of substances produced by society.
3. ... degradation by physical means.

And in that society there are no structural obstacles to...

4. ... people's health, influence, competence, impartiality and meaning.

## Core values for a sustainable drinking water supply for Åland

The core values that have been identified as particularly important for us working for a sustainable drinking water supply for Åland are:

- Solidarity/inclusion
- Responsibility
- Openness/transparency

- Participation
- Long-term advancement

## Seven strategic development goals

**for a sustainable drinking water supply for Åland until the year 2030.**

1. In the year 2030 95 % of the Åland population make active decisions and take active responsibility from a water protection perspective in their everyday life.
2. The ecological status, concerning nutrients, in our raw water lakes have stabilized at a good level according to the Water Framework Directive by 2030 and at an excellent level by 2051.
3. The knowledge of harmful substances in the raw water has increased significantly by 2025, reduced to non-harmful levels by 2030 and emissions have ended in 2051.
4. The risks of contamination of microbiological compounds related to human activity have been minimized and detection and warning systems have been established, in established/present raw water lakes by 2020 and in reserve water lakes by 2051.
5. Ensure adequate access to water by ensuring water quality in sufficient raw water lakes by 2030. Sub-objectives include establishing new water resources by 2018, and action programs for the same will be established by 2020. The water quality is good by 2030.
6. In the catchment areas, business activities are flourishing and do not affect water quality in the lakes in a negative way. New innovative methods have been developed and implemented through cooperation across the sectors.
7. The biodiversity is high in and around the lakes, and ecosystems are well functioning (in balance).

## Solutions for a sustainable drinking water supply

Solutions for a sustainable drinking water supply identified in the process comprises a table of about 10 pages and has been categorized according to these categories:

- Overall process measures for sustainable drinking water supply
- New raw water lakes / water protection areas
- Legislation / rules / supervision / economic instruments
- Infrastructure; roads / construction / industry / planning
- Information / communication / collaboration / facts / training
- Agriculture / forestry / fishing / sewer / water conservation
- Innovations / "New Thinking" concerning use of water