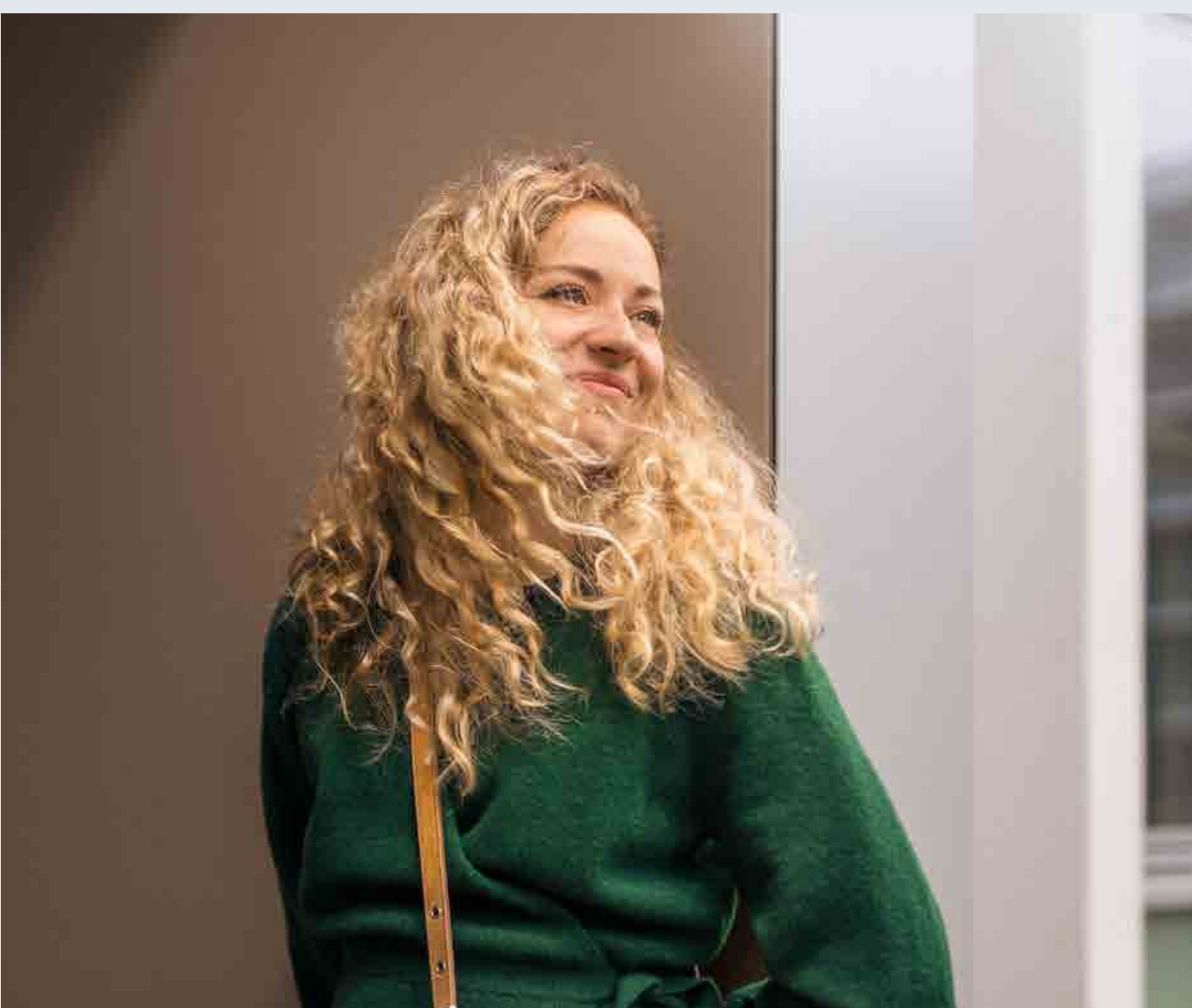
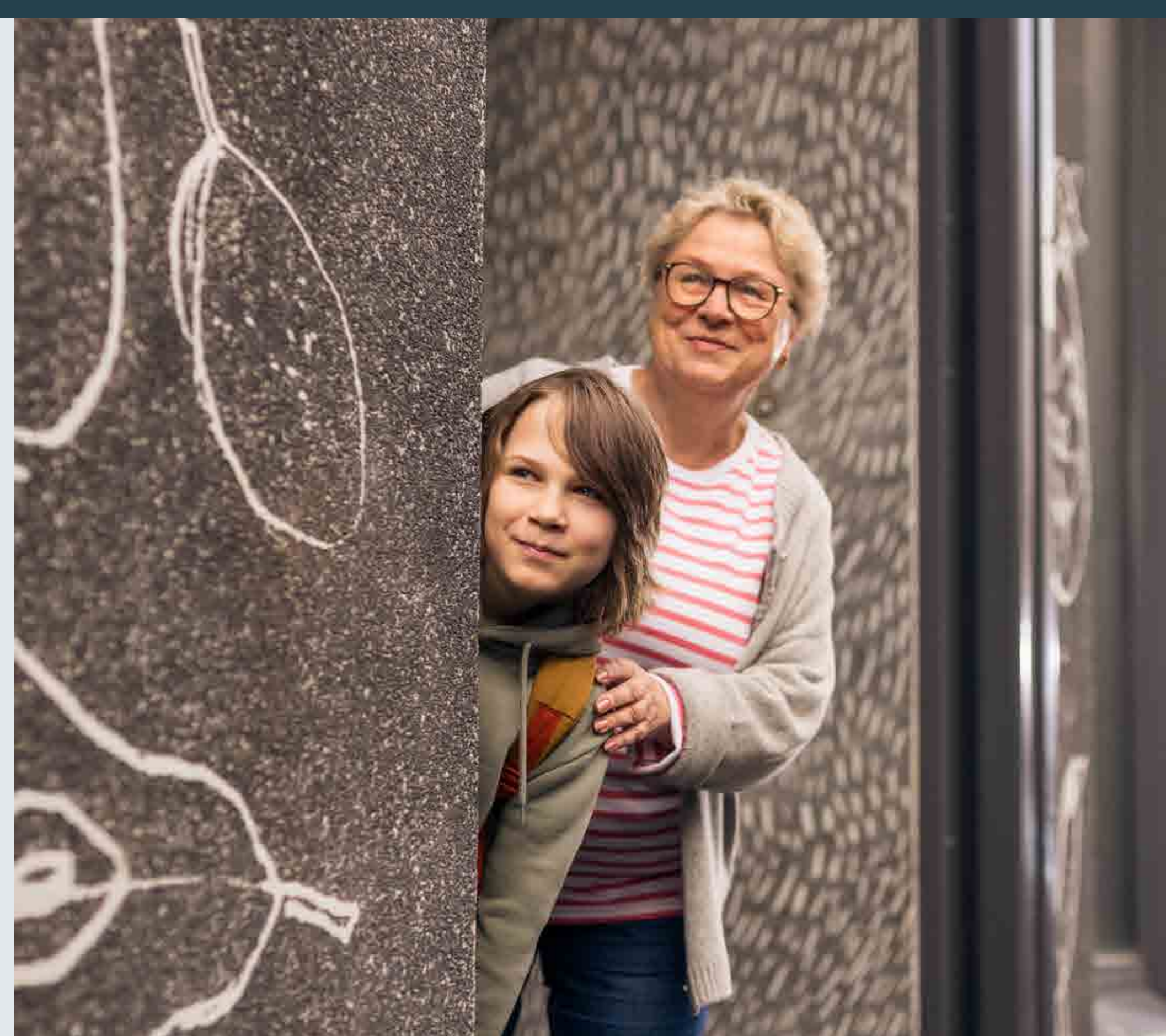


# Sustainable Urban Environments Barometer 2023

## 83% of urban residents are satisfied with their current residential area

- Increasingly many people (49% of respondents) consider relatively densely built suburbs to be the best location for a home in the city.
- Residents of Helsinki city centre are the most satisfied with their current residential area (89%).
- Urban residents especially appreciate the following things in their current residential areas: 1) shops and services are close, 2) nature is nearby, 3) the area is safe and peaceful, and 4) the area has good public transport connections and bike paths.



## Proportion considering a move to suburban areas remains unchanged

- Over a quarter (29%) of residents of Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa say they have considered moving to the surrounding municipalities.
- For the second year in a row, the top destination for those considering such a move is Porvoo, with 37% of respondents thinking of relocating there. The second most popular choice is Kirkkonummi, followed by Järvenpää.

## Rising cost of living concerns most urban residents

- Increases in housing costs worry 40% of urban residents either a great deal or a lot.
- The rising cost of energy was the biggest concern for many (67%). Homeowners were also concerned by increasing mortgage interest rates (45%) and the cost of future home repairs (31%).
- During the last year, more than a fifth (22%) of those who changed homes wanted to switch to more affordable housing.
- Energy-saving needs are reflected in attitudes towards the sauna: The popularity of private saunas in homes (39%) has declined significantly from the figure two years ago (53%/2021). Half of apartment building residents now prefer a shared sauna.



## Concerns about climate change continue to grow among city residents

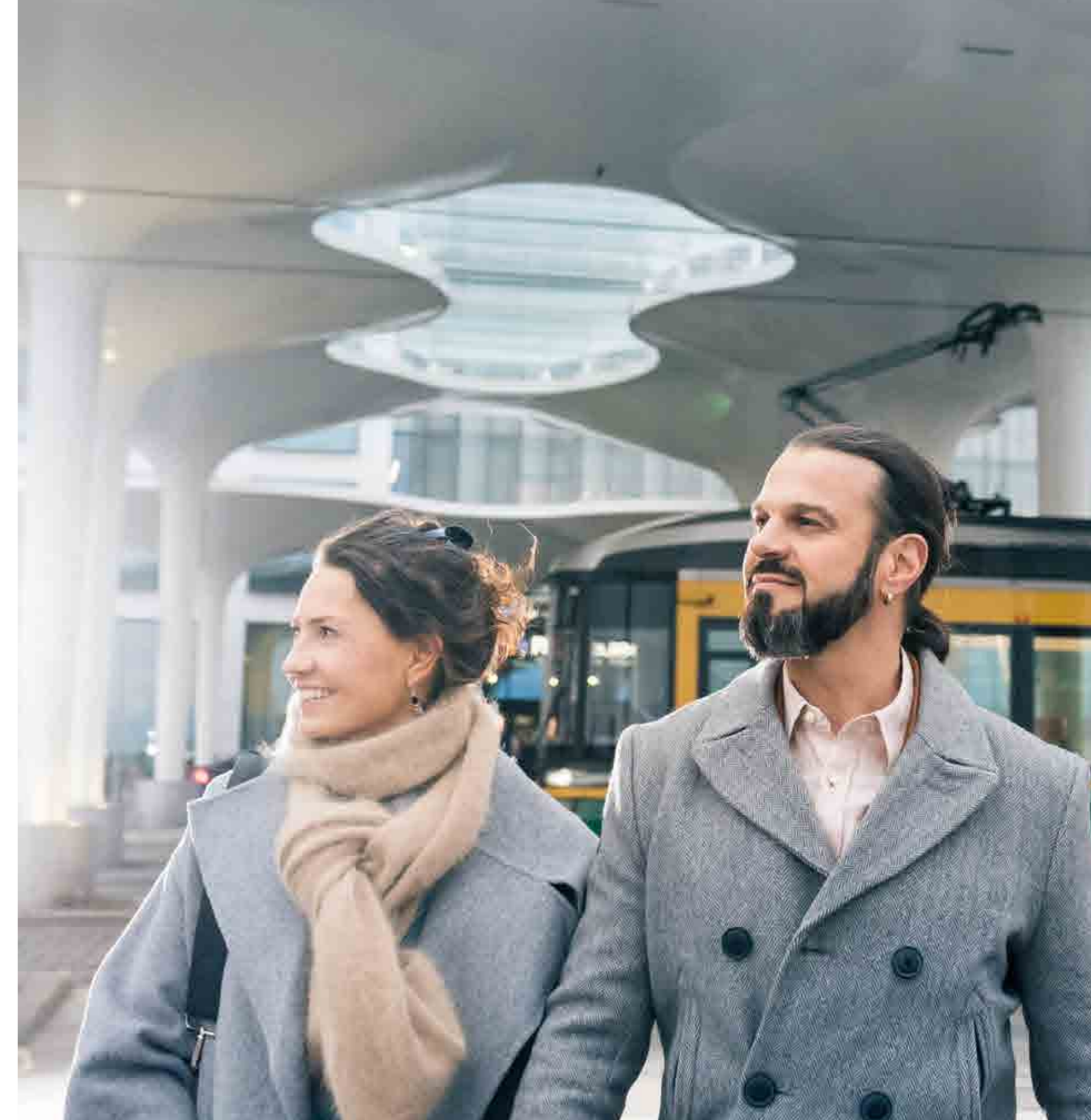
- Climate change worries 46% of urban residents either a great deal or a lot, whereas the corresponding figure in 2019 was 37%.
- An equal proportion (45%) of residents in large cities and towns keeps themselves updated on their own carbon footprint and continually engages in eco-friendly actions. However, 16% are not interested in this issue.

## Women clearly more concerned about climate change than men are – women over 50 are pioneers in eco-friendly action at home

- Women are more concerned than men about climate change: 55% assessed their concern as significant or very significant, whereas only 38% of men said the same.
- Women over the age of 50 highly value the ecologically friendly aspects of housing, such as easy recycling, water-saving taps and energy efficiency. Well over half of them have reduced their hot water usage (66%) and lowered the temperature in their homes (54%).

## Increasing prevalence of electric cars and plug-in hybrids related to availability of charging points in housing cooperatives

- Approximately half of car owners intend to purchase a fully electric car or plug-in hybrid in the next one to two years. However, only 9% of urban residents currently own a fully electric or hybrid car.
- Electric cars and plug-in hybrids have become more common, especially among those who have one or more charging points in their housing cooperative.
- A fifth (20%) of respondents has electric car charging facilities in their housing cooperative, and a quarter (25%) supports the installation of charging points.



## Urban residents hope development of modes of transport will continue to focus on public and light transport

- Urban residents particularly want to see investments in their own town or city in bus transport (53%), cycling (48%) and walking (45%) infrastructure.
- Good public transport connections and cycling paths in one's own residential area were especially valued in Helsinki, Tampere and Turku.
- In Tampere, more people want to see investment in tram and pedestrian infrastructure (both increased by 8 percentage points), whereas investment in cycling infrastructure is the top priority in Turku (60%) and Jyväskylä (58%).

## Investment in rail transport particularly called for in Helsinki and Tampere

- According to the survey, 46% of Helsinki and Tampere residents hope to see more rail transport built in their respective cities, even though constructing new rail connections would incur additional costs for the city.



## Proportion of remote workers has stabilised – every second office worker wants to work remotely as much as possible

- Just over half (53%) of office workers work remotely three to five days a week, and 52% would like to do as much remote work as possible.
- Almost nine out of ten (89%) respondents who work remotely every week want to be able to decide their time and place of working in the future.

## Office spaces play a key role – ability to work in peace, good ventilation and suitable temperature most important

- In their current office, office workers most value a desk or workspace that can be adjusted to their personal dimensions, followed by a dedicated workspace (54%) and high-quality equipment (36%).
- For office workers, the ideal office would have their own workstation or room (59%), good ventilation and a suitable temperature (38%), and reasonably priced lunch options (32%).
- Increasingly many want to see more of an investment made in the comfort and homeliness of office spaces than at present.
- The most important factor for the location of a workplace is that it is within walking or cycling distance (56%) or easily accessible by public transport (53%).

\* This was the sixth time the barometer was carried out. It is directed at the residents of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku, Oulu, Jyväskylä and Kuopio. The number of respondents for the online panel this year was 1,058 + 354 (separate sample of office workers). The data represents the population of 18–80 years old residents of cities by gender and age. Prior Konsultointi conducted the survey as an assignment of YIT. For more information: [press@yit.fi](mailto:press@yit.fi)