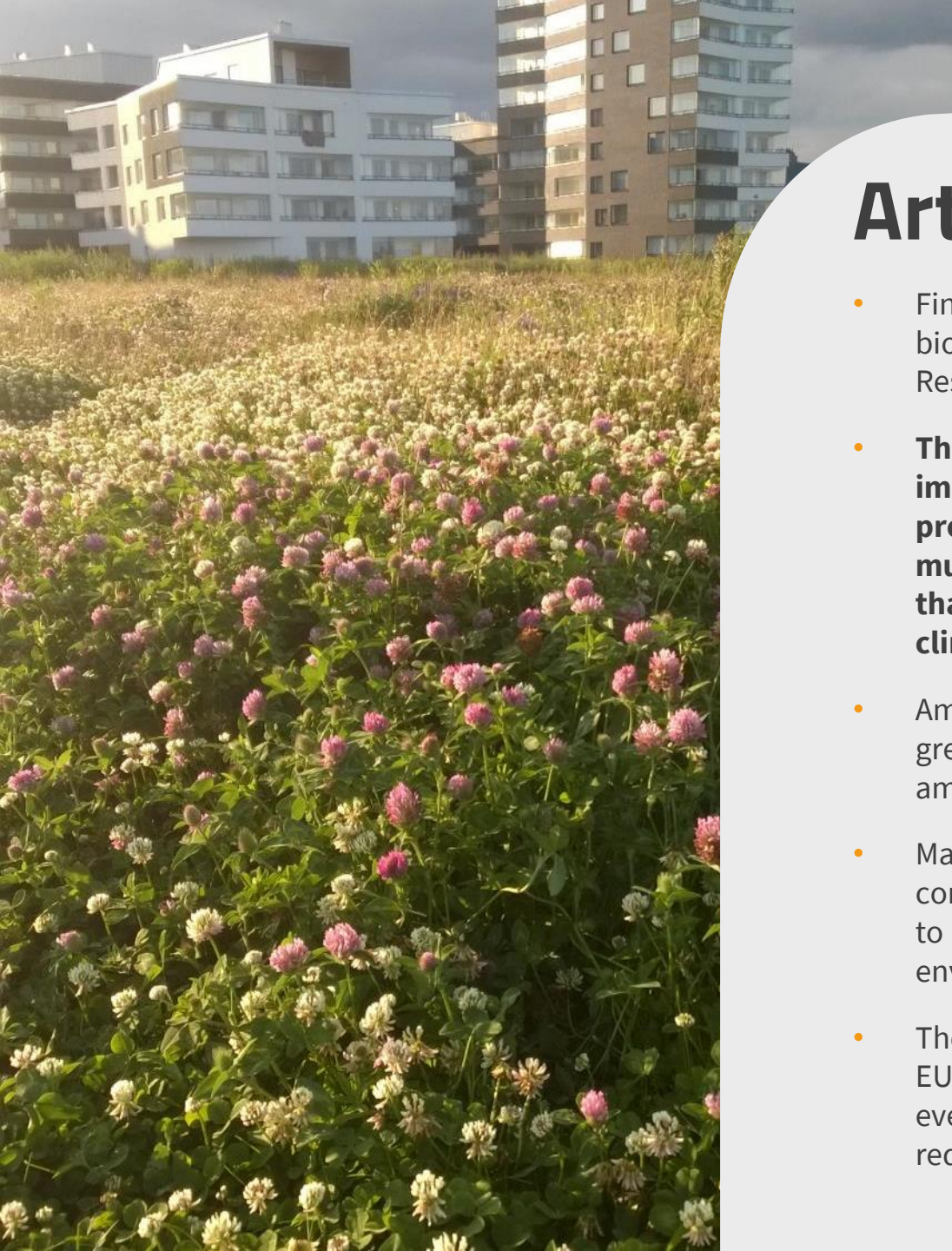




Helsinki-Uusimaa  
Regional Council

# EU Nature Restoration Law Article 6: Appendix materials, including examples from cities around Europe

Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council February 2023



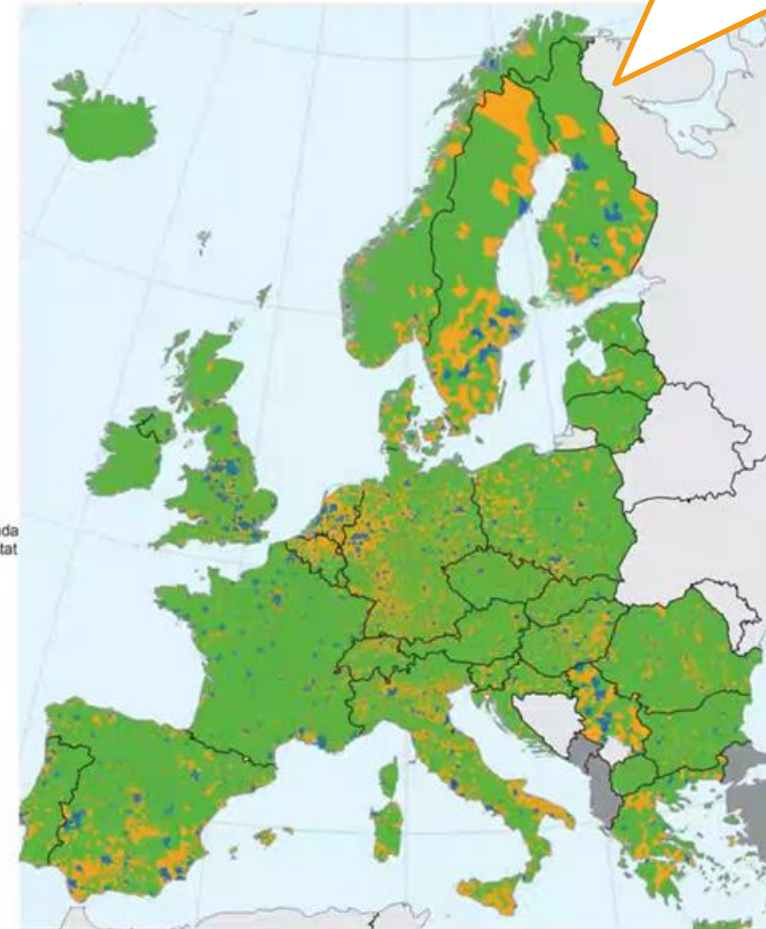
# Article 6 should be corrected

- Finland is committed to the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to promote biodiversity. In order to achieve this goal, the EU is currently working on a Nature Restoration Law.
- **The aim is definitely worthy of support, and promoting measures towards it is important. However, Article 6 of the draft law, which applies to cities, is problematic as it hinders the sustainable development of regions and municipalities. It is important to correct the problems concerning the article 6, so that the article does not become an obstacle to reaching the biodiversity and climate goals.**
- Among other things, the article requires built-up areas and/or fields to be converted into green space – the larger the municipality, the more areas must be converted. The current amount of green space in the municipality does not affect the requirements.
- Making the densification of the existing structure significantly more difficult and converting the existing structure into green space in cities would push new construction to rural municipalities not covered by the article. This would have negative environmental and sustainability impacts.
- The article does not take into account the different circumstances in various parts of the EU. In Finland, cities are typically large in area and already have a lot of green space – even the largest cities. The article applies to 63 municipalities in Finland. The requirements of the article are impossible to implement in Finland.

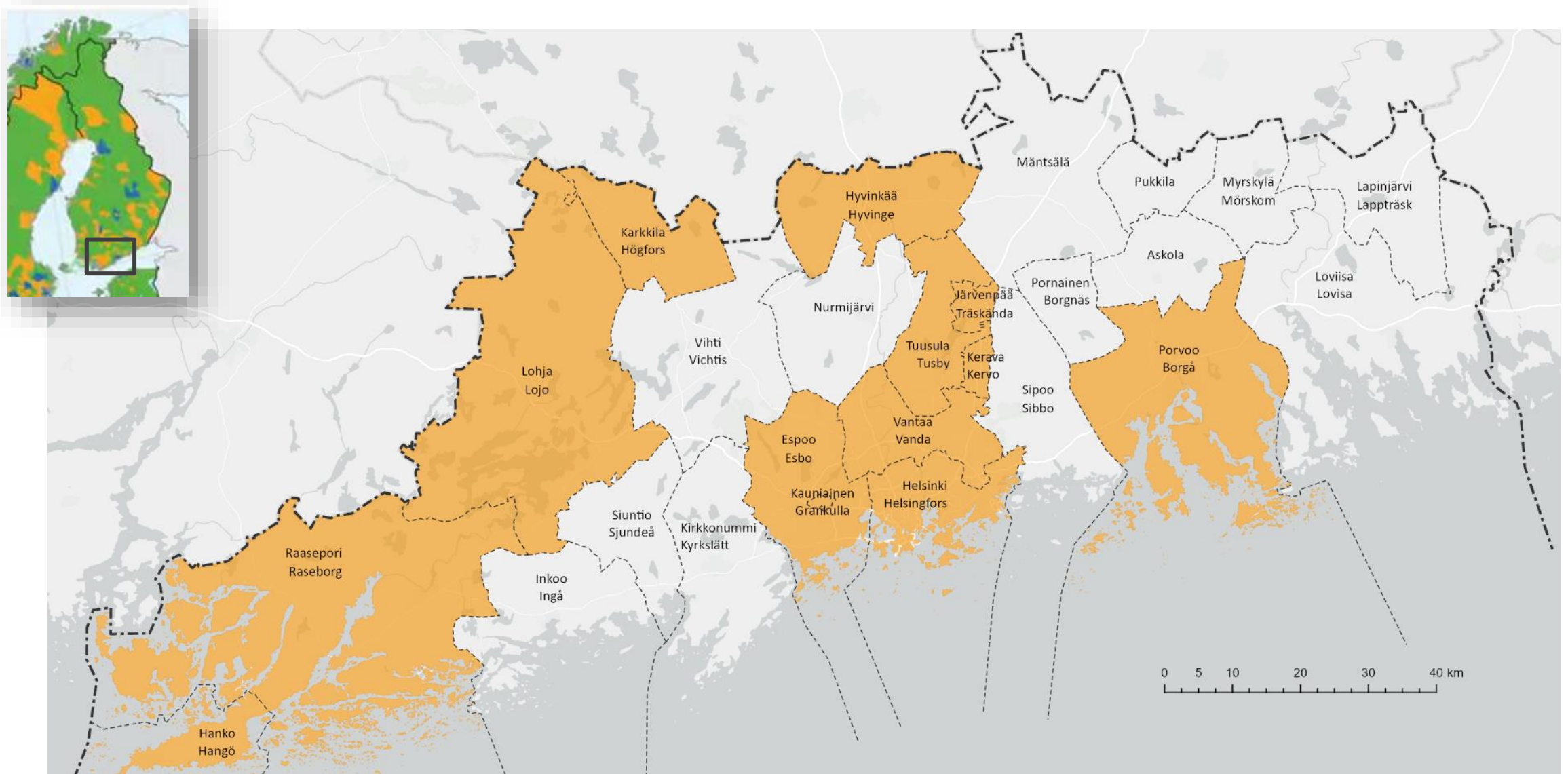
# Cities covered by Article 6

- 63 cities are covered in Finland.
- Finland has a population of approx. 5.5 million

• The urban structure in the Nordic countries is very different from that of the rest of the EU.  
 • Municipalities and regions are typically large, and the built-up area is small in relation to the area of green spaces.



# Helsinki-Uusimaa region: 13 municipalities of 26 are covered by Article 6



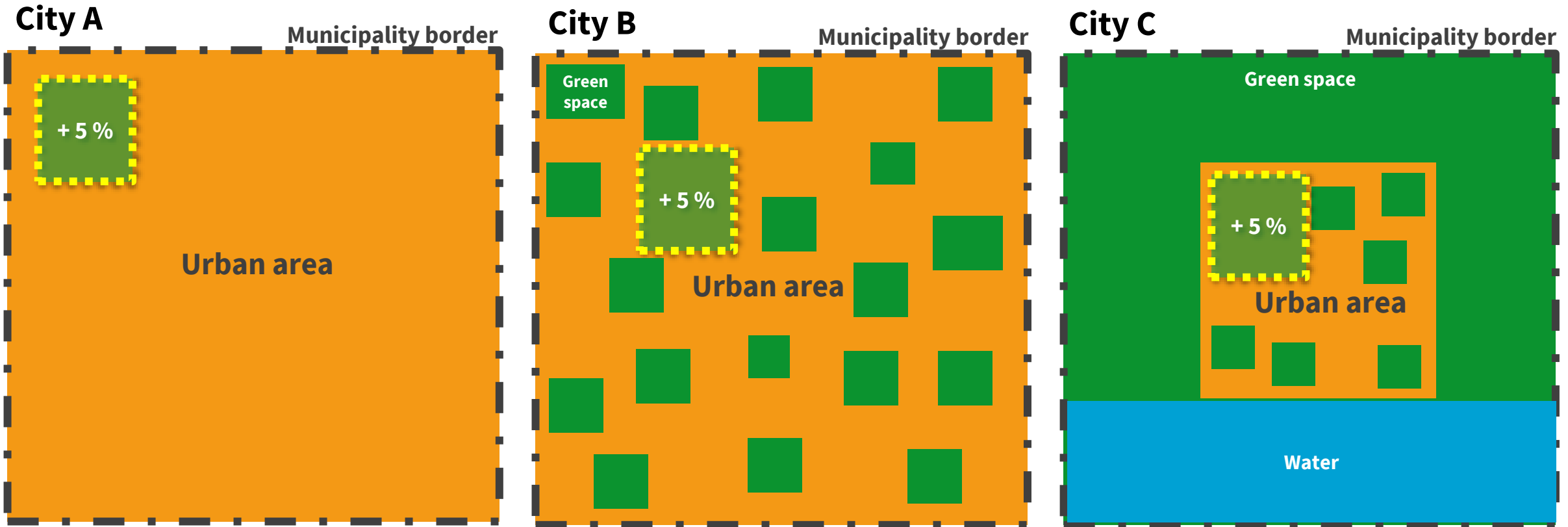
# The impact of Article 6 “Restoration of urban ecosystems”: Urban green space to be increased in Helsinki-Uusimaa municipalities

Municipality	Population (Statistics Finland 2021)	Total land area, km <sup>2</sup>	Urban fabric (residential areas), km <sup>2</sup> (2018)	Agricultural areas, km <sup>2</sup> (2018)	Other artificial surfaces, km <sup>2</sup> (2018)	Forests and semi-natural areas, wetlands, km <sup>2</sup> (2018)	3% increase of urban green space by 2040 in relation to the land area/total area of the municipality	5% increase of urban green space by 2050 in relation to the land area/total area of the municipality
<b>Raasepori</b>	27,500	1149	25.6	171.5	50.4	900.8	<b>+34.4 km<sup>2</sup> / +70.7 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+57.4 km<sup>2</sup> / +117.8 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Lohja</b>	46,000	939	34.0	196.1	58.3	650.5	<b>+28.2 km<sup>2</sup> / +33.3 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+47.0 km<sup>2</sup> / +55.5 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Porvoo</b>	51,100	654	29.6	136.9	44.7	442.2	<b>+19.6 km<sup>2</sup> / +63.9 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+32.7 km<sup>2</sup> / +106.4 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Hyvinkää</b>	46,900	322	16.5	63.1	23.7	219.0	<b>+9.7 km<sup>2</sup> / +10.1 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+16.2 km<sup>2</sup> / +16.8 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Espoo</b>	297,100	310	58.3	24.3	49.3	178.9	<b>+9.4 km<sup>2</sup> / +15.8 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+15.6 km<sup>2</sup> / +26.3 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Karkkila</b>	8,700	242	6.7	36.8	10.6	188.1	<b>+7.3 km<sup>2</sup> / +7.7 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+12.1 km<sup>2</sup> / +12.8 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Vantaa</b>	239,200	231	45.5	36.1	55.3	100.5	<b>+7.1 km<sup>2</sup> / +7.2 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+11.9 km<sup>2</sup> / +12.0 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Tuusula</b>	39,700	219	21.9	63.5	21.5	112.0	<b>+6.6 km<sup>2</sup> / +6.6 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+11.0 km<sup>2</sup> / +11.2 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Helsinki</b>	658,500	209	59.2	10.3	59.8	80.0	<b>+6.4 km<sup>2</sup> / +21.3 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+10.7 km<sup>2</sup> / +35.5 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Hanko</b>	8,000	117	6.3	2.7	14.0	94.0	<b>+3.5 km<sup>2</sup> / +24 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+5.9 km<sup>2</sup> / +40.0 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Järvenpää</b>	45,200	38	11.6	5.0	7.5	13.1	<b>+1.1 km<sup>2</sup> / +1.2 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+1.9 km<sup>2</sup> / +2.0 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Kerava</b>	37,200	31	7.6	3.9	7.2	11.8	<b>+0.9 km<sup>2</sup> / +1.8 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+1.6 km<sup>2</sup> / +3.1 km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Kauniainen</b>	10,400	6	2.6	0.1	1.0	2.1	<b>+0.2 km<sup>2</sup> / +0.2 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+0.3 km<sup>2</sup> / +0.3 km<sup>2</sup></b>

## 5% increase of green space in relation to the total area of the city

- The Article 6 requires an equal increase of urban green space in each of the three municipalities pictured below.

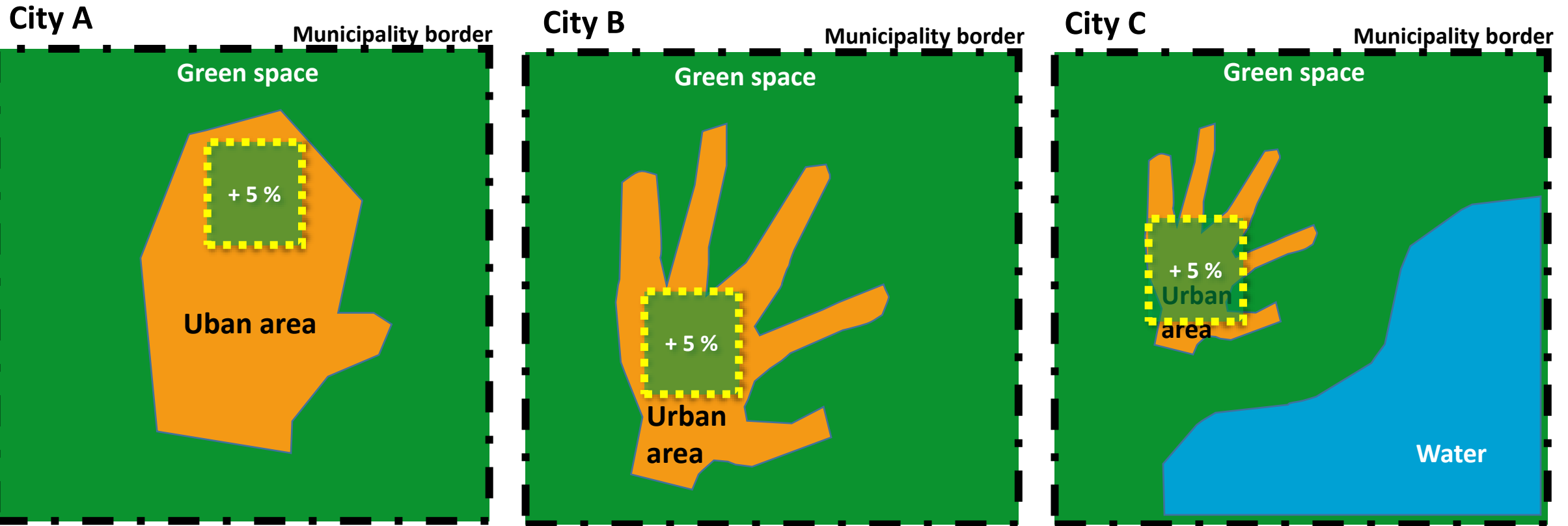
Same total area → same demands despite the existing amount of green space, density and volumes of the built environment, number of inhabitants or the overall character of the city.



# 5% increase of green space in relation to the total area of the city

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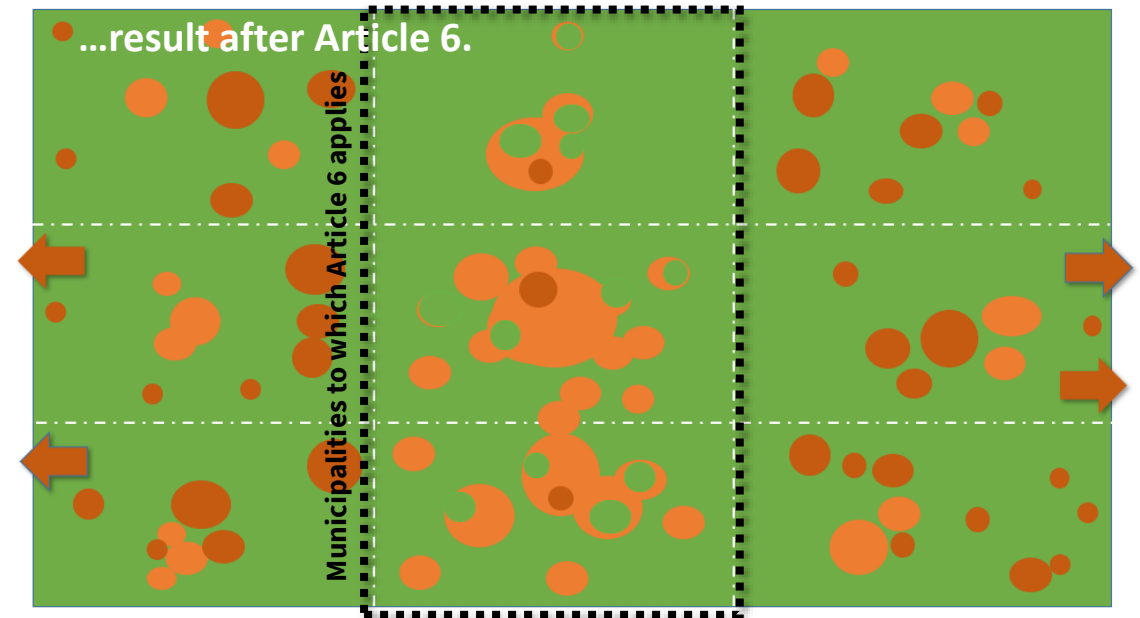
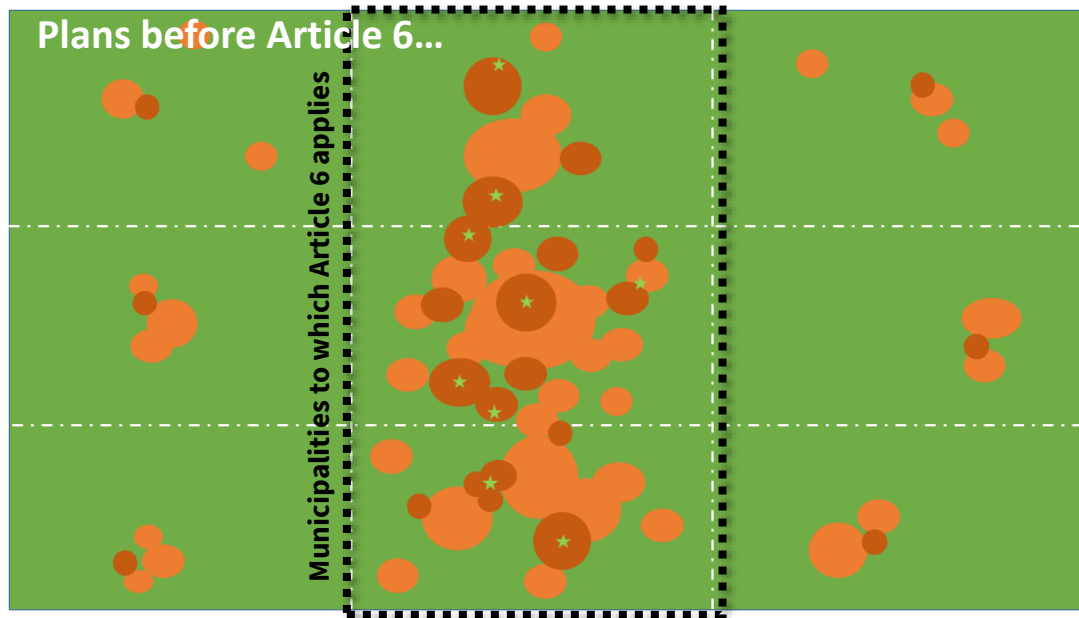
Same total area → same demands despite the existing amount of green space, density and volumes of the built environment, number of inhabitants or the overall character of the city.



**Which final result is better in terms of biodiversity?  
Which one supports better overall sustainability?**

This is the aim of sustainable urban planning...

... this is the end result if developing cities by densifying and making the existing structure more efficient becomes significantly more difficult.

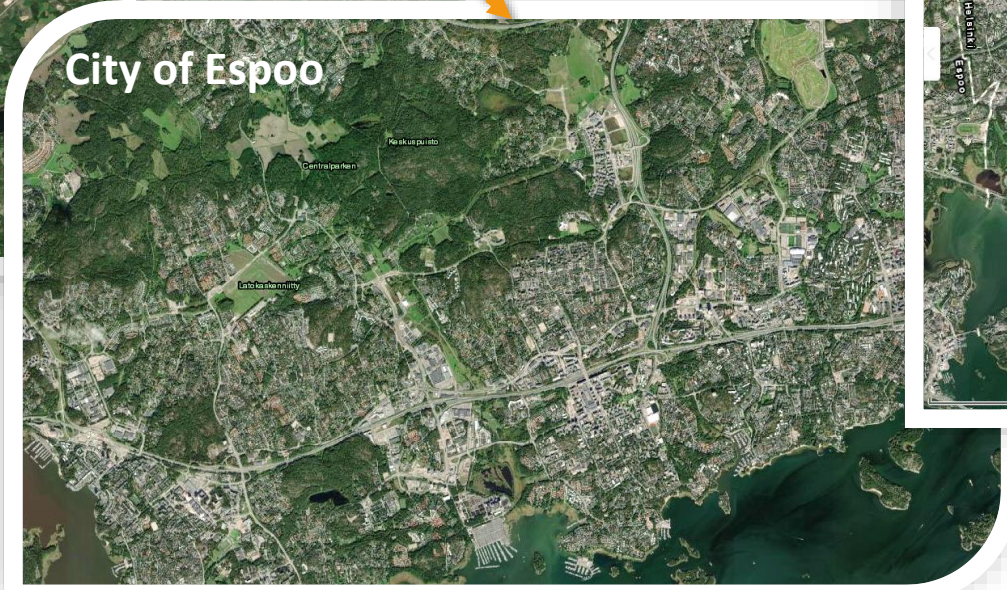


**Unwanted, negative and unsustainable results of Article 6:**

- The urban structure is dispersing, which is against sustainability goals from both environmental, economical and social point of view.
- Urban sprawl causes deforestation and fragmentation of the natural environment and reduces carbon sinks.
- The dispersed structure does not support sustainable transport. Transport's climate goals are not being met.
- Agglomeration advantages are lost, business conditions are weakened, e.g. as the availability of labor weakens due to lack of affordable housing.







# Examples from different cities in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region



# Examples from different cities in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

## Landuse in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, 2018

-  Urban fabric (residential areas), 480 km<sup>2</sup>
-  Other artificial surfaces, 630 km<sup>2</sup>
-  Forest and semi-natural areas, wetlands, 6070 km<sup>2</sup>
-  Agricultural areas, 1910 km<sup>2</sup>

0 5 10 20 30 40 km

Source: CORINE landcover (20 m), 2018

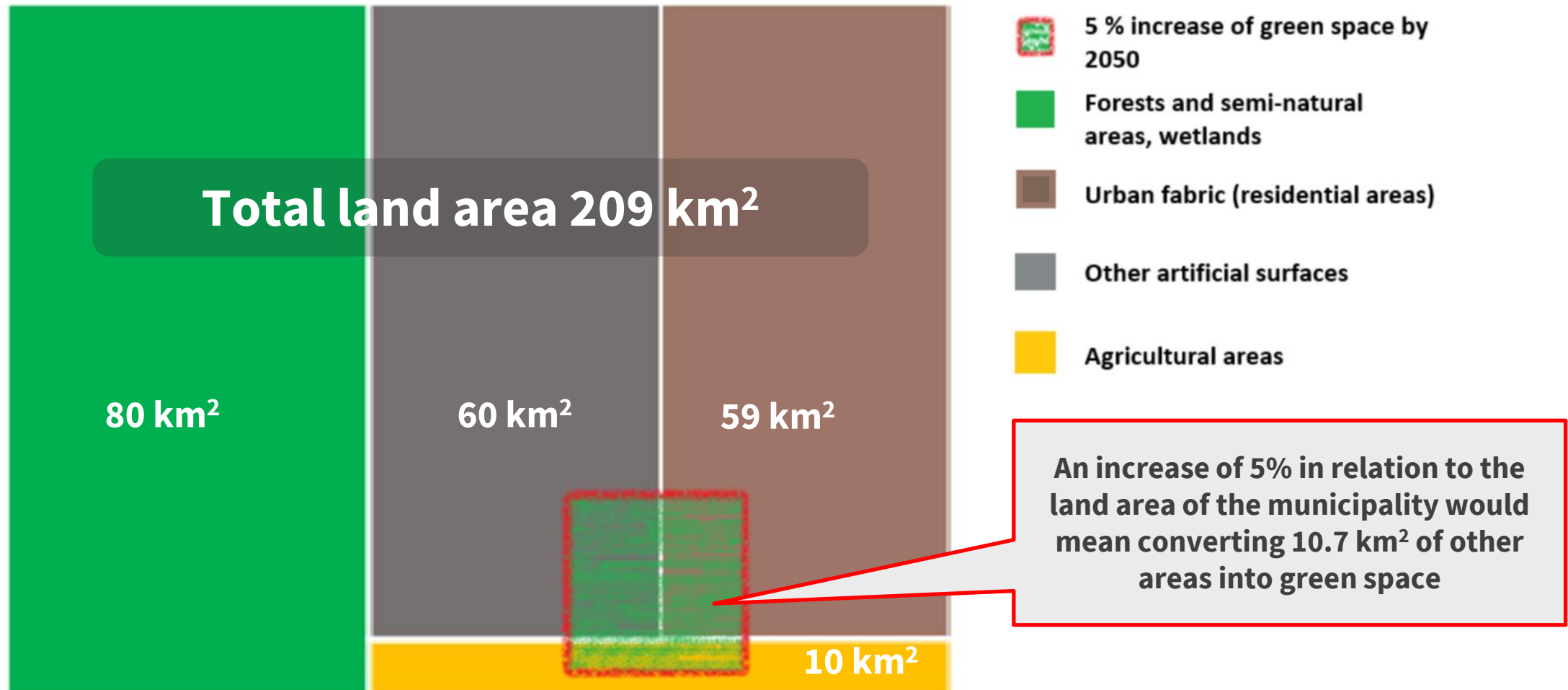
City of  
Raasepori

City of  
Hyvinkää

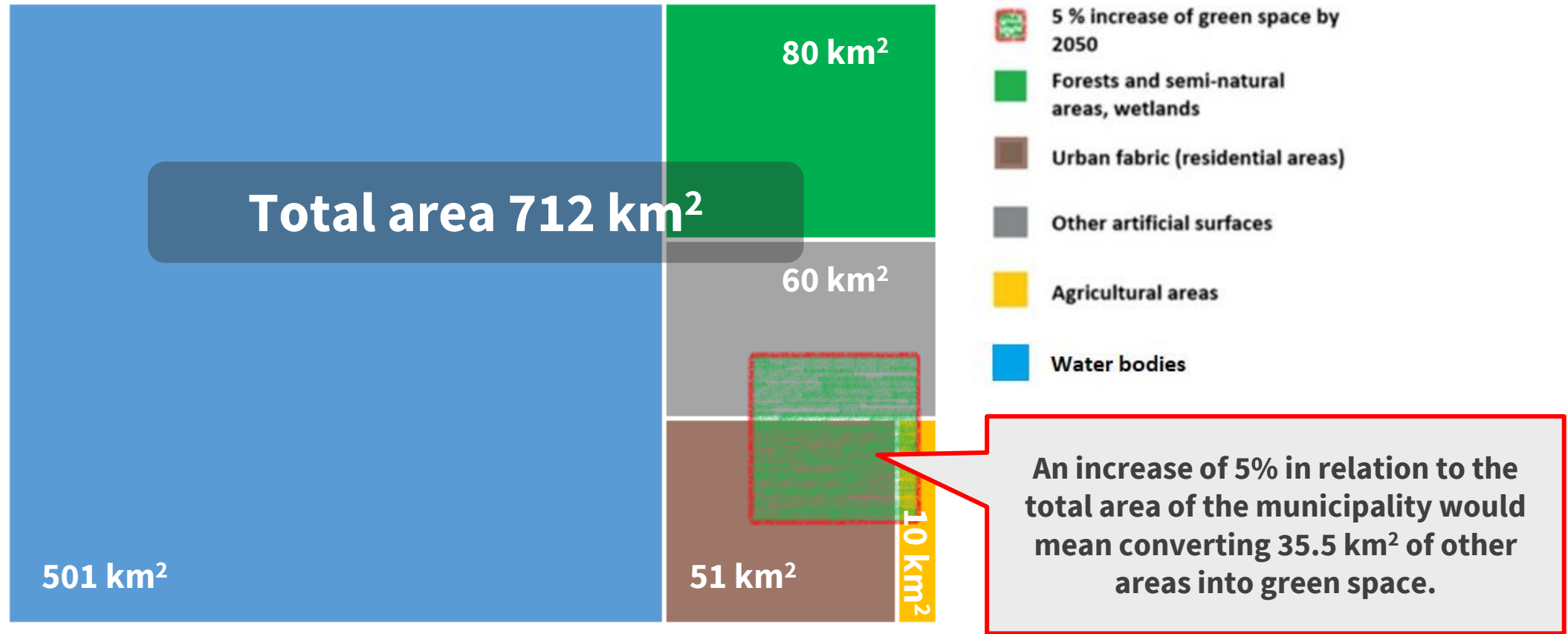
City of  
Espoo

City of  
Helsinki

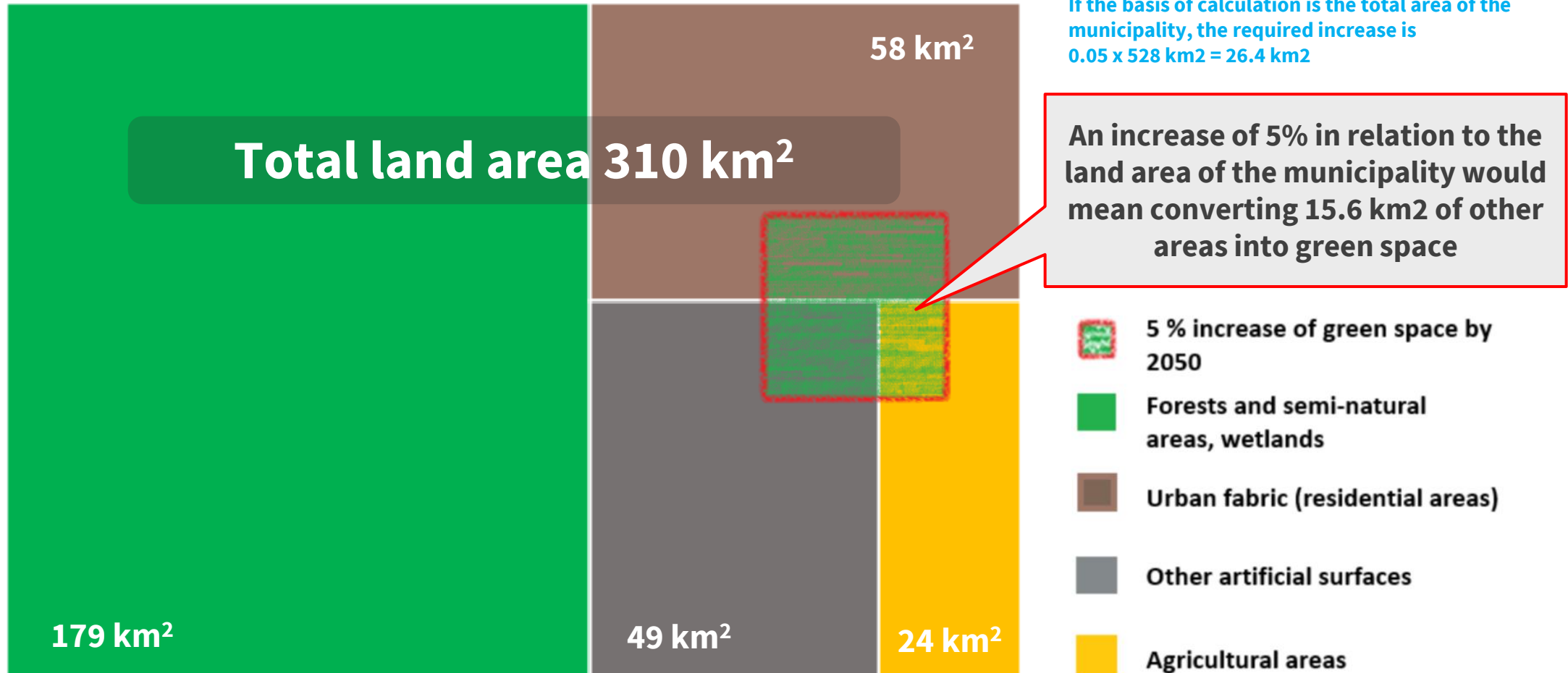
# Land use in the City of Helsinki 2018 and green space to be increased by 2050 (water bodies not included)



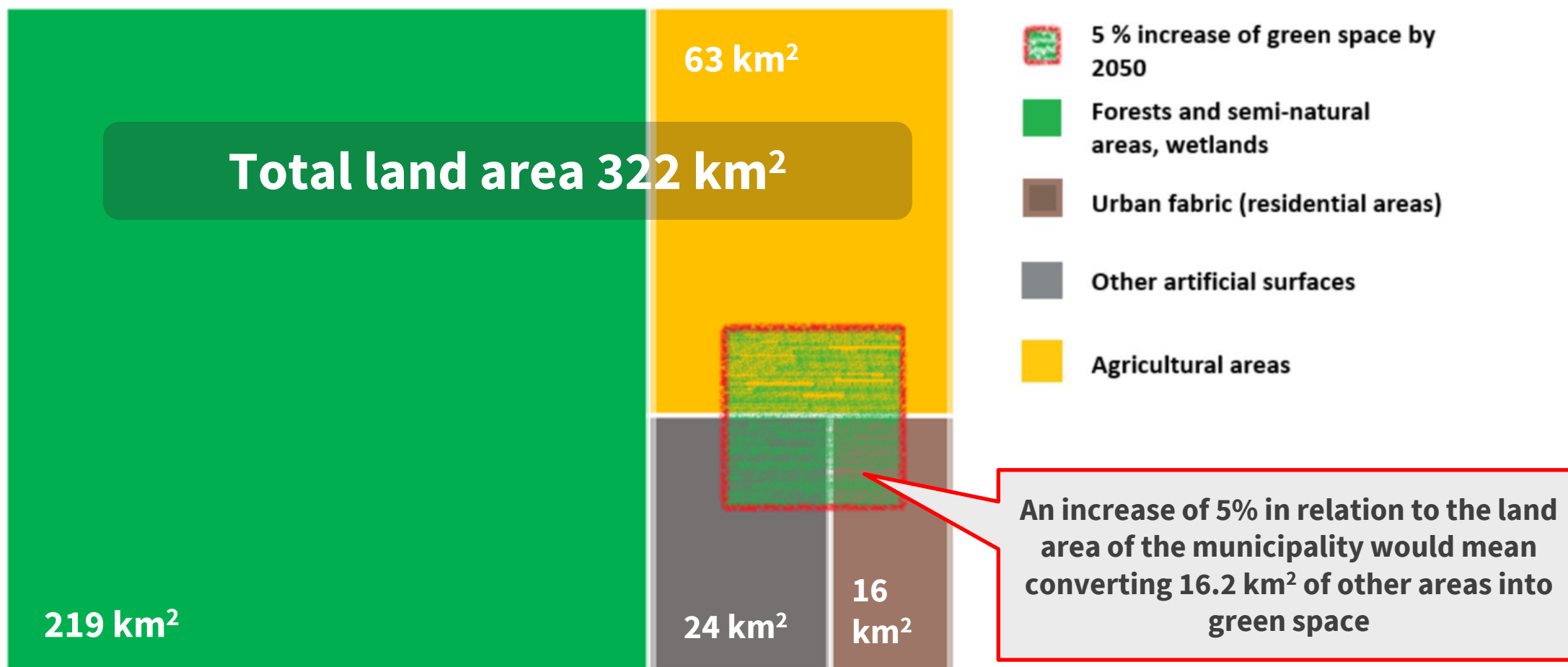
# Land use in the City of Helsinki 2018 and green space to be increased by 2050 (water bodies included)



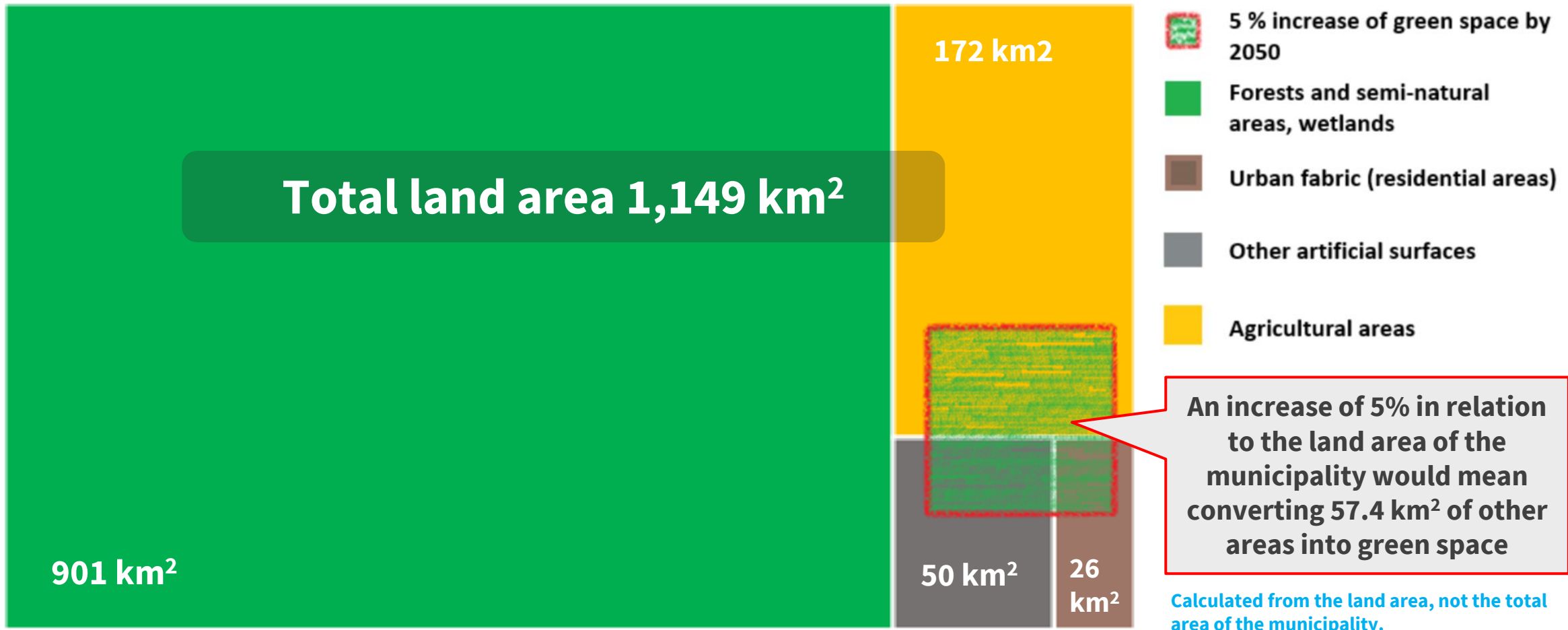
# Land use in the City of Espoo 2018 and green space to be increased by 2050 (water bodies not included)



# Land use in the City of Hyvinkää 2018 and green space to be increased by 2050 (water bodies not included)



# Land use in the City of Raasepori 2018 and green space to be increased by 2050 (water bodies not included)

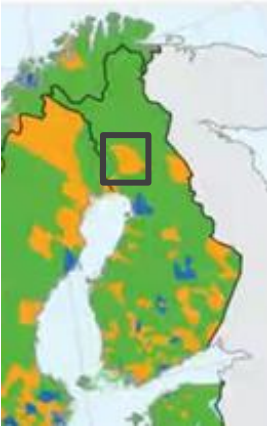


Calculated from the land area, not the total area of the municipality.  
If the basis of calculation is the total area of the municipality, the required increase is  $0.05 \times 2,354 \text{ km}^2 = 118 \text{ km}^2$

Source: CORINE Land Cover Inventory, Finnish Environment Institute

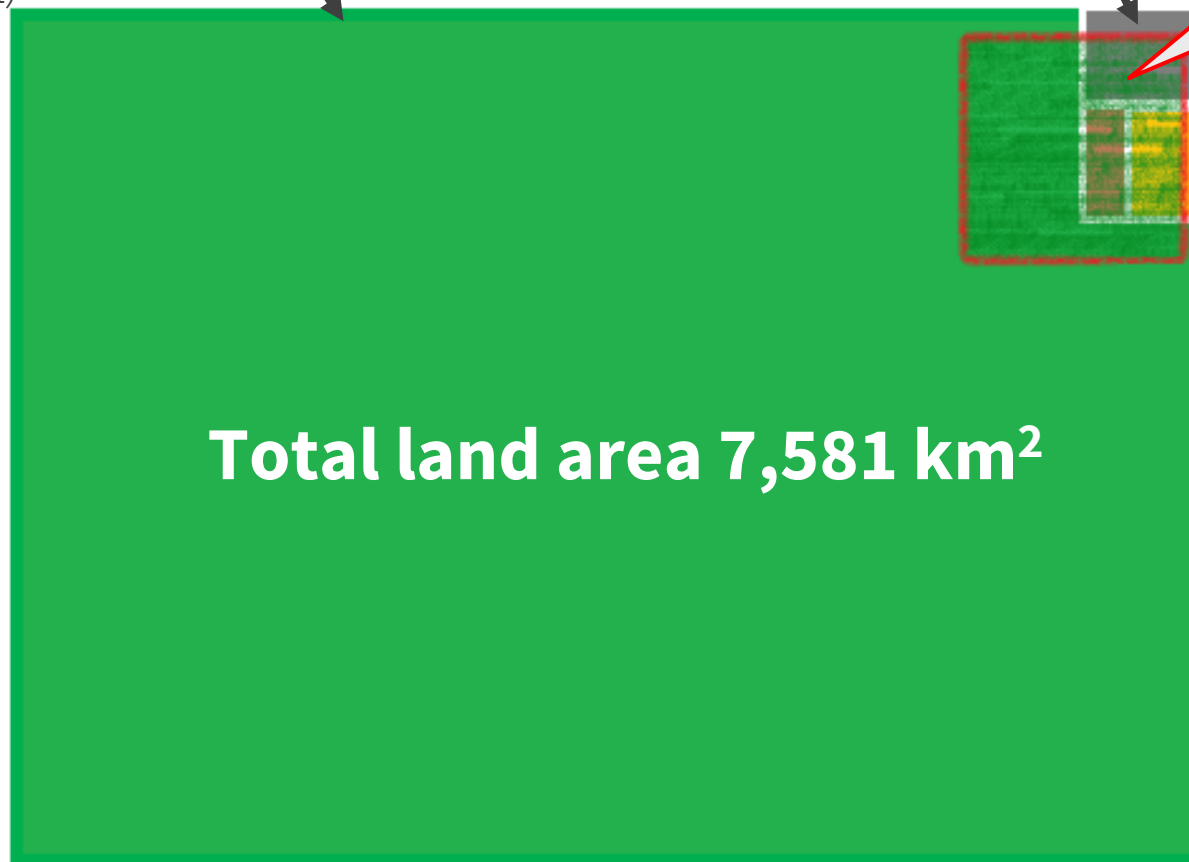
# Land use in the City of Rovaniemi 2018 and green space to be increased by 2050 (water bodies not included)

Population 64,000 (Statistics Finland 2021)








Forests and semi-natural areas, wetlands 7,388.5 km<sup>2</sup>

Urban fabric (residential areas), Other artificial surfaces, Agricultural areas 194.8 km<sup>2</sup> = 2.6% of the total land area



An increase of 5% in relation to the land area of the municipality would mean converting 379.1 km<sup>2</sup> of other areas into green space

*In practice, this would mean converting all the built-up areas and fields into green areas and still being left 185.2 km<sup>2</sup> behind the + 379.1 km<sup>2</sup> increase required by the article.*

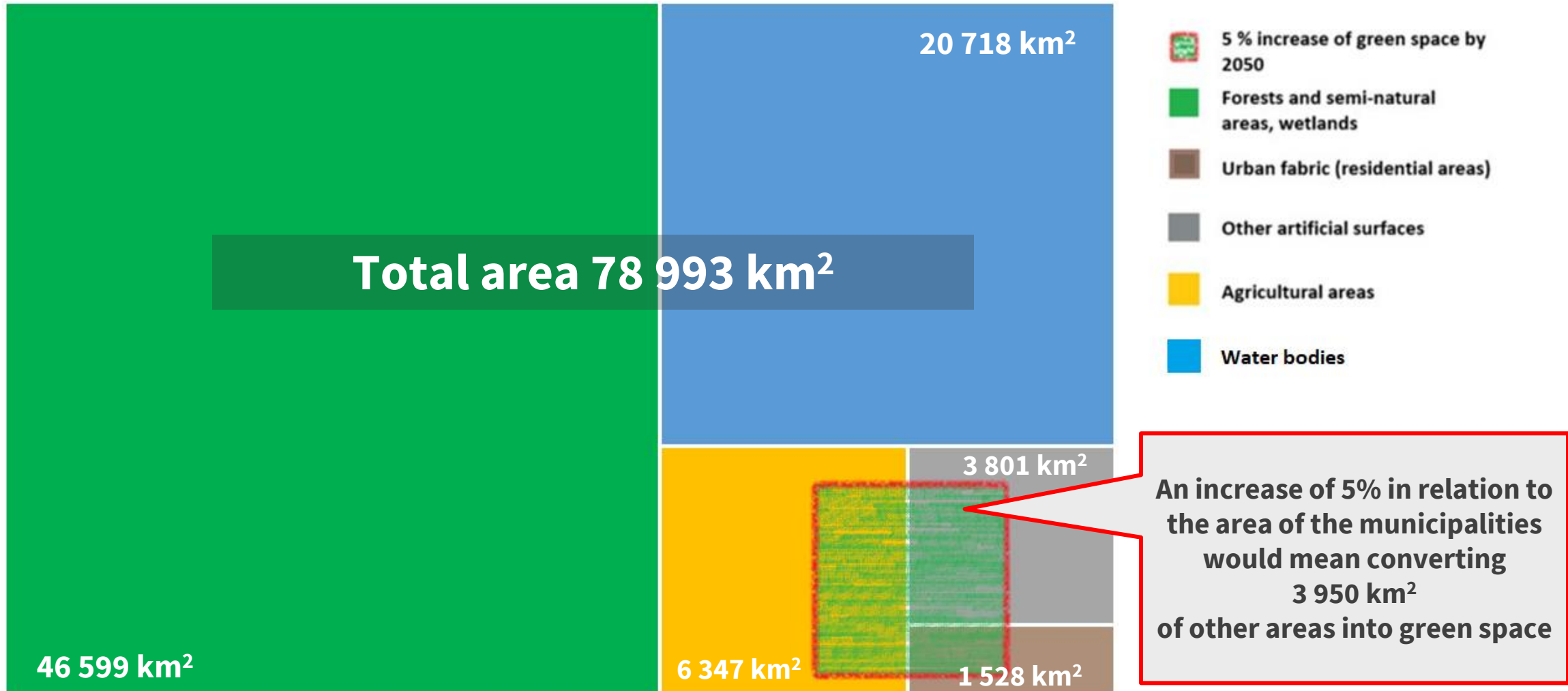
-  5 % increase of green space by 2050
-  Forests and semi-natural areas, wetlands
-  Urban fabric (residential areas)
-  Other artificial surfaces
-  Agricultural areas

Calculated from the land area, not the total area of the municipality. If the basis of calculation is the total area of the municipality, the required increase is  $0.05 \times 8,016 \text{ km}^2 = 400,8 \text{ km}^2$

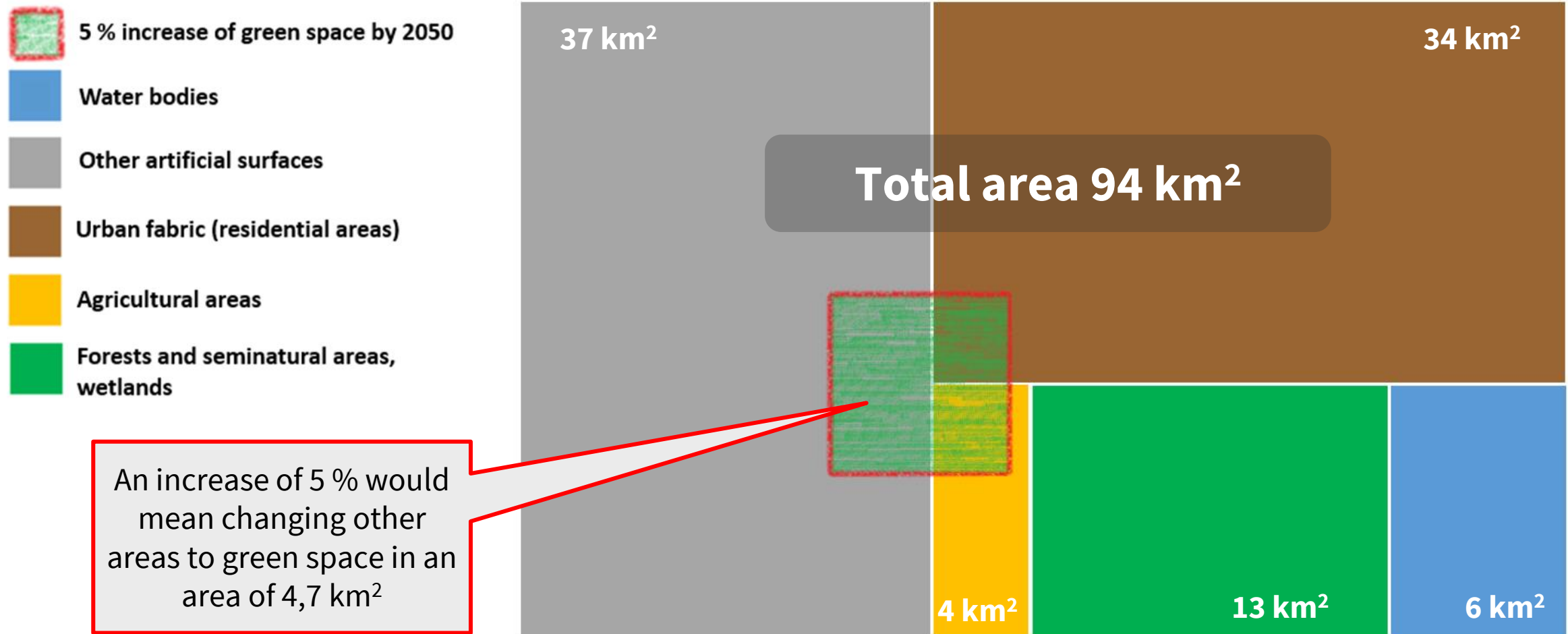


# Land use in the 63 municipalities of Finland affected by article 6 (2018) and green space to be increased by 2050

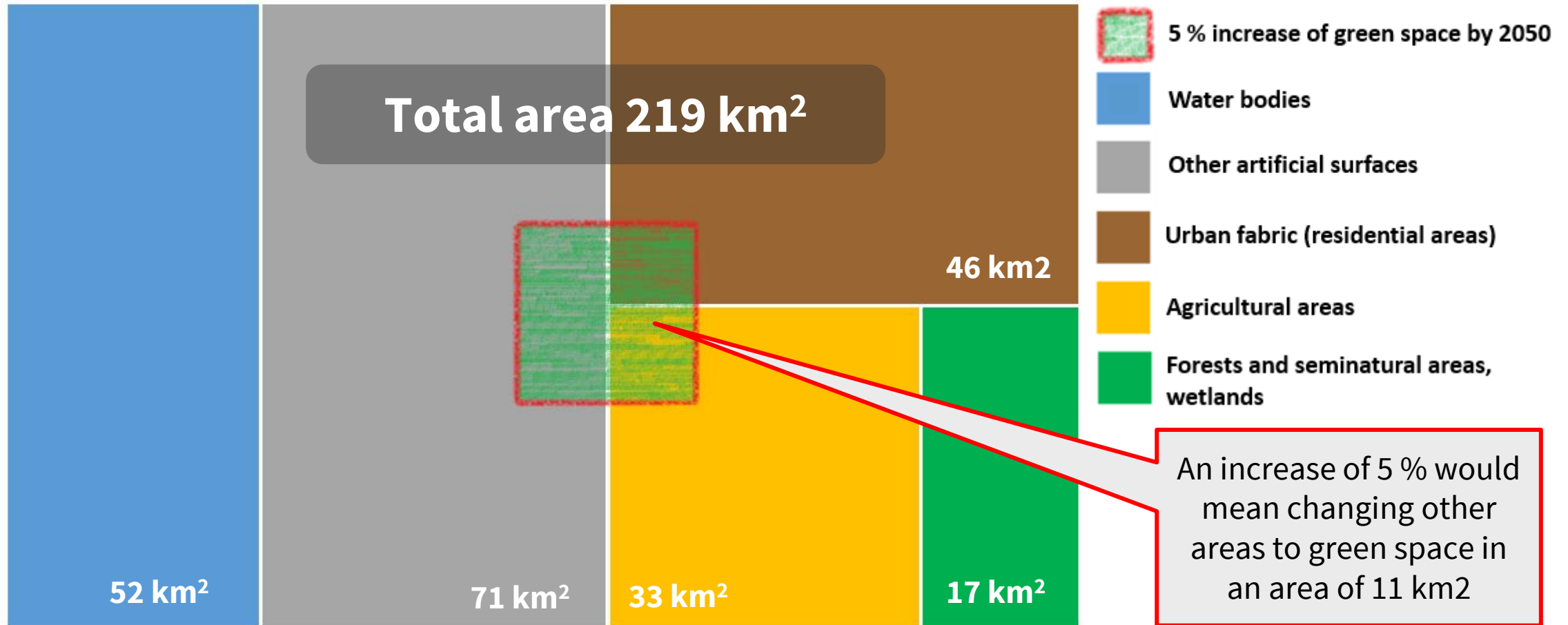
(obs. Marine areas not included, only inland water bodies)



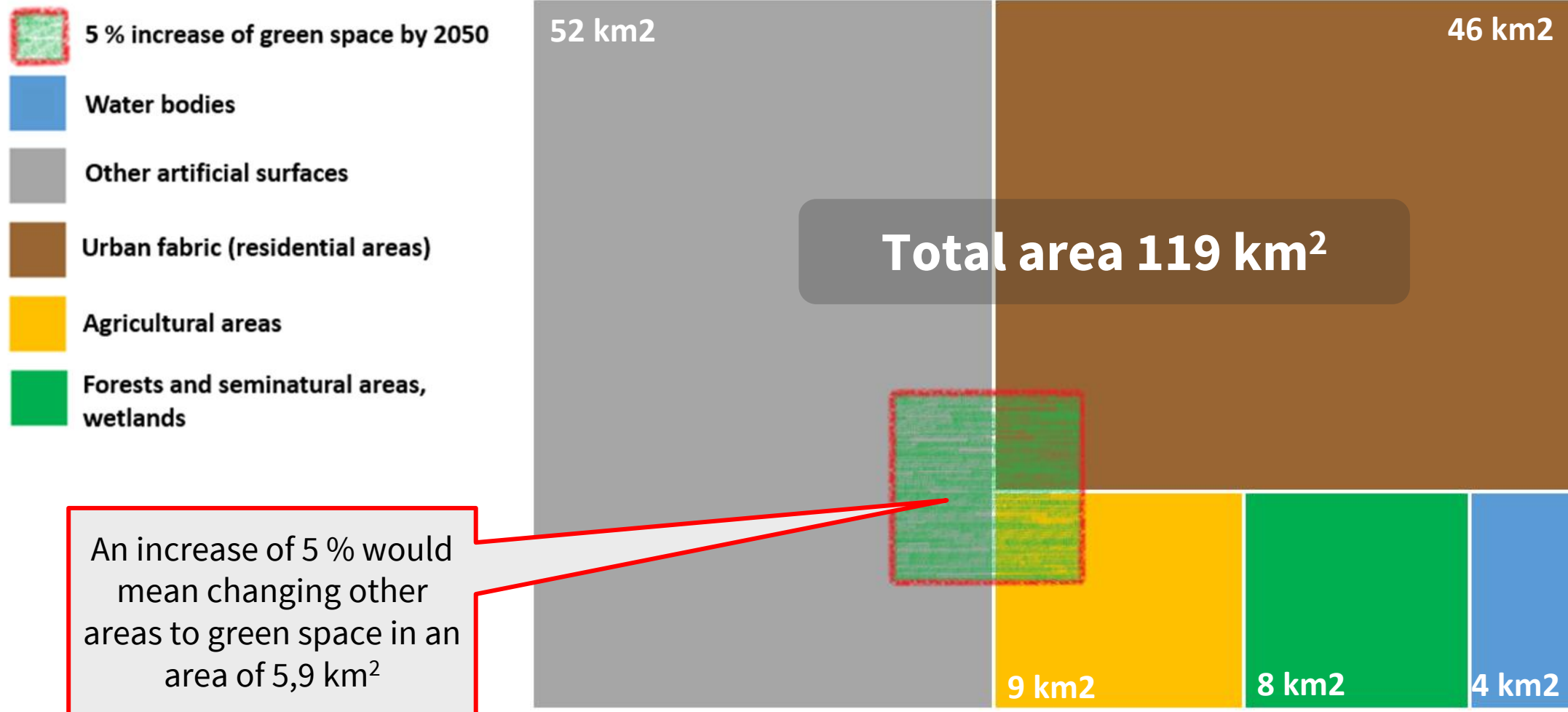
# Land use in City of Copenhagen, Denmark and the green space to be increased by 2050



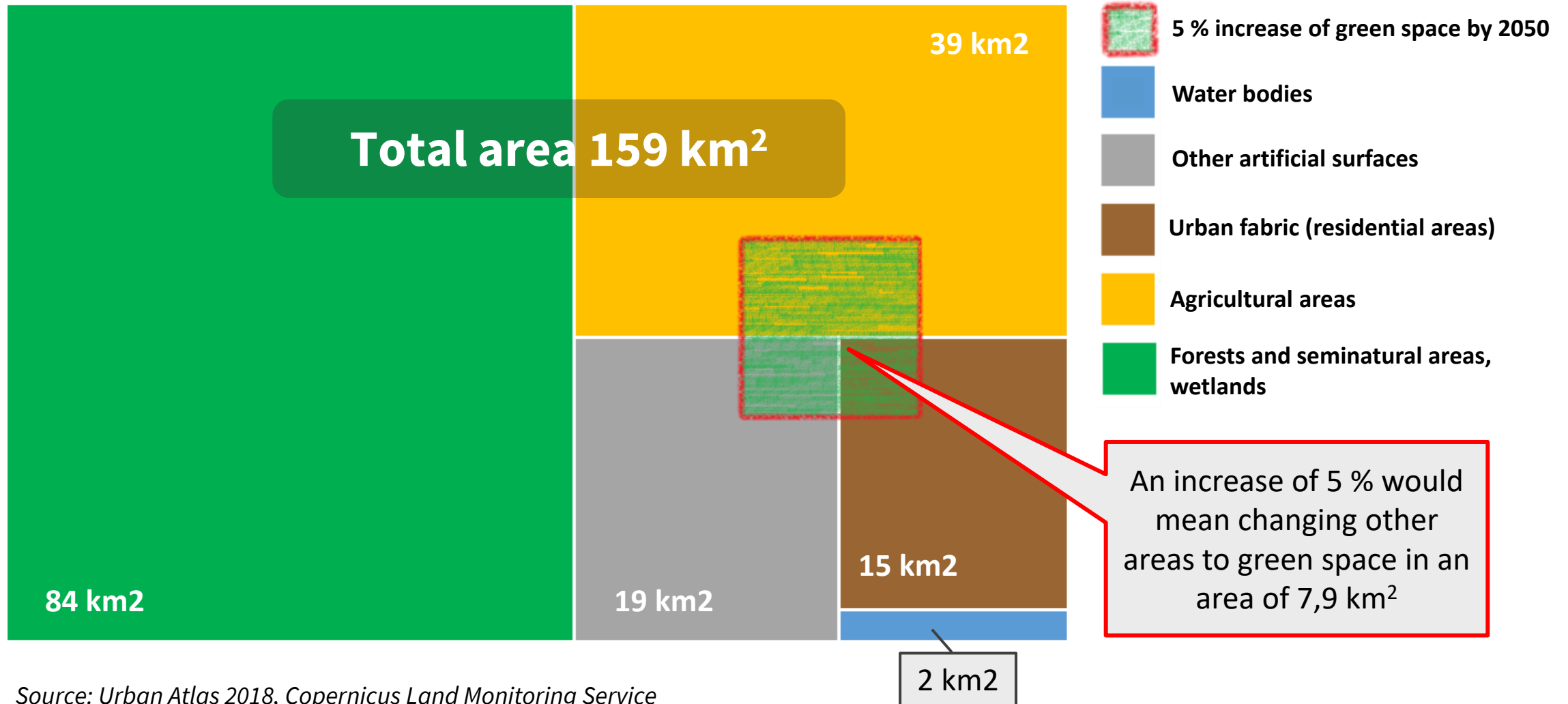
# Land use in City of Amsterdam, Netherlands and the green space to be increased by 2050



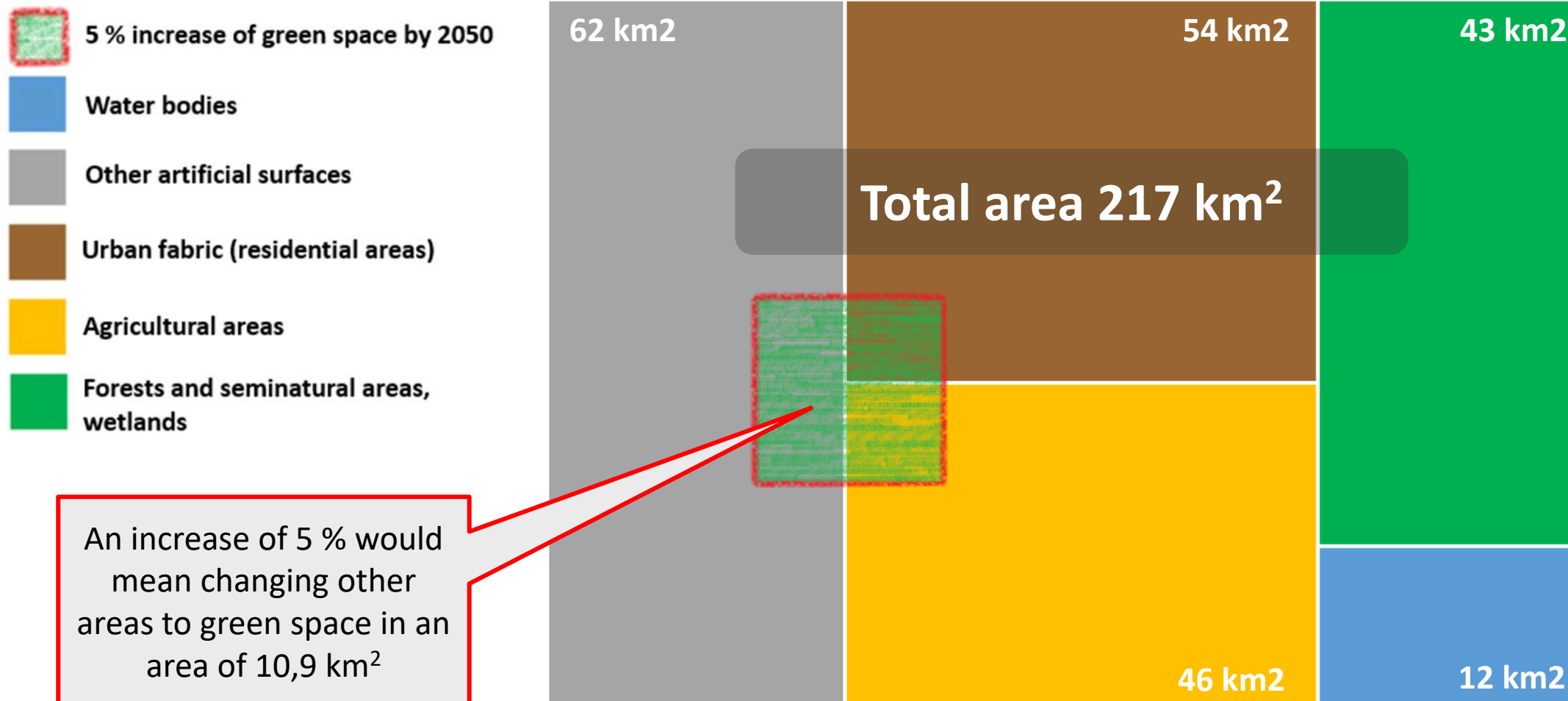
# Land use in City of Toulouse, France and the green space to be increased by 2050



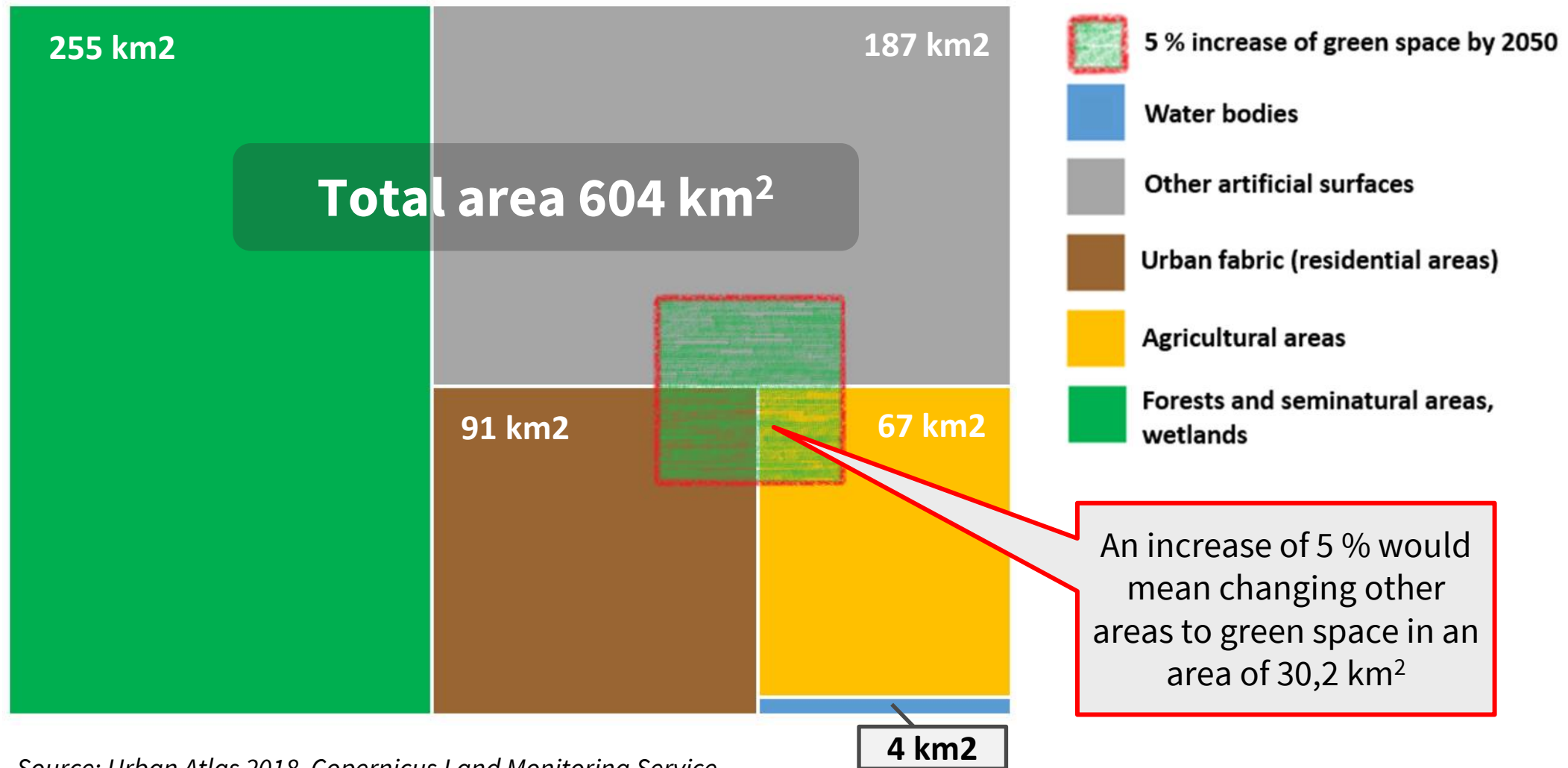
# Land use in City of Trento, Italia and the green space to be increased by 2050



# Land use in City of Düsseldorf, Germany and the green space to be increased by 2050

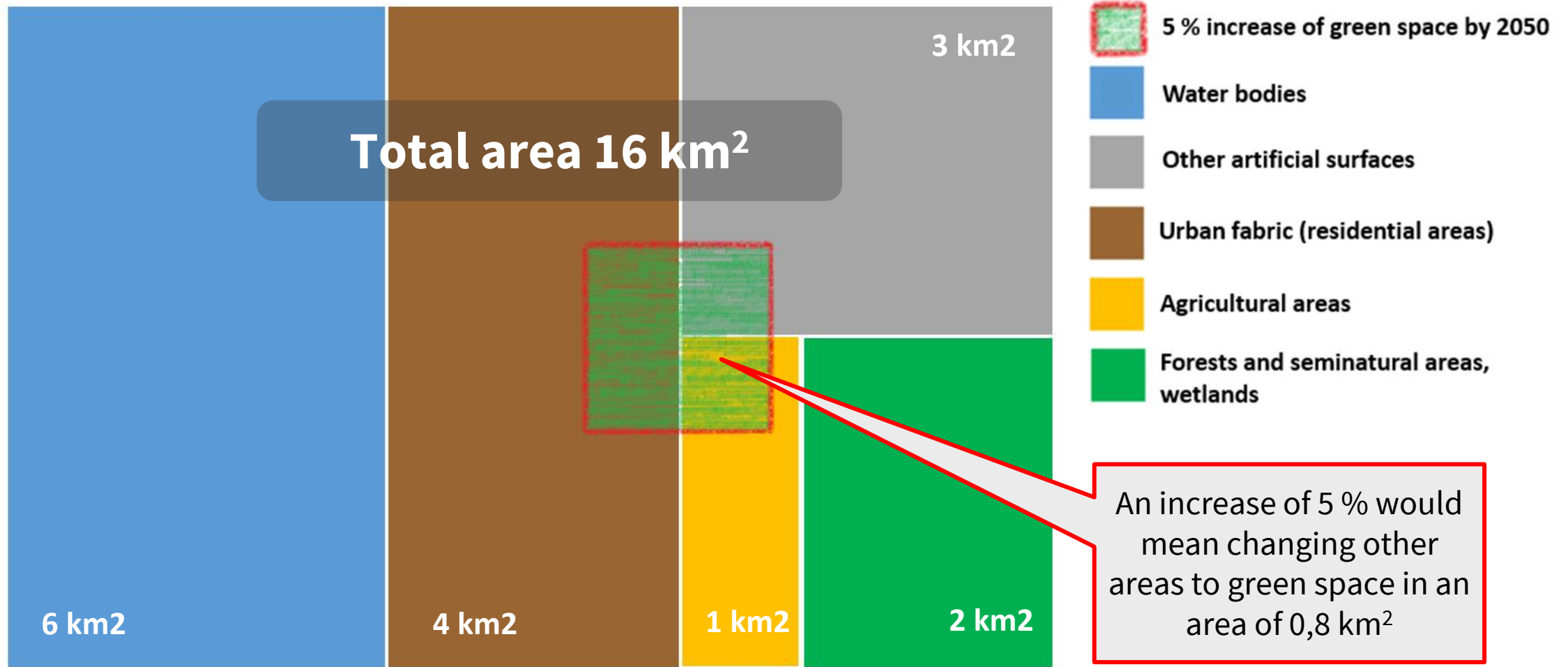


# Land use in City of Madrid, Spain and the green space to be increased by 2050



Source: Urban Atlas 2018, Copernicus Land Monitoring Service

# Land use in City of Ioannina, Greece and the green space to be increased by 2050





# Further information:

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