

Finland's Seventh
National Communication
under the United Nations
Framework Convention on

CLIMATE CHANGE

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FOREWORD

Global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced rapidly in order to combat climate change and build a sustainable future. It is thus crucial to proceed with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and strengthen the efforts of all governments and stakeholders in climate action. Finland is strongly committed to this work.

The EU is currently preparing its Energy and Climate Package for implementing the Paris Agreement. We are working closely with other Member States to develop an ambitious 2030 work plan for the entire Union.

Finland is also preparing and implementing national measures actively. Our Climate Change Act entered into force in 2015. The Act established a framework for systematic and cost-effective planning and monitoring of Finland's climate policy measures.

Finland is on track to fulfil its EU-based 2020 emission reduction target with the existing policy measures. The Government's National Energy and Climate Strategy and the Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan are the two strategic instruments which outline the key actions for reaching the 2030 targets. Examples of concrete actions include phasing out coal in energy production, cutting by half the use of fossil oil and raising the share of renewables above 50 per cent of total energy consumption by 2030. And of course, the work does not end there. Finland aims to be carbon neutral by 2045. Especially in the sectors not covered by the EU emissions trading scheme, new policy measures need to be introduced and existing instruments amplified.

Participation of stakeholders is a key element of the Finnish climate policy at both national and international levels. Municipalities have taken an active role in climate policy at the local level. Urban planning is one of the key elements in reducing emissions: developing low-carbon and energy-efficient construction, transportation and energy solutions as well as strengthening city carbon sinks are essential. On the other hand, our everyday choices – what we eat, how we warm our houses or move from one place to another – make a difference. Finland's Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan acknowledges the importance of citizens' active participation in climate action and encourages us all to reduce our carbon footprint.

In Finland, there is a growing interest towards the interface between science and policy in the field of climate change. Research funding institutions are developing innovative approaches to strengthen policy relevant research agendas with an active interaction with policy making. The Finnish Climate Change Panel, which was established in 2012, now has a formal role under the Climate Change Act. The Panel is an independent multidisciplinary actor that produces recommendations and assessments to inform policy-making.

Action in adaptation to climate change is necessary alongside its mitigation. Finland is currently focusing on capacity building in risk management, based on prior work done on mainstreaming adaptation. A proper understanding of the risks and vulnerabilities caused by climate change, both domestically and globally, is at the core of climate policy.

Finland's seventh National Communication was prepared in cooperation with several ministries, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the

Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, and the Ministry of the Interior, and Statistics Finland. Statistics Finland coordinated the preparations and compiled the National Communication. In addition, many research centres and expert organisations provided expertise in the preparations, including the Academy of Finland, the Finnish Environment Institute, the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), the Finnish Meteorological Institute, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, the Finnish National Board of Education, the Energy Authority, the Finnish Transport Safety Agency, the Finnish Transport Agency, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, and Motiva Oy.

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