



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

**Climate
Change**

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Foreword

Global warming must be limited to 1.5°C to avoid the worst effects of climate crisis. Yet global emissions continue to increase and the implementation of nationally determined contributions is not sufficient to keep temperature rise below 1.5 degrees. It is thus crucial to swiftly implement the Paris Agreement and strengthen the efforts of all governments and stakeholders in climate action. Finland remains strongly committed to this work.

The EU has already finalized some elements of its Fit For 55 legislative climate package that will reduce emissions by at least 57 % by 2030 and help pave the way to a climate neutral EU by 2050. We continue to work closely to ensure ambitious outcomes for the remaining elements of the Fit For 55 package.

Finland's obligation under EU legislation was to reduce emissions from the effort-sharing sector by 16% by 2020 compared to the 2005 emission level. Finland achieved its 2020 emission reduction target through national measures. Finland's new effort-sharing obligation will be to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030. These negotiations are expected to be finalized before the end of 2022.

And of course, the work does not end there. Finland aims to be climate neutral by 2035. In connection with the reform of the Climate Act in 2022, new emission reduction targets were included in the Act. These targets were set based on the recommendation of the Finnish Climate Change Panel. Finland's new national target is to reduce emissions by 60% by 2030 and to be carbon neutral by 2035. The Climate Act also establishes a framework for systematic planning and monitoring of Finland's climate policy measures.

To achieve these necessary targets, new policy measures need to be introduced and existing instruments strengthened. Actions necessary to achieve the 2030 emission reduction targets and the 2035 carbon neutrality target are outlined in three new plans: the Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan, National Climate and Energy Strategy and Climate Plan for the Land Use sector submitted to the Parliament in the summer of 2022. However, recent preliminary data shows that the carbon removals in the Land Use Sector might be significantly smaller than expected and consequently the Climate Plan for the Land Use sector must be re-evaluated in the future.

Participation of stakeholders is a key element of the Finnish climate policy at both national and international levels. Sectoral low-carbon road maps have been developed by industries and organisations as a sector-based approach to the national climate neutrality target in 2035. The Climate Policy Roundtable, set up in 2020, brings all key stakeholders even more closely together to prepare Finland's national climate actions.

Municipalities have taken an active role in climate policy at the local level. Many Finnish municipalities already have climate targets and the Climate Act will be supplemented by the end of 2022 to include a new obligation for the municipalities. In the future, the Act obliges municipalities to draw up climate plans once every four years, either alone or together with other municipalities in the region.

In Finland, there has been 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 policymaking. The Finnish Climate Change Panel has a formal role in national climate policy under the Climate Act. The Panel is an independent multidisciplinary actor that produces recommendations and assessments to inform policy-making. In addition, Finnish researchers have collaborated actively with the international research community in the form of joint projects and programmes.

Adaptation to climate change is necessary alongside mitigation. Finland was among the first countries in the world to draw up a climate change adaptation strategy in 2005. The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan is being revised at the moment and it will steer adaptation work until 2030. Research and assessments on climate impacts are instrumental as a basis for adaptation measures. 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 eighth National Communication was prepared in cooperation between 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 centers 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 Agency for Education, the Energy Authority, the Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finance Finland and Motiva Oy.

I would like to thank all the experts for their valuable contributions in preparing this report.

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Maria Ohisalo

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