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Towards Carbon Neutral Municipalities

An innovative approach to climate change mitigation at local level

Laura Saikku, The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) 2020 #Hinku | @SYKEint



Some comments on ERCTS methodology

- In Finland, climate commitments are made through national Hinku-network that enlargens at a fastening speed. Only a few municipalities/larges cities included in international larger network.
- Difficulties in defining: high-quality commitment, Technological viability, Monitoring mechanism, Governance and Social acceptability. Additionality criteria need very thorough undestanding





Voluntary climate commitments of Finland – The Hinku network

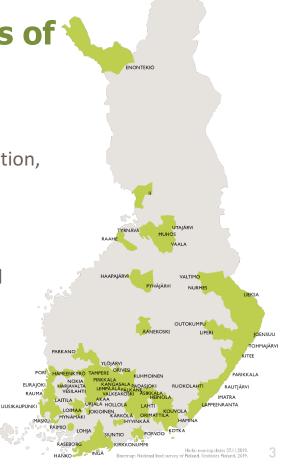
33% of the population

23%	
of municipalities	

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Hinku Regions Target: GHG emissions -80 % by 2030 from 2007

- Scope: reduction in electricity, heating, transportation, agriculture and waste management (excl. industry under the EU ETS), 60% of total in 2017
- Commitment with a decision by municipal council
- One contact point, working group to be appointed
- 72 municipalities, over 1 887 500 inhabitants
- Also larger cities and regions have joined
- Coordinated by the Finnish Environment Institute





Has joining Hinku influenced emission reductions?

- The impact of Hinku on municipality's GHG emission in 2005-2017 estimated.
- Panel regression model, where a large set of exogenous variables was included, e.g. the monthly mean temperatures and precipitation, fuel prices, urbanity and land surface area, gross domestic product in the municipality, and mean sociodemographic characteristics of the population in each municipality.
- The results show that there is a highly statistically significant and negative relationship between municipality's GHG emissions and being a Hinkumunicipality.
- However, possible self-selection bias need to be studied, there might be a
 possibility that the GHG emissions of Hinku-municipalities could have been
 lower even without them becoming members of Hinku.





The perceived role of the Hinku network

- Motivation, inspiration; peer support
- Almost half feel that expert support has been important
- Organisational support, justification of action in the municipality
- Positive PR image and communication support
- 10% felt that the network has had no impact





Joining the network trough council desions - Real Commitment to climate work?

- Willingness to act has improved in some municipalities
- Slow impact in concrete actions in many:
- bureaucracy, organisational changes, changes in personnel, resources, difficulties in implementation at the strategic level
- No understanding of the ambition of the targets in the first place





Forerunners?

Half of the municipalities don't see themselves as forerunners:

- no real action yet
- no dissemination about the Hinku-work
- no special activities,
- forerunner maybe later
- forerunner only at some sectors
- Municipalities make commitments with assumption that state-level policies will automatically reduce emissions.



