



Barents cooperation on climate change

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Climate change in the north

- The Arctic warming faster than the world as a whole
 - Changes in ecosystems and ecosystem services
 - Changes for those who live and operate in the Arctic
- Continued or accelerating losses in sea ice, snow and glaciers
- Freshening and warming of the Arctic Ocean
- Thawing of permafrost
- Ecological shifts
- When ice and snow melts, it enhances the global climate change, melting glaciers accelerate sea level rise
- Thawing permafrost releases additional carbon dioxide and methane. Global climate change accelerates



Some weather-related phenomena with unexpected economical and/or social consequences

- Floods
- Storms
- Landslides
- Erosion
- Increased precipitation
- Snow-load
- Drought
- Wild fires
- Plant diseases and invasive species



Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Region - background

- First edition adopted in 2013
 - concrete activities to be implemented by the Working Groups
 - mitigation, adaptation, research and outreach
- Second edition in 2017
 - Activities scheduled for 2017-2020

Adoption of the Updated Action Plan in October 2021 in the BEAC meeting

Declaration of the XVII Session of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC), Umeå 2019

Foreign Ministers

- “The Council noted with concern that the Barents region is warming at more than twice the rate of the global average, which will severely affect the ecosystems, societies and communities, including the livelihood of indigenous peoples, stressed the need for all the Working Groups to continue implement the Barents Action Plan on Climate Change and encouraged further activities in the area.”

Declaration of the Fourteenth Meeting of Environment Ministers, Luleå 2020

- “welcomed the implementation of the Action Plan on Climate Change and called for strengthened climate action beyond 2020 with enhanced contributions from all Barents Working Groups;”



Guiding question

How the BEAC (and the WGs) could support the regions and municipalities in the Barents region in transitioning to low-carbon, climate-smart solutions and to enhance the adaptation capacity and awareness?

Climate activities in the Barents region - some examples

- Inventories of greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions
- Barents 2050 – Impacts, opportunities, and risks of climate change and climate change mitigation (2017)
- Regional Climate Strategies and projects in the Barents region – sharing
- Awareness raising of climate change in the Barents region
- Climate aspects in the forest sector
- Protected areas network
- Promoting greener transport system in the Barents region
- Climate change and health issues
- Sustainable tourism
- Policies and investments for a climate smart Barents Region –webinar on April 27, report soon available

Relevant reports from the Barents and Arctic Regions

- Barents 2050 Report initiated by the BEAC Working Group on Environment (WGE) under the Norwegian Chairmanship in 2017
 - how the Barents region can make the transition to a low carbon society where the goals of Paris agreement on climate change are fulfilled.
- Arctic Council Reports;
 - Arctic Climate Change Update 2021: Key Trends and Impacts. Summary for Policy-makers
 - Arctic Climate Change Update 2019 - An Update To Key Findings Of Snow, Water, Ice And Permafrost In The Arctic (Swipa) 2017
 - Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic: Perspectives from the Barents Area (2017)
 - Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF) 2017 – 2019 Implementation Project Final Project Report

Thank you!

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