

Update of Action Plan on Climate Change

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WGE Chair

Action Plan update, why?

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

- “The Council underlined that climate change and its consequences need to be resolutely addressed, affirmed its commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and emphasised the need for ambitious concerted action in this regard, as recalled by the latest scientific research.”
- “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;”



Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Region - background

- First edition adopted in 2013
 - concrete activities to be realized by the Working Groups
 - mitigation, adaptation, research and outreach
 - Second edition in 2017
 - Activities scheduled for 2017-2020
- = Time to update the Action Plan





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?

Elements of the update process

- Cross-sectoral document owned by the BEAC as a whole
- Under the guidance of the CSOs in close cooperation with the WGs
- Coordination and facilitation by the IBS
- Strengthen action, launch new activities (not only update existing work)
- Increase joint efforts in sectors with biggest mitigation capacity, as well as adaptation and awareness raising activities;
- Promote practical activities of special relevance for the regions, counties, municipalities
- Take into account the vulnerabilities of the region
- Take into account the Climate Strategies of the Barents counties, cities and municipalities, and indigenous peoples and the relevant recent reports from the Arctic and Barents regions



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 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 □
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Schedule and next steps

- January, 2021 Kick-off meeting with the CSO Chair and the Chairs of the Working Groups [CSO Chair and WGE Chair]
- End of February 2021: first round of preliminary inputs from the Working Groups [WG Chairs and RC will send the inputs to IBS]
- April 2021: Climate Smart Barents Region Webinar – [Norway]
- April 2021: Meeting (a week after the webinar) with the CSO Chair, WG Chairs and RC to go through the results of the Climate Webinar and preliminary plans of the WGs. Identify possible synergies between the WGs [CSO Chair and WGE Chair]
- May 2021: Second round of inputs from the Working Groups and RC [IBS will compile the inputs in a plain text]
- June-July 2021: Compilation, drafting and editing – introduction, analysis etc [IBS together with the WGE or a consultant?]
- August 2021: round of comments for compiled draft [CSO, WGs, RC]
- September 2021: finalization of the Action Plan [IBS]
- last week of September: Action Plan will be approved by the e-mail correspondence between the Ministers of the Environment
- Adoption of the Action Plan in October 2021 in the BEAC meeting [CSO]



Thank you!

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