

**BEST
PRACTICE**



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Hinku Forum: Towards carbon neutral municipalities

36 Hinku Municipalities, Finland – 678 200 inhabitants

Clean technology – Mitigation – Public/Private partnership

The Carbon Neutral Municipalities project brings municipalities, businesses, citizens and experts together to create and carry out solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Project in a Nutshell

The project is coordinated by the Finnish Environment Institute and aims to create solutions bringing economic and social benefits as well as environmental ones. A large group of companies and experts are involved as partners. The municipalities involved are committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions more extensively and rapidly than requested under EU targets i.e. 80% by 2030. Local authorities, business representatives, residents, research institutes and experts work together to devise and tailor new cost-effective solutions to reduce emissions, especially in the context of transportation, housing and food. Information about the consequent new tools and ideas are publicised in Finland and internationally.

Impact & Next steps

Since 2007 the Hinku municipalities have reduced their GHG emissions on average 29%. Most of the cut is due to positive changes in energy sector, i.e. in emissions caused by electricity use and fossil fuel consumption. A steady change from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources has taken place in many Hinku municipalities. In some Hinku municipalities agriculture and waste management have also affected positively on emission cuts.

When the project was launched, five municipalities were committed to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the level of 2007 by 2030. Since then, 31 new municipalities became part of the project. New municipalities, as well as companies from energy and climate sector are welcome to join.

Replicability: Challenges & Success Factors

By being part of the network, cities need to commit to the targets, but have also access to a series of benefits in terms of sharing of information, technical support to the preparation of projects and initiatives, emission calculation services and tools, communication supports. The companies joining the initiative gain visibility for their products and services.

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