



SUOMEN  
ILMASTOPANEELI  
The Finnish Climate  
Change Panel

*Role and functioning of national and regional climate laws and climate committees in  
the light of EU climate and energy policies II*

*• Brussels June 19, 2017*

# The climate law in Finland

Markku Ollikainen  
Chair of the Finnish Climate Change Panel

# The Finnish Climate Act (2015)

Accepted by the Finnish Parliament on 22.5. 2015

- Votes: 150 – 33 (absent 27)
- One party was opposed the act but later changed its view

A framework law:

- Obligations only to authorities
- No obligations to agents in the economy



# Climate Act - a policy framework

***Defines*** a framework for planning, implementing and assessing climate policies

***Improves*** cooperation among government offices (ministries) in mitigation and adaptation

***Strengthens*** the role of the Parliament in designing climate policies

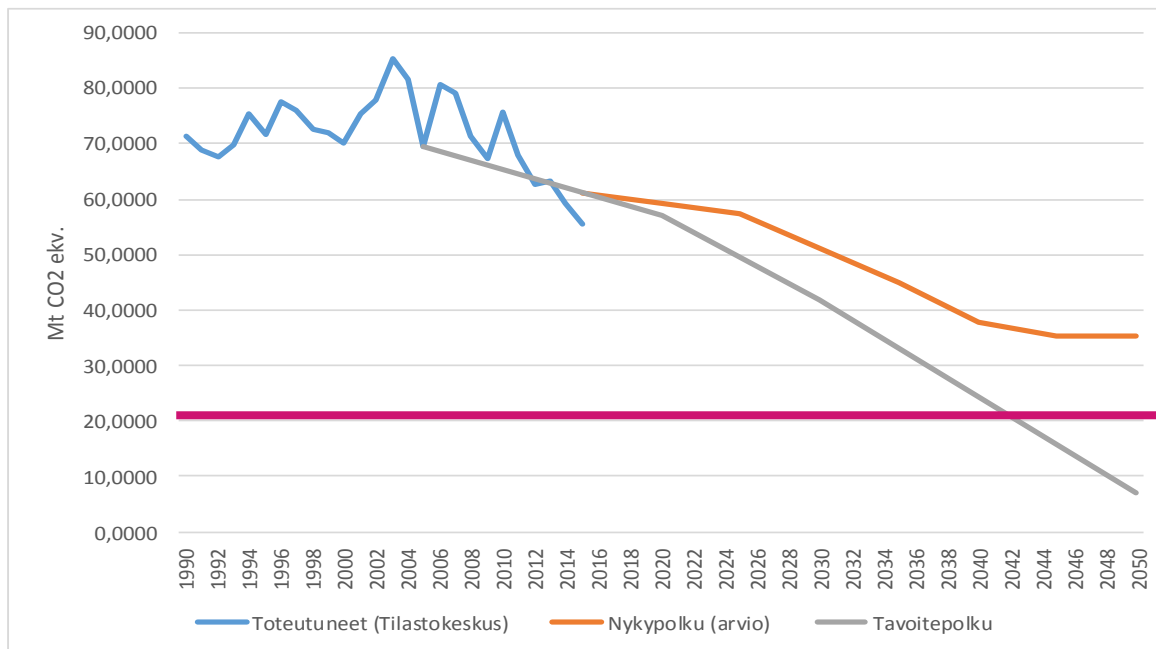


**The policy framework facilitates efficient national response to EU and global climate policies**

# Climate Act: Goal for emissions in 2050

**Goal:** at least 80 % reduction relative to 1990 emissions by 2050

**Qualification:** goal will be tightened according to what climate science suggests



## Year 2050

### Goal & emissions

80 % : 14.3 Mt

90 % : 7.1 Mt

95 % : 3.6 Mt

**Carbon sink - 20.5 Mt**

**C-neutrality by 2042**

**Decision makers:** no understanding of the urgency to take strong actions now

# Climate Act: the planning framework



The *Government's annual report of climate actions* to the Parliament

- Should be given next year
- Not in preparation, CCP is alert on this issue

Long-term plan for climate policies

- Every 10th year
- Work on the plan will start in the near future
- Ministry of the Environment

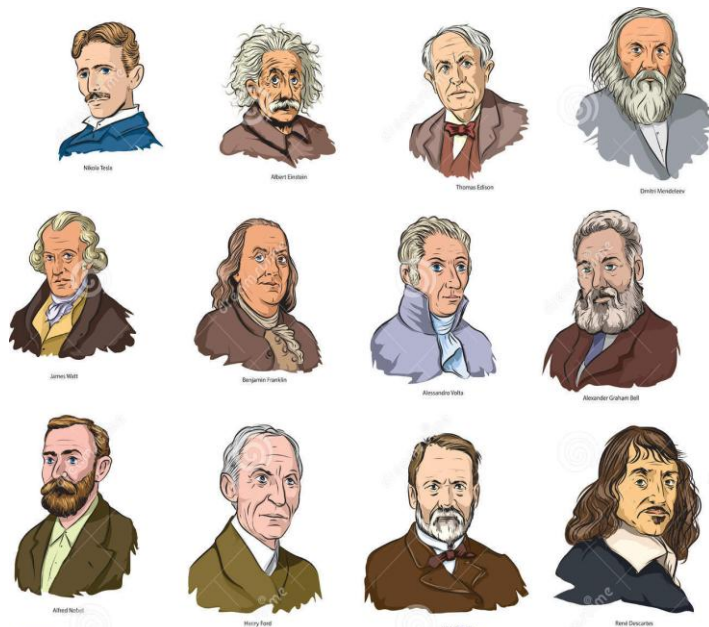
Mid-term climate plan

- Every 4th year
- The first one published for comments on May 2017
- Ministry of the Environment

Adaptation plan

- Every 10th year
- Not now on the agenda
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

# Climate Act: the Climate Change Panel



CCP is a multidisciplinary panel that uses the research groups of the panel members

**Promotes public debate** on and awareness of climate issues

**Makes proposals** concerning climate policy research and conducts surveys on topics it finds important

**Provides advice** to policy makers (the government) and planners (ministries) in climate issues (e.g. climate reports)

**Follows the implementation** of climate policies and assesses its coherence

# Experience this far

## Climate law has been taken seriously

- Mid-term plan designed
- Parliament Committees invite assessments by the CCP
- CCP helped ME by providing the framework for composing the mid-term plan
- An obvious problem: expertise in Ministries on economic issues is quite weak



## A parallel activity: Energy and climate strategy (ECS)

- Accepted before the Mid-term plan (2016)
- Strong emphasis on the use of biomass in energy and biofuel production
- Main choices of the ECS were taken as the starting points for the mid-term plan

## Competition in climate policy issues, especially in tax policy

- Mid-term plan has no proposals on the use of taxes or subsidies
- Ministry of Finance reserves rights to tax policy
- Weakens climate policy & does not help to utilize full potential of the climate law

# Bioeconomy and forest sink controversy

## Government (ECS)

- Increase harvesting by 15 Mm<sup>3</sup> and the share of biofuels up to 30% in transport
- Use of 3-4 Mm<sup>3</sup> wood from forests for biofuels

## Three implications in debate

- Forest sink decreases,
- Biofuels from trees shift emissions from the effort sharing sector to LULUCF sector,
- Forest biodiversity declines

Huge debate going on since 2015



**Controversy:** some forestry researchers against some environmental researchers



## CCP and the controversy

- The first CCP report on forest sinks in 2015: biomass use is not carbon neutral
- The Minister of the Environment started round table discussions by calling the key debating researchers to give their opinions
- CCP invited 30 researchers and 10 ministry representatives to a set of workshops, where we used a negotiation method to find out on which issues all researchers agree
- This report was published in May 2017: forest researchers are unanimous on the key issues
- The report received huge and very positive attention



**The Finnish CCP  
a respected and much used  
climate actor**

## Forest reports (in English):

Jyri Seppälä, Markku Kanninen, Timo Vesala, Jussi Uusivuori, Tuomo Kalliokoski, Jussi Lintunen, Laura Saikku, Riitta Korhonen, Anna Repo 2015. **Climate impacts of forest use and carbon sink development. Report 3/2015.**

Jyri Seppälä, Antti Asikainen, Tuomo Kalliokoski, Markku Kanninen, Sirkka Koskela, Ilkka Ratinen, Johanna Routa 2017. **Main messages from researchers concerning the climate impacts of forest utilization. Report 1/2017.**

Download at:

<http://www.ilmastopaneeli.fi/fi/in-english/reports/>



SUOMEN  
ILMA**STOP**PANEELI  
The Finnish Climate  
Change Panel