

Subject: Adapting to the likely impacts of climate change in Rovaniemi
– Launch meeting of Clim-ATIC subproject in Rovaniemi

Time: Friday 29.08.2008, 09:30 – 12:30

Place: City Hall, Hallituskatu 7, Rovaniemi

Present: Martti Anttila, City of Rovaniemi, Deputy City Manager, chairman
Kari Tiermas, City of Rovaniemi, Head of Security Services
Leena Suopajärvi, University of Lapland, Lecturer
Viljo Keskitalo, City of Rovaniemi, Planning Engineer
Petteri Bäck, Napapiirin Residuum Ltd, Managing Director
Leena Karessuo, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities,
Director
Kaisu Anttonen, City of Tampere, Environment Manager
Riku Lavia, Lapin Kansa (local newspaper, during the speeches)
Jari Järviluoma, University of Lapland, Project Planner
Seija Tuulentie, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Senior Researcher
Miikka Halonen, Lapland Regional Environment Centre,
Development Manager
Olli Peuraniemi, City of Rovaniemi, City Engineer
Erkki Lehtoniemi, City of Rovaniemi, Head of Environmental Supervision
Sari Sivonen, University of Lapland, Research Assistant, secretary

11:15 > Jorma Korva, City of Rovaniemi, Head of City Planning

SPEECHES

Opening

Deputy City Manager Martti Anttila

Anttila welcomed all the participants to the launch meeting of Clim-ATIC subproject in Rovaniemi. Anttila stated that climate change is a current issue that people around the world are experiencing to be a serious problem. The climate change can be considered on many levels; global level, European Union level (directives and execution) and local point of view. The role of the municipalities is also considerable in many ways; current issues in Rovaniemi are for example connected with energy production, a new power plant (aiming at increasing use of wood), city planning (concentrated city structure), detailed city plans in the city centre (viewpoints from the project) and the extreme weather events, especially flooding and impacts of climate change on tourism.

Overall presentation of the Clim-ATIC project

Development Manager Miikka Halonen, Lapland Regional Environment Centre

Halonen presented the first stages of the Clim-ATIC project; organization, budget, project study areas, themes and regional adaptation interests. The eventual aim of the project is to establish an information centre that provides information, training and advice services concerning climate change adaptation for municipalities, enterprises and regional authorities in the Northern Periphery. The Clim-ATIC project concentrates on four key themes: risk management and response, sustainable transport, local sustainable energy management and tourism. The emphasis in Finnish Lapland – Rovaniemi, Kittilä and Kolari – is on risk management and response (floods) and tourism.

Regional climate change sceneries will be drawn by using the existing models and data (Finnish Environment Institute and Arctic Centre). Regional climate change adaptation strategies will be drawn by using climate change visualization and regional brainstorming and planning meetings. During the project 12 separate demonstration projects will be implemented and the experiences and results of these demonstration projects will be spread between the project countries. Also a business plan for the information, training and advice service will be drawn; the University of the Arctic's thematic network will be used and the aim is to establish an information centre to all of the regions.

Municipalities and Climate Change

Director Leena Karessuo, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

Karessuo stated that the climate change has effects on many local, concrete issues that municipalities are responsible for. These are for example street maintenance, flood protection, building, health service etc. The municipalities in Finland can influence on reducing emissions through actions in energy protection, planning and land use direction, public transport, purchases, waste management and distributing information.

Karessuo said that there is also a need to clarify the responsibilities; how do we share the liabilities concerning the risks of the extreme weather events and their possible effects? Should the real estate owners be responsible or would it be possible to insure the estates against floods? Also the state should bear a sufficient responsibility for flood protection. According to Karessuo the municipalities have three challenging issues: 1) How to support the residents and businesses so that the consciousness on climate change will turn into concrete actions?, 2) How to act in the pressures of contradictory trends?, and 3) How to turn the inevitable changes into possibilities?

The municipalities have possibilities to act on concrete levels, for example concerning 1) regional climate issues, traffic, planning and community structure, 2) planning and implementing ecologically effective communities, 3) mapping of risks and preparing for them and 4) organizing information services for the residents.

Karessuo said that the role of municipalities is to secure the community structure and its' functions as well as to act as a meeting place for the residents and information. The municipalities should inform the residents of climate change and ways of restraining and adapting to the changes. On the other hand the municipalities should aim at utilizing the awareness of the residents. At the same time the economical effects of climate change should be considered; some examples: 1) the economical growth may slow

down (strongest influence on metal and building industries) 2) demand of new products and techniques (opportunities for example in electronics and metal industry), 3) impacts on tourism (could there be positive impacts on tourism in Lapland, on the other hand the prices of air traffic are arising), and 4) impacts on agriculture and forestry (possible growth of productiveness, spreading of diseases, increase in demand for timber).

Experiences in working with the Tampere Regional Climate Strategy
Environment Manager Kaisu Anttonen, City of Tampere

Anttonen presented organizing of the Tampere Regional Climate Strategy and its progress. We need to be prepared and adapt to the climate change on local and regional level, as well as restrict the emissions. The Tampere Regional Climate Strategy is drawn in close cooperation with other projects that are ongoing in the fields of regional land use planning, housing policy, traffic and planning of service network. Reports of other projects give basic information and future options that can be used and evaluated in the process of drawing the climate strategy and vice versa.

The plan is to restrain the climate change through measures in energy production and different forms of energy; by energy and climate conventions, by integrated and low energy solutions in land use and building, and by reasonable traffic organization and acquisitions. We will aim at adaptation by identifying the risks and managing the land use, and also by influencing on municipal engineering, building and estate maintenance. The Tampere Regional Climate Strategy is based on basic reports: information and scenarios of greenhouse gas and energy balances in the area. The main issue is extensive cooperation and integrated planning between land use, traffic and energy policy.

The climate change strategy will result in a regional action plan for Tampere and the surrounding areas. The action plan will include target levels, actions, liabilities, timetables and costs of restraining and getting prepared for the problems caused by the climate change. In addition we will also draw up a letter of intention concerning the implementation of the action plan. The letter of intention will also include the most important measures for restraining the greenhouse gases and preparing for the climate change.

Clim-ATIC subproject in Rovaniemi:
Requirements for adaptation strategy and outlining the stages of drawing up the strategy
Lecturer Leena Suopajärvi and Project Planner Jari Järviluoma

Suopajärvi presented the Clim-ATIC subproject in Rovaniemi; the aim is to produce information and viewpoints for the City of Rovaniemi and the community adaptation plan. The purpose of the adaptation strategy is to prepare the community for the problems and potential advantages of climate change. Referring to John Moore's research material Suopajärvi stated that in Rovaniemi the climate change will probably have impacts especially on tourism; the fact that Rovaniemi area will get snow cover later than before threatens the so called Christmas tourism. Suopajärvi also stressed the importance of participatory planning throughout the project.

Järviluoma presented the project scheme of the activities that are implemented by the University of Lapland (Faculty of Social Sciences) and the City of Rovaniemi. During the autumn 2008 the

university will arrange expert panels on different themes. The panels will be provided with following background material: 1) climate change data and models from the Finnish Environment Institute and the Arctic Centre, 2) results from the www-questionnaire addressed to the residents and 3) literary surveys compiled by Järviluoma. The aim of this subproject is to draw a manuscript of climate change adaptation plan in Rovaniemi. Järviluoma also suggested that instead of five themes and expert panels the themes will be united into three themes and panels.

DISCUSSION AND FOLLOWING MEASURES

- It was agreed that the themes will be united as follows:
 - 1) energy and waste management > Martti Anttila will inquire for the chairman
 - 2) community planning and traffic > Jorma Korva, Head of City Planning, chairman
 - 3) tourism > Tuula Rintala-Gardin, Tourism Manager, chairman
- 8 - 10 experts will be invited to each panel, Lapland Regional Environment Centre will be represented when needed.
- In addition to civil servants it is very important in the early stage of the planning to engage politicians, residents and representatives of different lines of businesses and industry > this will be taken into consideration by compiling as heterogeneous expert panels as possible.
- Expert panels will also have introductory speeches presented by specialists when possible.
- A www-questionnaire addressed to the candidates that are running for the municipal council will be carried out. It will be attempted to get their opinions and ideas concerning climate change issues to the www-site where the candidates are introduced.
- The questionnaire addressed to the residents will be based on the candidates' questionnaire and its results.
- Information service is important > project website will be updated continuously.