

Climate policy for Reykjavik capital region

Draft proposal

8 March 2022
Webinar

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Association of municipalities in the Capital area



Presentation Programme

1. Context
2. Reykjavik Capital Region Carbon Footprint
3. Climate policy: draft proposal

Small print: Presentation simplifies national and local context, policy, projects. Author is not a climate expert but an urban planner.



Context

Office of Association of municipalities in the Capital area

- Owned and funded by 7 municipalities.
- Not a regional government (Iceland has two tiers, national government and local municipalities that set own budget, policy, independence protected in constitution).
- Board of directors: mayors of each municipality – represent shareholders (municipalities)
- Five people work at office.

What we do

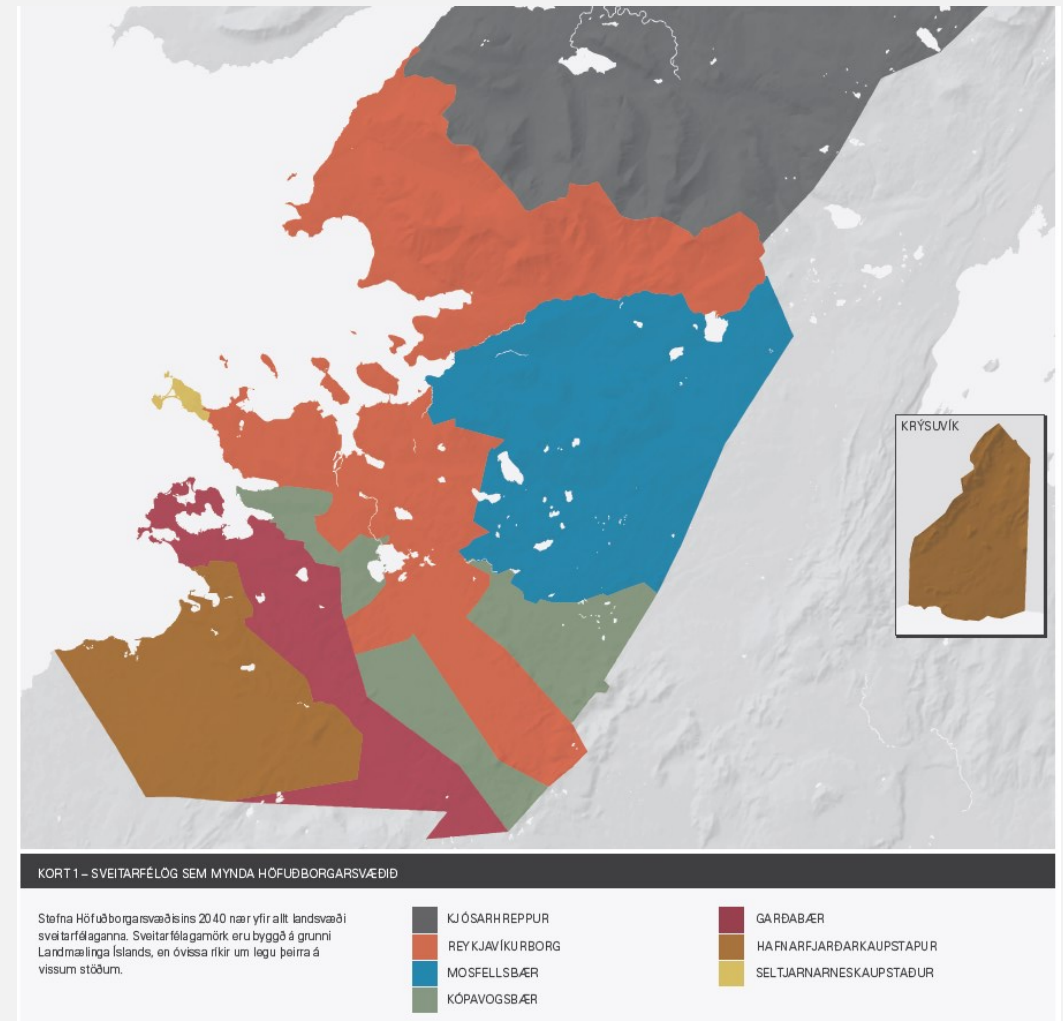
- Lobbying, represent interest of owners
- Neutral meeting space for municipalities to co-operate and negotiate.
- Project Management (Regional masterplan, Transport agreement with state, Water reservoir masterplan, development of ski recreation area...)

Reykjavík	56.3 %
Kópavogur	16.2%
Hafnarfjörður	12.5%
Garðabær	7.5%
Mosfellsbær	5.3%
Seltjarnarnes	2%
Kjós	0,1%
Population 01.01.2021	236.522



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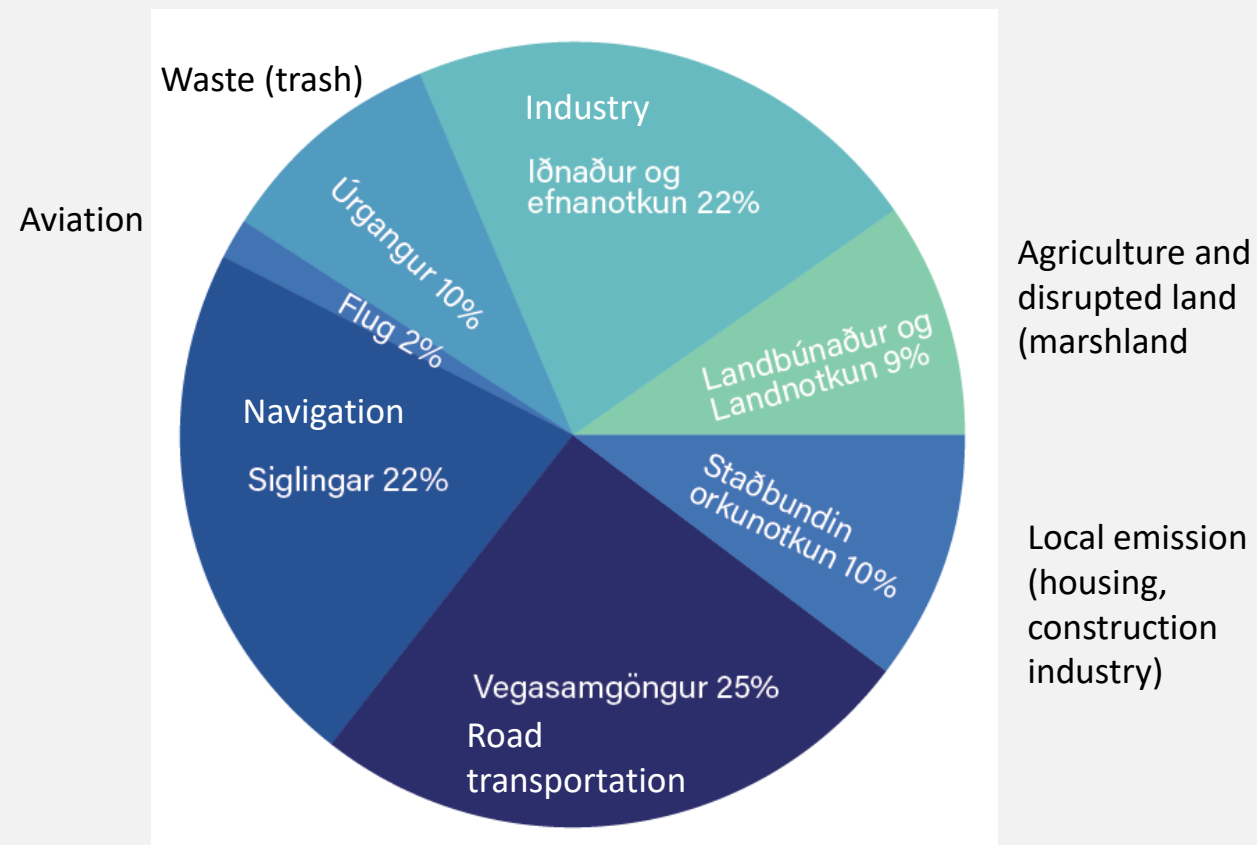
Reykjavik Capital Region Carbon Footprint

About

- Commissioned to office by owners
- Funded through a joint national / local government project

How we did it?

- Hired a local firm (Environice inc.)
- Required to use internationally recognized methods that can be repeated using same method
- Set up an advisory group with members from each municipality to guide and inform
- Environice and group met every 2-3 weeks. Work took 6 months.
- Final product a report with carbon footprint for year 2019 + a memo with recommendations for next steps



Reykjavik Capital Region climate policy – draft proposal

About

- Following completion of carbon footprint project, a recommendation was made to board to draft a climate policy for entire region.
- Board forwarded recommendation to municipalities for approval – all municipalities approved and project continued.
- **Objective to produce a regional climate policy for municipalities to work within – implementation would be enforced within each municipality – not from above.**

How we did it?

- Hired a local firm (Environice inc.). Advisory group with members from each municipality continued to work, to guide and inform.
- Environice and group met every 2-3 weeks. Work took 4 months.
- Project products delivered to board in January 2022 which forwarded to municipalities for review.



Reykjavik Capital Region climate policy – draft proposal

Products delivered:

- 1) Climate policy draft (2 pages: 1 vision, 14 operations)
- 2) Toolkit with recommendations: actions / policy / other initiatives to assist municipalities in implementing policy.



Reykjavik Capital Region climate policy – draft proposal

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Vision (translation)

Municipalities aim to reach carbon neutrality by 2035, with a combination of carbon reduction and carbon storage.

Municipalities aim to not approve new projects that work against vision without countermeasures.

Municipalities aim to reach above vision with following operations:

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Operations:

- 1) Support green transport modes (walking, cycling, busses). Integrate urban and transport planning so population can access housing, services, employment with green transport modes.
- 2) Support automobile energy exchange, from fossil fuel to other energy usages.
- 3) Support energy exchange in harbors – electrification for ships at bay
- 4) Increase public e-services.
- 5) Responsible soil management, protect and increase wetlands, reduce and re-use soil from construction, reduce soil pollution.
- 6) Increase carbon storage with forestation and other natural land reclamation.
- 7) Responsible food management and food waste reduction.
- 8) Support low carbon construction methods and recycling in constructions.
- 9) Green accounting, purchase products and services that have a low carbon certification
- 10) Responsible waste management and recycling, incl. food waste.
- 11) Encourage and support private businesses in reducing carbon footprint.
- 12) Implement climate adaptation for future urban planning projects.
- 13) Increase education on all school levels and public campaigns.
- 14) Consider social justice when implementing operations, such as gender, age, class, ableism.

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Toolkit

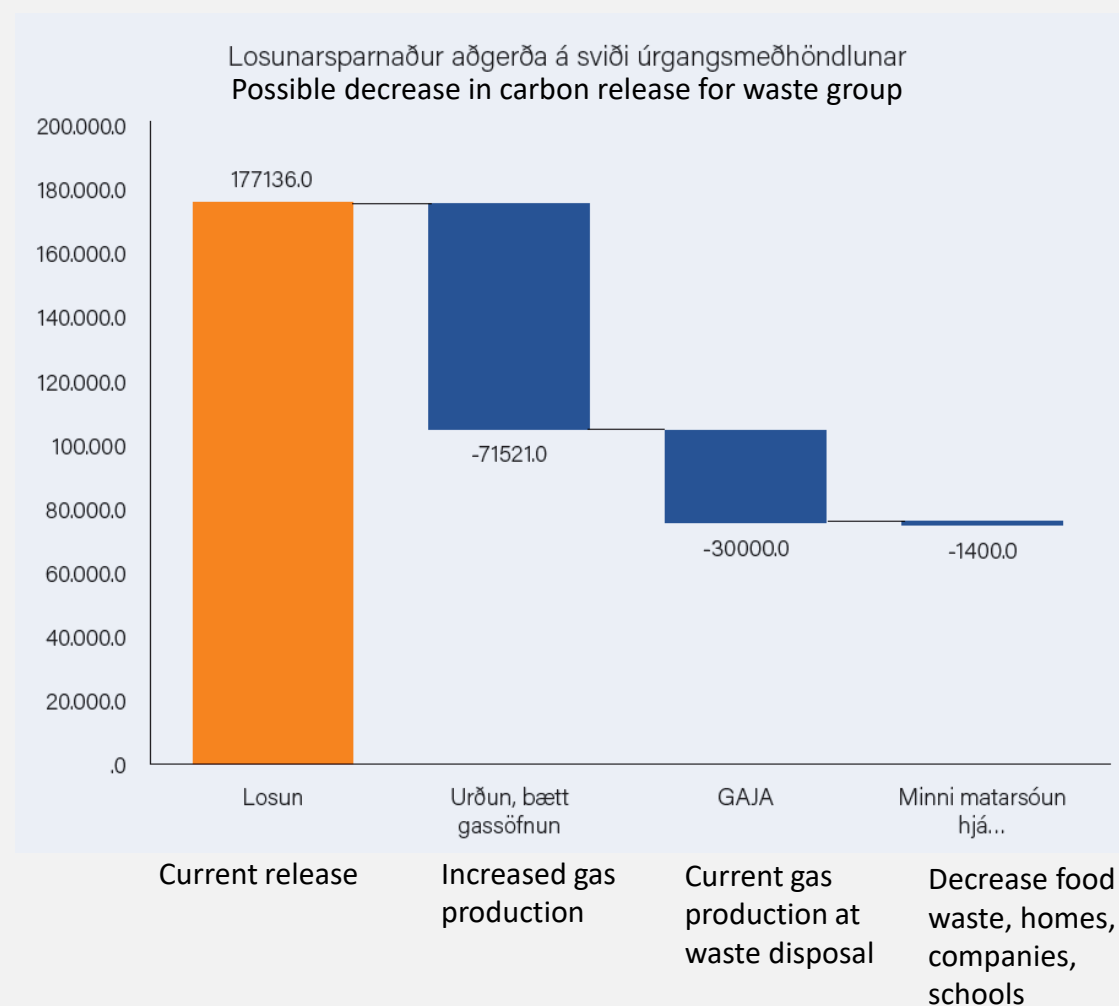
- Ideas and best practices for actions for implementation
- Non binding

General ideas

- Increase usage of public transportation
- Build infrastructure for e-cars
- Invest in low carbon operations for municipalities (cars, machines etc)

General ideas

- Transportation contracts with students and employees
- Support students to delay getting a driving licence
- Increase gas production from biowaste
- Define low carbon zones within neighborhoods



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Next steps:

- 1) Municipalities review and approve policy draft
- 2) If approved, will become official climate policy for each municipality
- 3) Each municipality responsible for implementation of policy – binding?

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