

Projects funded in Climate change and humans (CLIMATE) SRC Programme

Individuals, communities and municipalities mitigating climate change by carbon smart green space (CO-CARBON)

Consortium PI: Leena Järvi, University of Helsinki

Consortium composition: Ranja Hautamäki, Juudit Ottelin: Aalto University; Christopher Raymond, University of Helsinki; Harri Mattila, Häme University of Applied Sciences; Liisa Kulmala, Finnish Meteorological Institute; Natalie Gulsrud, University of Copenhagen

Urban green spaces are seen as one potential method to mitigate climate change and its impacts on society. Vegetation and soil store atmospheric carbon, modify local climate and stormwater cycling and impact human well-being. The aim of CO-CARBON is to quantify the carbon storage of green spaces at different urban scales using novel measurements and process-based models at the same time when accounting for other socio-ecological factors and support practical operations for the multiple planning and management needs of carbon-smart green spaces. The aim is to have carbon-smart green spaces to become a well-recognized part of urban transition at different societal levels. CO-CARBON will bring together atmospheric, soil and social scientists with landscape designers, urban planners, businesses, governmental and national bodies and residents. The project is done at the University of Helsinki, Aalto University, Finnish Meteorological Institute and Häme University of Applied Sciences.

<https://cocarbon.fi/en/>



Leaving No One Lost in Transition: Citizens and the Legitimacy of Finland's Transition to a Carbon Neutral Welfare State (2035Legitimacy)

Consortium PI: Kati Kulovesi, University of Eastern Finland

Consortium composition: Antti Belinskij, Suvi Huttunen: Finnish Environment Institute; Suvi Huttunen, University of Jyväskylä; Harri Kokkola, Finnish Meteorological Institute; Marita Laukkanen, VATT Institute for Economic Research; Päivi Leino-Sandberg, University of Helsinki

Finland's goal of being carbon neutral by 2035 is ambitious but achievable, and research is emerging concerning economic and technological options to implement it. However, the social and legitimacy dimensions of the carbon neutrality target have received much less attention. The 2035Legitimacy project is designed to address this important gap.

The project builds on the assumption that the societal transformation needed to achieve the 2035 carbon neutrality goal cannot be imposed on a democratic society; it requires widespread social support. The project will rely on multidisciplinary collaboration to study the legitimacy of Finland's 2035 carbon neutrality transition and opportunities to address related challenges, especially from the perspective of private citizens.

The project engages an extensive network of interaction partners and stakeholders representing state and municipal authorities, as well as academic, industry, labor and civil society organizations.

https://2035legitimacy.fi/2035legitimacy_en/



Nudging for climate: Using behavioral sciences for steering communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fortify carbon sinks (CLIMATE-NUDGE)

Consortium PI: Paula Salo, University of Turku

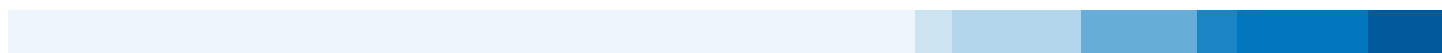
Consortium composition: Jenni Ervasti, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health; Jaana Halonen, Institute for Health and Welfare; Timo Lanki, University of Eastern Finland; Olli-Pekka Ruuskanen, Pellervo Economic Research PTT; Marko Tainio, Finnish Environment Institute

CLIMATE-NUDGE consortium applies behavioral sciences, especially nudge theory, to help individuals to make climate friendly decisions. The idea is to alter choice architecture to steer individuals towards better choices for them and for society without limiting freedom.

The nudges co-created and tested together with the stakeholders will focus on 1) decreasing greenhouse gas emissions in transport sector and 2) optimizing use of carbon storages in forest sector. The effects of nudges will be compared with the effects of more traditional societal steering methods, such as taxation.

To ensure creation of fair and acceptable actions, rigorous ethical evaluation is embedded in the process. Impacts for economic and health effects will be assessed. This multidisciplinary project delivers human-centric, scalable, cost-effective, health-promoting and ethically sustainable nudging alternatives that complement traditional steering actions to mitigate climate change.

<https://ilmastotuuppaus.fi/en/>



Citizens as agents of change in decarbonizing suburban and rural housing (Decarbon-Home)

Consortium PI: Anne Toppinen, University of Helsinki

Consortium composition: Venla Bernelius, University of Helsinki; David Lazarevic, Finnish Environment Institute; Katja Lähtinen, Natural Resources Institute Finland; Henna Syrjälä, University of Vaasa; Jarek Kurnitski, Tallinn University of Technology

The key objective of Decarbon-Home is to reduce equitably the climate impacts of the Finnish housing system and building stock, focusing on the suburbs and the rural peripheries. The project aims to address intertwined climate and societal challenges, and to accelerate the transition to climate-wise housing in Finland and in other countries facing similar problems. The six consortium partners collaborate closely in implementing four research-oriented WPs: 1) Citizens' and communities' agentic capacities for climate-wise housing; 2) Preconditions for, and constraints of, adopting climate-wise housing solutions, posed by socio-spatial segregation, values and attitudes; 3) Developing tools and solutions with municipalities and other stakeholders to enhance the transition to climate-wise housing; 4) Enhancing citizen agency in low-carbon experimentation, transition management and policy co-design. Interaction and co-creation are the ways in which we work, across all WPs.

<https://decarbonhome.fi/decarbonhome-in-english/>