

Authority Services

23.9.2024

SYKE/2024/1386

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## Consultation in accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Protocol regarding the phased regional land use plan for energy and climate for North Ostrobothnia in Finland

In accordance with Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (the SEA protocol), countries likely to be affected by the implementation of a plan or programme with potential transboundary environmental impacts must be notified and consulted. In addition to this, under Section 206 a (913/2022), Subsection 1 of the Finnish Land-use and Building Act (132/1999) Finnish Environment Institute is responsible for notifying and consulting other EU member states of significant transboundary environmental impacts of a land use plan in compliance with Article 7 of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

According to Section 206 b (1150/2016), Subsection 2 (913/2022) of Finnish Land-use and Building Act, Finnish Environment Institute must notify the affected country of the impact assessment and send the available documents of a land use plan if Finnish Environment Institute considers that the implementation of a land use plan has significant transboundary environmental impacts or the affected country so requests. The party of origin, Finland hereby informs Sweden about the planned phased regional land use plan for energy and climate for North Ostrobothnia in Finland.

### Information on the planned phased land use plan for energy and climate

A regional land use plan contains a general plan that complies with the Finnish Land Use and Building Act, and is presented on a map, providing information about land use in a region or part of it. It sets out the region's principles of land use and community structure and designates areas as necessary for regional development.

The objective of the regional plan is to solve the national, regional, and trans-municipal issues of land use. The regional plan is drawn up by the Regional Council (in this case Council of Oulu Region), guided by the board of the Regional Council and approved by the Assembly of the Regional Council.

The planned phased regional land use plan for energy and climate for North Ostrobothnia in Finland is a strategic land use plan. The plan is drawn up as a comprehensive regional plan covering the entire region of North Ostrobothnia including all 30 municipalities and their Finnish territorial waters. The phased regional land use plan combines national land use objectives with provincial land use objectives and covers all sectors of society that have a significant impact on community structure and land use. The themes of the phased regional plan for energy and



climate for Northern Ostrobothnia are energy (production, storage, and transmission), green structure and ecosystem services, territorial structure and accessibility, transport system, energy transition and climate impact assessment.

Preparation of the plan and extensive background studies started already in 2020. The phased regional plan was officially announced, and the initial consultation (participation and assessment plan) was held in October-December 2022. The preparatory phase consultation was held in August-September 2022 and the separate round of consultation for Finnish public authorities in January-February 2024. The planning process has now progressed to the public consultation of the proposal phase, which is the final stage before the plan is approved. According to the target timetable, the phased regional plan for energy and climate will be approved by the regional Council in December 2024 based on a proposal from the regional Government.

## The land use planning procedure in Finland

In terms of land use planning, the SEA directive (2001/42/EC) has been implemented to Land-use Building Act (132/1999) and Land Use and Building Decree (895/1999) in Finland. The Finnish Land use and Building Act and Land Use and Building Decree regulate land use planning procedure, such as the assessment of the impacts of land use planning on the environment, at all levels of land use planning.

Regional planning is part of the land use planning system in Finland, which is defined in Section 4 of the Land-use and Building Act and is refined at each level of planning. Regional planning and regional land use plans are regulated in Chapter 4 of the Act and Chapter 2 of the Decree. Chapter 8 of the Act regulates the land use planning procedure and interaction. The planning process consists of three phases: initiation (participation and assessment plan), preparation (draft plan), proposal (plan proposal) and approval. Regional planning differs from other planning processes in the proposal phase, during which a separate round of consultation for public authorities is organised prior to the public hearing. At all levels of the planning process, the preparatory and proposal phase consultations are open to all interested parties.

The public display of the proposal for the phased regional land use plan takes place in Finland between 23 September and 24 October 2024. Sweden has the right to participate in the land use planning procedure as the project may have adverse environmental impacts on the state.

## Participation in the land use planning procedure

The proposal for the regional land use plan and its preparatory documents are available at the following webpages: <https://www.pohjois-pohjanmaa.fi/ilmastomaakuntakaava> (in Finnish).

Please send the response, including acknowledgement of receipt of this letter as well as views and comments on the consulted materials, by e-mail to the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute ([kirjaamo@syke.fi](mailto:kirjaamo@syke.fi)) and [transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi](mailto:transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi) by **1 November 2024 at the latest**.

Please indicate our reference number **SYKE/2024/1386** in your letter.

## More information

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*This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.*

## Appendices

Norra Österbottens etapplandskapsplan för energi och klimat -  
Internationellt hörande material 9.9.2024

Norra Österbottens etapplandskapsplan för energi och klimat -  
BILAGA 1: Objektsbeskrivningar av havsvindkraft 9.9.2024

## For information

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland  
Ministry of the Environment

