

## **Energy & Climate Change working group meeting, 6 October 2017, Vestfold, Norway.**

### Participants

Isobel Davidson, Aberdeenshire  
Daniël Charles Hextall, Hordaland  
Trond Schrader Kristiansen, Aust Agder  
Guri Bugge, Østfold  
Mathias Bernander, Vest Agder  
Bard Oyen, Buskerud  
Trond Myrland, Buskerud  
Jon-Olav Strand, vice chair, Aust Agder  
Paulien Kooistra, Advisor, Drenthe

Jon-Olav Strand chaired the meeting. The group discussed different points within the action plan, and specific target areas and actions of the group on the basis of the presentation done by Paulien (in the combined meeting with the Transport group).

### **Surplus Renewable energy, energy management:**

Within the North Sea region, especially for large renewable energy producing countries like Norway it is very important to steer the flow of renewable energy: we have to think about new ways to use large peaks of renewables, and distribute it more widely. The focus should be on what forms of energy management systems (EMS) are available and how to use these systems in order to enhance the flow of renewable energy between the regions.

In Norway the prices of energy are very low due to the surplus of renewable energy. When we distribute the energy, but are losing renewable energy in transmission, we have to ask ourselves what is socially acceptable. For example in Lower Saxony (Germany), one of the biggest exporters of renewable energy, prices in electricity are falling, but households are faced with higher electricity prices.

The following subjects are important to take into account: saving energy, storage, selling carbon savings, smart grids.

### **Biogas/biofuels:**

The Norwegian biogas sector is leaning a lot on expertise from its neighbouring country Sweden. At the moment the Swedish biogas sector however is facing difficulties (a lot of plants are closing down). Danish plants are flourishing, due to a subsidy system which supports the production, at the same time the Danish biogas producers are getting consumption subsidies in Sweden (for their exports). They can therefore deliver very cheap consumer gas.

There is a wish in the group to know more about this developments and visit producing biogas facilities (also for liquid gas) in Sweden. Hordaland would like to give some input on bio-energy and biofuels on the basis of a recent study they have conducted. Also Østfold is willing to present their views and would like to know and answer questions concerning how to set the demand for biofuels and how to choose the right biofuels. Due to market changes being felt in Skandinavian countries, the group would like to know what different regions are

anticipating. Also how can we sort out and ensure that biofuels/biogas are sustainable and payable.

Västra Gotaland will be asked to host the next meeting (February/March 2018) of the group. A date will be communicated as soon as possible.

#### **Other issues concerning the action plan:**

Further practical output of the group was discussed with the following actions:

- 1) Jimmy Gray proposed to create an energy factsheet (an example which was recently been issued for Scotland by the Royal Society of Edinburgh) with input/statistics for every participating country and region. The focus could be on most recent data on the national energy mix. When we have these facts available they will give the North Sea Region a good basis for further discussion in coming meetings as an internal document.

Also Groningen is working on a template for an energy transition brochure/factsheet, which we could use for promotional purposes. A template will be communicated the coming month. **Action: Jelmer Sturm, Ilja van der Veen (Groningen)**

- 2) Political cooperation off shore wind:  
To follow up on the developments with respect to the 'Political declaration on off shore wind' three regions are asked to take on these actions.  
**Action: (Karen Nybo, Charles Daniel Hextall (Hordaland), Ingo Sturmer (Lower Saxony) and Ilja van der Veen, Groningen).**

Also a link will be made to hydrogen developments (**action: Groningen, Hordaland**).

- 3) Climate Change adaptation factsheet: Every region which did not yet respond is kindly requested to give their regions input, by filling in the factsheet. (the template is enclosed) **Action: every region which did not yet respond!!**
- 4) Monitoring of the Climate Adaptation Action Plan of the European Commission and prepare input of the group. (**Paulien, Melissa**)
- 5) Prepare input for Energy Management Systems discussion in next meetings (**action: Trond Schrader Kristiansen**)
- 6) Proposing and setting a date for the next meeting of the group in Västra Gotaland (**action: Melissa Frödin, Martien Haasjes**)
- 7) Preparing input for the meeting on Biogas/biofuels in Sweden (**Action: Daniel Charles Hextall, Guri Bugge**).

- 8) Send out a questionnaire on clean shipping, mapping of decarbonisation of transport to the members of the Transport and ECCG. **(action Transport group and input to be delivered by every region)**
- 9) Recruiting new members for the group from Denmark **(action: Friis-Hauge Preben)**

Important dates:

29 November 2017, Windeurope Event Amsterdam, study visit to Ports of IJmuiden  
13-15 June 2018, Annual Business meeting 2018, Østfold