

# Program - Nordic Working Group for LCA, climate and buildings

*Nordic cooperation on harmonizing building regulations and climate impact*

*January 22, 2019*

The Nordic Council of Ministers decided the 29 of May 2018 in Stockholm to initiate a work for Nordic harmonization of building regulations concerning climate emissions. As a result, the Ministry of the Environment in Finland and the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) took the initiative to arrange the conference **Nordic Climate Forum for Construction**, in Malmö the 3rd of October 2019, to bring together the Nordic construction authorities and the foremost in academia and construction industry. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers. The main target for the conference was to start up the work for Nordic harmonization on regulations and climate emissions from buildings from a life cycle perspective. Around 80 people attended the conference and all Nordic countries were represented.

To bring the Nordic cooperation forward after the conference, a platform for dialogue and exchange of information has been formed. The aim of this document is to describe the purpose, objectives and organization of this platform.

## Aim & purpose

The purpose of this working group is to give input to Nordic harmonization of life cycle assessment of climate emissions buildings with the aim to reduce the building sector's climate emissions. The aim of the working group is also to work for Nordic collaboration on issues related to building regulations, methodological development and best practices on climate emissions. This is done by bringing together key actors from the Nordic construction industry and academia together with the building authorities. The purpose is to deepen the discussions and take care of the results from the Nordic Climate Forum in Malmö.

## Objectives

### Expected impacts

- The Nordic countries have compatible approaches to building regulation, methodology and the assessment of climate emissions from buildings, and share best practice on the subject.

- Reduce the building sector's climate emissions following the same rate as national climate neutrality goals require.
- The Nordic collaboration have made it easier for the industry to construct low carbon buildings in the Nordic countries.

## Targets for the working group

- The Nordic authorities organize an annual conference and a web climate forum within the topic of this working group – in cooperation with this working group
- The Nordic authorities organize web meetings for this working group with SLC
- Un updated website with relevant material
- Identify key areas for harmonization and a plan for harmonization will be presented in the next conference in Copenhagen 2020.
- The Nordic countries have initiated common projects.
- Being an arena for exchange of best practice.

## Implementation and organization

The working group will consist of around 30 representatives from the Nordic building authorities, academia and industry. The representatives will be based on proposals from the Nordic authorities in collaboration with Swedish Life Cycle Center.

Swedish Life Cycle Center will organize the network, consisting of this **working group** (smaller group) and a **dialogue forum** (wider group of stakeholders). The **working group** will be developed within the framework of the Swedish Life Cycle Center's working methods. It will be done in collaboration with the Nordic building authorities. Swedish Life Cycle Center has long experience of organizing collaborative platforms. Within the framework of SLC several working groups is ongoing today within the field of life cycle research and the life cycle perspective. The ongoing groups have different focus areas and bring together partners and extended networks with common areas of interest and competences.

## Working Group

The Nordic Climate Forum 2019 in Malmö marks the start of the network. Continued dialogue with the working group will take place through three web meetings during 2019-2020 where the group's participants can exchange experience, raise knowledge gaps, capture interest, and increase understanding within the framework of the LCA working group, with the aim of facilitating the Nordic collaboration.

The web meetings will be a forum for experts with focus on LCA and policymaking. The working group constitutes an important forum for contributing to the development of the policy framework, for example climate declarations of buildings, and can lead to the

initiation of new projects such as development of methodology and state-of-the-art for LCA of climate for buildings. It's up to the working group to propose activities and make an **action list** with name of organization, what kind of action and when the action will take place. Themes for the web meetings will in part be based on the results from the Nordic Climate Forum in Malmö.

SLC have been procured by Boverket and the Ministry of the Environment in Finland to administer and moderate the network for Nordic collaboration until spring 2020. The working group gets an external page on the Swedish Life Cycle Center's website [www.lifecyclecenter.se/projects](http://www.lifecyclecenter.se/projects) and a separate group page for intercommunication (My Page). By being a bridge and facilitating a dialogue between industry, research and policy, Swedish Life Cycle Center will work to increase knowledge and disseminate the results in a transparent and qualitative way.

## Dialogue forum

A dialogue forum with a wider group of stakeholders is also formed. Information from the working group will be shared with this broader group. This broader group of stakeholders can also be used by the working group for direct feedback and input into the ongoing work. They can also spread this information within their own respective networks. Everyone who has attended the conference in Malmö or submitted an interest registration are invited to participate in this dialogue forum. The dialogue forum is managed by Boverket and Ministry of the Environment in Finland to start with with input from the working group.

## Public webinar

Information from the working group will be disseminated to the dialog forum through an open webinar. The webinar will focus on dissemination of the results from the Climate Forum 2019, spreading knowledge about LCA in the Nordic region and further expanding the network. The webinar will be organized by Swedish Life Cycle Center with input from the working group.

## Contact

**Chair:** Kristina Einarsson

**Co-Chair:** Matti Kuittinen

**Swedish Life Cycle Center:** Maria Rydberg, [maria.rydberg@chalmers.se](mailto:maria.rydberg@chalmers.se)

## Timetable

Date	Activity	Responsibility
2019-10-03	Nordic Climate Forum for Construction 2019. Marks the start of the working group. Everyone who attends the conference will be invited to become a part of the wider group of stakeholders in the dialogue forum.	Coordinated by Boverket and Ministry of the Environment in Finland.
2019-12-05	Startup meeting. The purpose and objectives of the working group are presented and the content of the upcoming two meetings is specified, based on the results of the conference.	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
2020-01-29	Working group meeting (Web)	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
2020-04-02 prel	Working group meeting (Web)	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
2020-05-29 prel	Public Webinar	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
2020-XX	Planning of the next climate forum 2020	To be decided
2020-08-27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Climate Forum for Construction*	Trafik-, Bygge- og Boligstyrelsen