Carbon Neutral Kymenlaakso Region and circular economy -successes and challenges

29.1.2020

Regional Mayor Jaakko Mikkola

CARBON NEUTRAL KYMENLAAKSO REGION

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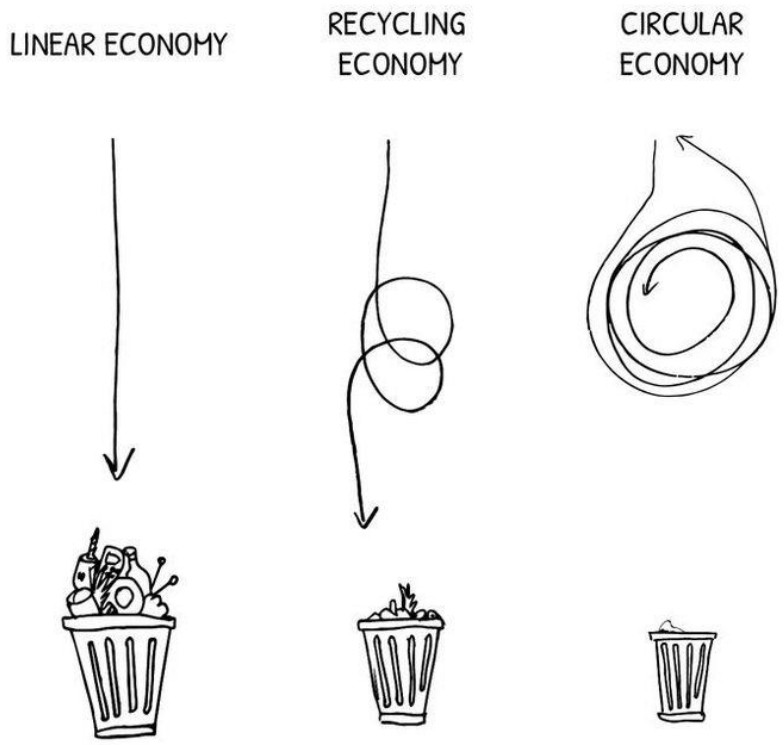
REGIONAL COUNCIL of KYMENLAAKSO

Kymenlaakso Region

From linear economy to circular economy



Circular economy

- Maintains the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible
- Creates new business opportunities and introduces innovative products and services
- Reduces waste generation, green house gas emissions and other environmental impacts

Picture : https://www.thetalkingthread.com/a-circular-economy/

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Carbon Neutral Kymenlaakso Region

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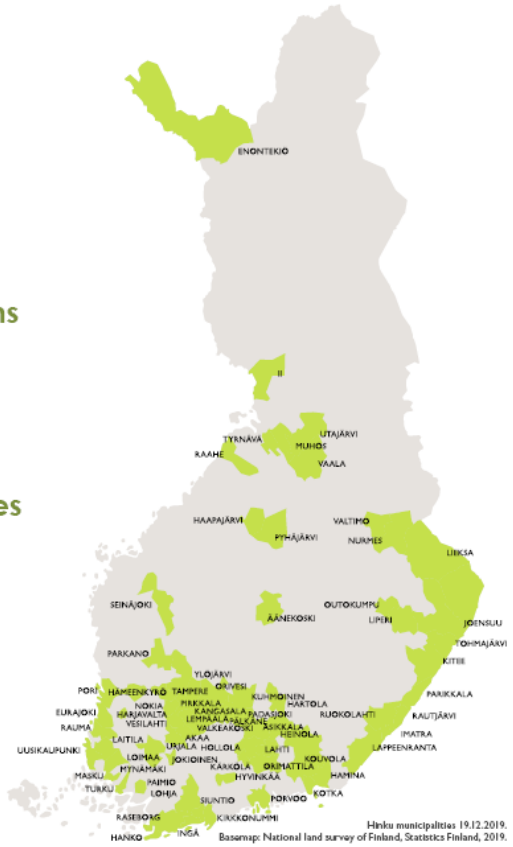
- Forerunner network in climate change mitigation
- Target: 80% emission reductions by 2030 from 2007 levels
- 71 municipalities involved
- Sharing best practices
- Climate action in municipalities
- Creating demand for climate-friendly products and services



- The Region of Kymenlaakso aims to be carbon neutral by 2040
- This aim is one of the main targets in the Regional Program 2018-2021 of Kymenlaakso region
- Kymenlaakso is also officially a “HINKU-region” as one of the first regions in Finland

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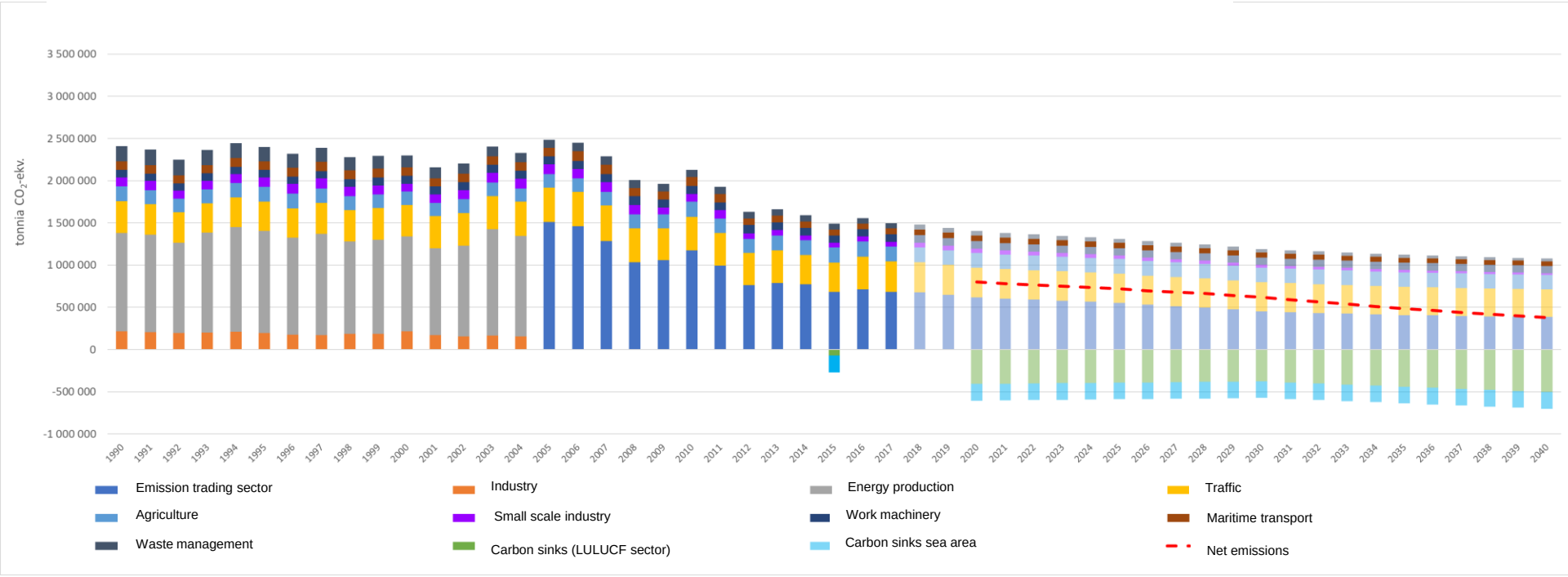
Greenhouse gas emissions – 40 % during years 1990-2017



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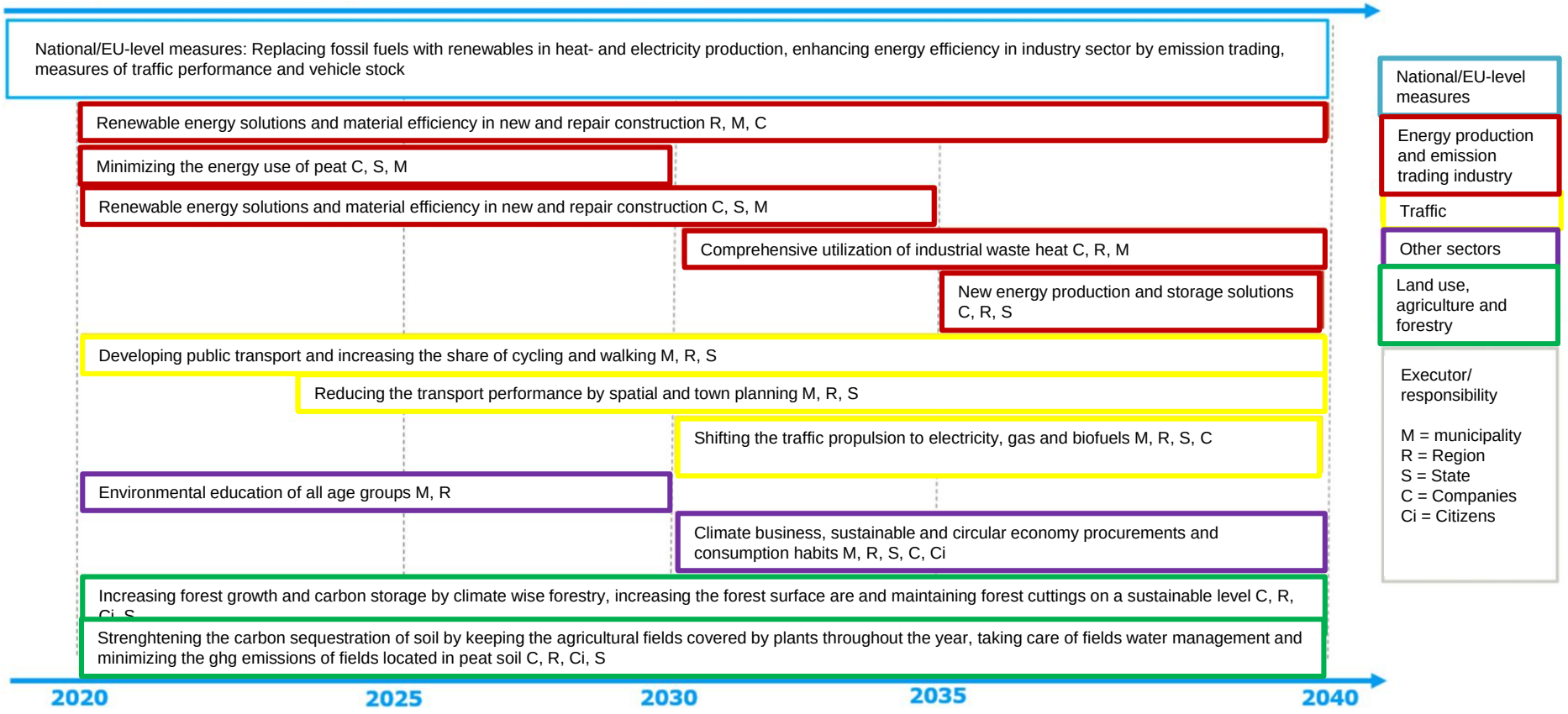
Carbon Neutral Kymenlaakso 2040 roadmap: ”Ghg emission reductions targeted especially in traffic, energy production and agriculture sectors. At the same time the carbon sinks of forests and soil need to be increased.”

Net ghg emissions 2017: 1 226 000 t CO_2 eq.



Net ghg emissions 2040: 0 t CO_2 eq.

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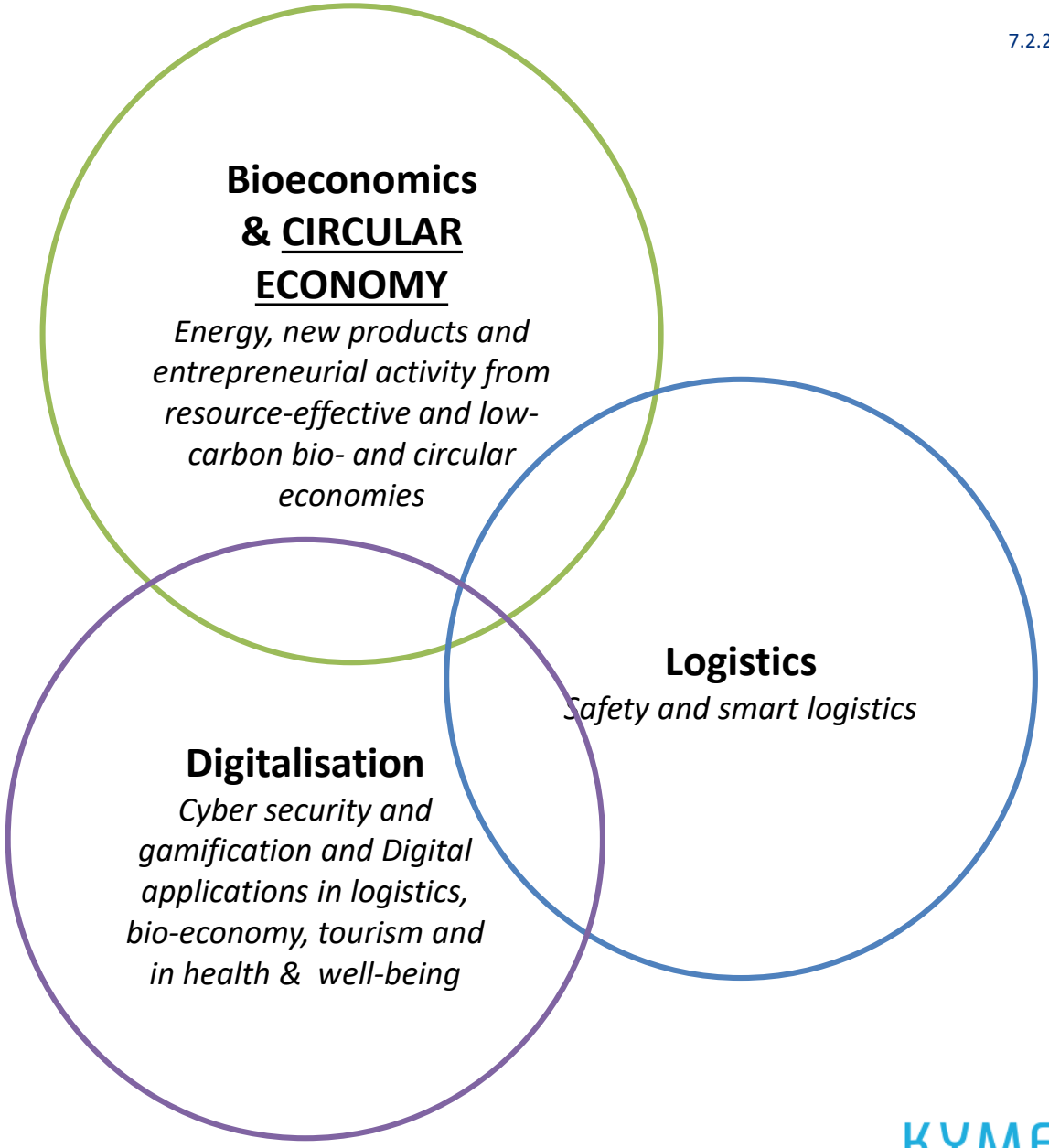
Kymenlaakso smart specialization strategy RIS3 2025

- Specific RIS3 cooperation groups formed from region's experts for e.g. bio- and circular economy have a key role in execution and follow-up of strategy.



Circular economy examples from Kymenlaakso Region

- Renewable energy
- Plastic free board
- Wood construction
- Biogas
- City bikes
- Solutions for food waste reduction
- Organic farming
- Shaped moulded pulps pressed fibre pieces from wood or recycled fibre
- Recycled fertilizer (from paper and pulp industry, also from waste water sludge)
- Insulation
- Accessories and jewels made from used leather furniture
- Etc.

Challenges

- Small and medium sized enterprises potential
  - Internationalization
- Increasing added value
- Research and development

Energy, new products and entrepreneurial activity from resource-effective and low-carbon bio- and circular economies

- Excellent logistics combined with forestry know-how and industrial side streams of the region create a unique foundation for the development of bio- and circular economies, particularly from the perspective of industry.

Thank you

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