

# When is Change Change?

**What can we learn regarding transformation from the work of local authorities on promoting sustainable development?**

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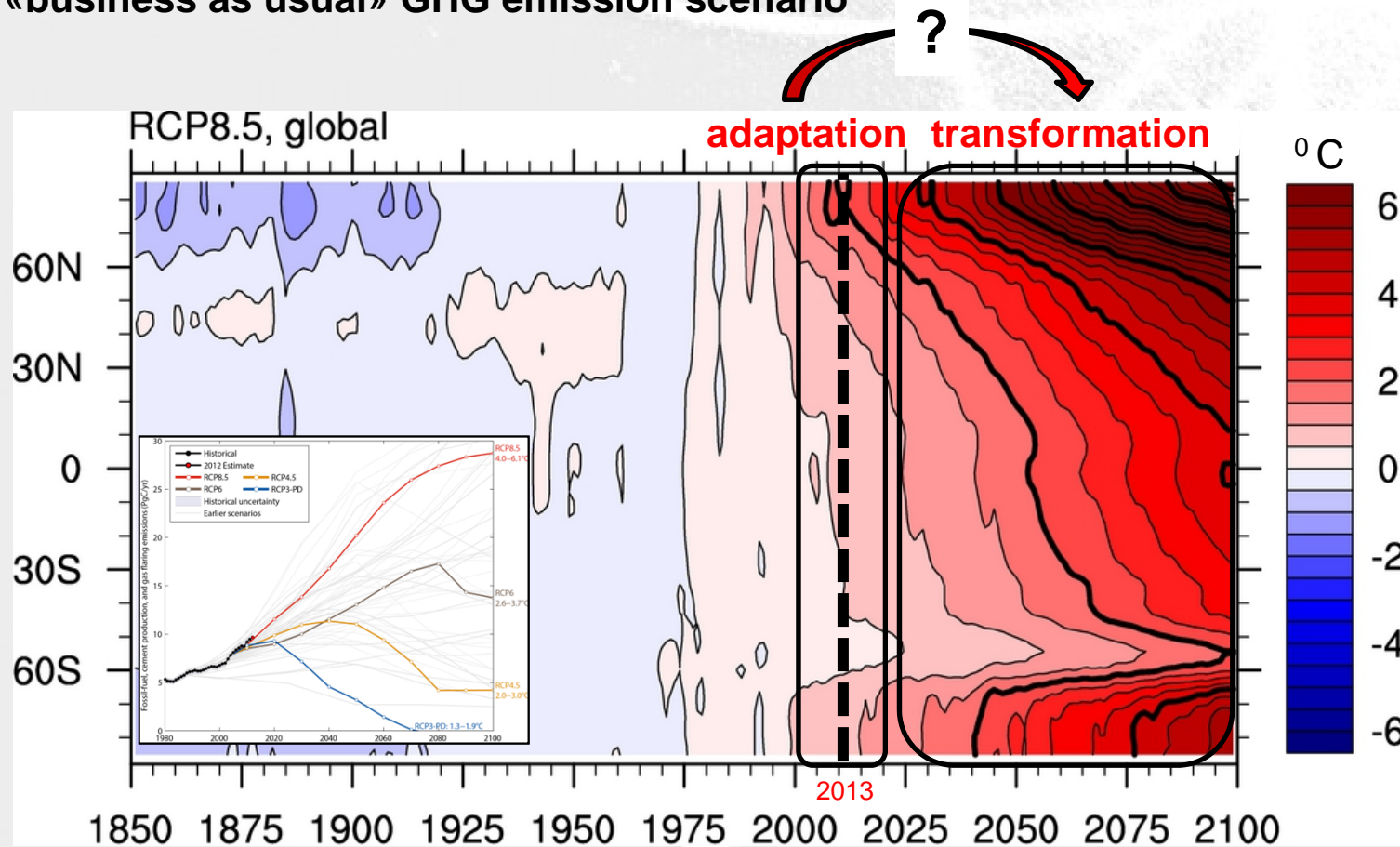
**Carlo Aall**

Western Norway Research Institute (Norway)  
Visiting professor in Sustainable Development,  
Aarhus University Herning (Denmark)



# From adaptation to transformation?

Expected changes in global mean temperature relative to 1961-1990 with a «business as usual» GHG emission scenario



# What exactly is the difference between adaptation and transformation?

## Adaptation:

- «The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities»

## Transformation:

- «The altering of fundamental attributes of a system (including value systems; regulatory, legislative, or bureaucratic regimes; financial institutions; and technological or biological systems)»

# A suggested typology on societal response to climate change

effect- → cause oriented environmental policy  
 low- → high conflict environmental policy  
 shallow→ deep ecology

		<u>Quality of change</u>	
		Low	High
<u>Scale of change</u>	Low	<b>Business as usual</b> (e.g. current oil- and gas policy in Norway)	<b>Pre-transformation</b> (e.g. heated public debates on degrowth and criticism of economic growth)
	Medium	<b>Incremental changes</b> (e.g. current mainstream climate policy)	<b>Symbolic transformation</b> (e.g. the making of radical plans – such as Agenda 21 - but with limited implementation)
	High	<b>Disaster response</b> (e.g. climate geo-engineering, or rebuilding after large scale flooding incidents)	<b>Real transformation</b> (e.g. the fall of the “iron curtain”, the world-wide implementation of national programs on protected areas )

## Local examples of a 'transformative nature'

- The national reform on strengthening the local institutional capacity on environmental policy (the MIK-reform)
- The local 'home composting' initiative that paved the way for a government acceptance of home composting
- The national program on involving local authorities in developing policy strategies of sustainable consumption
- The involvement from local government representatives in international environmental policy processes

## Lessons learned

- Local government is important as implementers of national policies (least important)
- Local government is an important player - also when working with global environmental problems (such as climate change)
- Local government is important as translators of global and abstract environmental problems into local and concrete contexts (they meet face-to-face with the 'people'!)
- Local government is important as innovators of new and radical policy strategies (but important: needs to be done in a mutually binding cooperation with national government)

## National examples of a 'non-transformative nature' (1)

- **Statement from the Norwegian Minister of Environment in connection with the presentation of a Government White paper on climate change adaptation (May 2013)**
  - “The local authorities have the main responsibility for adapting to climate change...They have to mainstream climate change adaptation into their ordinary policy making and planning...Therefore it will be totally wrong to earmark money for climate change adaptation”
- **Implying:**
  - **No** need for major changes in the allocation of responsibility among public bodies
  - **No** need for any new institutions
  - **No** need for major earmarked funding



## National examples of a 'non-transformative nature' (2)

- **Statement from the Norwegian Minister of Oil and Energy in connection with the ongoing debate on developing new oil- and gas fields, and on the development of more renewable energy:**
  - “The opening of new oilfields in Norway and the rate of Norwegian oil production in existing oilfields will not be governed by climate concerns” (Statement to the newspaper “Dagens Næringsliv”, 1.12.2011)
  - “Windmills are an old technology....We know that they work and we must therefore stop subsidizing renewable energy sources. Public money should instead be used to develop new technology on carbon capture and storage» (Statement to the newspaper “Dagens Næringsliv”, 14.6.2013)
- **Leading to:**
  - **No** reduction in the development of Norwegian oil and gas recovery
  - No serious policy efforts on reducing energy use
  - **No** policy means installed which can ensure that increased supply of renewable energy will replace existing fossil energy use



# Adaptor & Transformer: Who can make the most difference?

**The adaptor?**



**The transformer?**



Thank you for your attention!

Carlo Aall, [caa@vestforsk.no](mailto:caa@vestforsk.no), + 47 991 27 222