

Commitment Overview Report

January 2015 – January 2018



Photo: Petri Lyytikäinen

Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG)



FOREWORD

The Baltic Sea's poor condition is well known. Eutrophication, dead zones on the sea floor, and hazardous substances in the bottom sediments continue to strain the sea. Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG) has worked towards a healthier Baltic Sea for ten years, and one of our tools is the Baltic Sea Commitment. By making a Commitment, organizations can integrate saving the sea into their operations model. This is often beneficial not only for the Baltic Sea but also for the organization, as environmentally responsible courses of action can simultaneously be economically sensible.

In the era of climate change, mass extinctions, pollution and numerous other kinds of environmental issues, it is increasingly important to think and act responsibly. The aforementioned problems cannot be solved without conscious co-operation between researchers, policy-makers, businesses, public sector, and private individuals. As we share the globe, we must also share the work to save the globe. The same goes for saving the Baltic Sea; all of us living in its catchment area are responsible for it.

This report covers the Baltic Sea Commitments made from January 2015 to January 2018. The Baltic Sea can only be saved if we work together, and it is heartwarming to see organizations willing to use their strengths and expertise to help us reach this shared goal. Every Commitment brings us closer to a cleaner, healthier Baltic Sea, and you are warmly welcome to join us!

Saara Kankaanrinta

Chair of the Board, Co-founder

Baltic Sea Action Group

1. INTRODUCTION

The Baltic Sea Commitment is a great way for organizations in the public, private, and third sectors to do their part in helping the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea Action Group has gathered Commitments since 2009. The first Commitments were collected as preparation for the Baltic Sea Action Summit in 2010. BSAG approached companies with a link to or possible solutions for the sea's problems, and asked them to participate in the Baltic Sea work by the way of a Commitment. This initial round brought 150 Commitments. Today, BSAG still encourages organizations to make new Commitments but organizations also approach BSAG with their own Commitment suggestions.

The Baltic Sea Action Summit of 2010, convened by the Baltic Sea Action Group together with **Tarja Halonen** and **Matti Vanhanen**, brought together political leaders from all Baltic Sea countries to discuss and find solutions for the sea's poor condition. To attend the Summit, participants were required to make a Commitment. This included heads of state. The Commitments can thus be divided into those made by organizations, and state Commitments.

This report covers Commitments made from January 2015 onward, referred to in this report as new Commitments. Older Commitments have been examined in earlier reports. The State Commitments are not included in this report.

The new Commitments are examined in more detail below. Commitment types and their focus areas, as well as types of Commitment making organizations are explored. The role of nutrients and nutrient cycling in the Commitments began to increase in 2012. This trend has continued, as 21 (70 %) of the new Commitments mention nutrients and/or nutrient cycling in their description. This is analyzed further in chapter 3. Chapter 4 focuses on possible future trends in the Commitments.

All Commitments can be found at www.bsag.fi.

2. COMMITMENT OVERVIEW

There are currently 60 active Commitments. 30 of them were made before 2015, and are thus not included in this report. This report covers 30 Commitments made from January 2015 to January 2018.

Commitments are made by organizations from public, private, and third sectors. 18 of the new Commitments are made by private sector organizations, i.e. companies. 9 represent the public sector, 2 are from the third sector, and one Commitment is listed as "other". Commitment makers by type are presented visually in chart 1. All of these Commitments are made in Finland. In previous years, there have been Commitments from all Baltic Sea countries. This could be explained by the Baltic Sea Action Summit of 2010, and the Baltic Sea Forum held in St. Petersburg in 2013. Both these events brought international attention to the Commitments. Perhaps a similar international event could encourage organizations from other countries to make new Commitments in the future.

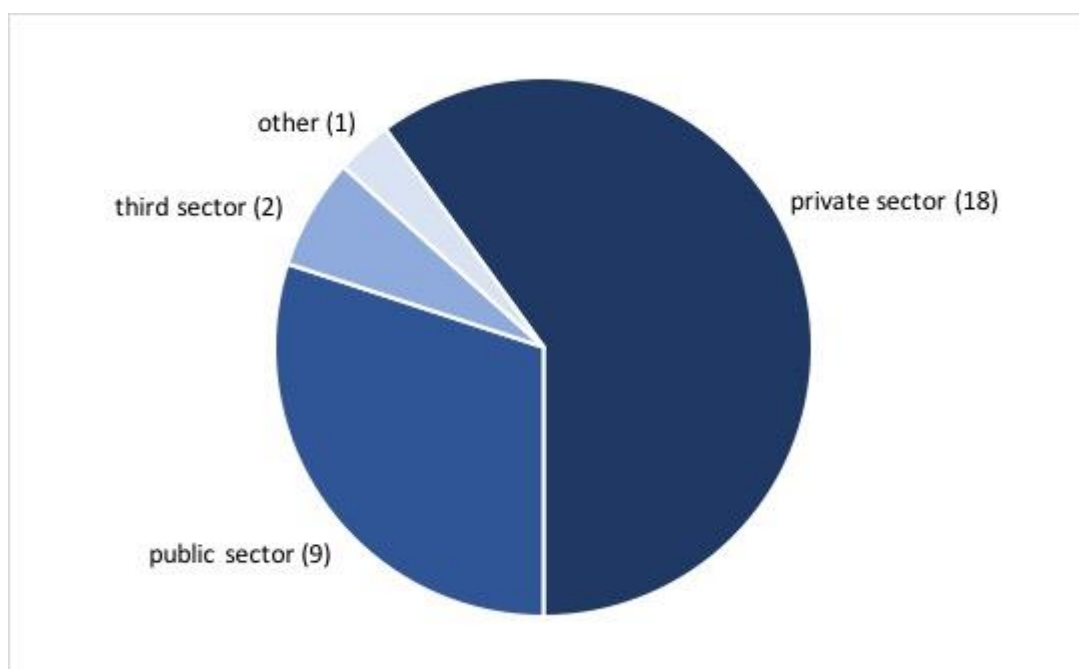


Chart 1. Commitment maker organizations by type

There are three different Commitment types: "solving a concrete problem", "organization's internal development process", and "providing goods, services or financial support to help BSAG". "Solving a concrete problem" is the most frequently used category, with 18 of the new Commitments listing

it as their Commitment type. "Organization's internal development process" is the type in 6 of the new Commitments, and 5 Commitments are "providing goods, services or financial support to help BSAG". One Commitment does not have a specified type. These are presented in chart 2.

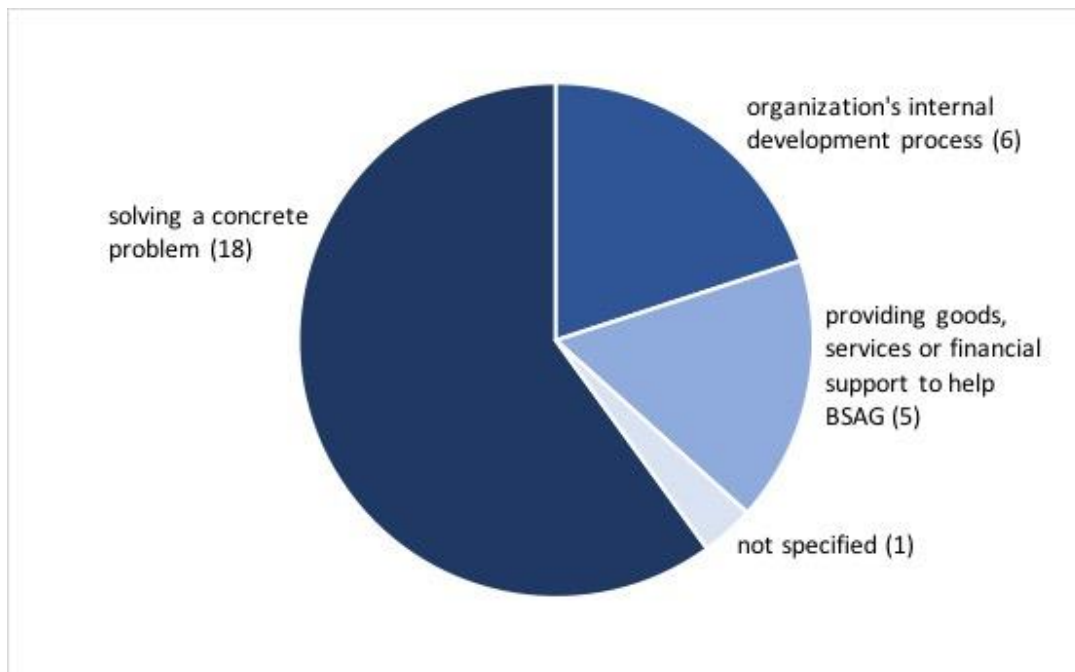


Chart 2. Commitment types

It is noteworthy that certain Commitments listed as "solving a concrete problem" additionally provide financial support to BSAG, and some Commitments listed as "organization's internal development process" are also solving a concrete problem in the Baltic Sea. For example, Berner Ltd. develops and sells garden fertilizers made from recovered and recycled nutrients. Their Commitment type is listed as "solving a concrete problem" but they also donate funds to BSAG based on the sales of the fertilizer. Likewise, Eko Harden Technologies Oy is listed as "organization's internal development process" but their technology aims to remediate polluted Baltic Sea sediments. This could then alternatively be defined as solving a concrete problem.

Commitments are also divided into different focus areas: "awareness raising", "biodiversity and nature conservation", "clean and safe maritime activities", "eutrophication", "hazardous substances", "innovative solution" and "other". 16 of the new Commitments list "eutrophication" as their focus area, making it the most frequent one. In the older Commitments the most used focus area was "awareness raising", which is now in the second place with 6 organizations. The rising

interest for mitigating eutrophication is examined further in the next chapter. "Innovative solution" is the focus area in 5 of the new Commitments. "Clean and safe maritime activities" is the focus area in 2 of the Commitments, and one Commitment focuses on "biodiversity and nature conservation". There are no new Commitments with "hazardous substances" as a focus area. The focus area distribution is illustrated in chart 3.

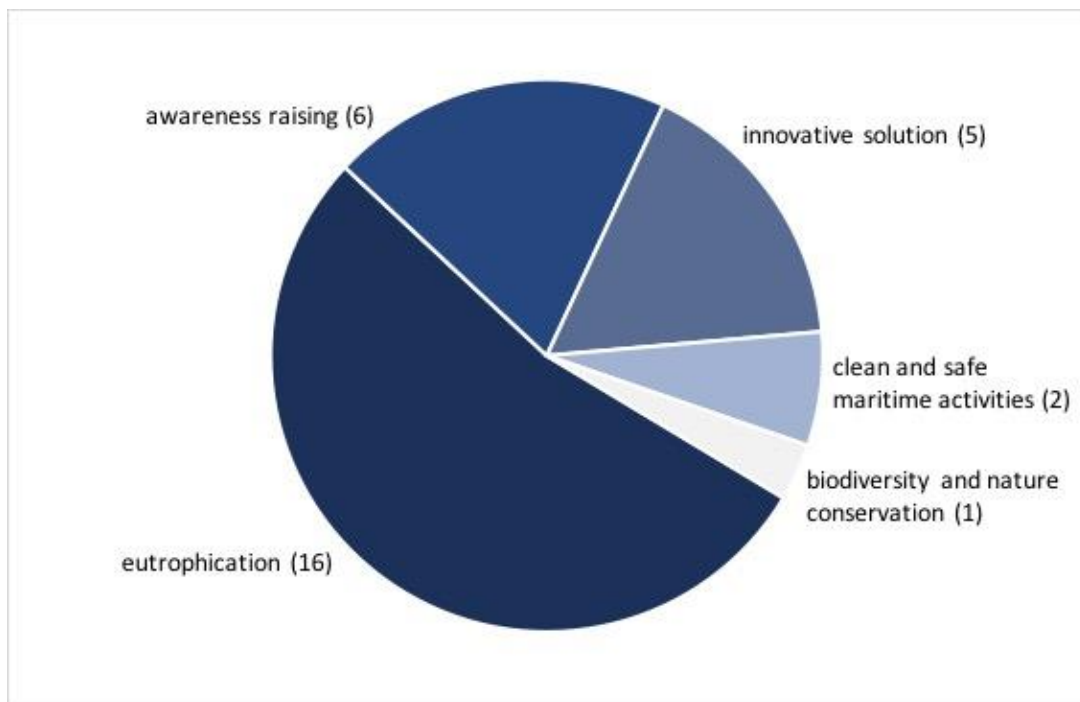


Chart 3. Focus areas

However, there is overlap between these categories as well. For example, some Commitments listed as "innovative solution" also deal with eutrophication and/or hazardous substances. One such Commitment is made by Adven Oy. Adven Oy aims to incorporate efficient nutrient recovery into their energy and water services, which helps mitigate eutrophication.

3. NUTRIENTS AND NUTRIENT CYCLING IN THE NEW COMMITMENTS

BSAG has since its foundation wanted to raise awareness of sustainable use of nutrients, i.e. nutrient cycling. Nutrients are a valuable and finite resource, and as such they should be recycled and not wasted. By managing the use of nutrients efficiently on land, we can reduce the nutrient runoff to waterways, and ultimately, to the Baltic Sea. Finland declared in its State Commitment in 2010 to become a model region for nutrient cycling. In 2015, nutrient cycling was included into Finland's government program, and also integrated into the European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan. Bringing nutrient cycling into Finland's national politics is one of BSAG's major achievements. It also demonstrates the power of the Commitments to generate concrete action.

The number of Commitments related to nutrient cycling began to increase in 2012, and the topic is still popular in the newest Commitments. Out of the 30 Commitments, 15 mention nutrient cycling explicitly. In general, nutrients are mentioned in 21 of the Commitments.

The focus on nutrient cycling in the Commitments goes hand in hand with that of eutrophication as a focus area. This is logical, since excessive nutrients are the reason for the Baltic Sea's eutrophication problem. All but one Commitment with eutrophication as a focus area mention nutrients or nutrient cycling. Nutrients and/or nutrient cycling are also mentioned in connection with "innovative solution", "awareness raising", and "clean and safe maritime activities" focus areas.

Nutrients and eutrophication are also linked in many Commitments related to agriculture. 13 organizations mention agriculture in their Commitments, and 12 of those also mention nutrients or nutrient cycling. 9 of them have eutrophication as a focus area. This is understandable, as agriculture is still one of the major sources of nutrient leakage in Finland, and as such, a contributor to eutrophication. However, this also shows that solutions to eutrophication, as well as profitable possibilities for nutrient cycling, are to be found in sustainable agricultural practices.

4. POSSIBLE FUTURE TRENDS IN THE COMMITMENTS

What does the future hold for the Baltic Sea Commitments? Nutrient cycling presumably continues to be a prominent trend but other emerging themes will be climate change and soil health. In the new Commitments, 6 mention climate change or mitigating CO₂ emissions, and 4 mention healthy soil.

Climate change is a global problem that concerns everybody, and as such, organizations need to take it into account in all their operations. One way of doing this could be to include climate change mitigation into a Baltic Sea Commitment. Climate change will have numerous unpredictable effects in the Baltic Sea, which is why actions against climate change are also actions for the Baltic Sea.

Healthy soil is immensely important for the well-being of the entire planet. It not only ensures food-security, but also offers many kinds of other ecosystem services. Healthy soil prevents nutrient runoff from land, and can also be a major sink for carbon. The soil's condition is directly related to agricultural practices, which in turn also affect the Baltic Sea.

Nutrient cycling, climate change and soil health are currently important focus areas in BSAG's work, and it is likely that BSAG will search for more Commitments related to these subjects. BSAG is working with the Finnish Meteorological Institute and Sitra in the Carbon Action pilot project, which studies sequestering carbon from the atmosphere into agricultural soil. This addresses both climate change and soil health, and helps soil retain nutrients. It shows how climate change, healthy soil, and efficient nutrient management are all interwoven. Hopefully this encourages more organizations to come aboard and help in solving the issues that face not only the Baltic Sea, but the whole planet!

New Commitment makers January 2015 – January 2018

110th Street Production	Eko Harden Technologies Oy	Mandatum Life
Abillion Oy	Ekonia Oy	Metsähallitus (konserni)
Adven Oy	Fazer	NanoGeo Finland Oy
Altia	Finnish Furbreeders' Association	Punkalaidun municipality
Association of ProAgria Centres	(Profur)	Salaojituksen tukisäätiö
Berner Ltd.	Gasum	The College of Landbased Studies in Tuorla
BioGTS Oy	Gasum	Unilever Finland Production Oy
CarbonToSoil EMEA	Hanko Tourist Office	UPM-Kymmene Corporation
Creamailer Oy	Innotek Oy / Energo Smart Water	Vapo Oy Clean Waters
CWT Finland Oy, CWT Sweden and CWT Denmark	K-Maatalous and K-Maatalous Experimental Farm	Vesilaitosyhdistys
	Langis Oy	

Commitment makers before January 2015

Aalto University School of Science and Technology	Capgemini Consulting	Finnish Business & Society
AGA AB	Cargotec Oyj	Finnish Defence Forces
Agrimarket	City of Turku	Finnish Environmental Institute SYKE
AKKOR (Association of private farmers and farmers cooperative)	Constra Group Oy	Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (FGFRI)
Alko Oy	Copenhagen Malmö Port AB	Finnish Navy
Alleco Ltd.	Crystal Pool Ltd.	Finnish Shipowners' Association
Arcers auto Ltd.	Daghemmet Björnens föräldraförening rf	Fortum Oyj
Archipelago Research Institute	Dazzle Oy	Fountain Park Oy
Arctia Shipping Ltd.	Deltamarin Oy	Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Ministry of Urban Development and Environment
AS Tallink Group	Det Norske Veritas (DNV)	Furuno Finland Oy
atBusiness	Document House	
Attorneys at Law Borenium Ltd.	Dream Broker Oy	
Attorneys-at-Law Juridia Ltd.	DROPP WATER	Gallery Park Hotel Riga Latvia Gard (Baltic) Ab
Auramarine Ltd.	Ecompter	Gasum Oy
	EcoStream Oy	Government of Åland
Bain & Company Nordic	Eesti Energia AS	Governor Rotary District 1420 (Southern Finland and Estonia)
Baltic Development Forum	EKE-Construction Ltd.	GREENWALK Ltd.
Baltic Sea 2020	EK-Production Oy	Gundby Farm
Baltic Sea Forum e.V.	Elena Mady	
Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference	Environmental Development Association	HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences
Baltic Sea Solutions	Eurofacts Oy	Hagelstam, Axel
Biosukeltajat ry	European Cruise Council	Hallvarsson & Halvarsson
Biovakka Suomi Oy	European Rescue Swimmers Association	Halti Oy
Björn and Marja-Liisa Weckström		Hari, Leo
BNL Juridiskais biroj	Fazer	Helsingin Energia
BONUS	Finlandia-talo	Helsingin seudun ympäristöpalvelut
British Council Finland	Finnair Plc	Helsingin yliopisto
BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy		
Business Center Papula Oy		

Heureka, the Finnish Science Center	Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain	Rapp Collins Moscow
Hiidenveden suojeluyhdistys ry	Keskusliitto MTK ry	REACHLaw Environmental Ltd.
Hill and Knowlton Finland Oy	Matila Röhr Nordisk Oy	Redfina Oy
HT Industry Solutions Oy	M-Brain	Ricoh Finland Oy
	McKinsey & Company Finland	River Aurajoki Foundation
IBM Svenska AB	Metropolia University of Applied	Roschier, Attorneys Ltd.
ICES-ACOM	Sciences	Russian Capital Management Oy
If P&C Insurance Company Ltd.	mFabrik Oy	
Ilmatieteen laitos	MicroMedia Oy	Saloy Oy
Info Serviss Ltd.	Mikkola farm	Sanoma Corporation
Ingrid Jespersens Gymnasieskole	MTV media	SavetheC Oy
Itella Corporation	MUE Vodokanal of Gatchina	SCATMAN Ltd.
	Munkkiniemen yhteiskoulu	SE Klaipeda State Seaport Authority
Janne Gröning Photography		SeaHow (Meritaito Ltd.)
JCDecaux Finland Oy	Niemi Palvelut Oy	SEB
John Nurminen Foundation	Nobel Museum	SeriousAds Oy
JSC Concern Achema Group	Nord Stream	Serus Media Oy
JSC Klaipėdos vanduo	Nordea Bank	SET Petrochemicals Ltd.
Jussila, Satu	Nordic Investment Bank	Shell International Exploration &
Juurikkala, Ville	Nordkalk Oy Ab	Production B.V
	Northwest Research Institute of	SIA ISOPACK
Kaleva Travel Ltd.	Agricultural Engineering and	Siemens Osakeyhtiö
Kehrä Interior Oy	Electrification	Sinebrychoff
Kemira Oyj	Nystig Ltd.	SmartFiles
Keräilyliike Osake & Kirja Oy		SodaStream International B.V.
Kestävä Oy	Oceana Europe	Suomen sivuliike
Kiitosimeon Oy	OceanRace 60 Oy	Soroptimist International of Finland
Kimo Baltic	Oilon Oy	Subreering Ammattisukellustyöt Oy
Kone Foundation	Outotec Oyj	SUE Vodokanal of St. Petersburg
Koneta Agriculture Oy	Oy International Business Machines	Sulattamo Oy
Koordinet Oy	Ab	Suomen Akatemia
Kosken kartano – Koskis Gård		Suomen Luonnonsuojeluliitto
Kotka Maritime Research Centre	Paytrail Oyj	Suomen Nuorkauppakamarit ry
KREAL	Pidä saaristo siistinä ry	SURF.Fi
Kymenlaakson orkesteri Oy	Pilgrim Oy / Edelmann Affiliate,	Suunnittelutoimisto Taivas
Käännöstoimisto Haapalainen	Finland	Swedish Shipowners' Association
	Pixmill yhtiöt Oy	
Lahti Science and Business Park Ltd.	Pohjantähti-Elokuva Oy	TeliaSonera Finland Oyj
Lappeenranta University of	Pohjaväre, Kirsti	The Baltic Sea Communication
Technology	Prisma LLC	Network
Latvian Chamber of Commerce and	ProCom – Finnish Association of	The College of Landbased studies in
Industry	Communications Professionals	Tuorla
Legistum	Procourt International Oy	The Governing Body of Suomenlinna
Lingsoft, Inc.	ProGea Consulting	The Martha Association
Liverace Oy	Pyhäjärvi Institute	Tieto Corporation
Lloyd's Register EMEA, Helsinki	Pöyry Environment Oy	Tieturi Oy
Office		Tikkurila Oyj
Loxus Technologies Oy	Raisio Plc	Turku 2011 Foundation

Uniart Finland Oy
UPM-Kymmene Corporation
US Embassy Helsinki

Vanajavesi Foundation
Varsinais-Suomen
perinnemaisemayhdistys
Verohallinto
Vesi-Eko Oy
Vesilaitosyhdistys
Viking Line Abp
Viking Malt
VMV Yhtiö Oy / Masanttimedia
VSA Vilnius Ltd.
VTT Technical Research centre of
Finland
Väisälä Oyj

Wavin-Labko
Webropol Oy
World Ecological Forum
World Ocean Council
WTF Helsinki
WWF Finland
Wärtsilä Oyj Abp

Yara Finland
Yara International ASA

Zemnieku Saeima (Farmers
Parliament)
Zennström Philanthropies