

*Keynote speech World Hydrogen Summit, Rotterdam 10 May 2022*

*Kalstat Lund, Minister for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy and Environment*

## ***Driving Forward the Hydrogen Industry***

### Intro

Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure addressing you today and speak about how we in Greenland are moving towards a fossil free future and the importance of hydrogen.

Hydrogen will become a key component for our green transition in order to decarbonize our transport and most important industries.

Hydrogen is also vital for Greenland's ambition to become a net energy exporter in the future.

### Key message

My key message today is that not only do we have ambitious goals for our national green transition:

Greenland has the natural resources, ambitions, and determination to be an important partner for companies who invest in renewable energy and production of hydrogen.

Our hydropower potentials alone exceed our total energy demand several times and we are open to investors who want to develop the resources for industrial use or exporting the energy.

I am therefore happy to announce that the Government of Greenland will launch a tender process for our largest known hydropower potentials.

#### [About Greenland](#)

But allow me to speak briefly about Greenland.

You maybe already know that it is the world's largest island, and covered by the ice sheet. And perhaps you also know that we are among the world's smallest nations.

We travel by ships and plane, and fishery is by far our most important industry, together with an upcoming mineral and tourism industry.

Our geography and industries are important to keep in mind when we talk about our transition towards a fossil-free energy supply. We are depending upon industries and transport that is hard to decarbonize with the technology we have today.

Hydrogen plays a huge role in this process.

#### [Climate change in Greenland](#)

It will be wrong to talk about Greenland and the role of hydrogen without mentioning the reason why hydrogen is so important for our industries.

Climate change caused by global warming is a global problem. But the Arctic temperatures are rising three times faster than the global average. And the changes caused by warmer temperatures in Greenland are very visible.

In the northern part of Greenland, the loss of land-based ice is accelerating. People sailing in North Greenland reports about ice-free water during summers to an extent never seen before.

Scientific reports predict that the Arctic Ocean around the North pole could be largely free of sea ice in summer as early as the late 2030s, less than two decades from now.

The Arctic ecosystems and communities are affected by warming temperatures, warming waters, and declining sea ice. Locally larger inflow of fresh water into the fjords can result in rapid changes to the ecosystems effecting the lives of fish and other life in our waters.

These changes are already affecting local communities, who depend upon fishery and hunting for a living.

#### [Hydropower potentials and green transition](#)

**We must all contribute to prevent dramatic climate change.**

The green transition is not new to Greenland. It has been going on for decades and has been driven by cheaper prices on hydropower compared to oil. In a few years from now, 90 percent of our public electricity will be produced by hydropower or other renewable sources.

As a result of a warming world, the meltwater of the Greenlandic ice sheet creates larger and growing water reservoirs. Thereby increasing the hydropower potential.

Hydropower allows for some of the world's lowest electricity prices. And this is exactly what we need to scale up the production of green hydrogen and drive forward the hydrogen industry globally.

You could say that global warming has turned the Greenlandic ice sheet into the world's largest battery.

Our aim is that Greenland will be in the forefront in production of green energy to the world market within the next ten years.

[Rounding off the speech](#)

Let me round off my speech by reminding us: We all have a common duty to counter global warming and reverse the effects of climate change.

Governments, industry, and civil society must work together to achieve a just and sustainable green transition.

So let us work together across private and public boundaries, across sectors and across borders to develop a new fossil-free energy sector.

Thank you for your attention.