



**CCGA08 Nordic Climate Change Studies, 15 hp**  
**HT 2019**

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## **Individual Essay: Social tipping points for climate action**

*During November 8<sup>th</sup> to November 27<sup>th</sup>* you will be writing an individual essay (commentary) about a social tipping point/element of your interest. You will present your conclusions in two groups: Group 1 on **November 28<sup>th</sup>** and Group 2 on **December 9<sup>th</sup>** (see groups assignment in Canvas).

Describe and discuss how your tipping point/element can help rapidly adapt and mitigate to a particular climate change related issue/problem (e.g. meat-based diet and flash flood) or global warming in general, and also achieve sustainable development. The climatic issue you would be addressing can be from a particular sector: forestry, energy, industries, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, transports, nature conservation and biodiversity, city planning etc.

First set the context: what is the climatic issue you are addressing? Is it a local or global problem or is it global warming in general? How do you see your tipping point of interest would address and rapidly solve this problem? Then explain your social tipping point/element with examples. Is there an evidence(s) of this social tipping point in scientific literature? What is (or you think) the critical threshold (leverage point) for this tipping point? What are the drivers and barriers for your tipping point? Finally, what are the co-benefits of your social tipping point/element for sustainable development?

You are encouraged to choose an issue that is relevant for **Sweden or for the Nordic countries in general**, and *a social tipping point/element that relates to **your experiences from your home country***.

**The essays should be submitted no later than November 27<sup>th</sup>, 23:59 CET.**

The total length of the essay should not exceed 2,000 words, and should contain a maximum of 2 display items (figures and/or tables), and 15 references. Use 1.5 line spacing, 12 font size.



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### How to write a commentary:

Commentary pieces are a platform for topical, evidence-supported opinions related to timely issues. They can focus on the scientific, political, economic, and societal aspects of a challenge but must discuss solutions and pathways forward rather than purely highlight the extent of the challenge.

**1 Title** Titles should be informative, thought-provoking, and inviting and should be no more than 100 characters in length (including spaces).

**2 Abstract** Commentaries should have a 2- to 4-sentence Abstract, summarizing the challenge and your suggestion of the way forward.

**3 Introduction** - Background of your commentary and a statement of the point of view that you have developed in response to the topic (sometimes called the **thesis statement**). The introductory paragraph should immediately present the issues under discussion in a way that captures the reader's interest. It should be general enough to orient the reader not familiar with the specifics of the field being discussed.

**4 Body (Facts)** - Answer the guiding questions in the previous page and describe with examples and evidence. Reference to your sources properly.

**5 Conclusions** - Summary of the argument where you set results in relation to the issue. Make your own interpretations and possibly answer of your questions. If you have not got any simple or clear answers about the tipping point you come up with, you should discuss where uncertainties and error sources are located. Remember, it should be conclusions and not a summary. Tell the reader about future prospects and implications.

**6 References** - Here you write your sources listed by name, author, publisher, edition and year of publication (any format). Internet sources with full address, update and access date.