

PRESS RELEASE

Female focus on climate commitment

Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen 28th July 2019

In September Hilde Fåln Strøm and Sunniva Sorby venture out on a nine-month isolated stay on Svalbard. The two women will be the first to spend a winter in the Svalbard wilderness without men, and they will test electric snowmobiles and report climate change observations to NASA during their stay.

High female involvement

- We have engaged a high proportion of women through our partners and sponsors, people who share our ambitions to contribute to a better future!

- We are two women who will spend nine months in a small trappers' hut. This profession has traditionally been occupied by men, and we want to show it's possible. It's rewarding that there are so many women amongst our contributors and partners, says Fåln Strøm.

Hilde Fåln Strøm (52) has lived in Longyearbyen since the 1990s, and has seen climate changes up close. She hopes the stay at the small trappers' hut Bamsebu will trigger climate engagement globally.

- Through the school project *Explore by the seats of your pants*, school classes worldwide can attend interactive lectures on plastics, weather, climate change and food culture in the Arctic. We need to get people to love the Arctic, because you protect what you love.

The project has escalated since its inception. It started as a dream of creating climate dialogue, but has escalated into something bigger where the two women will gather climate data to major research institutions such as NASA, the Norwegian Polar Institute, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the World Ocean Observatory.

Challenging logistics at 78 degrees north

Whilst Fåln Strøm is a Longyearbyen resident, Sunniva Sorby is making an even further move from Squamish, Canada. A lot of gear has to get in place, and Fåln Strøm is working hard on getting everything to Bamsebu in time.

- We have electric snowmobiles, equipment, clothing and food that needs to be transported to the hut. The preparations for a nine months stay are immense. We are going to the hut for two weeks from August 1st to chop wood and get ready for the arrival in September.

Bamsebu is a trappers' hut, originally built for whalers in 1930, and is located 140 kilometers from Longyearbyen. During winter, the cabin is isolated and can only be reached by snowmobile or dog sledge if the fjords freeze. In summer it is accessible only by boat - if weather permits.

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