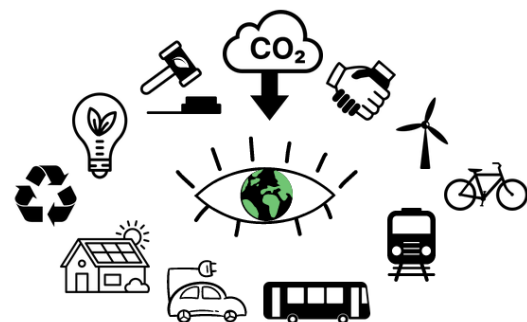


The Best Measures to Combat Climate Change in Norway

Fact Sheet

This document identifies the most successful climate mitigation policies from across Nordic and Baltic countries and aims to inspire Norwegian energy- and climate policies.

The list of policies is the result of analysis conducted by environmental organisations from Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and Norway respectively.



Climate Law

Climate Laws are important legal frameworks for climate action.

The Norwegian climate act should take inspiration from Denmark. The Norwegian law has sufficient targets, for 2030 and 2050, but missing binding targets for the year in between. In addition, to secure progression and assign accountability towards reaching the targets, Norway should establish a carbon budget, a road map and an independent climate council to monitor the progress and impact of the measures.

No New Licenses for Petroleum Extraction

The petroleum sector is a major source of emissions in Norway (11.5 million tonnes of CO₂-e) and this measure will contribute to phasing out this sector in the long term.

According to Norway's own climate targets and commitments to the Paris Agreement, there is no room for further expansion of resources and future production of petroleum reserves. Seen from a 2050 perspective: New announcements and possible discoveries have a time horizon for production typically several decades into the future - which potentially means production well into the second half of our century. A stop should therefore be put to open new areas for exploration and a strategy should be drawn up for how the Norwegian oil and gas industry can be terminated.

Carbon Tax

Carbon tax is a policy instrument to "make the polluter pay" and to drive climate action. Norway has been a pioneer with early introduction of carbon taxes and the tax level is still relatively high. In addition, a steady and substantial increase is announced.

It is room for further increase in carbon and other environmental taxes. It is possible as a green tax shift where other taxes is reduced proportionally. Carbon taxes can also be distributed back to the population on a flat rate making those with low consumption/mission benefiting. It is important that increased taxes are for low-income households are compensated.

Energy Efficiency in Buildings is Important

Norways development of energy efficiency policies and measures is lagging. EU legislation is driving energy efficiency throughout member states, but similar measures are not seen in Norway. In Sweden and Denmark subsidies are giving an additional push for energy efficiency. Norway is missing renovation strategies, minimum standards, proper informational support, and subsidies for building renovation. Efficiency in the building stock can make huge amount of renewable electricity available for decarbonisation of other sectors, renewable electricity is commonly used for space heating,

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Authors:

- Gunnar Boye Olesen, Judit Szoleczky, **INFORSE-Europe, Denmark**
- Reinhold Pape, Fredrik Lundberg, **AirClim Secretariat, Sweden**
- Dag Arne Høystad, **Norges Naturvennforbund Norway**
- Jānis Matulis, **Latvian Green Movement, Latvia**
- Domantas Tracevičius, **Circular Economy, Lithuania**
- Irena Sukhy, Uladzimir Rak, **Ecohome, Belarus / Ekokoncepcija, Lithuania**
- Sofia Sadogurska, Kostiantyn Krynytskyi, **Ecoaction, Ukraine**

Contact:

Gunnar Boye Olesen
gunnar.olesen@inforse.org

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Renewable Energy Policies and Measures

Norway electricity production is 100 % renewable, but electricity only covers around half of the energy consumption. To avoid huge growth in electricity demand followed by conflict or land and nature protection, it is necessary to take actions as:

- Priority of energy efficiency and alternatives to electrical heating in building
- Utilisation of solar PV potential on buildings and other build environments
- No further electrification of petroleum installations that anyway should be gradually phased out
- Develop 0-emission technologies in process industries instead of energy consuming CCS and hydrogen.
- Increase use of waste resources as manure in agriculture and fish farms for biogas.



Warehouse in Lier with solar panels

Fuel Shift Away from Fossil Fuels

Fuel shift away from fossil fuels is another important type of policies and measures. Norway is front-runner with phase out of fossil fuel heating in housing sector in 2020 and a 90 % share of new passenger cars being electric. Further shift requires that the shift is to renewable alternatives, in particular renewable electricity. We identified the following:

- Support for hydrogen must be only for green hydrogen and only for use in hard-to-abate sectors as hydrogen production have losses and is in many applications less efficient than direct electricity use (it is for instance less efficient in transport except long-distance shipping).
- Biomass diversification, both to eliminate the high import of biomass into Denmark and to reduce/avoid local air pollution from small stoves and
- Phase out fossil fuel - based heating in the industry
- Emission free construction sites, as is now required in some Norwegian towns- Support for electric cars, preferably with same support for all cars in a socially just way-
- Stop the sale of new fossil fuel driven cars, as Norway is planning from 2025
- Subsidy for electric shipping, both ferries, fishing boats and smaller cargo ships

Transport Policies

Transport policies are important to break the trend of ever-increasing transport that makes it very hard to make real phase-out of all Greenhouse Gas emissions in transport. Some of the main parts of policies to meet that objective are:

- Transport efficient spatial planning that reduces transport needs and make possible increased use of public transport, bikes and walking.
- More support for public transport to develop. Public transport should benefit more people rather than cutting buses down as it is done today.
- Support for international trains, night trains, following the Sweden example (Sweden has started night train Stockholm and Malmø to Hamburg and Berlin).

Other Policies

The above policies and measures are analysed by the project partners, but there are also other good mitigation measures, including:

- Policies for reduction of food waste.
- Policies for more plant-based food
- Agricultural policies to reduce emission from agriculture and agricultural inputs, such as fertiliser.
- Sufficiency policies for more sustainable lifestyles, reducing transport demands, housing size, consumption and others.
- Circular economy policies to reduce the climate footprint of consumption.

What not to do: Not all mitigation measures are good, and we propose not to expand the following mitigation measures

- CCS on biomass combustion and fossil fuel combustion. There are safer and cleaner alternatives to phase out these emissions.
- Liquid biofuels that often have similar GHG emissions as fossil fuel.
- Hydrogen and e-fuel have huge energy losses in transformation and alternatives should be given priority.