

Notes for presentation at Kick-off conference of SK-ACC02
Bratislava, 24 May 2021

Climate Action Plans in Norway

“Local responsibility with national support”

1. Intro – Norway in Brief

Geography

- Located on Europe’s north-western fringe
- Strong influence by Gulf Stream (warmer than you’d think)
- Considerable weather/climate gradients – North-South & West-East
- Significant effects of climate change (precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, etc.)

Political

- Population 5.4 mill = same as Slovakia (7x area)
- Population concentrated along the coast – mainly southern part
- Greater Oslo = 1.5 mill.
- Regions (“Counties”) = 11
- Municipalities = ca. 350
- Both levels were recently reorganised (fewer, larger units)

2. Tackling Climate Change

Responsibility for

- Local strategies & action plans = **Municipalities**
- Overall policies and international commitments = **National Level**

Three main **national agencies**:

- **DSB** (Civil protection) = Protecting infrastructure, dealing with impacts, preparedness, etc
- **NVE** (Water & Energy) = All “water related” issues (sea-level rise, urban floods, river floods, hydropower, etc.)
- **Environment Agency (Overall responsible for mitigation and adaptation - all sectors)**
- (+ Met.no)

The **Environment Agency** provides lots of guidance and support to municipalities, including:

- Comprehensive **guidelines** for “Mitigation & Energy Planning”
- **Manual** on implementation of National Guidelines for adaptation
- Guidelines for each **sector** (construction, agriculture, health, etc.)
- **Frequent webinars** (ca. weekly) – about a variety of topics

- **Network of 13 urban municipalities** (“in front”) for climate change adaptation. Sharing experiences, pilot studies, research & development, etc.
- **Funding schemes for municipalities**

Mitigation:	EUR 10-25 million pr year
Adaptation:	EUR 0.5-1 million pr year (general, cross-sector planning) + funds for protection against floods, landslides, etc. (NVE)

All material is available online. (Norwegian only, but auto-translate to English works great, depending on your browser.)

Summary:

Excellent support for regional and local work – It is getting hard for municipalities to say “we don’t know where to start”.

Challenges:

- Big differences in size of municipality, and thus their capacity to deal with these issues. (I am sure you have the same in Slovakia.)
- It can be hard to “separate the wheat from the chaff”: Which measures fit **our** purposes? Which ones **actually help** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy or improve adaptation? Where do we get **most value for money**?

PAGE 2 – Other resources and examples

Norwegian Climate Service Center – Cooperation between the Meteorological Institute, NVE and two climate research institutes (NORCE and Bjerknes Centre)

- **Aim:** Provide data for use in local and regional climate planning.
- **Product:** Regional “Climate profiles” – These serve as benchmarks for all climate plans in Norway. It is extremely important to agree on a national standard, eg, sea-level rise & building heights.
- **Check out the website**, if you don’t have the translator, see the English document: [klimarapport-2100-engelsk-web-0160517.pdf](#)

Future Built - Cooperation of 6 municipalities in the Greater Oslo region

- **Aim:** To promote climate neutral architecture. They cater to cutting-edge real estate developers – provide knowledge, networking, funding, publicity, etc.
- **Product:** 56 showcase projects on urban sustainability since 2010. Very inspiring work!
- **Info:** [FutureBuilt](#) (website)
- **English book:** [FutureBuilt 10 years.pdf](#)
- **Photo:** Reconstruction of office building with 80% material reuse

Example of local solution

One of our biggest challenges: **Water!** (too much, too little, wrong time, wrong place)

Lot of **adaptation** work is focussed on water, from costly renewal of complete wastewater systems to small, local stormwater measures.

Photo: Recent street renewal, just 2 km from my home. Stormwater that previously went into the sewer system is now led on surface to the sea (in background).

Final comment:

This was NOT meant to be a comprehensive list of activities in Norway. But I hope to have shown you some highlights. Please ask/contact me for further info. I look forward to working together with you in Slovakia. Thanks for your attention!