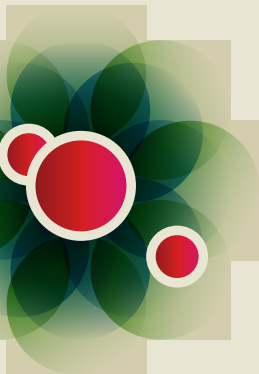


Norwegian Climate
Adaptation Programme



Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme

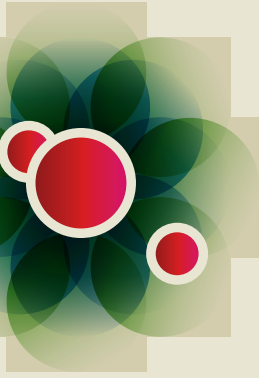
The Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme was established in May 2007 and is part of the Government's initiative on climate change adaptation. The work is coordinated by a group consisting of representatives from 13 ministries. The group is headed by the Ministry of the Environment, and the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB) acts as secretariat for the group. In September 2008, the 'Cities of the Future' project was linked to the secretariat, and the online portal www.klimatilpasning.no was launched in March 2009.

The secretariat's responsibilities:

- Collaboration and coordination
 - Information and increased knowledge on climate adaptation
 - Cities of the Future
 - International cooperation
-



Our climate is changing. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global warming will result in changes in temperature and precipitation as well as rising sea level.



Climate Change

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that global warming is caused mainly by man-made emissions. More recent research has established that the increase in temperature may exceed IPCC's previous predictions. However, reduced emissions alone will not prevent the climate from changing. Due to the slow nature of the climate system, climate change will continue for generations. This will also affect Norway. Thus, we must plan ahead in order to adapt to the projected climate changes.

Local Action

Research has taught us much about climate change and how climate systems work. Predicting local and regional climate change effects is however, a very complicated task. The time aspect also represents a major challenge for anyone involved in planning for a changed climate, as the major effects of climate change will not become apparent in Norway for many years. However, our current knowledge is sufficient to enable us to prepare for such effects, also locally.

Climate Adaptation

“Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities”.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007

"Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time. We must expect a warmer planet in the future, but we will reduce the rise in temperatures and limit the consequences.

The Government is now strengthening its efforts to adapt Norway to the effects of climate change. This will make us less vulnerable to climate change in the future."

Erik Solheim,
Minister of the Environment
and International Development

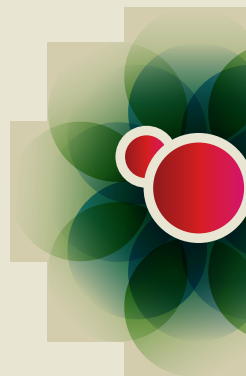


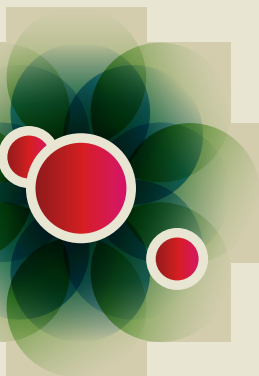
Exchange of Information and Improved Knowledge

One of the secretariat's main tasks is to gather and disseminate information and knowledge about climate change and its impact on Norway. Research centres, local authorities, companies and others provide valuable information. This information is made available on www.klimatilpasning.no, and through courses, lectures, guidelines, projects and networking.

Collaboration and Coordination

National and local authorities, companies and organisations are all responsible for adapting to a changed climate. However, national coordination and follow-up of the work is necessary. In this respect, the Norwegian government has granted the Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme secretariat a central role. The secretariat is to ensure that the various players assess how climate change will affect their activities and that their plans take climate change into account. Such follow-up will also ensure that the adaptation efforts progress systematically at all levels and promote cross-sectoral collaboration. The Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme is thus involved in many arenas and sectors of society.





Web Portal

Extensive knowledge and experience have been acquired from climate adaptation work. However, the sources of information are scattered and not easily accessible. The portal www.klimatilpasning.no gathers this information. It presents good examples of municipal climate adaptation efforts, and provides practical and specially adapted information from researchers, the government administration and the business sector.

Climate Adaptation Courses

In cooperation with the National Emergency Planning College (NUSB), the Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme organises the course “Climate Adaptation in Social Planning” for planners and decision-makers in municipalities, county municipalities and with the County Governor. The course spans the entire range of climate adaptation measures, such as area planning, water supply and sewage, health, nature management and transport. The course participants will also acquire insight into the latest research on climate change and the impact of climate change on Norway.

The course “Climate Adaptation in Social Planning” covers topics such as:

- Distribution of roles and responsibilities
 - Planning and statutory framework
 - Working methods
 - Specific examples and regional/sectoral challenges
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Cities of the Future

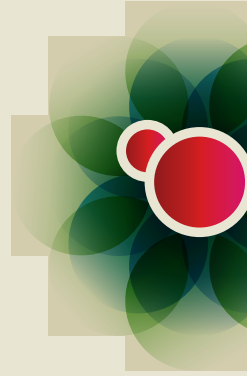
Cities of the Future is a collaboration project between the Norwegian Government and 13 of the largest cities and towns in Norway. The main purpose of the Cities of the Future project is to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions from road transport, stationary energy consumption, consumption and waste in urban areas, and to contribute to climate change adaptation through the development of strategies to meet future climate changes. The Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme is responsible for the coordination of the climate adaptation efforts in Cities of the Future.

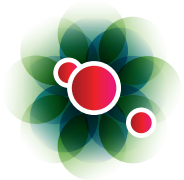
International Cooperation

The secretariat for the Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme has extensive international networks in the Nordic countries, the EU and the rest of the world. Through these networks the secretariat exchanges experiences and shares working methods adopted by the secretariat. There is also wide international interest as to how we work in Norway. We have, among other measures, linked our climate adaptation efforts closely to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, ISDR. The majority of natural disasters are connected to various types of weather events. Consequently, climate change adaptation measures are important in preventing such incidents.

Green Paper on Adaptation

In 2009, the Norwegian government appointed a committee to assess Norway's climate vulnerability and prepare a Norwegian green paper on adaptation. Several sub-reports were prepared in connection with the committee's work. These reports form an important part of the knowledge base for climate adaptation in Norway and are available on www.klimatilpasning.no.





Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme



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