

Phronesis SA



Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Norway - An Issue of Democracy?

Presentation 26th of November 2020
By Phronesis, Kirsten Paaby

The perspective and experience from where I speak

- ◆ Conveying good examples of sustainable practices
- ◆ Practicing and developing methods for democratic dialogue
- ◆ Imparting an over-all understanding of sustainable development



The presentation:

- ◆ Norway's obligations – the SDGs, the Paris-agreement
- ◆ Nordic Vision 2030
- ◆ Lines of conflict: The Climate court case (ongoing) and examples of other court cases regarding for example wind power
- ◆ The democratic aspect in the work for climate change: Participation, awareness raising and education for change
- ◆ Glimpse of local practice regarding climate and sustainable development - Norwegian and Nordic examples
- ◆ The burning questions in the Gøder Region – regarding climate change and democracy?

Norway's obligations

- ◆ Endorsed the International Paris-agreement on Climate
- ◆ Endorsed the Agenda 2030 – the Sustainable Development Goals
- ◆ Endorsed the Nordic Vision 2030
- ◆ Each Ministry has responsibility for one specific or several specific of the 17 goals, they are obliged to report on the progress implementing the goals.
- ◆ All Norwegian Municipalities are required to have a climate plan.

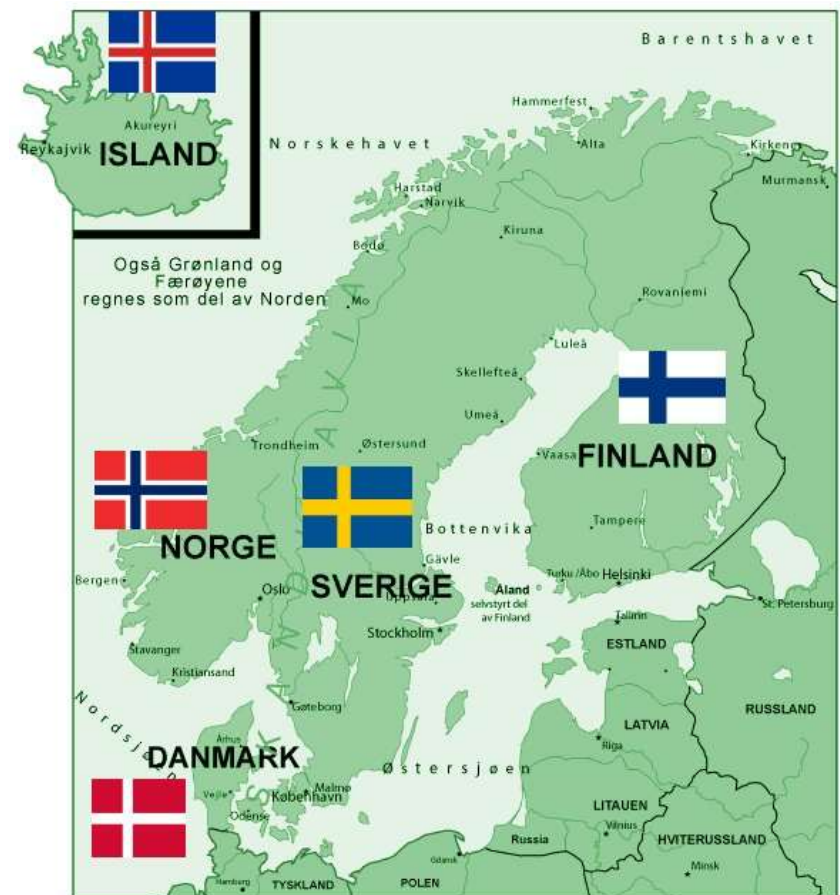


FNs BÆREKRAFTSMÅL



The Nordic Vision 2030

- ◆ **A green Nordic region.** The countries will work together to promote a green transition of their societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.
- ◆ **A competitive Nordic region.** Green growth in the Nordic region should be based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.
- ◆ **A socially sustainable Nordic Region.** The countries will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.



Every four years, the government shall draw up a document setting out national expectations regarding regional and municipal planning with the goal of promoting sustainable development throughout the entire country



National expectations regarding regional and municipal planning 2019–2023

Established by Royal Decree of 14 May 2019



Ministry of Local Government
and Modernisation

◆ Follows from section 6-1 of the Norwegian Planning and Building Act.

◆ the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals provide the main direction for Norway's policy

◆ to address the greatest challenges of our time

See more [here](#)

§ 112 in the Norwegian Constitution

Everyone has the right to an environment, that ensures health, and to a nature where productivity and diversity are preserved. Nature's resources must be disposed of in the basis of a long term and versatile consideration, a consideration that safeguard this right also for the future generations

Climate Court Case NGOs versus the Norwegian State

With reference to § 112 in the Norwegian Constitution



The Accusing Parties:

The NGOs:

- ◆ Green Peace Norway
- ◆ Nature and Youth

Supporting partners:

- ◆ The Grand Parents' Climate Action
- ◆ The Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature



Renewable energies - local opposition



Windpower development are creating conflicts in Norway

New actors and movements?

- ◆ Establishment of national protest movement
- ◆ Mobilization and collaboration of national interest organizations (NGOs)
- ◆ Polarization of national and local debate
- ◆ Radicalization of local protests



TRONDERENERGI PÅ FRØYA

Vil starte utbygging på Frøya i dag, men vind-
motstanderne fortsetter kampen

Tronderenergi møter nok en gang på demonstranter i utbyggingsområdet.

NTB **ENERGI** 13. MAI 2019 - 13:52

Reference: Windplan

SDG 11, Make Cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

One of the indicators:

Proportion of cities with a **direct participation structure of civil society** in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES**



Localization?

- ◆ People can shape, and reshape societies
- ◆ Democracy is about a shared community of people. It is about us and ours, not about me and mine
- ◆ The normative basis for a democratic system is that everyone is competent to participate in governing



Foto: Namsdal avis

Professor Audun Offerdal in Report on Local Democracy in Norway 2006

The Danish Island Samsø

100 % renewable – Local Ownership – “Community”

The screenshot shows the Energi Akademiet website. The header is dark with the logo and tagline "We are working with the consequences of climate change". A navigation menu includes links for ABOUT, SAMSOE'S GREEN TRANSITION, ACTIVISM, PROJECTS, WE OFFER, FILM, ARCHIVE AND DOCUMENTATION, PRESS, and CONTACT. A search bar is located below the menu. The main content area features a large video player with a portrait of a man and the text "HOW TO EMPOWER A COMMUNITY?". To the right of the video player is a gallery of two images: one showing three children holding signs in a field, and another showing a person on a wind turbine with the text "SAMSØE - SEPTEMBER 18-20 - 2013 FROM BEST TO NEXT PRACTICE". The footer contains a cookie consent message and buttons for "Accept", "Reject", and "Read More".

ENERGI AKADEMIET We are working with the consequences of climate change

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HOW TO EMPOWER A COMMUNITY?

SAMSØE - SEPTEMBER 18-20 - 2013 FROM BEST TO NEXT PRACTICE

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Samsoe's Green Transition

- ◆ In ten years:
Selfsufficient with the
use of renewable energy
- ◆ Now heading towards
phasing out fossil fuels
by 2030
- ◆ Working on circular
economy



Photos: Samsoe Energy Academy

Sustainable Lives Network (NO)

- ◆ A citizens' initiative
- ◆ From three persons to a national neighborhood movement
- ◆ Take the climate issue "from protest to party"
- ◆ Combining wellbeing with reduction of CO₂ emisjon



Questions?

- ◆ The burning questions in the Gemer Region – regarding climate change and democracy?
- ◆ Your needs?
- ◆ The coming study as a part of the project?
- ◆ What should we be looking for?



References and literature

- ◆ [National expectations regarding regional and municipal planning 2019 – 2023](#)
- ◆ [The Nordic Vision 2030](#)
- ◆ Action research project [Windplan](#) - Public participation in wind power: challenges and opportunities (Norway).
- ◆ [The Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- ◆ Samsø's Green Transition – [The Energy Academy](#) (Denmark)
- ◆ [The Transition Towns Network](#)
- ◆ [SIGNALS](#), local action - success stories in sustainability
- ◆ [NORDIC](#), - Success stories in Sustainability