

OSLO CITY CLIMATE BUDGET





675,000

INHABITANTS

Oslo's revised climate strategy, to be adopted in 2019/2020, sets out a series of goals to be achieved by 2030. These include reducing GHG emissions by 95% and total energy consumption by 10% compared to 2009, strengthening the city's ability to adapt to climate change and lowering its contribution to GHG emissions outside the municipality.

22%

REDUCTION IN GHG EMISSIONS BETWEEN 2009 AND 2017 EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET OF

45%

BY 2020 FROM 2009

TARGETING EMISSIONS REDUCTION OF

95%

BY 2030 FROM 2009

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CLIMATE BUDGET: EMBEDDING CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMISSIONS

Oslo was one of the first cities in the world to introduce a climate budget (CB) as an integral component of the municipal budget process. Since 2016 its annual CB has proposed a maximum emission ceiling just like the maximum economic expenditure of the fiscal budget, whose structure it shares.

This ceiling is set at 932,000 CO₂e for 2019 and 809,000 CO₂e has been recommended for 2020. As with the fiscal budget process, all municipal agencies contribute to the budget's achievability by submitting measures to reduce emissions under their responsibility. Overall responsibility for the CB lies with the vice mayor of finance.

The CB consists of more than 40 measures at different scales - national, regional and local - thereby serving as a climate action plan. Some measures directly reduce emissions and others are softer instruments such as communication and engagement.

Municipal bodies report on their climate mitigation actions throughout the year to the finance department. To track trends in near real time, the city developed a 'climate barometer'. This updates 14 indicators three times a year, reflecting developments and changes in activity.

Recent analysis of measures' anticipated effects identified a gap representing 100,000 CO₂e, triggering an alert for short-term action - and demonstrating one of the many benefits of the CB.

ADAPTATION

Goal in new Climate Strategy: Oslo's ability to withstand climate change is strengthened by 2030 and the city is being developed so that it is equipped for the changes expected until 2100. Main measures, priority areas include; opening freestone rivers and streams; enhance presence of rain beds; enhance total area of green roofs; by 2030, plant 100,000 new trees in the building zone of the city.

CHALLENGES

- Motivating a switch to electrification, biogas and hydrogen to reduce emissions from commercial traffic
- Stimulating circular economy policies to reduce emissions from incineration of residual waste
- Developing new policies and regulations favouring fossil-free, non-road mobile machinery to reduce emissions from construction sites
- Working with the port authority on electrification and hybrid solutions to reduce emissions from maritime transport



LESSONS LEARNT

- All agencies and departments should be involved from the start to ensure consistent, comprehensive reporting
- The budget must be based on specific measures, rather than on the anticipated effects of policies and incentives, so their impact is clear
- Listening to critical questions from scientists, non-governmental oganisations, political parties and the media can inform ongoing improvements
- Anchoring responsibility with the finance department is critical to ensuring measures are prioritised, costed, measured and reported