

Sustainability reporting in Norwegian public sector: status and good practices

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Norwegian values



*"Nature is not only all that is visible
to the eye...
it also includes the inner pictures
of the soul"*

Edvard Munch

Norway's commitment to SDGs

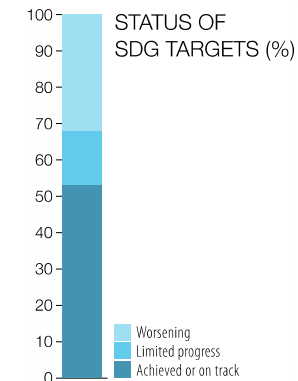
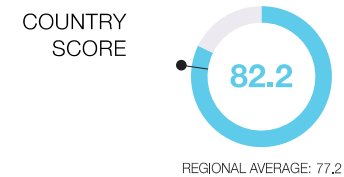
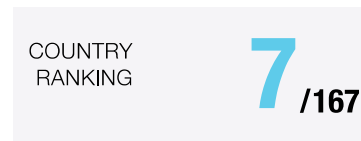
Policy efforts

- Official endorsement:** the government has issued formal statements endorsing the implementation of SDGs to support sustainable development initiatives.
- Coordinating body:** A central ministry-level government unit coordinates and implements SDGs across various ministries, ensuring cohesive efforts.
- Integration into national strategies:** SDGs are incorporated into sectoral action plans and overarching national strategies, ensuring alignment with development policies.
- Budgetary considerations:** the latest budget documents mention SDGs, indicating financial commitment to achieving these goals.
- Monitoring mechanisms:** While specific national indicators for SDG implementation have not been identified, there is online reporting on official SDG indicators, facilitating transparency and public access to information.

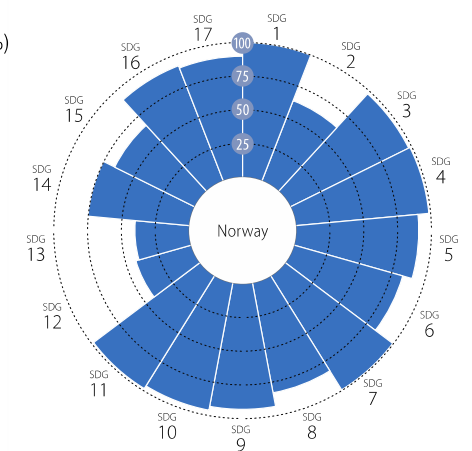
NORWAY

OECD Countries

OVERALL PERFORMANCE



AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



Note: The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sdgs.un.org>

Background of Sustainability Reporting practice

Sustainability reporting in Norway has evolved since the early 2000s, aligning with global ESG practices.

Major influences:

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** (adopted in 2015)
- **EU's Non-Financial Reporting Directive (2014/95/EU, NFRD)**, incorporated into Norwegian law (effective as of the financial year starting on 1 July 2021 and later).

Current focus on aligning public reporting with **EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)** (from November 2024).

National major regulation:

Norwegian Accounting Act mandates large enterprises, public interest entities and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and certain subsidiaries to report on non-financial matters (environment, social, governance).

Obligatory: for large SOEs and entities under the Norwegian Accounting Act.

Voluntary: municipalities, counties/regions, and smaller public bodies.

Sustainability reporting in the Norwegian public sector

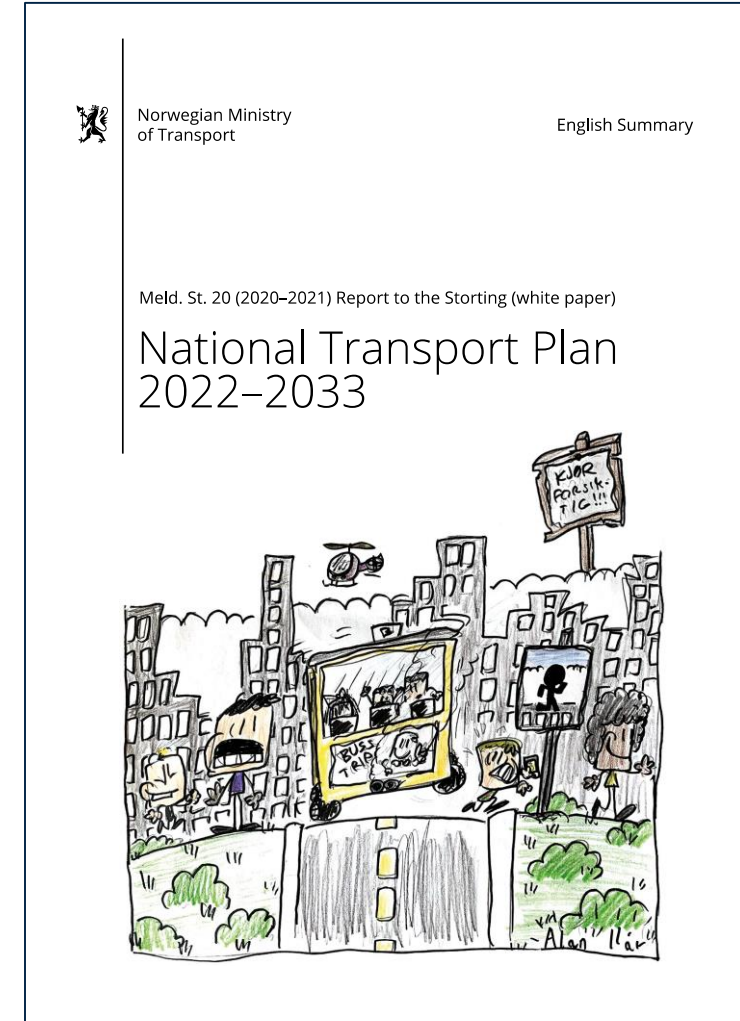
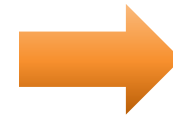
National level

- Central government institutions adopt voluntary sustainability practices.
- Certain sectors (e.g., energy or transport) due to their profile adhere to a more rigorous sustainability reporting.

Example

[The National Transport Plan 2022-2033](#) has an objective to reach an efficient, environmental-friendly and safe transport system in 2050.

The plan will underpin the global Sustainable Development Goals and Norway's climate and environmental goals.



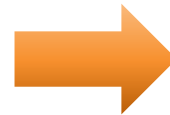
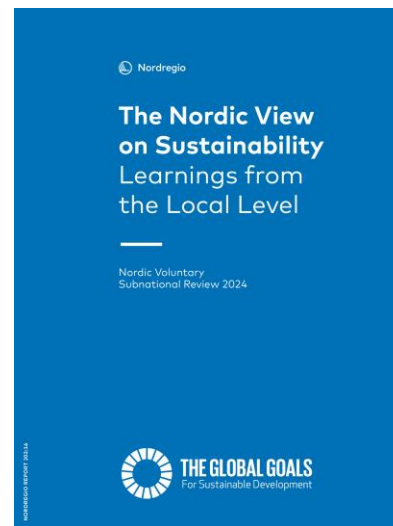
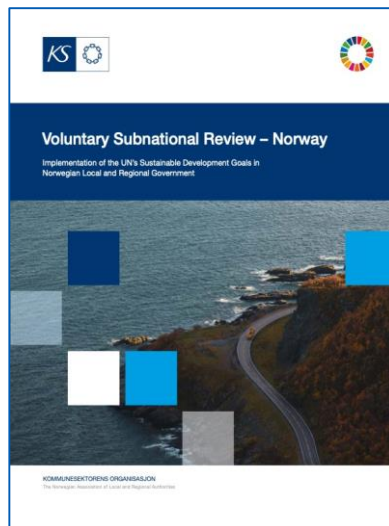
Sustainability reporting in the Norwegian public sector

Subnational level

- Local governments are encouraged to report on sustainability initiatives.
- While not universally mandated, many local governments voluntarily engage in sustainability reporting.

2 relevant publications:

- [Voluntary Subnational Review – Norway \(2021\)](#)
- [The Nordic View on Sustainability - Learnings from the Local Level \(2024\)](#)



Key findings from 2024 report:

- ✓ Many LGs align local development plans with SDG targets.
- ✓ Use tailored sustainability indicators to report and participate in national reporting initiatives.
- ✓ LGs collaborate with national bodies and civil society to share best practices and develop cohesive strategies.
- ✓ Key challenges: limited resources, lack of standardized guidelines, and data collection for effective SDG tracking is still limited.

Sustainability reporting in Norwegian SOEs



- Leading telecommunications provider.
- Sustainability disclosures include:
 - Cybersecurity measures.
 - Emission reduction strategies.
 - Social responsibility metrics.



- Major energy company with significant state ownership.
- Integrated annual reports combining financial and sustainability information on:
 - Transition to renewable energy.
 - Carbon capture and storage initiatives.
 - Commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050.

Thank you!