



European Sustainable Energy Seminar

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Policies for Sufficiency as Climate Policies

Presentation of sufficiency policies and proposals from Norway

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Presentation is part of Proceedings https://inforse.org/europe/seminar_2026_INFORSE-Europe_Denmark.htm



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 **Naturvernforbundet**

Sufficiency policies in Norway

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What one Norwegian consumes in a year

18.6

tonnes of raw materials, per person

World average: 4.9 tonnes

3.4

hectares of land claimed, per person

33 900 m², more than twice an average EU citizen

Norwegian priorities



Piece by piece

A lot of nature is lost in small decisions. The main drivers:

- Roads and transport infrastructure
- Dwellings and holiday homes
- Renewable energy production
- Commercial development, for example data centres

Make land neutrality binding

- Require every municipality to keep land and nature accounts
- Adopt land neutrality (arealnøytralitet) as a governing principle: build on already developed land, not on new nature
- Ban development on peatland and other carbon-rich, species-rich areas
- Rule that plans older than ten years cannot ground a building permit, and enter an automatic “planvask”
- Abolish support schemes that directly threaten biodiversity

450 000

holiday homes for 5.6 million people

Four in ten people own or have access to a holiday home (SSB)

Cabin policy

- Regulate allocated but undeveloped cabin areas back to agriculture, nature, outdoor recreation and reindeer husbandry (LNFR)
- Allow new cabins only as densification of existing areas
- Promote sharing models for holiday homes

**Saving is the largest and fastest
energy source**

Save energy in buildings before building new power

15–20 TWh

could be freed by 2030 through saving in buildings (Energikommisjonen, 2023).

Labelling with teeth

Mandatory labelling and upgrade plan for dwellings built before TEK 1987, enforced on sale or letting.

Remove the friction

Drop the application duty and fee for energy upgrading of the building envelope.

Fix Norgespris

Low fixed charge and high energy charge in the electricity tax and the grid tariff.

Minimum standards

Worst buildings upgraded by 2030, energy label A by 2050.

Price the road, clean the pipeline

- **Differentiated road pricing** by place, time and impact. Norway has toll rings but no such system.
- “**Project cleaning**” (prosjektvask) of adopted but unbuilt road and other transport projects
- **National traffic targets:** zero growth in road traffic outside the larger cities, 20–30 percent reduction inside them.
- **Reform reisefradrag** so it stops paying NOK 1.90 per kilometre regardless of mode.

Make keeping things cheaper than replacing them

Repair

Zero-rate VAT on repair of electronics, clothing, footwear, furniture, bicycles and white goods.

Reuse

Reduce VAT on second-hand goods, and lift the ban on selling usable discarded items anywhere but the waste facility.

Lifetime

Keep and extend the five-year complaint period.

Require the complaint period to be labelled on all products, and set it against the stated expected lifetime.

Thank you

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Read more:

Project: ***Sufficiency as Climate Actions in Nordic Baltic Countries & Belarus***

<https://naturvernforbundet.no/nordisk-baltisk-samarbeidsprosjekt-rundt-tilstrekkelighet/>

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