



A Norwegian case: National framework and local strategies pointing towards sustainability

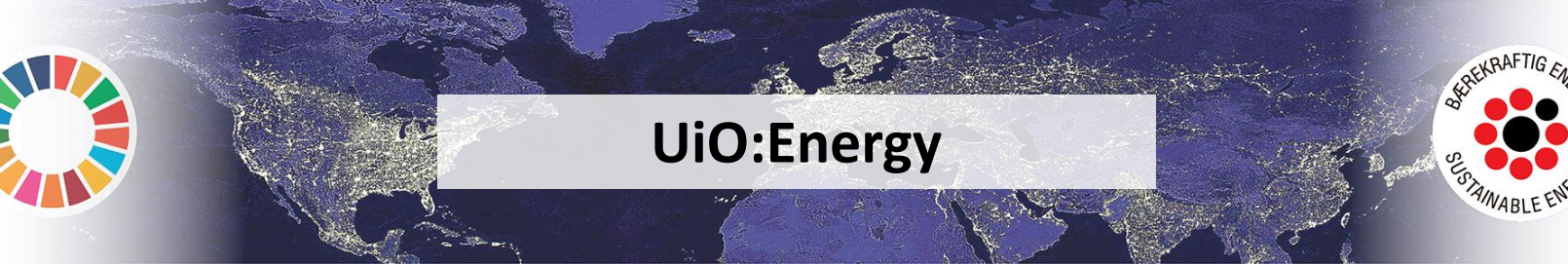
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NUAS webinar – March 17th 2022



University of Oslo – 3 strategic, interdisciplinary initiatives



UiO:Energy



UiO:Life Science



UiO:Nordic



The sustainability «landscape» - as seen from UiO

- **Global challenge(s)**
- **National framework**
 - A new Universities and University Colleges Act
 - Development agreements
- **Local ambitions (region/city/area)**
 - City of Oslo
 - Oslo Science City – the Innovation district
- **Ultralocal setting**
 - UiO's strategy on climate and the environment



The national framework

– The Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act

- Revised in 2021
- Says one of the purposes of universities is to “*contribute towards environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development*”
- The higher education sector is a “*key player and is crucial for solving societal challenges*”
- Furthermore, “*society depends on research-based knowledge to make the right choices*”



The national framework (II)

- **Individual development agreements, as part of award letter**
 - Dialogue-based: Ministry of Education and Research & each university
 - Clear expectations - first paragraph in the 2022 UiO award letter:
 - Sustainable development goals
 - Global societal challenges
 - A sustainable future
 - Creating tomorrow's green jobs
 - From 2023:
 - A more holistic approach
 - More qualitative
 - Even more adapted to the individual institution

The national framework (III)

– 98 green indicators? No thanks...

- Launched in January 2020 by the Minister of Education and Research
- Framed as a friendly competition between institutions (yeah right...)
- Shot down by the sector:
 - Worried about the administrative cost
 - Focus on reporting – not action
 - Institutions are highly heterogenous
- The final nail in the coffin was the pandemic

REJECTED

HØRING

Nei takk! 98 grønne indikatorer blir sablet ned

Bare 1 av 10 universiteter og høyskoler er positive til regjeringens klimakonkurranse.



Local ambitions

– City of Oslo

- First city in the world to introduce and use climate budget as a key governance tool – now integrated in the regular budgetary process
- Ambitious target: 95% reduction of direct emissions by 2030 (*ref: 2009*)
- Emissions do decrease:
 - Electrification of transport sector
 - Reduced emissions from waste and energy sector
 - Zero-emission construction sites
- ... but not fast enough!





Local ambitions (II)

- **Oslo Science City** - The first Norwegian innovation district
 - *Climate, energy and environment* one of four key areas
 - [Feasibility study](#) from November 2021:
 - *Principle 3: Sustainable development and nature-based solutions*
 - 10 000 trees
 - Green roofs
 - Circular solutions
 - Next: To go from a “green dream” to a sustainable reality



A Comprehensive Climate and Environmental Strategy for UiO

- Approved by university board in February
- Covers:
 - *Education*
 - *Research*
 - *UiO and societal challenges*
 - *Greenhouse gas emissions and a green campus life*
 - *Organisation and governance structure*
- Action plan is underway!
- **Target:** reduce GHG emissions (scope 1+2+3) by *at least 50%* by 2030 (*ref. 2018*) and develop a campus that reflects a sustainable institution

A Comprehensive Climate and Environmental Strategy for UiO (II)

- [UiO will:](#)
 - **Education:** offer all students research-based education on climate, the environment and sustainability, and, when possible, integrated into their respective disciplines
 - **Research:** lower barriers to, and strengthen, interdisciplinary research and collaboration on climate, environment, and sustainability
 - **Dissemination and dialogue:** expand local and international cross-sectoral cooperation on climate, environment, and sustainability
 - **Climate and green campus:** reduce the university's climate footprint and develop green campuses
 - **Organisation:** incorporate all work related to climate, environment, and sustainability in the organisational culture and structure

 NORWAY

LANE 4

AGE

MARTIN HELSETH

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OLAF KARL TUFTE

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JAN OSCAR STABE HELVIG

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ERIK ANDRE SOLBAKKEN

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