



Oslo



Sustainability Report for the City of Oslo

Voluntary Local Review



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“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Brundtland Commission 1987

Statement from the Governing Mayor and Vice Mayor for Finance

The sustainable development goals must underpin all of the City of Oslo's activities. This demands much more from us than simply wearing a lapel pin.

Sustainability is about doing things in a sustainable manner. We need to find solutions and work methods that do not negatively impact the ability of people to create a good life for themselves and that are within planetary boundaries. For Oslo, sustainability is a prerequisite, a guideline and a governing objective.

Many people focus primarily on the environment when thinking about sustainability. However, we need to keep in mind the social and economic dimensions of the sustainable development goals. In order to succeed, we need to consider all three dimensions and view them as a whole. The vision for Oslo is fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Moving towards 2040, Oslo will become a greener, more hospitable and more creative city, where there is room for everybody. Economic, social and environmental sustainability all guide Oslo's path forward.

A large city such as Oslo needs to focus on all 17 of the SDGs. In this report, we explain what each of the SDGs means for Oslo. We demonstrate how the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are linked to the overarching goals for Oslo, and provide examples of measures and initiatives that contribute to achieving them.

An important objective of this report is to identify what tasks and challenges the SDGs represent for Oslo. When we translate the 17 SDGs into our local context, this involves issues such as bicycle paths, recreational clubs, sustainable food, a good upbringing, completing upper secondary school, recycling, good neighbourhoods, work for everyone, zero-emissions transport and climate adaptation, i.e. issues that we in the City of Oslo work with every day. The important and difficult task ahead will be to maintain a comprehensive overview of our sustainability efforts and to view environmental, social and economic development as a whole.

We know that we are already doing a lot of things well. However, this report also shows that Oslo faces a number of challenges. We know that we will need to work hard in the coming years for green and equitable development. Moving forward, we have to continue to build upon the good work that is being done, while also asking ourselves how we can do things even smarter, better and more sustainably. Our goal is that considering sustainability in the decisions we make will become as natural as looking to the left and right before crossing a road.

Oslo, 27 April 2023

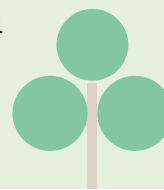
Raymond Johansen
Governing Mayor

Einar Wilhelmsen
Vice Mayor of Finance

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was adopted by all of the United Nations member states in 2015. The goals are intended to guide global policy in a more sustainable direction until 2030.

The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets. The goals contribute to environmental, social and economic sustainability, and to the three dimensions of sustainability being viewed as a whole. A key principle in the 2030 Agenda is Leave no one behind. The most vulnerable and marginalised people and groups must be included in the developments being made.



In order to achieve the SDGs, heavy responsibility rests on national and local authorities, the business sector and civil society. Local authorities have a proximity to citizens and the business sector, and are responsible for many of the services and infrastructures that have an impact on the lives and opportunities of their citizens. The City of Oslo will assume its share of the responsibility for the work with realising the SDGs. Oslo will inspire, facilitate and contribute where possible, and be at the forefront of measures and solutions that are sustainable.

The City of Oslo has developed a Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which is a voluntary, local sustainability report. Many cities select this reporting format as part of the process of translating the SDGs to their own context, including New York, Stockholm, Helsinki, Bristol, Bergen and Asker.¹ The objective of this report is to create awareness around the SDGs in the City of Oslo and demonstrate how the SDGs are linked to our duties and areas of responsibility in the municipality. The report is also intended to demonstrate the primary challenges that Oslo faces in connection with the individual SDGs, as well as provide examples of measures and initiatives that are already underway to contribute to the various SDGs. The sustainability report shows how the United Nations' 17 SDGs are relevant in the context of Oslo.

The SDGs are comprehensive and several are rather vaguely defined. While some of the targets are very specific, the topic may not always be relevant to a Norwegian city. In some areas, the local challenges are not those the SDGs place an emphasis on. For example, the challenges Oslo faces within education are that too many students are not completing upper secondary education, and that we are not building enough schools to enable all children to have the opportunity to start school. With regard to health challenges, social disparities in terms of health and lifestyle diseases are a more relevant issue than maternal mortality. It is therefore important to find the local dimension for each of the SDGs in order for these to be relevant and something to strive towards. What challenges do individual countries, cities and companies face in connection with the SDGs? What can we influence, what are we already doing and how can we improve moving forward?

The City of Oslo is a complex organisation that is composed of 15 districts and several agencies and enterprises. The efforts that are being made in the different parts of the municipality, no matter the size of the initiative, will jointly bring the city closer to achieving the SDGs. In addition to this are the efforts made by central government and regional stakeholders, the business sector and civil society. To assess how far the City of Oslo has progressed in achieving the SDGs, it is important to look at the overall effort and take a holis-

¹ UN overview Voluntary Local Reviews <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>

tic approach to the work ahead. The City of Oslo works together across different fields with the business sector, central government and regional stakeholders, and citizens to develop good and sustainable services.

In this report, emphasis is placed on the City of Oslo's objectives, challenges and opportunities. The greatest focus is assigned to the areas in which the City of Oslo itself has the policy instruments or good opportunities to make an impact. The efforts of other stakeholders in Oslo are not discussed, despite these stakeholders being of vital importance to achieving joint progress.

The report identifies the City of Oslo's principal challenges and presents a selection of measures that serve as examples. The references are brief and general.



SDG17 and the City of Oslo’s strategic goals

The City Council’s most important priorities are reducing social inequality, work for all and the fight against climate change. The UN has also identified these tasks as being the most important dimensions for sustainable development. Without improving on the goals of stopping climate change and reducing social inequality, it will not be possible to succeed in the other areas of the sustainable development goals.

Table 1: The link between selected plans and initiatives in the City of Oslo and the UN SDGs

	1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOALS
The Social Element of the Municipal Master Plan 2018	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Financial Plan, including allocation system	●	●	●					●		●	●					●	
Procurement Strategy								●			●	●	●		●	●	
Public Health Plan	●	●	●	●						●	●						
Strategy for Sustainable Food		●	●							●			●			●	
Action Plan for Gender and Sexual Diversity			●		●											●	
Action Plan Against Hate Speech and Hateful Attitudes			●		●											●	
Action plan Against Human Trafficking	●		●		●			●			●					●	
The Oslo Model for a Decent Working Life	●		●	●				●		●					●		
Oslo Help	●		●	●						●							●
School Needs Plan				●							●						
Campus Strategy				●				●	●								
Age-Friendly City			●								●						
Climate Strategy and Climate Budget			●				●	●			●	●	●	●	●		●
Car-Free City Life			●								●		●		●		
The Port of Oslo as a Zero-Emissions Port			●				●	●			●		●		●		
Action Plan to Combat Plastic Pollution in the Oslofjord						●		●			●	●	●	●	●		
Action Plan for Surface Water Management			●			●		●			●		●		●		
Strategy for Sustainable and Reduced Consumption												●	●	●	●		

The City of Oslo's principal governing document, Social Element of the Municipal Master Plan, provides a roadmap to where Oslo should be in 2040. Moving towards 2040, Oslo will work to become a greener, more hospitable and more creative city, with room for everybody. Strategies, thematic plans and action plans in the City of Oslo will help to follow up and solidify the goals at the municipal level. The content and direction set out in overarching governing documents can be seen again in budget documents and reports. The direction set out in the City of Oslo's overarching governing documents aligns with the SDGs, and the contents of the SDGs are effectively incorporated into existing governing documents. This ensures that Oslo's future priorities will be in line with the sustainable development goals. The overview on page 8 shows the link between selected plans and initiatives in the City of Oslo and the United Nations SDGs.

How is sustainable development measured?

The sustainable development goals are intricate and complex. A set of indicators is often used to assess goal achievement. These indicators include statistics, monitoring data or other data that provide time series and which can demonstrate development over time.

Norway reports its data to the UN using 231 global indicators. There are also a number of other sets of

indicators that countries, regions or cities can adopt in order to assess how far they have progressed in achieving the SDGs. Oslo may do well in international comparisons, but these types of measurements are not always relevant for the tasks and challenges that we have.

Oslo from an international perspective

The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has prepared a number of reports that compare countries, cities and regions in terms of their success in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The reports are based on their own Sustainable Development Goal Index¹. One of the reports looks at goal attainment by European cities, and compares and ranks them.² Oslo is ranked number 1 among the 45 European capitals included in the study. The calculations show that Oslo has achieved a total of 74.8 per cent of the sustainable development goals. The figure below shows where Oslo has achieved all of the goals (the goals marked in green), where we are considered to have certain challenges (the goals marked in yellow), and where we are considered to have serious challenges (the goals marked in orange). Oslo has no very serious challenges in relation to any of the goals. The study did not have sufficient data for SDGs 6 and 13, and these were therefore not ranked.

Oslo therefore does very well in international comparisons, even when we are compared with similar large cities.

Oslo Northern Europe



Due to lack of data availability at the subnational level, SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) were not considered in the prototype report.

¹ SDG Index is published by SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung. Underlying data is available at <https://www.sdgindex.org/>

² <https://www.sdgindex.org/reports/sdg-index-and-dashboards-report-for-european-cities/>

The international measurements are not necessarily applicable to the issues the City of Oslo is working on and Oslo's local challenges in the different areas. While Oslo scores "green" on a number of the SDGs in an international context, we are aware that we still have challenges at a local level. Oslo's ambitions extend further than simply being content with the good results achieved in international rankings.

How is development measured in Oslo?

The City of Oslo has a comprehensive reporting system that monitors status and development across a spectrum of the municipality's areas of operation. The annual budget specifies the actions that will be effectuated in order to follow up the municipal master plan's objectives and visions for the city's development, goals and strategies, and extensive reports of sectoral goal attainment are also presented. Furthermore, the City of Oslo has established a separate climate budget as an integral part of the municipality's budget, which sets requirements for goal attainment up until 2030 and in which all measures are costed in both NOK and CO2 equivalents. Responsibility for implementing measures is divided among the municipal enterprises and entails reporting requirements that are equivalent to financial reporting from these enterprises. Further details concerning this are provided later in the report. The City Council's annual report describes whether the primary objectives of the sectors and enterprises, service production and budgeted financial results have been achieved.

With regard to overarching societal development, the statistical publication "Oslo Trends" is among the most comprehensive reports produced by the City of Oslo. This comprehensive report provides a statistical description of important developmental features in the City of Oslo and urban community. Oslo Trends provides an important factual basis for the continued planning of the city's development and spans a wide variety of topics. It covers all of the City of Oslo's sectors and service areas, and in doing so, the report also reflects developments in areas of society that are of key importance across all of the SDGs. The majority of the statistics used to illustrate the status and development under the respective goals in this report can also be found in Oslo Trends.

As part of the work on the regional plan for land and transport in Oslo and Akershus, a total of 44 indicators have been developed. These are grouped according to seven main topics, with an emphasis on land use indica-

tors. Indicators for parking, traffic development, green mobility and climate are also reported. The reporting tracks goal attainment over time, and the indicators will be followed up through a continued collaboration between the City of Oslo and Viken County Municipality.

A set of indicators adapted to Oslo?

Several sets of indicators have been developed internationally, all of which aim to simplify reporting of the SDGs, and thereby make it possible to compare developments, challenges and goal attainment with other comparable cities, regions or countries. The advantage of having a set of indicators that is recognised and used by multiple parties is that it produces comparable statistics and it is possible to measure progress in relation to one or more other areas.

One of the most relevant sets of indicators was developed by the platform United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC), which is an initiative coordinated by several UN bodies and which has the goal of assisting cities and communities to achieve the SDGs through digital transformation in line with a smart city mindset. A challenge for Oslo is that the indicators that are included in the U4SSC framework do not adequately cover Oslo's principal challenges, particularly with regard to social and economic disparity.

Statistics Norway (SSB) was commissioned by the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) to categorise the different sets of indicators that currently exist and has developed a taxonomy (classification model)³. However, it has not yet developed a separate set of indicators that can be used by Norwegian cities or municipalities. A national action plan⁴ has also been launched. This includes proposals for indicators (available statistics) that are relevant to monitor in a Norwegian context. Despite this, however, no set of indicators adapted specifically to the challenges faced by Oslo is available at the present date.

There is extensive work involved in developing a set of indicators and making calculations that enable measurements to be made across municipalities. It is therefore not expedient for Oslo to do this on its own. In the input that the City of Oslo provided for the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development's action plan for the sustainable development goals, we requested a national set of indicators that measure relevant factors in Norwegian municipalities and support both KS and Statistics Norway in their efforts to achieve this.

³ <https://www.ks.no/fagomrader/barekraftsmalene/maling-kartlegging-og-analyse-av-barekraft/dette-er-taksonomien/>

⁴ Report No. 40 to the Storting (2020–2021) Goals that have meaning – Norway's action plan for achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals in an Oslo context

In the following 17 sub-chapters we present how each of the SDGs can be understood in an Oslo context. We present challenges that the City of Oslo faces within each of the goals, statistics that illustrate these challenges and provide examples of measures and initiatives that are being undertaken. We have also included relevant objectives from a selection of the City of Oslo's most important plans and strategies.

Selected indicators are primarily based on statistics that are published in the City of Oslo's statistics bank and which are described in Oslo Trends. When natural to do so we have compared Oslo's results with the rest of the country. In order to highlight some of the variation that can be found within Oslo, for several of the goals we have included the two districts with the lowest and highest scores.

The examples that are referenced include both plans and major, city-wide initiatives and smaller/stand-alone projects and measures. The purpose is to highlight how different parts of the City of Oslo work in different ways with sustainability at different levels, and demonstrate how this work is relevant to the SDGs. Much of the work will be comprehensive and relevant for achieving several of the goals. The examples presented represent only a fraction of the efforts being made in the City of Oslo each day that are relevant to the SDGs.

SDG1: No Poverty

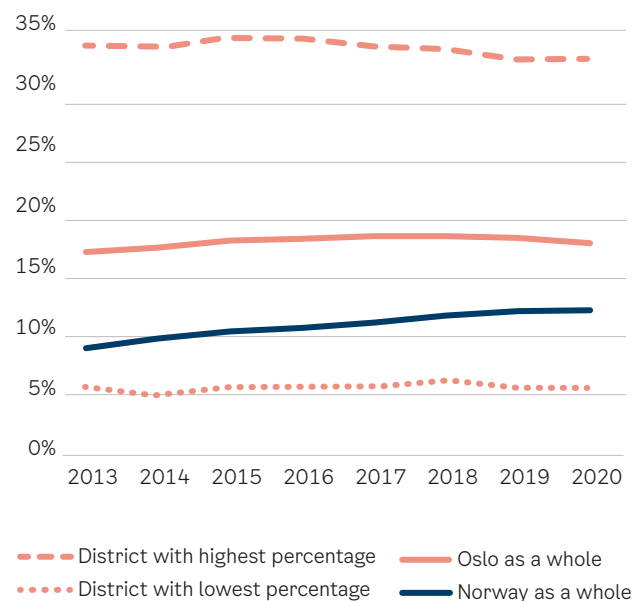
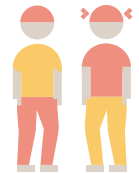
The first Sustainable Development Goal is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world, including both extreme poverty and relative poverty. The combination of high employment and good welfare benefits means that the prevalence of extreme poverty is very low both in Oslo and Norway in general. However, relative poverty, which encapsulates several dimensions, including the financial, material and social, is a growing challenge in Oslo. It is also problematic that the disparities between different groups and neighbourhoods in the city in relation to several of these dimensions have increased in recent years. This is something the report discusses in further detail in SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities).



Poverty and poor living conditions are complex, and there are many factors that play a part. The most important job for the City of Oslo other than providing good services across the population concerns adapting welfare schemes and initiating measures for particularly exposed or vulnerable groups. This may include reducing the impact of poverty and limiting the proportion of children who grow up in poverty, young people who are not in education, employment or training, or newly-arrived immigrants who struggle to enter the labour market and other social arenas. The coronavirus pandemic may have contributed to increasing the social and economic disparities in the city, and the City of Oslo plays an important role in preventing more people from descending into poverty as a consequence of this. Many activities in Oslo cost money, and the city has a high cost of living. There are high housing prices, it is expensive to participate in most activities and services, and many are excluded from important arenas and meeting places.

Therefore, poverty in Oslo is rarely extreme or life-threatening, however there are parts of the city with a high proportion of households that live on what is defined as a persistent low income, i.e. that the household has earned, on average, less than 60 per cent of the median income in Norway during the last three years. There are major differences within the city. The proportion of children who live in households with a persistent low income varies from 32.5 per cent in the district with the highest level to 5.4 per cent in the district with the lowest level. For the city as a whole, the proportion increased from 16.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent on average from 2013 to 2020. For Norway as a whole, the proportion was 11.7 per cent in 2020. Persistent low income is associated with a number of challenges relating to living conditions and

Figure 1 Percentage of children under the age of 18 who live in households with a persistent low income for Oslo (including districts with the highest and lower percentages) and Norway 2013–2020.



Source: Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir)

The most important job for the City of Oslo other than providing good services across the population concerns adapting welfare schemes and initiating measures for particularly exposed or vulnerable groups.



Persistent low income is associated with a number of challenges relating to living conditions and health outcomes, and can limit opportunities to participate in society on an equal footing to others.

health outcomes, and can limit opportunities to participate in society on an equal footing to others. The percentage of families with children who live in overcrowded conditions is twice as high in Oslo when compared with the rest of the country. The number of homeless has fallen steadily in the past 20 years, and this number was 821 in 2020. There are also more people who rent their homes in Oslo than in the rest of the country, and housing stability in Oslo is also lower than elsewhere in Norway.

What are we doing?

The City of Oslo's efforts to combat poverty rest on the social element of the municipal master plan, through strategies and objectives linked to better inclusion in working life, earlier efforts targeting children and young people, and to urban development that contributes to greater social balance across the city. The City of Oslo's resource allocation system is

the most important mechanism for ensuring resources are allocated in a manner that meets local needs across the city and between districts, and 80 per cent of the budget of the districts is allocated in this manner.

Combating poverty in the context of Oslo involves a joint effort across major areas such as employment, work qualifications, income security, housing and childhood environment – ensuring there are good and reliable services that are adapted to the population, while also introducing targeted measures and initiatives as required. The City of Oslo operates a number of public services that provide financial support to citizens in need, including the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV). The special initiatives within these areas include Summer Jobs for Young People which helps young people in Oslo to obtain relevant work experience and meaningful activity during the summer weeks. Oslo Help which provides a non-bureaucratic service to families, and involves various agencies working together to provide a holistic service based on the needs of the individual families. To improve income security, municipal housing benefits have been introduced, and the rate for financial social assistance has been increased. There is now a free before and after-school programme for children (AKS) and free core time in kindergartens across the city.

SDG2: Zero Hunger

This Sustainable Development Goal concerns ending hunger, achieving good food security and improved nutrition, as well as sustainable food and reducing food waste. There are some people in Oslo who go hungry during the day. Malnourishment is a challenge among people with substance abuse problems and among a proportion of the city’s elderly population. However, challenges relating to an unhealthy diet, poor nutrition and food waste are among the most important challenges for Oslo in this area.



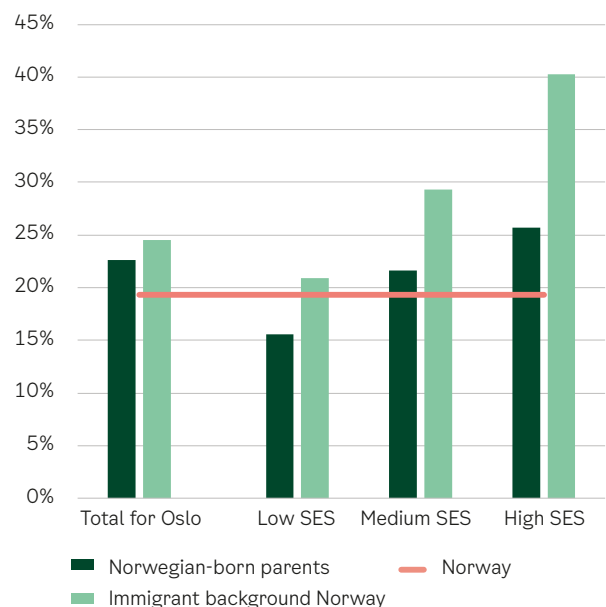
There are also fewer people in Oslo than the rest of the country who are clinically overweight/obese. There is also a higher percentage of people in Oslo with a plant-based diet than the rest of the country. Furthermore, more people in Oslo have changed their diet in a more sustainable/environmentally-friendly direction than in the rest of Norway. In terms of food waste, the past few years have seen a growing number of people who want to reduce their food waste. There are also more people who state that they want to eat less meat (Climate Survey 2021). Despite Oslo seeing a positive development in these areas, it is still important to enable food waste to be reduced and for people to have a more plant-based diet in order to achieve the SDGs.

There is a significant percentage of Oslo’s population that does not follow national recommendations to eat at least five servings of fruit and vegetables each day. Young people in Oslo eat less fruit and vegetables than the adults, and boys eat less fruit and vegetables than girls. The differences in the fruit and vegetable eating habits of young people are linked to socioeconomic background.

What are we doing?

The City of Oslo has a focus on **sustainable food**, and has also signed the Good Food City Declaration. Together with a number of other large cities around the world, the municipality has committed to reducing meat consumption and aims to conduct a food policy in line with the “planetary health diet” by 2030. Among other things, these efforts involve preparing and serving good and nutritious food in accordance with national dietary guidelines. The food will be plant-

■ **Figure 2** Percentage of students at upper and lower secondary school who eat vegetables, fruit or berries during the school day, five times a week – categorised according to immigrant background and socioeconomic status. Figures for 2021.



Source: Ungdata

It is still important to enable food waste to be reduced and for people to have a more plant-based diet in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



Photo: Ida Rydeng / City of Oslo

based and meat consumption will be reduced significantly. **Reduced food waste** is also part of these efforts. Through this, the City of Oslo wants to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to people having a diet that benefits health, the environment, animal welfare and the climate.

All lower secondary level students at municipal schools are now offered **free fruit and vegetables** three times a week. The free school fruit programme aims to reduce social disparities with respect to diet. There are plans to introduce free, healthy and sustainable school meals to students at upper secondary schools in autumn 2022 and to lower secondary schools in autumn 2023. The City of Oslo also has initiatives targeting the elderly, for whom malnourishment

There is a significant percentage of Oslo's population that does not follow national recommendations to eat at least five servings of fruit and vegetables each day.

can be challenge. A pilot project will therefore be initiated in 2022 that will test out "meal friends" (*spisevenn*) for both elderly people living at home and the residents of nursing homes. The aim of the **Meal Friend** initiative is to contribute to increased enjoyment during meals and greater food pleasure, as well as to prevent malnourishment.

SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being

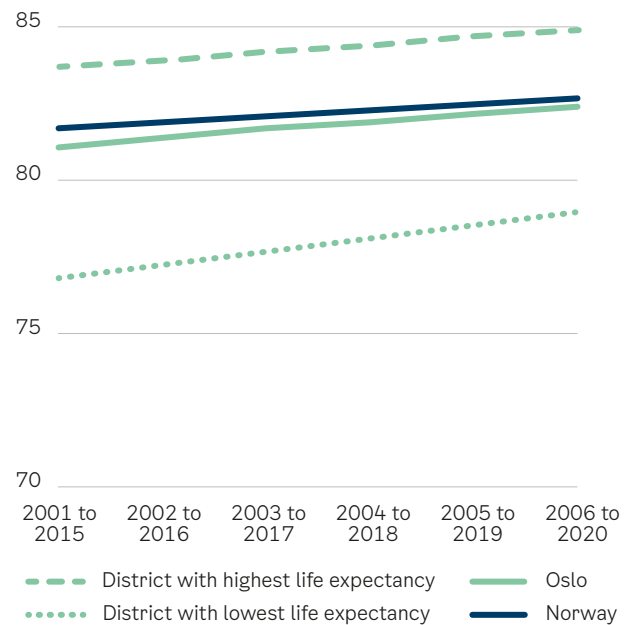
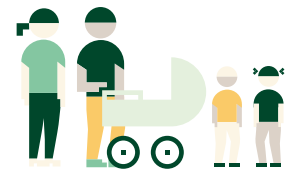
Sustainable Development Goal 3 is about ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. Good health is fundamental to enable people to achieve their full potential and contribute to social development. For Oslo, this goal relates to areas such as reducing social inequality in health, creating an age-friendly city, providing activities and access to clean air and green areas, and promoting good quality of life. Preventing the spread of infectious diseases is also an important municipal task, and one which became particularly relevant in 2020 and 2021.



Health is impacted by the environment, economy and social conditions. As a large city and Norway’s capital, Oslo differs in many ways from the rest of the country, not least in terms of the serious health inequality that exists between different areas of the city. Social inequality in health is an ongoing public health challenge in Oslo and the disparities are systematic. Social inequality in health refers to the fact that social factors such as education, occupation and income, impact living conditions and quality of life, which in turn impact on the individual’s health. Socioeconomic resources include financial resources, education and occupation. One result of social inequality in health outcomes is a difference in life expectancy between those with different levels of educational attainment. The population of Oslo has historically had lower life expectancy than the rest of the country, however it is now at the national average. In Oslo, the life expectancy at birth is 80 years of age for men and 84 years of age for women. There are also differences in life expectancy between districts, however these have decreased since the 1990s. The difference in life expectancy between different educational groups is also declining. Quality of life is about how we feel and our perception of how meaningful life is. This field is being assigned increasingly greater attention in social planning and administration, and Oslo has poorer results than the rest of the country in national quality of life surveys. This may be due to younger people generally reporting a lower quality of life than older people, and the fact that Oslo has a young population. However, there may also be issues and challenges that are specific to a large city.

Children and young people in the capital are about as physically active and participate in outdoor activities to the same extent as the rest of the country. However, there are significant differences within Oslo. Children

■ **Figure 3** Life expectancy from birth in Oslo for 2001–2020, by gender.



Source: Statistics Norway (SSB) and Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

Social inequality in health is an ongoing public health challenge in Oslo and the disparities are systematic.

Despite Oslo's population being younger than the national average, the city is facing a period in which the elderly population will increase.

from the outer west of the city are the most active, and the same applies to children from households in which the parents have a high level of income and education. It is an important task for the City of Oslo to reduce social, economic or cultural barriers to participation in cultural and organisational life, because art and cultural activities have a positive impact on health and quality of life.

Despite Oslo's population being younger than the national average, the city is facing a period in which the elderly population will increase. The challenges associated with an ageing population include promoting health and preventing illness in order to minimise the strain on the health and care services, and ensure the best possible quality of life for the individual.

Social inequality is also reflected in the area of mental health, and the living conditions of citizens are important for general health and quality of life. For example, the risk of anxiety disorders is greater for people who left school at the end of their compulsory education (Year 10) than those with a university or college degree. Health is created in a number of arenas and areas of life which are, in various ways, of importance to people's health and living conditions. Examples are school, work, home and local environment. Social support and participation in different arenas are particularly important factors in the effort to promote public health.

What are we doing?

An important goal for the City of Oslo is to contribute towards reducing social inequality and improve public health. Public health is an important focus area for the City of Oslo, and a new **public health strategy** for Oslo is currently being prepared. The strategy will apply for all of the City of Oslo's activities and will focus on systematic public health endeavours and sustainable social development. **The public health perspective** and how the City of Oslo can contribute to solving important public health challenges will also be assessed in all of the municipal plans that are formulated.

Much of the basis for good health and well-being among the population is created in arenas other than the health sector. Urban development through **attractive urban and residential areas** is important for good public health. The same applies to the work



Photo: Kobets Freund / City of Oslo

Quality of life is about how we feel and our perception of how meaningful life is.

on reducing harmful air pollution by becoming a **zero-emissions city**. Oslo also has an **Action Plan for an Age-Friendly City** which aims to facilitate an inclusive and accessible urban environment that promotes active ageing and contributes to elderly people feeling a sense of belonging, achievement and safety, and which enables them to live free and meaningful lives. **The Health Guide (Helseveiviseren)** is a digital guide that helps citizens to easily locate the services they need in their district. Such needs may, for example, relate to physical and mental health, transport or social activities. The Health Guide will contribute towards preventive healthcare being initiated as early as possible, and standardise the health services in the different districts. Active participation in the local community is a primary goal in the **local community programme in the area-based initiatives**, and culture and volunteering play a key role in this. The City of Oslo also has a number of **grant schemes** that support cultural experiences and promote active participation at every stage in life.

SDG4: Quality Education

This goal aims to ensure that everyone is able to complete primary and secondary education, and that children have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education. The targets that are relevant to Oslo are increasing the number of young people and adults with technical and vocational skills, and ensuring equal access to education and vocational training. In addition, gender disparities in education and training shall be eliminated. The education shall also ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.



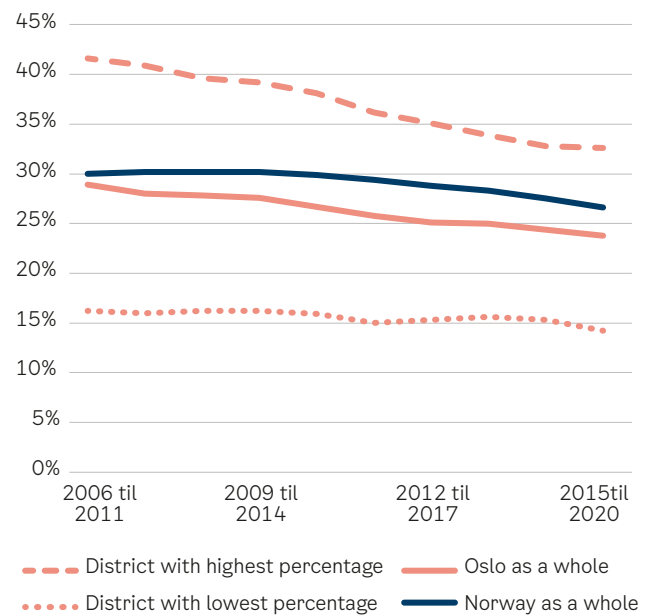
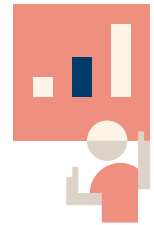
Education is of vital importance to the opportunities every person has to live a good life and be in good health, and is an important factor in efforts to reduce inequality. Schools must assist students and apprentices to acquire the knowledge and skills that will enable them to successfully manage their own lives, participate in work and be part of the community. Students and apprentices must learn to think critically and act in an ethical and environmentally-conscious manner, and have the right to involvement and co-determination.

Quality education also involves enabling citizens to acquire relevant skills for employment in the workforce. Many people with a low level of education find it hard to remain in stable employment.

Both kindergartens and schools are important learning arenas. They contribute both to linguistic and social development, and provide experiences and impulses that are important for learning. In both Norway and Oslo, all children and young people have the right and duty to attend primary and lower secondary school and the right to upper secondary school education. Schooling is free. In recent years, the programme for free core time in kindergartens and the free before and after-school programme for children (AKS) have contributed to increasing the proportion of children who participate in these services.

7,902 students commenced upper-secondary school education in Oslo in 2021. Access to both compulsory and upper secondary education is excellent. However, only about 80 per cent of students complete upper secondary school. The drop-out rate in upper secondary schools is among Oslo's major challenges with regard to this particular SDG. There are significant variations in the drop-out rate according to gender, study programme and district.

Figure 4 Percentage of people aged 21 to 29 who started upper secondary school, but did not finish after five years (for 2006–2020) – Oslo compared with the rest of Norway.



Source: Statistics Norway (SSB) and Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

Quality education also involves enabling citizens to acquire relevant skills for employment in the workforce.

Significantly fewer young people in Oslo select a vocational study programme at upper secondary school compared with the national average.

Significantly fewer young people in Oslo select a vocational study programme at upper secondary school compared with the national average. Many students also drop out of vocational programmes before completing the full programme. Sometimes this is because they opt to switch to a different course of study, often they leave the education system altogether.

Gender disparities in education and training are further discussed under SDG5 – Gender Equality.

What are we doing?

One of the goals in the municipal master plan is to ensure that children are encouraged from kindergarten to upper secondary school to become creative and knowledgeable people, who are well-equipped to participate in the society of the future. Early intervention is important if everyone is to have opportunities to participate on equal terms. The City of Oslo runs several initiatives to ensure everyone has a good education, **including increasing the number of kindergarten places, free before and after-school programme for children (AKS), and allocating extra resources to schools in disadvantaged areas**, an initiative that includes homework assistance which contributes to reduced social disparities.

Completing upper secondary school is essential. **The City Council's strategy for increased completion of upper secondary education** involves comprehensive and strengthened efforts to encourage more people to complete upper secondary education. Since the drop-out rate is highest among students who select vocational programmes, the City of Oslo has implemented a number of initiatives through the **Vocational Path (Yrkesveien)** programme with the aim of improving quality and increasing the rate of completion. An important part of vocational training is available apprenticeships. The City of Oslo endeavours to help boost the number of apprenticeship places and therefore sets **requirements for the use of apprentices in building and construction contracts**. In industries that require apprenticeship places, contractors are contractually obligated to use apprentices when they carry out assignments for the City of Oslo. In 2022, guidelines were issued requiring the City of Oslo's own municipal enterprises to increase the number of apprenticeship places they offer.

Another initiative for ensuring completion of upper secondary education is the **Foundation (Fundament)** programme, which is an 11th year of school for students who are at risk of dropping out of the education system. The Foundation programme allows students to have individual timetables, and the aim is to make the students better prepared for upper secondary learning, as well as improving their social and emotional development. The programme started as a pilot and is now available in several districts that have a particularly high drop-out rate.



SDG5: Gender Equality

Sustainable Development Goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and strengthen the position of girls and women in society. Gender equality involves a fair distribution of power, influence and resources. Living a life free of violence and discrimination is a fundamental human right and is essential for human development and for society. Norway has a high degree of gender equality, despite still having a way to go. An important objective for Oslo is being a city without discrimination and racism – a city where everyone is treated equally.



In global terms, the challenges relating to gender equality are somewhat different than they are here in Norway, because gender equality policy has been a high priority in Norway for many years and there is a high degree of equality between the sexes. However, there are still disparities even here, and there are still more men than women in positions of power and women earn less than men on average. Girls and boys make different educational choices, and gender differences in the education system are reflected in a substantial degree of gender segregation in the labour market. There are also far more women who work part-time, and an important challenge in Oslo is low labour market participation among women with immigrant backgrounds.

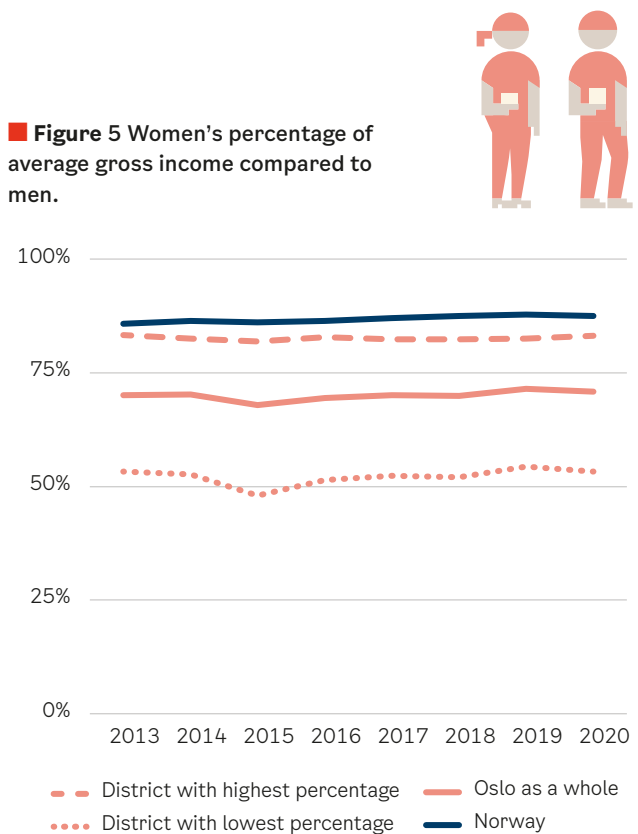
More women than men are exposed to violence in close relationships, and social control in certain immigrant communities has a stronger impact on girls and women. The proportion of girls involved in sport is lower than the percentage of boys who play sport, and the lowest level of participation is among girls with immigrant backgrounds. The most important reason that girls with immigrant backgrounds are under-represented in sports participation is that they do not start playing sport as children.

Despite the differences between the sexes that do exist, it is not relevant to exclusively focus on girls and women under this SDG in our context. Boys and men, as well as other groups in society, such as queer people, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities, risk being subjected to differential treatment or discrimination in society.

What are we doing?

The City of Oslo has a **grant scheme for initiatives that target gender equality and women's liberation**

■ **Figure 5** Women's percentage of average gross income compared to men.



Source: Statistics Norway (SSB) and Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

Boys and men, as well as other groups in society, such as queer people, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities, risk being subjected to differential treatment or discrimination in society.



Photo: Niklas Lynau / City of Oslo

There are still more men than women in positions of power and women earn less than men on average.

to support the efforts of civil society to promote gender and social equity, and to counteract discrimination, negative social control and violence against women. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that civil society contributes to Oslo being an open, inclusive and tolerant city, with social equity, gender equality and feminism as important values. The scheme is reserved for non-profit and women's policy organisations, as well as campaigns led by and for women. NOK 5 million was allocated to the scheme in 2022, and 32 applicants were awarded grants.

As part of the work to follow up the high drop-out rate in vocational training among boys, as well as the increased demand for more tradespeople, the City of Oslo has initiated an apprenticeship project. Oslo will require many more tradespeople in the coming years, and while the proportion of people applying to enter the vocational trades has increased in recent years, there is a need for both more applicants and more apprenticeship places. The City of Oslo will therefore commence a **three-year apprenticeship project to encourage more people to apply for and complete vocational training. This is important since many boys drop out of vocational training programmes.** The project will strengthen existing efforts to source

apprenticeship places, qualify students for their apprenticeship period, and create good transitions between school and apprenticeship. NOK 27 million has been allocated to the project for the 2022–2025 financial plan period.

Since the proportion of girls who participate in sport is lower than the proportion of boys, the City of Oslo **wants to make it possible for more girls to participate in sport.** Through the **Needs plan for sport and recreational life, the City of Oslo** will prioritise sports facilities that have a particularly high proportion of girls compared with boys.

Oslo shall be an open city with room for everybody, and the City of Oslo does not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of gender, age, skin colour, functional ability, religion, gender expression or sexual orientation. **Oslo Extra Large (OXLO)** is a joint symbol for all of the activities and initiatives that contribute to the vision of Oslo as an open and inclusive city for everyone. **The Action Plan Against Hate Speech and Hateful Attitudes, Proud and Free – Action Plan for Gender, Gender Expression and Sexual Diversity, and Action and Action Plan for People with Disabilities** are included in this work. **Oslo Pride** is an important arena for highlighting and celebrating diversity in the city. The City of Oslo has increased its support for Oslo Pride in recent years, and conducts its own events and participates in the parade. A separate **user council for gender and sexual diversity** has also been established.

SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Sustainable Development Goal 6 concerns the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The challenges we face in Norway include pollution, water leaks and old pipes. For Oslo, the goal also involves safeguarding our sources of drinking water and ensuring safe and clean drinking water both now and in the future.



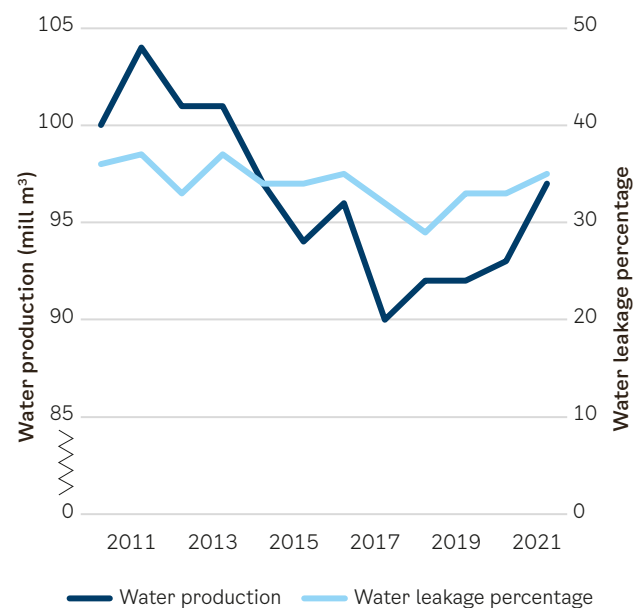
Oslo's entire population is currently supplied with drinking water that satisfies all requirements in the Norwegian Drinking Water Regulations, despite the fact that the consequences of climate change, for example, extreme precipitation, can degrade the quality of our water for certain periods. At the same time, the City of Oslo is completely dependent on Lake Maridal and the Oset water treatment plant, which supplies 90 per cent of Oslo with drinking water. Having only one water source and one water treatment plant make water supply extremely vulnerable and there would be very serious consequences if the only current source of drinking water was to be affected. If anything was to happen to the supply of water from Lake Maridal, all of Oslo within Ring 3 would, within a short period of time, lose water for drinking, cleaning, flushing the toilet, extinguishing fires and everything else water is needed for in a large city.

It is also a challenge that a large proportion of the drinking water is lost between the waterworks and the water tap. Oslo loses large quantities of water from the public water grid. In 2021, water loss was around 35 per cent. The overarching need to reduce leaks is linked to health risks. Leaking pipes in combination with unpressurised conditions, can lead to the absorption of pollution and cause serious disease outbreaks.

What are we doing?

The City of Oslo is constructing a **reserve water supply** that will be large enough to provide all of Oslo with access to clean drinking water. In order to supply the entire city with drinking water, new **water supply tunnels** (trunk network) also need to be constructed. The new water supply is planned to be commissioned in 2028. The project includes four different municipalities

■ **Figure 6** Water production (mill. m³ per year) and water leakage percentage 2010–2021.



Source: Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

Having only one water source and one water treatment plant make water supply extremely vulnerable and there would be very serious consequences if the only current source of drinking water was to be affected.

A large proportion of the drinking water is lost between the waterworks and the water tap. Oslo loses large quantities of water from the public water grid.

– Lier, Hole, Bærum and Oslo, and is one of the largest ever investments in Norwegian local government.

The City of Oslo's Agency for Water and Wastewater Services has allocated significant resources to **reducing water loss in the public water grid**. The agency is implementing a five-step plan to reduce leaks. The plan includes introducing a standardised method for calculating water loss, dividing the pipe network into areas to control water consumption and optimise the pressure in the pipe network, and improving the analysis and reporting of key performance indicators. The

goal is to reduce the leakage level to 20 per cent by 2030, in line with the national target.

To reduce the amount of leakage, it is important to adopt the use of new technology and digitalise everyday work. By using correlating sound loggers that monitor parts of the grid, **leaks can be detected more effectively** than with traditional leak detection methods.

Each year, the City of Oslo makes significant investments to **renovate the existing public water grid**. In order to maintain the pace of rehabilitation, new rehabilitation methods that do not require excavation are needed. By rehabilitating old water pipes with a sleeve that is inserted in the pipe, expensive excavation work can be avoided. It also produces less greenhouse gas emissions and causes fewer disruptions for the public. The Agency for Water and Wastewater services is working on several projects, with support from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and the Research Council of Norway, **to develop good internal sleeve solutions for our water pipes**.



SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Sustainable Development Goal 7 concerns access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. In Norway it is important to attempt to convert all of the energy we use from fossil energy into renewable energy. In the case of Oslo, this goal largely overlaps with SDG13 (Climate Action), since emissions from the production and use of energy are a key driver of climate change.

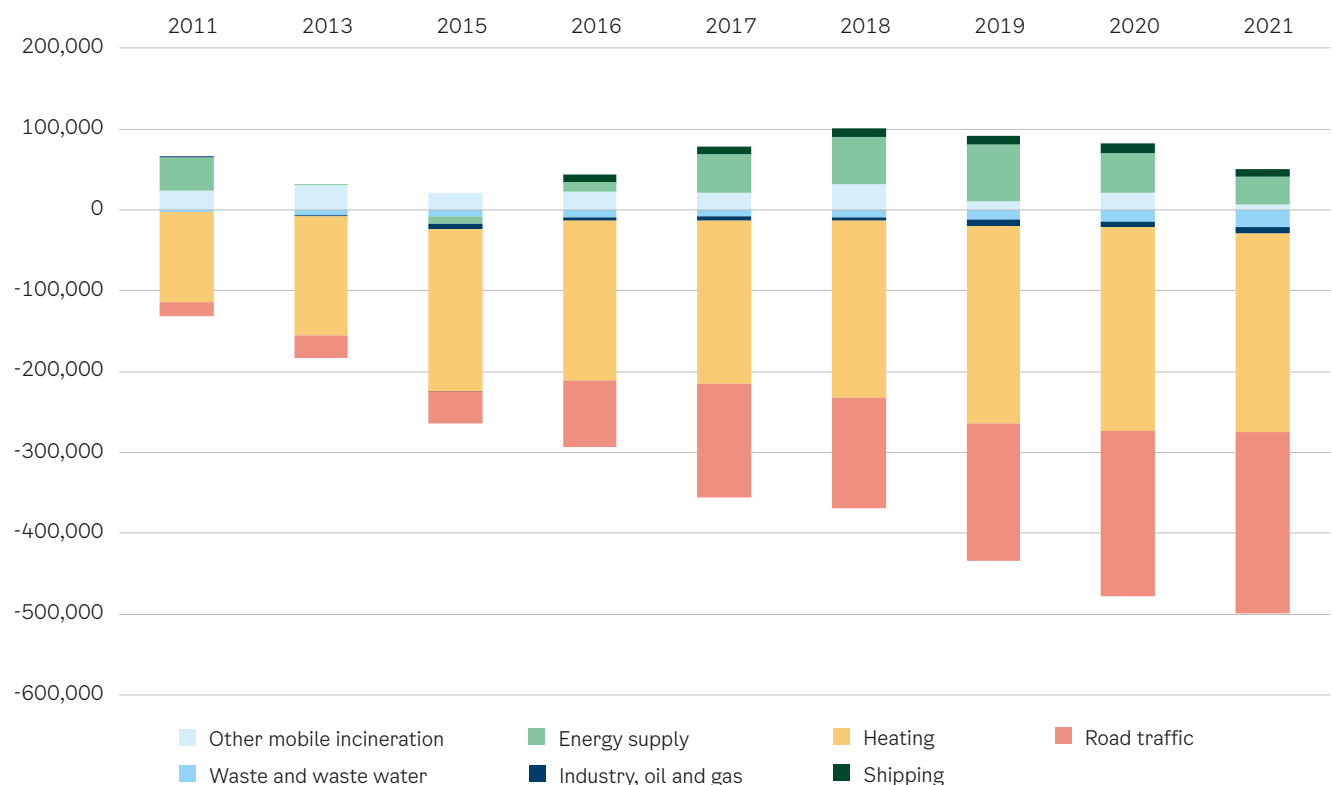


Reducing emissions from the energy sector, both through reduced energy use and the use of more environmentally-friendly energy, is essential for achieving international climate targets. The City of Oslo is both an energy producer and energy consumer, and exercises authority over the contributions from business and industry.

As of 2021, road traffic and energy supply accounted for 51 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, of the total emissions in Oslo.

As of 2021, road traffic and energy supply accounted for 51 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, of total emissions in Oslo. It is within these sectors that there is

Figure 7 Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per sector for Oslo, measured in terms of number of tonnes of CO₂ equivalents, with 2009 as the reference year.



Source: Norwegian Environment Agency

the greatest potential for reducing emissions. If we look at Figure 7, there has been a sharp reduction within *Heating and Road Traffic*, but not within *Energy Supply*, which saw an increase during this period. A challenge Oslo faces in transitioning to renewable energy is poorly developed vehicle charging infrastructure, where access to charging stations for construction sites and means of transport place limitations on electrification.

Within the category of Energy Supply, waste incineration is the largest source of emissions in Oslo, and the plants at Klemetsrud and Haraldrud are the primary emitters. These plants make a positive contribution to the production of clean energy for all by producing district heating and cooling for homes and commercial buildings throughout the city, a heating grid that is being continually expanded. The increasing use of district heating to heat buildings in Oslo has enabled the city to reduce the use of fossil oil and paraffin for heating.

What are we doing?

The principal measures related to this goal are established in the **climate budget**, which allocates funds for several major initiatives that influence access to clean energy, reduced emissions and transitioning from fossil fuels to sustainable energy. The most recent initiative in connection with this is the carbon capture and storage (CCS) project at the Klemetsrud waste incineration plant, which produces around 17 per cent of Oslo's total emissions (measured as CO₂ equivalents). The objective is for CCS to commence in 2026. Major initiatives related to **vehicle charging infrastructure** are also underway. These are contributing to the electrification of the transport sector. The City of Oslo has expanded many charging stations for electric vehicles and now has a particular focus on freight and commercial transport. Approximately 270 new municipal charging stations were established in Oslo in 2019. 55 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions in Oslo are produced by the transport sector and measures are being implemented to ramp up **the electrification** of public transport. At the same time, studies are underway to examine **zero emissions zones** and other initiatives that will reduce emissions from private vehicles, and freight and service vehicles. The City of Oslo has a strategy for how to meet the increasing demand for both normal street charging and rapid chargers – for private motorists and professional operators. There is no lack of either ambition, plans or willingness. A key problem for this expansion is finding available and suitable sites. The City of Oslo has also established a number of **grant schemes** intended to contribute towards reducing use of fossil energy for both multi-family housing associations and companies.



Photo: Nikolai Kobets Freund / City of Oslo

The increasing use of district heating to heat buildings in Oslo has enabled the city to reduce the use of fossil oil and paraffin for heating.

Road transport produced more than half of the total emissions in Oslo, and since maritime transport produces relatively lower emissions, the City of Oslo aims to increase maritime traffic to and from Oslo. Maritime transport can also become more environmentally friendly. In connection with this, an action plan has been prepared to make the Port of Oslo **a zero-emissions port by 2050** and to reduce emissions by 85 per cent by 2030. Several of the measures in the action plan have already been implemented, including new facilities for shore power for ships that are docked.

SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Sustainable Development Goal 8 concerns the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. At the same time, we need to work towards breaking the link between economic growth and environmental damage. The targets that are relevant for Oslo include full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and people with disabilities. The proportion of young people who are not in work, education or training needs to be reduced. The goal also involves promoting workers' rights and a safe and secure working environment.

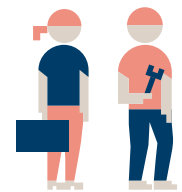


Having more people in work is among the most important initiatives for eradicating poverty and combating inequality. Although Norwegian working conditions are generally good, there are some parts of the labour market that are characterised by unscrupulous operators, exploitation of vulnerable labour and offences against the Norwegian Working Environment Act. It can be easier for an unscrupulous operator to “hide” in a large city such as Oslo.

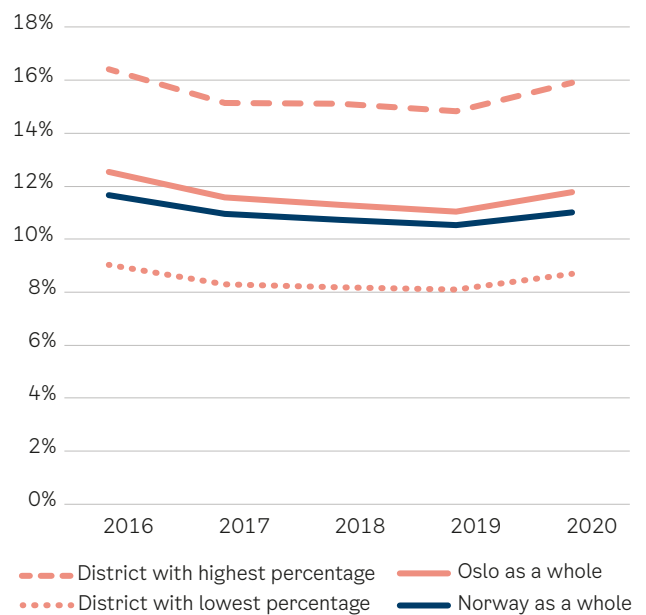
When compared with the rest of the country, Oslo has a high level of employment among people of working age. Despite the generally high level of employment in Oslo, there are also certain groups who face challenges in entering the job market. This particularly applies to people with a low level of education or who have not completed their education, people with gaps in their CVs, and people with disabilities. Young people who are not in work or in education or training are of particular concern. A further challenge is that there are major disparities within the city. In some areas, there is a high and increasing number of citizens who are not in work. The figure below shows the percentage of young people (aged between 15 and 29) who are neither working, studying nor involved in labour market initiatives. The percentages for both Oslo and Norway decreased slightly from 2016 to 2020, however the major disparities in Oslo are a concern. It is also too early to state how the pandemic may have impacted vulnerable groups in different parts of the city.

What are we doing?

Working life and the labour market are vital areas in society, and the price of exclusion from them is extremely high both for individuals and society as a whole. Norway has an extensive welfare system through the **Norwegian Labour and Welfare**



■ **Figure 8 Percentage of NEETs*** between the ages of 15 and 29 for Oslo and Norway from 2016 to 2020.



* Neither in employment, education or training.

Source: Statistics Norway (SSB) and Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

Working life and the labour market are vital areas in society, and the price of exclusion from them is extremely high both for individuals and society as a whole.



Photo: Thomas Brun / NTB Scampix

Despite the generally high level of employment in Oslo, there are certain groups who find it challenging to enter the job market.

Administration (NAV), which ensures that support is provided to those who fall by the wayside. There are a range of measures available for various groups, with specific initiatives for those who are most vulnerable.

The City of Oslo has prepared a separate action plan – **The Right Skills and Work for All**, which has a number of initiatives to help employers gain access to the skills they require, give people the opportunity to enhance their skills and increase the level of lifelong learning and employment in the city. Of the specific initiatives targeting certain groups, mention can be made of the **useful work** programme, which offers employment to people with substance abuse challenges and provides the target group with a further springboard into working life. Efforts targeting young people have also been strengthened in recent years through increased funding for the **summer jobs** programme for young people aged between 13 and 19, and **area-based initiatives** which finance locally adapted activity and local community initiatives in areas with low employment.

Work preparatory training is an important initiative for including more people in working life. The City of Oslo is a full or part owner in six employment and inclusion companies which contribute to more people participating in the labour force.

As one of the country's largest employers, the City of Oslo has major influence over both working life and the labour market, and has used the **Oslo Model** to create a programme to foster decent working conditions and prevent work-related crime. Each year, the City of Oslo makes purchases totalling around NOK 26 billion, and by utilising that purchasing power, the City of Oslo contributes to better pay and working conditions through requirements set in procurement processes. There are requirements for permanent employment, payment of collectively agreed wage rates, use of apprentices and restrictions on the number of sub-contractors, as well as requirements for internal controls and occupational health, safety and environment (HSE) practices. The City of Oslo also works together with Tax Region East and the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, and shares information on risk associated with work-related crime. A separate **action plan against human trafficking** has also been prepared. This includes specific measures for strengthening the coordination and follow-up of assumed victims of human trafficking.

SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Sustainable Development Goal 9 concerns building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation. Investments in infrastructure such as transport, water systems, energy and information technology are essential for creating a sustainable development in Oslo.



Oslo has well-developed infrastructure, however the combination of population growth, adaptation to climate change and the need for a new water supply (referred to in SDG6) mean that major investments will be required in the years to 2030. In this context, adaptation to climate change means building infrastructure that is adapted to local consequences of climate change, such as surface water management due to more extreme weather. At the same time, it is also important to adapt infrastructure that reduces greenhouse gas emissions in both the public and private sectors.

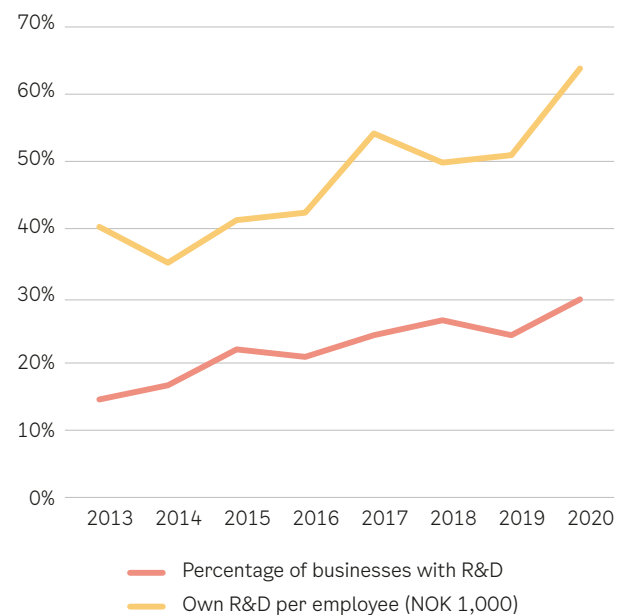
Oslo has well-developed infrastructure for information and communications technology, with good access to high-speed mobile and fibre-optic networks. Research and innovation play a vital role in solving sustainability challenges. The complexity of the challenges will require better facilitation of research and collaboration across sectors, sources of financing and countries. It is also essential that the business sector becomes more sustainable. Other aspects include strengthening scientific research and upgrading technology in the business sector, promoting inclusive and sustainable commercial development, and transitioning tourism to becoming more sustainable. As a national capital, commercial hub and university city, Oslo plays a particularly important role in this work. The figure below shows two indicators of the Research and Development (R&D) trends within enterprises, where both the proportion of enterprises that budgeted for R&D and the amount spent per employee increased significantly from 2013 to 2020.

An important question is how Oslo can use its own policy instruments for promoting a more inclusive and environmentally friendly transition to the future.

What are we doing?

Cooperation between the business sector and the City of Oslo is essential for upgrading Oslo to becoming a

Figure 9 Percentage of businesses with R&D and use of R&D funds per employee in businesses in Oslo from 2013 to 2020.



Source: Statistics Norway

The complexity of the challenges will require better facilitation of research and collaboration across sectors, sources of financing and countries.

competitive city with lower greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Oslo collaborates with the business sector through the **Business for Climate** initiative, a climate partnership consisting of more than 100 member businesses that work together with the City of Oslo to

reduce Oslo's greenhouse gas emissions. The network members have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their own activities, and that, through innovation and purchases, they will promote climate-friendly solutions outside of their own activities.

In order to improve transport infrastructure while also taking climate change and the environment into consideration, the City of Oslo has entered into a partnership with the public transport authority Ruter and the Norwegian Public Roads Administration for **Smarter Transport in the Oslo Region (STOR)**. Several projects have been initiated through this partnership. For example, the Agency for Urban Environment is working with the tourism industry to promote environmentally-friendly transport for tourists.

Within its own activities, the City of Oslo's goal is for construction projects to be emissions-free by 2025. The City of Oslo spends approximately NOK 10 billion per year to build schools, roads, nursing homes, kindergartens and much more. This corresponds to one-fifth of the total turnover in the market. Since autumn 2019, Oslo has rewarded contractors that can offer zero-emissions construction processes in tenders for the City of Oslo's own building and construction projects. A **zero-emissions construction process** involves zero-emissions machines at the construction site and zero-emissions transport. The City of Oslo's construction projects were assessed by the research organisation SINTEF in 2021. This assessment revealed that the transition has progressed faster than expected. No large electrically powered construction machines existed three years ago. There are now heavy, zero-emissions construction machines in operation at more than 30 construction sites in Oslo. More than 20 different types of zero-emissions construction machines and vehicles are being used at the City of Oslo's construction sites. This demonstrates that active and coordinated use of purchasing power in this manner can be a very powerful tool for combating climate change.

As part of the City of Oslo's focus on research, innovation and knowledge, an innovation district has been established in association with the University of Oslo. Called **Oslo Science City**, it is a partnership with a number of public and private sector actors. The work with Oslo Science City is based on the City of Oslo's strategy for developing Oslo as a knowledge capital and business-friendly city (the **Campus Strategy**) and has the goal of contributing to increased value creation, sustainable development, innovation and a high number of new jobs within knowledge-intensive



Photo: Sara Marie Vollset / UKE

Other aspects include strengthening scientific research and upgrading technology in the business sector, promoting inclusive and sustainable commercial development, and transitioning tourism to becoming more sustainable.

sectors. **Oslo Business Region AS** is the City of Oslo's commercial development company. It assists companies to grow and develop by attracting investment and competence to Oslo. Innovation will contribute to sustainable economic development that generates new jobs, a green transition and value creation for the region.

The City of Oslo has the goal of **managing surface water with open, local and innovative solutions** without polluting water sources. The City of Oslo is developing a map showing how rainwater can safely run through the city from the hills surrounding Oslo (Marka) to the fjord without overloading the water and wastewater system. This map will be an important planning tool for further developing the city's streets and outdoor areas. In addition, tools are being developed for nature-based solutions which contribute to retaining rainwater during extreme downpours. These include a guide for managing surface water, a strategy for green roofs and façades, and the blue-green factor. Retaining as much rainwater as possible in the hills surrounding Oslo will mean fewer challenges with surface water in the city during periods of heavy rain, and the City of Oslo is therefore piloting incremental flood mitigation measures in the hills. This is an example of an innovative solution with good results that requires few resources.

SDG10: Reduced Inequalities

This Sustainable Development Goal concerns reducing inequality within and among countries. The relevant targets for Oslo include progressive and sustained income growth for the poorest members of the population, and adopting policies with the goal of achieving a gradual reduction in inequality. Other important targets involve promoting social, economic and political inclusion for all, ensuring equal opportunities, and combating discrimination.



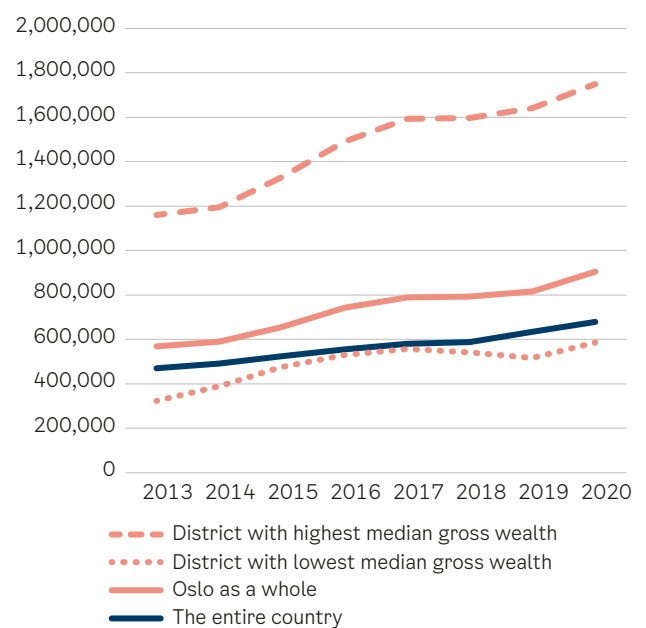
Reducing social and economic disparities will enable citizens to live good lives. However, it is also important to work at the societal level to prevent disparities from increasing. Increased inequality can result in social unrest and weaken trust between individuals and groups.

Norway has small disparities in income and living conditions compared with other countries. However, income inequality in Oslo is higher than in the rest of the country. Oslo is home to some of the richest and poorest people in the country. There are significant income disparities between different areas, and citizens in low-income households are concentrated in certain parts of the city. The biggest contrasts can be found along the city's East-West axis, however there are also differences between and within districts.

Inequality and, more specifically, economic inequality, is influenced by a number of structural factors in society, such as income and wealth distribution, home ownership, migration and unemployment. A consequence of this is that specific measures which can counteract economic inequality will be spread over a spectrum of professional and social policy areas, with the most distributive measures at the central government level through tax policy. At the same time, Oslo is responsible for providing many of the services needed to enable citizens to live good lives. The City of Oslo must reduce inequality and offer equal services to citizens, irrespective of income, education or place of residence. Among other things, this involves systems and a willingness to target the use of resources towards those who have the greatest need.

The fight against social inequality and exclusion covers every stage of life. The City of Oslo's most important focus areas include ensuring a safe upbringing and contributing to more people completing upper secondary education. Getting more people into work is also essential to preventing inequality, and both central and local governments have the policy instruments and responsibility

■ **Figure 10** Median gross wealth for Oslo and N whole for 2013-2020.



Source: Statistics Norway (SSB) and Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

The City of Oslo must reduce inequality and offer equal services to citizens, irrespective of income, education or place of residence.

for this (challenges and efforts relating to labour market participation are discussed under SDG8). Furthermore, participation in various arenas at every stage of life plays a part in preventing exclusion and inequality. Efforts to combat social inequality are viewed in close connection with the City of Oslo's diversity and integration work, as well the work to combat discrimination and racism.



The fight against social inequality and exclusion covers every stage of life.

What are we doing?

For the City of Oslo, reducing inequality largely involves **ensuring that citizens are offered equal services**, and, to ensure, insofar as possible, equal opportunities for work and education. In connection with this, the **allocation system** to the districts is an important policy instrument, because it ensures that the budget framework for the districts takes into account and compensates for the fact that the need for municipal services differs between the districts for many of most important service areas.

The City of Oslo has few initiatives that directly influence income disparities. However, it does have several measures and policy instruments that can mitigate the negative consequences of low incomes and poverty. This largely involves **removing barriers to participation in important arenas** that influence educational and employment opportunities. In this respect, initiatives targeting children and young people are particularly important. The City of Oslo carries out different studies and initiatives within kindergartens and schools, as well as within culture and recreation.

The free before and after-school programme for children (AKS) is among the City of Oslo's most important initiatives for reducing inequality. Introduction of the programme has resulted in a strong increase in the number of children participating in AKS and has enabled many more pupils to be involved in the community after school hours. Many children gain an extra arena for learning and experiences that they perhaps otherwise would not have been a part of. The programme started in selected districts. Since 2019, all of the first grade pupils in the city have been offered a free, part-time place, and from

autumn 2022 the programme will include all pupils from the first to third grades. In addition, **free core time** has been introduced in kindergartens for children aged 4 and 5 in selected districts, and pilot programmes involving increased basic staffing are also being conducted in a selection of kindergartens located in more deprived areas. Concerted efforts are also being made to assist schools in deprived areas. This development programme will involve the different services and stakeholders that are decisive for improving the situation for students in these areas. Preventive and health-promoting initiatives at the child health clinics include giving **new families** the option of receiving a home visit from a public health nurse. This service is extended to couples expecting their first child together, to anyone who has children in Norway for the first time, to adoptive parents and to multi-child families with expanded needs.

Within the cultural field, the **Deichman Libraries** provide an important service in the work of reducing exclusion among children and young people. The libraries have improved the services they offer in recent years through the construction of a new main library, and have also increased the level of free activities and events, and improved accessibility through both the design of rooms and more space. Deichman is among the cultural institutions with the widest reach, including to those who would normally not use this type of service. The results are reflected in increasing visits from the public in recent years. The City of Oslo has also increased its focus on **lending centres**. These are located in several districts and give children and young people access to free sports and recreational equipment, which increases participation in both organised and non-organised activities.

A project with a **free cultural school** has also been started as part of AKS in selected parts of the city. The cultural school offers high-quality professional teaching to children and young people within art and cultural subjects. The fact that it is a free service also enables more people to participate. The cultural school is intended to be for all children and young people. The services shall be provided at locations within a reasonable distance of the users and close to central transport hubs and established city centre functions. This helps to make the services more accessible and break down sociocultural barriers to participation. A good learning environment helps create a community in which students can acquire knowledge and skills and develop while interacting with others. Cultural school activities and cultural activities in general represent an arena for inclusion and integration, for developing one's identity and cultural diversity.

SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Sustainable Development Goal 11 concerns making cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In Oslo’s case, this involves physical conditions and structures, as well as urban planning which encompasses the three dimensions of sustainability. A sustainable tourism industry, which creates jobs and promotes local culture, shall also be encouraged.



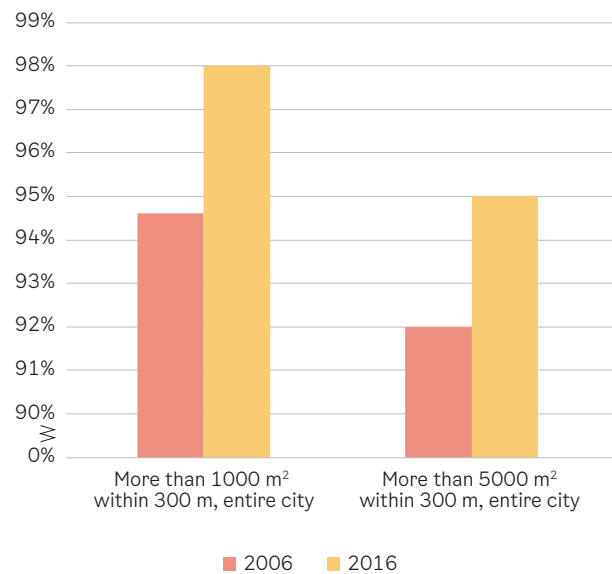
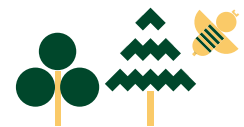
There is a need for more housing and balanced housing construction. The City of Oslo has plans for the simultaneous and comprehensive development of multiple areas in the city. Acquiring land at an early stage for necessary technical, green and social infrastructure, as well as arranging financing and completing this infrastructure in a timely fashion, are among the challenges that are faced.

Housing prices in Oslo are high and it is a challenge that many in Oslo struggle to enter the housing market. Around 40,000 people are considered disadvantaged in the Oslo housing market, which means people or families who, over time, have problems with acquiring a home or maintaining satisfactory living conditions on their own. The majority of Oslo’s households live in homes acquired via the open market, whether they are homeowners or renters. Just over 3,300 people nationwide are homeless, however the largest cities are strongly overrepresented in these figures. A study from OsloMet (Oslo Metropolitan University) shows that, on average, Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim and Stavanger have 1.09 homeless people per 1,000 inhabitants. That is about double the number in medium-sized municipalities. A large number of people with substance abuse problems are homeless, and there is an also increasing need for homes for people in this target group who are transitioning from an institution to a normal residence.

It is important that everyone has access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green areas and public spaces, which is what the population of Oslo generally has. The challenge moving forward will be to maintain the quality of green areas and public spaces as the population grows through densification and transformation of existing areas.

Adequate access to appropriate premises, meeting places and sporting facilities is a key challenge. Despite major investments being made in new buildings and

■ **Figure 11** Access to green spaces. Percentage of the population who live less than 300 metres from a green space (more than 1,000m² and more than 500m²) for 2006 and 2016.



Source: Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

The challenge moving forward will be to maintain the quality of green areas and public spaces as the population grows through densification and transformation of existing areas.

facilities, as well as the maintenance and management of existing buildings and properties, there will still be low per capita coverage in Oslo. Children and young people who grow up in poverty, live in cramped conditions, and who do not receive adequate help and support at home have a particularly major need to be

offered free recreational activities and access to books and libraries, as well as places to go in the afternoons. It is also important that urban spaces and the local environment are designed in such a way that elderly people can live as actively and independently as possible.

Growth in population and employment in Oslo and the region means more traffic congestion, while major road construction projects take up a great deal of space and create noise for pedestrians, cyclists and residents. Many also find that school roads are unsafe due to high levels of traffic. Road traffic is also the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and many Oslo residents need to remain inside during winter because of poor air quality. The substances that contribute most to local air pollution in Oslo are particulates and nitrogen dioxide. The city has major potential for reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions if the vehicle fleet becomes emissions-free and we achieve a transition from cars to public transport, cycling and walking. Efforts to adapt to a warmer and wetter climate will affect how the city develops.

What are we doing?

Urban planning is an effective tool that can help steer developments in a sustainable direction. The social element of the current municipal master plan concerns how the City of Oslo will develop its services, facilitate good and sustainable societal development, and carry out its tasks in the best way possible in the period towards 2040. The overarching goals are for Oslo to become a zero-emissions city and driving force in climate and environmental policy. Furthermore, the City of Oslo shall have broad-based efforts to reduce social inequality, enable everyone to participate in important social arenas, and facilitate increased housing construction and commercial development. The main objective for urban development is still that the **city shall grow from within and outwards and along the rail network**, in accordance with principles for effective land use and climate-friendly urban development.

It is important to make areas and plots of land available for construction. Development agreements through contributions from landowners ensure short-term financing options and contribute to plans being realised at a faster pace. This can help to ensure that construction projects proceed as planned. It will therefore be important to develop good tools and work in a well-coordinated manner through planning, financing and completion of necessary infrastructure. Among other things, these issues must be further examined in connection with the work on **the new land-use section of the municipal master plan**.

The city has major potential for reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions if the vehicle fleet becomes emissions-free and we achieve a transition from cars to public transport, cycling and walking.

A strategy has been adopted for **Oslo as a sustainable travel destination**, which will, among other things, further develop and highlight Oslo as a sustainable travel destination. Sustainable tourism takes into consideration current and future economic, social and environmental consequences, while also meeting the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and the host communities.

Moving forward, the City of Oslo will continue to help those who are not among the target group for municipal social housing services, but who are having difficulties purchasing a suitable home. A key strategy document that also outlines different models for a third housing sector is the adopted strategy called **New paths to home ownership**. The coming years will also see the construction and purchase of several small and medium-sized apartment buildings to enable there to be a varied mix of residents and to spread municipal housing throughout the city.

The area-based initiatives shall contribute to all areas in Oslo being perceived as good and safe places in which to live and grow up. This work is taking place in partnership with the central government in three sub-programmes: local environment, upbringing, and education and employment. Oslo has three area-based initiatives that cover multiple districts – Groruddalen, City Centre East (*Indre Øst*) and South (*Sør*) – as well as several “**area boosts**” in which physical and social measures will contribute to lasting and locally-based development work. The City of Oslo has many different initiatives for children and young people. These include the recently developed new plan called “**Our Club!**” (*Klubben vår!*), which involves recreational clubs and recreational activities for children and young people in the various districts. During the current period, the City of Oslo will also roll out a needs plan for sport and outdoor activities, which will serve as an overarching management tool that highlights the need for new facilities and spaces.

Population growth in Oslo puts pressure on the city’s open spaces. With increased construction also comes the need to guarantee Oslo’s blue-green qualities to



Photo: Ida Rydeng / City of Oslo

enable everyone to have access to good recreational areas in their local communities. The percentage of people who live within 300 metres of a green space has increased since 2006. This is a result of politically based strategies for urban development, which have resulted in the city's growth taking place within the areas that have a well-developed green structure. In addition, newly developed residential areas have established new green spaces as their construction has progressed. However, the City of Oslo still wants the urban spaces to be greener and more enjoyable, places where people can engage in activities and spend time. One means of strengthening and expanding the blue-green structure is to facilitate greater differentiation between new developments. High-rise dwellings may be planned in some areas, while more low-rise dwellings and less development may be planned for others. The City of Oslo will further address these issues in the work with the land-use section of the municipal master plan, and by reviewing the **high-rise strategy** and **plan for single-family homes**.

The plan for enhanced urban life in Oslo centre and Plan for the cycle network will be followed up during the current city council term. During this period, the City of Oslo will also continue to work on clarifying an appropriate arrangement for the **“Walking Strategy for Oslo”** (Gå-strategi for Oslo). The purpose of the **urban life strategy** is to create pleasant areas with less vehicle traffic. The city centre, Grønland and Tøyen are the core areas for this initiative. Systematic efforts are underway to make Oslo a safer city in which to walk

and cycle, and the goal is that by 2025, 25 per cent of all daily travel will be by bicycle. This will be achieved by creating new bicycle paths, upgrading existing bicycle routes, creating bicycle parking facilities at major hubs, offering service stations and pumps, and carrying out research and development.

To manage the trend towards an increasingly elderly population, **an action plan for an age-friendly city** has been adopted. The goal is for an inclusive and accessible urban environment which promotes active ageing and which can reduce the pressure on the health and care services. Elderly people themselves have identified adapted methods of transport as being important for addressing their needs. **The “Pink Buses” for Ruter’s age-friendly transport service is one such service.** Good meeting places that cater to all generations also need to be provided.

Working towards a sustainable city also reduces the city's negative impact on the environment. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions, access to clean drinking water, well-functioning drainage, good waste management, and reliable energy supply are all integral to achieving a sustainable city and sustainable local community. Examples of the City of Oslo's efforts are presented under several of the other Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG6 Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG7 Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG13 Climate Action, SDG14 Life Below Water, and SDG15 Life on Land.

SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Sustainable Development Goal number 12 is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Material overconsumption is particularly relevant in a Norwegian context, including Oslo. Responsible and sustainable consumption and production involve generating more from fewer resources to ensure good living conditions for current and future generations. It entails reducing the use of resources, environmental degradation and greenhouse gas emissions both as a society and as individuals.

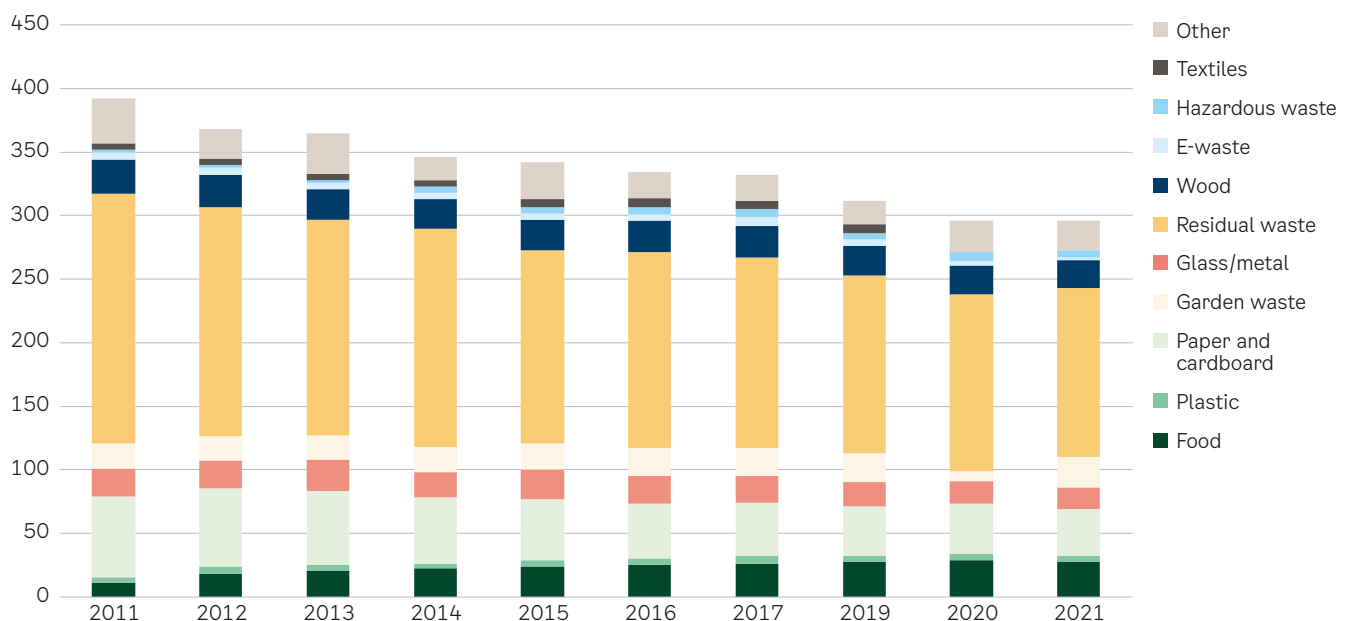


Much of what we throw out consists of materials and resources that could have been repaired or reused in various ways. In addition to the emissions generated within the borders of Oslo, consumption by Oslo's citizens, businesses and the municipality itself contributes to greenhouse gas emissions outside of the municipal borders. These emissions occur in the production and transport of goods and services that are consumed in Oslo and are therefore often called consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions or "indirect emissions". Already today, the majority of global greenhouse gas

emissions are from consumption and investments in urban areas, and with the strong growth expected in the world's cities over the coming decades, it will be decisive that they reduce their contributions to green-

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Figure 12 Quantity of household waste per capita, divided into collected fractions. All figures in kilograms.



Source: Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

The Climate Survey for 2022 shows that the inhabitants of Oslo are positive towards changing their habits out of consideration to the climate and environment.

house gas emissions outside their borders. Various studies estimate that Oslo's consumption-based emissions of greenhouse gases are between 6 and 13 times higher than the direct emissions generated within Oslo's borders, and there is reason to assume that these consumption-based emissions are growing.

The City of Oslo's consumption-based emissions were mapped in 2017, and the City of Oslo's purchases of construction materials, particularly steel and concrete, were highlighted as being a source of significant greenhouse gas emissions outside the municipal border. Calculations used for the City of Oslo's "*Climate Strategy towards 2030*" show that emissions originating from procurements within construction and infrastructure make up more than 50 per cent of the City of Oslo's own consumption-based emissions. There is also significant potential for reductions in indirect emissions linked to food, first and foremost by reducing food waste and by meat consumption. Strategic use of public procurements and purchases is an important tool for setting climate requirements which can contribute to the City of Oslo reducing its greenhouse gas emissions both inside and outside the city.

However, if we are to achieve the goal of responsible consumption, all of Oslo citizens must make an effort, and the Climate Survey for 2022 shows that the inhabitants of Oslo are positive towards changing their habits out of consideration to the climate and environment. The survey shows that many have made climate-friendly choices during the past year, and it is probable that they will continue with climate-friendly measures going forward. Over time, we have seen a trend towards more people in Oslo wanting to cut their consumption of meat. The proportion who say they have reduced food waste has increased from 35 per cent in 2019 to 46 per cent in 2022, and the proportion who respond that they have reduced their consumption in general increased from 20 per cent to 26 per cent during the same period. The quantity of household waste per inhabitant has also seen a downward trend over time, which is a positive sign.

What are we doing?

Several ongoing processes underpin efforts to reduce Oslo's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions outside the City of Oslo. The City of Oslo's consumption strategy

"**Future consumption – strategy for sustainable and reduced consumption 2019-2030**" was adopted in 2019 and identifies how the city's inhabitants, the City of Oslo's enterprises and the business sector can reduce material consumption through sharing, leasing, repairing and reuse. The Agency for Urban Environment coordinates the work with a cross-municipal list of measures for sustainable and reduced consumption that was adopted together with the City of Oslo's budget for 2022. Together with other municipal stakeholders, the Agency for Urban Environment has several schemes that support inhabitants, municipal enterprises, organisations and business sector actors in achieving and facilitating more sustainable and reduced consumption. Key guidelines are also stipulated in the City of Oslo's "**Climate Strategy for Oslo towards 2030**".

The City of Oslo collaborates with academia, NGOs and business sector actors in Oslo to increase knowledge of and commitment to sustainable and reduced consumption, as well as to contribute to the creation of green jobs through new circular solutions. The City of Oslo also facilitates this via various loan schemes, reuse at the recycling stations, repair workshops, teaching programmes, activities and events during **Reuse Week**, cooperation in various networks across stakeholders, testing of various pilot programmes and projects, as well as participation in research work.

The City of Oslo's lifecycle-based waste system will be further developed to remove greenhouse gas emissions, and comply with new requirements for sorting and preparations for reuse and material recycling. The City of Oslo receives reusable items at its recycling stations which non-profit organisations can, by agreement, collect and resell. To get more out of what is handed in for reuse, a digital reuse calendar has been developed. This makes it easier for municipal partners to collect specific goods for reuse. The Agency for Waste Management has also tested out a reuse tent that has been adapted for other municipal enterprises.

In 2022, the Agency for Urban Environment directed and completed work that developed a **set of indicators** for sustainable and reduced consumption for the city of Oslo's own enterprises and the Oslo community at large. The purpose of the project was to develop indicators showing the development in consumption in Oslo, including among inhabitants, municipal enterprises and in the business sector. The Agency for Climate has also been allocated NOK 1.5 million from the **Klimasats** fund to develop a management system for reducing indirect emissions. Among other things, this involves further developing a set of indicators for being able to track the development of these emissions.

Consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions are also emphasised in the City of Oslo's **procurement strategy**. In line with this, the carbon and environmental footprint and use of resources during the entire product life-cycle shall be calculated as much as possible and provide guidelines for the choice of solutions. The building and construction sector is an area in which the City of Oslo is such a large buyer that procurements made by the City of Oslo can influence a larger market for construction materials and climate solutions. In 2022, the city council took an important further step in the work to reduce these emissions by setting a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the materials that are used in the City of Oslo's new and renovated buildings by 30 per cent. Based on experience from the work of reducing consumption-based emissions from municipal buildings and infrastructure, future efforts can be expanded to include more procurement categories, for example, food, textiles, electronics, furniture, plastics and travel.

The City of Oslo is preparing an **Action plan for a zero-emissions and sharing-based machine park and vehicle fleet during 2025**. This will involve the introduction of measures to make the City of Oslo a more responsible consumer by owning fewer vehicles and machines, and facilitating more sharing. This will be achieved both by sharing internally and by procuring from sharing services where appropriate. Filling and charging infrastructure for fossil-free vehicles and machines will also be installed to enable these to be shared both internally and externally when this is possible and appropriate.

The Agency for Waste Management has prepared a scientific basis for a specific **“Plan for a circular economy in Oslo”** which shows how the City of Oslo's work to create a more circular economy will contribute to more jobs, increased value creation and significant benefits for the climate and environment. As part of this scientific basis, a study has also been prepared which includes measures for zero-emissions and resource-efficient waste management in Oslo. This includes proposals for specific measures related to household waste and commercial waste which show how Oslo can increase the degree of material recycling by up to 65 per cent, while also achieving the goal of waste management having virtually no direct greenhouse gas emissions in 2030.

The City of Oslo's waste management system produces new products that contribute to reduced use of resources. Garden waste becomes soil products and food waste becomes environmentally friendly biogas



Photo: Klaus Sandvik / City of Oslo

and organic bio-fertiliser. The residual waste is incinerated at the Haraldrud and Klemetsrud energy recycling plants and is converted into electricity and district heating for the city's inhabitants.

Food generates significant indirect emissions. The city council is working to **halve food waste per inhabitant by 2030, halve meat consumption by 2023, and increase the proportion of fruit, vegetables, legumes and seasonal produce used in municipal enterprises**. The Agency for Improvement and Development, the Agency for Urban Environment, and the Nursing Home Agency have all been allocated funds from the **Klimasats** fund for their work on sustainable food and reducing food waste. Sustainable food is also included in the City of Oslo's work with urban land use, plastics and marine litter.

All of the City of Oslo's enterprises shall **be environmentally certified**. The Environmental Lighthouse (*Miljøfyrtårn*) standard or ISO-certification are used at present. Climate-relevant criteria include not using disposable items when serving food, environmentally friendly solutions for work travel and freight transport, waste sorting at source, energy use, and reduced meat consumption and food waste. 45 per cent of Oslo's municipal enterprises are Environmental Lighthouse certified and 12 municipal enterprises/sub-municipal enterprises are certified through the ISO 14001 standard. Achieving these goals will contribute to reducing the consumption-based, indirect emissions.

SDG13: Climate Action

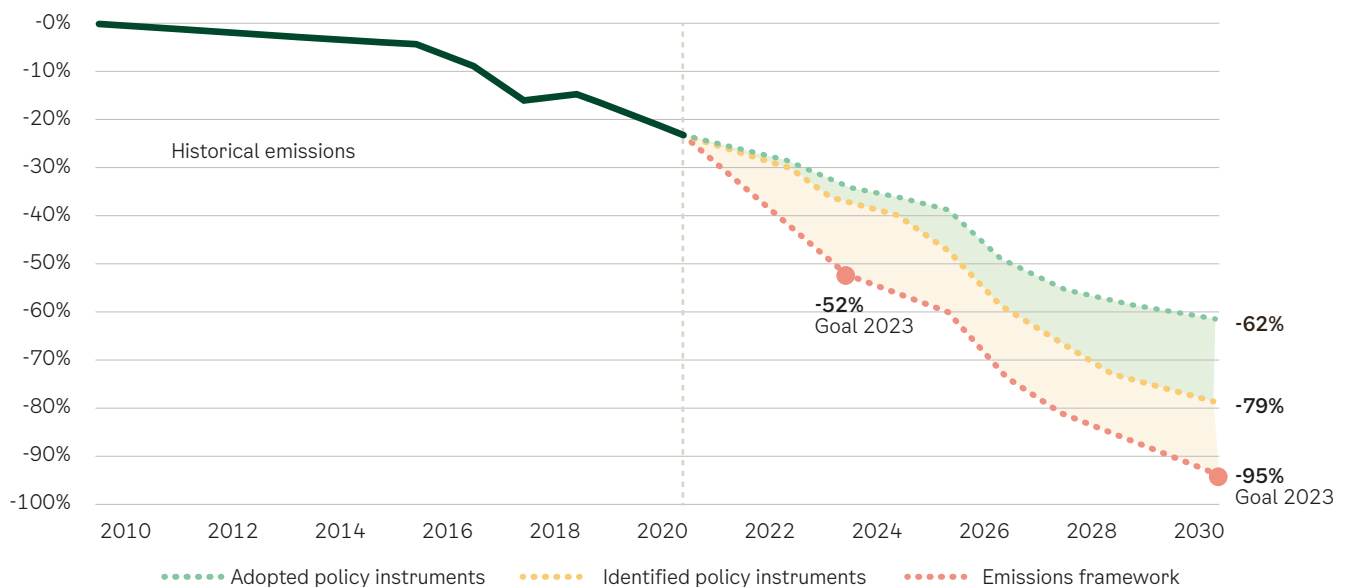
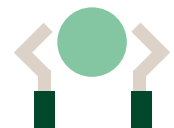
Sustainable Development Goal 13 concerns the need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The Earth’s climate is changing and it has become warmer in the past century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) expects that the average global temperature will continue to increase up until the end of the century, depending on how much greenhouse gas is emitted into the atmosphere. Climate change is occurring globally and has major local variations.



In Oslo, the climate has become over 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer and 15 per cent wetter since measurements started at the beginning of the 1900s, and extreme weather has become more common. Extreme weather in Oslo takes the form of extreme deviations from the normal weather, and not necessarily catastrophic weather phenomena. These changes took place particularly at the end of the 1990s and into the 2000s and will continue as the century progresses. If global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, the average temperature in Oslo is expected to increase by a further 3–6 degrees Celsius, and precipitation will

If global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, the average temperature in Oslo is expected to increase by a further 3–6 degrees Celsius, and precipitation will increase by 5–30 per cent up until 2100. By then, the climate in Oslo, particularly in winter, will have changed dramatically.

■ **Figure 13** Estimated development in emissions up to 2030 as a result of policy instruments adopted in Oslo’s climate budget, potential for emissions cuts through new, identified policy instruments and the emissions framework.



Source: Agency for Climate (Klimaetaten)



Photo: Nikolai Kobets Freund / City of Oslo

increase by 5–30 per cent up until 2100. By then, the climate in Oslo, particularly in winter, will have changed dramatically.

Because the expected temperature increase is highest at the poles and the lowest near the equator, the temperature increase in Norway will be higher than the global average.¹

It is important to limit the increase in the average temperature to 1.5 °C if the world is to avert disastrous consequences in the future. We need to find global solutions in a number of areas. In addition to cutting emissions and carbon capture storage, there needs to be greater commitment to renewable energy, new industrial systems and changes in infrastructure. Even if we are able to achieve the climate targets, the climate in Oslo will still change and become wetter, warmer and, at times, drier. Oslo is working to be a step ahead of climate change, not only to reduce physical risk, but also other consequences of climate change, particularly within health and biodiversity.

Management of surface water is the City of Oslo's most important and costly climate adaptation measure. In addition, the City of Oslo is working to reduce the risk of landslides, and to make the urban and natural environment better able to tolerate a warmer and drier climate.

In the case of Oslo, this goal particularly pertains to reducing the direct greenhouse gas emissions that the municipality is responsible for. Road traffic, waste incineration, and building and construction activities generate almost 90 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions within Oslo's borders, while the remaining emissions are primarily from shipping, old landfill sites and the heating of buildings. It is also important to make the city less vulnerable to climate change, particularly by avoiding surface water damage. Reducing the carbon footprint from the indirect emissions outside the City of Oslo's borders is a further challenge. This topic is discussed under SDG12 relating to responsible consumption and production.

¹ This section is based on Chapter 9 Environment and Climate in the report Oslo Trends 2019.

Oslo's climate goal is for direct emissions in 2030 to be 95 per cent lower than they were in 2009.

Oslo's climate goal is for direct emissions in 2030 to be 95 per cent lower than they were in 2009. Figure 13 shows the expected development in emissions up until 2030, based on the present situation, where significant reductions can be possible to achieve with new, identified policy instruments, and the politically established framework for emissions. The expected development in greenhouse gas emissions includes policy instruments adopted in the climate budget and is calculated to give a reduction of 62 per cent in 2030, compared with 2009 levels. As the figure demonstrates, the effects of these policy instruments in this climate budget are not significant enough to achieve the climate goals. We must therefore work to strengthen existing policy instruments and find new policy instruments to reduce emissions at a faster rate.

What are we doing?

The City of Oslo has developed a separate **Climate Budget**, which is a management tool for the climate-related work. The Climate Budget specifies goals, measures implemented in Oslo to cut emissions within Oslo's borders, and describes important initiatives for achieving the goals in the **Climate Strategy**. Responsibility for implementing measures is devolved to the municipal enterprises, which must report on their progress in the same way as they report their financial results. The Climate Budget also highlights the national and regional measures that directly contribute to cuts in emissions in Oslo. The Climate Budget is presented for the entire financial plan period.

In spring 2022, an agreement was entered into between the central government, the City of Oslo and the new owners of the energy recycling plant at Klemetsrud (Hafslund Oslo Celsio) which ensures full financing of carbon capture and storage (CCS) at the waste management plant from 2026. **CCS at Klemetsrud** will reduce fossil emissions from the plant by up to 94 per cent in 2030. This is equivalent to just under 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-equivalents, or around 15 per cent of Oslo's greenhouse gas emissions. A significant quantity of biogenic CO₂, i.e. carbon from organic materials (such as wood, cardboard/paper, food scraps), will also be captured. In addition to CCS, work is underway on measures for **reducing waste**, increasing material recycling and **reducing the quantity of fossil fractions in waste that will be incinerated**.

The City of Oslo is also working towards realising a full transition to **zero-emissions building and construction sites**. This will be achieved by using the Norwegian Planning and Building Act to set climate requirements in relevant plans, continuing to set **climate requirements in procurement processes**, maintaining and developing a **close dialogue with the industry** and **international cooperation** to develop the supply side for machines and solutions.

Road traffic is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Oslo, and the City of Oslo is actively working to **reduce transport needs and facilitate the transition to zero-emissions transport**. New travel habits are still being established following the pandemic, and the **commitment to public transport** will continue, and thus enable more people to go back to using public transport. People therefore require an efficient and attractive public transport service. The goal moving forward is that the same number of people, and preferably even more, walk and cycle, and the City of Oslo will continue the **cycling initiative** at the same time as public transport gets back at least the same proportion of passengers that were using public transport prior to the shutdown. Several major bus contracts will commence in Oslo in 2022 and 2023, and the ambition is for Ruter to be able to provide virtually **emissions-free bus operations** by the end of 2023. Other important measures will be to continue to develop a joint package of policy instruments relating to **road tolls, parking policy and charging infrastructure**, as well as developing the **city from within and out**, and **densify in public transport hubs**.

Surface water is rainwater that cannot be absorbed due to the many impermeable surfaces found in the city. To combat this challenge, the City of Oslo is working to manage surface water, see the reference to this under SDG9. In addition, the City of Oslo is focusing on **restoring nature**, which will contribute to the city being able to accommodate torrential rain and a warmer climate. Among other things, the City of Oslo is working to **reopen streams**, with more than 4 kilometres of streams reopened since 2000. **Green spaces** are also important for retaining large amounts of rainwater in the city and for people and nature to be able to tolerate higher temperatures. **17,850 trees have been planted** since 2016. Bogs are another important habitat that can retain large quantities of water and are a natural carbon sink. The City of Oslo is therefore working to **restore previously drained bogs**. Since 2019, over 32 hectares of bogland have been restored.

SDG14: Life Below Water

Sustainable Development Goal 14 is to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a manner that promotes sustainable development. Sustainable use of the oceans and seas in the future requires stopping overfishing, littering and contamination, as well as protecting vulnerable wildlife and coral reefs. For Oslo, this involves protecting and restoring marine-related ecosystems in the fjord, lakes and waterways.



The Oslofjord faces major challenges, and the causes of many of these challenges can be traced back to strong population growth, pressure on land use along the shore, pollution from agriculture and wastewater, as well as increased boat traffic and fishing. Climate change, which impacts the entire ecosystem, is also a significant factor.

Kelp forests and eel grass beds are becoming rarer, cod stocks are described as having virtually collapsed at several locations, and levels of phosphorous and nitrogen are rising. Domestic sewage is the largest source of pollution in the inner Oslofjord and emissions of

Domestic sewage is the largest source of pollution in the inner Oslofjord and emissions of untreated wastewater via sewage pipe leaks and overloading from heavy precipitation constitute a large part of the problem.



Marine litter is another persistent problem.

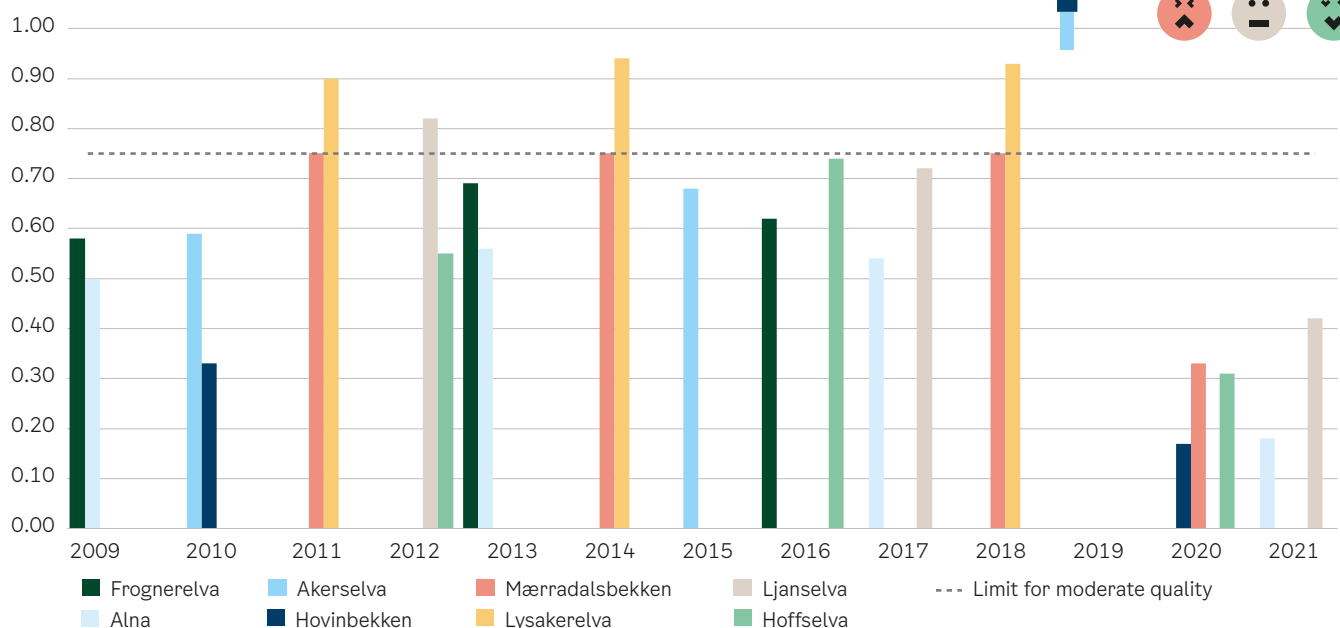
untreated wastewater via sewage pipe leaks and overloading from heavy precipitation constitute a large part of the problem. In many areas of the seabed, oxygen depletion is steadily increasing, which impacts all life in the fjord. There are excessive levels of environmental toxins at many locations. Because of this, people are advised not to eat certain types of fish and shellfish from the entire inner portion of the Oslofjord and from several of the tributary fjords. The presence of non-native organisms in the Oslofjord has also been increasing over a long period, both due to warmer water and increased maritime transport. Not all non-native organisms are adapted to the fjord's ecosystem. However, some do not have natural predators and are able to both survive and thrive. The Pacific oyster, Japanese wireweed and mink are examples of such species. The Pacific oyster is perhaps best known for displacing mussels and making swimming beaches inaccessible.

Marine litter is another persistent problem. Household and industrial waste are a significant source of pollution in the entire fjord, while sewage waste is a major source of pollution in the inner part of the fjord. Most of the plastic waste is assumed to originate from land and the problem must now be viewed in connection with

the city's general litter problem. Worn tyres, rubber granules from artificial grass fields, paint flaking, washing of synthetic textiles, waste management and cosmetics have been identified as major sources of microplastics in Norway as a whole. Since much of this is linked to population density, it is therefore also relevant to the Oslofjord and the surrounding area. In the **Analysis of Garbage in the Akerselva river** project from 2021, waste collected in garbage collectors was analysed to contribute knowledge about the most important sources of litter in the waterways. The results showed that tobacco-related products, substance abuse-related items and items such as food packaging, disposable tableware and drink bottles made up a large proportion of the waste collected.

Oslo has eight main waterways: Alna, Frognerelva, Akerselva, Hovinbekken, Lysakerelva, Mærradalsbekken, Hoffselva and Ljanselva. Benthic quality surveys are carried out to assess the ecological and chemical status of the water quality in our waterways, and two to three main waterways are surveyed annually. This ensures that all eight main waterways are surveyed every third year. The most recent survey in 2021 assessed benthic fauna in the Alnaelva and Ljanselva rivers. In both cases, the results showed instances of deteriorating water quality compared with 2017. The water quality in the main waterways is not good enough in general, and none of the waterways can be

■ **Figure 14** Water quality (EQR*) in Oslo's main watercourses, 2009–2021.



* Ecological Quality Ratio (EQR): The quotient between an observed value for a given parameter for a quality element and the value of the natural state for the same parameter. The watercourse's EQR describes the water quality during the year.

classified as having “Very Good” water quality. The closest to achieving this is the Lysakerelva river, which was classified as having “Good” water quality in 2018. In the surveys conducted from 2009 to 2021, the water quality in the other waterways was classified as either “Moderate”, “Poor” or “Very Poor”. The primary sources of pollution in the main waterways are the wastewater network, run-off from roads and other impermeable surfaces, as well as emergency discharges.

What are we doing?

Approximately 1.6 million people live around the Oslofjord, and it is considered to be one of the most species-rich areas in the entire country. The fjord is important for many people, and among the positive forces that stand united in their efforts to preserve and develop the value and biodiversity of the fjord are the municipalities and county municipalities around the fjord, directorates, county governors and non-profit organisations. The **Comprehensive Action Plan for a Clean and Rich Oslofjord with an Active Outdoor Life**, which was presented by the Norwegian government in 2021, is a cross-sectoral action plan with the aim of achieving a good environmental standard in which important natural assets are restored and biodiversity is preserved, while also promoting an active outdoor life. The City of Oslo is contributing to the follow-up of this action plan.

Approximately three-quarters of nutrient salts and organic particles found in the inner Oslofjord originate from municipal wastewater. Significant work has been carried out over a long period of time to **upgrade the treatment plants** near the inner Oslofjord. In the case of Oslo, the renovation and expansion of the Bekkelaget treatment plant and the ongoing renovation of the VEAS (Vestfjorden Avløpselskap) wastewater treatment facility are important contributions to this work. Phosphorous and nitrogen removal, as well as treatment of organic material, have contributed to a reduction in nutrient salts from treated wastewater. The Agency for Real Estate and Urban Renewal has also been responsible for **maintaining the former landfills at Langøyene**. The work that is being carried out ensures that environmental toxins do not leak out and pollute the Oslofjord, while the initiative also facilitates future use of the Langøyene site.

The work that is currently underway to improve the environmental status of the main waterways includes **reopening enclosed rivers and streams**. The City of Oslo has reopened 4,210 metres of streams since these projects commenced in the early 2000s. There have been several projects in recent years, including

The water quality in the main waterways is not good enough in general, and none of the waterways can be classified as having “Very Good” water quality.

Lillebergbekken between Hovin and Ensjø, and Hovinbekken near Jordal.

Fresh eel grass beds can act as a natural form of climate adaptation which, among other things, contribute to preserving biodiversity and strengthening the resilience of ecosystems. By binding sediments together they can also provide protection against the consequences of extreme weather. Eel grass is not presently known to exist within the borders of the City of Oslo, however eel grass has previously been registered near Gressholmen. A pilot project was implemented in 2022 which involved the **reintroduction of eel grass** at two locations in Oslo – Frognerkilen and Gressholmen. Inspections conducted in October 2022 showed positive results, with growth having been established at both locations. If the pilot areas where eel grass has been re-established show positive results in spring 2023, a somewhat more extensive planting project in the coming years will be considered.

The City of Oslo has adopted an **Action Plan to Combat Plastic Pollution in the Oslofjord**, which is updated annually with a comprehensive list of measures. The City of Oslo works together with business sector actors in Oslo to find good solutions to the challenges caused by plastic pollution, because the business sector plays a particularly important role in fostering changes within product design, production, sale and consumption, and therefore to influence sustainability along the entire value chain. **Networks and support schemes** have been developed **to promote greater cooperation between the business sector and the City of Oslo in connection with climate-related and environmental challenges**.

Trash Trawl is a device which collects garbage that floats down the watercourses by using long containment booms that are inspired from oil spill control technology. The City of Oslo’s Agency for Urban Environment is also working with the start-up companies Grin and Aion to develop a **return system for reusable packaging**, to enable it to be returned after use, cleaned and then used once more. The goal is to replace disposable products and remove litter through the establishment of closed-loop circular solutions.

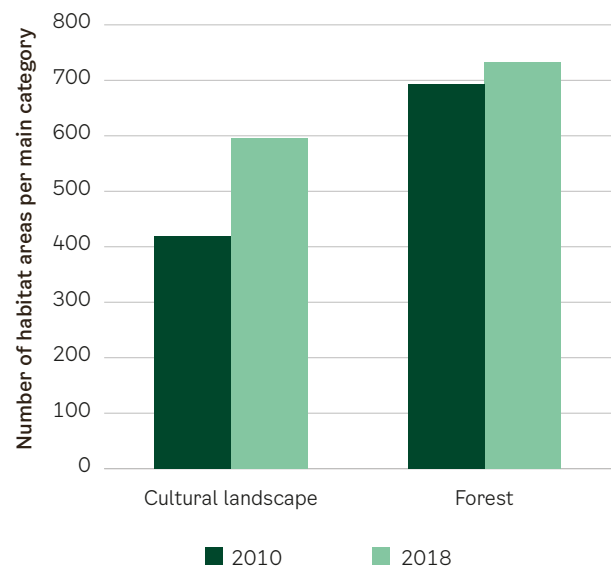
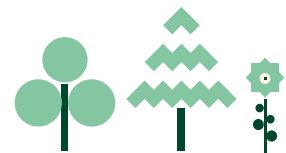
SDG15: Life on Land

Sustainable Development Goal 15 is to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss. Like all other large cities, Oslo is heavily impacted by human activity and encroachment on nature. Strong population growth over time, densification and extensive use of green spaces have a heavy impact which can degrade both biodiversity and ecosystem services. In addition, climate change, harmful non-native organisms and pollution impact the biodiversity in and around our city.



Oslo's "green accounts" from 2018 show a reduction in vegetation, particularly in the outer parts of the city. Most of the decrease can be explained by densification in areas with single-family homes, and it is largely private gardens in these areas that are shrinking. The principal challenges for biodiversity in Oslo are property development, the overgrowth of valuable cultural landscapes and the spread of invasive species. In 2018, a total area of 34.4 km² (7.8 per cent of total land and fresh water) was registered as having valuable habitats in the City of Oslo. There was a total of 1,827 such locations, divided into seven different main categories. Several habitats for which Oslo has a special national responsibility were registered, such as open lowland calcareous grasslands and limestone and calcareous forests. These are largely found in connection with the Oslofjord. Forest is the dominant category and covers the majority of the area that is important for the preservation of biodiversity. Extensive work was carried out in the years prior to 2018 to obtain an overview of the habitats that had not previously been fully surveyed. This resulted in an increase in the number and size of the locations surveyed, such as old-growth trees in the development zone. There are also areas registered in the development zone that are exposed to the strongest pressure. The majority of these belong to the main categories: freshwater/wetlands and forest. Areas on the islands in the Oslofjord, including the shoreline/coast are in a similar situation. We are continually seeing species appear in Norway that originate from other parts of the world, and some of these species have become established and represent a threat to native species. For example, in Oslo, the plant species giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and Pale swallow-wort are a major threat to biodiversity.

Figure 15 Number of habitat areas divided between cultural landscape and forest. 2010 and 2018.



Source: Oslo Statistics (Oslostatistikken)

The principal challenges for biodiversity in Oslo are property development, the overgrowth of valuable cultural landscapes and the spread of invasive species.

What are we doing?

The Norwegian Planning and Building Act is a vital tool for preserving biodiversity and the sum of the decisions made under this statute influence to a large degree the way society develops and how biodiversity will be preserved in both the short and long term.

The city's blue-green structures are important for biodiversity, climate adaptation, recreation, public health and air quality. **Urban development** must contribute to preserving, further developing and better connecting the current blue and green structures. **Managing surface water, opening streams and rivers, surveying flood zones, maintaining critical infrastructure and preserving valuable vegetation** are important examples. In areas that are being redeveloped, new residential areas must have good parks and a good network of squares and meeting places. Publicly accessible green spaces and green corridors will also be ensured in areas with single-family homes.

Both traditional and urban agriculture represent important assets, and Oslo's traditional agricultural land is protected in the **land-use section of the municipal master plan**. In many cases, planter boxes and similar

structures will make a positive contribution without hindering other activities, while school gardens provide an important learning arena which gives children practical knowledge about plants and food production. Both school gardens and allotments can provide opportunities for new activities and create local meeting places, while also having more diverse plants and insects than are found in, for example, city parks. **"Sprouting Oslo"** is the City of Oslo's initiative for urban agriculture. In addition to contributing to local food production and knowledge about the origin of food, urban agriculture also contributes to the creation of social meeting places that are important for public health and integration. In order for Oslo "to sprout" it is important to look after pollinating insects and this is also part of the City of Oslo's work with urban agriculture.

The **green accounts** compile maps and statistics on the status and changes in green spaces. This is part of the City of Oslo's goal of strengthening Oslo's blue-green character. The methodology behind these "land-use accounts" was further developed in 2021, and pilot studies have been conducted which provide more detailed information about vegetation. A comprehensive map of developed and undeveloped areas has also been



Each year maintenance is carried out in a number of areas to promote biodiversity.

drawn up. This provides detailed information about land use and coverage in the development zone. Together with an updated vegetation map, this data improves knowledge about carbon sinks in the development zone.

The **Oslo Trees** project is Oslo's partnership initiative to create more space for trees in the city. Developing and preserving urban forests was mentioned by the IPCC as being one of the solutions that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate adaptation in cities. Trees in residential environments, parks and commercial areas, along road and rail infrastructure and in peripheral zones are all part of Oslo's urban forest. Preserving and developing this forest requires the business sector and civil society to work together across levels of government and professional fields. The project is headed by **Bykuben (City Cube)**, Oslo's centre for urban biology, which works to make Oslo a city in which people look after nature and each other. It does so by acting as an open meeting place for those engaged in climate-friendly urban development and sustainable city life.

Together with other agencies, the Agency for Planning and Building Services also works with **tree protection** during the planning, building application and construction phases. This work will continue with increased impetus in the years ahead, and will include knowledge sharing about the protection of trees, facilitation of production and planting, as well as efforts to ensure there is space for the trees of the future.

A review is currently being conducted of the **zoning plan for single-family homes**, the purpose of which is to avoid further densification in these areas. It also aims to ensure that redevelopment takes place in a manner that better protects the green assets in these areas. Public participation in a plan that includes so many affected parties takes place by using a so-called "citizens panel". A group of 20–30 people representing different geographical areas has participated in several seminars and provided input to the planning work. The most important changes proposed in the review were a reduction in the maximum permitted developed area of a plot of land, the introduction of a minimum size for plots of land per residential unit, and that trees, terrain and vegetation will be better looked after than they are at present. Trees in particular need to be better protected.

Each year, maintenance is carried out in a number of areas to promote biodiversity. Among other things, hay

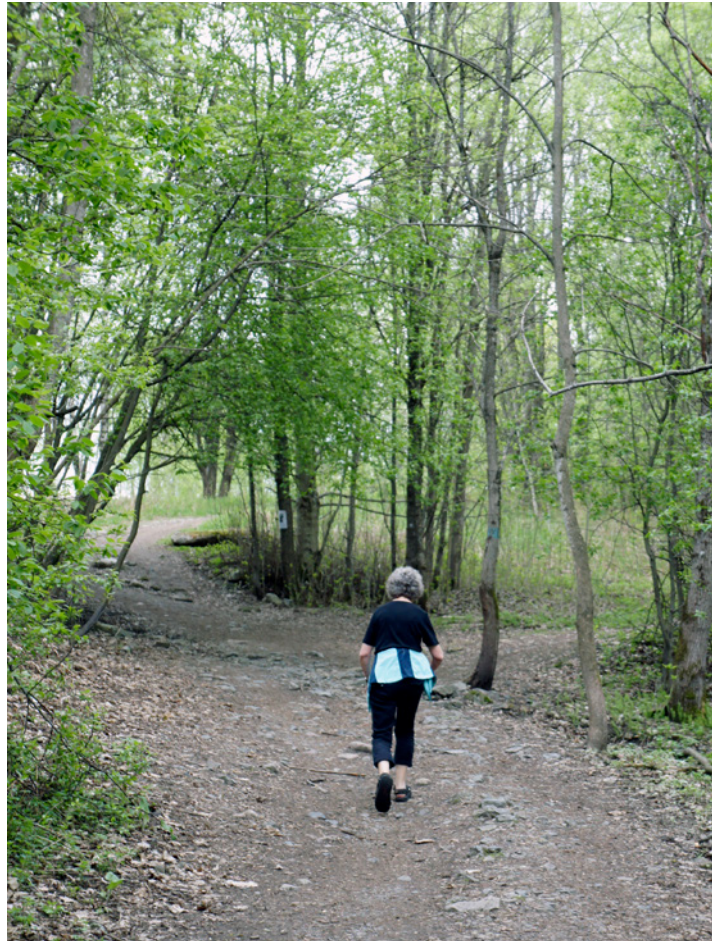


Photo: Mari Hulbækdal / Aksell

is harvested in a number of areas, including within the development zone, in order to preserve areas that were traditionally hay meadows. Several dozen **flower meadows have been restored** within the development zone during the past decade, and these areas have to be maintained in order to preserve biological qualities. The **restoration of bogs** in the hills surrounding Oslo has taken place on an annual basis since 2018. Bog restoration is a measure that is both positive for the unique biodiversity found in bogland and as an important climate adaptation measure. Oslo has approximately 100 dams within the development zone that are important for amphibians. **The restoration of amphibian dams** takes place annually in order to prevent overgrowth and maintain these important habitats for amphibians.

The City of Oslo engages in systematic work to **combat and monitor problematic invasive species**. This work is carried out in collaboration with the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, BaneNor (Norwegian government agency responsible for the Norwegian railway network), County Governor, Norwegian Directorate of Public Construction and Property, Norwegian Defence Estates Agency, neighbouring municipalities (Bærum and Lørenskog), charities, organisations and volunteers.

SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

This Sustainable Development Goal concerns frameworks and conditions for a safe and stable society. The goal is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The relevant targets for Oslo are combating crime, including combating violence and abuse. Combating corruption is another target. Other important elements are to ensure accountable and transparent institutions, as well as responsive and representative decision-making processes.



Oslo is thankfully a city with a high degree of trust among the population. It is a city in which most people feel safe and the crime rate is low compared to many other cities and countries. There is a high level of electoral participation and the political processes are democratic and transparent, and enable citizens and others to become involved and express their views.

However, there are also a number of challenges in Oslo, and events bear witness to the fact that there are groups that are more vulnerable than others and there is a need to work systematically in several areas related to this SDG.

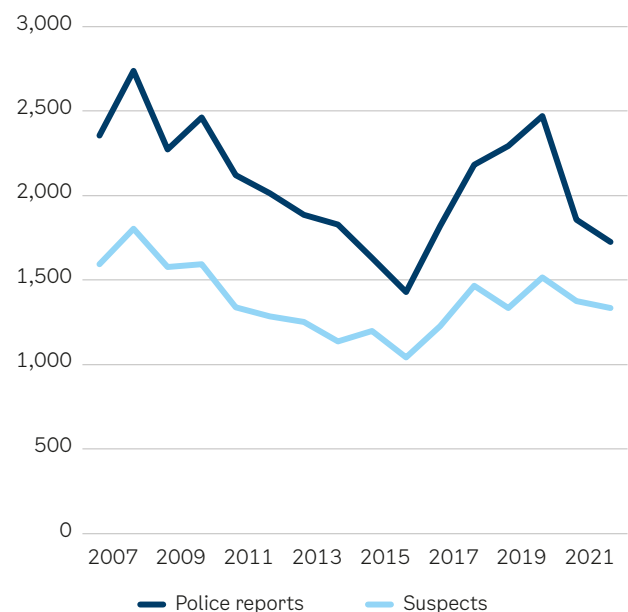
In a Norwegian context, violence and youth crime are a societal challenge in Oslo. From 2015 to 2019, the number of police reports involving young people increased, while there was a significant reduction during the years of the pandemic. Boys dominate the registered child and youth crime.

Harassment and hate crime targeting people on the basis of skin colour or sexual orientation, for example, unfortunately occur. Oslo is a diverse city, where everyone must be able to feel it is safe to live and move freely. The City of Oslo is committed to preventing hate speech, hate crime, violence and extremism.

What are we doing?

The partnership between the City of Oslo and the police through the **SalTo Model (Together we create a safe Oslo)** is an important tool in inter-agency efforts to prevent child and youth crime. The SalTo Model is a decentralised, collaborative model for the Oslo Police District and the City of Oslo in their efforts to prevent substance abuse and crime among children and young people. The SalTo Model is intended to

■ **Figure 16** Number of police reports and suspects in the 10–17 age group for 2006–2021. Scene of crime – City of Oslo.



Source: Central police registration system (Strasak)

Oslo is a diverse city, where everyone must be able to feel it is safe to live and move freely.



Photo: Nikolai Kobets Freund / City of Oslo

coordinate measures for preventing substance abuse and crime among children and young people, as well as work irrespective of age within the areas of hate crime, radicalisation and violent extremism. The objective is that the children and young people in the City of Oslo will receive the right help at the right time by support services that cooperate well across agencies and specialist groups. The sectors regularly meet to exchange knowledge and experience and to familiarise themselves with each other's work methods and cultures, and thus make it easier to carry out targeted preventive work. **Action plans for preventing and reducing reoffending and preventing hate crime and violent extremism** have been prepared. The plans have been jointly prepared by Oslo Police District and the City of Oslo, and the measures will be followed up through the SaLTto partnership.

In 2020, the City of Oslo adopted the framework for a municipal anti-corruption programme. The **anti-corruption programme** will strengthen the City of Oslo's anti-corruption work by combining the many different areas and initiatives that constitute its anti-corruption endeavours, providing increased focus and expertise, and improving the systematic follow-up of this area in all municipal enterprises.

The City of Oslo's **action plan against human trafficking** includes measures for coordinating these efforts and strengthening the follow-up of assumed victims of human trafficking in the City of Oslo.

Anti-trafficking Oslo was established in the district of Grünerløkka as the first point of contact and entry point for concerns relating to potential human trafficking. It is intended to ensure early identification of possible victims of human trafficking and coordinate services and efforts.

The City of Oslo has a focus on **participation**, and, among other things, has four central user councils that will be consulted in all cases that pertain to them. The City of Oslo also tests out various forms of participation to ensure there is input from affected groups and contribute to good decisions being made in line with the wants and needs of citizens. In order to ensure there is user participation at the system level, the Agency for Social and Welfare Services has its own **user council** and a **user committee** in the field of substance abuse. The user committee in the field of substance abuse consists of representatives from relevant user and next-of-kin organisations. The committee provides input to the agency in connection with the overarching change and readjustment work, and in specific collaborative projects, for example in connection with the **"Fill the days"** project. It also works with institutions to strengthen each resident's social network. In addition, citizens often possess a great deal of knowledge that is valuable to the City of Oslo. Among other things, a citizens panel has been convened in connection with the management of surface water at Kjelsås and "area boost Romsås", as well as participatory budgeting in the district of Gamle Oslo.

SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals

Sustainable Development Goal 17 concerns working together to achieve the other 16 goals. For Oslo, this goal has an international, national, regional and local dimension. The City of Oslo has extensive international cooperation that includes participation in regional and international organisations and networks, bilateral cooperation with cities and participation in EU/EEA projects. Oslo is involved internationally in order to learn from others and share own experiences.



Oslo is both large and small enough to be a testing ground for solutions that can be exported to other cities around the world, within areas such as climate change, sustainability and reducing social inequality. Many take an interest in Oslo's solutions, while Oslo also attempts to learn and copy good practices from others. International cooperation can help us improve our services and work methods here at home. Oslo also has distinctive challenges and experiences big city problems that are unique in a Norwegian context. It is therefore important to have interlocutors in cities that Oslo can compare itself with in terms of size and types of challenges and tasks.

The City of Oslo cannot solve all of the challenges on its own. Many of the major driving forces behind these challenges are outside of the City of Oslo's control. As a municipality, Oslo also only administers parts of the policy instruments and regulations that are relevant. Many solutions are also found outside of the public sector. It is a challenge, but also a very important task, to establish a unified and uniform policy for sustainable development.

Among other things, complex societal challenges are characterised by responsibility being placed in the hands of multiple stakeholders. The challenges transcend legal, organisational and professional boundaries and extend over time. These types of challenges are difficult to solve using traditional work methods within a single sector. For Oslo's part, it is clear that, moving forward, the challenges need to be solved across professions, sectors and levels. The sector-based organisation of the City of Oslo involves a large degree of vertical financing, control and reporting. This results in the enterprises not being evaluated or rewarded enough for horizontal cooperation. The City of Oslo's primary task in relation to SDG17 is to establish work processes and problem solving across "silos" and the traditional sectoral organisation.

The City of Oslo cannot solve all of the challenges on its own.

It is difficult to find good indicators for partnerships, and we have chosen not to include any statistics relating to this SDG. Partnerships are a matter of culture and curiosity about what others can contribute. It is about leaders seeking and prioritising partnerships and frameworks, expectations and arenas. An important prerequisite for partnerships is knowledge of the tasks and responsibilities of other organisations.

What are we doing?

The leadership programme "**Together for Oslo – through strategic interaction**" was launched in autumn 2021. This is an offer to senior managers and their leadership groups which has the goal of achieving increased strategic interaction across the City of Oslo and which is closely linked to principles for trust-based governance and leadership. This involves a greater shared understanding of complex societal challenges in the City of Oslo, improved expertise in managing complex challenges and better understanding of the role of the senior management group in this.

C40 Cities is a network for the world's megacities that are taking responsibility for the climate and want to demonstrate how they can contribute towards low and zero-emissions solutions. A primary objective for C40 is that all C40 cities adopt ambitious climate plans in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Oslo has been conferred the status of an innovator city in C40 because we have demonstrated clear leadership in the area of climate and the environment. A dedicated C40 office was established in Oslo in 2020. The areas of work include climate leadership, climate management and fossil-free and emissions-free construction activities. A climate budget pilot was carried out in 2022.

Partnerships are a matter of culture and curiosity about what others can contribute.

Oslo was the “lead city” in the pilot. The City of Oslo has shared its experience of developing climate budgets and provided guidance to 12 cities in C40. The pilot cities are Barcelona, Berlin, London, Los Angeles, New York, Mumbai, Montreal, Milan, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm and Tshwane.

EUROCITIES is an advocacy group for European cities with more than 250,000 inhabitants. The organisation has more than 200 member cities from over 30 European countries. The Governing Mayor was elected to the group’s board for the period 2021–2024. The City of Oslo’s municipal enterprises are broadly represented in all six of EUROCITIES’ professional forums and in around 15 working groups. The principal reason that the City of Oslo has become so strongly involved in EUROCITIES is its clear big-city profile and the structured work it is doing with EU regulations and European initiatives. It is important for the City of Oslo to be familiar with the impending EU regulations and help ensure that they safeguard the interests of the City of Oslo as much as possible. The organisation has a thematic breadth that provides a good platform for concrete professional cooperation. Oslo heads the working group for waste management and substance abuse prevention. Oslo actively uses EUROCITIES for exchanges and comparisons in areas such as environmental management, mobility and urban planning, culture, and inclusive society, international profiling and public procurements.

Business for Climate is a network for climate cooperation at a local level. The network’s primary focus is interaction between the business sector and the City of Oslo. With over 130 member businesses and strong support at the leadership level, Business for Climate serves as an arena for cooperation, dialogue and inspiration – both between the businesses themselves and with the City of Oslo. By compiling greenhouse gas accounts, businesses obtain an overview of their own emissions, and members are encouraged to set requirements further down their value chains. In this way, the network has the ability to achieve cuts to emissions both within and outside of Oslo’s municipal borders. The network is owned by the City Council Department of Environment and Transport and is managed by the secretariat of the Agency for Climate.

The City of Oslo has been a “**Fairtrade Capital**” since 2011. To maintain its status as a Fairtrade Capital, the

City of Oslo has committed to working actively to increase knowledge about Fairtrade in Oslo and to purchase fairly produced products, within the framework of laws and regulations relating to public procurements. Fairtrade is an international labelling scheme that strives to improve the living conditions of farmers and workers in poor countries through trade. The Fairtrade standards ensure better working conditions and commercial terms, and thus make it possible over time to invest in production, local communities and a sustainable future. Fairer trading conditions enable farmers and workers themselves to combat poverty. This work is also relevant for achieving the goals of responsible consumption and production (SDG12).

CityStudio is an example of an innovative collaborative model between the City of Oslo and four educational institutions – UiO (University of Oslo), AHO (Oslo School of Architecture and Design), OsloMet (Oslo Metropolitan University) and NMBU (Norwegian University of Life Sciences). CityStudio Oslo is a full-time course in which students from across academic institutions and the City of Oslo collaborate on sustainable energy challenges in Oslo. The students work in interdisciplinary teams to construct and implement projects with the goal of helping Oslo overcome environmental challenges and create better living conditions for citizens.

“**Sustainable 17**” is a pilot project in which the City of Oslo has joined together with other public contracting authorities in working to achieve decent working conditions in global supply chains. The goal is to have harmonised and effective procurement practices that are of a high quality and promote respect for fundamental human rights in the supply chain.

Oslo’s **area-based Initiatives** can be categorised as a time-limited and comprehensive extra effort in a geographically defined area. The areas that have these initiatives face complex challenges. These efforts will contribute to a quality local environment, safe and inclusive local community, good conditions for growing up, higher labour market participation and improved services. The area-based initiatives represent different forms of partnerships. At an overarching level, the area-based initiatives are a collaboration between the City of Oslo and the central government. At an executive level, the districts play a role as developers of local communities, where the public are actively involved in various processes. An area-based initiative can also include several “area boosts”. An area boost involves developing better local communities. A separate methodology has been developed for the work with area boosts, which involves partnerships with the local population, as well as private and central government stakeholders.



Photo: Liz Palm / City of Oslo



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