



Photo: Ejerвика Utvikling

European Green Capital Report Oslo



Photo: Thomas Brum/City of Oslo

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Foreword by Governing Mayor Eirik Lae Solberg

The best city in the world. For everybody, in all walks of life and independent of background.

That is the core ambition for our City Government. Nothing less.

It is a bold goal. It cannot be achieved without making the climate and the environment essential parts of all policy making.

Being able to move around freely, having access to nature, a meaningful job, and to live in a thriving community, is integral for our well-being as citizens. That is why Oslo strives to be the green capital every year. We work hard to provide sustainable mobility options, more green areas, cleaner air and access to the job market.

In Oslo, we have managed to grow while making the city greener, the air cleaner and mobility easier. This is the result of decades of urban planning that has prioritized nature, sustainable transport, reduced car dependency, and strong incentives to electrify everything – from private cars to construction machinery.

Our targets have a very broad consensus. The City Government is fully committed to Oslo's targets for climate, nature and biodiversity.

The difference between our city government and the previous one is that we have less time to act. We have less time to cut emissions, and less time to reach our 2030-target. We have less time to clean up the Oslo Fjord, and less time to make sure that we are prepared for the impacts of climate change. It is urgent, but we are committed.

Tremendous work has been done already. As you read this report, you will see that our efforts are delivering the results we both want and need. As we are accelerating going forward, we are doing so from a solid foundation.

I hope this report demonstrates that ambitious political targets, backed by strong expert communities, forward-thinking businesses and an all-hands-on-deck approach, are well within reach. If the report also inspires action, I couldn't be happier.

Eirik Lae Solberg

Eirik Lae Solberg



Photo: Sturteason

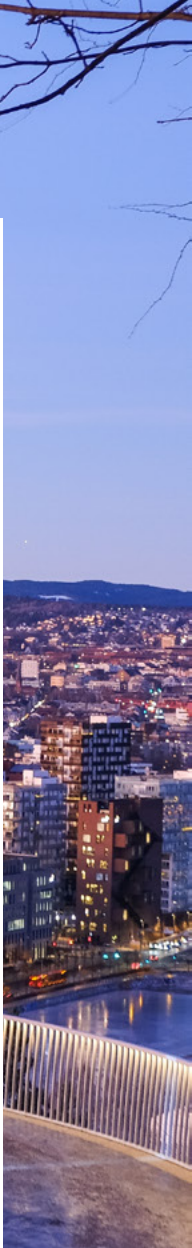


Oslo in brief

The blue and the green and the city in between – this is the setting for the European Green Capital of Oslo. Surrounded, as it is, by green forested hills on one side and the blue Oslo Fjord on the other, easy access to nature is a key factor in Oslo's high liveability. This access is greatly treasured by Oslo's citizens.

Oslo's population is growing, now exceeding 700 000. The city enjoys low unemployment rates and relatively high average incomes and standards of living. However, property prices are among the highest in Norway, making affordability a significant issue. Additionally, the city faces challenges related to economic inequality in certain areas, youth unemployment, and the integration of immigrants into the labour market.

In Oslo, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals are an important foundation for our social and spatial planning. Sustainable development means meeting the needs of today's population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The Sustainable Development Goals encompass three dimensions: climate and environmental, economic, and social. Oslo is committed to integrating all 17 Sustainable Development Goals into our daily operations and services, striving to make a positive impact and contribute to their global achievement.





The municipal master plan is the primary governance tool, facilitating comprehensive and long-term development of the city. The plan, which contains a social as well as a land use element, balances various interests and needs, ensuring that development aligns with overarching goals and strategies. It also ensures that land use, transportation, housing development, business growth, and environmental considerations are coordinated in a way that promotes sustainability and quality of life for our citizens.

The social element of the plan is currently under revision and comprises six goals, one of which is that Oslo will be green and vibrant. This goal comprises the following themes:

- ▶ Climate-resilient zero emission city
- ▶ Developing and improving environmentally friendly modes of travel
- ▶ Sustainable energy supply
- ▶ Saving the Oslo Fjord and conserving forests
- ▶ Making space for nature in the city
- ▶ Circular economy

There is strong cross-party consensus in Oslo on the importance of safeguarding biodiversity and livelihoods for future generations, ensuring that we leave nature and the environment in at least as good a condition as we inherited them from our parents. The City of Oslo holds a dual responsibility: as a steward of the city's climate and environment, and as a capacity builder for its citizens and businesses.

We must actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. In addition, the city is committed to minimising other forms of pollution, such as waste, noise and air pollution, preserving green structure and biodiversity, and ensuring safe water for all. Surveys indicate that 8 out of 10 citizens are happy in Oslo, with increased satisfaction in air quality, noise conditions and traffic levels compared to 2018, and a higher usage of parks and recreational areas.

Since Oslo's year as the European Green Capital in 2019, we have made significant strides towards becoming a greener and more sustainable city, as illustrated by the following trends:

- ▶ Greenhouse gas emissions in Oslo have been reduced by 28 per cent from 2009 to 2022.
- ▶ Greenhouse gas emissions from the City of Oslo's own operations have been reduced by 86 per cent from 2012 to 2022.
- ▶ Air pollution and the amount of household waste has decreased, while noise pollution has remained stable. Air and noise pollution are greatest on major roads and in the central parts of the city.
- ▶ New green areas have been established at the same time as the city's population has grown. In 2021, 27 per cent of the urban area was zoned as green area and as much as 47 per cent was covered by vegetation.

Some important innovations which have contributed to our becoming a more sustainable city are procurement standards that require municipal construction sites to be zero emission from January 2025, ambitious policies that promote the transition from fossil to electric vehicles, a prize winning approach to mainstreaming climate into decision-making processes through annual climate budgets, the reopening of buried watercourses, and the restoration of peatbogs to enhance biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Finally, we would like to highlight the importance of citizen engagement and participation in the green transition. Without the support and active contribution of our citizens, Oslo would not have achieved the status of Green Capital. We are proud to say that Oslo entering 2025 is a living example of what can be achieved when a city and its people come together to create a sustainable future. We hope this report will inspire other cities and communities to follow in Oslo's footsteps and work towards a greener and more sustainable world.



Oslo five years after – Environmental status

Since 2019, Oslo has made significant strides in reducing its environmental impact across a range of indicators, as described in this chapter. This is particularly true for greenhouse gas emissions, with a notable decrease in direct emissions largely due to the increased adoption of electric vehicles and phasing out of fossil heating oil. This has happened with the approval of our citizens, and surveys show broad support in the population for our climate goals and efforts. Road traffic remains the largest source of emissions, followed by energy supply from waste incineration plants.

Air quality has improved, particularly in terms of exhaust emissions, although road dust and domestic heating still contribute to pollution. Additionally, 98 % of Oslo's population lives within 300 meters of a green area, reflecting successful urban development strategies.

Nature management in Oslo focuses on surveying and conserving biodiversity, as well as restoration projects including flower meadows, peatbogs and reopening of watercourses. We also emphasize sustainable practices to mitigate the impact of invasive species and promote urban wildlife habitats.



Photo: Bymiljøetaten, City of Oslo



Indicators

- 1** Climate change: mitigation and adaptation
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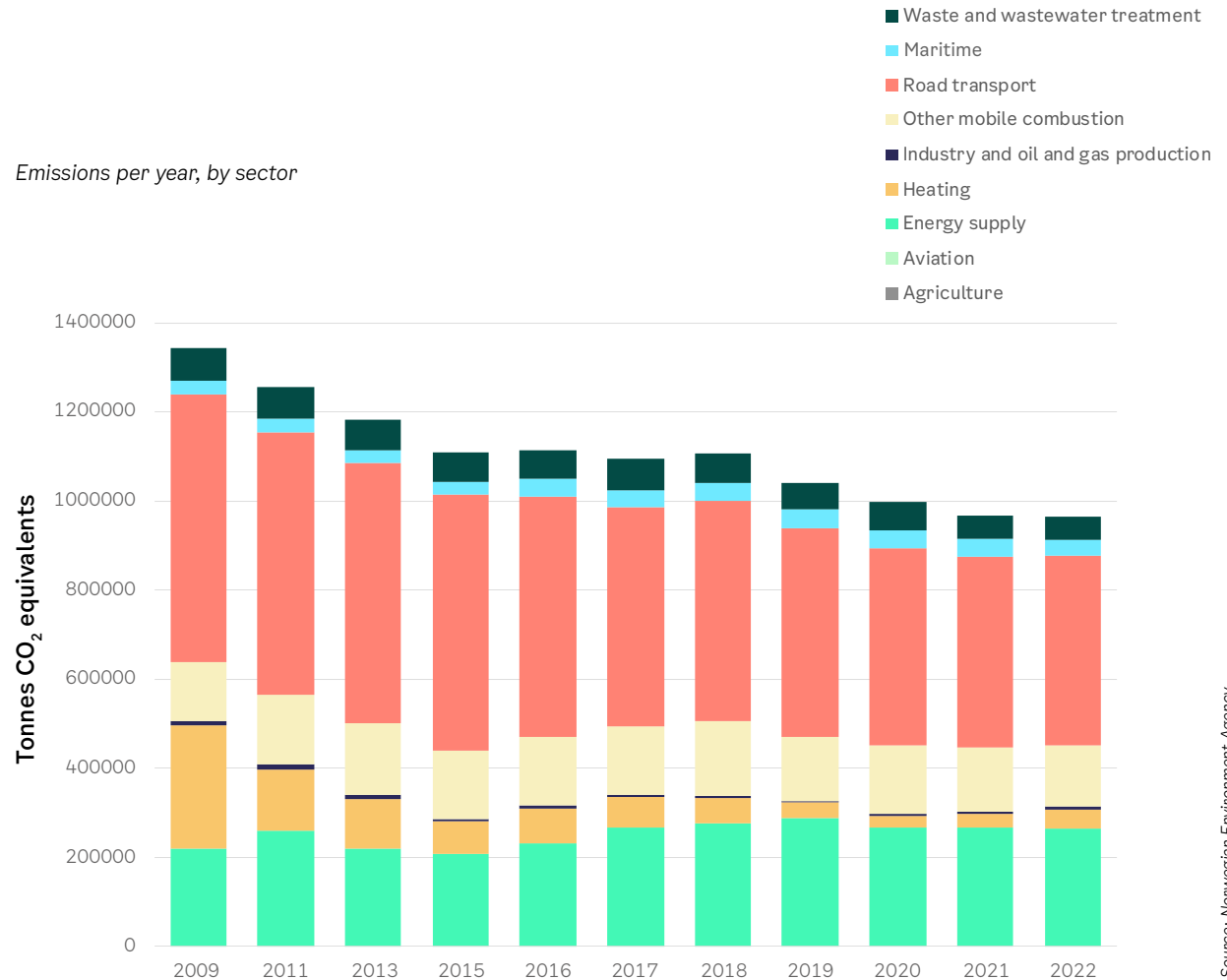


Climate change: mitigation and adaptation (*indicator 1*)

The climate strategy for Oslo towards 2030, adopted by the City Council in May 2020, outlines five key targets for addressing climate change:

- ▶ Achieve a 95% reduction in Oslo's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 2009 levels.
- ▶ Manage Oslo's natural areas to protect carbon storage in vegetation and soil, and enhance the sequestration of greenhouse gases in forests and other vegetation by 2030.
- ▶ Reduce total energy consumption in Oslo by 10 % by 2030, compared to 2009 levels.
- ▶ Strengthen Oslo's resilience to climate change by 2030, ensuring the city can adapt to expected changes leading up to 2100.
- ▶ Significantly lower Oslo's impact on greenhouse gas emissions outside the city by 2030, compared to 2020 levels.

Emissions per year, by sector



Source: Norwegian Environment Agency



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Climate mitigation

Between 2009 and 2022, greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 28 % in Oslo. This reduction comes primarily from phasing out the use of heating oil in buildings and from the electrification of the vehicle fleet. The transition to electric vehicles has accelerated in recent years, and so far in 2024, over 40 % of light duty vehicles crossing the toll ring into Oslo have been electric vehicles.

Although the greenhouse gas inventory shows a decline in emissions, actual reductions are likely greater than indicated. The inventory has several uncertainties and methodological weaknesses and does not fully reflect all emission reductions in the city. For example, it does not account for reductions from Oslo's use of biofuels or the city's requirement for zero emission construction sites.

In the annually adopted climate budget, Oslo's Agency for Climate analyses and projects greenhouse gas emissions towards 2030. Each year, new climate measures are adopted, progressively narrowing the emissions gap. The 2021 climate budget, the first to include a projection of adopted measures to 2030, estimated a 35 % reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 2009 levels. In the latest climate budget for 2025, greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to decrease by 69 % compared to 2009 levels.

Climate change adaptation

In 2024, we have integrated climate change adaptation in Oslo's climate budget to take account of climate change adaptation and carbon storage in forests and other areas. By incorporating these issues, alongside energy, direct and indirect emissions, the 2025 climate budget now covers all goals in the City of Oslo's climate strategy. Future progress will be reported through this system. Stormwater management is a top priority in Oslo. Over the past five years we have published guidelines for developers on stormwater management, a communications strategy, and a map detailing stormwater flows and flooding in Oslo. In addition, we have conducted a study to assess damage to infrastructure and associated costs caused by extreme precipitation. This study supports an objective to include the cost of not adapting to climate change into cost-benefit analyses and to enhance communication efforts. As part of our stormwater management efforts, we have initiated a pilot project with so-called leaky dams in the forests surrounding the city. The goal is to reduce downstream stormwater damage while simultaneously enhancing local biodiversity.

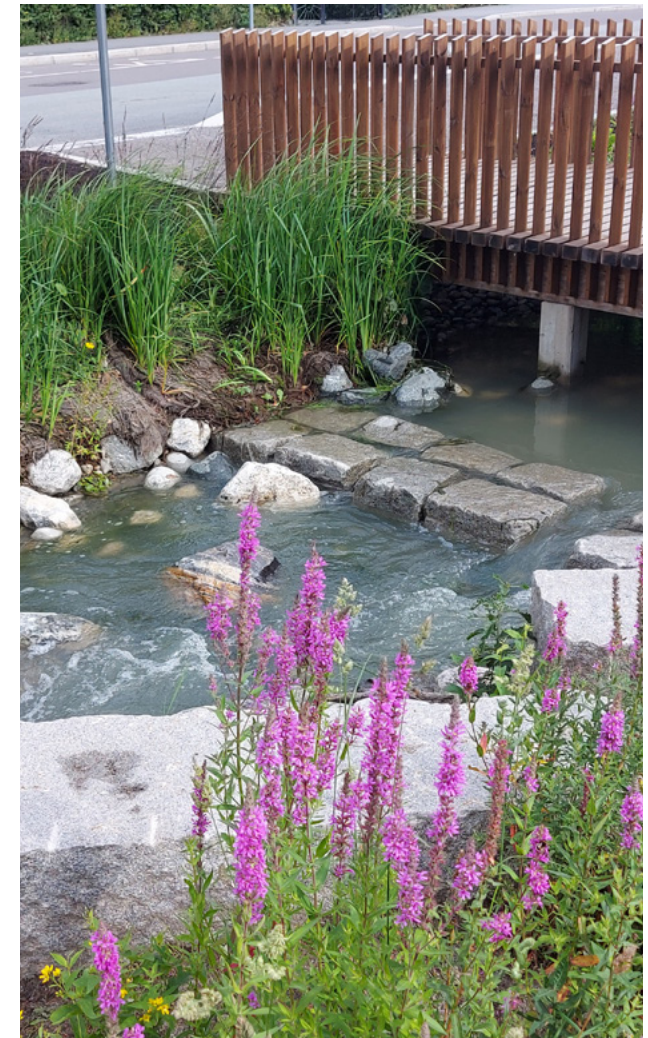


Photo: Heidi Kristensen/ City of Oslo



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To ensure climate robust development in Oslo, we have implemented several criteria and guides over the past five years:

- ▶ *Guide for climate adapted maintenance of buildings.*
- ▶ *Norm for vegetation and water management.*
- ▶ *Criteria for assessing climate consequences in local planning processes.*

These guidelines have ensured that stormwater management has been incorporated into more than 22 000 building applications since 2019. This is an important step in ensuring Oslo's development into a climate robust city.

Over the past five years, Oslo has implemented more than 60 open stormwater solutions, such as rain gardens. Additionally, the city has completed three projects involving the reopening and restoration of previously buried rivers and streams. From Teglværksdammen to Ensjø Square, 1.5 kilometers of river have been reopened. In Jordal and Klosterenga, 600 metres of rivers have been reopened. These projects aim to restore the rivers to a more natural state, reducing surface runoff, enhancing flood management, revitalizing habitats, and leveraging the riparian environment to improve the quality of urban spaces.

Resilient ecosystems are essential for climate robust development. In addition to efforts described under Indicator 4 (Nature and biodiversity), our Action Plan for Green Roofs and Facades aims to increase the amount of green infrastructure, with benefits for stormwater management, biodiversity, temperature regulation and aesthetics.

The Pilot Project to Reintroduce Eelgrass Meadows to the Oslo Fjord is ongoing and set to be upscaled in the near future. The pilot has been modestly successful, laying the foundations for larger-scale reintroduction. Eelgrass benefits adaptation by enhancing biodiversity, limiting erosion and mitigating ocean acidification.

Trends from the Climate Survey

Oslo's Climate Survey is an annual survey of behaviour and attitudes towards climate measures among the city's population and businesses. The purpose is to gather data on perceptions of Oslo's climate goals and efforts. One of the most striking findings from the past eight years is the consistency in these attitudes. Support for Oslo's climate goals remains high, even as we approach the 2030 target year. In 2017, 75 % of respondents believed it was either very or quite important for Oslo to aim for a 95 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In 2024, 67 % still support this goal. In particular, the 30–44 age group, reports satisfaction

with the city's climate efforts. The data also indicate that climate friendly behaviours have become commonplace. Most people use public transport daily, reduce food waste, and choose electric cars. Oslo citizens report driving less to work and flying less frequently. Over half say they eat less meat than before or plan to do so.

There is, however, an increasing gender gap, with women generally being more positive and proactive than men, and signs of declining climate engagement among the youngest. Now, it seems that climate friendly habits are taking root, even though we may currently be experiencing a slight dip in engagement.

The survey also shows that climate is an important issue for an increasing number of Oslo's businesses. More companies are accounting for greenhouse gas emissions and setting quantified climate goals. Nearly half of the companies require that goods and services be delivered without emissions. Additionally, a growing number of companies are imposing climate and environmental requirements on their suppliers. While half of the companies made such demands in 2017, this figure has now risen to nearly two-thirds, with a significant increase over the past two years.



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Local transport (indicator 2)

Electrification of the car fleet

Oslo is making significant progress in private car fleet electrification, with electric cars becoming the norm. Currently, 40 % of all private cars in Oslo are electric. Furthermore, 90 % of all new private cars sold so far in 2024 are electric. Electric cargo vans are also gaining popularity, comprising 20 % of the cargo van fleet. Additionally, 15 % of the total truck fleet and 33 % of new trucks sold so far in 2024 are electric and biogas models.

The demand for charging facilities remains high. Oslo now has 2,400 AC municipal charging stations and 95 DC chargers, some of which are reserved for taxis. This is in preparation for the mandate that all taxis must be electric from the 1st of November 2024.

Toll road system

The toll road system remains a crucial source of finance for sustainable transport infrastructure projects and contributes to traffic control and the transition to zero emission vehicles. Recent changes to the toll rates include exemptions for zero emission trucks and cargo vans until 2030, increased rates for fossil trucks from 2026 and increased rates for private cars from 2025. The rates vary by time of day, with electric vehicles benefiting from lower rates. In 2023, 98 % of toll road income was allocated to public transport and improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Electrification of public transport

Currently, most of Oslo's public transport is electrified. This includes trams, ferries and the metro, with approximately 70 % of local buses also being electric. By 2026, this figure is expected to rise to 99 %.

Bicycle commitment

The development of Oslo's cycling infrastructure is ongoing. In 2023, the total length of cycling infrastructure was 293 km, a 64 % increase from 2016. For the period 2016–2023, the bicycle index, which tracks the number of cyclists passing bicycle counters, showed a 51 % increase.

Car sharing

In 2019, the city launched a pilot project for a car sharing scheme, where parking spaces reserved for shared vehicles were established on city owned street areas. By August 2024, the number of these dedicated parking spaces had reached 980, with a goal of increasing to 1,000 by the end of the year.

Shore power

We have installed shore power for several ship categories, including cement ships, large RoRo ferries and cruise ships. Shore power for container ships and tank ships is expected to be in place within the next year or two. For large passenger vessels, shore power can reduce emissions by 60–80 % while docked. For ships without a hotel load



Photo: Ruter As/Nucleus AS, Daniel Jacobsen



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(passengers) or machinery and pumps for loading cargo, shore power can eliminate almost all emissions while docked.

Travel activity and patterns in Oslo

National and local transport authorities collaborate on publishing national travel surveys (RVU), which aim to map and analyse the population's travel activity, trends and patterns. The data for Oslo indicate a decrease in the percentage of individuals driving cars, from 26 % in 2019 to 20 % in 2023. The percentage of those travelling by foot has increased from 31 % in 2019 to 38 % in 2023, whilst the percentage of those cycling has risen from 6 % to 7 %. However, the percentage of individuals using public transport has decreased from 29 % in 2019 to 26 % in 2023.

The National Travel Survey, Oslo

	2019	2023
Percentage of those driving cars	26	20
Percentage of those travelling by car as passenger	5	6
Percentage of those using public transport	30	26
Percentage of those using bicycle	7	7
Percentage of those travelling by foot	31	38



Photo: Nikolai Kobets Freund/City of Oslo



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Green urban areas incorporating sustainable land use (*indicator 3*)

Oslo continues to grow, albeit at a somewhat slower pace than in previous years. Despite this slowdown, there is still a demand for new housing and the development of new areas within the city. Since 2019, significant attention has been given to spatial development in Oslo.

Car-free city life 2016–2023

Established in 2016, The Car-free city life Programme aimed to develop central streets and urban spaces, making Oslo greener, friendlier, and easier to access. The programme set ambitious goals to prioritize walking, cycling and public transport while reducing car traffic. Throughout the programme's duration, which concluded in 2023, the city tested various measures, both temporary and long-term. The programme aimed not only to reduce traffic, but also to repurpose the space for other uses.

To make public spaces more inviting, we introduced a range of measures including more playgrounds, benches, drinking fountains, plants, increased lighting, and art installations. In addition, we prioritized sustainable transportation with more bicycle infrastructure. To achieve all of this, we removed 760 parking spaces from city streets. Additionally, many parking spaces were reallocated for disability parking, commercial vehicle parking and loading/unloading of goods. New pedestrian streets were also

established. The programme has led to noticeable changes in driving patterns, with fewer cars driving through the city centre.

In 2023, the city conducted a City Life Survey that compares urban life with data from 2013. The survey reports an increase in the proportion of trips made on foot (from 29 % to 38 %) and an increase in the proportion of trips made by bicycle (from 4 % to 9 %). The survey includes specific indicators, showing increases at all comparable counting points from 2014 to 2023. The survey highlights a particularly large increase in the number of pedestrians on Saturdays (38 %).

Green areas

From 2019 to 2024, Oslo renovated a number of parks and green spaces including St. Hanshaugen, Torshovdalen, Frognerparken, and Østensjøområdet miljøpark. Other notable projects included Nedre Foss Park by the Akerselva River and Linjeparken at Stovner. Collaborative efforts across municipal sectors led to significant initiatives such as the culture park at Klosterenga and the reopening of Hovinbekken river. Additionally, we have focused on enhancing accessibility along the shoreline and creating safer bathing areas in the city centre and the suburbs, for example, Årvolldammen and the new beach "Operastranda".



Photo: Oda Fjellang



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During this period, we have implemented numerous projects of different sizes at our parks and beaches, particularly emphasising planting and maintaining trees and meadows, rehabilitating trails and establishing water retention solutions to prevent flooding during heavy rain. Examples of the latter include a retention basin and culvert established in Ekebergparken, and a new system for redirecting rainwater to an allotment garden in Bakerenga. Many green areas were upgraded through local area initiatives, including Lille Wembley, Svarttjern playground, Skilpaddeparken and Holmliaparken. Significant efforts were made to enhance accessibility for a broader population.

Green ledger report

The green ledger report monitors green space in Oslo's urban area. This area, where all development occurs, is located outside a nationally protected forest and covers about a third of Oslo's total land area. The latest data, published in the spring of 2024, show that 27 % (4,026 hectares) of Oslo's urban area is zoned as public green space, when combining approved zoning plans and the proposed municipal masterplan's land use section. This includes all large and small areas designated as parks and green corridors, as well as recreational spaces for playgrounds and sports facilities. Vegetation is mapped every

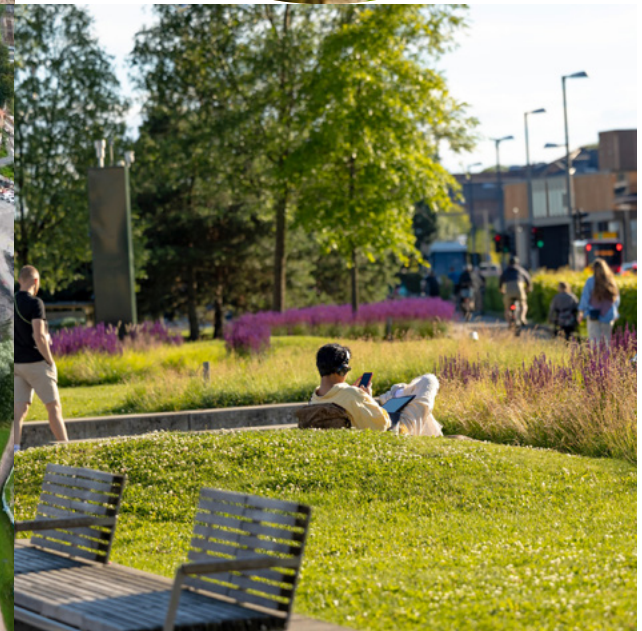


Photo: Astrid Margrethe Ledang, Des Rosiers/City of Oslo, Tiril Myhre Pedersen, Nedim Dizdarevic, Olav Helland/City of Oslo



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four years and monitored in the green ledger as well. The most recent data show that 47 % of the urban area (6,977 hectares) is covered by vegetation and includes 2,516 hectares of trees over five meters. There is a net increase in area of 84.8 hectares, or 2 %, compared to the green ledger for the period 2013–2017. From 2017 to 2021, 906 hectares of vegetation were built over, while 497 hectares of new vegetation were established, resulting in a net decrease of 6 %.

Within the urban area, there are 3,542 hectares of carbon-rich land, distributed between forest (67 %), open land (27 %), and agricultural land (6 %). Additionally, there are 16 hectares of marshland. Two-thirds of the carbon-rich land is protected through zoning categories that preserve the soil and vegetation structure. In the proposed municipal masterplan's land use section, an additional 191 hectares is also protected from being built over.

The current land use element of the municipal master plan, adopted in 2015, designates 3,162 hectares as green areas. In the draft proposal for a new land use element, this has been increased to 3,423 hectares, representing a net increase of 8 % (261 hectares).



Photo: Nadia Frantsen



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Nature and biodiversity (indicator 4)

Surveying and conserving biodiversity

The City Government has recently adopted an Action Plan for Biodiversity 2023–2030, focusing on continuous and cross-sectoral efforts to conserve valuable natural assets. To ensure knowledge-based nature management, we have made significant progress on updating habitat registrations. For example, a thorough survey of dry, calcareous grassland habitats has been completed. In urban areas we have surveyed all amphibious ponds and over half of valuable, large and old trees. Additionally, we have registered areas where surveying is inadequate.

We have proposed national protection for two larger areas (12.7 km²), these being a large forest area (Østmarka) and a river (Lysakerelva). Østmarka was designated as a conservation area in 2023 and a process for Lysakerelva is ongoing. Østmarka includes an outdoor recreation area and a national park, both of which have strict regulations where logging is only permitted for nature restoration purposes.

Both areas will be expanded in 2024–2025 with three additional areas voluntarily proposed by landowners, including an area from the City of Oslo. Oslo serves as the landowner, supervisor and manager of Østmarka.

Restoration of a valuable habitat for amphibians

In 2022, a large marine conservation area for lobsters was established. Test fishing conducted before and after establishment have already shown significantly higher catches within the conservation area than outside.

Restoration of nature

In 2023, we created a [map highlightling restored and naturalized areas on public land](#). We have ini-

tiated many restoration projects, including flower meadows, hay fields, bogs, reopening of enclosed watercourses, ponds, natural pastures and other meadows, and dry calcareous grassland. These constitute 0.64 % of Oslo's total public land area. We are systematically restoring bogs in our forests. Each year, at least 2 hectares of marshes with the greatest biodiversity potential are restored. We also restore valuable ponds for amphibians.



Photo: Kjell Isaksen



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To preserve the quality of cultural landscapes, Oslo aims to establish a network of meadows throughout the city. This network is designed to enhance the diversity and numbers of pollinating insects, ensuring their survival and propagation. In 2024, we monitored 26 flower meadows that are important for biodiversity. Each year, new meadows are established and the network now includes existing, restored and newly established meadows. In addition to various municipal bodies, a variety of organizations and housing associations have established or restored meadows and implemented other pollinator friendly measures.

When establishing new meadows, we use wildflowers from the Oslo region and work is carried out without using pesticides. In several parks, grass is mown less frequently, allowing flowers to blossom. The City of Oslo is situated at the innermost part of the Oslo Fjord. Here, the environmental condition of the fjord is currently poor. To help restore the ecosystem, we have implemented numerous measures. A key initiative has been the systematic mapping, locating, and removal of trash, plastic, and fishing gear from the seabed. Surveys revealed that while there are no large accumulations of floating plastic on the water surface or seabed, there are significant

amounts of heavier trash, debris, and plastic along the quays and shores. Large quantities of lost fishing gear, which continue to catch fish (ghost fishing), were also found on the seabed, leading to unnecessary wildlife loss. In 2023–2024, we removed 130 tons of waste from the seabed, including items such as car tyres, boat batteries, plastic, tarps, and larger industrial objects along the entire quay front. Additionally, 500 sets of lost fishing gear were retrieved from the fjord bottom, many of which contained live fish and lobsters.



Photo: Bård Bredesen, Kjell Isaksen, Hans Kristian Riise



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Urban agriculture

Oslo offers an annual grant scheme of approximately 200 000 euros to support citizens, public institutions and businesses in their urban agriculture initiatives. Since 2019, more than 330 projects have received funding to establish school gardens, community gardens, neighbourhood gardens, sensory gardens and market gardens, amongst others. These projects bring together citizens of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. By the end of 2023, approximately 12 500 citizens had actively participated in urban farming activities supported by the grant scheme.

In 2022, we surveyed and categorized 420 urban farming activities in the city, which were made public through an interactive map. In 2024, the map was updated to include only active and publicly available activities, each with a minimum size of ten square metres. These activities typically have an open and long-term character and are mostly established on municipal land. As of summer 2024, 147 such urban agricultural activities were registered. These include 6 community supported agriculture farms, 11 city farms, 42 communal gardens, 8 market gardens, 10 neighbourhood gardens, 15 allotment gardens and 41 school gardens.

Urban agriculture

Categories

- Community supported agriculture farms
- City farms
- Communal gardens
- Market gardens
- Neighbourhood gardens
- Allotment gardens
- School gardens



Photo: Siv Dolmen
Map source: Urban Agriculture Map Portal for Oslo (arogis.com)



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Ambient air quality (indicator 5)

Since 2019, air quality has continued to improve for the NO₂ component, thanks to abatement measures aimed at reducing exhaust from road transport and the significantly increased proportion of electric vehicles. This has led to compliance with the EU limit values. However, concentrations are still above the revised WHO air quality standards from 2021 for the annual mean.

Regarding particulate matter, the concentrations have remained more or less stable. There are still levels of particulate matter (PM₁₀) above the Norwegian limit values at sites in areas with heavy traffic. PM levels generally do not comply with the revised WHO air quality standards.

Since 2019, some changes have been made to the monitoring network. New monitoring stations have been established, and some stations have been relocated.

The existing air quality action plan was adopted by the City Council on 16.06.2021 and expires in 2025. Work on a revised action plan is in progress. This new plan will focus on measures to reduce particulate matter. To comply with the limit values and WHO guidelines, additional measures will be needed alongside the existing ones, such as road cleaning and dust-binding.

Electrification of the city's bus fleet contributes to improved air quality.



Photo: Ruter As/Thomas Haugersveen



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Quality of the acoustic environment (*indicator 6*)

The largest source of noise in Oslo is road traffic. In 2021, around 60 % of the population, corresponding to approximately 415 000 people, were considered to be exposed to road noise levels exceeding Lden 55 dB outside their homes throughout the day. This represents an increase of about 12 000 people, or 3 %, since 2016. Similarly, around 95 000 people were exposed to rail noise, marking a 16 % increase from 2016. The primary reason for this rise is the establishment of new homes in noise-exposed areas. Despite the increase in absolute numbers, the proportion of the population exposed to noise has not changed significantly from 2016 to 2021, partly due to overall population growth during this period. For several categories, there has even been a slight decrease in noise exposure.

It is important to note that due to differences in methods, following the introduction of a new common European calculation method (CNOSSOS), the calculation results for 2021 are not directly comparable with previous noise mapping.

Noise action plans are developed based on the results of strategic noise mapping conducted every five years, in accordance with the EU directive (2002/49/EC) and the Norwegian Pollution Regulations Chapter 5. The current action plan, covering 2018–2023, is under revision and is expected to be completed by 2025.

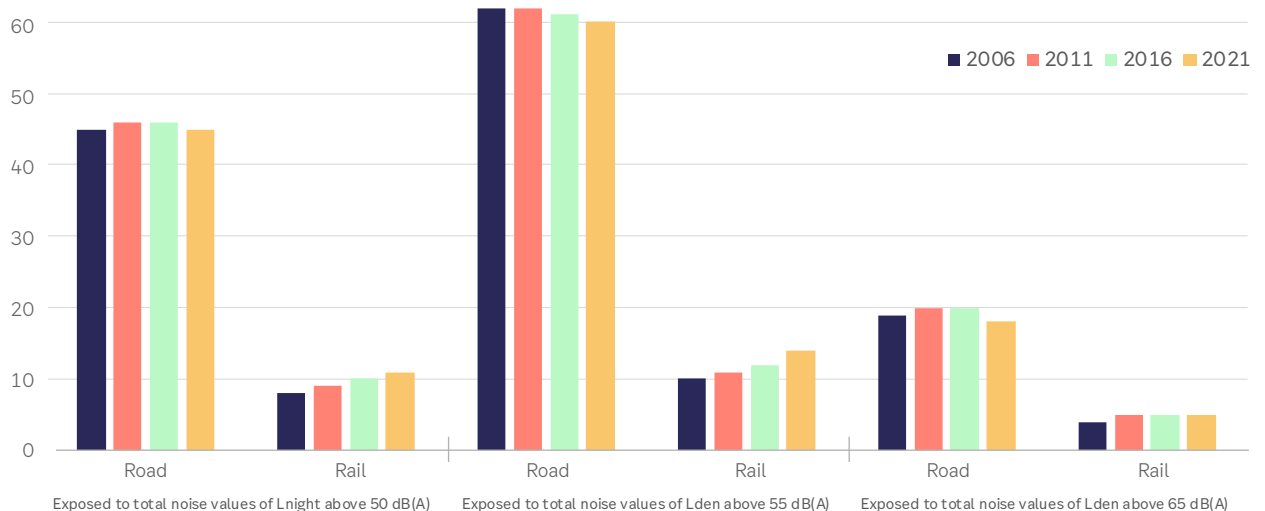
Silent areas

Fourteen areas in Oslo are designated as silent areas, receiving formal protection in the municipal master plan. The plan stipulates that new noise generating activities must be located or managed in a way that does not adversely affect the noise levels in these designated silent areas. However, the master plan does not prevent a general increase in traffic. Consequently, the total area contained by silent areas with an average noise level below 55 decibels decreased between 2006 and 2016, the only period for which data is available.

Given that traffic volumes have not significantly changed since then, it is reasonable to assume that the noise levels in silent areas remain unchanged.

Lden is a European standard to express noise level over an entire day. It imposes penalties on sound levels of 5 dB and 10 dB between the hours of 19:00–23:00 and 23:00–07:00 respectively. Night applies only to the period 23:00–07:00, imposing a 10 dB penalty. The proportion of the population exposed to Lden levels above 65 dB(A) is considered to be highly exposed.

Percentage of Oslo's population exposed to noise





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Waste production and management (indicator 7)

Household waste

The city's waste management agency collects household waste and operates recycling stations throughout Oslo. Oslo has 5 large recycling stations, 9 small, and 18 mobile stations. Small recycling stations have been made more accessible in recent years through the use of the digital Oslo key. Numbers show a decrease in household waste from 2019 to 2023. In 2023, 1,539 tons of second-hand items were distributed from the city's reuse facilities. We also encourage privately organised resale and reuse, which may have contributed to the decrease in the number of second-hand items distributed from 2019 to 2023.

Household waste and recycling

	2015	2019	2023
Household waste per inhabitant (kg)	342	313	273
Household waste management (%)			
Waste delivered to landfill	3.2	2.6	2.7
Waste delivered to incineration for district heating	57.1	55.4	54.4
Waste delivered for reuse and material recycling	39.7	42	42.9
Food waste sorted and turned to biofuel and biofertilizer	29	34	30
Plastic waste sorted and delivered for recycling	23	31	23
Glass and metal waste sorted and delivered for recycling	57	65	70
Cardboard and paper sorted and delivered for recycling	76	76	74



Photo: Klaus Sandvik



Photo: City of Oslo



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Sustainable and reduced consumption

In 2019 the City of Oslo adopted a Strategy for Sustainable and Reduced Consumption, supported by an annual action plan. The strategy targets consumption categories such as food, plastics, electronics, textiles and construction and building materials, including furniture and interior items. In 2024, the strategy was replaced by a Thematic Plan for Circular Economy (see indicator 10).

Over the last five years, numerous measures for sustainable and reduced consumption have been initiated among citizens, businesses, academia and municipal bodies. Oslo offers a growing number of municipal services and resources to help citizens reduce their consumption levels. These services include free tool rentals at libraries, free rentals of sports and outdoor equipment, and the establishment of reuse and recycling stations. Additionally, there are campaigns to inform citizens about where they can buy second-hand items, carry out repairs or borrow items, and a workshop at the main library for fixing, building and repairing. Furthermore, a visitor centre at one of Oslo's recycling stations has been established.

The city has also led the national network for Sustainable Consumption and Recycling Centers (NBG), which facilitates information exchange between municipal actors, waste disposal

companies, academia, green entrepreneurs and organizations. In 2023, a local network for sustainable and reduced consumption was established, bringing together a range of local actors and organisations dedicated to the topic. We support initiatives for sustainable and reduced consumption through various grant schemes, such as green funds, agreements for collecting reusable goods at our recycling stations, sustainable youth programmes, and a cloth diaper allowance.



Photo: Stijle Thoen Løken/City of Oslo



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Water and wastewater management *(indicator 8 and 9)*

Drinking water

All citizens of Oslo have access to drinking water that meets all the standards set by the drinking water regulations. It is estimated that there is a leakage rate of 33.4 %, based on a daily water consumption of 160 liters per person. The city is in the process of establishing a drinking-water reserve supply, which will be in operation by 2028. This involves transporting water via tunnel from Holsfjorden lake, in a neighbouring municipality, to the water treatment plant in Oslo.

Water quality in Oslo's waterways

Oslo has eight main waterways, none of which can be classified as having “very good” water quality. Since 2019, we have been continually working to improve the quality of these waterways. However, the situation today remains much the same as it was in 2019: The Lysaker River has the best water quality, classified as “good”, while the remaining waterways are rated as having “moderate,” “poor,” or “bad” water quality. The main sources of pollution from the urban environment are the sewage system, runoff from roads, and spills.

We have implemented two important measures to improve water quality: the reopening of buried waterways and the treatment of road runoff. Unfortunately, these measures have only had a local

effect, as the pollution burden from urban sources is so comprehensive. Therefore, no overall improvement has been observed in the waterways between 2019 and 2024.

Improving river habitats

In 2020, 600 meters of the Hovinbekken stream were reopened through the Jordal area, and in 2023 another 600 meters were reopened through Klosterenga Park. Since 2019 we have, in addition, removed barriers impeding fish movement at four different locations and made habitat improvements in various rivers, with 72 tons of spawning gravel being added.

Wastewater management

Wastewater in Oslo is treated at two main plants, transforming sewage into valuable resources like biogas and energy for our district heating system. The Bekkelaget wastewater treatment plant is owned and operated by the City of Oslo. This plant treats approximately 45 % of Oslo's wastewater, amounting to 59 million m³ in 2023. In the same year, 4.4 million m³ of biogas were produced at the plant. The second treatment plant, Vestfjorden Avløpsselskap (Veas AS), is owned by the municipalities of Bærum, Asker and the City of Oslo, and treats approximately 55 % of Oslo's wastewater.



Photo: Heidi Kristensen/City of Oslo



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Eco-innovation and sustainable employment (indicator 10)

Strategic use of public procurement

The City of Oslo buys goods and services for 3 billion euros annually, utilising public procurement as a strategic tool to achieve sustainability and climate goals. This is clearly stated in our adopted procurement strategy. By prioritizing green procurement, Oslo can influence markets and foster innovative green solutions. In 2019, the City Council mandated that all procurements of goods, services, transport and construction must meet high environmental and climate standards. Starting in 2025, zero emission technology will be a minimum requirement for transport and construction machinery in all relevant tenders. Notably, in 2023, approximately 77 % of the energy used at city owned construction sites was zero emission.

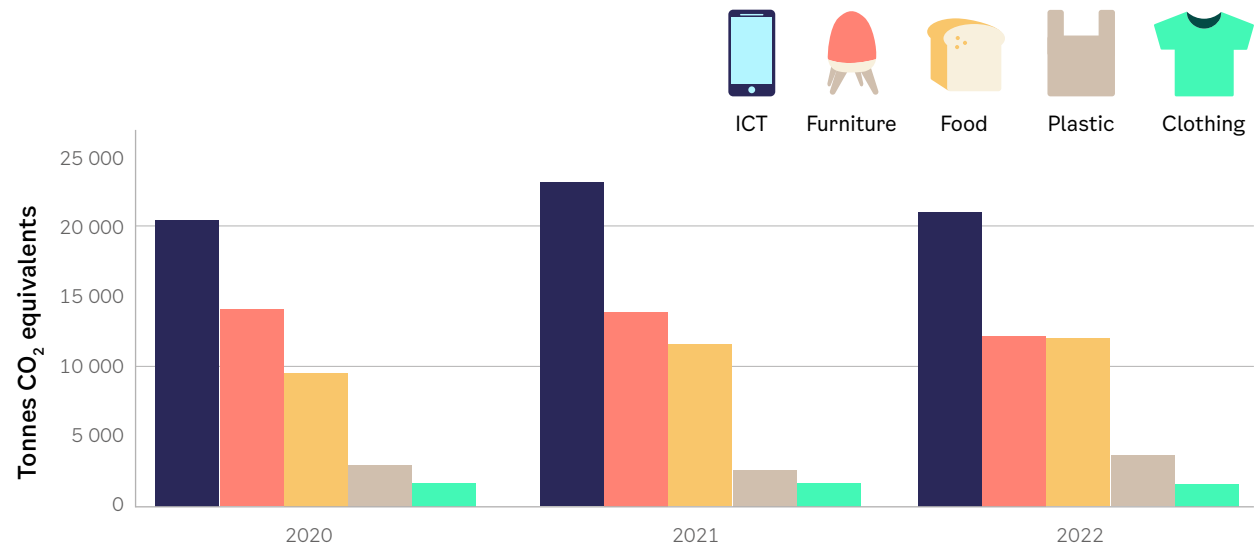
Oslo is continuously improving its circular systems to maximise resource efficiency. In the Thematic Plan for a Circular economy, the City Government envisions Oslo as a global leader in the circular economy by 2030. Key goals in the plan include reducing the consumption of virgin resources to sustainable levels, increasing local employment through circular value chains, and boosting innovation and value creation in circular resource use. The plan also emphasizes the importance of reducing material consumption through procurement, for example, by promoting needs assessments,

and prioritizing products with recycled components, long lifetimes, warranty schemes, repair options, return schemes and recyclability.

Since 2019, we have included new services, solutions and products in city-wide framework agreements to facilitate the transition towards circular consumption in city operations. Here we have prioritized ICT-hardware, furniture, textiles, plastics and packaging. In the case of furniture,

examples include options for choosing used products, repair and redesign services, and utilizing a reuse platform with transport and storage services to reduce material consumption.

To monitor the development of our consumption based indirect emissions, we procured an innovative carbon dioxide measurement tool. This tool revealed a 13 % reduction in indirect emissions from furniture consumption between 2020 and 2022.





Indicators

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Sustainable and healthy food

In recent years, Oslo has systematically organized policies and initiatives to promote sustainable and healthy food. In September 2023, an action plan was approved to achieve the City Government's ambitions in this area. The plan outlines strategic priorities in municipal food policy and concrete measures to promote sustainable and healthy food in the City of Oslo. The plan has four targets:

1. Halve meat consumption and increase the proportion of plant-based food.
2. Increase competence in sustainable, healthy and appetising plant-based food.
3. Halve food waste by 2030.
4. Develop the supplier market for sustainable food, emphasizing animal welfare and working conditions through procurement and consumption of food and drink.

A range of measures have been initiated to meet these goals. We are developing an app for registering food waste in our municipal kitchens. Targeted measures have been introduced in care homes with routines and competence building, as well as in selected schools. Additionally, we have completed a living lab for sustainable food practices at work as part of FUSILLI (2021–2024), a Horizon 2020 project, where all experiences have been documented.

We have framework agreements on food that can be used by all municipal bodies. We are continuously refining our portfolio of framework agreements, as well as assortment management, to make sustainable alternatives simple and affordable. Suppliers are required to deliver sustainable, plant-based and seasonal food. We have also adopted a menu planning tool, containing ready-made seasonal weekly menus making it easier for kindergartens and after school programmes to serve healthy, appetising and climate friendly food. Furthermore, vegetarian food has been introduced as the default option at meetings and arrangements in Oslo.

FutureBuilt

To promote climate friendly urban development, six municipalities in the Oslo region, along with Bergen, Trondheim, and Stavanger, are collaborating on the FutureBuilt programme. The vision is to demonstrate that climate-neutral urban areas, characterized by high quality architecture, are achievable. Since its inception in 2010, FutureBuilt has utilized pilot projects as a strategy to transform the development of buildings and urban areas. The objective is to complete 100 pilot projects that reduce carbon emissions by at least 50 % compared to current regulations and common practices. This is measured using a greenhouse gas accounting tool and reductions must encompass the areas of transport, energy,



Photo: Nikolai Kobets Freund / City of Oslo



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and materials. As of October 2024, FutureBuilt encompasses approximately 77 pilot projects – both public and commercial – spanning neighbourhoods, housing, schools, kindergartens, office buildings, cultural centres, and cycling projects. To date, 44 pilot projects have been completed.

The SmartOslo scheme

The SmartOslo support scheme contributes to solving challenges in public-private partnerships, accelerates the development and adoption of smart, user-focused and sustainable services, and serves as a test bed for climate innovation. SmartOslo aims to enhance, 1) Customer-driven innovation, 2) Better inclusion of the business community, 3) Job creation and 4) Rapid growth in startups. Examples of Smart-Oslo projects include:

- ▶ The Circular Resource Center: establishing and piloting a multi-use resource centre for used building materials in a 4,500 m² storage tent.
- ▶ The Oslobygg & Over Easy Solar project: focusing on vertical solar cells on green roofs.
- ▶ Collaboration between the Agency for Water and Sewerage Works and the company Sound-sensing, developing an IoT sound sensor able to automatically identify potential problems with pumps and valves in the water and wastewater systems.



Photo: Abrekadabra



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Energy performance (indicator 11)

Ban on oil heating

On the 1st of January 2020, a national ban on fossil fuel heating of buildings came into effect. The ban had been communicated since 2012, allowing businesses and private households ample time to gradually replace their fossil heating systems. As a result, the sale of heating oil has steadily decreased since 2016. In 2022, 16 million litres of light heating oil and kerosene were sold for use in buildings in Oslo, marking a significant 51 % drop from the 33 million litres sold in 2018. Any remaining greenhouse gas emissions from buildings are primarily from those excluded from the national ban, such as buildings in the agricultural sector. Starting 1st of January 2025, the ban will extend to most of these buildings. It should be noted that the figures quoted for heating oil are highly uncertain as they are allocated to municipalities based on national sales data.

Energy use in buildings

Oslo is dedicated to reducing energy consumption in municipal buildings. The passive house standard is the minimum requirement, with a clear political expectation that new buildings should be energy positive, meaning they produce more energy than they consume. Notable examples of new municipal building projects that meet zero energy or energy-positive standards include Brynseng School, Kilden

kindergarten, and the new Climate House in the Botanical Garden. These projects are part of the FutureBuilt programme, serving as role models for climate friendly architecture and urban development. Since 2019, Oslo has reduced its overall energy use by 13 %. During the same period, the population has grown, resulting in a per capita reduction of 28 %

Energy solutions at a community level

In recent years, addressing energy and power demand to meet climate goals has been a top priority in Oslo. We have developed an energy

planning map as a tool to coordinate and plan for energy solutions that reduce energy demand, shift energy loads (energy flexibility) and increase local renewable energy production.

By developing solutions where buildings and infrastructure interact, we can exploit resources more sustainably and use grid capacity more effectively. These solutions are tailored to the unique opportunities found in each project and area. Currently, projects are underway in Furuset, Hovinbyen, Mortensrud, Filipstad and Rosenholm.



Photo: Rikke Dahl, Monsen/ City of Oslo



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Integrated environmental management (indicator 12)

Climate budget

Oslo was the first capital city in the world to implement a climate budget. This innovative governance system ensures that the city's climate commitments are at the heart of its policies, actions, spending and decision-making. In short, climate budgeting breaks down long-term climate goals into manageable annual targets, mainstreaming them into daily operations and budgeting. It details specific actions, costs, responsibilities, and expected emissions reductions within the budget. Since its inception in 2017, the climate budget has been significantly developed, and climate impact estimates have greatly improved. In addition to adopted measures, the budget has been expanded to include a list of identified measures that outline the path towards further decarbonization. Furthermore, the climate budget for 2025 includes indirect emissions, energy, and climate adaptation and natural carbon sequestration.

Environmental management certification

In 2003, the City Council mandated that all municipal bodies should achieve certification either as an Eco-Lighthouse or under the ISO 14001 standard. The Eco-Lighthouse certification serves as a tool to ensure robust environmental management at all levels. By 2024, 89 % of Oslo's schools are certified, along with 11 out of 15 (73 %) city districts, and 29 out of 30 (97 %) municipal agencies.

As of 2024, there are over 1,895 Eco-Lighthouses in Oslo, with 447 being municipal and 1,448 being private or governmental. Additionally, 134 municipal bodies in Oslo are certified under the ISO 14001 standard.



Photo: Jan Kihur



Oslo sharing solutions

The City of Oslo is globally active in sharing solutions and experiences with other cities through our involvement in international networks and initiatives. In Europe we are an active member in Eurocities where we participate in the Environment Forum (EEF). In the EEF we chair two working groups, Air Quality and Waste. We also acquire and share new knowledge and skills by participating in the EU Mission: 100 Climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030, as well as a range of EU funded research and innovation projects.

Looking further afield, we are an Innovator City in the C40 network, where we work with other cities to accelerate climate action and scale up innovative solutions. C40 has a knowledge hub in Oslo with a particular focus on two Oslo led C40 initiatives – climate budgeting and clean construction.





Oslo's climate budget: A global inspiration

The C40 climate budget programme has supported thirteen C40 cities in developing their own climate budgets based on Oslo's model for climate budgeting. London, New York and Mumbai have already implemented their climate budgets, while the remaining cities in the programme are working towards climate budgets that are appropriate for their local contexts. C40 works to expand this initiative into a global programme to encompass all of its 97 member cities. In 2024, Oslo and its climate budget were among the five finalists for the World Resources Institute's Ross Center Prize for Cities. This is a global award celebrating and highlighting transformative urban change.

C40 Clean Construction

Oslo is the chair of C40's Clean Construction Forum, the leading programme driving carbon cutting measures from construction activities in cities. The forum also aims to deliver healthier buildings and better air quality to millions of city residents worldwide. The Clean Construction programme has expanded to include 49 cities worldwide, up from just 10 cities in 2019. This growth includes a number of other organizations and partners. Eight cities have so far signed up to C40's Clean Construction Accelerator. By 2024, C40's Clean Construction Policy Explorer has registered 240 distinct policies

from 66 cities, a substantial increase from 82 policies in 2019. The cities of Budapest, Los Angeles, London, New York, Mexico City, Milan, San Francisco and Oslo have joined the C40 Clean Construction Accelerator, collectively aiming to 1) Reduce embodied emissions by at least 50 % for all new buildings and major retrofits by 2030. 2) Reduce embodied emissions by at least 50 % for all infrastructure projects by 2030. 3) Require

zero emission construction sites city wide by 2030, where technology is available.

EU Big Buyers Working Together - Zero emission construction sites

The EU "Big Buyers Working Together" is an initiative from EU DG GROW to promote strategic public procurement for innovative and sustainable solutions. By collaborating and pooling resources,



Photo: Rikke Dahli Monsen/City of Oslo



cities and other public buyers can maximize their market power and impact. Since 2019, Oslo has led the community of practice for public buyers seeking to promote zero emission construction sites. Key objectives of this initiative include exchanging experiences and best practices, engaging in joint market dialogue and jointly developing and implementing procurement approaches for low and zero emission construction sites.

The International Council of Clean Transportation 2nd Off-Road Decarbonisation Symposium

In September 2024, the International Council of Clean Transportation, in collaboration with C40 Cities and the City of Oslo, hosted the 2nd Global Off-Road Decarbonisation Conference in Oslo. Leaders from China, Europe and North America joined a diverse array of stakeholders, including policymakers, energy authorities, off-road machinery manufacturers, industry associations and construction companies. They shared policies and results and discussed strategies to further advance the adoption of zero emission equipment and increase global visibility of new low-emission off-road solutions.

EU Mission – 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030

Oslo is one of the 112 European cities that are participating in the EU Mission on 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030. We have submitted a Climate City Contract for Oslo, based on our adopted climate strategy and the climate budget. The Climate City Contract addresses the opportunities and barriers for achieving net zero by 2030. Additionally, we have received funding for a Horizon Europe pilot project. In Power Up a RENEWABLE Society (PURE) the goal is to facilitate rapid learning on optimising energy supply and flexible solutions at clean construction sites.

We are actively using the NetZeroCities Mission platform to engage with other like-minded cities through webinars, workshops, and policy labs aimed at promoting climate friendly measures and incentives.

Participation in EU Horizon research programmes

Oslo has prioritized participation in research and development projects under the EU Horizon Europe programme and its predecessor Horizon 2020. In

2019, the City Government adopted an action plan to significantly increase our participation in Horizon projects and better utilize Oslo's innovation potential. Participation in Horizon projects not only provides access to national and international research excellence but also enables Oslo to contribute to knowledge building, share lessons learned on international platforms, improve the Oslo brand and help achieve policy objectives.

In addition to the EU Mission, Oslo has participated in 19 different climate and environment related Horizon projects over the last five years. Topics that have been covered include energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings (BERTIM, 4RinEU, Be-SMART, ARV, Cultural-E), waste to second generation fuels (WASTE2ROAD), digital modelling to protect and restore ocean health (SEADITO), sustainable food systems and urban agriculture (FUSILLI, EdiCitNet), nature-based solutions for urban stormwater treatment (MULTISOURCE), monitoring of air quality and noise and risk evaluation of air pollution (Net4Cities, healthRiskADAPT), sustainable mobility and urban logistics (CITYLAB, BuyZET, Green Charge, LEAD, CityChangerCargo-Bike, UPPER, MOVE21).



MOVE21

An example of our involvement in Horizon research programmes is the innovation project MOVE21. The project, which is also coordinated by the City of Oslo, aims to transform European cities into smart, zero emission mobility and logistics hubs. The project targets a 30 % reduction in transport related emissions by 2030 through 15 innovations. Key components include Living Labs in Oslo, Gothenburg, and Hamburg, and replicator cities Munich, Bologna, and Rome, where mobility hubs and innovations are tested. MOVE21 fosters a diverse community of practice to spread urban mobility solutions beyond partner cities. This includes Cascade Cities like Brasov, Murcia, Sofia, Stockholm, Thessaloniki, and Toulouse, collaborating through interviews, technical webinars, peer learning activities and visits, an Urban Node Forum and training sessions.



Photo: Rikke Dahl, Monsen/City of Oslo



Resourceful Cities - URBACT Action Planning Network

Oslo was also part of Resourceful Cities, an URBACT Action Planning Network of ten European cities from 2019–2022. The project worked to develop the next generation of urban resource centres, so they can serve as catalysts of the local circular economy, by adopting a participative and integrated approach. The network facilitated activities for waste prevention, reuse, repair and recycling.

Through the network's activities we were able to identify the municipality's bottlenecks and possibilities for co-creating urban resource centres. The insights were documented in a handbook to guide citizens, entrepreneurs and the municipality in the steps required for establishing urban resource centres.



Photo: City of Oslo



Oslo engaging citizens and business

Oslo has a long history of community engagement, forming a central part of our approach to being a sustainable city. We actively involve our citizens and the private sector in a wide range of activities, providing benefits for health, well-being as well as the environment.

1

The Reuse Week

The Reuse Week takes place during Black Week in November and aims to showcase sustainable consumption services available throughout Oslo. We collaborate with a variety of partners to create a week full of free events and activities. In 2023, Reuse Week had grown to include more than 65 events, featuring swap markets, repair and redesign courses, maintenance help, second-hand sales, lectures and more. In 2024, Reuse Week celebrates its 10th anniversary, bustling with events, marked by a major digital campaign and banners promoting Reuse Week along Oslo's main street.



Photo: Siri Stålien Thoen/City of Oslo



2

Urban agriculture

The City of Oslo operates eight city farms, offering educational visits for school classes, volunteer run events, vegetable growing courses, community dinners, allotment gardens and farm animals. These farms are open to the public and aim to educate and engage citizens of all ages and backgrounds, providing hands on experiences in urban farming activities.

Losæter, a city farm in the centre of Oslo, involves about 2,000 active participants annually through open days, courses and events, with seven permanent volunteer organisations taking part in these activities.



Photo: Karin Beate Nøsterud/City of Oslo



3

Collecting pacific oysters along the Oslo Fjord

Pacific oysters are an invasive species with high ecological risk due to their enormous reproductive potential. Their sharp edges also pose a hazard on our beaches. The presence of Pacific oysters has been surveyed, and for the past two years we have facilitated paid volunteer efforts by organizations to collect the oysters at selected locations. These efforts generate significant interest and engagement. Together with neighbouring municipalities, we are exploring ways to utilize the oysters as a resource rather than as waste. So far, they have been used as a soil improvement product. Educational materials have also been developed and are available to anyone who wishes to contribute to combating Pacific oysters.



Photo: City of Oslo



4

Spring cleanup campaign “Vårrusken”

Rusken is a City of Oslo initiative dedicated to maintaining a clean and pleasant city environment. Established in 1976, Rusken organizes various cleanup activities and campaigns throughout the year, encouraging residents to participate in maintaining a litter-free environment. One of the most notable events is Vårrusken, an annual spring cleanup where kindergartens, schools, volunteers, and neighbourhood associations join forces to tidy up the city, engaging over 100 000 citizens. Rusken also collaborates with other municipal partners and local organizations to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices.



Photo: Jan Kjør



5

Beach cleanups

Since 2019, Oslo has increased its focus on beach cleanups. Through an annual grant, we support a wide range of organizations that conduct monthly cleanups of rivers and the Oslo Fjord. Citizens participate by freediving, stand-up paddle boarding and cleaning on land to prevent pollution from entering the fjord. We have also joined forces with the Salvation Army in Oslo to clean the more inaccessible areas, such as the islands in the inner fjord.

The organization employs former drug addicts, providing them with meaningful work as they clean marine litter throughout the summer season.



Photo: City of Oslo



6

Outdoor recreation

Through local area initiatives, we collaborate with local communities and volunteer organizations to tailor recreational areas to meet people's needs and wishes. This includes several projects in Groruddalen, Oslo South, the islands of the Oslo Fjord and the old centre of Oslo, Gamle Oslo.

In recent years, we have focused on enhancing playgrounds, hiking trails and accessibility at popular destinations in and around Oslo. An example of an extensive participatory process is that which aimed to identify areas suitable for upgrades and adjustments at Sognsvann, one of Oslo's most popular recreational areas. In 2020, we conducted a series of workshops, including open meetings and customized sessions with focus groups, to identify potential upgrades for making the area more accessible and attractive for Oslo's citizens.



Photo: Bymiljøetaten/City of Oslo



7

Bykuben - Oslo Centre for Urban Ecology

Bykuben is Oslo's centre for urban ecology, a municipal initiative aiming to make Oslo a city where people take care of our nature and each other, realizing its climate and environmental ambitions. We achieve this through cooperation and dialogue with residents, users and developers of the city.

Bykuben serves as an open meeting place for climate friendly urban development and sustainable urban living, as well as a centre for knowledge and innovation.



Photo: Oda Fjellang



Photo: Jan Khur



8

Business for Climate

Oslo's climate network, Business for Climate, serves as a collaborative platform for dialogue between the city and the business community. The network played an integral role in actively supporting the business programme throughout the European Green Capital year. Following its conclusion, all participants in the business programme were invited to maintain their engagement through the Business for Climate network.

By 2024, the Business for Climate network has expanded to include 170 companies. It has created new forums within municipal priority areas such as emission-free transport and energy. In these forums, city officials and key stakeholders from relevant industries meet to assess progress towards climate objectives and discuss measures and innovations to accelerate the transition.

Through the Business for Climate Network, business leaders, city officials and politicians meet to discuss and update each other on the measures needed to achieve the city's climate goals. Celebrating climate successes is crucial – Business for Climate partner Unicon hosted an official launch of the first electric concrete-mixer truck, which will deliver low-carbon concrete to building projects in Oslo.



Photo: Rikke Dahl, Monsen/City of Oslo

Photo: City of Oslo



9

Climate Pilots

Young people are an important target group for Oslo to achieve its climate goals, and therefore, in 2019 we established the Climate Pilots. These are young adults who give lectures to students in secondary schools and further education colleges in Oslo. The Climate Pilots discuss climate challenges and solutions, inviting students to join the conversation.

Since its start, 43 000 students have attended these lectures, and 97 % of schools in Oslo have received a Climate Pilot at least once. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers particularly welcome the Climate Pilots' excellent communication skills and ability to connect with the students.

The Climate Pilots also engage with young people on social media, boasting over 16 000 followers on their Instagram account, "Klimapilotene."



Photo: Fredrik Naumann



10

The Oslo Trees Project

The Oslo Trees project aims to plant 100 000 trees throughout Oslo's urban area between 2020 and 2030. The project addresses the need to strengthen the city's green infrastructure, improve the local environment, accommodate extreme rainfall, adapt to climate change and enhance citizens' mental and physical well-being. Quantified planting goals are integrated into urban development and transformation efforts, involving local businesses, property developers and NGOs.

The project also provides funding for summer and part-time jobs for young people to plant trees. Between 2020 and 2023, 14 800 new trees have been registered, although the actual number is expected to be higher. More than 700 young people have planted over 4,000 trees, primarily fruit trees.

Trees provide essential shade on sunny days – the need for temperature regulation is particularly important for young children. Planting trees in schools, kindergartens and public parks is a crucial tool for climate adaption.



Photo: Camilla Storvøiten and Maja Ljungberg Blåland



11

Support schemes for sustainable and reduced consumption

In recent years, the City of Oslo has managed several support schemes to promote activities, services and pilot projects related to sustainable and reduced consumption. These initiatives have included promoting repair, redesign, lending, sharing, reuse and repurposing. In total, 41 projects have received funding.



Photo: Eivind Haugstad Kleiven, KlimaOslo and Karoline Hippe



12

The Climate and Energy fund

The Climate and Energy Fund provides grants for climate and energy initiatives in housing cooperatives, businesses and private homes, yielding multiple benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved energy efficiency, increased local energy production, and lower costs for individuals.

In 2023, a record number of applications were received, resulting in the allocation of 18.7 million euros in support. These grants cover a portion of the total costs of the climate and energy initiatives, meaning that if all the measures applied for are implemented, then their total value will be more than 61.4 million euros.

The grants awarded in 2023 contributed to several significant outcomes, including the daily fuelling of 425 heavy vehicles with liquid biogas and installation of over 4,500 new electric car chargers, enabling many to charge their vehicles at home.

The Climate and Energy Fund has supported the installation of 73 rapid chargers for heavy vehicles in Oslo.



Photo: Ronny Boysen



Overview of plans and strategies

- ▶ Action Plan for Biological Diversity in Oslo 2023–2030. Adopted by the City Government, 2023
- ▶ Action Plan for Stormwater Management. Noted by the City Council, 2019
- ▶ Action Plan for Sustainable, Healthy, and More Plant-Based Food in the City of Oslo. Adopted by the City Government, 2023
- ▶ Action Plan to Reduce Plastic Pollution in the Oslo Fjord. Adopted by the City Government, 2019
- ▶ Action programme for Increased City Life in Central Oslo, 2018–2027. Adopted by the City Council, 2018
- ▶ Air quality action plan 2021–2025. Adopted by the City Council, 2021
- ▶ Action Plan for Noise 2018–2023
- ▶ Architecture Policy for Oslo. Noted by the City Council, 2020
- ▶ Bicycle Strategy, 2015–2025. Noted by the City Council, 2014
- ▶ Campus Oslo - Strategy for Developing the Knowledge Capital City. Noted by the City Council, 2019
- ▶ Climate Budget 2024. Adopted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ Climate Strategy for Oslo towards 2030. Adopted by the City Council, 2020
- ▶ Development Plan for Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities, 2021-2030. Noted by the City Council, 2020
- ▶ Engagement and Participation: Volunteering in Oslo, 2016. Noted by the City Council, 2016
- ▶ Library Plan for the City of Oslo, 2019–2022. Noted by the City Council, 2019
- ▶ List of Biological Diversity Measures 2024–2025. Adopted by The City Council, 2023.
- ▶ List of Measures for Environmental Quality in the Oslo Fjord. Adopted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ List of Measures – plastics, urban agriculture, sustainable and reduced consumption and sustainable food 2023–2026. Adopted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ List of Measures for Oslo River Basin District. Adopted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ Management Plan for Østensjøområdet miljøpark 2023–2033. Adopted by the City Government, 2023



- ▶ Municipal Master Plan – Social Element 2018 “Our City, Our Future – A greener, warmer and more creative city with room for everyone“. Adopted by the City Council, 2019
- ▶ Municipal Master Plan 2015. «Oslo Towards 2030 – Smart, Safe, Green». Legally binding land-use element. Adopted by the City Council, 2015
- ▶ Municipal Thematic Plan for a Circular Economy. Noted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ Objectives and Guidelines for the Management and Operation of the City of Oslo’s Forests, 2018–2027. Adopted by the City Council, 2018
- ▶ Plan for the Bicycle Path Network. Adopted by the City Council, 2018.
- ▶ Port of Oslo as a Zero-Emission Port – Action Plan. Noted by the City Council, 2018
- ▶ Procurement Strategy for the City of Oslo. Adopted by the City Government, 2017
- ▶ Sprouting Oslo – Room for everyone in the city’s green spaces. A Strategy for Urban Agriculture 2019–2030. Noted by the City Council, 2018
- ▶ Strategy for Green Roofs and Facades. Noted by the City Council, 2022
- ▶ Strategy for knowledge-based development, innovation, and digital technology for the City of Oslo. Noted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ Strategy for Oslo as a Sustainable Destination. Noted by the City Council, 2023,
- ▶ Strategy for Public Health in Oslo, 2023–2030. Noted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ Strategy for Stormwater Management. Noted by the City Council, 2014
- ▶ Strategy for the City of Oslo’s international work. Noted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ Strategy for the Cultural Environment, 2023–2034. Cultural environment in the green city. Noted by the City Council, 2023
- ▶ The City of Oslo’s Action Plan for an Emission-Free and Shared Machine and Vehicle Fleet by 2025. Adopted by the City Government, 2023
- ▶ The City of Oslo’s Strategy for Events. Noted by the City Council, 2019
- ▶ The Regional Water Management Plan for Innlandet and Viken Counties
- ▶ Walking Strategy for Oslo. Noted by the City Council, 2023



Photo: Bymiljøetaten/City of Oslo



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