

2011 Survey of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries

COUNTRY PROFILE:

Norway



Country information on resource efficiency policies,
instruments, objectives, targets and indicators,
institutional setup and information needs

May 2011

This sample country profile is based on the information provided by Inger-Grethe England, Senior Adviser, Climate and Pollution Agency. The information is current as of March 2011.

This country profile was prepared as part of the EEA-ETC/SCP 2011 survey of resource efficiency policies, which aims to collect, analyze and disseminate information about national experience in the development and implementation of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and collaborating countries. The work resulted in the following outcomes:

- **Short ‘country profiles’ (this document)** - self assessments prepared by countries, describing the current status of resource efficiency policies, including key strategies and action plans, policy objectives, instruments, targets and indicators used, institutional setup and information needs.
- **Summary report** - prepared by the EEA and ETC/SCP, the report reflects on trends, similarities and differences in policy responses, showcases selected policy initiatives from member countries and identifies information needs and knowledge gaps.
- A session on resource efficiency policies during the 2011 EIONET workshop to discuss further needs and to facilitate information sharing and experience exchange among EIONET members.

More information about resource efficiency policies, including an analytical report “Resource efficiency in Europe” and thirty one country profiles, can be found at:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency>

1. Resource use in Norway – facts and figures

1.1 General facts and figures about the country



Source:
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Population (projected inhabitants for 2010) [1]	4,858,199
➤ Percent of total EEA-32	0.83%
Surface area (km ²) [2]	323,802
➤ Percent of total EEA-32	5.7%
GDP at market prices – Purchasing Power Standard – Current Prices (Million Euro, 2009) [3]	202,781
➤ Percent of total EEA-32 (minus Liechtenstein)	1.56%
GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) [4] EU27=100 (2009)	178
Urban population (rate of pop., 2009) [5]	77.5%
Main economic sectors and their share in total GDP (2009 est.) [2]	
Agriculture	2.1%
Industry	40.1%
Services	57.8%
EU accession date [6]	-

Additional relevant background information on Norway (and on 37 other EEA member and cooperating countries) can be found at the SOER2010 website:

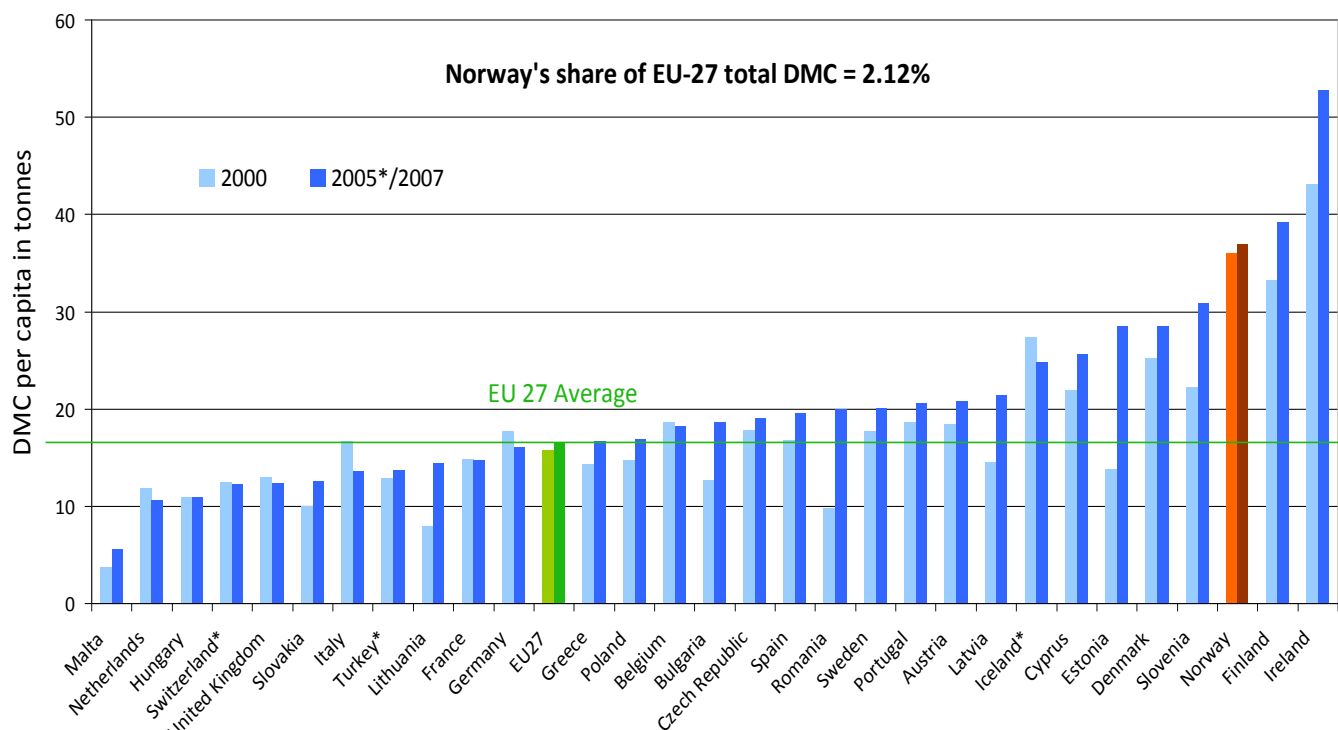
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/countries/no>

Factsheet on national waste policies for Norway is available at:

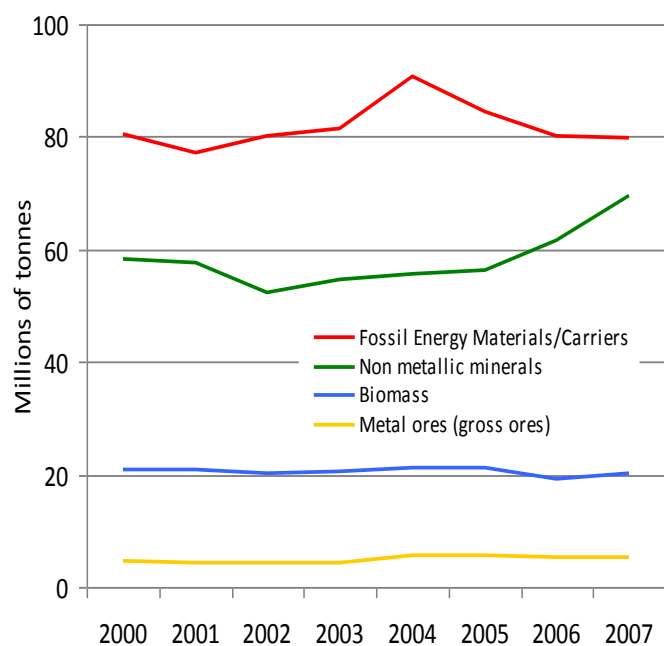
http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/facts/factsheets_waste/2009_edition/factsheet?country=NO

1.2 Facts and figures on resource efficiency for Norway

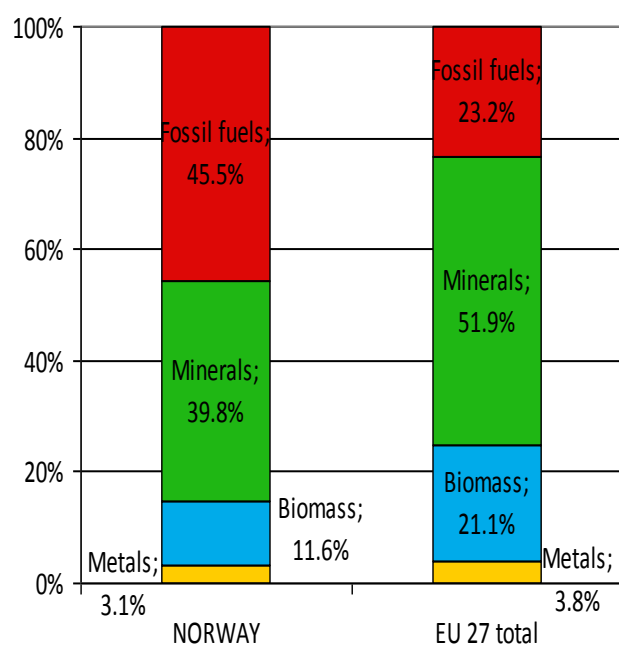
Use of resources per capita 2000 and 2007 [tonnes DMC/capita]



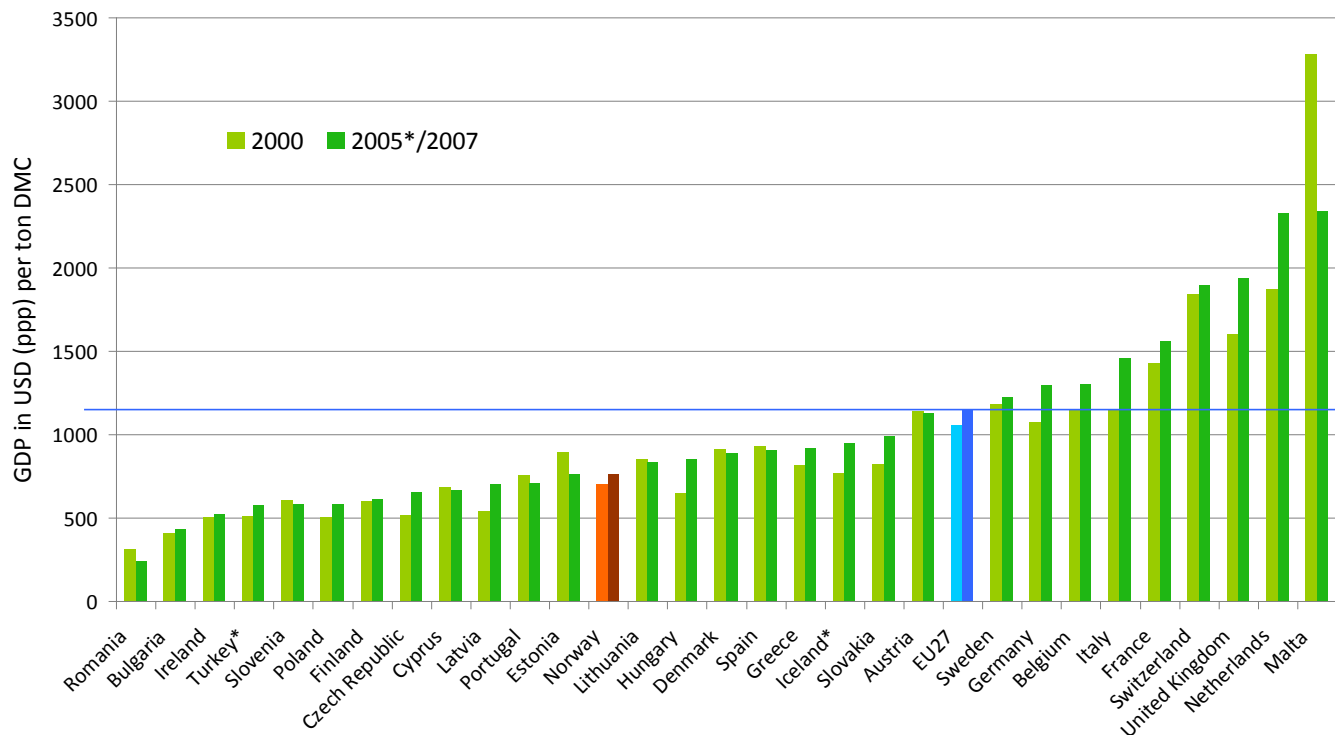
Domestic Material Consumption by category over time, Norway



Breakdown of DMC by type of materials (2007)



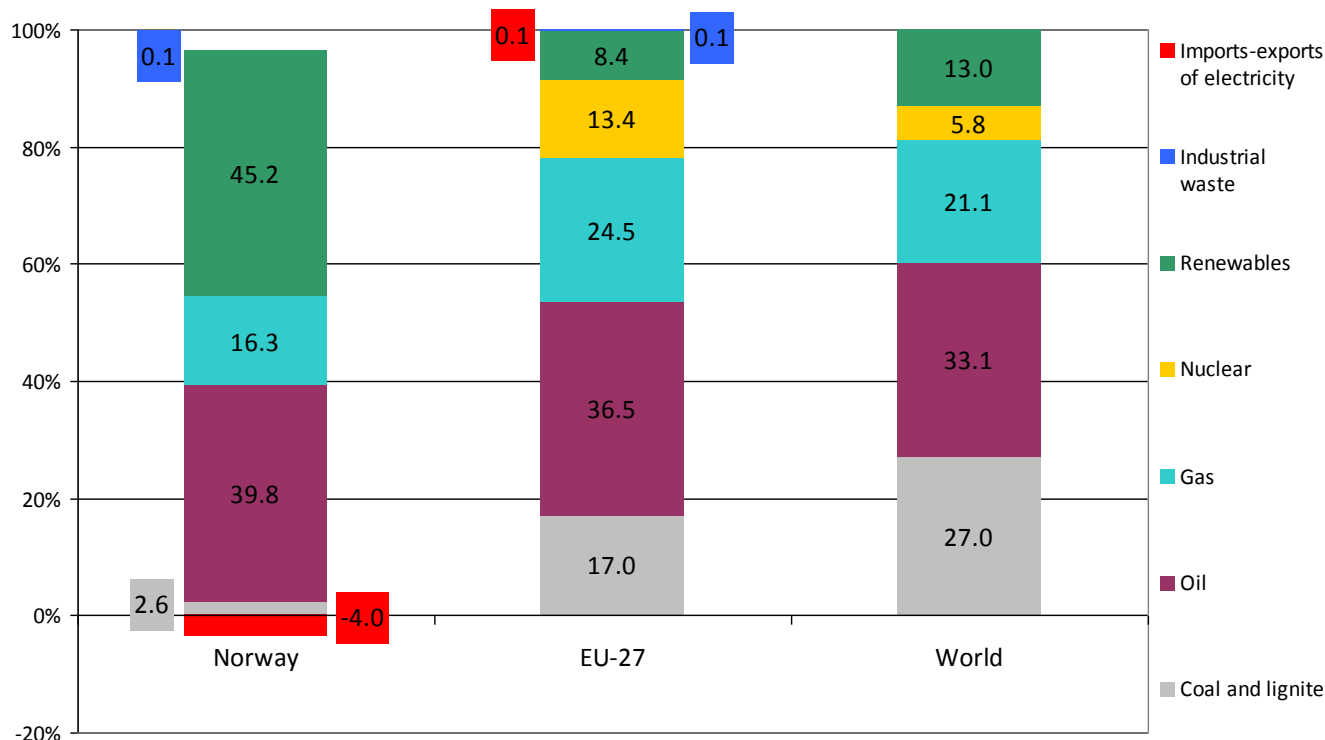
Material productivity 2000 and 2007 [USD ppp/ton DMC]



Source: The Conference Board, Total Economy Database, Eurostat [9]

* = For these countries data is for 2000 and 2005.

Primary energy consumption



Source: Eurostat [10]

2. Evolution and main drivers for the development of resource efficiency policies

Norwegian policy on resource efficiency as part of our environmental and sustainable development policies is goal-oriented. Norway sees resource efficiency as an essential part of a policy for decoupling economic growth and development from concrete environmental pressures threatening essential natural and environmental values and resources. Resource efficiency is not generally seen as a goal in itself, but as an often essential and necessary link between instruments and measures on the one hand and reduced pressures and improved environmental quality at the other end of the environmental policy cycle. Outside of environmental objectives, security of supply, competitiveness and economic development through technological development are in many cases strong additional goals and considerations.

3. Overall Policy Approach for Resource Efficiency

Norway has no overall strategy specifically for resource efficiency, but aims to integrate resource efficiency in its environmental policies in specific areas, such as our climate policies (where energy efficiency is of major importance), and as a central dimension of decoupling in our **sustainable development strategy** (which will be revised in 2011).

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fin/Selected-topics/Sustainable-development/norways-new-strategy-for-sustainable-dev.html?id=510045>

4. Strategies or action plans to improve resource efficiency for individual economic sectors, products or product groups

The following have resource efficiency components:

Norwegian climate policy

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/dok/regpubl/stmeld/2006-2007/Stmeld-nr-34-2006-2007-.html?id=473411>

Proposition to the Storting (Storting bill) for the 2010 budget year from the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, (Prop. 1 S (2009-2010),

In this document you will find among others the Norwegian national goals for discharge and emission reductions and cessation by 2010 and 2020 respectively of the priority substances hazardous to health and the environment (the Priority List).

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/dok/regpubl/prop/2010-2011/prop-1-s-20102011.html?id=618762> (in Norwegian only).

National environmental goals and indicators for among others [biological diversity](#), climate change, hazardous substances, [nature and land use](#), marine and inland waters, [waste and waste recovery](#).
<http://www.environment.no/Goals-and-indicators/>

Environmental economics and indicators from **Statistics Norway** and Norwegian sustainable development indicators.

<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/01/06/> (NOREEA),

http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/09/01/nrmiljo_en/

http://www.ssb.no/emner/01/rapp_indikator_utvikling/sa_114/index.html (in Norwegian only).

Furthermore, by 2015, management plans will be drawn up for all Norwegian sea areas and inland water bodies. These include steps to strengthen the knowledge and a range of measures needed to ensure that good environmental status is achieved.

5. Individual types of resources identified as priority for national or sector-specific resource efficiency policies

No content provided.

6. Strategic objectives, targets and indicators on resource efficiency

Norway does not have many concrete targets and indicators for aggregate, overall resource efficiency. In the discussions about this issue, e.g. about the OECD Recommendation on Resource Productivity and the OECD-UNEP Conference on Resource Efficiency (both in 2008), Norway has emphasized the need to link resource efficiency targets, indicators and policies closely to concrete environmental problems and objectives. Norway's policy is to give priority to such indicators and targets for specific environmental and resource issues, such as climate change, other (regional and local) air pollution issues, waste and recycling, for specific materials such as ee-waste, packaging, cars, tyres, batteries, lubricant oil and PCB-windows/chemical elements, such as for carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and sulphur, and for heavy metals (mercury, lead etc) and other hazardous substances, for specific natural resources, such as energy and water, and for specific economic sectors. We see only very limited value in an aggregate figure for economy-wide, all-materials-confounded indicators such as "Total Material Requirement" (TMR), where one ton of sand and gravel is counted together with one ton of mercury. Such figures may have some value for pedagogical and awareness-raising purposes, but are not useful, and may be directly misleading, seen as political targets.

One of the **18 indicators for sustainable development** (above) to support that strategy, is energy use/GDP (and the share of renewable energy). This indicator was deliberately chosen as the major decoupling and resource efficiency indicator (but is not a political target in itself) instead of other possible alternatives (such as TMR, or ecological footprint) precisely for the reasons given above. Energy sources, and in particular the non- renewable share (in Norway, without nuclear power, fossil fuels, with their emissions of CO₂, NO_x, VOC and SO_x) actually make up the major part of most countries' material throughput (apart from building and construction materials), and contributes to both climate change and most other air pollution pressures on the environment.

At more disaggregated level, Norway has targets for energy efficiency (<http://www.enova.no/sitepageview.aspx?sitePageID=1346>) as part of the mandate for the Enova SF (a public enterprise owned by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy) (<http://www.enova.no/sitepageview.aspx?sitePageID=1153>) in charge of energy efficiency and renewable energy, and new and much stricter energy efficiency standards as part of our building regulations. Norway also has national targets saying that waste production, generally and in the household/municipal waste sector should increase slower than economic growth (GDP), although no quantifiable target has been set. Another national target is increase in waste recovery. The proportion of waste recovered will be raised to about 75% of the total quantity in 2010 and subsequently to 80%. This is based on the principle that the quantity of waste recovered should be increased to a level that is appropriate in economic and environmental terms. At more disaggregated levels, there are also other efficiency goals and standards, but almost always related to specific environmental problems and objectives.

Example - National goal on priority hazardous substances:

The Norwegian Government has established the following national goals for reductions in and cessation of discharges for, respectively, 2010 and 2020, of the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment's highest prioritised chemicals hazardous to health and the environment (see Prop. 1 S [2009-2010]). Proposition to the Storting (Storting bill) for the 2010 budget year.

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/dok/regpubl/prop/2010-2011/prop-1-s-20102011.html?id=618762>:

- Discharges or emissions of some priority hazardous substances (cf. Priority List) must cease or be reduced significantly by 2010.
- Discharges or emissions and use of chemicals that constitute a serious threat to health and the environment must be reduced continuously with the goal of ceasing emissions and discharges within one generation (i.e. by 2020).

Thirty substances and substance groups have been prioritised and placed on the Priority List, which covers this objective. The list was presented for the first time in Storting Report No 58 (1996-1997).

http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/dok/regpubl/stmeld/19961997/st-meld-nr-58_1996-97.html?id=191317) (In Norwegian only).

Every year The Climate and Pollution Agency report to the Ministry of the Environment on the reduction of the priority hazardous substances related to the reference year 1995.

<http://www.klif.no/no/Aktuelt/Nyheter/2011/Januar-2011/Mindre-utslipp-av-de-verste-miljogiftene/>) (in Norwegian only).

As part of the work on environmental accounting done by Statistics Norway, the NOREAA system (Norwegian Economic and Environmental Accounts), the Norwegian version of NAMEA (National Accounting Matrix with/including Environmental Accounts), contain detailed statistics on emissions related to economic activity in a range of economic sectors in the national accounts Environmental economics and indicators from Statistics Norway

<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/01/06/>) (NOREEA).

7. The institutional setup for the development and implementation of resource efficiency policies

No content provided.

8. Selected policy instruments or initiatives on resource efficiency presented in more detail

Norway, as most Nordic countries, uses a wide range of regulatory and, in particular, economic policy instruments with the aim of increasing resource and environmental efficiency. An overview is given in the report "The Use of Economic Instruments in Nordic Environmental Policy 2006-2009" (TemaNord 2009:578), published by the Nordic Council of Ministers, <http://www.norden.org/da/publikationer/publikationer/2009-578>.

Examples:

- Environmental and Social Responsibility in Public Procurement (Sustainable Public Procurement), The Norwegian Action Plan 2007 – 2010 (<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fad/Documents/Reports-and-plans/Plans/2007/Environmental-and-Social-Responsibility-.html?id=476600>)
- Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) aims to strengthen the government's work in renewing the Norwegian public sector and improve the organization and efficiency of government administration. Difi works to ensure that government administration in Norway is characterized by values of excellence, efficiency, user-orientation, transparency and democracy. Setting up solid public procurement procedures is one of Difis main tasks (<http://www.difi.no/anskaffelser>) (in Norwegian only).
- Nordic Swan (<http://www.ecolabel.no/>)
- Energy requirements in the Norwegian building code, (<http://www.be.no/beweb/english/englishtop.html>)
- Ecodesign directive – implementation in Norwegian law. (<http://www.nve.no/no/Nyhetsarkiv-/Pressemeldinger/Forskrift-om-miljoennlig-utforming-av-energirelaterte-produkter-trer-i-kraft-1-mars-/>)
- Energy fund managed by Enova. Enova SF's main mission is to contribute to environmentally sound and rational use and production of energy, relying on financial instruments and incentives to stimulate market actors and mechanisms to achieve national energy policy goals. (<http://www.enova.no/sitepageview.aspx?sitepageid=100>) (in Norwegian only).

- The Norwegian Oil for Development (OfD) programme aims at assisting developing countries, upon their request, in their efforts to manage petroleum resources in a way that generates economic growth and promotes the welfare of the whole population in an environmentally sustainable way.
(<http://www.norad.no/en/Thematic+areas/Energy/Oil+for+Development>).
- Short summary of environmental taxes in Norway
(<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/fin/dok/nouer/2007/nou-2007-8/9/3.html?id=478093>) (in Norwegian only).
- Mandatory CSR reporting for Norwegian corporations <http://www.lovdatab.no/all/nl-19980717-056.html> (in Norwegian only). Reporting environmental information in annual reports. Analysis of legal requirements in the Nordic countries (2009, Nordic Council of Ministers) (<http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publications/2008-513>).

9. Topics of interest and information needs for follow up work

No content provided.

10. References

10.1 Facts and figures about the country

[1] Eurostat, 2011 [demo_pjan]

http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=demo_pjan&lang=en

[2] CIA World Factbook (2009 est.)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

[3] Eurostat, 2011 [nama_gdp_c]

<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do>

[4] Eurostat 2011 [tsieb010]

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsieb010&plugin=0>

[5] World Bank, Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:21352016~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>

[6] European Commission 2008

http://europa.eu/abc/12lessons/key_dates/index_en.htm visited December 15, 2008

[7] Eurostat, OECD and Total Economy Database

DMC data from Eurostat Database, Material Flow Accounts, and OECD, Population data from Eurostat Database, Population, and The Conference Board — Total Economy Database, September 2010. www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase/

[8] Eurostat

Material flow accounts, env_ac_mfa, uploaded June 2010

[9] The Conference Board, Total Economy Database, Eurostat

GDP data from The Conference Board — Total Economy Database, September 2010, www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase/ ; DMC data from Eurostat Database on Environmental Accounts, and OECD.

[10] Eurostat

Energy statistics, uploaded Oct 2010

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/energy/data/database>

10.2 Resource Efficiency Policy References

Sustainable development strategy

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fin/Selected-topics/Sustainable-development/norways-new-strategy-for-sustainable-dev.html?id=510045>

Norwegian climate policy

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/dok/regpubl/stmeld/2006-2007/Stmeld-nr-34-2006-2007-.html?id=473411>

Proposition to the Storting (Storting bill) for the 2010 budget year from the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, (Prop. 1 S (2009-2010),

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/dok/regpubl/prop/2010-2011/prop-1-s-20102011.html?id=618762> (in Norwegian only).

Environmental Goals and Indicators

<http://www.environment.no/Goals-and-indicators/>

Statistics Norway Indicators

<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/01/06/> ,
http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/09/01/nrmiljo_en/

Norwegian sustainable development indicators

http://www.ssb.no/emner/01/rapp_indikator_utvikling/sa_114/index.html

The Use of Economic Instruments in Nordic Environmental Policy 2006-2009" (TemaNord 2009:578)

<http://www.norden.org/da/publikationer/publikationer/2009-578>

Implementation of Ecodesign Directive in Norwegian law

<http://www.nve.no/no/Nyhetsarkiv-/Pressemeldinger/Forskrift-om-miljoennlig-utforming-av-energirelaterte-produkter-trer-i-kraft-1-mars-/>

Energy Requirements in Norwegian building codes

<http://www.be.no/beweb/english/englishtop.html>

Norwegian Oil for Development (OfD) programme

<http://www.norad.no/en/Thematic+areas/Energy/Oil+for+Development>

Nordic Swan

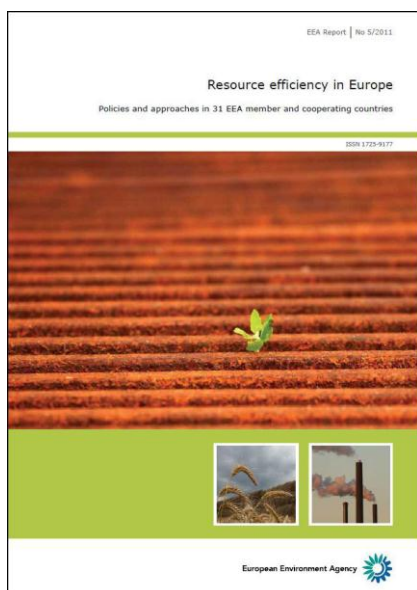
<http://www.ecolabel.no/>

Summary of Environmental Taxes in Norway

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/fin/dok/nouer/2007/nou-2007-8/9/3.html?id=478093>

Mandatory CSR reporting for Norwegian corporations

<http://www.lovdato.no/all/nl-19980717-056.html>



Resource efficiency in Europe

Policies and approaches in 31 EEA member and cooperating countries

Further information about resource efficiency policies, including the analytical report and thirty-one detailed country profiles, are available on the EEA website:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency>

Selected examples of resource efficiency policies, instruments or targets presented in the thirty one detailed country profiles

