

NOU Klimatilpassing

The Norwegian Climate Change Vulnerability and
Adaptation Assessment

The role of local government



The Adaptation Commission

- Key questions
 - In what ways are Norway vulnerable to a changing climate and how can we adapt?
 - To what extent represents climate change opportunities?
- Mandated by the government December 2008, submitting November 15th 2010
- Head of Commission County governor Oddvar Flæte, 16 commission members
- Knowledge base: commissioned reports, hearings, submissions, research

The Mandate

- Overall assessment of the risks that climate change represent for different parts of society
- Identify and discuss means and measures to reduce vulnerability and strengthen adaptive capacity
- Identify priority actions
- Particular focus on:
 - Human health and security,
 - Physical infrastructure,
 - Private sector including agriculture and fisheries
 - Natural environment
- A close dialogue and involvement of stakeholders is assumed

The report

- Norway 2100 The projections for 2050 and 2100
- Sectorial approach
 - the natural environment
 - human health and security (the health sector and civil protection and emergency planning)
 - Infrastructure (transport, water and sanitation, electricity supply, waste and pollution, electronic communications, and buildings)
 - The private sector (agriculture, fisheries, petroleum, insurance and the travel industry)
- Climate change adaptation at municipality, county and national level

Assessing climate vulnerability

By sector:

- Vulnerability identified as a result of exposure and adaptive capacity
- Exposure both to the climate today and future climate change
- Adaptive capacity today
 - Organisation
 - Resources
 - Knowledge base
 - Prioritisation

An integrated approach to adaptation

- Climate change affects nearly all sectors
- Inter dependencies
- Adds an additional layer to existing vulnerability
- **Climate change is a consideration that must be taken into account and integrated in the way we plan and design actions for the future**

The role of municipalities

- "Common sense": impact is highly local – we need to respond locally
- An integrated approach assumes that we build on existing structures
- Municipalities have key functions in **spatial planning, civil protection and building control** representing a unique "window of opportunity" for adapting to climate change

Spatial planning

- Link key sectors and considerations together (cross-sectorial)
 - Transport
 - Buildings
 - Water supply and sanitation
 - Agriculture
 - Natural environment
 - Civil protection
- Participatory
- Long-term
- National – regional – national linkage

Status on climate change adaptation in Norwegian municipalities

- Experience and knowledge about existing climate risks, local knowledge and traditional knowledge
- The level of awareness of climate change risks is rising
- Early stage for assessments and actions
- Research indicate reactive adaptation
- Municipalities participating in networks and projects gets a "kick start"

Overcoming barriers to climate change adaptation at municipality level

- Addressing shortcomings in the "toolbox" for planning today and the additional needs arising from climate change
- Knowledge and capacity
- The knowledge base
- Resources
- Lack of policy signals on climate change adaptation
- Priority

**15th November
2010**