

“The Nordic Region – leading in green growth” is the Nordic Prime Ministers shared green growth initiative under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Green growth is a key priority for Nordic co-operation in the next few years

Nordic partnerships in this field make sense for a number of reasons, and will provide advantages that are only partially exploited at the moment:

- they create a larger market
- they give a political lead in the EU/EEA
- they improve joint infrastructures
- they provide critical mass for future developments.

“The Nordic Region – leading in green growth” is a vision based on the joint utilization of Nordic strengths in a number of areas including:

- energy efficiency
- the development of sustainable energy
- environmental awareness
- investment in innovation and research

Working together in these areas, the Nordic region will carry more weight, earn a bigger market share and make more of a political impact at international level.

The aim is to create joint Nordic solutions to shared problems in selected areas:

1. Developing Nordic test centres for green solutions
2. Working together on education, training and research for green growth
3. Promoting flexible consumption of electricity
4. Working together on green-technology norms and standards
5. Working together on green procurement in the public sector
6. Developing techniques and methods for waste treatment
7. Promoting the integration of environmental and climate considerations into development aid
8. Co-ordinating and improving funding for green investment and companies.

One or more project groups have been established for each of these areas, in a cross-sectoral effort uniting a number of Councils of Ministers, including – respectively – the Ministers for Agriculture, Business, Development Aid, Education, Energy, Environment, Finance, Housing, Research and Transport.

What the project leaders say about the initiative:

“Standardization is an important tool to reduce trade barriers and build markets. We aim at developing new building standards in areas with very little existing regulation. By doing this on a Nordic basis, we create a platform for Nordic companies to create green building solutions and export these solutions to the European and global markets”, Johan Englund, Senior advisor, Nordic Innovation – project 4: *Working together on green-technology norms and standards*.

“The Nordic countries have built up vast knowledge and experience when it comes to green public procurement. This could be communicated much better and a joint Nordic effort can help make sure we reach the right people with the right information”, Sven Olof Ryding, Managing Director, Swedish Environmental Management Council – project 5: *Working together on green procurement in the public sector*.

“It is hard to solve the challenges involved in recycling from a national perspective alone – especially as our countries are so small. Technical and economic barriers make it difficult to establish good solutions and create a stable market for new, recycled products. Together we can create a bigger knowledge base as well as a bigger market”, Bernt S. Ringvold, Head of Section, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency – project 6: *Developing techniques and methods for waste treatment*.

More info at norden.org/greengrowth

A Nordic Way to Grow?

The Nordic countries have small, open and flexible economies. The five countries have a total of only 25 million inhabitants, but seen as a whole the region is the 11th-largest economy in the world.

Some of the factors behind this success story are a holistic approach to problem solving, an inclusive approach to decision making and a respectful attitude towards the values of nature.

This approach to sustainable development is the hallmark of Nordic cooperation on green growth.

Growth without emissions!

As one of the few regions in the world, the Nordic countries have managed to create growth without increasing the emissions of climate gasses and other pollutants.

As well as severing the link between economic growth and energy consumption, the Nordic welfare states have also fared better than most in the current economic crisis.

Green growth has become a key objective for many countries and regions. The global market for green solutions is quickly expanding and the Nordic Region can play a crucial role in this development.



norden

Nordic Council of Ministers

Ved Stranden 18
DK-1061 Copenhagen K

www.norden.org

The Nordic Council of Ministers is the official body of co-operation of the five Nordic countries and the three autonomous areas in the Nordic region: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, along with the Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands.

Nordic co-operation seeks to safeguard Nordic and regional interests and principles in the global community. Common Nordic values help the region solidify its position as one of the most innovative and competitive in the world.



ANP 2012:767
Layout: Erling Lynder
Print: Rosendahls-Schultz Grafisk
Printed in Denmark
Copies: 1000



norden

The Nordic Region – leading in green growth



Green Growth Initiative of the Nordic Prime Ministers

“If green growth is to be a key priority for Nordic co-operation in the next few years, then it is essential to have a joint vision for the work – a vision underpinned by tangible activities, one that enjoys strong political support and sends important signals about political goals and intentions”,

Halldór Ásgrímsson
Secretary General,
Nordic Council of Ministers.