

City Introduction and Context



Image 1: Oslo's situation between the sea and the protected forest gives Oslo natural boundaries for future urban development and necessitates a compact and dense urban development.

A Growing City

Oslo is the capital of Norway and the country's largest city with approximately 660,000 inhabitants. It is a compact capital city surrounded by the nationally protected forest Marka and by the Oslo Fjord. Ten main waterways connect the forests with the Fjord. The population is young, highly-educated and diverse – one third of the population is first or second generation immigrants. Oslo is also compact in terms of accessible political and financial elites and levels of social and economic equality. The City is, however, constantly working towards reducing poverty and inequalities. The inhabitants are both early adopters of new technology and frequent users of Marka and the Fjord. The standard of living and thus consumption levels are high.

Oslo is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe – constituting both a great opportunity and a great challenge. The City has to plan and build for growth in terms of infrastructure, schools, care facilities and service production, *while* implementing an ambitious environmental and climate policy. This balancing act requires city transformation of how we move, how we live and work, how we conduct business and how we use public space to promote *Green City Life*.

Indicator		Units	Year of data
Population	658 390	Inhabitants	1.1.2016
Area	454	km ²	1.1.2016
Population Density	1450	Inh/km ²	1.1.2016
GDP	83 746	€/Capita	2014
Köppen climate classification	Dfb		

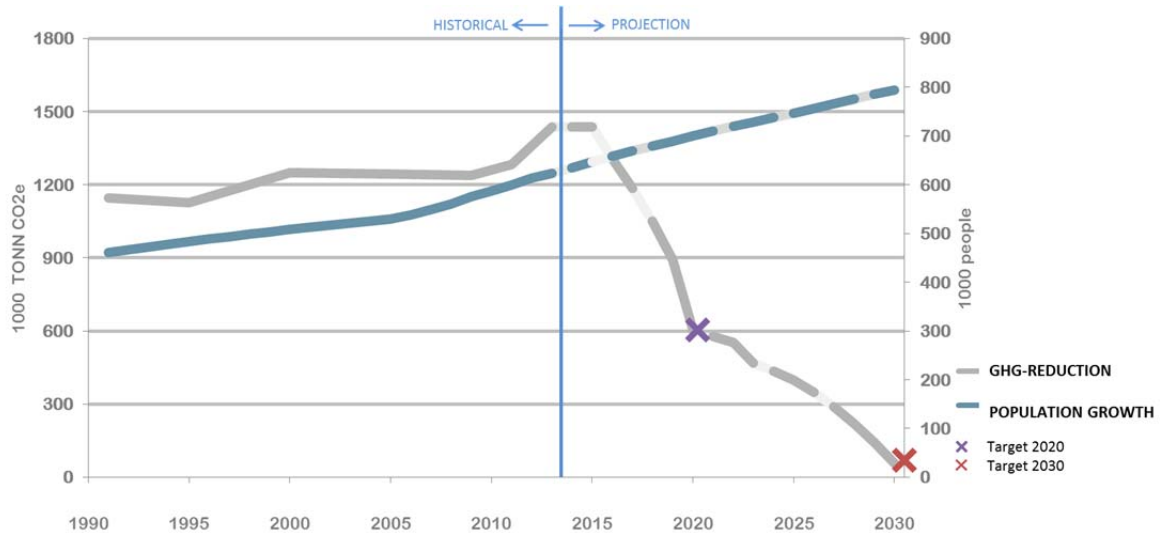


Figure 1: Oslo' challenges summarized: Graph showing historical GHG-emissions and targets as well as historical and projected population growth.

Green Politics

Oslo's first substantial environmental policy dates back to 1998 when the City developed *the Urban Ecology Program* enabling the City Council to assess the environmental status through a holistic approach. The Program was reviewed in 2011 and runs until 2026.

In 2015, a new City Government comprised of representatives from the Labour Party, the Green Party and the Socialist Left party, took office and aims to make Oslo a greener, fairer and more creative city with room for everyone.

The new City Government has raised ambitions, especially on reducing emissions. In June 2016, the City Council passed the Climate and Energy Strategy for Oslo. This lays out targets to cut emissions by 50 % by 2020 (provided successful implementation of Carbon Capture and Storage project for waste incineration) and 95 % by 2030.

However, the City only controls 4 % of total emissions. Thus, to reach the emission targets, our focuses and challenges can be summarized in improved green governance, more green innovation and increased green dialogue.

Green Governance

As part of the City budget, Oslo has introduced binding climate budgets including 42 measures quantifying the needed emission reductions before 2020, estimating financing and placing sectoral responsibility. Through climate budgets the responsibility for emission cuts is spread across the City Government.

Green governance will make it easier for inhabitants to choose climate friendly alternatives. The alternatives need to be designed in order to promote interesting co-benefits for the population like healthier environment, cleaner air, simpler and faster mobility and a vibrant city life.

Oslo became the "EV Capital of the World" as a result of targeted green governance. Local and national authorities have made buying and owning electric vehicles very attractive and have thus boosted the private market for zero emission vehicles. Today, 30 % of all new cars sold in Oslo are electric.

Through green governance the City uses public procurement to motivate environmentally friendly produced goods and services. Oslo motivates new business model development, taking advantage of the transformation processes, and creating green jobs and innovation.

Green Innovation

Oslo also wishes to promote innovation and new jobs in the circular economy. The City is at the forefront of circular use of available resources, like using bio waste and city sewage for biogas production, fueling city buses and waste trucks. Waste no longer reaches an end point, but is a resource to exploit.

Approaching the start-up community is also important for green innovation and in 2016 the City co-hosted a smart mobility hackathon where startups from around the world were tasked with finding solutions that address challenges and opportunities in Oslo's mobility system.

Green Dialogues

The City's achievement of emission and environmental targets happens in dialogue with the business communities, NGOs and the inhabitants. In 2012, *the Business for climate* network was established and it now counts 73 member companies. The network fosters dialogue between the business community and the City where the role of business in reaching emission and environmental targets dominates the agenda.

Communicating with, and seeking input from, the inhabitants around the targets and the measures, is continuous work. The communication work ranges from campaigns for household waste management, to involvement in the recently launched City Ecology Innovation Center, to the "Adopt a river" program for schoolchildren.



Image 2: *The Business for climate* network is one of Oslo's arenas for green dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

Infrastructure plan

Changing how we move demands increased capacity in the public transport system, reducing car traffic and promoting cycling. In 2016, a new metro tunnel improved the connection between the different districts and offered some relief to the main metro tunnel. However, Oslo is planning substantial infrastructure investments, the five most important are:

- upgrading the metro signaling system
- building a new metro tunnel
- building a new metro line in cooperation with one neighboring municipality
- building new tram lines throughout the city
- upgrading existing cycling lanes and building 60km of new lanes

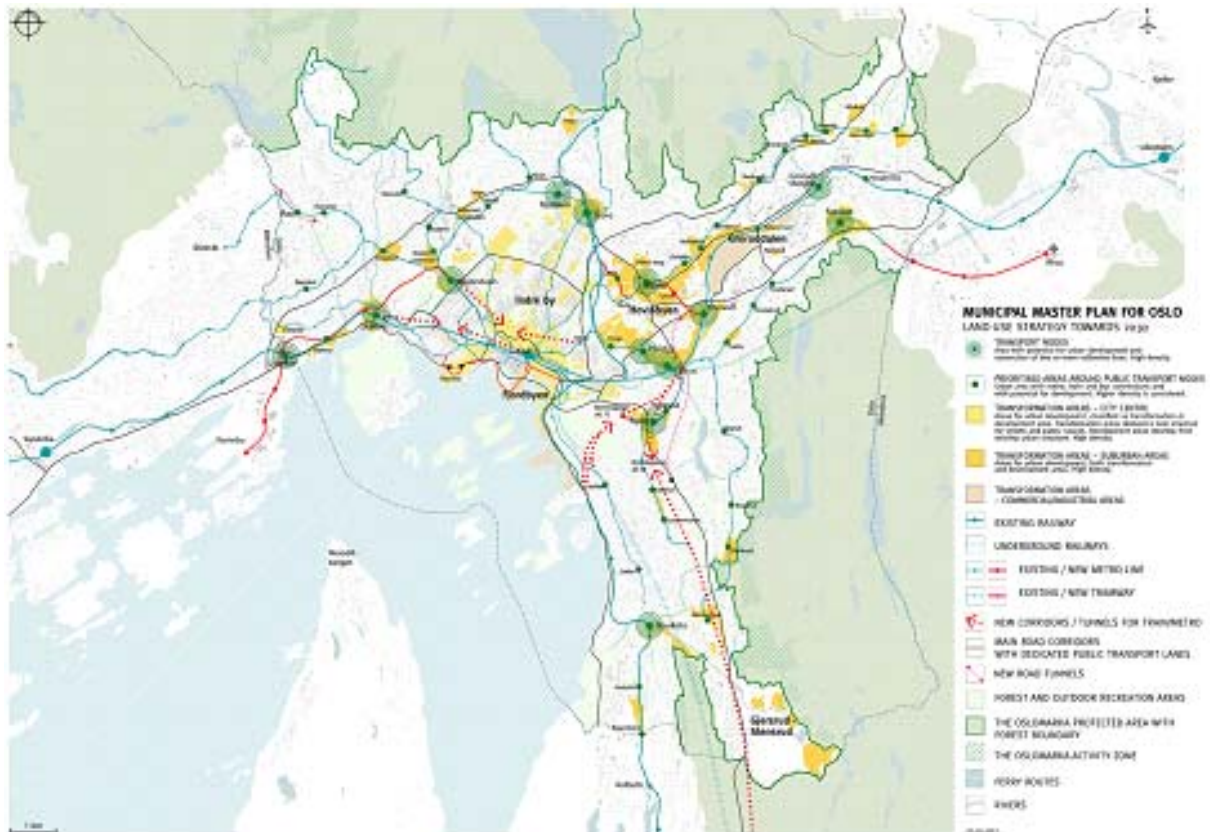


Figure 2: This is Oslo's land-use strategy towards 2030. It indicates prioritized areas for urban development and new infrastructure is marked in red.

Green City Life

Green city life means easy access to clean air and clean water, green city areas and the fjord. Oslo's inhabitants cherish the closeness to nature and are frequent users of the city's parks, footpaths, allotment gardens, beaches, ski-slopes and Marka. Oslo wishes to build a symbiosis of urban and green city life which maintains and inspires new uses of outdoor space as we know this is good for people's mental and physical health and well-being.

As to the intensely urban spaces, the project *Car-Free City Life* will priorities a city center for people rather than cars.

In creating access to green areas Oslo prepares itself for the effects of climate change. The City already experiences climate change, especially with higher frequency of extreme precipitation events causing storm water challenges. Oslo is making room for more rain and surface water through opening waterways, green roofs, rain beds and holding pools. These measures both reduce Oslo's vulnerability to climate change and also yield access to green recreational areas.



Image 3: To Oslo Green City Life means prioritizing people over cars and promoting continued closeness to nature. Photo: Andreas Love Storm Fausko, Bård Bredesen, Thomas Johannessen, Sadan Ekdemir