

The EURASIA CENTER

The Eurasia Center
1800 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20009

www.eurasiacenter.org

Email: Eurasiacenter1@cs.com

Norway: Environmental Overview



Norway a Scandinavian Nation:

The kingdom of Norway as it is officially known, boasted a extremely rapid economic growth since WWII, making it easily one of the wealthiest in the world. It was also rated as the most peaceful in the world.¹ The Norwegian government for the last decade has been expanding its welfare system so the nation will not be in a horrible state after its petroleum reserves are gone. In 1949, Norway joined the NATO but has failed to join the European Union. The narrow defeats in 1972 and 1994 have denied the country a chance to join the EU. Norway a big member in the fight against pollutants is susceptible to long-range pollutants.

Demographics:

- Norway has a population of 4,627,926 according to July 2007 estimates. The population on average is increasing at a rate of 0.36%. Norwegians are mostly affiliated with the Church of Norway. In fact 85.&% of the entire population is from that church.²
- Life expectancy at birth in Norway is 77 years for males and 82.46 years for females.³
- The age composition of the population is as follows: *0-14 years: 19%, 15-64 years: 66.1%, and 65 years and over: 14.8%.*⁴
- The International Monetary Fund in



Briksdalsbreen is arm of the Jostedalsgreen glacier in a Norwegian National Park.

¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/6704767.stm

² "Norway" [2007 CIA World Factbook](#)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

2006, ranked Norway 2nd out of 232 nations for the highest GDP per capita.⁵

Picture Above: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Briksdalsbreen_glacier.jpg

Education

- The literacy rate in Norway currently is at a 100% like many developed nations.⁶
- The Norwegian education is mandatory for all children between the ages of 6-16. The school year runs from August to June with the Christmas holidays splitting the year into semesters.⁷
- Grades 1-7 (ages 6-13) are in elementary schools where no grades are given. The lower secondary school comprises of grades 8-10. The next level is the upper secondary school (grades VG1-VG3) which made up of mostly 16-19 year old students.⁸
- Until 2005, the state law said that private schools that offered a religious alternative may be deemed legal. This law has been abandoned however.⁹
- Higher education lasts at least 3 years in Norway. It can also take 5 years to obtain a masters degree.¹⁰

Geography/Natural Resources:

- The nation of Norway is located in Northern Europe (to be more precise on the western part of the Scandinavian Peninsula). This nation borders the North Sea to its south, Norwegian Sea to its north and Sweden to its east. It also shares borders with Finland and Russia to its extreme far northeast.¹¹



A view of Oslo from a surrounding city shows the majestic beauty of the environment in which the city is placed.

⁵ "Norway" [Wikipedia](#).

⁶ "Norway" [2007 CIA World Factbook](#)

⁷ "Education in Norway" [Wikipedia](#).

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ "Geography of Norway" [Wikipedia](#).

- Norway holds a total area of 324,220 square kilometers and (385,199 square kilometers with Svalbard and Jan Mayen included) making it somewhat larger than the American state of New Mexico and a little smaller than the nation of Vietnam. Norway has 25,148 km of coastline and 83,281 km of coastline when including their island. This shows the vast area that Norwegian islands occupy in Scandinavia.¹²

Picture Above: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Oslo_from_holmenkollen.jpg

- The terrain is mostly made up of plateaus, rugged mountains, small plains, and arctic tundra (especially in the northern part). The climate is colder in the interior of the country. On the western coast, the country is known for its year-round rainy climate.¹³
- Norway's mountains are extremely rich with many different kinds of minerals. They include iron ore, copper, titanium, coal, zinc, lead, nickel, and pyrite. The nation also boasts a large offshore reserve of natural gas and petroleum.¹⁴
- Norway pumps out about 3.2 million barrels per day of oil. This oil accounts for 30% of the nation's GDP.¹⁵

Agriculture

- Agricultural products in Norway include many different types of cereals, potatoes, beef, milk, and fish.¹⁶
- The agricultural sector provides 2.4% of the nation's GDP and 4% of the labor force. This industry is extremely limited because only 2.7% of the land that is Norway is arable land.¹⁷
- The Norwegian government is aggressively paying high subsidies for farming in order to keep farms afloat.¹⁸
- In 2001, 1.2 million tons of grain was produced along with 388,200 tons of potatoes. This still does not prevent Norwegians from having to import grain and other vegetables.¹⁹

Relevant Environmental Laws and Regulations:

Kyoto Protocol

¹²Ibid.

¹³"Norway" 2007 CIA World Factbook

¹⁴"Norway" US State Department

¹⁵<http://www.norway.org.uk/business/news/norwayhavenforoilproduction.htm>

¹⁶"Economy of Norway" Wikipedia.

¹⁷"Norway" 2007 CIA World Factbook.

¹⁸http://www.organic-europe.net/country_reports/norway/default.asp

¹⁹<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/Norway-AGRICULTURE.html>

- An international agreement in which adherents voluntarily sign up to limit their carbon emissions in an effort to reduce global warming. Nations can buy and sell emission credits in order to fulfill their pledge.
- Norwegian greenhouse gas emissions increased over from 1990-2005 by 8.5 percent.²⁰

Water Framework Directive

- EU legislation on water policy, which began in 2000 and seeks to ensure water quality across Europe.²¹

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

- The then European Community enacted this directive in 1991, laying out the requirements of EU states for waste water treatment.
- The directive is an attempt to create a system of monitoring and periodically reviewing water treatment, as well as constructing water treatment facilities and urban waste water collecting systems.
- The European Commission offers financial grants to NGOs for assistance in implementing the various sections of the UWWTD.²²

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Current Funding Projects:

Recently, the Norwegian government has

funded many projects in the

Amazon as well as in Northwest Russia aimed at protecting the environment.



In one of Norway's many valleys, lies a scenic view of a Norwegian community next to a small river.

Picture Above: <http://www.ae.uiuc.edu/~krsriniv/Norway%20Countryside.jpg>

²⁰ http://www.environment.no/templates/themepage____2143.aspx

²¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/waterframework/index_en.html

²² <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/directiv.html>

²³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/waterframework/index_en.html

Promoting Ecosystem-based Approaches to Fisheries Conservation and LMEs

- The leading agency is the United Nations Environment Programme which is associated with the World Council of Fisheries and American Fisheries Society.
- This projects attempts to strengthen countries' scientific capacity in management and assessment of ecosystem-based fisheries. ²⁴

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Under the Supervision and Coordination of: Dr. Samuel Lee Hancock, CM, Executive Director***

²⁴ http://www.iwlearn.net/iw-projects/Msp_11279949214