

NORWAY

LANCET COUNTDOWN ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE DATA SHEET 2024

Health and climate change in Norway

The *Lancet* Countdown on Health and Climate Change annually takes stock of the evolving links between health and climate change through 50+ peer-reviewed indicators. Since 2016, these indicators have provided regular, reliable global and regional stocktakes on climate change and health. Data in this year's report reveal that people all around the world are facing record-breaking threats to their wellbeing, health and survival from the rapidly changing climate. This document summarises key country-level findings from the 2024 report of the *Lancet* Countdown* and the 2024 Europe report of the *Lancet* Countdown** for Norway, which reveal that:



The majority of Norway's electricity generation comes from **low carbon sources**, with renewable energy sources growing significantly in the past 20 years.



Despite the growing use of renewable energy in Norway, its production and expansion of **fossil fuel exports** still contribute to global, health-harming carbon emissions.



Unhealthy, **unsustainable diets** are contributing to GHG emissions and undermining health and wellbeing, with deaths that could be reduced through balanced, low-emission diets.

These findings underline the urgency of redirecting finance away from health-harming fossil fuels; and towards strengthening local health systems, adapting to climate change, and pursuing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through interventions that simultaneously deliver health co-benefits.

Energy transition and health co-benefits

Norway's position as a major energy exporter presents a complex challenge in the global energy transition - while the country excels in low-carbon and renewable energy which powers almost all domestic energy, it remains a significant oil and gas producer, which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Redirecting continued investments from the fossil fuel sector toward incentivizing the expansion and affordability of low-carbon energy, and supporting health-promoting interventions, will deliver net benefits to local populations and promote a just transition, and position Norway as a leader in clean energy.***

TREND SPOTLIGHT

Norway's net-positive carbon revenue underscores the country's leadership in implementing high carbon taxes and ambitious climate policies. However, Norway's reliance on fossil fuel revenues as a major oil exporter complicates its environmental leadership, making Norway a significant contributor to global, health-harming carbon emissions despite its net-positive carbon pricing.



Low-carbon sources contribute almost entirely to Norway's electricity generation. Among these, the share of renewables grew significantly from 2000 to 2022, rising from nearly zero to 10%. Coal has remained consistently unused in electricity production (indicator 3.1.1).



For Norway's total energy supply, low-carbon sources contributed 44% in 2022. Within this share, renewables also increased, from nearly zero in 2000 to 4.7% in 2022. Coal, although minimally used at the start of 2000, decreased from 2.6% to 2% by 2022 (indicator 3.1.1).



In 2021, household energy sources reflected similar trends, with electricity making up a significant portion at 83%, up from 78% in 2000. The share of renewables in household energy increased from 0.5% in 2000 to 3.6% in 2021. Meanwhile, the use of biomass and fossil fuels decreased, with fossil fuels nearly eliminated by 2021 and biomass contributing 13% (indicator 3.1.2).



In 2022, Norway generated a net-positive carbon revenue of US\$2.1 billion, reflecting carbon prices that exceeded fossil fuel subsidies, and placing Norway among 14 countries with data that show net-positive carbon revenue (indicator 4.1.3).

Diet, food security and health

Promoting shifts to healthier, more plant-based diets can substantially reduce agricultural GHG emissions, while also delivering major co-benefits for public health through improvements to dietary risk factors and reduced deaths due to unbalanced diets.



In 2021, consumption of red meat and dairy led to emissions of 0.87 tCO₂e per person, 60% of total emissions using consumption-based accounting. In that year, production of red meat and dairy led to emissions of 0.67 tCO₂e per person, accounting for 78% of all agriculture production-related emissions (indicator 3.3.1).

2000

In 2021, 2,000 deaths were associated with excessive consumption of red meat and dairy, which accounted for half of all diet-related deaths in Norway that year (indicator 3.3.2).

MARINE FOOD SECURITY

Climate change is compromising marine resources through higher coastal sea surface temperatures, reduced oxygenation, ocean acidification, and coral reef bleaching.



From 2021–2023, average coastal temperature exceeded the 1981–2010 average by approximately 0.65°C (indicator 1.4.2). This shift underscores the threat to Norway's marine food security induced by climate change.

Heat, health, and economic impacts

With increasing global temperatures due to climate change, even countries with cold climates like Norway are experiencing the impacts of heat. Heat exposure limits labour productivity, which undermines livelihoods and the social determinants of health.

133,500 potential labour hours were lost due to heat exposure in 2023, an increase of 19% from the 1990–1999 average (indicator 1.1.3).

US\$4 million was the potential income lost from labour capacity reduction due to heat in 2023 (indicator 4.1.3).



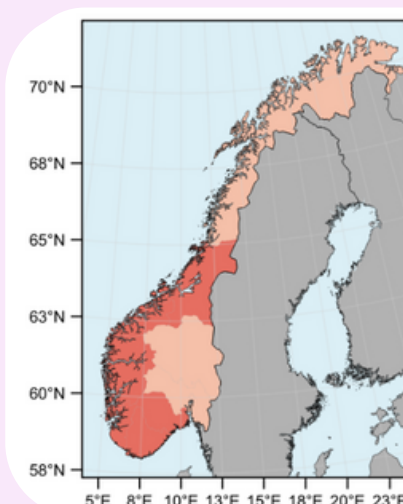
Construction workers were hit the hardest, seeing 78% of the potential hours lost (indicator 1.1.3) and similarly 78% of the potential income losses in 2023, amounting to over US\$3.2 million in 2023 (indicator 4.1.3).

Vulnerability to vector-borne disease

There is a rising trend in tick climatic suitability. *Ixodes ricinus* ticks are the dominant European tick species associated with the transmission of pathogens, including for *Borrelia burgdorferi* causing Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis.

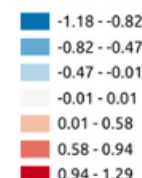


Norway witnessed an increase in months suitable for *Ixodes ricinus* nymph feeding activity when comparing 1951–60 with 2013–22, extending the period of suitable activity by 0.54 months from 1.95 to 2.49 months (indicator 1.3.6).**



CLIMATIC SUITABILITY FOR *IXODES RICINUS* BY NUTS3 REGIONS IN NORWAY. ORANGE-SHADED AREAS REPRESENT SUITABILITY CHANGE.**

Absolute change (month) of *Ixodes ricinus* climatic suitability between 1951–1960 and 2013–2022



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LANCETCOUNTDOWN.ORG

* Romanello M, Walawender M, Hsu SC et al. The 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: Facing record-breaking threats from delayed action. Lancet 2024; published online October 2024. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(24\)01822-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)01822-1)

** van Daalen KR, Tonne C, Semenza JC et al. The 2024 Europe report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: Unprecedented warming demands unprecedented action. The Lancet Public Health. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(24\)00055-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(24)00055-0)

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