LANCET COUNTDOWN: TRACKING PROGRESS ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
In collaboration with Wellcome

A decade tracking progress on health and climate change

NORWAY

LANCET COUNTDOWN ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
DATA SHEET 2026

Health and Climate Change in Norway

The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change tracks the connections between health and climate change. In its tenth iteration, the 2026 Global Report shows that the health impacts of climate change have escalated and frequently accelerated in the decade since the Paris Agreement came into force.

This document presents key country-level findings from the 2026 Lancet Countdown report for Norway.

Norway's electricity is almost entirely low-carbon, but fossil fuels still dominate road transport, household use of polluting biomass is rising, and preparedness for the low-carbon transition has weakened.

Norway has made some progress in reducing food-related emissions and deaths linked to eating too few plant-based foods. However, red meat and dairy still account for most food-related emissions, and deaths linked to eating too much red meat, processed meat and dairy are rising.

Warming coastal waters are rapidly expanding the length of Norway's coastline suitable for Vibrio transmission, with estimated vibriosis cases rising sharply as a result.

Air Pollution, Energy Transition, and Health Co-benefits

Fossil fuel combustion contributes to harmful air pollution, increasing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and premature mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Norway's annual mean concentration of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) was 6 $\mu g/m^3$, exceeding the WHO's recommended annual guideline of 5 $\mu g/m^3$.[1] Reducing dependence on polluting fuels – particularly in households and road transport - can improve air quality and protect health, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2023, the carbon intensity of Norway's energy system decreased to 30.4 tCO_2/TJ, which is 8.5% lower than in 2016. Low-carbon sources (which includes hydropower) accounted for 48% of total energy supply and 98.3% of electricity generation. (Indicator 3.1.1)

In 2023, 82.5% of household energy came from electricity; however, 13% came from biomass – which is a 16% increase from 2016. (Indicator 3.1.2)

In 2023, fossil fuels still accounted for 81.3% of all road transport energy, and electricity accounted for about 7% (even though Norway leads the world in electric car sales).[2] (Indicator 3.1.3)

Norway had a net-negative carbon revenue in 2024, indicating that carbon prices were lower than fossil fuel subsidies. The country saw a net subsidy of US$3 billion, which is equivalent to about 6% of the national health budget. (Indicator 4.3.2)

Diet and Health

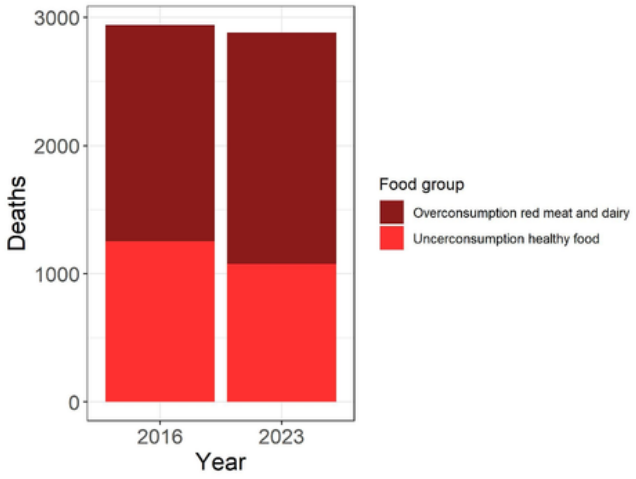
Diets high in red and processed meat and dairy, and low in plant-based foods, increase the risk of chronic disease and drive greenhouse gas emissions. In Norway, shifting towards healthier, more plant-rich diets can improve health and cut emissions.

The emissions associated with demand for agricultural food products decreased by 4.3% between 2016 and 2023. Red meat and dairy emissions decreased by 13% in the same time period and accounted for 61% of all consumption-related emissions in 2023. (Indicator 3.3.1)

1,800

In 2023, 1,100 deaths were linked to not eating enough healthy plant-based foods, such as fruits, vegetables, beans, whole grains, nuts, and seeds, down from 1,300 in 2016. Another 1,800 deaths were linked to eating excessive dairy, red meat, and processed meat, an increase of 7% (100 deaths) from 2016. (Indicator 3.3.2)

The graph shows the number of deaths attributable to dietary imbalances in 2016 and 2023 - namely high intake of red meat and dairy and low intake of nutritious plant-based foods.



Vulnerability to Infectious Diseases

Climate change is increasing the suitability for transmission of vector-, food-, and water-borne diseases. In Norway, changing temperature and precipitation patterns are expanding the risk zones for vibriosis and other climate-sensitive diseases.

The length of coast suitable for *Vibrio* transmission was 66% greater in 2025 than in the 1982 to 1991 baseline, reaching 1,400 km. Estimated vibriosis cases have increased 80.3% since 1982 to 1991, reaching an annual average of 1,300 cases in 2016 to 2025. (Indicator 1.3.6)

Romanello M, Walawender M, Israelsson J et al. The 2026 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: A decade of escalating health harms and a decisive moment for all. The Lancet 2026; published online October 2026. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(26)01779-4
1. World Health Organization (2023). Health and environment scorecard: Norway
2. FuelCellsWorks (2026). Norway's EV share hits 97.6 percent as Toyota and Xpeng shake up July sales rankings. Available at: (Accessed: 19 October 2026)