

Skisser til Forskningscenter for miljøvennlig energi innen samfunnsrettet forskning (FME Samfunn) 2026

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364094	INN	Bård Tronvoll	FME CENTR: Center for Energy Transition Research
364109	UiA	Mikaela Vasstrøm	FME JUSTRENEW: The Norwegian Centre of Just Renewable Energy Transitions
364110	UiO	Rolf Golombek	FME ACCEPT: Center for Socially Acceptable Energy Transitions
364113	SINTEF	Judith Thomsen	FME Saturn: Centre of energy sufficiency studies
364114	UiT	Berit Kristoffersen	FME Empower Arctic: Centre for Inclusive and Effective Energy Transitions at the Frontline
364116	UiO	Beate Seibt	FME WeEnergize: Building municipal and neighbourhood agency for a just and resilient energy transition
364123	NTNU	Tomas Moe Skjølvold	FME CREATE: Centre for Resilience & Enabling Transformation in Energy
364127	UiO	Per Gunnar Røe	FME Robin: Robust infrastructures for just energy transitions
364133	Cicero	Merethe Dotterud Leiren	FME SESAM: Senter for energipolitikk og samfunnsomstilling i turbulente tider
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364093 FME BRIDGE

Skissetittel	FME BRIDGE: Enabling a just, socially acceptable, and nature-positive energy transition
Prosjektansvarlig	NIVA
Kontaktperson	Inga Fløisand
Partnere	SINTEF Ocean; SINTEF Energy; Akvaplan-niva; Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet), Groningen Centre of Energy Law and Sustainability (GCELS), Equinor, Deep Wind Offshore, Source Galileo Norge, JNBP, Norwegian Offshore Wind, Utsira Kommune
Sammendrag	
<p>BRIDGE aims to strengthen Norway's ability to carry out a just, socially acceptable and nature-positive energy transition. The Centre brings together research across governance levels, sectors and disciplines to understand why conflicts arise, what drives trust, and how planning and decision-making can become more predictable and robust. By combining synthesis, analysis of key enablers and barriers, and system-level insights, BRIDGE will develop practical knowledge, tools and learning processes that support authorities, industry and communities in navigating the transition. The Centre provides a long-term platform for shared learning, capacity building and better coordination, helping Norway manage energy expansion in ways that safeguard both societal values and nature.</p>	

364094 FME CENTR

Skissetittel	FME CENTR: Center for Energy Transition Research
Prosjektansvarlig	Universitetet i Innlandet
Kontaktperson	Bård Tronvoll
Partnere	Nord University, University of South-East Norway, IFE, Statnett, counties, municipalities, industry parks, and businesses
Sammendrag	
<p>Norway's energy transition is marked by accelerating electricity demand, long lead times for grid expansion, and rising expectations for resilience. The Centre positions the region as the critical arena where these challenges converge and where capacity constraints, industrial expansion, and social acceptance issues are most acutely experienced. By adopting a business lens on regional issues, the Centre generates decision-relevant, empirically grounded knowledge on how municipalities, regional authorities, grid operators, and firms coordinate investments and operational choices under constraints. Its core contribution is to advance a "better use first" principle, emphasizing energy efficiency, demand-side flexibility, and the optimized use of existing infrastructure before large-scale grid or generation investments. The Centre develops analytical</p>	

tools and business models to assess the system value of distributed generation, storage, and flexibility services, and to identify governance, regulatory, and tariff designs that enable co-investment and local energy sharing. It addresses the social foundations of renewable energy deployment by examining fairness, participation, and benefit-sharing mechanisms that can reduce conflict and enhance legitimacy, particularly as opposition to wind and solar expansion grows. Regional living labs serve as long-term arenas for experimentation, enabling systematic evaluation of preparedness measures, decentralized production, and local flexibility solutions.

364109 FME JustReNew

Skissetittel	The Norwegian Centre of Just Renewable Energy Transitions
Prosjektansvarlig	UiA
Kontaktperson	Mikaela Vasstrøm
Partnere	NORCE, UiB, NTNU, NMBU, FNI, UiS, HVL
Sammendrag	
<p>JUSTRENEW – the Norwegian Centre for Just Renewable Energy Transitions – addresses a critical and urgent challenge in Norwegian energy and climate policy: how to realize the transition to a decarbonized society while safeguarding social justice across different scales and territories. Norwegian energy transitions are characterized by increasing tensions between ambitious climate and energy targets of more efficient renewable deployment, decarbonization, and energy security, and growing public resistance, political polarization, and territorial conflicts related to democracy, justice and environmental concerns. The deployment of renewable energy in Norway thus poses both complex dilemmas and valuable opportunities and has implications for actors and institutions at local, regional, national and global levels. How such tensions and dilemmas of renewable energy manifest, and the potential opportunities and implications for just transitions are highly variegated in different territorial contexts as well as correlated with political and institutional scalar configurations. If energy transitions are perceived to be unjust or democratically deficient, they risk generating backlash, delaying deployment, and undermining trust in public institutions. While there is increasing support in public institutions and the private sector for the normative goals of achieving just and democratic transitions, there are persistent contradictions, controversies and tradeoffs between energy, climate and industrial policies. JUSTRENEW approaches these tensions not as irresolvable contradictions, but on the contrary as potentially reconcilable and mutually supportive aims. Theoretical advancement, methodological innovation and co creative empirical exploration are sorely needed to address how scalar configurations and territorial contexts can identify both the conditions and new alternatives to advance just and democratic energy transitions. The Centre is grounded in the recognition that renewable energy transition must be just, democratic and generate societal value and this requires recognizing the role of scale and context. Achieving a just renewable energy transition is entirely possible, but demands careful policymaking, inclusive dialogues between different partners and actors, and robust scientific research informed by practical knowledge.</p>	

364110 ACCEPT

Skissetittel	Center for Socially Acceptable Energy Transitions
Prosjektansvarlig	UiO
Kontaktperson	Rolf Golombek
Partnere	CICERO, Frischsenteret, NMBU, SINTEF Energi, TØI, UiB, UiO, University of Helsinki (Department of Economics and Management), University of California, Santa Barbara (Department of Political Science)
Sammendrag	
<p>En vellykket omstilling fra fossilbaserte energisystemer til lavutslippsløsninger for å nå ambisiøse energi- og klimamål krever solid kunnskap om hvordan energi- og klimapolitiske virkemidler påvirker atferd, fordeling og politisk støtte. Det overordnede målet med Center for Socially Acceptable Energy Transitions (ACCEPT) er å styrke kunnskapsgrunnlaget for hvordan omstillingen til et lavutslippssamfunn i Norge kan akselereres gjennom å utvikle ny og politisk relevant kunnskap om effekter av energi- og klimapolitiske virkemidler og deres politiske bærekraft. Senteret vil analysere hvordan energi- og klimapolitikk påvirker individer, arbeidstakere, husholdninger og bedrifter; hvilke økonomiske og fordelingsmessige konsekvenser de har; og hvordan disse konsekvensene former legitimitet og politisk oppslutning. Komparative studier vil sette norske erfaringer i et internasjonalt perspektiv og identifisere institusjonelle og politiske faktorer som forklarer likheter og forskjeller mellom land. ACCEPT vil benytte en rekke kvalitative og kvantitative tilnærminger. Senteret vil spesielt utnytte den rike tilgangen på detaljert informasjon om individer og bedrifter i Norge for å identifisere atferdsmessige, fordelingsmessige og politiske effekter av miljøvennlig energipolitikk. Gjennom politikkrelevante forskningsaktiviteter vil ACCEPT bira til å styrke kunnskapsgrunnlaget for å realisere en demokratisk og rettfærdig energiomstilling mot et lavutslippssamfunn.</p>	

364113 Saturn

Skissetittel	Centre of energy sufficiency studies
Prosjektansvarlig	SINTEF
Kontaktperson	Judith Thomsen
Partnere	NTNU Social Research, SINTEF Energy Research, NTNU Faculty of Architecture, Menon Economic Research, Joanneum Research, Trøndelag County, NTNU Property Division, Trondheim Municipality, Hovinbyen sirkulær Oslo, Aurskog- Høland Municipality, Høylandet Municipality

Sammendrag
<p>Norway’s energy transition is increasingly a question of societal energy choices. Electrification, digitalisation and the emergence of new energy-intensive industries are rapidly increasing electricity demand, while expanding energy production and grid infrastructure is constrained by land use, nature protection and social legitimacy. The transition is therefore not only about supplying more clean energy, but about governing how limited energy resources are prioritised across sectors and societal goals. FME SATURN addresses this challenge by placing societal energy prioritisation at the centre of the energy transition. The centre’s vision is to strengthen societal resilience to energy scarcity by developing legitimate approaches to prioritising energy use within sustainable limits while maintaining well-being, economic activity and democratic legitimacy. Energy sufficiency – reducing and managing energy demand when supply cannot meet all needs – is a central concept to this effort. The centre will generate new knowledge on how energy demand is understood in society, how energy prioritisation can be governed across sectors and governance levels, and how sufficiency strategies can be implemented in practice. Five research areas address sufficiency thresholds, social drivers of demand, governance and planning frameworks, economic and system implications, and real-world experimentation through strategic cases.</p>

364114 FME Empower Artic

Skissetittel	Centre for Inclusive and Effective Energy Transitions at the Frontline
Prosjektansvarlig	UiT
Kontaktperson	Berit Kristoffersen
Partnere	Sámi allaskuvla (SAMAS), The University centre in Svalbard (UNIS), Nordland Research Institute (NFORSK), Nord University, NORCE, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), University of Saskatchewan (USask), Luleå University of Technology (LTU), Protect Sápmi, Finnmark Fylkeskommune, Nordland Fylkeskommune, Troms Fylkeskommune, Bodø kommune, Tromsø Kommune, Lofotrådet, Øst- Finnmarkrådet, Energi i Nord, Equinor, Fornybar Norge, Troms Kraft, Finnmark Kraft, Varanger Kraft, Lofotkraft, Store Norske, Aurora Renewables, SaskPower
Sammendrag	<p>Energy security in the Norwegian High North is part of national security; a successful energy transition is therefore essential for Norway’s future resilience. Globally, renewable energy expansion raises concerns about justice and security, as dilemmas of low-carbon energy transitions go unresolved. Norway faces similar challenges and its transition is deeply contested. A just and successful energy transition in Norway must align national climate and security priorities with Indigenous, local, and regional needs, supported by robust regional impact assessments and a “whole of community approach” (WOCA) to energy decisions. Legitimate and efficient energy</p>

transitions support sustainable, local and regional economic development and deliver equitable value for Indigenous and non- Indigenous communities. To achieve this requires a centre rooted in the North, by for the North, and for the North, with international partners who embrace these shared goals. The Empower Arctic research centre unites Northern Norway’s research, education, public, and industry partners to identify fair and efficient solutions for green energy transitions that balance regional and national priorities. The Centre employs interdisciplinary, social science methodologies to outline the processes, structures, and knowledge systems needed to enable legitimate and efficient energy transitions. The key goal is to generate research-based knowledge to guide energy intervention strategies aligned with Norway’s climate targets, while supporting local and regional economic development, and delivering equitable value for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, ensuring no one is left behind. Empower Arctic, therefore, will contribute to building capacity among rights holders, public authorities and energy companies, for improved decision-making processes in Norway. In strengthening the engagement processes that are consistent with Sámi rights, the Centre aims to provide a replicable model for legitimate, nature-positive energy transitions. The Centre’s trilingual approach (Northern Sámi, Norwegian, and English) ensures inclusivity and accessibility.

364116 WeEnergize

Skissetittel	Building municipal and neighbourhood agency for a just and resilient energy transition
Prosjektansvarlig	UiO
Kontaktperson	Beate Seibt
Partnere	NTNU Samfunnforskning, Smart Innovation Norway, IFE, Norsk Regnesentral, USN, NORSUS, 11 municipalities + KS, 2 clusters of 6 municipalities, 3 counties, and 11 industry-partners
Sammendrag	
<p>Norwegian municipalities are simultaneously the critical bottleneck and the key resource in Norway's energy transition. They must translate ambitious national climate and energy goals into local action through planning, infrastructure, procurement, and citizen engagement, while navigating growing local resistance to new energy infrastructure and new demands for energy security and preparedness in an increasingly electrified society. WeEnergize develops research-based knowledge, processes and practical tools to equip municipalities for this role, structured around three interlocking focus areas: (1) ENeighborhood: local energy communities, citizen engagement, and local market mechanisms; (2) EMunicipality: municipal governance, planning, and management of flexibility in municipal buildings and infrastructure; and (3) EResilience: energy security, critical infrastructure, island operation, robust and resilient society.</p> <p>The trans-disciplinary centre integrates social science, energy system competence, and computational research with pilots in municipalities across Norway, in collaboration with grid companies and industry. Through a national action research and learning network, insights from</p>	

pilots become lasting resources for the whole sector, supporting Norway's energy policy goals: sufficient, secure, and sustainable energy that enables municipalities, businesses, and households to thrive in a low emission society.

364123 FME CREATE

Skissetittel	Centre for Resilience & Enabling Transformation in Energy
Prosjektansvarlig	NTNU
Kontaktperson	Tomas Moe Skjølsvold
Partnere	NTNU (KULT, Ind øk, psychology, electrical energy), SINTEF (Digital, Community, Energy), NHH, NUPI, IFE, Vestlandsforskning, and a strong set of societal partners incl. municipalities (Trondheim, Indre Fosen, Lillestrøm, Kristiansund), regional authorities (Trøndelag, Østfold), public agencies (NVE, Enova), industry clusters (Thamsklyngen), civil society organisations (Tekna, Huseierne, Naturvernforbundet) and energy actors (including Statkraft)
Sammendrag	<p>FME CREATE (Centre for Resilience & Enabling Transformation in Energy) will strengthen Norway's capacity to navigate the energy transition in a period marked by geopolitical tension, climate change and rising preparedness demands in the face of potential armed conflict and climate-related disruptions. The centre addresses a core challenge: how to make and implement robust energy decisions when goals related to climate, nature, cost and security increasingly collide. This includes decisions on grid expansion versus local acceptance, prioritisation of electricity between sectors, and trade-offs between industrial development and environmental concerns. CREATE is built around a dual ambition. First, transition resilience: improving decision-making under uncertainty through tools such as scenario-based stress tests, governance maps and risk assessments. Second, societal transformation through the energy transition: enabling changes in practices, markets and value chains, while strengthening capacity among public and private actors to act as effective transition agents. The research is organised into six areas: politics and framework conditions (RA1), conflict and compromise (RA2), economy, finance and modelling (RA3), innovation across systems (RA4), scenarios and stress testing (RA5), and action-oriented labs (RA6). These are applied to shared cases across the energy system, from production and grids to industry, transport and buildings, anchored in regional clusters. Through coproduction with public authorities, industry and civil society, CREATE will deliver decision support, tested methods and scenario-based guidance, while building partner capacity for planning and investment. This will help Norway meet energy, climate and nature goals while maintaining preparedness and long-term competitiveness.</p>

364127 FME Robin

Skissetittel	Robust infrastructures for just energy transitions
Prosjektansvarlig	UiO
Kontaktperson	Per Gunnar Røe
Partnere	UiO, UiB, NTNU, CICERO, FNI, NIBR/OsloMet, Durham University (DU), Lund University (LU), and user partners from private, public and voluntary sectors
Sammendrag	
<p>The aim of FME Robin is to generate cutting edge, policy-relevant knowledge, and solutions to support Norway in developing robust infrastructures that enable just energy transitions. We apply a broad understanding of infrastructure, including both material/technical systems and immaterial/social networks and structures, as well as how these are interwoven. Through the concept of 'robust', we foreground a defining challenge: energy infrastructures must be able to adapt to emerging challenges and maintain their core functions, while respecting sustainability constraints and planetary boundaries. Robustness is also a matter of social justice: energy policies, technologies and systems must be perceived as legitimate and acceptable across diverse interest groups in order to be socially robust. Research tasks will be organised in three thematic research areas (RAs): RA1: Energy in society, focusing on built environments, local communities, industries and households that create demand for energy; RA2: Energy systems, studying the energy systems that secure energy supply; and RA3: Energy Futures, exploring novel ways to envisage possible just energy futures. Complementing and enabling cross-fertilisation across the RAs, we will foster analysis along three cross-cutting dimensions: 1) Power relations, Governance and Institutions; 2) Industry, Production and Work; 3) Welfare, Legitimacy and Trust. Through close collaboration between leading research institutions and strategically selected user partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors, FME Robin will solve challenges, create innovative strategies and produce new knowledge for the development of robust infrastructures for socially just energy transitions.</p>	

364133 FME SESAM

Skissetittel	Senter for energipolitikk og samfunnsomstilling i turbulente tider
Prosjektansvarlig	CICERO
Kontaktperson	Merethe Dotterud Leiren
Partnere	Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), University of Oslo (UiO), RURALIS, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), European University Institute (EUI-FSR), NVE, LNVK, Hafslund, Huseierne, Innlandet fk, NBBL, Norsk varme, Naturvernforbundet, Norsk Hydro, Bellona, Samfunnsbedriftene, Borregård, Å Energi, Fornybar Norge, Trøndelag fk, Kraftkompetanse, Kraftfylka,

	Distriktsenergi, Nordpool, Elvia, LO, Tibber, Statkraft, SoCentral, Telemark fk
Sammendrag	
<p>SESAM develops knowledge and tools for holistic policy-making that can drive the green energy transition in a rapidly changing European context. At the intersection of national priorities, European frameworks and local interests, complex political dynamics create new challenges and opportunities for effective governance of the energy transition. The Centre identifies the institutional, political, economic, environmental and social conditions for value-enhancing, resilient and legitimate solutions and decision-making processes. By fostering an informed public debate, SESAM contributes to secure broad support for transformative energy policies across levels and stakeholders. Bringing together leading researchers in political science, law, economics, energy systems analysis, geography and sociology, SESAM offers a comprehensive social-science perspective on the energy system – supported by skilled communicators with strong track records in public engagement and dissemination in energy, climate and nature topics.</p>	

364135 FME CHIEF

Skissetittel	Center for Histories of Imagined Energy Futures
Prosjektansvarlig	UiS
Kontaktperson	Dolly Jørgensen
Partnere	NTNU; Norsk Teknisk Museum, Norsk Oljemuseum; Stavanger kunstmuseum; NVE; Arven; Vest-telemark museum ; Norsk Industriarbeidermuseum University of Aberdeen, University of Bristol, Utrecht University
Sammendrag	
<p>CHIEF brings together academic and cultural heritage sector partners to strengthen citizen involvement in energy choices. The Center research focuses on visions of energy futures in both the past and present to reveal how imagination has affected energy cultures historically and how it can foster the necessary green energy transitions of the future. Working with partners in the cultural heritage sector, CHIEF will study energy futures as historical phenomena that have been imagined, promoted, contested, and abandoned at different points in time. This research will strengthen the knowledge base for ongoing and future energy transitions in Norway. Past energy transitions demonstrate that the imaginaries that accompany – and enable – new energy systems are fundamental components of the transition process. We will then deploy these researched narratives of past energy futures to study how we can increase citizen engagement by actively involving citizens in creating visions of their own energy futures and challenging their attitudes through collaboration with our user partners.</p>	