



Research-based policy advice

Providing policy advice is set to become an increasingly important part of Nordic Energy Research's activities. Our main contribution to Nordic policy-making is our new flagship project "Nordic Energy Technology Perspectives" where we cooperate with the International Energy Agency. The project will present scenario-based technology pathways towards a carbon-neutral Nordic energy and transport system in 2050. This will provide Nordic policy-makers with a common platform for strategic decisions on energy technology policy. Cooperating with such an influential actor on the global energy

policy scene represents a unique opportunity to assess the Nordic policy framework. At the same time the project has provided a unique platform for top-level Nordic researchers to work together with experts at the International Energy Agency.

In addition we carry out a number of the Nordic Council of Ministers' energy technology policy-related initiatives, such as the Energy & Transport Programme. We also act as secretariat for Nordic working groups that provide advice to the energy ministers of the Nordic countries.

Vision

The Nordic region shall consolidate and develop its position as a leading region for new sustainable energy solutions and efficient and well-functioning energy markets.

Mission

The aim of Nordic Energy Research is to fund and promote Nordic cooperation within energy research and make a significant contribution to energy policymaking.

Bridging Sustainable Solutions

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Nordic Energy Research is the platform for joint Nordic energy research and policy development under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers. We promote cooperation in research and policy that adds value to the national initiatives in the Nordic countries. Through 25 years of action, Nordic Energy Research has built strong networks both among researchers and between researchers and policy-makers. Hundreds of PhDs have been awarded as part of the Nordic projects.

Knowledge production is a social process, and Nordic Energy Research offers networks where researchers can interact on a transnational level. This opportunity is highly appreciated by Nordic researchers, a point confirmed by external evaluations of our activities.

Our strategy is to continue to be a bridge builder with a strong focus on sustainable solutions.

We fund R&D to promote a sustainable future

The Nordic region has ambitious goals to reduce carbon emissions and its dependence on fossil fuels, and at the same time create new growth industries based on green

technology. Nordic Energy Research funds research of joint Nordic interest that supports these ambitions by expanding knowledge on sustainable energy and contributing to the development of new, competitive energy solutions.

We contribute to policy making

Nordic Energy Research has a unique strength in that our governance structure is closely connected to both the national political systems of the five Nordic countries as well as the Nordic system. Our board and other committees and project steering groups consist not only of representatives from national funding agencies, but also from national energy authorities, ministries and the Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat. This creates a constant interaction between research strategies, results and key issues on the political agenda. These areas are strongly interdependent. The fact that Nordic Energy Research represents this connection is pivotal and will be central for the further development of Nordic energy Research.

Grand challenges of climate change defines our strategy

The global community is facing Grand Challenges within energy and climate. To respond effectively, research and policy efforts must be prioritised to provide sustainable solutions that can assist in the development of carbon-neutral societies.

All five Nordic countries have forward-looking political agendas to achieve sustainable energy systems. Many aim for carbon-neutral societies by 2050. These agendas imply substantial changes in all aspects of the Nordic energy and transport systems over the next years, and create considerable potential for economic growth through the development and implementation of the necessary solutions. Energy issues cannot be tackled in isolation – the European Strategic Energy

Technology Plan (SET-plan) sees climate protection, technological innovation, policy and competitive economic development as integrated elements in the broader energy challenge.

There is a huge potential for integrating and aligning technical developments and public policies in order to reach climate goals, and this constitutes a tremendous strategic opportunity for the Nordic countries as a region.

On this basis, Nordic Energy Research has developed a strategy providing the direction and priorities for the period 2011 to 2014. The strategy has a strong focus, limiting the thematic area to one overruling theme of Sustainable Energy Systems.

Strategic research programme 2011–2014

Every four years Nordic Energy Research launches a new strategic research programme. This is the most important instrument we have in reaching our strategic goals.

This research programme, “Sustainable Energy Systems 2050”, links research to the long-term climate goals of the Nordic countries. The programme has a total budget of 137 million NOK over 4 years. 100 million NOK is provided by Nordic Energy Research, the rest from external partners.

Applications for the programme totalled over 1 billion NOK. This represents an application success rate below 10%, emphasising the quality and relevance

of the projects selected for funding. It also demonstrates the research community’s vivid interest in Nordic collaboration. All five Nordic countries are represented among the projects’ research partners, which also include European contributors.

80% of the funded projects have participation from industry. This adds relevance to research from an innovation perspective, and promotes the competitiveness of Nordic energy solutions on the global market.



**Sustainable Energy
Systems 2050**
NORDIC ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAMME