

Climate change, community response and multilevel governance

A Nordic network

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How can learning across scales foster community response to climate change?



Photo: Peter Rudberg

Regional cooperation at the subnational level is a key concern in climate adaptation, for example in securing Stockholm's water quality.



Photo: Hannu Heikinen

Climate vulnerability needs to be analyzed in context of socio-economic development, here illustrated by winter tourism in Kuusamo, Finland.



National strategies are important but not sufficient for local adaptation planning.

Key findings from three Nordic countries

- The international focus on mitigation in climate policy has delayed attention to adaptation, but experiences of vulnerability have opened a policy window for starting the discussion.
- Placing adaptation on local agendas requires networks that cut across governance levels, including regional capacity and responsibility.
- National adaptation policy initiatives are necessary but not sufficient for local adaptation responses.
- In Nordic peripheral regions, local adaptive capacity is often linked to the ability to compete in market-based systems, including economic resources, technology, and infrastructure.

Extreme weather, flooding and landslides have increased the need for local responses to climate change in Nordic countries. Communities rely on local knowledge about weather vulnerability but are also dependent on national priorities and scientific knowledge about future climate change. Our network highlights

•Nordic-relevant criteria for adaptive capacity by comparing local case studies of vulnerability and adaptation.

•conditions for learning by examining how national support for local climate responses has developed in Finland, Norway and Sweden.



Heavy rainfall contributed to the Hatlestad mud and rock slide in Norway in 2005.



The result of two months worth of rain in a few weeks. Gothenburg, Sweden in December 2006.



The storm Gudrun in January 2005 showed Sweden's vulnerability to extreme weather.

Publications in progress:

Nilsson, A.E., Eckerberg, K., Peltonen, L., Juhola, S., Haanpää, S., Husabø, I., Aall, C. 'The emergence of climate adaptation policy in three Nordic countries.'

Keskitalo, C., Aall, C., Dannevig, H., Hovelsrud, G., West, J., Gerger Swartling, Å.: 'Community vulnerability and adaptive capacity in industrial states. Examples from Fennoscandia and Russia.'

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