

NORWAY'S PATH TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY

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Which SDG does your project relate to?



Sustainable Development Goal 7
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



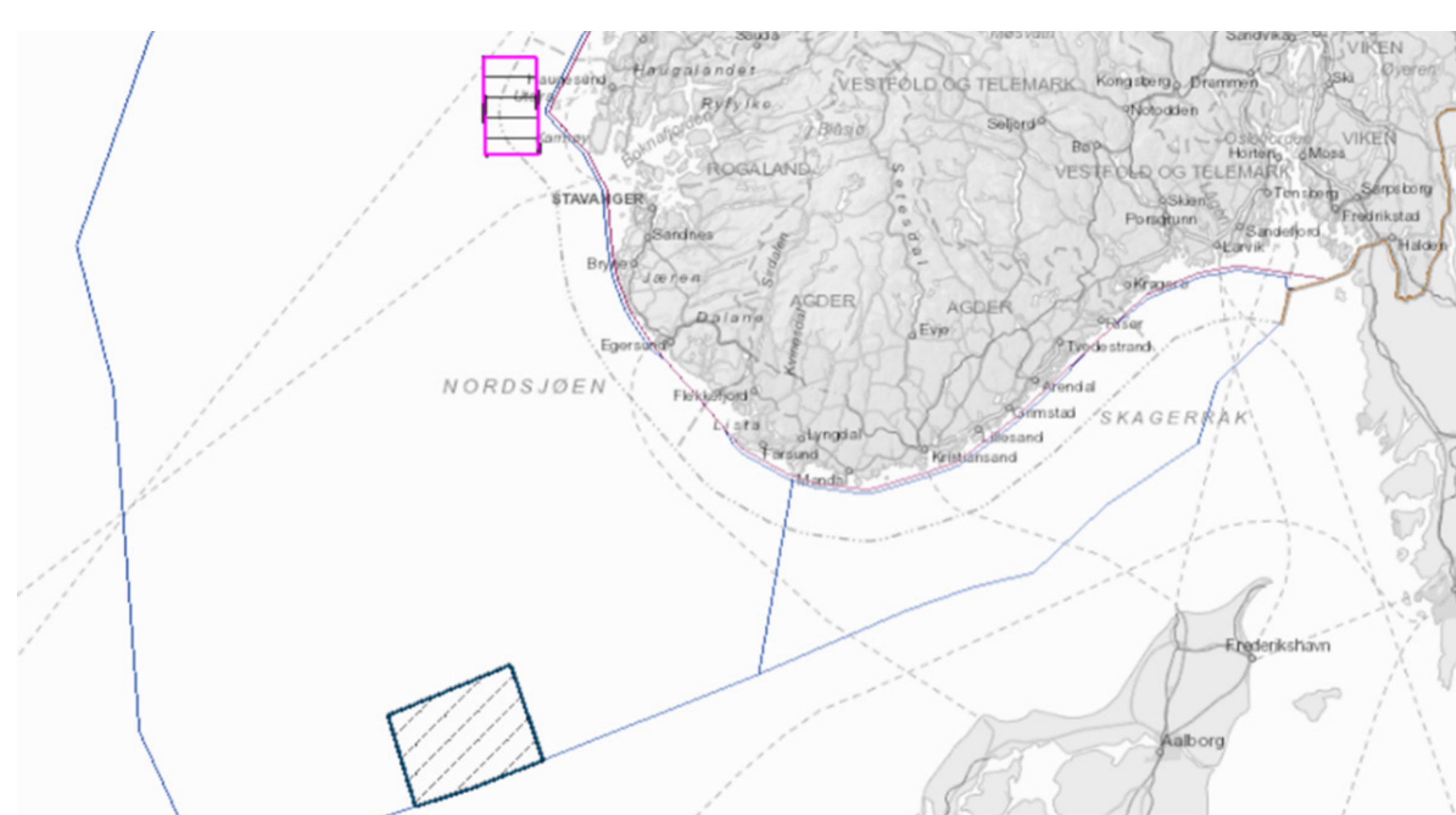
Sustainable Development Goal 13
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



What is the concrete problem you have worked with?

What are Norway's political ambitions within offshore wind energy, given the country's natural resource abundance, fiscal strength, and commitment to international climate change action? Norway is one of the richest countries in the world per capita, has highly developed state functions, and has very rich geographical resources. Norway has one of the world's largest territorial ocean lines which is also the windiest in the world. Are Norwegian politicians doing enough to develop its ocean riches?

The project concludes that the Norwegian political ambitions related to offshore wind energy have been weak. This argument is based on a two-folded explanation. In short term, the state has focused heavily on oil and gas, which has been an economic fairy-tale. Modern energy alternatives, such as offshore wind energy, has not yet been able to compete with the oil and gas industries. In long term, Norway is a highly bureaucratic state and tends to use a long time with policy reforms. Whilst the oil and gas industry are highly regulated, offshore wind energy is still in the early phases of government policy planning with currently only a few test spaces open to the industry.



What is your solution to the problem?

The UK and Denmark are amongst the leading countries on offshore wind energy, although Norway is considered one of the countries with the most potential within this energy industry.

The solution is about systemic changes and political will to act on offshore wind energy development. More licenses need to be opened, and the industry still needs economic injections, as the Norwegian market is in the early stages with only a few active projects. In Norway, offshore wind energy is currently in its pilot phases to electrify the oil platforms. This is seen as a major contribution to cutting greenhouse gasses without major changes in our society or way of life. Whilst this can be a smart way of fast-tracking to many offshore wind projects in Norway, there are also solutions to use the power generation for new energy-demanding industries on land, or, connecting the offshore wind energy to the power grid to Europe which can help replace coal in Europe.

