

Nordic Energy Efficiency Conference Oslo 2025

Keynote

Kjetil Lund

Director

The Norwegian Water Resources and
Energy Directorate (NVE)



Summary and key takeaways

Keynote address “Energy efficiency first”

Kjetil Lund, Director, The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)

Keynote speaker Kjetil Lund opened with this statement from the International Energy Agency's (IEA) "Energy Efficiency 2022" report: 37% of all emission reductions needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 must come from energy efficiency measures. He noted that this is consistent with the sustainable development goals from the UN that energy efficiency must more than double its place to avoid severe climate change. Further he noted that the Norwegian parliament has ambitious goals towards climate efficiency and pointed out that the parliament has voted in favour of 10 TWh in energy savings from real estate within 2030. However, he warned that progress is lacking as Norway has only reached one-third of the goal and spent two-thirds of the time budget.

He also underscored that energy efficiency measures are crucial for minimizing unnecessary investments in energy and grid infrastructure, which would otherwise put additional strain on natural resources and that energy efficiency can be an effective tool against a polarized energy debate. Furthermore, Lund acknowledged energy efficiency as an important tool for security policy as it makes us more independent and self-reliant on energy.

Lund questioned why energy efficiency receives less attention than solar power and other technologies. He proposed three explanations:

1. Energy efficiency is not a Single-Action Solution
Energy efficiency is not a one-time fix but rather a combination of numerous short- and long-term measures. This complexity makes it harder to communicate.
2. Lack of Political Appeal
“High energy prices often drive investment in energy efficiency, but this makes it less politically attractive to promote compared to solutions that promise immediate innovation or economic growth”. He noted that there are no strong and collective interest groups lobbying for energy efficiency in the same way that such interest can line up in favour of certain technologies.
3. Complexity and Market Barriers
Improving energy use is hindered by market failures. Such as long payback periods discourage investment, especially for renters or short-term homeowners. Unlike one-time technological fixes, efficiency requires a mix of short- and long-term strategies. Financial constraints often make the initial investment challenging, even when long-term savings are substantial.

Key Takeaways:

- Energy efficiency should be recognized as a cornerstone of climate and energy security strategies.
- Despite strong economic rationale, barriers like capital costs can slow adoption.
- Energy efficiency is crucial to avoid polarization and unnecessary investments.

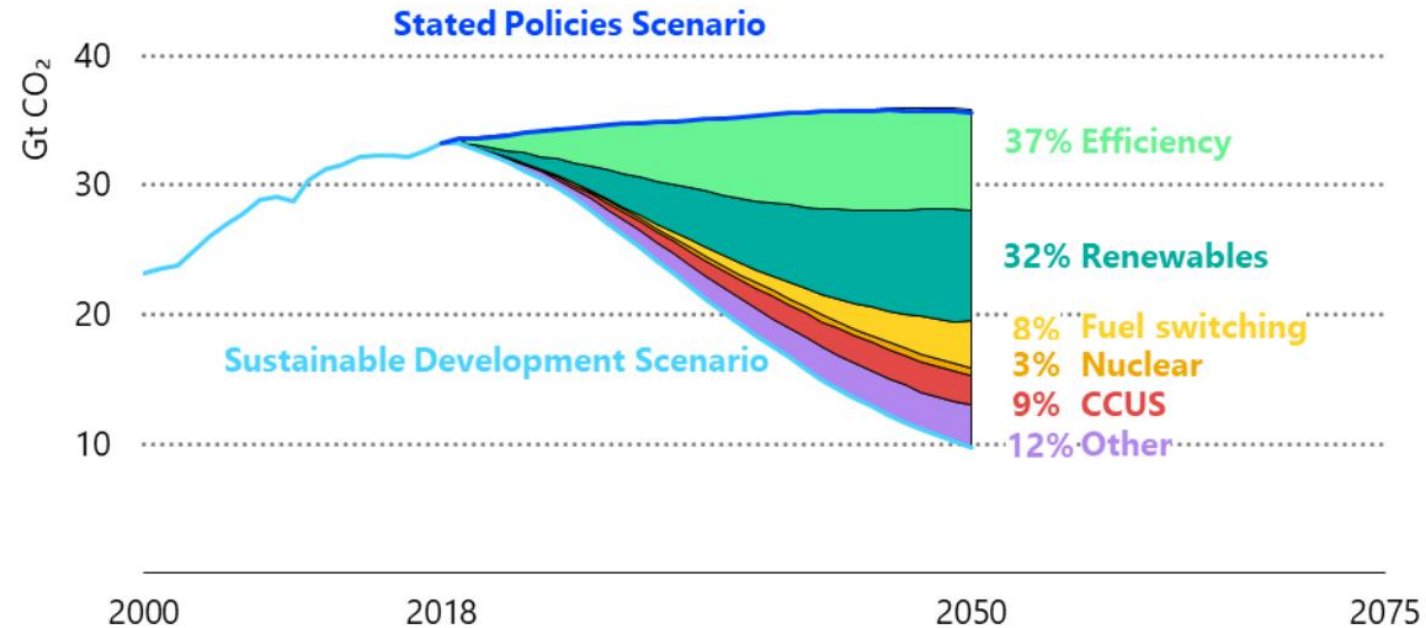


Through enhanced action on energy efficiency, we can avoid superfluous investments in grid projects and power plants which often come with severe and controversial impacts on nature.

Kjetil Lund, NVE.

IEA sier at for å nå klimamålene bør 37% av kuttene tas gjennom energieffektivisering

FNs bærekraftsmål 7.3 er en dobling av energieffektivisering.



IEA – Det internasjonale energibyrået 2020. Estimerer for hvor klimakuttene skal tas for å nå Paris avtalens mål.

Målet om 10 TWh redusert kraftbruk i bygg i 2030 er vist i den grønne søylen til høyre. Det tilsvarer kraftbruken i bygg i 2015, minus 10 TWh.

De blå søylene viser faktisk kraftbruk i bygg, korrigert for viktige påvirkningsfaktorer. For forklaring, velg "Metodikk" i menyen over.



NVE

Kraftbruk og mål om 10 TWh redusert kraftbruk i bygningsmassen

Kategori ● Husholdninger ● Tjenesteyting ● Husholdninger og tjenesteyting

