

# Statnett

## Environmental and climate strategy 2018–2021

December 2018



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Statnett builds, owns and operates the main power grid, and we ensure that there is always a balance between consumption and production. At the same time, we are planning and facilitating the power system of the future, where there will be a greater proportion of renewable energy due to climate considerations and technological developments.

Wind and solar power are emission-free energy sources, but production cannot be regulated up and down in the same way as hydropower from reservoirs. At the same time, electricity consumption is varying more than ever before, and more power is flowing between regions and countries. The combined result of these factors is a system that is subject to more fluctuation, just as security of supply is becoming increasingly precious to society.

Statnett's social mandate is to facilitate the use of electricity in new areas and in the construction of renewable energy sources to enable Norway to achieve its climate goals. In addition, Statnett is responsible for securing the power supply and contributing to value creation in society through an efficient and well-functioning power system.

## Our environmental work

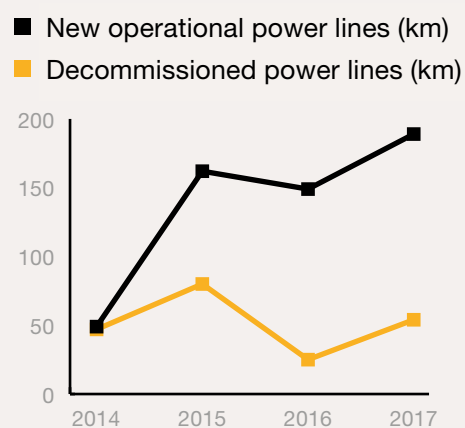
In a changing power system, Statnett is assuming overall environmental responsibility. We will solve the need for new transmission capacity, but with limited use of natural areas and keeping the greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations as low as possible. At the same time, we will continuously reduce the environmental and carbon footprint from both our operational facilities and our office buildings. We will achieve this by integrating environmental work into the planning, development and operation of our facilities.

In many cases, we can upgrade existing facilities to a higher voltage level, implement measures to increase their service life, or make use of alternatives to a new power grid. This is both environmentally and economically profitable. Similarly, the digitalisation and automation of the power system of the future produces a “double dividend” by creating room for more renewable energy and reducing the need for grid expansion.

Grid facilities are largely reversible interventions. When we build new facilities, we always look for solutions that will allow us to decommission parts of existing facilities in order to return the area to nature.

### DECOMMISSIONING OF EXISTING GRID

Statnett has decommissioned around 650 kilometres of power lines since adopting this strategy around 15 years ago. During the same period, we constructed 1,300 km of new power lines.



## Our priority environmental areas

Statnett's ambition is to be a leader in environmental and climate work in our sector. This means that environmental considerations must be integrated into our financial decisions, that we must reduce our environmental impact beyond statutory requirements, and that we must be environmental leaders compared to other players in the power industry and public construction clients in other sectors.

To achieve our ambition, we are prioritising the following aims towards 2021:

- ▶ To continue being leaders in the work to preserve biodiversity and landscape values.
- ▶ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own activities, purchases and services.

These aims have been selected on the basis of our environmental impact and identified environmental and climate risks, with the goal of reducing our biggest areas of environmental and climate impacts, as well as staying ahead of future requirements.

Research shows that power line corridors are home to a rich biodiversity and are an effective habitat for bees, bumblebees and beetles.



Statnett is researching whether goats are an efficient and environmentally friendly alternative for clearing power line corridors.



## Biodiversity and landscape impacts

During this strategy period, we will continuously improve our methodologies for preserving biodiversity and landscape values. We will continue our focus on targeted R&D projects and actively use research results to generate improvements. We will have a special focus on safeguarding endangered and rare species and habitats, including marshland and wetland areas, and designing our facilities so that they are adapted to their local surroundings. We will use the best knowledge available to restore the landscape and the natural environment. In addition, we will improve our system for selecting and using off-road vehicles to ensure that environmental concerns are met.

R&D is crucial to the continuous improvement of our environmental work. Examples include:

- › Alternatives to expanding the power grid
- › BIRDPOL – Bird Friendly design of power lines
- › Fossil-free and emission-free construction sites
- › Goat NoFence
- › GRAN – Greener environmental interventions and reduction of climate gas emissions in construction work
- › The REIN project – investigating the effects of power line corridors on reindeer
- › The Wind Rein project – investigating the effects of humans, wind power and power lines on reindeer
- › OPTIPOL – Bird collisions with power lines
- › Prefabricated pylon foundations
- › New pylon design and landscape assessments





## Statnett's greenhouse gas emissions

During this strategy period, we will strengthen our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations and indirect emissions from the purchase of materials, products and services. We will do this by prioritising technology and solutions with low greenhouse gas emissions, making environmental demands on suppliers and contractors, and giving our own employees the knowledge and skills to make sustainable choices. We have three priority emission sources this strategy period: natural carbon sinks, construction work and procurement of products and materials. In addition, we have identified actions to be taken in other parts of our business, including the conversion of our vehicle fleet in line with national climate targets.

Fossil-free tunnel and construction work between Smestad and Sogn in Oslo reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 78 per cent.



## Action plan

In order to achieve our ambition of becoming a leader in environmental and climate work, we have identified four goals with accompanying measures for this strategy period:



### **Establish operational goals and indicators**

- › Update goals and guidelines for environmentally friendly products and services
- › Update goals and guidelines for SF<sub>6</sub>
- › Update goals and guidelines for choosing environmentally friendly technology and solutions



### **Ensure that environmental and climate impacts are documented and emphasised in our decisions**

- › Systematise the use of life cycle assessments, carbon accounting and carbon pricing
- › Improve methodologies for assessing the environmental impacts of various interventions in the natural environment
- › Establish methodologies for increased use of low and zero emission solutions



### **Ensure the procurement of more environmentally friendly products and services**

- › Prioritise products, materials and services with low environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions
- › Strengthen environmental and climate requirements for suppliers and contractors



### **Highlight opportunities for our employees to make good environmental and climate choices**

- › Continuously improve internal expertise on the environment and climate
- › Facilitate good environmental and climate choices in smaller purchases and daily operations



## Environmental policy

We are eco-certified according to ISO 14001, which we use as a guide for continuously improving our environmental and climate work. Our environmental policy reflects the fact that we must take a comprehensive approach to environmental responsibility and is the basis of our environmental and climate strategy:

- ▶ Statnett is to be a knowledge-based premise provider and an effective facilitator for the increased use of renewable energy as a replacement for fossil energy carriers.
- ▶ Statnett is to use life cycle analyses in the planning of new facilities, and to weight environmental and climate

considerations on an equal footing with technical and financial aspects when making decisions.

- ▶ Statnett is to reduce negative environmental and climate-related impact in the development and operation of our facilities and offices. We are to make high environmental demands on our suppliers.
- ▶ Statnett is to meet authorities and affected parties with respect and superior environmental competence. Our environmental practice is to be transparent, in that our environmental assessments and performance are to be documented and communicated openly.



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