

# Climate action:

## International learnings on the governance of national and local government collaboration

### Overview of research findings

# Introductions

## Speakers



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# Introduction and Context

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# Introduction

## Context and background

- **Multi-level cooperation is crucial** for addressing climate change
- Local governments in England are **accelerating and innovating** on climate action:
  - Declared climate emergencies; developed CAPs and climate strategies; implementation of demonstrator projects
- However, local governments face **significant challenges**:
  - Lack of dedicated funding; competing priorities; changing policy landscapes; lack of clarity over role of local government
- Need for **improved coordination and cooperation**
- Useful to understand what works well elsewhere, and why

# Introduction

## Project aims

Two main aims:

1. To understand **how climate action is governed** in selected case study countries
2. To develop strategic **recommendations for England** detailing how multi-level cooperation and coordination in climate action could be improved

Focus on the governance arrangements that support and enable climate action at the local level, rather than best practice climate action itself

# Methodology and Approach

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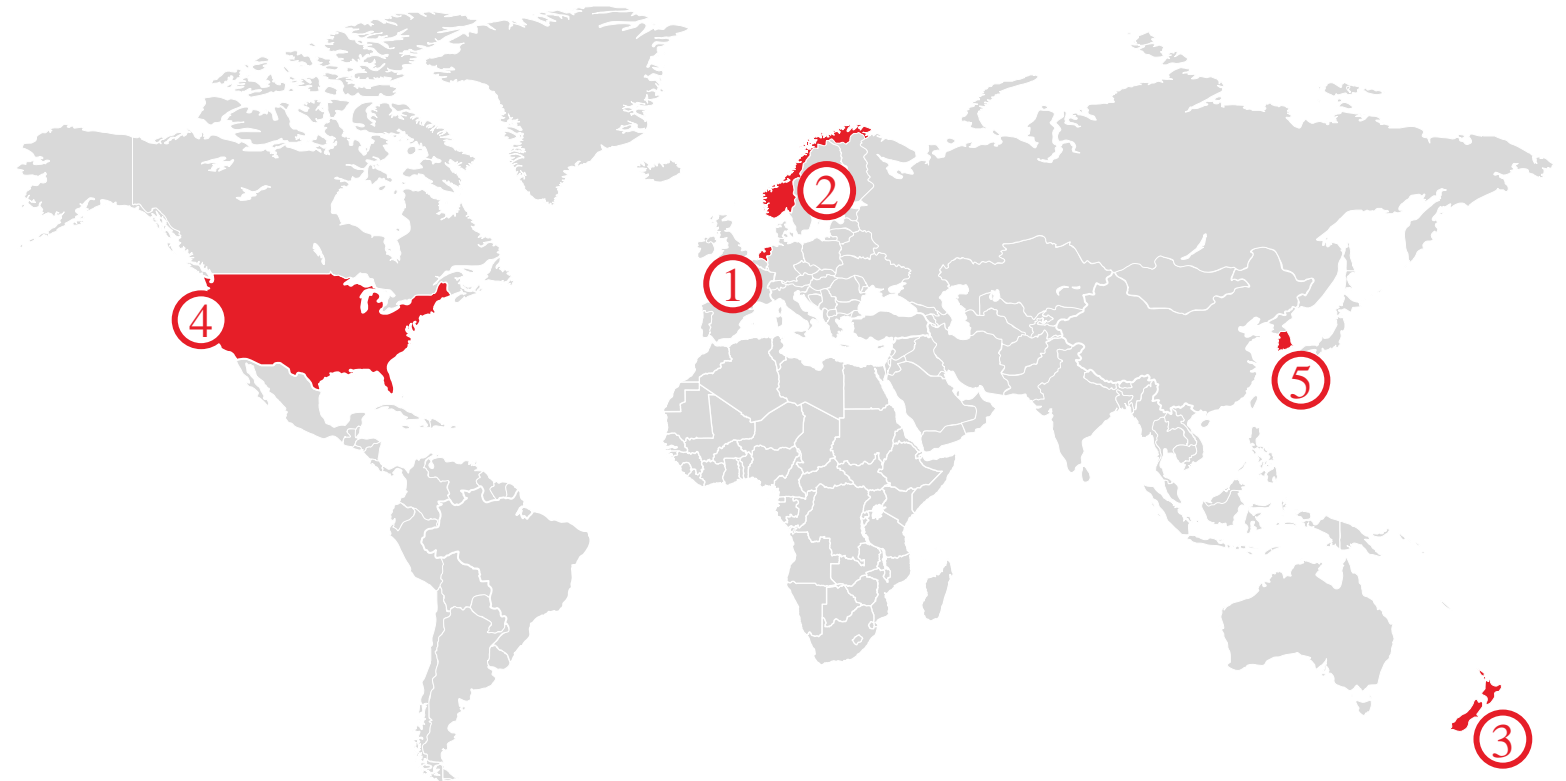


# Method

## Country selection

- Case study country selection based on a range of **geographic, economic, environmental, and governance** criteria and metrics

- ① Netherlands
- ② Norway
- ③ New Zealand
- ④ USA
- ⑤ South Korea



# Method

## Climate action framework

Based on main areas where local government are expected to have powers and influence.

Some overlap between the identified sub-sectors in different countries and their approach to addressing these sectors

*e.g. adaptation is sometimes framed in the context of each of the other sectors.*

Cross-cutting elements noted and considered but not addressed separately – e.g. wider benefits- green skills, social impact etc.

Sector	Sub-sector
Transport emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Privately owned vehicles</li> <li>Public transportation</li> <li>Active travel</li> <li>Spatial and planning (e.g., ULEZ, congestion charge)</li> </ul>
AFOLU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture emissions</li> <li>Deforestation and forestry</li> <li>Land use and land use change (focus on emissions)</li> </ul>
Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building envelopes (efficiency and building codes)</li> <li>Heating and cooling</li> <li>Retrofit</li> <li>Embodied emissions</li> </ul>
Energy and electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralised electricity grid decarbonisation</li> <li>District heating</li> <li>Development of local renewables</li> <li>Local authorities as renewable energy utilities</li> <li>Decentralised / micro grids</li> </ul>
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation actions</li> <li>Nature based solutions</li> <li>Climate risk and vulnerability assessments</li> </ul>



# Method

## Governance framework

The governance arrangements and interactions in the case study countries were researched in the context of the defined climate sectors.

The identified governance themes together tell the story of how national and local governments arrange themselves to achieve action in each sector.

Sector	Sub-sector
Local level autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal autonomy</li> <li>Decision-making autonomy</li> </ul>
National policies and legislations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National level legislation</li> <li>National level policies</li> <li>Other national level frameworks</li> </ul>
Integration between national and local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How are national level structures implemented at the local level?</li> <li>How are local level policies framed against the national level?</li> </ul>
Funding and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sources of funding for local government</li> <li>Scale of funding for local government</li> <li>Types of funding for local government (consider certainty and timescales)</li> </ul>
Sub-national / regional partnership structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-national or regional partnership structures that bring together collections of local government to provide strategic and operational delivery</li> </ul>

# Method

## Research

### Desktop research

- Each case study country was reviewed using the governance and climate action frameworks as a matrix in an Excel workbook.
- Government documents, academic research, and grey literature were used as main sources.
- England was reviewed in the same way to provide a basis for comparison.
- Resulting baseline understanding was validated and complemented the contextual experiences from the interviews.

### Interviews

- 10 interviews were conducted, each with a different area of focus

Country	Organisation - role	Rationale
USA	Three representatives from peer-to-peer city and local government networks	Understanding of the roles, challenges, and contexts of local government P2P network of US mayors focussed on local level climate action
Norway	Two representatives from local governments working in the climate and transport departments	Oversees climate action at municipal level Oversees climate action at municipal level, Oslo piloted the climate budgeting approach
	Nordic Smart City Network	Understanding of international P2P city networks and their role in accelerating climate action
Netherlands	One representative from a local government network and one representative from local government working in resilience and adaptation	Understanding of the roles, challenges, and contexts of local government Oversees resilience at municipal level
South Korea	Two climate and sustainability policy experts	Understanding of climate policy and climate action at municipal level Understanding of climate policy and climate action at national level
New Zealand	One representative from local government working in the climate department	Oversees climate action at municipal level

# Conclusions and Recommendations

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# National policies and legislations

**National climate policies, legislations, and programmes should be explicit about the intended role for local government.**

- Importance of local government being considered as an implementation partner
- Need to have a clearly defined set of roles and responsibilities in national climate action policies, legislations, and programmes

## Context in England

- Emerging voluntary adoption of Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)
- Role of Regional Energy Strategic Planners (RESPs)



## In Norway:

*The approach to onshore wind development and taxation*



## In the Netherlands:

*The approach to identifying areas for renewable energy generation*

# Local level autonomy

**Local government should be enabled by national government to take more ambitious opportunities locally, and to apply locally relevant decision frameworks where most relevant.**

- Local level autonomy can be successful in raising ambition on climate action and enabling local government to implement novel approaches, where supported by higher levels of government
- Recognise the need for consistency in approaches across administrative boundaries to support delivery at scale

## Context in England

- Local targets going “further and faster” than national targets but lack of clear support from national government
- Climate needs to be sufficient as justification for taking action locally



## In the USA:

*The ability to set specific city-wide taxes to fund climate action*



## In the Netherlands:

*Municipalities can set more ambitious building energy efficiency standards*

# Integration between national & local

**Vertical integration and coordination are key to ensuring clear collaboration.**

- Coordination between multiple levels of government can ensure that local level action contributes to national level plans

## Context in England

- Opportunity to integrate approaches to land use and resource management in England, transcending administrative boundaries
- Ensure decisions are made based on local understanding and context, while ensuring they make a strategic contribution to national level plans



## In New Zealand:

*The mandate that local government plans must “have regard to” national adaptation and mitigation plans*



## In the Netherlands:

*A multi-level approach to designing and implementing climate policy (the Climate Agreement)*

# Funding and resources

## Insights on improving the development of, access to and use of funding for climate action

- Local governments can account for negative externalities while funding a just transition.
- Central government can enable more flexible access to funds for climate action and allow for more flexible use of funds.
- Central government can provide more certainty on the allocation of climate funds

### Context in England

- 2020 Warwick District Council's proposed Green Levy
- Opportunities from the deployment of section 106 funding
- Challenges around the competition-funding model



### In the USA:

*California's Cap and Trade scheme funding their GHG reduction fund*



### In Norway:

*The Klimasats fund as an example of a well-designed mechanism for deploying national grant funding to local authorities*

# Sub-national and regional partnership

## Horizontal coordination and collaboration play a key role

- Importance of horizontal collaboration and coordination between local governments
- Multiple examples of peer-to-peer networks facilitating coordinated action at local scales
- Important role of collaboration and influence to drive action in areas beyond direct control of local governments

### Context in England

- Opportunities for Combined Authorities to facilitate horizontal coordination
- Councils can act as a convener in this space



### In the USA:

*In Florida the SFCCC are advocating for and implementing climate adaptation actions regionally*



### In the Netherlands:

*Examples of municipalities coordinating and sharing resources*



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