

## **CASE STUDY OF A SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAMME**

### **Norwegian wind power policy**

Norway has substantial wind resources that could be utilised for electricity production. Wind power therefore plays an important role in Norwegian energy policy. Wind power has gained substantial political support since the late 1990s.

Norway has an integrated strategy for increased production of renewable energy, energy saving and energy efficiency. Part of this strategy is to install wind power capacity of 3 TWh/year by 2010.

Enova SF is the national agency responsible for promoting wind power as a part of the integrated strategy for renewable energy, energy saving and energy efficiency. Enova's most important tool is investment support. Wind power projects can be granted investment support covering about 25 per cent of the total investment costs. Projects that are eligible for support from Enova compete for investment grants.

The targeted policy for development of wind power and the availability of grants have resulted in great interest in the industry, and thus in large numbers of planned projects and applications for licences and the construction of a number of wind farms. By the end of 2004 plans for 53 projects had been submitted to the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate. Licences had been granted for 11 projects with a total production capacity of 3.3 TWh/year, and another 11 projects with a total production capacity of 810 GWh/year had been completed or were under construction.

Like other forms of energy production, wind power has impacts on the environment and other interests. It is therefore essential to develop wind power in a sustainable manner. The Norwegian licensing system plays an important role in ensuring that the wind power sector in Norway is sustainable. The licensing process is set out in the Energy Act. Besides taking into account impacts on energy systems, the licensing process involves a thorough assessment of the energy project's possible environmental impacts and impacts on other interests such as tourism and reindeer husbandry. Environmental impact assessments are carried out according to the requirements of the Planning and Building Act. Where wind farms are being planned the municipalities, which are responsible for local planning, should as a general rule also carry out a local area licensing process according to the Planning and Building Act. This is done in order to ensure that all local interests are taken into account.