

This is a review to show  
by month,  
what we did this year.



# BÆREKRAFTSSENTERET ANNUAL REVIEW '21

Geneva UN Centre of Excellence on SDG City Transitions



# FIRSTLY EMPLOYEES

## AT BÆREKRAFTSSENTERET



Silja is the chief operating officer of the the centre, working with concept and project development. In addition she is Lighthouse City Coordinator for +CityxChange.



Tom is an advice giver for business relations to the centre, and has special interest in mobility.



Øyvind uses the potential that data and technology have to increase the speed of sustainable development, in addition to being the leader of Smart City.



Berit is a project partner of the centre and focuses on social sustainability, in addition she runs the Bærekraftssamtale (Sustainability Conversations) series.



Kristian is the leader of the Centre for Sustainable Development in Trondheim, and the cofounder of United Cities.



Samah is an advisor contributing to the concept development of smart and sustainable frameworks that support achieving the 2030 SDGs Agenda.



Kelly is the student coordinator for the centre, running the annual internship program.



Agata is Head of the 2030 Agenda and International Relations for the centre and a sustainable urban development expert.



Courtney is the digital content manager for the centre and works with communication and citizen outreach.

# OUR PARTNERS



The Bærekraftssenter has many partners who are integral part of the centre and contribute to it in various ways.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF BÆREKRAFTSSENTERET

Dear Partner and SDG Advocate,

Trondheim became a UN Centre of Excellence in 2019, and has established itself as part of a global network of Centres serving not only the needs of Trondheim, and Norway, but 56 member states across the UNECE region. With more centres under establishment, such as the ones hosted by Harvard and Geneva Universities, Trondheim is part of a distinguished family.

One of the definitive strengths of the Excellence Centre in Trondheim has been its ability to connect top down and bottom up approaches to Sustainable Development. All the while staying true to its heritage of system innovation. Since 2019, Trondheim has been recognised as the most innovative city in Norway, and in 2021 the EU recognised us as one of top 3 rising innovation capitals in Europe. This recognition comes on the back of a longterm investment in strong leadership and smart support systems for realising goals and delivering value to our citizens and businesses.

The centre in Trondheim supports a practical approach to the SDGs, innovating new energy and mobility systems, using the city and the region as a testbed, and drawing in public and private sector partners. Building on the strong home base, we are able to support the UN's work on forging new standards and guidelines, such as the recently endorsed UNECE city guidelines for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (VLRs).



Looking forward, the centre is part of the global movement to finance Sustainable Development and Net Zero Solutions. Without a sound model for mobilising the resources needed, cities will not be able to deliver on the global goals by 2030. Innovative financing will go hand in hand with sustainable leadership and governance, and the Excellence Centre is part of developing and delivering a new generation of training for the 1000s of leaders at the helm of Sustainable Urban Development. The year 2022 is promising to be very interesting indeed.

Sincerely,  
Kristian Mjøen

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# +CITYXCHANGE

+CityxChange’s (+CxC) vision is to enable the co-creation of the future we want to live in. It’s a smart city project granted funding by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) is the host and leads the consortium together with the lighthouse cities Trondheim and Limerick. +CxC has worked closely with Bærekraftssenteret and has achieved a lot in 2021.

+One of the big innovations of +CxC is the methodology to make energy related innovations, and together with partners make the city into a living lab to develop them further. City exchange features technical and social solutions ranging from energy trading platforms and green mobility apps, to youth sustainability workshops and energy board games.

To replicate these results across the +CityxChange project, it is important to consider the intended impact of the solution, the business case for implementing such a solution and the partnerships and resources required to make it happen.



Sincerely,  
Silja Rønningsen  
Deputy Head of Centre and  
+CxC Project Manager

## +CXC PROJECT PARTERS



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# JANUARY

New year, new us...

Game plans and budgets are being finalized and developed so the Bærekraftssenter can do as much as possible in the most effective way during 2021.

The Centre for Sustainable Development began to create an ontology database, in addition to a report on taxonomy, and the importance of data regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We published a report on sustainable food systems in Trondheim, and connected it to our CO2 emissions. This was a very enlightening report which showed us we have a lot of room for improvement. One particularly interesting finding was that we create more food than we consume, whilst also importing around 50 percent of foods we consume as well. The report brought light to a serious issue.

# FEBRUARY

Things are happening...

The Centre for Sustainable Development visited digital career day at NTNU to present what we do and why a career in sustainability is so important.

We published our introduction video to Bærekraftssamtaler, or Sustainability Conversations, in cooperation with Trondheim folkebibliotek and Bøker&bylab, featuring Morten Wolden, who endorsed the concept and led the first meeting discussing what makes a city sustainable. Other goals of the Sustainability Conversations are to showcase businesses and public organizations that have the UN's sustainability goals as a guiding star. Most of the Sustainability Conversations are led by Jo Skårderud as the discussion leader.

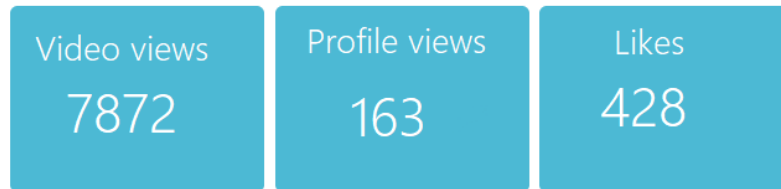


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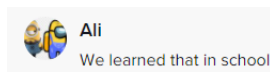
# SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHSCORES

## Tiktok:

Start Date: September 20th, 2021

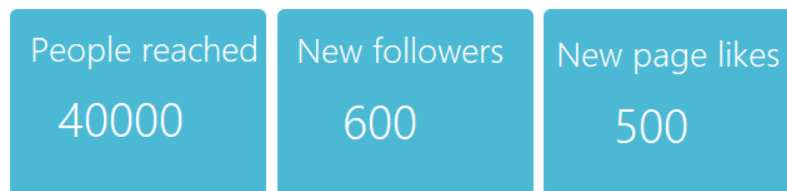


As well as comments such as:



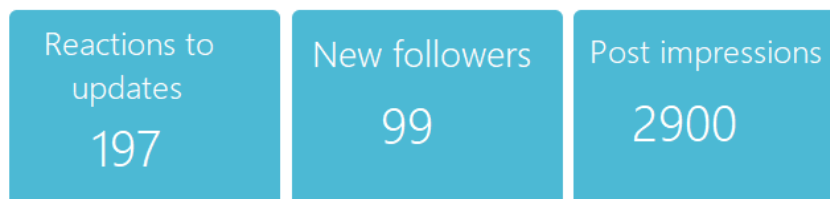
## Facebook:

Start Date: January 1st, 2021



## LinkedIn:

Start Date: October 26th, 2021



We use our social media as a way to connect to the public and promote social sustainability. We also use it as an education tool, to teach about the sustainable development goals and demonstrate what we do as a centre that others can replicate.

\*THESE NUMBERS ARE AS OF DECEMBER 13 2021\*



# MARCH

As we crawl through the end of the dark months in Trondheim, the Bærekraftssenter creates some light...

The first Sustainability Conversation is published! It was released both online, and in person at Bøker&bylab. For the first conversation we invited two politicians, Roar Aas from the Worker's Party (Arbeiderpartiet) and Trond Åm from the Left Party (Venstre), to a conversation about how to create a diverse population in the district and what meeting places are needed to encourage development.

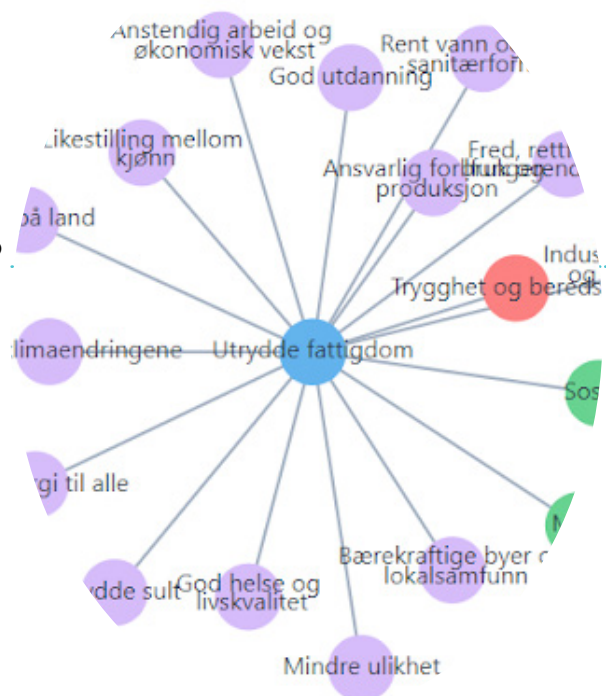


## One third of the way into the 2021...

The taxonomy report and ontology database are published! The taxonomy is a comprehensive guide on different ways to approach each SDG by measuring them by goal, perspective, and quality. This guide was intended to make things easier for municipalities to approach the SDGs and to provide an easier to understand perspective on them.

The ontology has goals of showing the relationship between the SDGs, indicators, and subgoals. The ontology ranges from connecting things as strongly correlated, moderately correlated, and low correlation, to having low and high tradeoffs.

# APRIL



# BÆREKRAFTSNETTVERKET

The Sustainability Network is a city network consisting of municipalities and county municipalities that work to achieve the sustainability goals across Norway. Although specific needs vary from one municipality to another, we have found it extremely helpful and important to cooperate and share data and best practices.

The Sustainability Network connects municipalities across Norway and gives them the tools they need to achieve the 2030 Agenda in time. At the core of everything we do is Goal 17, Partnership for the Goals, and a belief that this Network builds stronger partnerships.



Through cooperation with national partners and the UN, the Sustainability Network aids further development of established standards so these respond better to what each municipality needs.

At the regional level. “Trøndelag i pluss” is connecting the national network to the ground, supported by the County of Trøndelag, the County Governor, the Association of Local and Regional Governments (KS), and of course the Centre of Sustainable Development.



“I have led this Network of Excellence since its inception, and I believe this network has already generated great value for Trondheim, as well as other municipalities.”

-Morten Wolden,

Director of Trondheim Kommune

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# MAY

Trondheim is starting to defrost and become warmer, and we are looking for chances to do the same.

The Centre for Sustainable Development began our hunt for the most qualified candidates to intern here. Group interviews are held on green mobility to see how the potential interns will work in a group together, while focusing on a topic which is very pertinent to us.



Halfway through 2021!

# JUNE

We hosted our first Clubhouse meeting to discuss sustainable value creation with invited speakers! The meeting was intended to help encourage transferability of ideas and work with a context bigger than just Norway, and to introduce Lebanon as a country with giant potential to become a place for sustainable value creation.

We contributed to the making of a manifesto for circular city life, which focuses on what Trondheim does to be a circular economy, as well as promoting ideas for other cities to copy. The manifesto took a new approach to focusing on the social side of circular economy, which hasn't been researched or focused on before. The goal was to give public sector leaders the knowledge about what constitutes a circular society, for them to flesh out more explicit ambitions for their respective communities. The manifesto covered 7 dimensions, some having to do with nature, in addition to some urban, including functions and services. This manifesto is integrated into the leadership program which was developed in a later month.

# UNECE Centre of Excellence

In 2019, Trondheim Kommune was awarded the status of Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence on SDG City Transition by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Since then, we have worked together with UNECE on a joint project “Improved Sustainability of 17 Norwegian Cities” which includes the development of Sustainable Smart Cities Profiles for selected municipalities in Norway based on the evaluation of these cities against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC), a global standard!

Also, as a part of this joint project, the centre filmed 5 E-learning modules with the UNECE and Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence University of Geneva to teach about Voluntary Local Reviews and how to use data to report on the cities’ progress towards SDGs.

In October, the centre traveled to Geneva to join the UNECE on SDG II day to present the achievements of Trondheim. We also presented on SDG data, Voluntary Local Reviews, and our achievements within energy, transport, and mobility. Lastly, we informed people on where to invest in to get the best returns for investors and sustainability.

Last but not least, we have remained in dialogue with other UN institutions and agencies, especially colleagues in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

## Net-Zero Index

The Centre for Sustainable Development is developing a Roadmap and Index to support the sustainability transition of cities towards Net-Zero. The Framework is grounded in the Sustainable Value Creation approach to Net-Zero. It supports the development of evidence-based impact investments that decrease greenhouse gas emissions, bring returns to investors and also support social development and community cohesion. In addition, it promotes economic prosperity, and meeting other environmental objectives. It also leverages the access to high-quality granular data and socio-technological innovation, while supporting eco-system development.

# JULY

Trondheim slows down as most employees take their vacation in July, and yet...

We hosted a Clubhouse meeting on Beirut, Lebanon one year after the explosion at the port of Beirut focusing on how to rebuild better and more sustainably in pursuit of cooperation. By inviting speakers from many countries, we are able to create fresh ideas for the future of Beirut.

# AUGUST

As the summer is ending, the real fun of the centre begins...

The Centre attended Arendalsuka, a one week long political and social festival which aims to connect different people and share knowledge, where we presented information about how important approaching the SDGs - with a use of data, taxonomy, and ontology - is to many politicians in hopes of making them adopt the guideline published.

19 interns with 14 different nationalities began their journeys with us (pictured below).



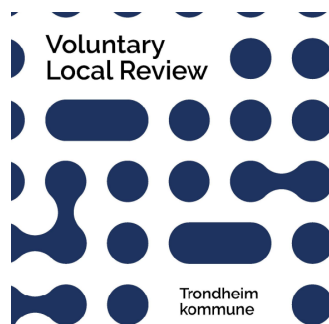
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# Voluntary Local Reviews && European Capital of Innovation Awards

## VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

In 2021, Trondheim developed its first Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Through this VLR, we are essentially creating opportunities for projects, programs, and partnerships that accelerate the progress towards the city's sustainable development. This report focuses on our goals in relation to energy, climate, transport, and mobility.

In addition, we published a guide in November on Voluntary Local Reviews. The guide aims to help city leadership in turning the SDGs into a reality! It guides them in ensuring that they use best data and accounting systems, socio-technological innovation, to develop best projects, programmes, policies and plans; and that they pull businesses, public sector partners, academia, NGOs and local communities into action. In addition, they develop their report as they go!



## EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION AWARD

The European Capital of Innovation awards reward cities which create and nourish innovation in their ecosystems, both connecting citizens to private companies and creating opportunities for innovation to spur.

Trondheim received third place in the Rising Innovative City category, bringing home 50,000 euros (503,000 NOK). Trondheim's application was based on many aspects of our innovation, both within the private and public sector, and what we do to bridge those two.



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# SEPTEMBER

Time to share what we have learned this year...

The Centre presented at the Nordic Edge conference on how to approach water waste in cities, and how prevalent it is.

The Centre attended North West Conference, where we presented our work in Trondheim, and also cooperated with other brilliant minds. We shared the introduction to our development of a Net-Zero City Index to leverage new sources of funding and finance to deliver socially responsible, climate neutral investments.

We held our fourth Bærekraftssamtale! The topic was how can the city of Trondheim and NTNU work together to create a forward-looking city. This was discussed by Morten Wolden, kommune director, and Anne Borg, principal of NTNU.



## A very busy month for us... OCTOBER

We released the sixth edition of our Bærekraftssamtale series: “Children, not wives”. This was a conversation about childhood marriages, which was TV Action’s theme of 2021.

The first demonstration of the leadership development program was presented in Bødo! This program we have created aims to empower people who are in leadership roles into how to become more sustainable and how they can diffuse this knowledge to the public. This was the first of five modules and uses the manifesto mentioned previously.

We hosted our first IKEA workshop of the year! It was a two-part workshop, both in October. In the first, IKEA presented what they do about sustainability. In part two, it was the students’ turn to share their thoughts. IKEA proposed questions about mobility, and the students responded with their opinions and some problem-solving activities.

# NOVEMBER

As the end of 2021 draws near, the #SCTrd isn't quite done yet...

The Centre attended the Smart City Expo in Barcelona to present what Trondheim does to be a smart city and connect with others to share ideas, in addition to promoting innovation and growth!

The seventh Bærekraftssamtale was published and called "How do we want to live in the future?". We discussed how people are the most important resource a city has, and therefore we need to create places for them to be seen and feel like they are an actor who contributes to change.



The eighth Bærekraftssamtaler, was called "A place for All?".

We discussed how to create a place where anyone and everyone can contribute, including building inclusive housing which enables all who live there a chance to be a member of their community.



# DECEMBER

Finally, the end of a productive year!

Our interns have completed their semester for internships, but 17/19 have asked to continue next semester! This year they've produced podcasts, social media posts, clinics and workshops for companies, helped work on important projects such as the SDG database, and more!

We can't wait for next year so we can achieve even more and work towards accomplishing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



# CONTENT FEATURED IN ANNUAL REPORT

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/barekraftssenteret/>

IKEA workshop information:

<https://www.trondheim.kommune.no/aktuelt/nyhetssaker/barekraft-nyheter/barekraftssenteret-nyheter/studenter-hjelper-bedrifter-med-a-ta-mer-barekraftige-valg/>

Improved sustainable urban development in 17 Norwegian cities with UNECE:

<https://unece.org/housing/norwegian-project>

Introduction to Bærekraftssamtaler:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVZWAE9D7kA&t=1097s>

Linkedin:

[https://no.linkedin.com/company/the-sustainability-center-in-trondheim?trk=public\\_profile\\_topcard-current-company](https://no.linkedin.com/company/the-sustainability-center-in-trondheim?trk=public_profile_topcard-current-company)

Ontology database:

<https://sdgqa.trondheim.kommune.no/>

PDF of Sustainable Food Report in Trondheim:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PnT3nLStqpmAyUxefdWaA2oybv9w4o\\_r/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PnT3nLStqpmAyUxefdWaA2oybv9w4o_r/view)

Taxonomy report:

<https://www.ssb.no/en/natur-og-miljo/artikler-og-publikasjoner/a-taxonomy-for-indicators-related-to-the-sustainable-development-goals>

Tiktok:

[https://www.tiktok.com/@sustainabilitycentertrd?lang=en&is\\_copy\\_url=1&is\\_from\\_webapp=v1](https://www.tiktok.com/@sustainabilitycentertrd?lang=en&is_copy_url=1&is_from_webapp=v1)

The circular manifesto is being tested and finalized in 2022 and will be published this year!

The Voluntary Local Review guide is being published currently!