

## Subsidies for carbon sequestration, planting spruce on fallow agriculture land

### Location

**Country:** Norway

**Scale:** Regional

**Region:** Rogaland, Trøndelag, Nordland

### Compensated /improved ecosystem services

- Climate regulation – carbon sequestration

### Management

The government has carried out a pilot project of planting spruce on fallow agricultural land to establish forests. This pilot project was run in the region Rogaland, Trøndelag and Nordland. Land owners got all their costs for planting spruce at the areas refunded, but are not allowed to harvest the forests before the culmination of the annual mean growth. The land owners will keep the income from the harvest. The aim of the measure is to capture and sequester carbon to contribute to mitigating climate changes. From the Norwegian tree species, spruce was chosen because it sequesters most carbon.

The project was run by the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Norwegian Agriculture Agency.

As this was a new measure and a pilot project, there was no legal institutions defining the measure. Anyhow, the measure may contribute to change the norms among land owners to establish forests on their land instead of leaving it fallow when they stop using it for agriculture.

### Stakeholders

#### **Sellers or service providers:**

The land owners provide land areas for the establishment of forests. In this project, these has been private land owners, mainly farmers.

#### **Buyers and beneficiaries of services:**

The government has refunded the land owners' costs for the measure. As this is a measure to reduce climate changes, the entire society will benefit from it.

#### **Donors – funding agencies or sponsors:**

Norwegian government

#### **Intermediaries:**

The County Governor and municipality management hired people to get in touch with the land owners to promote the project and also provided guidance to the land owners.

### Timeline

**Establishment year:** 2015

**Time horizon:** short term

**Status of PES:** Terminated scheme (pilot project finalized in 2018)

### Availability of economic data

Over the three years this project has lasted, there has been refunded about 19 mill NOK to the land owners for all the work needed to establish forests on fallow agriculture land. The payments have been made continuously during the project.

## References / Source of information

Information on the scheme from The Norwegian Agriculture Agency:

<https://www.landbruksdirektoratet.no/no/eiendom-og-skog/skog-og-klima/planting-for-klima#mer-om-tiltaket>

The Norwegian Environment Agency: [www.miljodirektoratet.no](http://www.miljodirektoratet.no).