

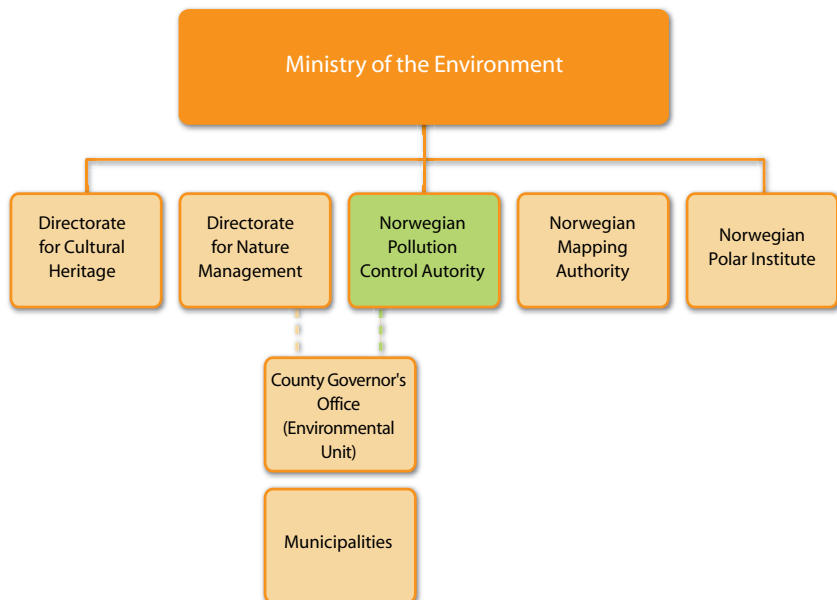


s ft: Working to reduce pollution

Who we are

The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT) is a governmental agency. We are one of five environmental directorates reporting to the Ministry of the Environment.

Our goal is to promote sustainable development. We are working to ensure that pollution, hazardous substances and waste do not cause health problems, affect people's well being or harm nature's own powers of regeneration.



SFT was established in 1974. We have therefore more than 30 years of experience in reducing existing pollution and preventing future environmental problems. We have about 250 staff with professional qualifications ranging from the natural sciences to economics, law and Information Technology.

SFT is headed by a Director General and divided into four departments. They are the Departments of Industry, Local Environmental Management, Control and International Affairs, and Administration and Information. Our head office is situated in Oslo.



Our main areas of work

SFT's main fields of responsibility include marine and fresh water pollution, hazardous substances, regulation of onshore and offshore industry, waste management, noise, air pollution, and climate change. We exercise regulatory authority under the Pollution Control Act, the Product Control Act and the Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Act. In addition we have broad experience with international cooperation and environmental development programmes with partner countries.



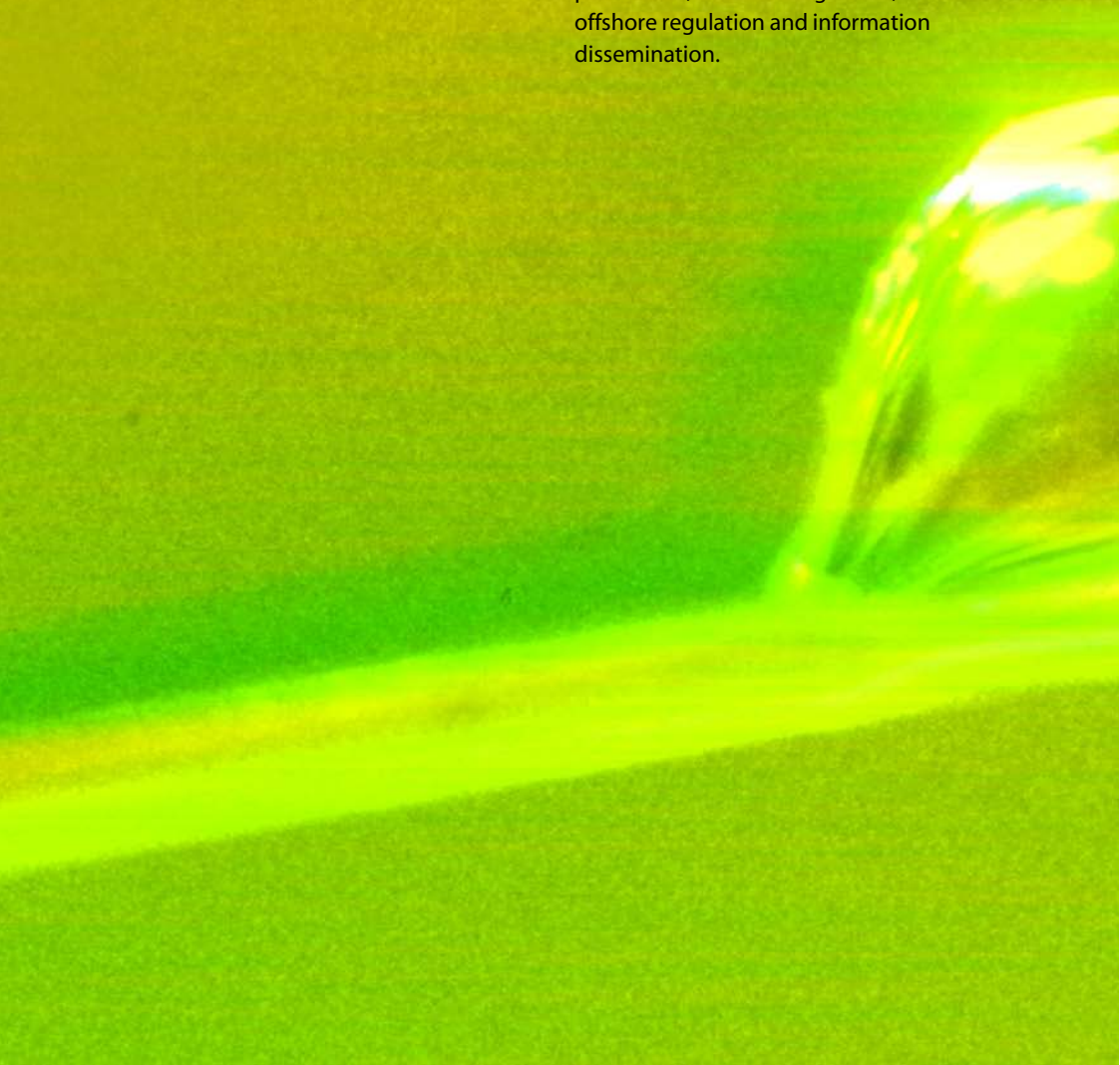
Within the above areas of work our main tasks are:

- monitoring and providing information about the state of the environment
- providing the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment with professional advice, assessments and expert support
- issuing licences to industrial and offshore installations
- enforcing regulatory compliance through environmental audits, inspections and other actions
- regulation of products which may cause damage to health or the environment
- implementing EU directives and developing new regulations
- instructing and guiding the county governors
- developing effective approaches to the recycling and management of waste with particular reference to electrical and electronic waste
- coordinating a national system to deal with contaminated sediments and land
- administering the Norwegian Emissions Trading Registry for greenhouse gasses
- cooperating with partner countries and international organisations
- promoting greater openness and public access to environmental information

Our international work

The most urgent environmental problems of our time are international in character. The battle to reduce pollution can only be won through international conventions and agreements. We therefore participate actively in various fora and organisations such as the EU, the European Environment Agency, the UN, OSPAR, OECD, the Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

In addition, we are involved in bilateral environmental cooperation and projects with a number of countries. Our partners include Russia, China, South Africa, Poland, Vietnam, Zambia and Angola. Most of these projects are institutional cooperation programmes focusing on capacity building in the areas of licensing, compliance monitoring, reporting, cleaner production, waste management, offshore regulation and information dissemination.



For further information about SFT and our work, please visit

- SFT's homepage
www.sft.no
- State of the Environment Norway
www.environment.no
- Norwegian Environmental Catalogue
www.miljoreferanser.no
- Norwegian Environmental Assistance
www.norad.no/environment

SFT's publication order service: All SFT's and the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment's publications are available from SFT's publication order service, telephone +47 22 57 34 00 or e-mail: bestilling@sft.no

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