Towards a Sustainable Future?
Mapping Resistance to the Twin Transition in Norway

Project description

The term Twin Transition refers to the transition to a digital, non-fossil-fuel economy. Technology plays a central role in the transition to this new economy. Wind and solar energy projects are being established all over Norway. Data centre projects are booming to process and store the data needed for the digitalisation of services and industry. Mines are (re-) opened to produce the minerals for the twin transition.

When we look at the statistics, we can ask what kind of transition is actually taking place and for whom? Norway has the second-highest per capita consumption of digital technology in Europe, the highest per capita e-waste production globally, the 8th-highest material footprint per capita worldwide, the 13th-largest petroleum producer globally, and 9th-largest natural gas producer globally. In addition, Norway is still issuing new oil and gas exploration licenses, and, starting in 2030, non-fossil energy will be used to electrify a large gas plant in Northern Norway. At least one data centre running on non-fossil energy is entirely used for the storage of TikTok videos, rather than supporting new sustainable start-ups.

This has not gone unnoticed. Individuals, communities, and organisations are protesting, occupying, and taking legal action to challenge the unfulfilled promises and unsustainable decisions of the government and industry. Their actions range, among others, from the legal actions of an independent repairer in a small town in Norway who refuses to accept Apple's repair conditions, sit-ins by young Sámi activists against wind turbines on Sámi land, consumers refusing the use of Big Tech, court cases and resistance against new mining operations that extract minerals for the twin transition, the occupation of houses and trees against a new highway in a nature reserve, to the nonviolent civil disobedience actions by Extinction Rebellion.

In this project, you will map the different ways in which people and organisations are protesting and resisting the unsustainability of current Twin Transition policies and activities by government and industry. The map will include information about acts of

resistance, when, where, and why they occurred, who was involved, and their outcomes.

Output

In previous summer projects, students have also produced maps. Have a look at the Mining for the Twin Transition map and the Digital Materials Library of Minerals map. They are both based on the KUMU platform, which you will also use for this summer project. We expect you to produce a similar website focusing on sites of protest and resistance, a report documenting how the project was implemented, and a presentation of the project in October 2026.

Supervisors

The supervisors for this project are Maja van der Velden and Andrea Gasparini of the Sustainable Futures Lab at the Department of Informatics.

Place

You can use the Sustainable Futures Lab during the project's implementation.

Students

We are looking for four students, last year bachelor students as well as master students, preferably proficient in Norwegian, as most of the documentation needed for the projects will be in Norwegian. As some of the resistance comes from Sámi communities, it would also be beneficial if the team could have a Sámi-speaking member. We want to create a team of students with a variety of backgrounds, such as interaction design, communication and media studies, social sciences (for example, anthropology, human geography, etc.), energy and environmental studies, and more.