

# A new wind power licensing system: Implications for local support and future developments

Presentation at Oslo Science City Arena, 10 January 2024

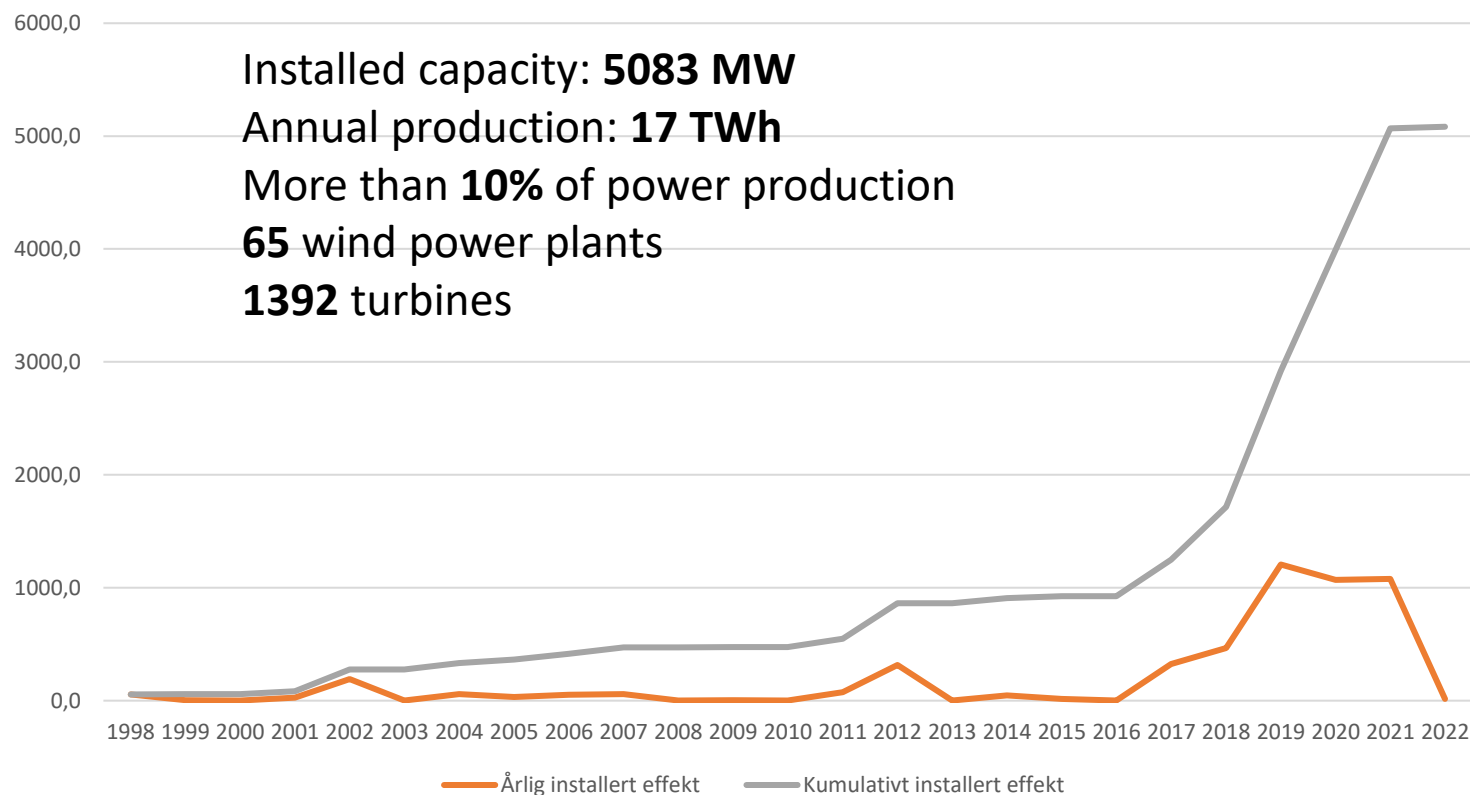
The Future of Energy is Green and Digital

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# Wind power in Norway





# From tailwind to headwind: «Peoples' rebellion against wind power»

## How did we end up here?



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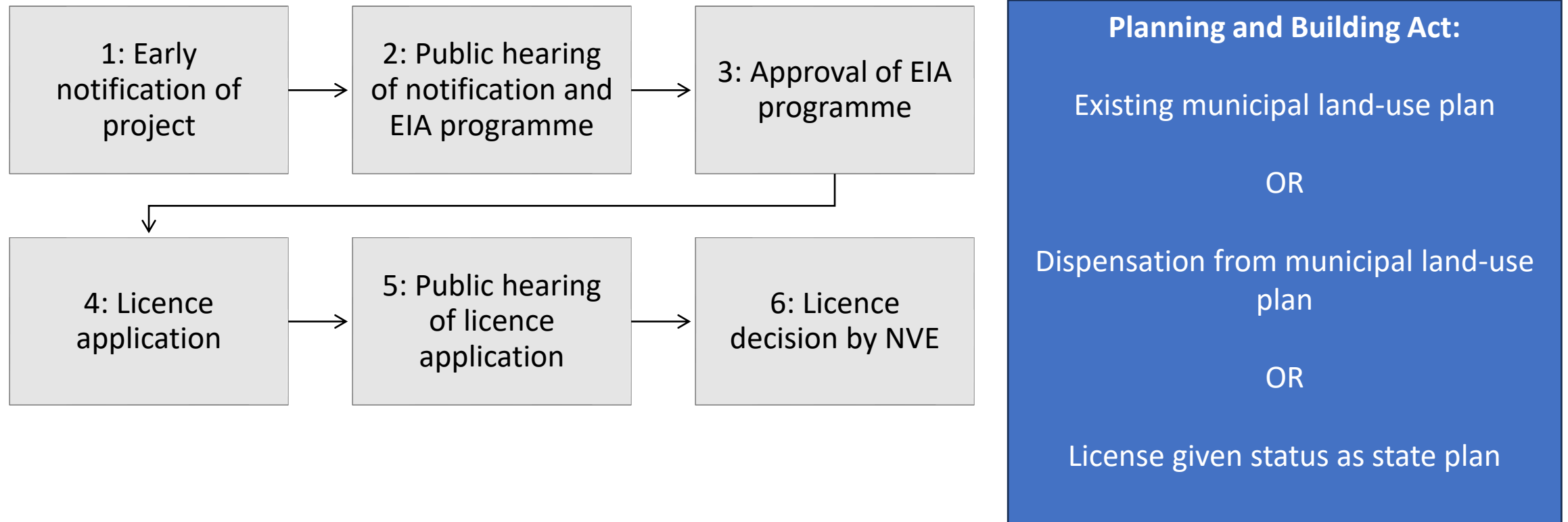
# From **yes** to **no** in the municipalities: What went wrong?

1. Municipalities had «informal veto power» in the licensing process, but had otherwise little influence in the process
  - Licenses granted by **energy authorities** according to **Energy Act** (1990)
  - Included approval of **land-use changes**
2. Municipalities could not say 'no' to land-use changes
3. Major changes to the projects **after** the licensing process
4. High hopes for economic income and employment (often) not met





# Licensing process by NVE (Energy Act)



# New licensing system as of July 2023

Parallel processes:

- **Energy Act:** NVE is the licensing authority (as before)
- **Planning and building Act:** Host municipalities shall enact an **Area Zoning Plan** ('områderegulering'): land-use changes

This means:

- Municipal **Area Zoning Plan** must be made **before** the NVE can grant a license
- Host municipalities have '**veto-power**' up until NVE grants a license
  - The government has proposed the same system for **solar power parks/plants**



# Recommendations: Can the new system deliver?

1. Early involvement of local communities  
➤ YES
2. Respect local decision-making processes  
➤ YES
3. Local concerns must be addressed: Nature, recreation, noise, visibility  
➤ Don't know yet: Area Zoning Plan vs. Detailed Zoning Plan
4. Economic compensation and local ownership can increase acceptance  
➤ Beyond the scope of the new licensing system
5. Local (or regional) benefits trump national/European benefits  
➤ Beyond the scope of the new licensing system



# Future outlook

Will the new system increase **the pace of windpower development**?

- Probably not...
  - Municipalities have veto power
  - Can be time-consuming processes (parallel tracks, two laws)

Will the new licensing system **increase local support and acceptance**?

- Yes, probably...
  - Early involvement of local communities
  - Meaningful participation and influence
  - Local concerns can be addressed throughout the process (?)





Hopefully, we can avoid this...  
Thanks for your attention!



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