

# **MECHANISMS OF ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

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As early as forty years ago, developed countries became concerned with the concept of sustainable development and then quite successfully turned it into applied policy issues. The conceptualization of sustainable development implies integration of three pillars: (i) economic development; (ii) social development; and (iii) environmental protection. Progress across all three provinces in a consolidated manner is considered as a critical step towards the achievement of sustainable development.

Starting from the Human Environment Conference, held in 1979, developed countries have been searching for appropriate mechanisms of achieving sustainable development. The best known international conferences that had influenced tremendously the policy of sustainable development had been the [Rio Earth Summit](#) (The UN Conference on Environment and Development) of June 1992.

The [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#) (also known as Rio +10) was held in September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. New targets were established. United States Secretary Colin Powell called the Summit a "successful effort", saying that "it shows that we have a shared vision of how to move forward". In his view, the world was seen as committed to sustainable development. However, it was assumed that the real challenge "is not just what is said in the statement, but the actions that will take place in the months and years ahead" [2].

The [UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which is](#) better known as Rio +20 or Earth Summit 2012, took place in Brazil in June 2012. As it had been demonstrated, sustainable development remains a fundamental objective for developed countries.

Besides numerous documents adopted by world community, many developed countries elaborated mechanism of their own for sustainable development, as it could be illustrated on the example of Norway. For many years Norway follows the principle "think globally, act locally", being able to demonstrate on its own example how to use rich natural resources for the benefit of the population. On the other hand, there are many examples when depletion of non-renewable resources is well above investments in the other sectors of economy, which reduces the national stock of capital in its broadest sense. As a result, the development path taken is clearly unsustainable. Being inspired by not just a few examples of the opposite flavor, Norway launched its Oil for Development initiative in Autumn 2005 to assist developing countries in managing their crude oil resources [3]. Among several mechanisms of achieving sustainable development, Norway emphasizes economic instruments that contribute to cost-effective solutions while implemented

properly. For example, companies and households tend to reduce their use of commodities and products on which environmental taxes are imposed because it is just in their own financial interest. [3].

Considering mechanisms of achieving sustainable development it could not be mentioned Sweden. First of all, Swedish approach to sustainable development takes into account such a basic principle: all policy decisions must respond to the longer-term economic, social and environmental implications, meaning that every decision taken by Swedish politicians should be appropriate in this respect [4]. Swedish government had achieved 17 agreements with the enterprise sector on this field. Sweden established special dialogue projects “Bygga Bo” (in English “Building/Living”) and “Framtida Handel” [5]. The former is a dialogue between 20 companies, three municipalities and the Environmental Advisory Council where a future sustainable building and property sector used to be discussed.

In the Northern Europe, the housing and service sectors account for more than 40 percent of total energy consumption. One way to reduce consumption is to build low-energy residence areas, passive houses heated mainly by the energy already produced there, such as body heat, electrical appliances, lighting and sunlight. Passive houses have been built in a number of communities across Sweden, including Stockholm, Göteborg, Västerås and Helsingborg. Seven out of 10 Swedes want to live in an eco-labeled house and would consider paying more for it [6].

Despite the institutional framework that is very effective one, developed countries try to bring up a high conscious of it's citizens through the educational programs, mass media activities, and what is the most important - millions of people can take part in developing this kind of policy and many new research institutes are opened every year. Such multi-dimensional activities look sustained in the long run, because new and new ideas of sustainability are brought up day in day out.

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