

WWF Comment on New Proposal for Renewables Investment of World's Largest Sovereign Wealth Fund

Norway opposition parties tabled a proposal Tuesday to evaluate how the world's largest sovereign wealth fund could invest directly in renewable energy. This follows the Prime Minister's party passing a parallel resolution at its national convention three weeks ago. This is the first time that there is a publicly stated, clear majority for direct investments of the Fund into renewable energy infrastructure.

Nina Jensen, CEO of WWF-Norway: *"The Prime Minister now has an explicit majority support for her party's position to mandate the Fund to invest directly into renewable energy infrastructure. Every decision Norway makes on the investments of this fund sends a powerful global signal. A mandate of this kind could be a landmark shift if legislated and implemented at the scale and speed required in the face of climate change."*

The proposal is an amendment to the original White Paper on the Fund announced April 4 to "double" renewable energy investments. However, this doubles current stock investments in environmentally related companies, only a fraction of which are renewable energy companies. If implemented based on current practices, the gross impact of this "doubling" will be an additional \$0.6 billion USD to renewable energy, from a current \$1 billion USD - contrary to the \$5 to 8 billion total reported globally.

Samantha Smith, Leader of WWF's Global Climate & Energy Initiative: *"The climate on energy investment is shifting globally, and it is shifting in Norway now too. Smart investors are looking at their carbon risk and looking to invest in climate solutions. And, should Norway go ahead with really big investments in renewables, it will also bring critical and very concrete positive momentum to global climate negotiations."*

WWF advocates that a mandate for the Fund go beyond stock investments and include direct investment in renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar and wind power plants. A mandate with these criteria, which now have majority support, would be a breakthrough for the Fund and provide a massive inflow of capital to renewable energy projects.

Nina Jensen, CEO of WWF-Norway: *"We have long advocated that the fund invest up to 5% directly in renewable energy infrastructure. Norway's fund is the world's largest state investor. A direct renewable energy mandate would send a tremendously powerful signal and set a new standard for institutional investors. We expect all parties that have expressed support for such a forward looking move to work together to ensure a mandate is created."*

This proposal comes amid political and financial debate in Norway with international dimensions on whether the country's giant fund should divest from coal and invest in green energy. Today's proposal is a proposed update to the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global (GPF)G's annual White Paper on the Fund.



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Notes for Editors:

Background

WWF has long [called for Norway](#) to invest up to 5% into renewable energy infrastructure. In a survey last year, WWF revealed that the majority of political parties, which now make up the government coalition, supported direct investments in renewable energy. WWF along with a coalition of organizations, investors and business have [called on the Government of Norway](#) to invest into infrastructure including for renewable energy.

In response, the government passed a proposal saying they would “consider” a mandate for direct investment in renewables. In March, the Government [raised expectations](#) saying such a mandate would be made. [April’s announcement](#) of fractional increases to renewable stock investments did little to move this forward. Three weeks ago, the Prime Minister’s party (Høyre) passed a position that they would work for a mandate for the Fund to invest directly in renewables.

WWF’s submitted recommendations in short ([Full English submission available here](#))

- Parliament must conduct an evaluation on how the Fund’s investment universe can include infrastructure for renewable energy
- Parliament must revise the existing mandate for the expert group to ensure that the fossil fuel evaluation intends for the Fund to divest from coal, oil and gas, and that criteria for exclusion include climate change considerations
- Parliament must revise the Fund’s objective to ensure that the Fund through its investments contribute to sustainable development, as defined by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development.

Renewable energy investments: Stocks vs. infrastructure, explained - [Watch video](#)

About WWF - WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF’s global programme addressing climate change, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

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