

KS



Environmental improvements: The importance of local communities

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- **National members' association for local government**
 - 431 municipalities, 19 counties and approx. 500 public enterprises
- **Interest and employer organisation**
 - Spokesman vis-à-vis central government
 - Central collective bargaining organisation
 - Advisory and consultative body

Competence of Norwegian local and regional government:

- Administration of resources
- Implementation of laws and regulations
- Provision of services to the inhabitants
- Regional planning and development

Protection of environment – **the local level is the key actor**

Considerable competence and responsibility at the local and regional level:

- The Planning and Building Act
- Urban development – sustainable cities
- Biological diversity
- The Pollution Control Act

20 years of experience!

Projects in co-operation with and funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Environment

- MIK – Environmental reform on the local level
- Local Agenda 21
- Liveable communities

Liveable communities



Networking amongst small clusters of municipalities within

- Climate change and energy consumption
- Spatial planning and land use policies
- Environmental business and trade
- Cultural heritage
- Outdoor recreation, health and quality of life
- Municipal International Co-operation (MIC)

Polish – Norwegian partnerships

- Considerable interest to establish partnerships between local and regional authorities in both countries
- A number of projects with EEA grants approved—more projects in the pipeline
- Seminar for Polish and Norwegian Brussels' representatives – March 2007
- Project *Building institutional capacity of local government units* (ZMP - ZGW RP, with KS as the Norwegian partner)

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