



Østfold County Municipality serves as the regional administrative authority for the Østfold region, located in southeastern Norway near the Swedish border. The county municipality is responsible for tasks that require strategic coordination across municipal boundaries and plays a key role in regional planning and development.

The County Municipality's responsibilities include, among others, land use planning, business development, upper secondary education, and transport infrastructure. Through its work, the county municipality helps shape long-term regional growth and supports collaboration between municipalities, public institutions, and private stakeholders.

Østfold County Council has made sustainability a central part of its operations, based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through strategic planning and tools like the *Sustainability Check* and *Sustainability Barometer*, the county supports municipalities and stakeholders in developing more sustainable solutions.

In its regional climate and energy plan, the county has set ambitious goals, including fossil-free transport by 2030 and fossil-free energy use by 2050. These goals are followed up through a range of different national and international projects, including the Horizon projects PentaHelix (developed better and more effective local climate action plans), TREASoURcE (focused on low-emission society and circular economy) and Precilience (addressing climate adaption in agriculture).

Through collaboration with research institutions, businesses, and civil society, Østfold County Council takes a holistic approach to building a greener and more resilient region.

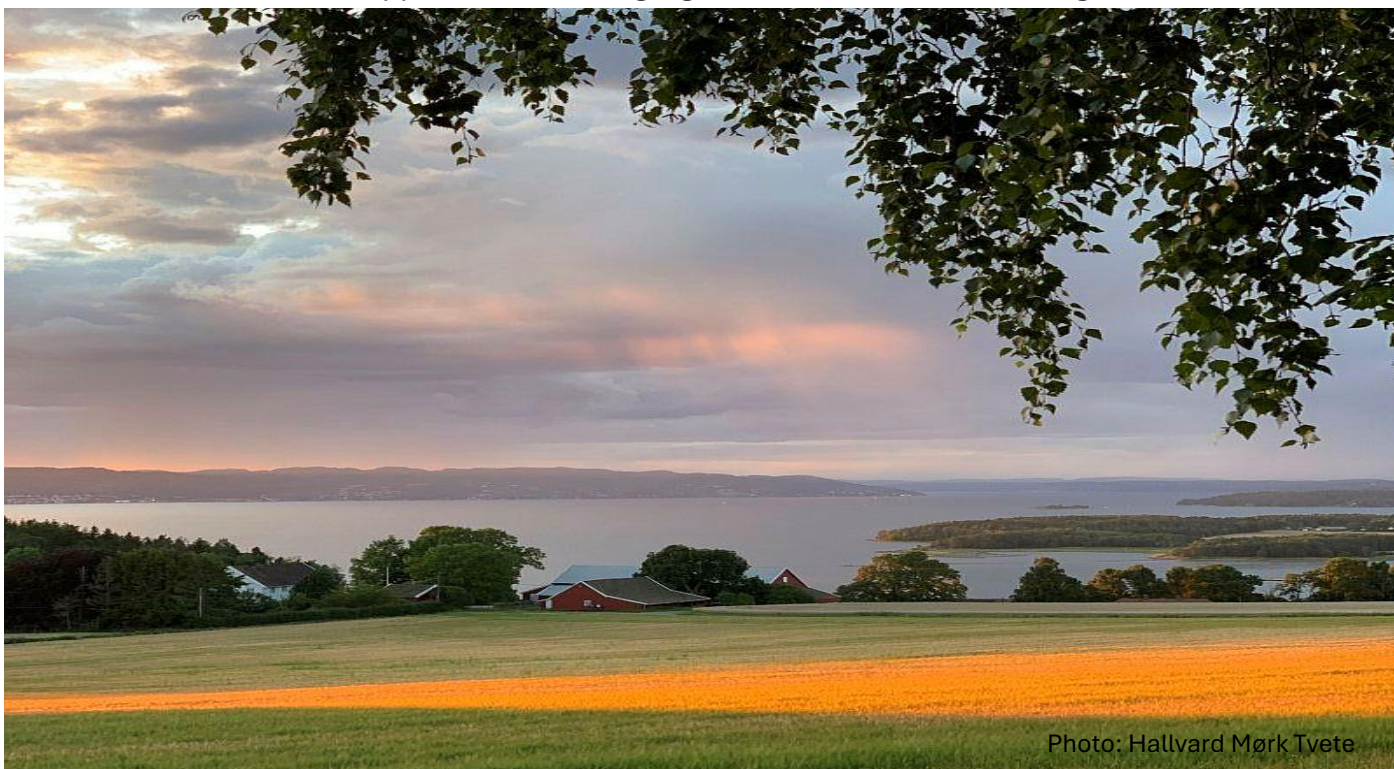


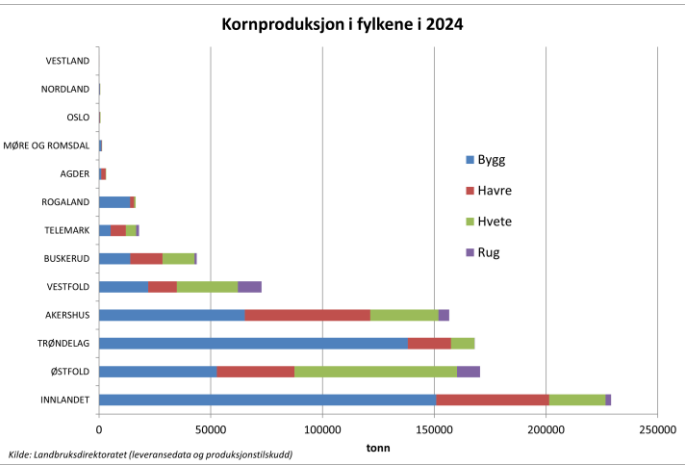
Photo: Hallvard Mørk Tvete

About the region

Østfold is known for its rich agricultural landscape, coastal beauty, and vibrant communities. As of 2025, the county has a population of approximately 314,000 residents, spread across 12 municipalities. The largest city is Fredrikstad, with over 85,000 inhabitants. The smallest municipality is Aremark, home to just over 1,300 people.

Geographically, Østfold covers an area of 4,181 square kilometers, including inland water bodies and islands. The county has a 382-kilometer coastline. The highest point is Viktjernhøgda in Trøgstad, reaching 331 meters above sea level.

Agriculture plays a significant role in Østfold’s economy and land use. About 19% of the county’s land area is dedicated to farming—well above the national average of 3.5%. Forests cover around 62% of Østfold’s land area, giving the county one of the highest forest densities in Norway.



Partnerships

Østfold County has signed the EU Charter for Climate Adaptation, committing to prioritizing climate resilience in line with the EU’s goal of creating 100 climate-resilient regions in Europe by 2030. We are also coordinating a municipal climate adaptation network, aimed at strengthening competence and facilitating experience-sharing between municipalities.

We are a valuable partner across a wide range of projects, with a particular focus on circular economy and climate adaptation —both in rural communities and urban environments.



Networks

Østfold County Municipality is engaged in several well-functioning networks and cooperation agreements that support effective collaboration and regional development.

One of these is Klima Østfold, a regional partnership between municipalities and the county authority. The network promotes climate action, reduces emissions, and strengthens local climate competence, with a focus on fossil-free transport, circular economy, and climate-smart agriculture.

The county also takes part in key cross-border partnerships. Through the Svinesund Committee, Østfold collaborates with Norwegian and Swedish municipalities to foster blue and green growth, tourism, and emergency preparedness, emphasizing joint projects and knowledge exchange.

A dedicated cooperation agreement with Region Värmland in Sweden aims to enhance regional business development, innovation, and the green transition, while also addressing demographic and public health challenges.

