

Nordic Green Futures: Insights from Nordregio research

Helsinki
5 November 2025

The green transition

Key research questions at Nordregio

- What is meant by (Just) Green Transition?
- What progress has the Nordic Region made in its green transition?
- Which are the impacts of the green transition in the Nordic Region?
- What do people in the Nordic Region think about the green transition?
- How can the Nordic Region shape better policies enabling a fair green transition?



What is meant by 'Just Green Transition'?



Defining a Just Green Transition

“Far-reaching socio-technical change...

... towards a climate-neutral economy

... that preserves biodiversity

... and ensures social justice ”

Transition

Green

Just

Just green transition -
key concepts and implications
in the Nordic region

NORDREGIO DISCUSSION PAPER 2022:2



The green transition is about socio-technical change...

... which can be engineered!

Changes triggered by **Dagen H** in Sweden:

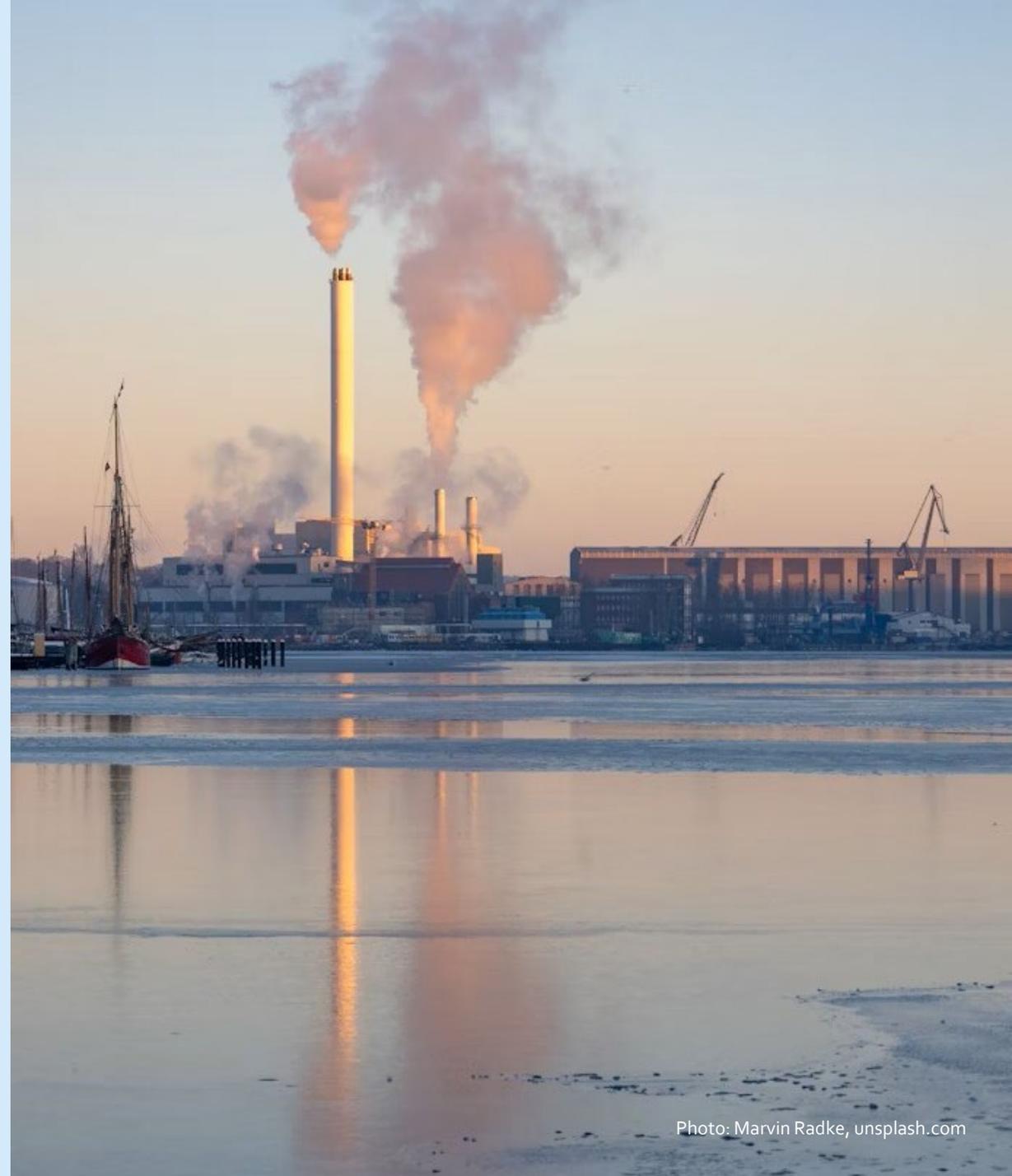
- New **traffic regulations**
- New **infrastructures**: road design, traffic signs, traffic lights, etc.
- New **routes** for public transport
- New physical **planning and design** processes
- New **industrial processes** (spanning from vehicle design to manufacturing)
- New industrial **markets** (more competitive automotive industry)
- New **education** models
- New social **behavior** (drivers and pedestrians alike)!

...



Stockholm's Kungsgatan Street, September 3, 1967. First morning after Sweden changed from driving on the left side to driving on the right.
(Source: Nationalbibliotek)

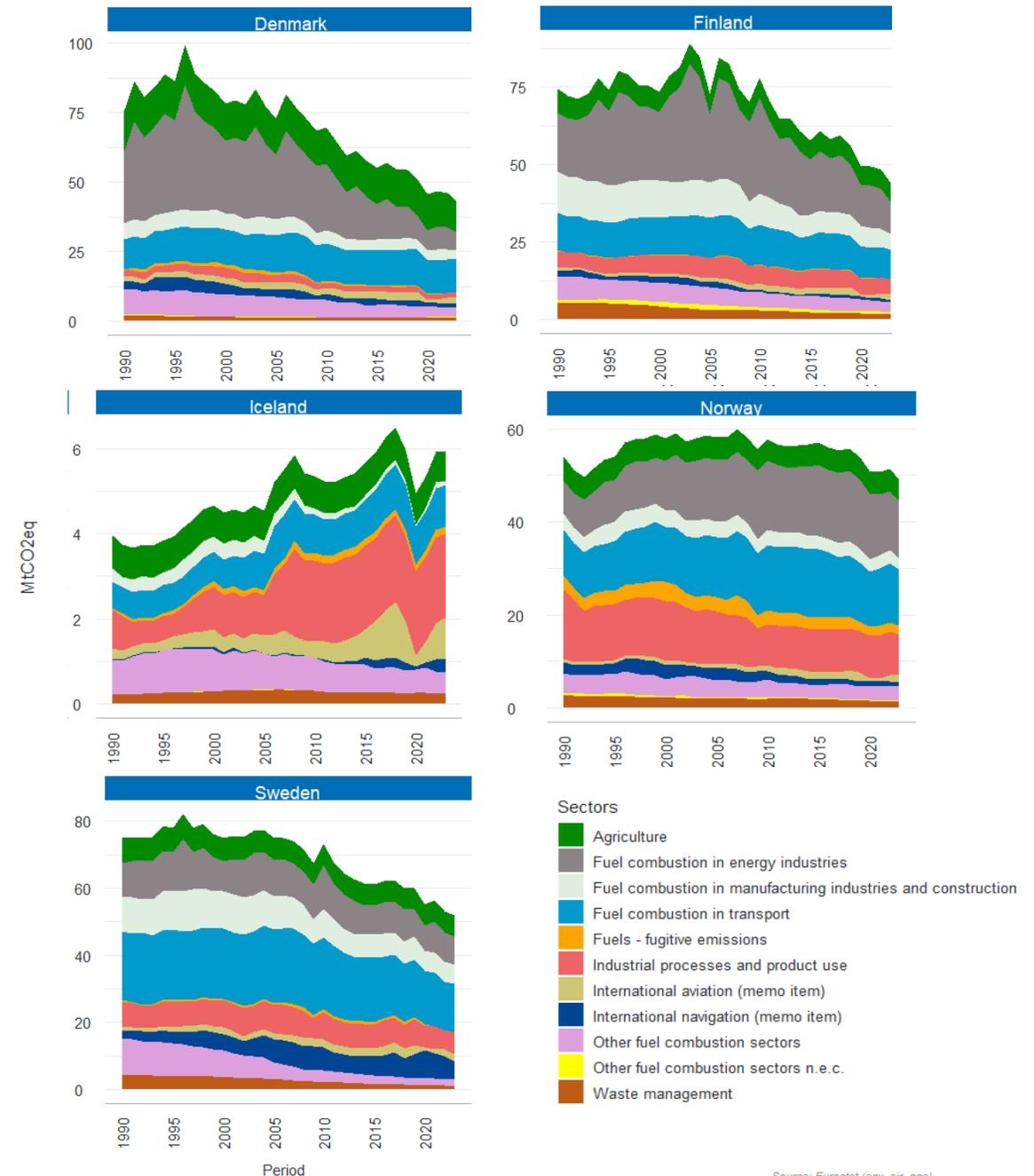
The Nordic Region in transition



Nordic decarbonisation trajectories

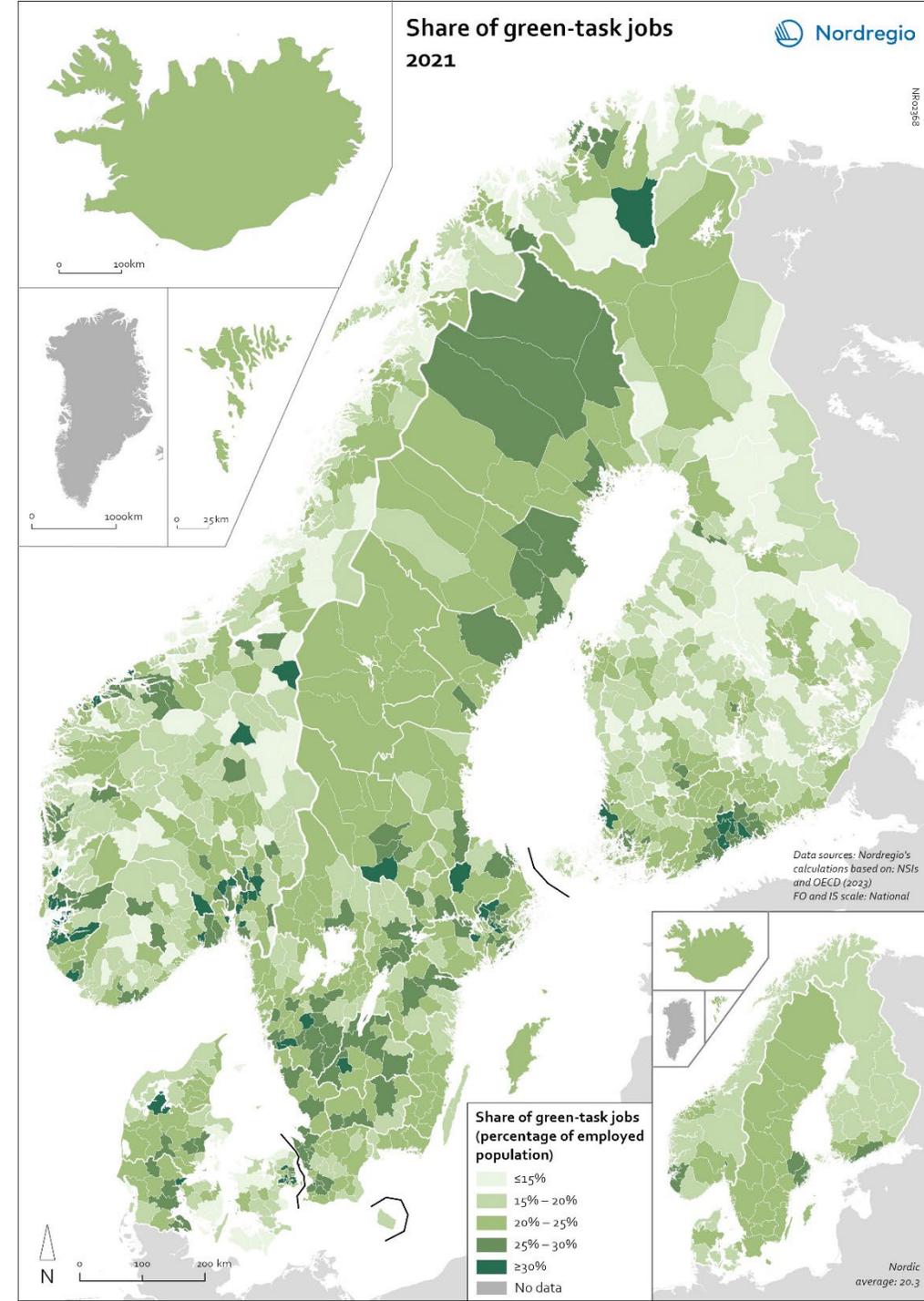
- Declining emissions in most countries (except Iceland)
- Largest progress in fuel combustion (energy and indus.)
- Shared challenges in sectors like electricity and heat production, agriculture and transport, including aviation and navigation
- Specific challenges in process industries (Finland – pulp and paper, Iceland – aluminum smelting, Sweden – cement and steel, Norway – oil industry)

Greenhouse gas emissions by source sector* (1990 – 2023)



Green jobs

- ~25.2% of total employment classified as 'green-task jobs'
- More abundant among 'highly skilled' professions
- Higher representation in *urban areas*



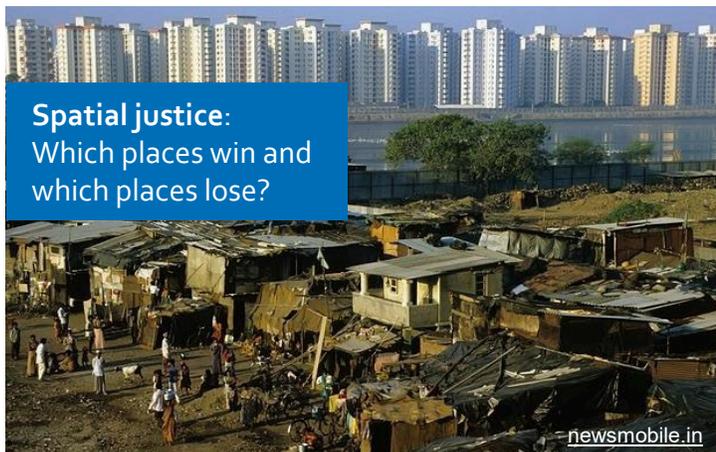
Which are
the expected
**impacts of the
green transition in
the Nordic Region?**



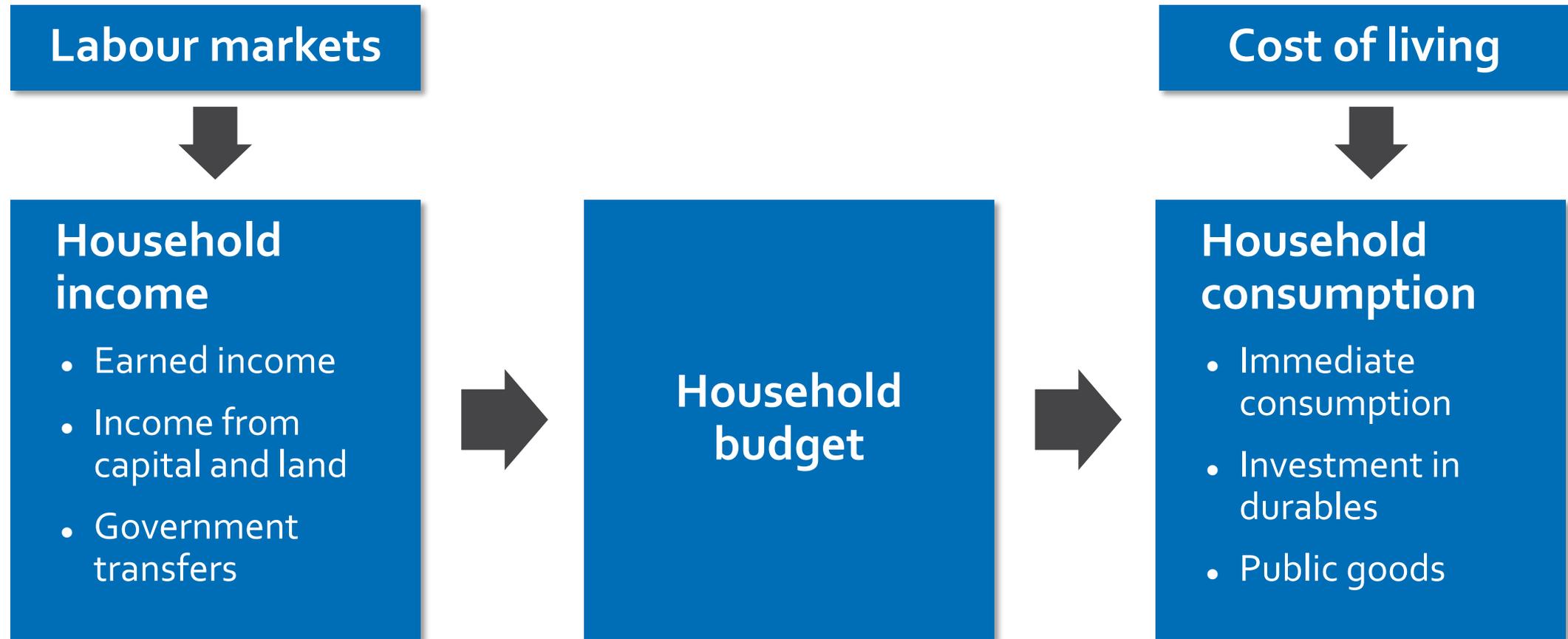
Fairness in the green transition

Distribution of assets

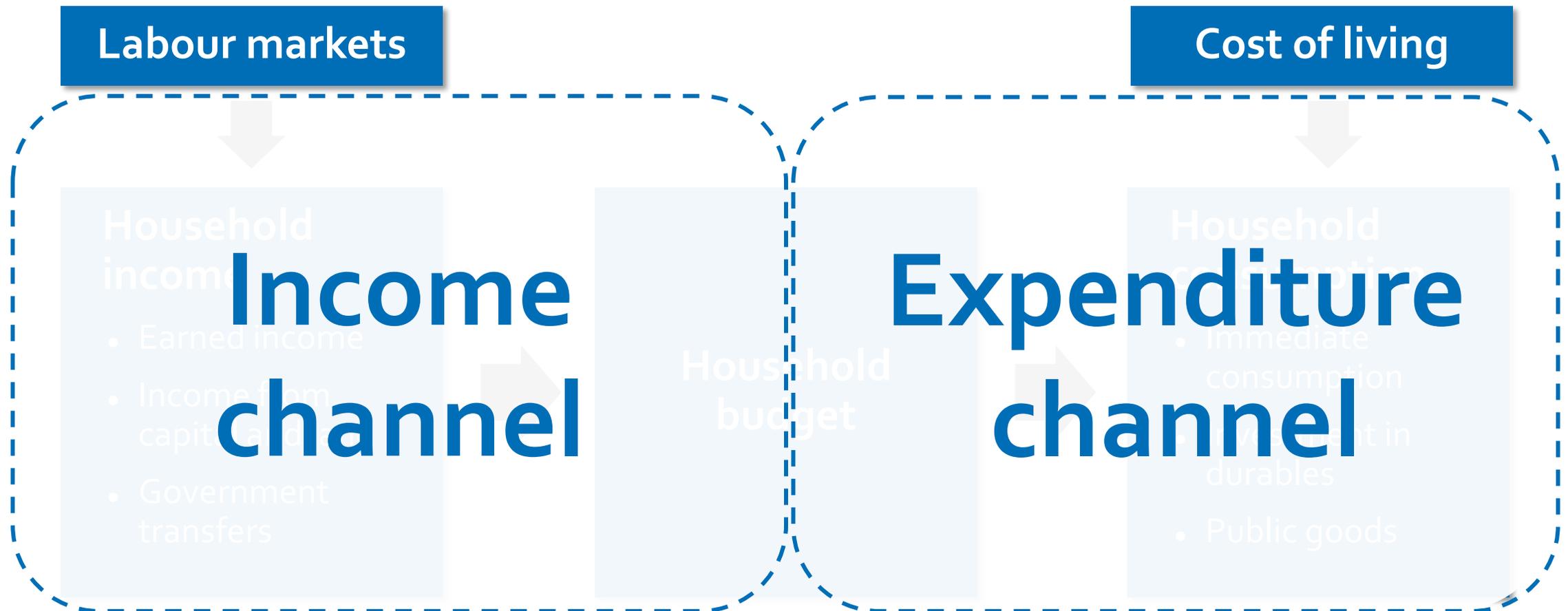
Distribution of power



How are households' finances affected by the green transition?



How are households' finances affected by the green transition?



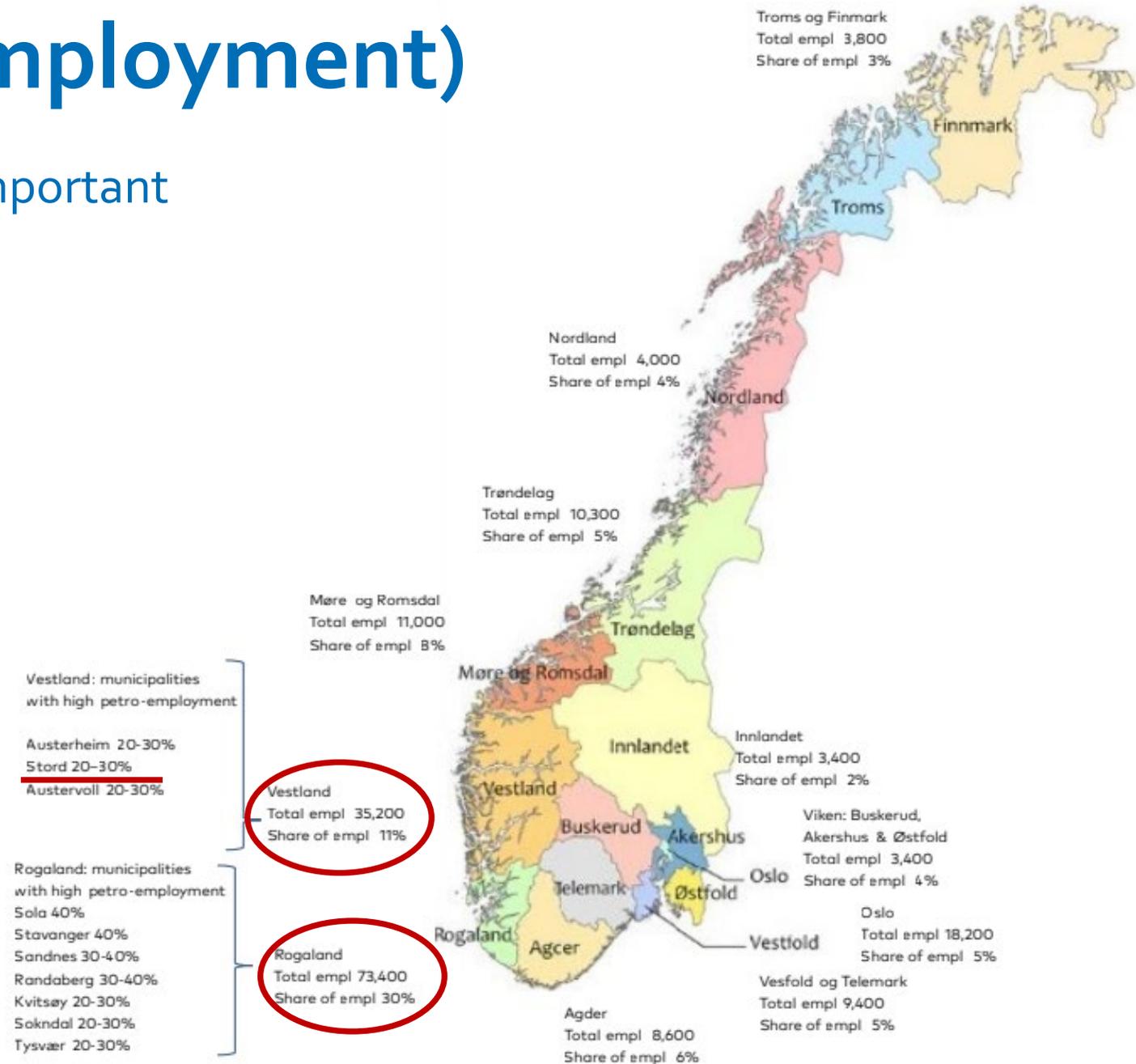
Income channel (employment)

Local and regional impacts can be important

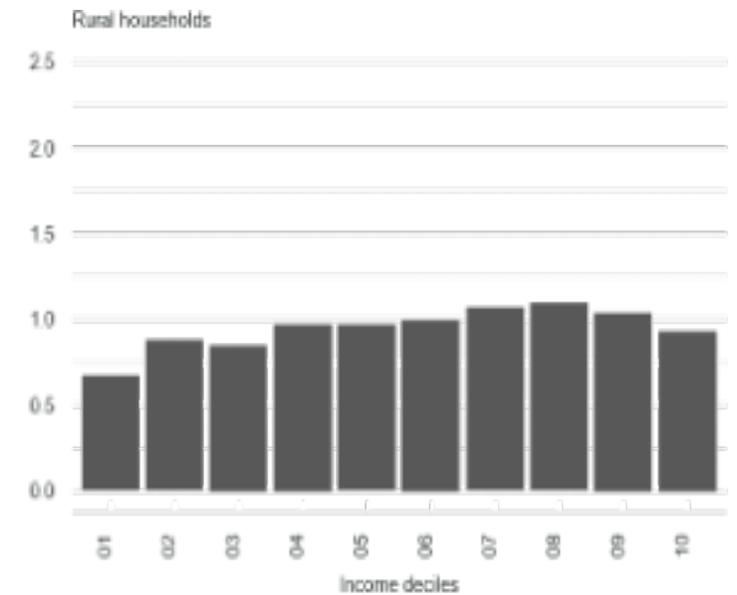
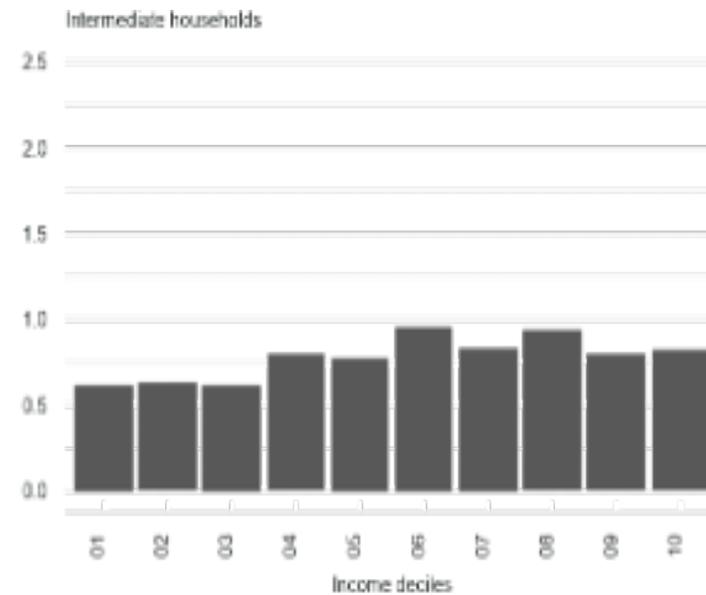
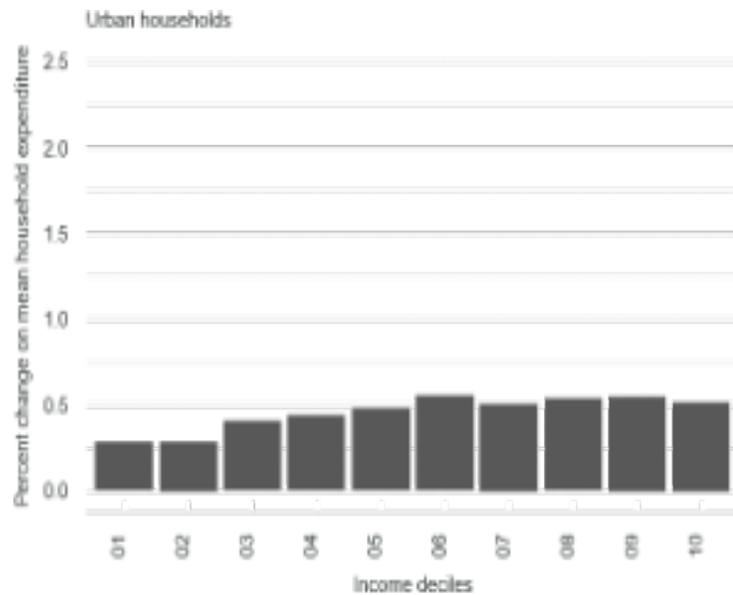


Territorial Just Transition Plans for Gotland and Norrbotten

Cementa plant in Gotland: 277 FTE jobs (230 direct and 47 indirect), 2.2 percent of total employment in Gotland

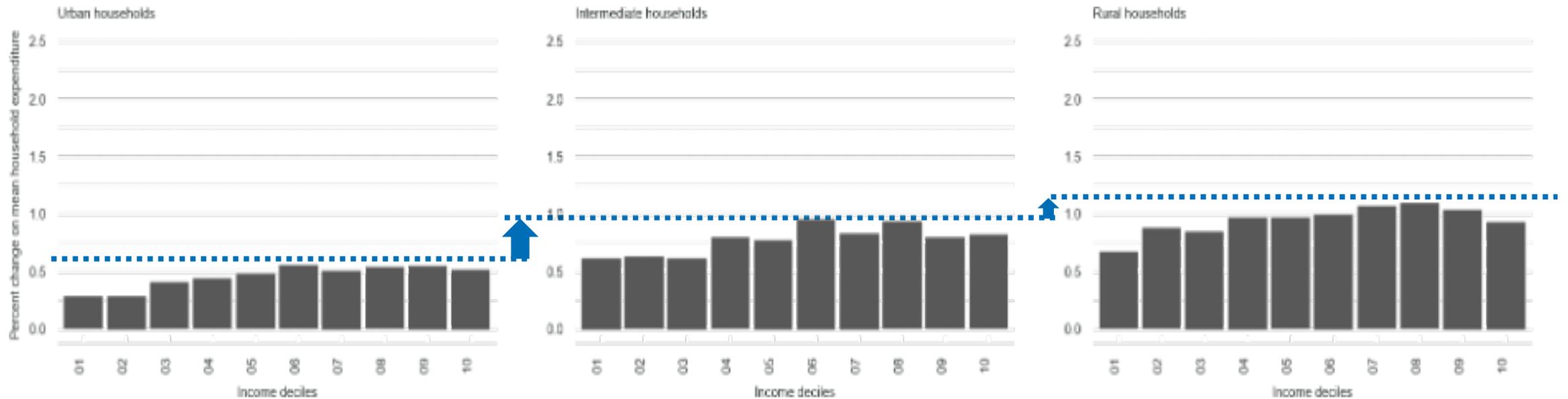


The expenditure channel: Progressivity of energy policies across deciles and territorial contexts



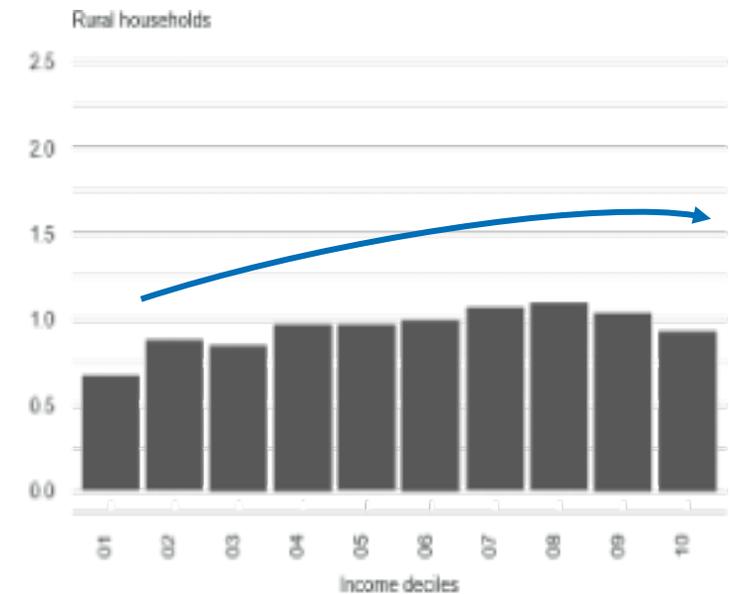
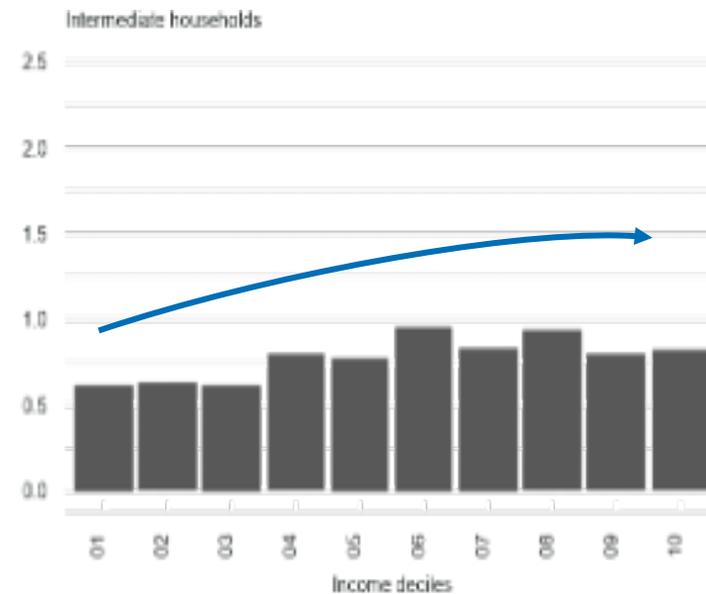
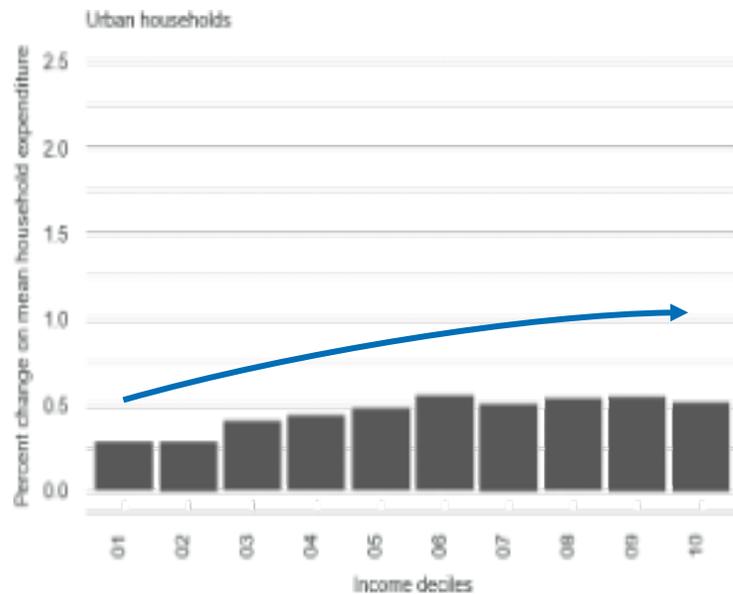
The expenditure channel: Progressivity of energy policies across deciles and territorial contexts

- Higher baseline energy burden for rural households



The expenditure channel: Progressivity of energy policies across deciles and territorial contexts

- Higher baseline energy burden for rural households
- But progressivity along income deciles



Which **impacts** does the green transition have on **regions, economies and households?**



What do people in the Nordic Region think about the green transition?



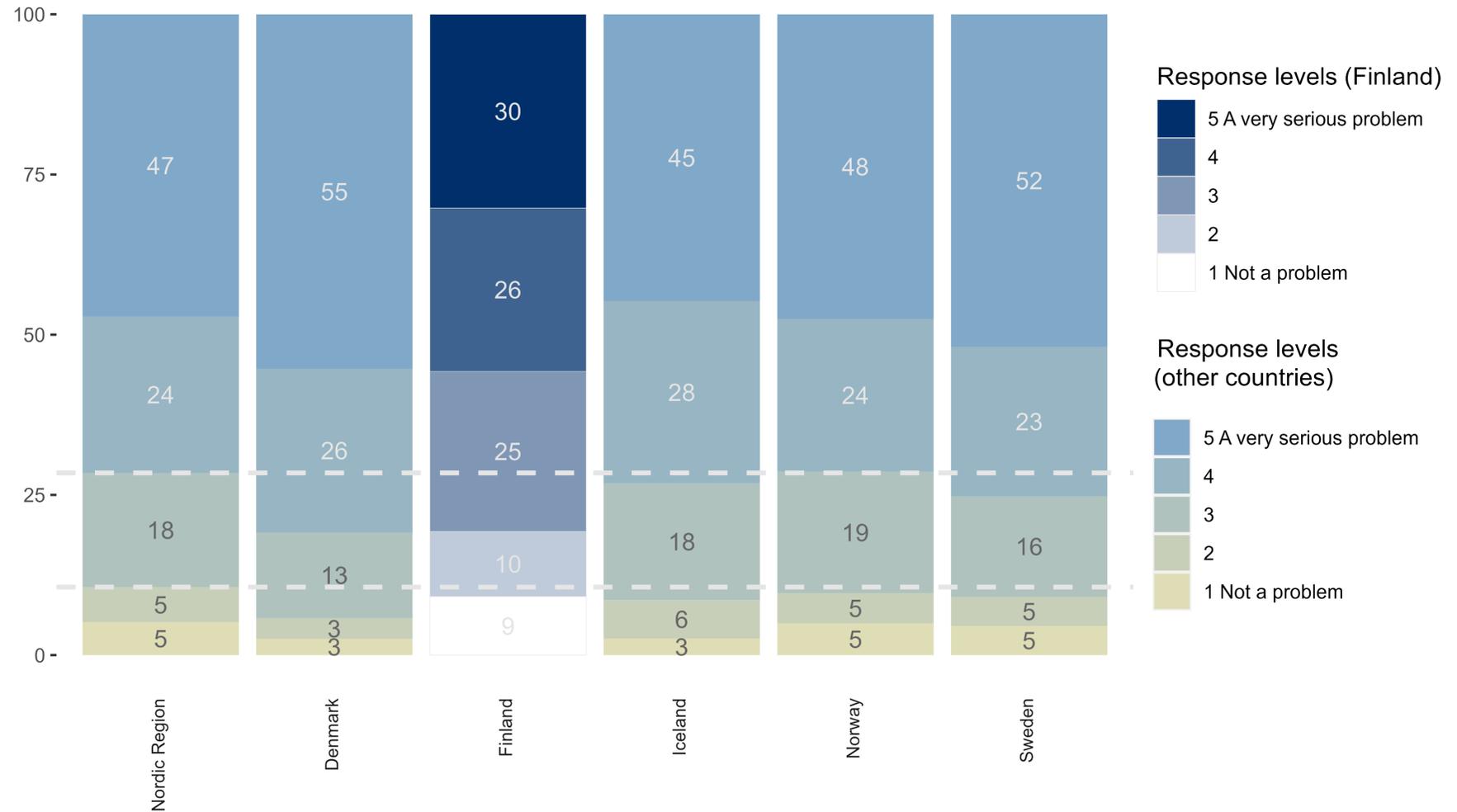
Grasping people's views on the green transition

- Representative sample of the adult population living in the Nordic Region (N=5,178; interlocked gender*age quotas)
- Fieldwork: October to November 2022
- Interview method: CATI telephone interviews



Climate worry outweighs green transition concerns across the Nordics

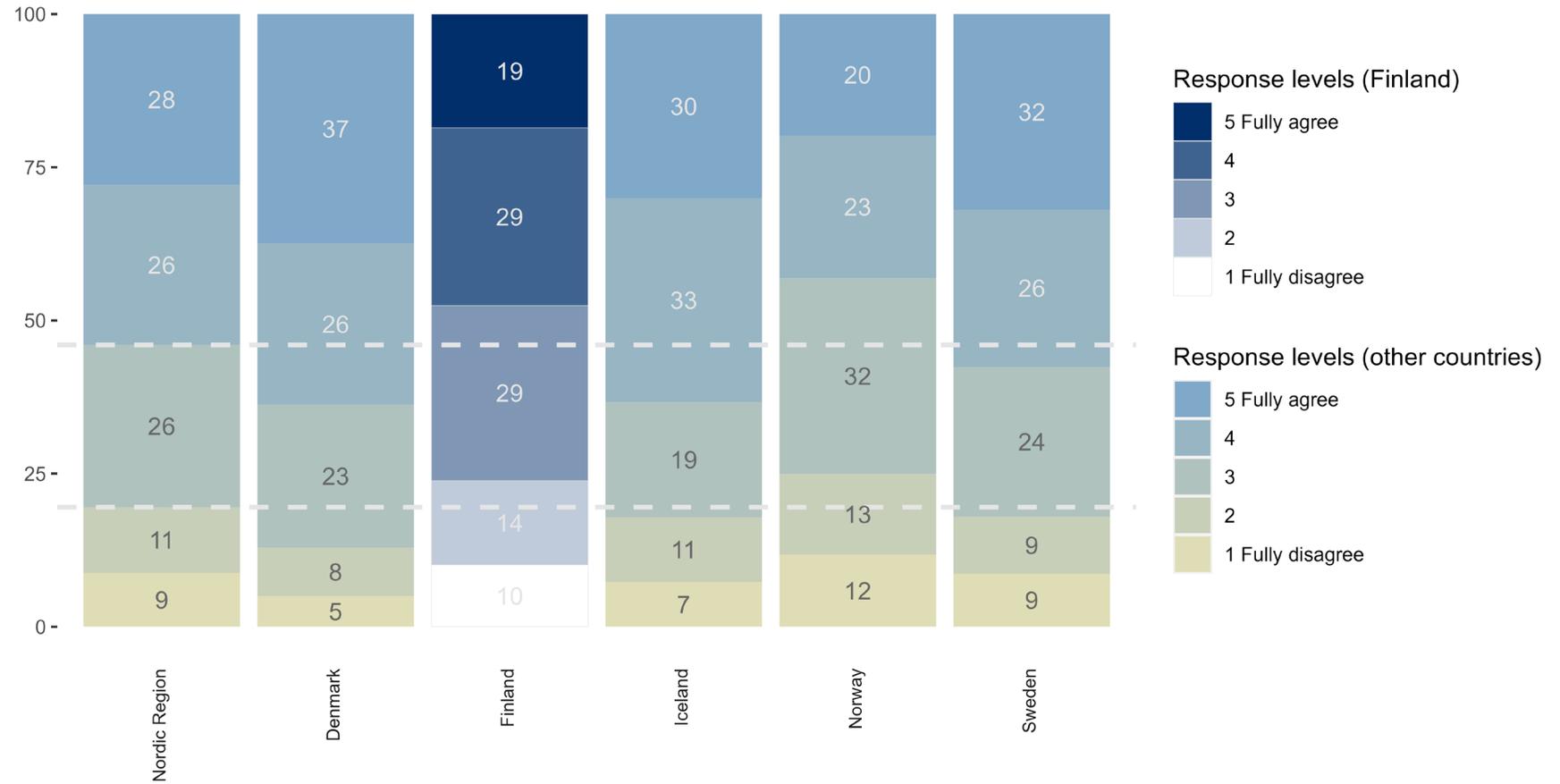
Q1.1 To what extent do you think that climate change is a problem? (%)



Fieldwork: October-November 2022

Many Nordic people expect the green transition to bring benefits

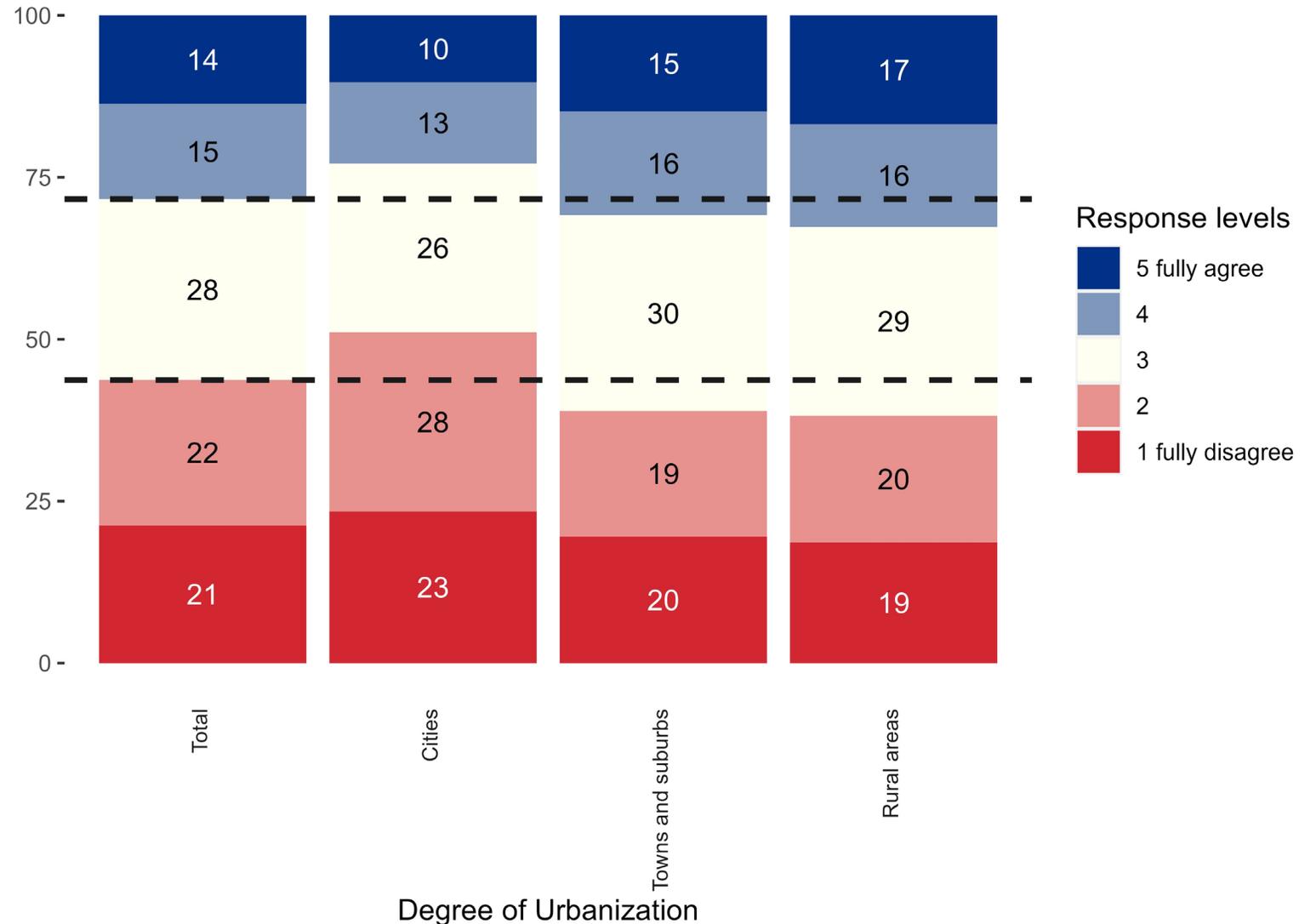
Q1.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Taking action on climate change would be beneficial for the economy in <country/region>' (%)



Fieldwork: October-November 2022

People in rural areas and towns are more concerned about job losses during the green transition than people in urban areas

Q1.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'I am worried that some jobs in <country/region> may be at risk due to the transition to a low-carbon economy' (%)





How can the Nordic Region shape better policies for a fair green transition?



Nordic Toolbox for a Just Green Transition

Navigate challenges, listen to those affected, and get inspired through this interactive, research-based toolbox for policymakers.

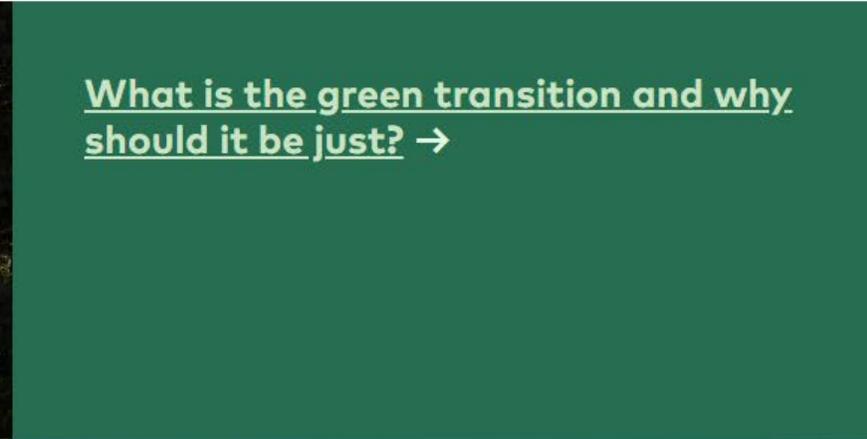
Nordregio report 2024:21



[Introduction](#) →



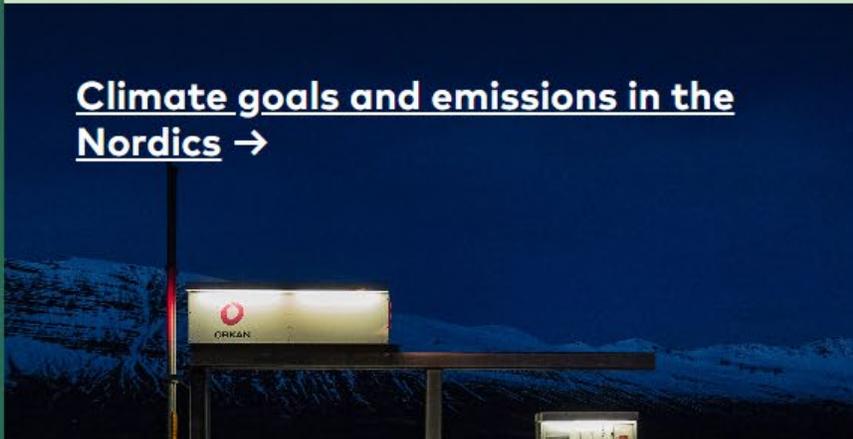
[Six priority areas for a Just Green Transition](#) →



[What is the green transition and why should it be just?](#) →



[Policy memos: Voices and views from people in the Nordics](#) →



[Climate goals and emissions in the Nordics](#) →



[Checklist for policymakers](#) →

Towards a Just Green Transition

10 Key messages for Nordic policymakers



Nora Sánchez Gassen, Anna Lundgren & Carlos Tapia

NORDREGIO POLICY BRIEF 2025:26

Wrapping up

1. Climate worry outweighs green transition concerns across the Nordics
2. Public support for stronger climate action, even if it means higher taxes
3. Many Nordic people expect the green transition to bring benefits
4. Climate communication should spark hope, especially among young people
5. Inclusive stakeholder engagement can improve climate policy design and public legitimacy
6. Emissions reductions are technically feasible but politically challenging
7. Perceived local and household impacts influence climate policy support
8. Place-based policies are key to avoid deepening regional inequalities
9. Job quality and inclusive skills development are important to sustain public support
10. The Nordic Toolbox offers practical guidance for delivering a just green transition

State of the Nordic Region

tracking regional development trends over time – published since the 1980s



Nordregio's flagship report provides an overview of development trends in the Nordic Region.

- Demography
- Labour market
- Economy
- Regional Potential Index

Next edition will be published in spring 2026.

Read more:
[nordregio.org/research/
state-of-the-nordic-region/](https://nordregio.org/research/state-of-the-nordic-region/)



Questions, comments?

