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# Inherited inertia

Constraints to adaptation in the Norwegian  
electricity sector

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# Research question

- What are the main barriers to adaptation in the Norwegian electricity sector?



# Instrumental constraints

- Policy fragmentation
- Unclear responsibilities, demands, and conflict of goals
- Regulatory scheme
  - Little encouragement for (re)investments & maintenance
- The grid is the weak point



# Institutional factors

- ‘All about culture’ – legitimization
- Informal by nature, can be harder to spot
- But: Important constraints to adaptation

# Institutional constraints

- Well overdue reform liberalised the sector in 1991:
  - Change of norms: Today's "(socio)economic feasible" is a mantra
  - Change of logic: *engineer's* --> *economist's*:
    - *Arguments changed from security of supply to economically feasible*
  - Sector resisting change (inertia)
  - Some complacency towards weather vulnerability



# Practical implications

- Regulatory scheme hard to change due to lock-in effects/path dependence (inertia)
- Economical grounding of regulation, but a move towards direct requirements
- Must take legitimatizing norms into account!

