



“Norway in a Nutshell – Natural Wonders & Environmental Policy”
Vedis Vik, Environment Counselor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy

Thursday, October 1, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

MSU Student Union, Ballroom A

Norway is unique among western European nations: with its North Sea oil and its multiple sites for hydroelectric generation, Norway produces enough power for its own needs and is even able to export its excess energy resources to the rest of Europe. Yet it is still faced with serious environmental threats. Global warming is altering its North Sea currents and threatening its Arctic regions. Smokestack industry in England still causes acidification problems in Norway’s pristine mountain lakes. Nuclear waste from the old Soviet Union’s submarine stations on the Kola Peninsula threatens Norway’s very productive fisheries. Since most of these dangers to its environment are external in nature, Norway has been forced to develop global strategies to protect its very pristine and beautiful natural resources.

Vedis Vik, Environmental Counselor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy, will talk about Norway’s current environmental policies and illustrate her lecture with slides showing Norway’s beautiful environments and endangered areas. Since 2013, Vik has been responsible for climate change and environmental issues at the Embassy. Her responsibilities include developing new and ongoing international initiatives with US authorities at federal and state levels, and briefing Norwegian governmental and non-governmental organizations on American policies and initiatives. In the last ten years Vik has held various positions at the Norwegian Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, including being responsible for Norway's bilateral environmental cooperation with India and South Africa. Previously she worked on the UN Development Programme in India. She holds a Masters degree in Political Science from the University of Oslo and is married with three children.

This lecture is being sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Association of North America (NORTANA), and the MSU Office of International Programs. The lecture is being held in conjunction with the Norway Seminar, an annual conference of American scholars of Norwegian language, history and culture being held on the Montana State University Campus, September 30 – October 2. For more information contact Dr. Jerry Coffey at coffey@montana.edu or 801-829-8838.