

# Policy Matters



Policy Commons

Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.  
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

## We're delighted to present our first issue compiled by a Guest Editor.

Dr. Alexandra Middleton from the University of Oulu, Finland, focuses on the Arctic, a region of growing geostrategic importance and a prospective source of critical minerals. Alexandra's edition of *Policy Matters* covers Trump/Greenland, Indigenous rights, green transition, and more. You'll find her bio below, and if you would like to follow in her footsteps and guest edit a future issue, [do get in touch](#).

## Greenland and Trump

Understanding Greenland's centrality to Arctic geopolitics requires expert analysis, which [The Arctic Institute](#), the premier Arctic-focused think tank, provides in depth. Their comprehensive coverage includes [Trump's Greenland Flirt is Clumsy Arctic Geopolitics](#), which examines the diplomatic implications of the purchase proposal. At the same time, [Trump Sparks Renewed Interest in Greenland](#) explores the territory's resource wealth and independence aspirations. The piece [Uncertainty and Tension](#) further contextualizes these developments by analyzing Russia's cautious response to America's Arctic ambitions.

## Value creation in the Arctic

While Greenland captures headlines, understanding the broader Arctic picture demands an examination of socioeconomic patterns across all eight Arctic nations: Russia, Canada, the US, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, and Denmark (via Greenland). [The Business Index North \(BIN\) Project](#) offers precisely such a pan-Arctic perspective in its [latest report: Arctic Value Creation, Employment, and Investments](#).

## Russia dominates investments in the region

Within this regional landscape, Russia stands as a dominant player, controlling over half of the Arctic's landmass. Moscow's commitment to development is evidenced by new legislation granting Arctic territories Free Trade Zone status and its [continued investments in the region despite geopolitical challenges](#).

## Just green transition

The Arctic's development ambitions intersect with environmental imperatives. Arctic regions are challenged due to their dependence on fossil fuels and emissions-heavy industries. [Nordregio](#) leads efforts to navigate this challenge through their "Just Green Transition" initiative, [developing policies and sharing best practices](#) to ensure that economic evolution benefits all stakeholders, including rural and vulnerable communities.

## Indigenous voices

Central to any discussion of Arctic development are Indigenous peoples, whose voices and rights must shape regional policies. [The Saami Arctic Strategy](#) and [Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement](#) exemplify Indigenous-led frameworks for addressing Arctic challenges, offering guidance for more inclusive and effective outcomes.

## Submarine cabling

Beyond its role at the forefront of resource extraction, the Arctic is emerging as a strategic hub for digital connectivity, with plans for subsea cables crossing the Arctic Ocean, as outlined in [Vision 2030: A Resilient Submarine Cable System through the Arctic](#). This initiative aims to enhance connectivity while integrating advanced sensing technologies, positioning the region as a key player in global digital infrastructure.

## Arctic security

The Arctic's security landscape is evolving rapidly, due to increasing geopolitical competition and the effects of climate change. The recent report [Up North: Confronting Arctic Insecurity](#) and a panel discussion, [Strategic Shifts in the Arctic](#), discuss the growing militarization of the region, highlighting activities by Russia and China, as well as the implications for NATO and regional stability. These reports stress the importance of better monitoring, international cooperation, and new technologies to address security concerns in the Arctic.

## Keeping up to date

For those seeking to monitor these rapidly evolving developments, several valuable resources offer regular updates: The [Polar Geopolitics](#) podcast provides expert insights, while the [Cryopolitics](#) blog offers analytical perspectives coupled with photos and maps. Additionally, the [Arctic Highlights](#) newsletter on LinkedIn delivers bimonthly updates on Arctic news, research, and strategic outlook.



[Alexandra Middleton](#), PhD in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Oulu, specializes in sustainability, corporate social responsibility, and Arctic business development. Her research encompasses climate change accountability, sustainable development, demographics, human capital, innovations, and connectivity solutions in the Arctic. An [Affiliate at Murray MIT Lab for Deep Tech and Geopolitics](#), she currently serves as [Finland's Citizen Science Ambassador](#) in the European Citizen Science Project and curates the [Arctic Highlights Newsletter](#) on LinkedIn. Alexandra is a [Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholar for 2024-2026](#).

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