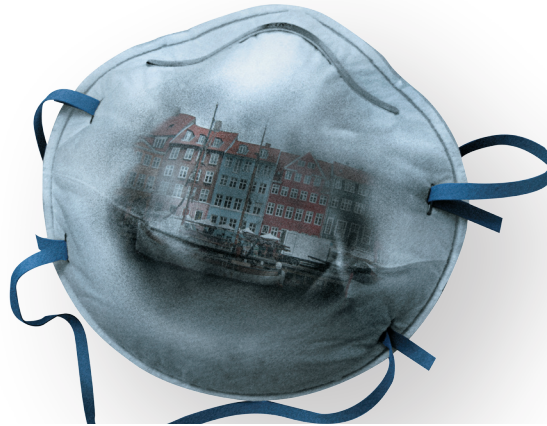


Denmark.dk

Visit Denmark's
official website



DENMARK ASKS

WILL COPENHAGEN STILL BE WONDERFUL IN 2015?

Agenda 21, launched at the 1992 UN conference in Rio, is a programme to promote sustainable development globally and locally, including economic, social and environmental perspectives. The challenge for the 181 signatory nations is in turning agreement on principles into concrete action.

Denmark has chosen to place particular emphasis on the environmental aspect, and is so far the only country that has put local Agenda 21 work into law. More than 90% of the country's municipalities have formulated a strategy for sustainable development at the local level.

Active involvement of citizens is a key feature of Denmark's approach. Many municipalities have created their own Agenda 21 centre, which citizens are encouraged to contact if they have ideas for local initiatives.

Think globally, act locally

Denmark's capital city, immortalised in Danny Kaye's song "Wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen", has formulated an ambitious Agenda 21 strategy to make the city the world's eco-metropolis by 2015 – a hub for human, cultural and economic development on a sustainable basis. The strategy focuses on putting

global thinking into local action and covers a wide range of initiatives including cleaner air, cleaner water, healthier food, less traffic noise, better use of resources, more green areas and greater biodiversity.

Action across the nation

All over Denmark, other cities are taking similarly bold initiatives. Frederikshavn in northern Jutland aims to be among the first cities in the world convert its energy supply to 100% renewable energy. The vision is that by 2015, the city's inhabitants will enjoy the fact that they are not contributing to global warming, because electricity, heat and power for transportation will be generated by a range of renewable energy sources. The city currently has four wind turbines supplying electricity, as well as a CHP station which supplies heat and electricity from waste combustion. Planned investments include a solar heating plant, and the conversion of existing heating plants from natural gas to combustion of straw and wood.

CO₂ neutral

Sønderborg in southern Jutland has launched Project Zero, a plan to make the region the first CO₂-neutral growth area in Europe. In the short term, Project Zero plans to make Sønderborg

a showcase city for the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen December 2009. Business development, changing habits, city development and new residential property concepts are some of the elements in a plan to optimise energy consumption and sustainable energy supply in the region.

Plenty of ideas

Many other municipalities and counties are taking initiatives, and the ideas are flowing. Networks are being formed between public authorities, organizations, businesses and citizens' groups to help ensure that Agenda 21 strategies for sustainable urban development are put into action across the entire map of Denmark.

WILL COPENHAGEN STILL BE WONDERFUL IN 2015?

PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK.
ADDRESS: ASIATISK PLADS 2, DK-1448 COPENHAGEN K, DENMARK.
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 2007. ISBN978-87-7667-877-7

CASE

ECO-METROPOLIS OF THE WORLD

Copenhagen is Europe's environmental city, taking the lead in a number of areas: it is the city of bicycles; it has shown that it can keep its water and energy consumption constant despite strong economic growth; and it has reduced its CO₂ emissions by 25% since 1990. But Copenhagen has higher aspirations – it aims to be the world's Eco-metropolis by 2015.

The ambitious vision, adopted by Copenhagen Municipality in November 2007, is focused on four themes with several objectives within each:

World's best city for cycles

By 2015, 50% of Copenhageners will cycle to their place of work or study, against 36% today; the number of people injured on Copenhagen cycle lanes will be reduced by 50%; and 80% of cyclists will feel safe in traffic, against 58% today.

Centre for world climate policy

By 2015, Copenhagen's CO₂ emissions will have been reduced by 20% compared to the 2005 level.

A green and blue capital city

By 2015, 90% of Copenhageners will be able to walk to a park, a beach, an area of natural beauty or a harbour swimming facility in less than 15 minutes, and Copenhageners will visit these 50% more frequently than in 2007.

A clean and healthy major city

By 2015, Copenhageners will sleep more peacefully because they are not exposed to health damaging noise from street traffic; all day nurseries will only be

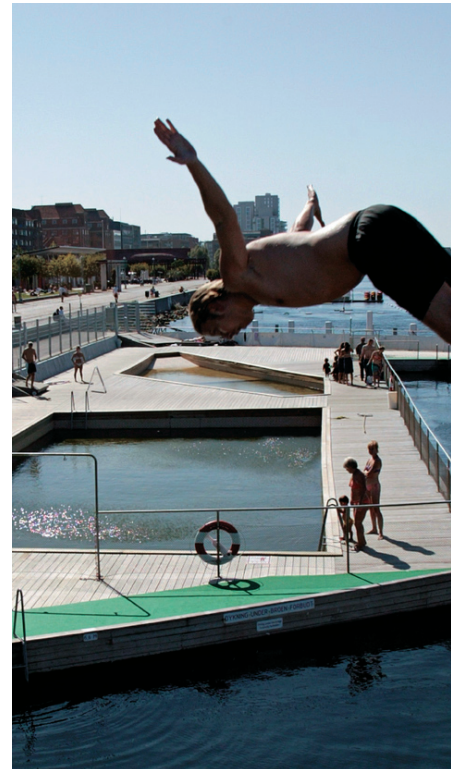
exposed to a low level of noise from traffic during the day; the air will be so clean that it does not pose a health risk to Copenhageners; 20% of the city's food consumption will consist of organic food, while the figure will be 80% in municipality institutions; and litter in streets will be removed within 8 hours.

Realising the vision

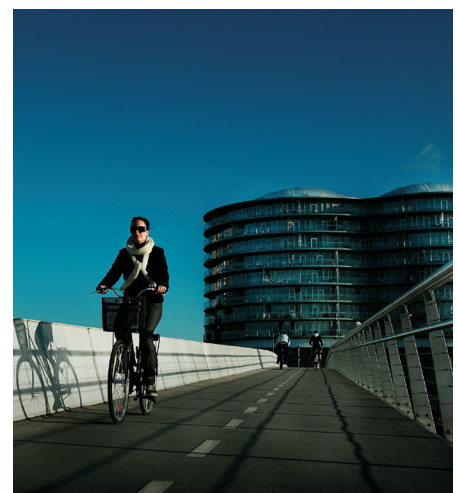
Visions require action to become a reality, and Copenhagen has already shown its ability to put words into action. Since the 1990s, the capital has had one of the world's best waste systems with a recycling rate of approx. 90% of its building waste and approx. 75% of its household waste. The energy from waste combustion is exploited to generate electricity and district heating.

Today, the system is being used as a model throughout the world.

Before 2010, Copenhagen Municipality will have decided on at least 10 key specific initiatives to improve the environment in Copenhagen. They will be supported by a large number of 'on-the-ground' projects for example the Agenda 21 plan 2008-2011, which is a collective document for Copenhagen Municipality's environmental activities for that period.



The swimming facility at Islands Brygge is open for Copenhageners during the summer season.



Designed for cyclists and pedestrians, the recently opened Bryggebroen (Wharf bridge) is part of Copenhagen's new green cycling routes.