

Climate Communities

- a springboard to explore climate action at the local level

by The Danish Society for Nature Conservation

Finn Bro-Rasmussen
Christian Poll

Danmarks
Naturfredningsforening



The Danish Society for Nature Conservation

- Largest environmental NGO in Denmark
- 140,000 members (2.3 % of Danish population)
- 2,000 active volunteers
- 95 branches

Danmarks
Naturfredningsforening



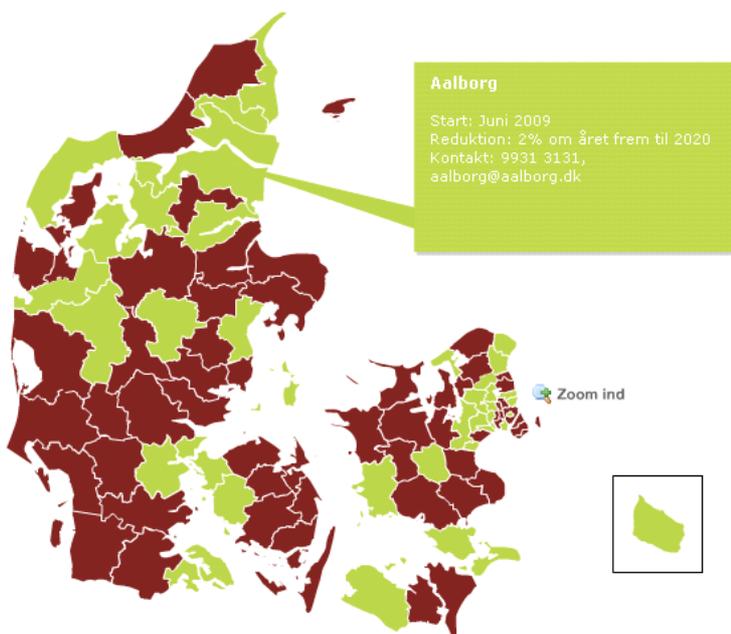
The Danish Society for Nature Conservation

- A national society, but with European and international outlook
- Active political player in all areas of nature and environmental policies

Danmarks
Naturfredningsforening



Climate Communities
- now covering half of Denmark



Danmarks
Naturfredningsforening



Climate Communities – a framework

- No obligations on HOW to work with climate improvements
- Minimum 2% yearly reductions in CO₂ emissions
- Annually documentation:
 - CO₂ reductions
 - Plan for next year's reduction activities



Becoming a Climate Community

The four steps to becoming a DN Climate Community:

- 1. The mayor signs a pledge to reduce CO₂ emissions.**
The signature commits the municipality to an annual CO₂ reduction of 2% or more until 2025.
- 2. The municipality makes a report of its current CO₂ emissions.**
The report is also used to keep track of the CO₂ reductions achieved year by year.
- 3. The municipality produces a plan of action.**
The plan contains material on the means to achieve its goals and on which areas to be focused on.
- 4. The municipality implements the plan and keeps track of developments.**
Climate developments in the municipality are updated and monitored continuously.



Supporting campaigns

- Copenhagen Climate Exchange
- Local Climate Summits
- Local pressure
- National pressure

CPHCO2009

THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE EXCHANGE 2009

We can change the weather!

3. – 6. December 2009
in Øsknehallen, Copenhagen

CPHCO2009

THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE EXCHANGE 2009



- Exhibition
- Technical programme
- Social and cultural programme

Danmarks
Naturfredningsforening



CPHCO2009

THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE EXCHANGE 2009

- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- Forest Stewardship Council Denmark
- Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa
- Era Consumer
- Engori Youth Self Help Group
- Kisii Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Emirates Environmental Group
- Danish banking for interest free money
- Danish Energy Cities
- Women & Development, Denmark
- Suez Canal University, Egypt
- Help Age, Kenya
- Green Cities, Denmark
- Nature Alliance, Bangladesh
- Global Sustainability Solutions
- Centre for Environment and Development, Sri Lanka
- GrassRoots & Shoots, Nigeria
- Green Arusha Society, Tanzania
- International Young Climate Policy Makers Network
- People's Initiative to Minimize the Impact of Climate Change, Sri Lanka
- Cool Cities by Sierra Club, USA
- OIPIC and Fundacion Kolping, Paraguay
- Toyota Denmark A/S
- Kyoto Energy Ltd, Kenya
- SolarAid, UK
- National Forum for Environment & Health, Pakistan
- A.G.C Janaka Gamage, Sri Lanka
- The Climate Community Network in Greater Copenhagen Area, Denmark
- DR N.K.Bohra, Rajasthan, India
- The Caravan of Climate, Denmark

Danmarks
Naturfredningsforening



Local Climate Summits

- Nine Climate Communities
- 8 hours workshop each
- 50 selected participants each
 - Local decision makers and innovators
 - Personally invited
- Recommendations will be passed on to the COP 15 in a side event



Local pressure

- Local press and lobby activities before the mayor accepts the pledge
- Local press activities by mayor's signing of agreement



National pressure

- National press and lobby activities on the overall development of the concept at milestones



Lessons learned

- Climate Communities meet the mayor's need to frame the work for a better climate
- Climate Communities meet the municipality staff's need for a framework for the ongoing work for a better climate
- Climate Communities join politicians, citizens, municipality staff and local press in a wave for a better climate
- Climate Communities re-activate the intentions of the Agenda 21 strategies to some degree



Indications

- The Climate Communities Concept has fulfilled a need for a decent way to work with CO₂ reductions at the local level
- The balanced minimum criterion of 2% reduction each year has been acceptable to most mayors



Indications

- The time frame of 2025 has been acceptable for most mayors and implies teasing succeeding mayors to keep up the pace
- Providing a professionally written guide on CO₂ emission calculation has been crucial to the uptake by municipality staff



Indications

- The first 20-30 communities saw the concept as a way to take the green lead, attracting powerful citizens and enterprises to the area.
- Rounding 49 out of 98 communities, the reminding 49 will need other arguments for signing the pledge, but they are still coming in.



Indications

- The concept is seen locally as a climate flagship, flagging that in our community we take the pledge for CO₂ reductions seriously
- Several communities have produced information material (including promotion videos) stressing the role of the Climate Communities Concept



Summing up

The Danish Society for Nature Conservation
The Danish Society for Nature Conservation (DN) is the largest nature conservation and environmental organisation in Denmark.
With the support of more than 200,000 members we work to protect nature and the environment. Our goals are and have always been to protect nature and the environment at all levels and in all areas of life.

DN CLIMATE COMMUNITIES
To combat the imminent threat of climate change, DN and the Danish municipalities have joined forces. Our goal is that all of Denmark's 98 municipalities work actively and strategically towards reducing their carbon footprint.

The green municipalities have an agreed CO₂ emission reduction target of 10% by 2020.

Reducing CO₂ emissions worldwide requires action internationally, nationally as well as action on the local and personal level.

Why local climate action?
The local authorities in Denmark deal with everyday decisions which affect the climate on a long term basis. Decisions regarding construction and renovation of buildings, public transport and overall planning etc. are made locally and have the potential to either promote or disregard climate friendly solutions. Hence, the Danish municipalities play a key role in reducing man-made climate change.

Mutual gain
The Climate Communities campaign benefits all involved parties. Less CO₂ means a better atmosphere, the municipalities involved benefit themselves as environmentally friendly, and an increased number of green partnerships. Moreover, the campaign may raise the municipalities towards becoming more energy independent and environmentally friendly.

MORE INFORMATION
www.dn.dk/tema www.cphco2009.dk

Danmarks Naturfredningsforening · Hovedgade 10 · 2800 Kongens Lyngby · Tlf. 33 12 00 00 · www.dn.dk

- The Climate Communities Concept has proven successful so far
- Half way through covering Denmark it will be interesting to see the way forward for the rest of Danish communities