

**AARHUS
KOMMUNE**



Climate-neutral Aarhus 2030

CLIMATE STRATEGY AGREEMENT: 2025-2030

Aarhus, 29 April 2024



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CLIMATE STRATEGY AGREEMENT: 2025-2030

We are in the midst of a global climate crisis with local impact right here in Aarhus: severe weather, flooding and prolonged periods of drought. These challenges are caused by globally high levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere, and emissions continue to increase. We must act now.

Denmark is committed to taking the lead on the green transition. And the climate effort of the City of Aarhus can play a central role. We are a small metropolis. But by charting our own path to a CO₂-neutral future, we can inspire other cities and show them the way to a sustainable future.

Since 2008, the Aarhus City Council has been committed to an ambitious target: a CO₂-neutral Aarhus in 2030. The coalition parties behind this agreement confirm their commitment to the 2030 target.

According to our projections, if we continue the current pace of our climate effort, we will fail to reach our goal of CO₂ neutrality in 2030. With the initiatives already agreed on and the new national framework conditions, the City of Aarhus will fall short of achieving zero emissions (Scope 1 and 2) within municipal borders in 2030 by about 846,000 metric tons of CO₂.

What this means is that in order to achieve a successful green transition, additional political action is necessary. The coalition parties aim to set a new course for the City of Aarhus' climate effort and to ensure that we will be able to achieve the necessary carbon reductions to achieve CO₂ neutrality. This agreement on climate strategy for 2025-2030 creates a framework for reaching this goal.

A decisive event that paved the way for the climate strategy was the adoption of a climate-economic approach by a majority in the City Council in the budget agreement for 2024. A climate-economic approach involves prioritizing the initiatives that generate the greatest possible CO₂ reduction for the money. This will provide the best prospects of reaching the 2030 target and making a genuine difference for the climate.

The coalition parties also agree that the climate strategy must also take responsibility for the most significant sources of consumption-based emissions. The coalition parties also agree that the guiding principle with regard to consumption-based emissions must be a focus on the greatest possible CO₂ reduction for the money.

Climate is an issue that affects every aspect of our society. We will only reach our goal of climate neutrality through a joint effort involving government, the business community, knowledge institutions, citizens and civil society, creating the best possible conditions for setting a common course, developing new technology and green innovation, as well as changed habits and behaviors.

This is why civic engagement is a central pillar of a new climate strategy. The coalition parties agree that targeted civic involvement initiatives in connection with the different domains and sub-targets, in order to ensure that dialogue take place on the premise of the issues that affect citizens, businesses and organisations.

The political agreement will be implemented in the form of a climate action plan drafted by Technical Services and Environment in collaboration with the Mayor's Department. The climate action plan will be presented to the City Council before the end of 2024.

It is vital that we ensure that real reductions are achieved as quickly as possible, so that we set our course towards climate neutrality from the very beginning. To this end, the coalition parties agree to revisit the climate effort annually. On the background of the annual greenhouse gas emissions report and frozen policy prognoses, the coalition parties will consider any necessary adjustments and new

actions on the journey towards climate neutrality in 2030.

Strategic focus areas



ENERGY



TRANSPORT



**AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND LAND
USE**



LANDFILLS AND



WASTEWATER



FOOD



CONSTRUCTION AND



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CITIZENS AND THE

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

CLIMATE GROUP



ENERGY

In 2022, the energy sector in Aarhus emitted 698,000 metric tons CO₂e. Today, about 70% of Aarhus' energy needs are met by sustainable energy sources, including biomass, which covers 69% of the municipality's energy needs. Aarhus is committed to taking the next steps toward an even greener energy supply system, and with 'the green district heating of the future', we can phase out fossil fuels and get down to 15% biomass in 2030.

To achieve climate neutrality in 2030, the coalition parties have agreed that the energy sector must contribute negative emissions of approx. -259,000 metric tons CO₂e. This corresponds to a reduction of approximately 405,000 metric tons of CO₂e incl. CO₂ capture and storage.

At the same time, power consumption will increase significantly in future. In 2022, Aarhus consumed 1,700 GWh of power, and an increase in consumption is projected, reaching 2,900 GWh in 2030. It is thus absolutely crucial that we expand renewable energy capacity in order to meet the demand for power in Aarhus and ensure security of supply. The coalition parties agree that Aarhus must increase the amount of power generated within the municipality in order to ensure security of supply and meet future needs.

The Green District Heating of the Future

The Green District Heating of the Future project is a prerequisite for reducing the use of biomass for heating in 2030 and represents a significant contribution to phasing out coal. In particular, the Green District Heating of the Future will contribute to phasing out wood pellets as fuel, which currently account for 1.5 million metric tons of CO₂. The coalition parties agree that Kredsløb, the municipal utility, should pursue technologies that enable the greatest possible reduction in biomass fuels.

Geothermic district heating will make it possible to exploit heat from subterranean water as a sustainable source of energy that is available every day, all year round. Kredsløb and Innargi have drilled two test wells, one on the Port of Aarhus and one in Skejby. Results from both test wells have been positive, and the project will continue. The objective is to begin supplying geothermal heat to residents of Aarhus in the fall of 2025.

In the long-term, the objective is a heating system in Aarhus that does not use any biomass that is not captured using CCS, with the exception of necessary waste incineration. The coalition parties recognize that hay biomass in Lisbjerg will continue to be a component of the district heating system for some years. The Green District Heating of the Future project will lead to a 28,000 metric ton reduction of CO₂ in 2030.

CO₂ capture and storage (CCS)

A CO₂ capture facility at the Lisbjerg Plant is projected to be able to capture approx. 335,000 CO₂e annually. CCS is thus a decisive factor in our efforts to achieve climate neutrality in 2030 and contribute to negative emissions from the energy sector. The coalition parties agree that Kredsløb must apply to establish a CCS facility, including that the City of Aarhus may provide a municipal guarantee in connection with the construction project. The coalition parties emphasize the importance of collaboration with external partners in this connection, as well as the expectation that operations achieve financial equilibrium, government funding taken into account.

Due to the fact that the by-laws for Kredsløb stipulate that owner approval is necessary for investments over DKK 500 million, the City Council will have to make a final decision on the approval of the Circuit's CCS facility. If needed, a municipal guarantee will be considered at the same time.

A prerequisite for the introduction of CSS is that Kredsløb must be able to sell CO₂ credits in order to ensure the financial viability of the project. Of the 335,000 metric tons of CO₂e captured, approx. 25% will come from fossil sources and 75% from biogenic sources. The coalition parties support allowing Kredsløb to sell CO₂ credits from biogenic sources to help finance the project. The coalition parties agree that the market for CO₂ credits is immature, that principles for CO₂ credits must be developed, and that the City Council will be responsible for setting the framework for the responsible sale of credits that will continue to ensure the necessary financing. The coalition parties also support Kredsløb applying for funding from the government operating grant pool in order to help fund the start-up of CSS.

The coalition parties also acknowledge that the effectiveness of CCS facilities has not yet been demonstrated on a large scale, and that there is a risk with regard to technology, transport and storage. The adoption of CCS technology is thus associated with significant uncertainty. For this reason, the coalition parties request that Kredsløb, Technical Services and Environment and the Mayor's Department provide regular status reports to the City Council on the progress of the project, including in the event that it is considered necessary to discuss risks with the coalition parties.

The coalition parties will also explore the possibilities for additional CCS projects elsewhere in the municipality than at the Lisbjerg Plant. Additional CSS facilities could potentially reduce the municipality's total CO₂ emissions. The coalition parties agree that additional CSS facilities must not impose restrictions on the phasing out of biomass in connection with the Green District Heating of the Future.

For this reason, the coalition parties request that Technical Services and Environment and the Mayor's Department explore potential synergies between the Lisbjerg Plant and potential additional CSS facilities elsewhere in the municipality, including but not limited to in connection with the biogenic energy park or in connection with private point sources. CO₂ reduction from additional CCS facilities will be included in the CO₂ buffer. A status report must be submitted to the coalition parties in the third quarter of 2024.

Accelerated deployment of sustainable energy (solar and wind)

Nationally, the target is to quadruple onshore sustainable energy production by 2030. The coalition parties agree that the City of Aarhus must contribute to reaching this target. The City Council has already earmarked 1,200 ha for the establishment of renewable energy facilities (RE) in the form of solar energy. The coalition parties agree that the earmarked locations are to be fully exploited, corresponding to installation of solar panels with the target of producing 1,000 GWh annually in total.

The coalition parties agree that it is necessary to find many locations as possible for solar energy, and that installing solar panels in areas with vulnerable groundwater reserves would be advantageous, as this will achieve synergy effects. The coalition parties agree that the solar panels must be installed so as to prevent seepage of substances harmful to groundwater. The coalition parties agree that the ambition is to earmark an additional 400 ha for solar cells, and that possible locations will be explored in connection with the drafting of the 2025 municipal plan. In connection with the drafting of the municipal plan, new and more flexible tools must be explored in connection with the selection of locations.

A number of the 20 wind turbines that currently provide Aarhus with green power are inadequate or obsolete. The coalition parties agree to replace the existing wind turbines in the municipality with new turbines on the same sites, and in this connection to promote dialogue with the owners of the turbines

and work to promote better framework conditions that provide incentives for owners to invest in new,

modern wind turbines. Replacing 5 existing wind turbines and installing 2 new 150-meter wind turbines on existing sites would generate enough power for an additional 2,500 households (10 MW).

The coalition parties also agree that in connection with the drafting of the 2025 municipal plan, sites for wind turbines will be proposed with a view to installing an additional 8 new wind turbines in the City of Aarhus that would be able to generate power for an additional 16,000 households (40 MW) in Aarhus. Sites in Vosnæs and Kasted have already been earmarked with capacity for a total of 5 wind turbines. The Danish Liberal Party has previously expressed opposition to the installation of wind turbines in Vosnæs and Kasted but accepts that the majority agrees to continue work towards installing wind turbines in these locations.

Site identification for and installation of 3 additional wind turbines remains to be carried out. The coalition parties agree that installing wind turbines on the harbour is not a precondition for the agreement. In addition, the Liberal Party's agreement is conditional on the new 3 wind turbines being installed as replacements for existing wind turbines.

Installing new wind turbines may involve purchase or expropriation of homes in the countryside in a radius of 600 m to the wind turbine area (for wind turbines with a total height of 150 m), in addition to deprioritizing buffer zones around larger towns.

The coalition parties request that Technical Services and Environment explores the possibilities for and consequences of a new model for RE planning that can deliver greater speed in land-use planning, clear prioritization of different land-use considerations and to a higher degree accommodate citizen-driven energy communities. Designation of sites for solar cells, for example, would take place in dialogue with private actors and relevant stakeholders, including the agricultural sector.

It is estimated that the combination of 1,600 hectares of solar energy and 10 new wind turbines combined would lead to a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 12,000 metric tons in 2030 and generate approx. 1,450 GWh annually, which corresponds to about 50% of Aarhus' projected electricity consumption in 2030.

The coalition parties aim for Aarhus to generate more of its own electricity in future and have therefore agreed to set a minimum target of 1,750 GWh. As Aarhus Municipality's electricity consumption increases, efforts must be to establish additional renewable energy, with the goal of reaching 65% self-sufficiency. The coalition parties agree that this presupposes that Kredsløb can deploy RE throughout Denmark. For this reason, the coalition parties request that Technical Services and Environment and Kredsløb present a plan for deploying renewable energy in the form of solar and wind energy outside the municipal boundaries to achieve the target.

Any CO₂ reduction that would be possible to include in the municipality's greenhouse gas emissions report will be included in the CO₂ buffer.

The coalition parties note that Technical Services and Environment has already received a considerable number of applications for the installation of solar cells. In 2022, the City Council allocated DKK 7 million annually for RE case processing in the period 2023-2027. The coalition parties agree to extend the RE case- processing effort, and the coalition parties request that Technical Services and Environment speed up regulatory processing and increase simultaneous citizen involvement.

The coalition parties note that the national energy crisis staff (NEKST) intends to reduce barriers to faster deployment of RE. The coalition parties also agree that green funding pools should benefit local communities and neighbors of RE installations to an even greater extent, including with a focus on biodiversity, and that steps should be taken towards increasing the available forms of neighbor compensation, for example through sale of electricity from RE installations to their neighbors.

Energy efficiency improvements and solar cells on roofs

Through the Aa+ project, the City of Aarhus has implemented ambitious energy-efficiency retrofits. With the formation of Aarhus Ejendomme, it is now possible to carry out additional energy-efficiency retrofits on an even larger scale and contribute to the implementation of the EU's energy efficiency directive, which sets a target of overall energy savings from all buildings of 11.7% for the period 2024-2030. This goal applies to society as a whole and includes citizens and businesses in addition to the municipality. To achieve this target, a partnership with business and industry to reduce energy consumption will be established. In addition, the municipality will launch a public information campaign focussing on energy-efficiency retrofits. In total, energy efficiency retrofits will lead to a reduction of 16,000 metric tons of CO₂e annually.

The City of Aarhus has taken the lead and has already formed a solar cell entity that will install solar cells on the roofs of all municipal buildings where this is financially feasible. The solar cell entity is expected to install 71,000 m² solar cells on about double the roof area. Electricity production from 2029 with 71,000 m² is estimated at 12.8 GWh annually. The projected CO₂e reduction in 2030 is estimated at approx 100 metric tons.

The private sector is taking a proactive approach and is offering installation of solar cells on existing private detached houses. Before the summer holiday, the City of Aarhus will launch a website that can calculate the solar cell potential for all roof surfaces in the municipality, including private homes. The coalition parties are committed to promoting the expansion of solar cells in all new and existing urban and commercial zones, and to this end a partnership will be established between the City of Aarhus and relevant contractors, developers, and advisers. The coalition parties are also committed to providing support for the installation of solar cells on the roofs of housing associations and cooperatives. The coalition parties will also work to ensure that the state provides the necessary national framework for a rapid energy efficiency effort, including solar cells on roofs.

Biogenic energy park

Biogenic energy parks use biological materials as fuel to produce energy, for example manure from livestock, crop residues or other organic waste. A biogenic plant can contribute to strengthening the link between agriculture and the energy sector. The coalition parties agree to work to promote the establishment of a pyrolysis plant that can sequester up to 50% of the biomass carbon in biochar, which means it will not be returned to the atmosphere, in addition to a grass protein plant that produces a sustainable feed for swine. It is estimated that the annual CO₂e effect will be approximately 47,000 metric tons of CO₂e in Scopes 1+2 and 6,000 metric tons in Scope 3. At the same time, the coalition parties will also explore the possibility of implementing CO₂ capture in connection with the establishment of the biogenic energy park. In addition, it must be ensured that any emissions of environmentally harmful substances must remain below threshold values.



TRANSPORT

The transport sector will account for two-thirds of all CO₂ emissions in the 2030 projections. This means that it will be the largest source of CO₂ emissions in the City of Aarhus. Despite the fact that more residents are driving EVs, most busses are electric and air transportation has gotten greener, the transport sector

emitted 729,000 metric tons of CO₂e in 2022. With changes in the framework conditions for transport, the transport sector will still emit 549,000 metric tons in 2030. To reach the goal of climate neutrality in Aarhus, a transition from fossil transport to greener forms of transport is necessary: collective transport, cycling and walking, along with EVs.

Being able to get around easily and quickly is decisive for the quality of everyday life in the City of Aarhus – whether it's the commute to work, the bike ride to school or a walk in the city centre. A reduction of CO₂ from transport must take the mobility perspective into account, to ensure a focus on promoting accessibility and a high-quality urban environment for residents, commuters and visitors.

The coalition parties agree that the point of departure for the green mobility plan is an annual reduction of road transport of

270,000 metric tons CO₂ towards 2030. This means that the target for the transport sector as a whole is total maximum annual CO₂ emissions of 230,000 metric tons in 2030, taking into account improvement achieved via the national framework conditions. There will additionally be a reduction of 44,000 metric tons from aviation and shipping as well as 5,000 metric tons from sustainable soil handling.

Aarhus is a good and attractive city to live and work in. The conciliation parties acknowledge that with the growth in the number of inhabitants and jobs, the pressure on the mobility system in Aarhus will increase significantly in the coming years, and that a number of mobility measures must be initiated in response. The coalition parties thus agree that a green mobility plan must be developed with a focus on active forms of transport such as cycling and walking and a sustainable city with collective transport.

The coalition parties also agree that the prerequisite for the green mobility plan is an ongoing assessment of whether new technologies or changed framework conditions can lead to improvements.

The coalition parties see the development in the number of EVs as positive, and thus it is assumed that at least 37% of all vehicles in Aarhus in 2030 will be EVs, which will result in an additional reduction in CO₂ emissions of

56,000 metric tons annually. This reduction will be included in the mobility negotiations. If this assumption is not realised, the shortfall will have to be made up within the transport sector. A transition to EVs will not lead to any improvements in mobility.

The coalition parties agree that emissions from the transport sector are significant in relation to consumption-based emissions. The coalition parties thus request that Technical Services and Environment and the Mayor's Department draft a recommendation during the first year of the climate

action plan that sets out proposal for the development of a data-based baseline for achieving reductions in consumption-based emissions in the transport sector.

Emissions from aviation and shipping will, according to projections, account for approx. 30% of the transport sector's emissions in 2030. The coalition parties thus agree to work to promote the electrification of the aviation and shipping to the greatest possible extent, and for the replacement of fossil fuels by more climate-friendly alternatives. The coalition parties agree to reduce emissions by 15-30% annual from 2030 onwards through partnerships with actors in the industry.



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND LAND USE

Conversion to forest and nature

The conversion of agricultural land into forest and natural habitats can be achieved, among other things, through the establishment of 'blue-green parks'. These parks protect groundwater, reduce nutrient leaching and provide recreational opportunities and water retention capacity. The coalition parties agree to earmark a total of 8,000 ha (including existing natural habitats) as blue-green parks in the 2025 municipal plan. The blue-green parks will mean the conversion of 4,000 ha of agricultural land to natural habitats, woodland and other groundwater-protective uses. The coalition parties agree to earmark an additional 4,000 ha, bringing the total ambition for woodland and natural habitats in Aarhus to 16,000 ha, which corresponds to one-third of the municipality's area. To achieve this, it will be necessary to think in terms of multi-functional land use, with multiple uses on the same site.

The coalition parties acknowledge that a transformation of this scale will take time and will be difficult. These targets will be reached through a collaboration with landowners, agriculture and businesses. The coalition parties request Aarhus Vand to contribute to the realisation of the blue-green parks in the earmarked areas, and that groundwater protection measures are implemented in these areas. In addition, the coalition parties also require Technical Services and Environment to present an ambitious, balanced strategy for groundwater protection within a radius of 300 m from a water bore in connection with the 2025 municipal plan, and that this strategy become the basis for the practice of both Technical Services and Environment and Aarhus Vand with respect to groundwater protection.

Reforestation, with diverse species-rich stands of untouched forest, will also contribute to groundwater protection and groundwater formation, biodiversity, water retention, outdoor recreation and public health.

At the same time, these types of forest are an efficient, long-term carbon sink. The amount of carbon sequestered depends on the tree species planted and how the resulting wood is used.

The greatest CO₂ impact can be achieved in the short term by private operators planting fast-growing commercial forests, which also have the potential to provide valuable material in the furniture, paper and textile industries, and especially in the construction industry, where wood is increasingly in demand as a sustainable building material. The amount of carbon sequestered depends on the tree species planted and how the resulting wood is used.

The conciliation parties agree to initiate the establishment of 2,500 ha of untouched forest and 1,500 ha of natural habitats in the blue-green parks. In addition, private commercial forestation projects on 1,200 ha of privately-owned sensitive soils outside the blue-green parks, as well as 300 ha of forest in the 'Green Denmark Map'.

In addition, the possibility of establishing an additional 300 ha of commercial forest will be explored. The CO₂ reductions from this will be included in the CO₂ buffer. Commercial forests will be established with a view to partnerships with the private sector to make use of these forests, for example in construction. A priority will be placed on planting untouched forests as close to urban areas as possible, to enable residents to use them for recreational purposes to the greatest extent, while also maintaining a focus on biodiversity.

It is estimated that multifunctional forests will sequester 15 metric tons of CO₂e per ha annually, a total of 60,000 metric tons CO₂e annually; the full effect will only be achieved after many years of growth. The carbon sequestration effect in 2030 is estimated at 30,000 metric tons of CO₂ annually,

depending on the speed of establishment, the land on which the forest is established and the type of forest. Reforestation has a long-lasting effect and is costly. See the section on the funds for the land fund regarding financing.

Set-aside of lowland soils and holistic planning

When carbon-rich lowland soils are drained for cultivation, they are oxygenated, and emit large amounts of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The City of Aarhus has already planned the set-aside of specific areas on 500 ha of lowland soils: the lowland soils will be taken out of cultivation and the water table will be raised in these areas in order to reduce CO₂ emissions from agriculture.

The coalition parties agree to a more ambitious target for set-aside of lowland soils, from 500 ha to 1,300 ha of lowland soils, in addition to ensuring rapid processing of applications by the City of Aarhus. It is expected that 1,000 ha will be financed by the state and 300 ha financed by the City of Aarhus.

The projects are conditional on voluntary agreements being made with the local landowners. The possibilities and consequences in relation to purchasing buildings and stables and the like are also being explored. The initiative will lead to an annual reduction in CO₂e of 15,000 metric tons in 2030. Technical Service and Environment estimates that over a number of years, it will become necessary to add approx. DKK 200 million to the land fund. See the section on funding for the land fund in relation to assigning funding.

The green transition of the countryside will require that all initiatives are implemented at once within a very few years before 2030. The coalition parties agree that a tool must be developed to support the creation of a master plan for the countryside that will facilitate the implementation of nature restoration projects, local development plans, development projects and construction projections within geographically defined locations.

Agricultural holdings and climate monitoring

Agriculture in the City of Aarhus emits approx. 61,500 metric tons of CO₂e. Reductions can be achieved by strengthening the dialogue between agriculture and the municipality, including by having climate as a recurring element in monitoring and regulatory approval process. Climate action plans for both livestock and crop-producing farms must also be developed. A partnership with central players in the agricultural sector and across municipalities and industries must be established with a view to promoting climate-optimized food production.

The coalition parties agree that Agro Food Park in Skejby has great potential to lead the play towards the food system of the future. The coalition parties are thus prepared to promote a new 'Climate, Health and Food Systems Valley' in Skejby with a view to maintaining the Aarhus region's position as a world leader in this area. A reduction of 1,000 metric tons of CO₂e annually is estimated by 2030.



LANDFILLS AND WASTEWATER

Discharge from landfills, biocover and ReWater and industrial processes

It is estimated that on an annual basis, approx. 25,000 metric tons of CO₂e are emitted from landfills, 13,000 metric tons of CO₂e from wastewater, 9,500 metric tons of CO₂e from composting, 23,500 metric tons of CO₂e from leakage and 6,000 metric tons of CO₂e from fires. This amounts to significant emissions. The data necessary for targeted reduction initiatives is not currently available. The coalition partners thus agree that a process must be initiated to generate better local data, and that on the background of this new precise data, initiatives must be put in place to help reduce the CO₂e emissions from the specific sources.

Old landfills can potentially release large amounts of methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas. As a mitigation technology, a biocover can be put in place: a meter-thick layer of compost is spread over the area, which then breaks the methane down into water and CO₂. The possibility of a partnership with Kredsløb will be investigated, with a view to using biocovers to reduce emissions.

The coalition partners agree on the target of an approx. 46,000 metric ton Co₂e reduction annually in 2030. This target assumes that ReWater is realized, and that it is possible to reduce virtually all emissions from landfills by means of biocovers, in addition to the assumption that emissions from this domain will be significantly reduce in the greenhouse gas emissions report when local data becomes available.

An Aarhus with less waste

By working more intensively with the waste hierarchy and waste generation, the City of Aarhus can move towards phasing out waste through a greater focus on recycling and reuse rather than disposal, in addition to behavioural design and new habits. The coalition parties agree that a circularity policy must be developed for the City of Aarhus as a client in connection with construction projects, and that the City of Aarhus must support business and industry in developing circular solutions through industrial symbioses. This initiative will result in an annual reduction of approx. 14,000 metric tons CO₂ in scope 3.



FOOD

A large proportion of the greenhouse gas emissions in Aarhus are generated by our consumption. The coalition parties thus agree that a coming climate strategy must launch beacon projects in the consumption-based emissions. The consumption of food and beverages accounts for 26% of emissions from Danish households – second only to transport. The most effective individual factor in relation to reducing CO₂e emissions from our food consumption would be a significant shift from red meat toward a more plant-based diet.

The coalition parties agree that Aarhus must take the lead and, together with business and industry, initiate ambitious projects to reduce emissions from food production in Scope 3. The estimated effect of these initiatives is a 10% increase in the number of Aarhus residents whose diets conform to the official dietary guidelines, corresponding to 24,000 metric tons of CO₂ annually in 2030 in Scope 3.

Partnerships with the food industry

Danish agriculture and the food industry have a significant role to play in achieving climate neutrality. In recognition of this, efforts must be made to establish partnerships with the food industry. For example, a partnership with Agro Food Park can attract companies and institutions that create sustainable solutions for the food industry, both in Denmark and abroad. The coalition parties are committed to supporting Agro Food Park in establishing concrete partnerships, for example with regard to land use, drought/water issues, soil health and resilience, biodiversity, regenerative agriculture (conversion of cultivation methods), sustainable building materials based on the products of nature and the automatization and AI-driven digitalization of agriculture, in addition to project development through national and EU partnerships with relevant cluster organisations.

The coalition parties agree that Agro Food Park is to be expanded to include companies within health and renewable energy, in addition to food and agriculture. The coalition parties request an investigation into whether Agro Food Park's locations outside the municipal plan development area might be used in future for renewable energy production that can contribute to the City of Aarhus' climate targets and strategy. A working group is to be established comprised of Agro Food Park, the Mayor's Department and Technical Services and Environment, with a view to ensuring alignment between the municipality's climate targets and business policy objectives, the development potential of Agro Food Park and the physical development of the area, including the municipal planning framework.

Promote climate-friendly diets and habits

Food production is under great pressure today. The municipality must take the lead by promoting climate-friendly dietary habits and skills among children and young people through enhanced education in primary school, in addition to providing support for climate-friendly food communities in the municipality. '*Climate-friendly meals and sustainable food habits*' is included in the terms of reference for the committee on climate and sustainability; there is potential for synergy here. The Department of Children and Young People, the Department of Health and Care and the Department of Social Affairs and Employment are all working with climate plans aimed at children, the elderly and marginalized populations, for example, which include climate-friendly diets and foods.

Transformation of food production

The City of Aarhus can help support the transformation of agricultural production by contributing to the test and development of new cultivation concepts and business models on agricultural sites within

the municipality. In addition, local sustainable food value chains can be supported, with a view to promoting more plant-based production and sale. If more Aarhus residents follow the official dietary guidelines, a significant annual CO₂e reduction in Scope 3 can be achieved.



CONSTRUCTION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable urban development

Aarhus is a good and attractive city, and a growing city as well, both in terms of population and jobs. Analyses show that urban growth with new construction can be climate-positive, as long as elements like housing typologies, collective waste and heating systems, collective traffic and ride-sharing develop in line with population growth. The coalition parties agree on an ambition to achieve sustainable urban development, but that Aarhus must continue to accommodate social balance with a focus on social cohesion and an inclusive, diverse city with more families with children. The coalition parties will promote the continuation of a sustainable urban development in Aarhus in connection with the 2025 municipal plan.

National frameworks and Reduction Roadmap

If the City of Aarhus is to succeed in reducing emissions from construction, more tools will be necessary. The national legislative framework, in the form of the planning act and the building regulations, are not ambitious enough. Agreements can be made with private construction project clients and developers, and the coalition parties will engage in targeted political advocacy with a view to securing statutory authority for achieving climate targets. The coalition parties thus agree that the City of Aarhus will accede to the Reduction Roadmap with a view to promoting more climate-friendly building regulations.

The coalition parties are committed to supporting new partnerships with the construction industry in Aarhus, as well as consultancy and research, in order to promote sustainable construction projects. The City of Aarhus must take the lead with our own construction projects and develop concrete solutions to serve as inspiration for others.

Municipal construction

In relation to the municipality's own buildings, the best square meters are the ones we do not build. For this reason, the coalition parties aim for Aarhus Ejendomme to reduce the municipality's administrative square meters by at least 10-15%, and to review the total property portfolio from a climate-conscious perspective in addition to new ways of working, in the form of more remote work. The coalition parties agree to revisit the target for the number of administrative square meters in 2026, once an activity-based layout has been implemented, including a consideration of whether further reductions in administrative square meters are possible.

The coalition parties agree that the municipality must build fewer new structures, renovate more structures and increase the geographical consolidation of services across functions. Aarhus Ejendomme must take an ambitious approach to meeting new needs in new ways based on the most climate-friendly model when it comes to the municipality's building needs. The coalition parties thus agree that Aarhus Ejendomme must make targeted use of CO2 budgets in the City of Aarhus in relation to municipal construction projects. The coalition parties agree that the Mayor's Department and Technical Services and Environment must present a recommendation that sets out a target for municipal construction projects, which includes a focus on requirement and the future frameworks for construction of structures such as schools, nursing homes and sports facilities.

The coalition parties agree that the municipality – within the framework of the Reduction Roadmap – has a special obligation to take the lead and set ambitious targets for municipal construction projects.

At the beginning of 2023, the Aarhus City Council pledged that all new construction over 1,000 m² will comply with the low-emission class standard, which means a threshold value of max. 8 kg CO₂e/m²/pr. year in 2024, falling to 5 kg CO₂e/m²/pr. year in 2030. The City of Aarhus has started working with LCA assessment tools. LCA assessment tools will contribute to making

Scope 3 reductions in construction projects possible by enabling calculation of emissions from the building materials used, for example.

The recommendation must also illuminate implications for other political priorities, for example prioritizing sports, health and/or education initiatives, as well as social balance and attracting more families with children to the city, including whether there may be a need to continue to exempt certain construction projects, such as sports club-financed sports facilities from the requirements, based on a climate-economic approach and drawing on the funding pool for climate-friendly construction.



CITIZENS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

To succeed, the green transition requires broad support from citizens and the business community. The coalition parties agree

climate action and to prioritize the strategic initiatives described below. The coalition parties are committed to encouraging the involvement of citizens, civil society, companies; employers, trade unions and employer organizations, and other actors in the climate effort. Both as part of the process of developing the climate plan and subsequently, when the plan is implemented. The climate plan will draw both on existing knowledge as well as new knowledge acquired from dialogue-promoting activities. It is expected that the municipality, through partnerships with the business community, will be able to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20,000-25,000 metric tons in Scope 3 in 2030.

Green Business and the climate alliance

The coalition parties agree that the City of Aarhus must provide support for the green transition in business and industry by facilitating partnerships across industries and between businesses of different sizes, hereby creating a platform for knowledge, innovation and action.

Climate Alliance Aarhus is a business partnership that mobilizes and engages the business community around Aarhus in the green transition. Going forward, it will address topics such as data and digitalization, green procurement, circular economy, ESG reporting/SBTi and green competencies, etc. The coalition parties aim for the City of Aarhus to take the lead as a climate-friendly organisation and, through its own ESG reporting, lead the way for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the municipality through new concepts.

Green innovation, SMEs and circular resources

The business community has an important role to play in the development of green solutions that can contribute to reaching our climate targets. We will continue to give companies the opportunity to exploit the innovation power and synergy between companies and the City of Aarhus through the 'green investment pool', thus actively contributing to the development of green solutions as well as testing and proof of concept. SMEs in particular need support, and so the City of Aarhus, through the exercise of its regulatory powers, highlight initiatives that contribute to the provision of the knowledge and resources needed to launch a green transition to SMEs.

A focus on circular resources is essential for the green transition in business and industry. Supporting companies in their efforts to minimize, sort, recycle and reuse waste and ensure that regulatory processes support and develop this work has great potential.

International efforts

The climate knows no boundaries. This means that we are dependent on strong partnerships and international collaboration. Aarhus has made good progress on international collaboration on climate, and the City of Aarhus will strengthen international efforts and work to put Aarhus on the map as a climate frontrunner. The coalition parties will continue participation in the EU's '100 Cities' mission, both in order to ensure the export of the technologies and approaches we have discovered here and to get access to the latest knowledge from elsewhere. The coalition parties support the re-establishment of the delegation service in order to ensure that visiting cities, special interest organisation and others get the maximum possible benefit of a visit to Aarhus.

Climate LivingLabs

There is a need for new approaches to the dialogue with and involvement of citizens and civil society. With Climate Living Labs, we will transform selected communities in Aarhus into a 'living laboratory' for the development, implementation and testing of local green climate solutions in close cooperation with the citizens, civil society, business and public actors in the community. Climate solutions and green innovation are thus no longer just ideas or fantasies about the future. They become something concrete that we develop together and test in our everyday lives as we continually optimise and scale them. This initiative will be carried out by Technical Services and Environment in collaboration with Culture and Citizens' Services. A joint recommendation will be submitted for the allocation of the funding.



CLIMATE GROUP

A target for consumption-based emissions

The City of Aarhus must take the lead when it comes to the green transition. The coalition parties agree to set an ambitious reduction target for the City of Aarhus' consumption-based climate footprint of 50% by the end of 2035. The municipality will achieve this reduction through three reduction tracks: initiatives already launched, reduced and more circular consumption and green strategic partnerships. Taken together, these tracks will achieve a reduction of 100,000 metric tons CO₂ from consumption-based emissions in 2030, increasing to 138,500 metric tons CO₂ in 2035. Specifically, strategies are being worked on that can translate the objectives into initiatives that will be evaluated annually. At the same time, the impact of a climate-economic approach of a forced transition must be assessed, including the importance for the level of services in the areas of social welfare in particular.

The municipality must lead the way with a major cultural transformation in regard to consumption, while at the same time promoting a greener supplier market in Denmark, to the benefit of the City of Aarhus and the country's public and private sectors. In addition, the coalition parties will explore the possibilities of achieving Scope 3 reductions in the municipality's entities through owner strategies, and concrete targets will be set for this. The coalition parties agree that these entities must comply with the City of Aarhus' climate objectives.

The City of Aarhus makes DKK 8 billion in purchases annually, which emits approx. 24,000 metric tons CO₂ in Scopes 1 and 2 in addition to approx. 250,000 metric tons CO₂ in Scope 3 not including the entities. By mapping the group's total consumption-based emissions, it will be possible to develop recommendations for the optimization of consumption, enabling the municipality to be a frontrunner in the market with regard to green specifications for goods and services as well as circular economy.

Climate policy food strategy

The City of Aarhus' climate policy food strategy has set a target of a 25% reduction in CO₂e from the food products purchased for municipal food services. A 20% reduction has been achieved since 2019. The coalition parties agree to extend and expand the strategy, with a greater focus on food waste, concrete targets for purchasing specific foods, such as food, legumes, fruit and vegetables, climate taxes and new methods of measurement and procurement agreements.

The Climate Council estimates that if everyone follows the official dietary guidelines, emissions from food production and consumption can be significantly reduced. This would lead to a reduction in CO₂e of approx. 5,000 metric tons in 2030 in Scope 3.

The coalition parties note that the municipality's consumption of beef has fallen by 33% since the introduction of CO₂ taxes in 2022. The coalition parties agree that work on CO₂ taxes in connection with the procurement portal are to continue, and that in 2025, the Mayor's Department must present a recommendation to the City Council describing how this work can be continued, based on the positive experiences gained up to this point, with a focus on food literacy in schools and daycare centers, but that special consideration for the elderly in assisted care homes may be shown.

Zero-emissions vehicle fleet in the City of Aarhus

The municipality's fleet of passenger cars and small vans must be fossil-free in 2025. These efforts can be strengthened through harmonized rules and behavioral changes, in addition to artificial

intelligence. An investigation must also be made of whether ride sharing can contribute to the green transition. Simulations have shown that vehicular transportation needs can be met with up to 15% fewer vehicles than today. The municipality has developed a tool called

FleetOptimiser in collaboration with other municipalities, and results have been positive from the last eighteen months of use. The coalition parties agree to extend the project, which is set to expire at the end of 2024. The coalition parties also agree to explore the possibility of using transport allowances to encourage municipal employees to choose green modes of transportation.

Circular Aarhus and frugal consumption

'A Circular Aarhus' aims to ensure strategic focus and synergy across the municipality's current and future circular economy initiatives. Through the 'frugal consumption' effort, the goal is to create a process of cultural change for both managers and employees, with a focus on changing behaviors and mindsets in relation to consumption and consumption patterns. City of Aarhus employees must therefore rethink their purchasing needs before buying new goods, use the Genbrugsportalen recycling portal, buy more durable quality products and repair and share what they already have, as well as when the City of Aarhus defines specifications in tender documents.

Zero-emissions machinery and driving

The construction unit uses heavy machinery, including trucks, excavators and sweepers. Charging infrastructure has been installed in the unit, and the process of conversion to electrically powered machines is well underway. The coalition parties agree that the construction unit must, as far as possible, be CO₂-neutral in 2030. However, this requires the generation of solar power for the machines, and the use of HVO fuel for the heaviest machinery. The conversion to CO₂-neutrality in the construction unit must take place on the background of an assessment of the costs of such a transition, in terms of the costs of the new machines relative to the CO₂ savings. In addition, it is necessary to investigate whether a green transition of the machinery used can be carried out more efficiently through cooperation with external partners.



NATIONAL FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

New national framework conditions

The government and the Danish parliament have contributed to reducing CO₂ emissions in Aarhus towards 2030 through several national initiatives: The 'green tax reform 1' of 2022, which introduced kilometer-based tolling for trucks and the 'green tax reform 2', which will be implemented in 2024. This green tax reform will impose a tax of DKK 375-750 per metric ton CO₂ emitted by companies. These taxes will affect energy supply, industry and non-road transport, and it is expected that it will result in a reduction in emissions in Aarhus of 26,000 metric tons CO₂ from energy, 70,000 metric tons from transport and 11,000 metric tons from industrial processes.

'Green tax reform 2' will impose CO₂ taxes on non-energy related emissions from agriculture (for example nitrous oxide and methane). This tax will be between DKK 250-750 per metric ton. The City of Aarhus estimates that model 3a will reduce emissions by 15,000 metric tons CO₂e annually. A kilometer-based toll for trucks, introduced in 2022, is expected to reduce emissions by 32,000 metric tons CO₂e in the City of Aarhus. The amount of the toll depends on how much CO₂e the individual truck emits.

It is also a prerequisite that the state adopts the necessary frameworks in regard to road pricing for a green mobility plan.

Partial implementation of the 'green fund'

According to the latest national agreement on the partial implementation of the 'green fund' concluded on 15 April 2024, DKK 625 million have been allocated to reforestation in the period 2024-2027. Whether the municipalities will receive any of this funding is not yet known, as the agreement states that the allocation of the funding will be decided based on a proposal from the government, and must be viewed in connection with the coming forest plan. However, if the municipalities receive any of this funding, the City of Aarhus, based on the usual allocation key, can expect to receive approx 6.1%, corresponding to approx. DKK 40 million.

Under the agreement, it has been decided to increase the diesel tax by 50 øre per liter from 2025. The agreement is expected to reduce emissions by 16,000 metric tons CO₂e in the City of Aarhus, which has been included in the baseline in the section on transport. In addition, the agreement allocates funds for the green transition of agriculture (funds for methane-reducing feed, etc.), which, it must be assumed, will be granted to the industry and not to municipalities, as well as plant-based foods, in regard to which there is an obvious link to Scope 3, but in regard to which the funds will go to the plant-based food fund, which finances innovation projects in the food sector.



FINANCING AND FOLLOW-UP

Sub-targets and domains

In the above review of the domains and initiatives, the individual reduction targets for the domains are defined. With this agreement, the coalition parties agree to set targets for the following

- Energy incl. CCS: reduction targets: 405,000 metric tons in (Scopes 1 and 2)
- Transport — reduction targets: 319,000 metric tons (scope 1 and 2)
- Forestry, agriculture and land use – reduction targets: 79,000 metric tons (scope 1 and 2)
- Landfills and wastewater – reduction targets: 46,000 metric tons

(Scope 1 and 2) In addition to the following reductions in Scope 3:

- Construction, energy, circular resources and partnerships – reduction: 40,000 metric tons (Scope 3)
- Food – reduction: 24,000 metric tons (scope 3).
- The climate group – reduction: 138,500 metric tons (Scope 3)

A total of 849,000 metric tons of CO₂e under Scopes 1 and 2 will thus be saved annually, which will enable the municipality to achieve climate neutrality in 2030. In addition, a total reduction of 202,500 metric tons of CO₂e in Scope 3 will be achieved.

The coalition parties agree to establish a CO₂ buffer. New technology, new state-sector regulatory initiatives, initiatives from the private sector and new strategies in the municipality can contribute to reaching the goal of CO₂ neutrality. Many industries and companies are working to reduce their emissions as well as replacing parts of their production. For this reason, a CO₂ buffer has been included in the strategy with a technical reduction potential.

The CO₂ buffer may include reductions from, for example, additional CSS plants (including discussions with Ørsted), an additional 300 ha of commercial forest and the installation of an additional 400 ha solar energy in the City of Aarhus. In addition, power from wind turbines and solar energy – associated with the City of Aarhus' entities – outside of the municipal boundaries can be included in the City of Aarhus' goal of greater self-sufficiency. CO₂ from wind turbines and solar energy outside the municipal boundaries cannot be included in the City of Aarhus green house gas emissions reporting. Green power from wind turbines and solar energy can, however, contribute in connection with other CO₂-reduction initiatives, for example Carbon Capture and Storage, which requires large amounts of electricity. The CO₂ buffer is to be followed up on annually in connection with updates to the frozen policy scenarios.

Climate agreement follow-up

The climate action plan agreement addresses a number of different emission domains, for which the level of ambition and specific reduction targets are identified. This implies that if there are initiatives within the domain which turn out not to deliver the desired reductions, or in the event that the coalition parties would like further reductions, any additional measures will have to be found within the same domain, in order to meet the sub-targets set for that domain. However, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is such a large initiative that any changes to this initiative will have effects across all initiatives.

The coalition parties aim to follow developments in reductions closely. The coalition parties thus mandate an annual status report in connection with the greenhouse gas emission reporting, which includes frozen policy prognoses for each domain, the reduction paths and the reduction targets. Concrete initiatives must also be followed up on, including relevant change theories and indicators as well as funding. The coalition parties agree that the annual follow-up reporting must be used to maintain motivation for achieving the target of neutrality towards 2030, and to ensure the necessary momentum through the application of new technologies or changes in framework conditions as necessary.

The approach used in the previous climate plan involved the initiation of compensatory actions for individual years in which deviations from the reduction path occur. In the 2024 budget agreement, it was agreed, in line with the recommendations of the Ministry of Climate, that going forward a running three-year average will be used, and that the annual compensatory actions will no longer apply. Instead, follow-up will take place in connection with the annual political follow-up on the climate strategy, in connection with which data on the ongoing reductions will be presented together with the municipality's greenhouse gas emissions report and frozen-policy prognoses. The annual follow-up report must contain a recommendation regarding the introduction of new or cessation of existing climate initiatives, just as the annual budget negotiations also can be used to ensure agility in the climate plan, in order to ensure the achievement of climate neutrality in 2030 and effective reductions through the climate-economic approach.

Social balance in the green transition

The green transition must not create greater economic and social inequality. The coalition parties agree that ensuring social balance in the climate plan is crucial. The coalition parties have thus requested the Mayor's Department to analyse the economic inequality effects of the initiatives in the climate plan. Carrying out concrete economic inequality calculations for the initiatives has not been possible. The Mayor's Department has reviewed all of the initiatives, and assesses that no significant economic inequalities are associated with the current initiatives. However, particular attention should be paid to the mobility initiatives as well as climate-related requirements for private home construction, which have the potential to contribute significantly to economic inequality.

The Mayor's Department will conduct regular assessments of economic and social inequality in connection with the annual follow-up on the climate plan, and will present recommendations to the coalition parties regarding proposals to compensation for any economic imbalance. In addition, an inequality assessment of the domains will be conducted in connection with the implementation of the climate plan. The coalition parties agree to push for the provision of the necessary framework conditions by the state, as the tools available to the municipality to ensure social balance in the green transition are limited.

Funding for the land fund

Reforestation has a long-lasting effect and is costly. Technical Services and Environment estimates that over a number of years, it will be necessary to add approx. DKK 200 million to the land fund. To begin with, the coalition parties agree to allocate a one-off grant of DKK 30 million to the land fund for reforestation purposes. The financing for these funds must be found in connection with the budget negotiations.

In addition, with the agreement on partial implementation of the 'green fund', a total of DKK 625 million has been allocated to reforestation in the period 2024-2027. Assuming that these funds are distributed to the municipalities in accordance with the standard allocation key, it is to be expected that the City of Aarhus will receive the equivalent of approx. DKK 40 million. The coalition parties

agree that these funds will be added to the land fund.

The coalition parties also agree on an initial allocation of DKK 20 million to the land fund – which is expected to correspond to 80-100 ha – in a one-off grant earmarked set-aside of lowland soils. The financing for these funds must be found in connection with the budget negotiations.

A total of DKK 50 million will be added to the land fund; in addition to the DKK 30 million for reforestation, DKK 20 million will be allocated for the purchase of lowland soils. In addition, an additional DKK 40 million from the state green fund may be accessible. The coalition parties will work to influence the national frameworks in order to ensure the necessary legislation and financing. At the same time, the coalition parties request that Technical Services and Environment takes action to explore the possibilities for additional external financing with a view to obtaining at least DKK 75 million in co-financing. In addition, there may be substantial unfunded items in the form of lost revenue and compensation for expropriation. The coalition parties agree to allocate funding to cover these items.

Financing

The negotiations are based on a total financial framework of DKK 300 million. In the investment plan towards 2034, a total of approximately DKK 250 million has been allocated. Based on the 2024 budget, the climate plan and the climate fund funds have been reviewed and the unallocated funds that can be used to prioritize climate action in conjunction with climate negotiations for 2025 and beyond have been identified. In total, this amounts to approximately DKK 50 million, including the funds transferred from the climate fund to the climate pool in connection with the 2024 budget.

The attached annex contains a financial statement of funds allocated to each initiative during the period.

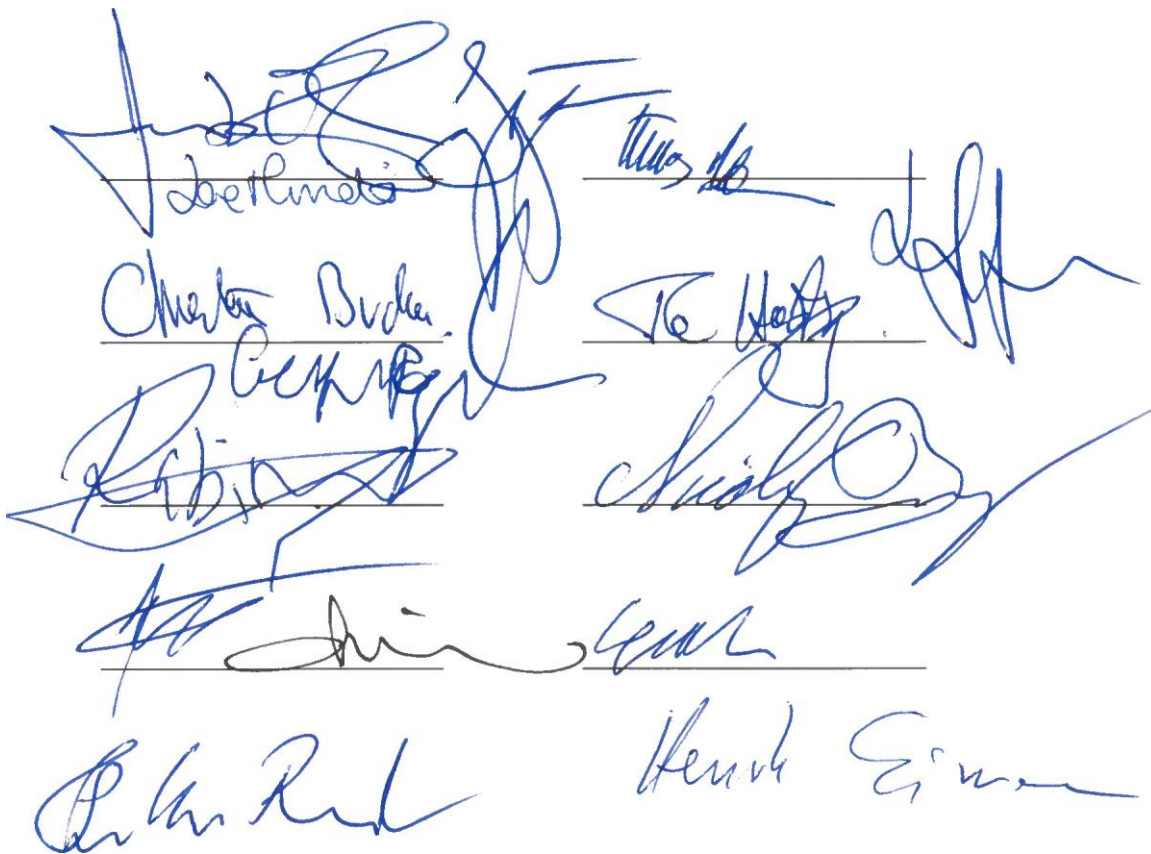
The coalition parties agreed to seek external funding for the initiatives, including in particular reforestation, set-aside and renewable energy, as well as partnerships. The coalition parties are working on the assumption that a total of DKK 75 million in external funding can be obtained, in addition to the total financial framework of DKK 300 million.

The agreement on the climate plan for 2025-2030 should be considered a draft budget from the coalition parties for budget negotiations in the context of the 2025 budget, and the parties of the City Council will thus be in a position to prioritize all or some of the elements from the new political agreement in the budget negotiations.

PARTICIPATION IN THE AGREEMENT

The parties agree that participation in the agreement regarding the climate strategy for 2025-2030 is binding, and that the parties jointly assume responsibility for the agreement as a whole. This means that, in the exceptional event that one party desires an amendment to the agreement, the proposed amendment must be submitted to the parties to the agreement for negotiation, and agreement is a precondition for the presentation of any proposed amendment.

The parties also agree in principle to endorse the final climate action plan when it is submitted to the City Council in 2024.

The image shows two columns of handwritten signatures in blue ink. Each signature is written over a horizontal line. The signatures are: Top left: A large, stylized signature. Middle left: 'Charlotte Budde'. Bottom left: 'Robin'. Middle right: 'Thomas'. Bottom right: 'Henk Eijman'. There are also some illegible signatures in the middle and bottom right sections.