

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Copenhagen, Denmark

Green energy for green Copenhageners

STORY IN SHORT: Copenhagen has decided to build wind turbines in the city and has plans to erect 14 new turbines to reduce CO₂ emissions. Copenhageners and companies are invited to buy shares in the wind farms. In return, shareholders will make a profit and contribute to carbon neutrality in Copenhagen - the ambitious but not unrealistic vision for 2025.

Public invests in sustainability

Wind is an inexhaustible resource with a potential to significantly reduce CO₂ emissions. Denmark is already a leader in the development of wind technology. In addition, wind turbines are visually captivating landmarks in the skyline, helping to demonstrate climate solutions to businesses, citizens and visitors to the city. Therefore building wind turbines is a high priority project in the Climate Plan of Copenhagen.

Copenhagen has decided to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20% from 2005 to 2015. The City's vision is to become the first carbon neutral capital of the world. It is an ambitious but not unrealistic goal, and Copenhagen has formulated 50 specific activities to reach this 20% reduction.

Getting turbines up and spinning

Based on a screening of the city, four specific locations for wind farms have been chosen within the city limits. As it is unprecedented to build turbines in a city area, the environmental and visual impacts are being thoroughly investigated.

Fourteen wind turbines are planned for the coming years, with the first expected to be up and spinning by the end of 2012. The turbines will be up to 150 meters in height and are expected to produce around 116 GWh on a yearly basis, thus reducing CO₂ emissions by approximately 60,000 tons per year.



Illustration of some of the planned wind turbines in Copenhagen at Klavebod Brygge

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“Reducing emissions, making profitable investments”

Copenhagen Mayor for the Technical and Environmental Administration, Klaus Bondam says, “the Copenhagen Climate Plan gives a platform for both the city and its citizens to change our habits and take specific initiatives to fight climate change. The building of wind turbines within the city is one of our most important and ambitious projects. I strongly support the local ownership of the turbines, which gives people an opportunity to act themselves to reduce emissions, and at the same time make a profitable investment.”

Shareholders reap rewards

Copenhageners will be invited to buy shares in the wind farms. Some of the turbines will therefore be owned by the citizens. When the electricity produced by these turbines is sold, the shareholders will be paid the profits.

The amount they receive will depend on wind levels and electricity prices, but this is actually a good investment for the citizens, especially as the taxation for this income is advantageous. At the same time, the local ownership of the turbines is expected to increase awareness of climate challenges and give people an opportunity to act themselves.

Copenhageners living within a radius of 4.5 km of the turbines will be given the opportunity to buy shares first. The city works to give local companies the same opportunity to buy shares.

Green energy supply

The use of electricity and heating in Copenhagen accounts for 77% of total CO₂ emissions. At the same time, investing in wind turbines yields a substantial CO₂ reduction in comparison to the amount invested. Renewable energy has proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce emissions for the city.



Copenhagen Waterfront, Amager Strand
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by Susan Jessien

Involvement in international climate initiatives

The City of Copenhagen wants to contribute to investing in off shore wind farms as well as those in the city. The implementation of this must be carried out in partnership with companies and national authorities. It is also being discussed to form international partnerships with the purpose of joint investments in wind farms. The strategy for this work will be outlined in 2010.



Copenhagen is located on the eastern shore of the island of Sjælland.

City profile & contacts

The City of Copenhagen is the host city for the UN Climate Conference, COP15, in December 2009. Copenhagen is situated in the vibrant Øresund region and is the capital of Denmark. Home to 527,000 inhabitants, the city has adopted one of the world's most ambitious climate plans for a capital city. Copenhagen will reduce its CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2015, having already achieved a 25% reduction between 1990 and 2005. The city is also hosting a Climate Summit for Mayors in parallel to COP15.

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The local stories are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the cities described. They shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15.

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