

Climate Act

This is an unofficial translation of the Climate Act. Only Danish laws published in the Danish Law Gazette (Lovtidende) have legal validity

Chapter 1

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Act is for Denmark to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by 70% compared to the level of emissions in 1990, and for Denmark to achieve a climate-neutral society by 2050 at the latest, taking into account the Paris Agreement target of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

(2). Denmark must actively work for realisation of the Paris Agreement target of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

(3). The climate effort must adhere to a number of guiding principles:

- 1) The climate challenges are a global problem. Therefore, Denmark must be a leading nation in the international climate effort, a nation that can inspire and influence the rest of the world. Furthermore, Denmark has both a historical and a moral responsibility to take the lead.
- 2) The realisation of Denmark's climate targets must be as cost effective as possible, taking into account the long-term green transition, sustainable business development and Danish competitiveness, sound public finances and employment, and that Danish business must be developed rather than diminished.
- 3) Denmark must show that a green transition is possible while maintaining a strong welfare society, where cohesion and social balance are secured.
- 4) The initiatives to be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must result in real domestic reductions, but it must also be ensured that Danish measures do not simply relocate all of the greenhouse gas emissions outside of Denmark's borders.

2. At least once every five years, the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must set a national climate target with a 10-year perspective. A new climate target must not be less ambitious than the most recently set target.

(2). At least once every five years, and as a minimum in connection with the setting of the climate targets, as referred to in paragraph 1, the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must publish a climate action plan with a 10-year perspective.

Chapter 2

The Danish Council on Climate Change

3. To promote impartial advice on the climate effort, the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities will be assisted by the The Danish Council on Climate Change.

(2). The Danish Council on Climate Change assists the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities in setting national climate targets, as referred to in Article 2(1).

4. The Danish Council on Climate Change must annually make recommendations to the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities on the climate effort. In the recommendations, The Danish Council on Climate Change must observe the principles stated in Article 1(3).

(2). In the recommendations, The Danish Council on Climate Change must also assess whether the government's climate efforts make it probable that the climate targets, as referred to in Articles 1(1) and 2(1), will be reached.

(3). In connection with the recommendations, The Danish Council on Climate Change must provide a status update on Denmark's international targets.

5. The Danish Council on Climate Change must comment on the annual climate status and projection, as referred to in Article 6, and the Minister of Climate, Energy and Utilities' annual climate programme, as referred to in Articles 7(1) and 7(2).

(2). The Danish Council on Climate Change must prepare a catalogue of potential measures.

(3). The Danish Council on Climate Change must contribute to the public debate.

(4). The Danish Council on Climate Change may prepare analyses of, and recommendations on, the climate effort, etc.

Chapter 3

Climate status and projection

6. The Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must annually prepare a climate status and projection, which must at least contain the following:

- 1) Historic greenhouse gas emissions, overall and by sector.
- 2) Projections of greenhouse gas emissions, overall and by sector.
- 3) Global report on the international effects of the Danish climate effort.

Chapter 4

Climate programme, report to the Danish Parliament and obligation to act

7. The Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must annually present a climate programme for the Danish Parliament.

(2). The climate programme must include the following:

- 1) A status report on fulfilment of the national climate targets, as referred to in Articles 1(1) and 2(1).
- 2) The planned climate initiatives and measures, including short- and long-term effect and the projected future effect thereof.
- 3) A report on The Danish Council on Climate Change's recommendations, as referred to in Article 4, and the position of the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities on these recommendations.
- 4) A status report on research and development of new climate initiatives.
- 5) A status report on developments in climate science, including the latest reports from the UN Climate Panel.
- 6) A description and status report on fulfilment of international climate targets.
- 7) A global climate strategy.

(3). In the climate programme, the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must provide an assessment of whether it appears probable that the national climate targets mentioned in Articles 1(1) and 2(1) will be reached.

(4). If it cannot be deemed probable that the national climate targets will be reached, the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must in the climate programme present new initiatives with a reduction effect in the shorter term and initiatives with a reduction effect in the longer term, which together chart a path toward fulfilment of the national climate targets.

8. The Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must prepare an annual report to the Danish Parliament on the effects of the overall climate policy after the publication of the climate programme.

9. The Danish Meteorological Institute is the government's adviser on developments in climate science.

Chapter 5

Organisation of The Danish Council on Climate Change

10. The Danish Council on Climate Change is an independent advisory body of experts.

(2). The Danish Council on Climate Change consists of 1 chair and 8 other members. The Danish Council on Climate Change elects 1 candidate for each vacant post, who is subsequently appointed by the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities.

(3). The Danish Council on Climate Change is composed of experts with broad expertise and high level of climate-relevant academic knowledge relating to energy, buildings, transport, agriculture, environment, nature, economics, climate science research, and behavioural research of relevance to the climate field.

(4). Two of the Climate Council's other members will be appointed as deputy chairs.

(5). The chair and the deputy chairs speak on behalf of the Climate Council.

(6). The members of The Danish Council on Climate Change are appointed for a four-year term. Members may be reappointed once. If the chair or one of the other members resigns from the Council before the expiry of the term, a new member may be appointed for less than four years in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 2.

(7). The Danish Council on Climate Change determines its rules of procedure.

11. The Danish Council on Climate Change is assisted by a secretariat.

(2). The secretariat is headed by a head of secretariat, who is appointed by the chair of The Danish Council on Climate Change.

12. The Danish Council on Climate Change must establish a climate dialogue forum, which is tasked with assisting The Danish Council on Climate Change in its work.

(2). The members of the Climate Council's climate dialogue forum will be appointed by The Danish Council on Climate Change for a term of up to three years at a time.

(3). The Danish Council on Climate Change and the climate dialogue forum must convene at least once annually prior to the submission of the Climate Council's annual report with recommendations, as referred to in Article 4(1), and prior to other significant publications by the Climate Council. The discussions will be led by the chair.

(4). The annual report with recommendations, as referred to in Article 4(1), and other significant publications from the Danish Council on Climate Change will be accompanied by a summary of views expressed in connection with the discussions referred to in paragraph 3.

(5). The Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must set detailed rules on which organisations and institutions nominate members of the climate dialogue forum.

Chapter 6

Entry into force etc.

13. This Act will enter into force on the day after it is published in the Danish Law Gazette (Lovtidende).

(2). The current chair and members of The Danish Council on Climate Change will continue in their posts until the expiry of the term for which they are appointed, and after the expiry of their first term they may be reappointed once for an additional four-year term. The chair of The Danish Council on Climate Change may decide that two of the members of The Danish Council on Climate Change upon the entry into force of this Act may, upon the expiry of their second term, be appointed for an additional two-year term.

(3). Act no. 716 of 25 June 2014 on Climate Council, climate policy report and setting of national climate targets is hereby abolished.

14. This Act is not applicable in the Faeroe Islands and Greenland.