



Six official EcoCities are front-runners

EcoCities are municipalities in Denmark which have made special efforts in the energy and climate area.

Fotos: Magnus Kaslov

The challenges may be global, but the solutions must be found locally. The Danish Minister for Climate and Energy; Connie Hedegaard has nominated six official EcoCities as front-runners with regard to climate and energy-related challenges.

Official seal of approval for the municipalities

The title "EcoCity" is an official seal of approval. The EcoCities have shown how municipalities can work on climate and energy challenges locally, also in terms of production and consumption of sustainable types of energy and security of supply.

At the same time, the EcoCities have undertaken to launch a number of well-thought-out, future-proofed and ambitious initiatives that stand out at both national and international levels.

Hopefully such initiatives can help inspire and motivate other municipalities to launch similar efforts.

Nominated in 2008 and 2009

Kolding, Copenhagen and Skive were the first three to be nominated as EcoCities in October 2008, and in April 2009 Albertslund, Herning and Århus were nominated. An EcoCity nomination applies for two years.

Strong field of applicants

A total of 18 different municipalities with a population corresponding to one-third of Denmark's population applied to become an EcoCity.

An evaluation committee consisting of three persons has assisted the Minister for Climate and Energy with the assessment and selection of the six EcoCities. The selection was made on the basis of an overall assessment of the initiatives by the municipalities.

Initiatives of the EcoCities

The four beacons of Skive municipality

- Alternative types of energy such as wind, sun and hydrogen must 1) contribute to a larger part of the energy supply of the municipality. The goal is to be self-sufficient within the next 20 years.
- In cooperation with agriculture and industry, 2) higher focus will be put on biogas production via waste products.
- Companies must be more involved in climate and 3) energy work.
- People must be made aware of what they can do for the climate themselves, 4) i.e. through climate ambassadors and teaching in schools.

Kolding municipality

Before 2021 Kolding municipality must reduce CO₂ emissions by 75 per cent per inhabitant in relation to



i EcoCities

- Kolding
- Copenhagen
- Skive
- Albertslund
- Herning
- Århus



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1990 and before 2021 the share of renewable energy must represent a minimum of 30 per cent.

The initiatives must focus on energy savings, efficient and sustainable energy use and climate adaptation.

Copenhagen as the world's environmental metropolis

From 1990 to 2005, the City of Copenhagen reduced its CO₂ emissions by more than 20 per cent by expanding the district heating network and using fewer fossil fuels for heat production.

In 2007 the municipality set ambitious targets for reducing CO₂ emissions by another 20 per cent before 2015. This is part of the municipality's work on becoming the world's environmental metropolis.

Bike bridges and several miles of bike paths

In order to achieve the CO₂ target, bike bridges and several miles of new bike paths are being built so that even more Copenhagengers will choose their bike instead of their car.

Albertslund municipality

Before 2050 CO₂ emissions in Albertslund municipality must be reduced by 80 per cent. This requires a comprehensive climate plan that concentrates on four focus areas:

- Climate and municipality: Energy renovation of municipality buildings, initially focusing on electricity savings.
- Climate and housing: Residential areas are currently being extensively renovated and the municipality wants to ensure that this is done with appropriate concern for climate and energy.
- Climate and industry: Activities to actively involve the companies in the municipality in climate and energy work, including an advisory service and a diplomascheme, will be started.
- Climate and transport: Alternatives to cars, reduction of the transport need and increased use of electric cars.

Herning - focus on all greenhouse gases

Today the work by Herning municipality is laid down in a comprehensive climate plan that covers the municipality geographically and as an enterprise. The plan is the first of its kind in Denmark and includes a mapping out of CO₂ emissions, a scenario and action plan as well as specific targets.

Before 2015 CO₂ emissions must be reduced by 25 per cent as well as a further reduction of 15 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions compared with 2007. By 2030 all greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 35 per cent compared with 2007.

Århus

Århus municipality aims at becoming CO₂ neutral by 2030 and the municipality has concentrated its efforts in the following four areas:

1. Collective solutions: Initiatives related to low energy construction, heat supply and transport area.
2. Private initiatives: Targeted efforts to include citizens, and influence their behaviour via e.g. information campaigns.
3. Industry and education/training: Development of the energy industry, including involvement of educational institutions.
4. Climate adaptation: New projects are to prevent the consequences of climate change, so as to prevent floods etc.

Read more at www.energibyer.dk

You can read more about the EcoCity project and find examples of various climate and energy efforts in the six municipalities at the website of the EcoCities: www.energibyer.dk.

