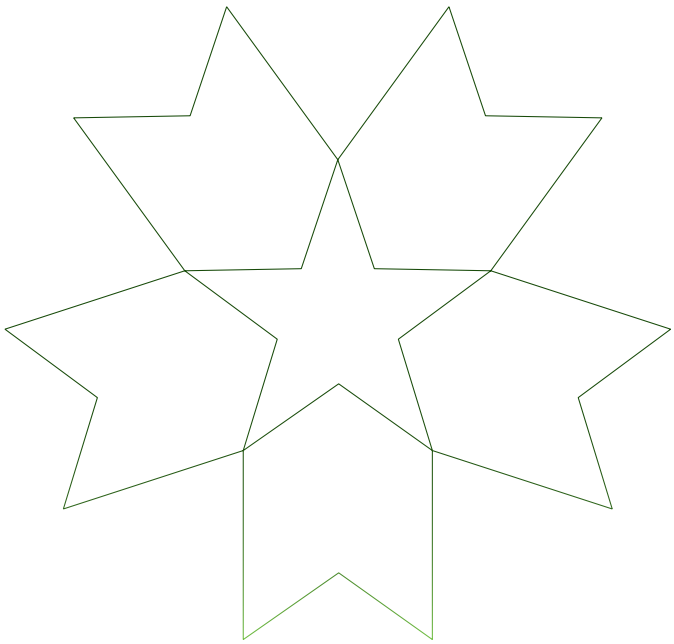

Aarhus University

Climate Strategy 2020-2025

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AARHUS UNIVERSITY

SOLIDUM PETIT IN PROFUNDIS · UNIVERSITAS ARHUSIENSIS

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GOALS

Aarhus University's goal is to become CO_2 neutral in 2040. The goal for 2025 is to reduce the university's CO_2 emissions by 35% against a 2018 baseline, and the goal for 2030 is to reduce the university's CO_2 emissions by 57% against a 2018 baseline. These ambitious goals live up to the Paris Agreement and the Danish government's goal of reducing CO_2 emissions by 70% in 2030 against a 1990 baseline.

The goal for 2025 is to reduce the university's CO_2 emissions by 35% against a 2018 baseline.

PREFACE

We are facing an important task: the world is being impacted by significant climate-related challenges with societal, environmental and economic consequences. Aarhus University has an important role to play here, and is conscious of its responsibility as an institution of research and education. The university's core activities are research, research-based education and consultancy of high international quality. Through these core activities, the university already contributes to solving societal challenges such as climate change. In addition, sustainability is one of the central themes in the vision presented in Aarhus University's Strategy 2025. The climate strategy supplements the overall strategy and will also remain in force for a five-year period, through 2025. Aarhus University is contributing to realising the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by carrying out its core activities. This strategy focuses on how, by reducing its climate footprint, the university can contribute to the realisation of SDG no. 13, Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Aarhus University will reduce its climate impact
In addition to contributing through the performance of its core activities, Aarhus University will also reduce its own climate footprint and take action to make the university's operations more climate-friendly. The university has set an ambitious goal in order to live up to the Danish government's goal of a 70 per cent reduction in carbon emissions in 2030, in addition to the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to below 2° C and aiming to limit the increase to 1.5° C. At the national level, carbon emissions have been reduced by 29% against a 1990 baseline (Danish Energy Agency,2019: 55). Specifically, Aarhus University has set a goal of reducing its climate footprint by 35% in 2025 against a 2018 baseline and 57% in 2030 against a 2018 baseline.

As an additional goal, the university will also work towards achieving climate neutrality in 2040. However, a precondition for this is that the university can avail itself of such mechanisms as climate compensation.

The goal of a 35% reduction in 2025, 57% in 2030 and climate neutrality in 2040 applies to the university's Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, as well as some Scope 3 emissions. Scope 1 and 2 emissions cover the university's direct emissions: the combustion of fuels such as oil, gas, petrol and diesel (Scope 1), as well as indirect emissions from purchased or acquired electricity, heat, steam and cooling (Scope 2). All other sources of indirect emissions are categorised as Scope 3, for example emissions associated with procurement, construction, air travel and agricultural activities. The university's goals also include air travel and agricultural activities. These sources are included in the overall goals on the grounds that they account for a relatively large proportion of Aarhus University's emissions.

Four focus areas
The climate strategy's goals and initiatives cover four areas:

- Campus operations
- Procurement
- Transportation
- Waste

Campus operations, transportation and procurement are the areas in which the university sees the greatest potential for reducing its climate footprint. Waste has been selected primarily out of consideration for the environment.

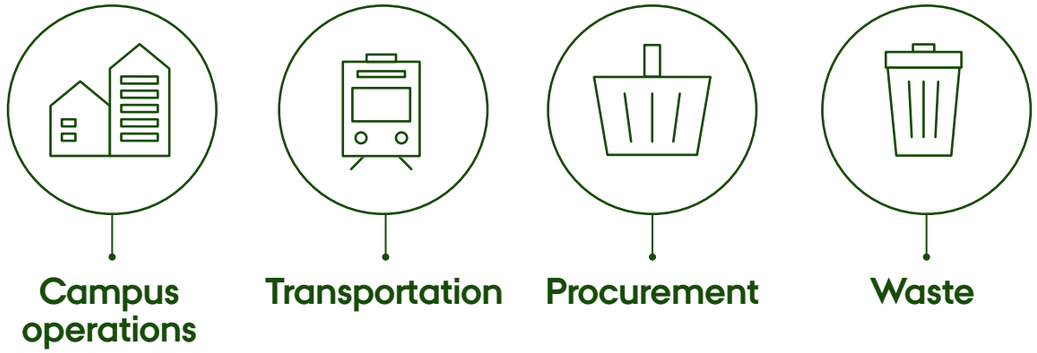
Involvement of employees and students
In order to succeed, Aarhus University will involve the users of the university, who will realise the strategy in practice through their everyday behaviour. Large numbers of students, staff and guests visit Aarhus University every day, which means that the university also has a major responsibility to encourage climate-friendly behaviour on the university's campuses. During the strategy period, the university will implement initiatives to make it easier and more attractive for the university's users to make the climate-friendly choice.

The strategy must be implemented in a way that allows the university to continue to support research, education and consultancy of the highest quality – including in areas that require energy-hungry labs, data centres, agricultural machinery, research vessels and the like – and in a way that ensures that the university's staff can continue to exchange knowledge with international colleagues.

Annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions report
Aarhus University's climate footprint will be calculated and monitored in an annual GHG emissions report. The 2018 GHG emissions report serves as a baseline for setting the university's overall goals. It calculates the university's Scope 1 and 2 climate footprint, and covers some elements of Scope 3 in an appendix. The climate footprint report will ultimately include all significant sources of the university's carbon emissions. As the university gains a better understanding of the climate footprint of different Scope 3 sources, it may be necessary to define goals and initiatives for these areas, for example for the university's agricultural activities, which has a significant climate footprint.

Action plans
The climate strategy will be in force in the period 2020-2025. To supplement the strategy, action plans will be developed detailing how goals and sub-goals will be reached. Progress on goals and action plans will be reviewed on a regular basis. Not all solutions exist as yet; the university's research must contribute to developing them, internally as well as in collaboration with external partners. Aarhus University wants to help show the way by experimenting with new solutions and taking the actions necessary to reach the goal of reducing the university's CO_2 emissions by 35 per cent in 2025 compared to 2018 levels.

*The Danish Energy Agency, Denmark's Energy and Climate Outlook: https://ens.dk/sites/ens.dk/files/Analyser/deco19.pdf



FOCUS AREA CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Background

Aarhus University has already taken many steps to reduce resource consumption in the university's operations. As a result, energy consumption per full time employee has been reduced by 20% since 2006, despite the increasing centrality of energy-hungry research areas. Even though Aarhus University has come far, the university must continue its efforts. Aarhus University will do this by using smart technologies and encouraging sustainable behaviour among the users of the university's buildings, and by using the university as a living lab, giving students and researchers opportunities to use Aarhus University as a case.

Goal	**Aarhus University will reduce its CO_2 emissions in connection with new construction and renovation as well as operation and use of building and campuses**						
Sub-goals	**Reduce energy consumption in the university's buildings by 2% annually**	**Increase the proportion of sustain-able energy in the university's energy consumption**	**Reduce the university's water consumption**	**DGNB certification of buildings with special focus on climate**	**Experiment with new solutions to reduce the university's climate footprint on its campuses**	**Reduce the university's digital climate footprint**	
Initiatives	· Compare energy consumption in the university's buildings in order to identify potential reductions · Implement smart technology to reduce consumption · Encourage climate-friendly behaviour among students and staff to reduce consumption · Monitor water consumption to identify potential reductions · Give researchers and students the opportunity to use AU's campuses as a living lab · Map the composition of the university's energy consumption and identify potential for a greener energy mix · Promote recycling and reuse in connection with construction · Measure the university's energy consumption on servers, cloud solutions and the like, internally and externally, in order to reduce the university's digital climate footprint						

FOCUS AREA TRANSPORTATION

Background
Transportation occurs both in the form of the daily commute to and from the university and in connection with meetings and conferences in Denmark and abroad. In relation to transportation, the university will take action on three fronts:

- Air travel
- Business travel by road vehicle
- Staff and student commuting to and from AU

Exchanging knowledge with colleagues from around the world – at meetings, in networks and at conferences, for example – is an essential aspect of academic research. Air travel weighs heavily in the climate footprint of international universities. Aarhus University will reduce the climate footprint of its transportation activities, and will encourage staff to choose alternatives to carbon-heavy forms of transportation more often, including taking the train and carpooling more often as well as virtual meetings and conferences rather than air travel.

Road vehicles do not only pollute when they are driven: they pollute by existing. Aarhus University's goal is to reduce carbon emissions connected with road transport by encouraging staff and students to choose alternative modes of transportation more often, both when on official business and when commuting to and from the university. The university will introduce measures to make it easier for staff and students to reduce their transportation-related carbon emissions. Specifically, the university will reduce the number of kilometres driven, phase out the university's diesel and petrol vehicles and install EV charging stations on campus. As an additional benefit, these measures will also contribute to cleaner cities.

Goal	**Aarhus University will reduce its carbon emissions in connection with business travel and commuting to and from the university**
Sub-goals	**Reduce climate footprint from air travel by 30% in 2025 compared to 2018** **Reduce the number of vehicles owned by the university by 30% in 2025 against 2018 baseline over 2018** **Phase out the university's petrol and diesel vehicles by 2025, and from 2020 only purchase vehicles powered by climate friendly fuels** **Increase the proportion of staff and students who commute to the university using a sustainable mode of transportation**
Initiatives	· **Make it more attractive for staff and students to use virtual meeting rooms** · **Make it easier and more motivating for staff to travel to selected destinations by train** · **Increase bike parking capacity on campuses to match demand** · **Take steps to make it easier for staff and students to choose a sustainable mode of transportation, such as bikes, public transportation, electric cars, etc.** · **Make it attractive for staff and students to use car-sharing schemes** · **Increase the level of utilisation of the university's vehicles**

Aarhus University will reduce the climate footprint of its transportation activities, and will encourage staff to choose alternatives to carbon-heavy forms of transportation more often, including taking the train and carpooling more often as well as virtual meetings and conferences rather than air travel.

FOCUS AREA PROCUREMENT

Background
Aarhus University wants to increase its focus on climate-friendly procurement. The university purchases about 1.2 billion kroner worth of goods and services annually. The university can reduce its carbon footprint by changing purchasing behaviour. In addition to the direct effects of encouraging climate-friendly procurement, Aarhus University wants to influence the market and suppliers by setting high standards for products and services in relation to climate impact.

The university will embrace a holistic approach to procurement that views environmental and climate impact as an important parameter on an equal footing with purchasing price and social sustainability. Sustainability must be incorporated in relation to the materials products are made of, waste products, durability, recycling/reuse and delivery.

Aarhus University also wants to contribute to the greening of society by making green investments and developing a greener investment policy. This will also indirectly influence the market.

Goal	Aarhus University will reduce its carbon emissions in connection with the procurement of goods and services, and will influence the market by demanding climate-friendly products and services, as well as by making green investments				
Sub-goals	Promote a holistic approach to the procurement of goods and services	Reduce the climate footprint in connection with delivery of goods to the university	Introduce sustainability requirements for the canteens and reduce their climate footprint	Prolong the lifetime and encourage the reuse of the university's purchases	Make green investments
Initiatives	· Review procurement categories on the basis of the UN's SDGs with a view to promoting a holistic and circular approach to procurement · Include climate footprint as a more central element in contracts with canteen operators, for example by requiring canteens to offer filling vegetarian dishes every day of the week and to offer at least one meat-free day, in addition to reducing food waste and the use of disposable packaging · Map the true extent of the need for delivery of goods to the university in order to reduce the number of small deliveries · Adjust the university's investment policy				

FOCUS AREA WASTE

Background
Aarhus University wants to approach waste to a larger extent as a resource to be recycled or reused. With about 8,000 employees (full time employees), 38,000 students and annual revenue of approx. 6.6 billion kroner, the university produces significant amounts of waste every day – about 1,200 metric tons annually. Aarhus University's goal is to reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount of waste that is recycled/reused. This will take more waste separation at the university, as well as finding ways for the university's waste to be recycled/reused.

Aarhus University currently sorts waste into 16 fractions. Canteen kitchens sort food waste, IT units collect and sort electronics and cables, labs sort special types of waste, building operations sorts different building materials, and so on. However, this high degree of sorting is not necessarily apparent to all of the university's daily users: employees, students and guests who don't have the possibility of sorting glass and plastic waste, for example. In future, all waste must be separated at source into a minimum of five fractions, which will enable cans, plastic glass and paper (for example) to be recycled and resources to be used as efficiently as possible. To reach these goals, the university will involve the university's daily users and learn from the experiences of private households in Aarhus, where waste is separated at source.

Goal	Aarhus University will reduce the amount of waste it produces and increase the proportion of waste that is separated and recycled/reused		
Sub-goals	Produce less waste, especially residual waste	Provide facilities for daily users of the university to separate waste into at least five fractions and continue to separate into min. 16 fractions overall	Recycle 40% of the university's waste
Initiatives	· Make new contracts with waste removal companies to ensure that the different fractions of university's waste are processed appropriately · Ensure that it is possible and easy for employees, students and guests to sort their waste and to take initiatives to sort and reduce their waste · Require suppliers to minimise packaging · Assess the university's efforts to reduce its waste from a circular perspective		

IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The climate strategy sets out goals, sub-goals and concrete initiatives to promote the climate-friendly development of the university's operations. The university will monitor the implementation of the climate strategy closely and draft action plans in collaboration with the faculties and schools and the administration. There will be an ongoing follow-up on the activities in the action plan, and the activities for the coming year will be scheduled annually. This will help ensure progress and transparency, as well as local anchoring and ownership of the climate strategy and activities.

Our world is dynamic and changing quickly – not least in steps with the rapid development of technology. Consequently, the implementation and follow-up will allow the university to initiate new initiatives on an ongoing basis and thereby meet new societal needs in the course of the strategy period.

AARHUS UNIVERSITY **CLIMATE STRATEGY 2025**

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We are facing an important task: the world is being impacted by significant climate-related challenges with societal, environmental and economic consequences.

Aarhus University has an important role to play here, and is conscious of its responsibility as an institution of research and education.

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