

The Capital Region
of Denmark

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HUNGER



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AND WELL-BEING



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EDUCATION



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AND SANITATION



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The Capital Region of Denmark's agenda for action for
the UN Sustainable Development Goals

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The Capital Region of Denmark embraces the SDGs

With the UN's 17 SDGs, we have adopted the most ambitious direction towards a more sustainable development for us all, our children and our planet. With this agenda for action, we, the politicians in the Capital Region of Denmark, have set the framework and the direction for our contribution to the realisation of the SDGs.

With its 40,000 employees and DKK 39 billion budget, the Capital Region of Denmark is responsible for the running and development of Denmark's largest healthcare system. And together with others we develop the Region with respect to environment, traffic, education and social issues. That is why we have a special responsibility for solving many of the challenges addressed by the SDGs and can make a significant difference by pushing the Region and its surroundings into a more sustainable direction.

As a society, we face major challenges. The average life expectancy has stagnated and the health inequality is quite visible as diseases have a skewed social impact. At the same time, climate change requires considerable and far-reaching action now. Each year, we welcome 20,000 new citizens to the Region and we must contribute to limit the pressure on climate, environment and natural resources as much as pos-

sible in order to create opportunity for more people to benefit from hospitals, education and infrastructure.

We consider the SDGs as an invitation to see the challenges as possibilities to create useful solutions that will strengthen individual health and well-being and the quality of the Region as a whole. Sustainable development requires an integrated effort combining social, economic and environmental parameters. In other words, the good world is created by concerted action.

In the Capital Region of Denmark, we are already making a great effort to realising the SDGs. And we will continue to do so. At the same time, we use the SDGs to promote sustainable development by 2030. In this way, we focus our efforts on providing the Capital Region of Denmark with a coherent healthcare system at international top level and a green and innovative metropole with sustainable growth and a high quality of life.

On behalf of the Regional Council

Sophie Hæstorp Andersen
 Sophie Hæstorp Andersen
 Chairman of the Regional Council

Kim Rockhill
 Kim Rockhill
 Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Climate



The SDGs are a vision; a promise from world leaders to all people; a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world (...). The SDGs are not only goals for the UN but for all humanity. If the goals are to become a reality, we must all contribute.

Professor emeritus Steen Hildebrandt

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The Capital Region of Denmark has already started

The Capital Region of Denmark has identified initiatives that are already contributing to the 17 SDGs. In addition to providing an overview of existing initiatives, the purpose is also to draw attention to the challenges. The results show that the Region's initiatives are already contributing to pretty much all the SDGs. The initiatives vary and may include everything from a target, policy, strategy, agenda for action, initiative or practice in an area. The Region contributes more to some of the SDGs than to others. For example, the Region has – by virtue of the task of running Denmark's largest healthcare system – great possibility to exert an influence on Goal 3 on good health and well-being.

The identification has also helped the Region to identify our obligations as well as our possibility to exert an influence and to identify the existing challenges in our current work. This has provided a good foundation for deciding in which areas it will be an advantage for the Region to promote the development in order to contribute further to realising the SDGs.

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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The Capital Region of Denmark wishes to promote the development

In particular, the Capital Region of Denmark will promote the development of Goals 3, 11 and 12. We assess that there are significant challenges in these three SDGs that need to be solved in order to create a sustainable future. The Region will also be able to exert an influence on these SDGs thereby rendering it possible to enhance the effect of the Region's initiatives.

A large part of the Capital Region of Denmark's tasks is centred on the three SDGs. As the biggest healthcare system in the country it is important for the Region to constantly focus on how to develop an even better, coherent and effective top-level prevention and treatment. This is closely related to Goal 3.

The Region's engagement in ensuring clean soil and clean water, sustainable transportation and accessibility to raw materials is driven by the ambition to create a green and innovative metropole with sustainable growth and a high quality of life. This is closely related to Goal 11.

It is resource-demanding to run the biggest healthcare system in the country. Therefore, the Region has a great re-

sponsibility to limit the adverse impact on the climate and the environment. This is closely related to Goal 12.

It is important to emphasise that the Capital Region of Denmark's initiatives within the three SDGs also contribute considerably to a number of other SDGs. The Region cannot promote one of the SDGs without viewing it in the context of the other SDGs. The Region's knowledge and competences in these areas will also affect the work with the SDGs at a national and global level.

This applies to all forward-looking initiatives since they either address existing objectives that require an enhanced effort or initiatives where the level of ambition is increased significantly.

We create results through a holistic view, partnerships and innovation

What is unique about the SDGs is that they reflect the complexity of the world. The world is facing challenges that can only be addressed by abandoning the traditional silo approach and acting holistically instead.

Therefore, the SDGs are a direct continuation of the Capital Region

of Denmark's existing values on a holistic view. For example, the Region's green initiatives such as cycle superhighways, fossil-free busses and electric cars contribute to climate mitigation, reducing congestion as well as air pollution and improving health. And when the Region is engaged in improving the indoor climate of the hospitals, for example through better lighting and ventilation, it will create a better working environment, increase the well-being of the patients and reduce the hospitals' CO₂ emissions. Consequently, the SDGs encourage us to work across professional and geographical boundaries and create holistic solutions.

It is important that the Capital Region of Denmark contributes to creating change in order to solve many of the challenges in our society. It will require new ideas, innovative thinking and knowledge to find solutions that can be implemented and generate value. The Region must also utilise the opportunities arising from new technology and the use of data. Therefore, partnerships and innovation for development of new solutions are an integrated part of most of the initiatives in the Region. This is closely related to Goal 17.

Health and well-being for all

Health and well-being are the conditions for a good and long life with a high quality of life. The citizens of the Capital Region of Denmark have become healthier and in general, live longer than before. The Region operates a healthcare system at a high international level where everybody are guaranteed free and equal access to treatment.

However, there are still challenges in the healthcare area, in particular relating to how society functions and the possibility of living healthy lives. For example, more people suffer from chronic diseases, more people are overweight and are smoking and the social health inequality is considerable.

Therefore, the Region focuses primarily on Goal 3 in its effort to strengthen health promotion and patient-oriented prevention in a coherent healthcare system, reduce social health inequality

and by researching and developing high-quality treatment focusing on the individual patient. This also contributes significantly to Goals 8, 10 and 17.

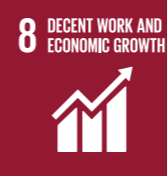
Focus on patient-oriented prevention and less health inequality

It is vital that in future, the Capital Region of Denmark increases its focus on the prevention of diseases. The purpose is to ensure that more people live longer, healthier lives and to reduce the disease burden and the need for treatment in the healthcare system. Still more people are living with daily limitations, diseases that require treatment and premature death that could have been prevented. This is especially the case for people with mental illness who live between 15 and 20 years shorter and with more illness than the rest of the population. Therefore, the Region will aim at reducing health inequality within

the framework of the three-year plan for the mental health field.

Focusing on prevention will also greatly affect health inequality. It will require a response from society to reduce health inequality since it is the result of many complex matters. Smoking and alcohol are the major reasons that some sections of the population die before others. Based on the prevention

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



plan, the Capital Region of Denmark will therefore target its efforts by acting much sooner – before the patient encounters the healthcare system. This effort will contribute to a significantly better health in the Region and globally.

Research, development and innovation

When we are taken ill, it is important that the Region's healthcare system can offer high-quality treatment. The key to more targeted diagnostics and treatment – for patients with widely differing diseases such as for example rare hereditary diseases, heart disease, cancer, dementia and infections – is to understand the individual patient's genetics combined with other health data from descriptions of disease progression and blood samples to X-ray pictures (so-called personalized medicine).

The range of treatments have increased but the healthcare resources are limited. The development of new medicine, new equipment and new methods of treatment is therefore important to guarantee an even better and more efficient treatment both today and in future.

The Capital Region of Denmark leads the way with health research and innovation in relation to prevention, treatment and care and supports the implementation of the results in daily practice across sectors for the benefit of the patients and the citizens. The Region's knowledge of and experience in prevention and health promotion should not only be used in a regional and a national context but also globally where we can support the effort to prevent both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Well-being for the employees

The Capital Region of Denmark is also focusing on creating a framework and conditions to support occupational health and well-being. The Region's employees must have scope for action and the possibility to perform the tasks in the most appropriate way. This is a priority in the Region and a task that we must solve in concert – managers and employees.

Targets in focus:



TARGET 3.3
Combat communicable diseases



TARGET 3.4
Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health and well-being



TARGET 3.5
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance and alcohol abuse



TARGET 3.8
Achieve access to health-care services for all

OUR GOALS ARE:

- to strengthen prevention in the Capital Region of Denmark
- to reduce health inequality
- to implement a further 3-5 research projects with particular focus on implementation of efficient prevention and health promotion
- to implement personalized medicine in the routine care in the period from 2020 to 2025

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Sustainable cities and communities with a high quality of life

The cities are growing and in 2050, the majority of the world's population is expected to live in cities. The trend is the same in the Capital Region of Denmark that houses a third of Denmark's population. The quality of life in the cities is closely linked to how the cities are laid out and how the cities rely on and manage the available resource. It is therefore important that the Capital Region of Denmark contributes to creating sustainable cities and communities so that the Region may help provide a good framework for a high quality of life.

The Capital Region of Denmark is focusing on ensuring clean soil and clean water and sufficient and sustainable raw materials for construction projects and a green and coherent mobility. A common feature of the efforts is that they require regional and holistic solutions across administrative and

geographical boundaries. In its efforts, the Region in particular focuses on Goal 11 but also contributes significantly to Goals 3, 6, 12, 13 and 17.

Clean soil and clean water

The Capital Region of Denmark avoids and prevents threats from soil pollution in order to protect the general health, the drinking water and the environment. The Region helps ensure that the drinking water is clean, that homes have a healthy indoor climate and that children are able to play on the ground. The Region has the largest drinking water catchment in the country and the most polluted soil. In the Region, we live on top of the drinking water, and urban development of new housing in old polluting industrial sites is an ongoing occurrence. Therefore, it is important that the Region strengthens the relevant initiatives to decontaminate the soil and ensure the indoor climate

in our homes in a smarter and more eco-friendly and climate-friendly way.

Sustainable building materials

Roads, bicycle lanes, railways, houses and offices are emerging everywhere in the growing cities. Building and constructions work requires raw materials such as sand, stone and gravel. The Region ensures that the recovery of raw materials takes place in consideration of the environment,

the nature and commercial interests. Sand and gravel are non-renewable raw materials and in the near future these may be in scarce supply. Therefore, the Region is engaged in ensuring that the raw material consumption will be covered by secondary raw materials to a higher degree, such as processed building waste. This transformation is crucial in order to achieve an increased resource efficiency and reduce the need for raw material extraction.

Green and attractive public transportation

The regional bus and local train services are important to ensuring a good mobility for all across municipal and regional boundaries and are a significant parameter for creating sustainable cities and communities. It should be easy to get from a to b with more and more people in the same space, and in this connection, regional public transportation is vital in order to reduce con-

gestion. The cities are often affected by noise and air pollution and therefore, the Capital Region of Denmark is seeking to strategically transform regional public transportation into emission-free technologies with no local air pollution – also for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the climate.

The regional development strategy

A large part of the Capital Region of Denmark's initiatives that contribute to Goal 11 has its roots in the regional development strategy. The strategy is focused on and targeted at solving the regional challenges and is also attempting to capitalize on the many development opportunities of the region as a metropolis region. In addition to the already mentioned focus areas in this agenda for action, the regional development strategy also encompasses initiatives in energy transition, climate adaptation and circular economy.

Targets in focus :



TARGET 11.2
Provide access to affordable and sustainable transport systems



TARGET 11.3
Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization



TARGET 11.6
Reduce the adverse environmental impact of cities



TARGET 11.A
Strengthen national and regional development planning



TARGET 11.B
Substantially increase the number of cities implementing resilience to disasters

OUR GOALS ARE:

- that 80% of the groundwater used for drinking water is to be safeguarded by 2025 by means of smarter, more eco-friendly and less CO₂-emitting clean-up techniques
- that secondary raw materials will cover 20% of the Capital Region of Denmark's raw material consumption in 2030
- to phase out regional diesel-powered busses by 2030 and replace them with electric busses or other busses with similar environmental and noise benefits



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Green and responsible hospitals

It requires many resources to operate the largest healthcare system in the country with seven hospitals and 40,000 employees. When the Capital Region of Denmark prevents and treats diseases and injuries, we must ensure that it is done in a responsible and sustainable way in which the Region impacts the surrounding climate and environment as little as possible and contributes to health and well-being.

Therefore, the Capital Region of Denmark will focus on Goal 12 in particular, both in relation to the operation of the hospitals and when the Region constructs new buildings and renovates old buildings. The Region has already made considerable headway with long-term 2025 plans for CO₂ reduction in energy, transportation and waste resources. The SDG initiatives build on these plans, pegging out targets and actions

by 2030 and also include sustainable procurement and construction. At the same time, the initiatives also contribute significantly to Goals 3, 4, 7, 8, 13 and 17.

All initiatives will be implemented with due regard to patient safety which is always the top priority of the Region.

Efficient energy consumption

In the energy field, the Capital Region of Denmark will increase the goal setting and number of initiatives which will contribute to a reduction of the CO₂ emissions and mitigate climate change. The Region is working on improving the energy efficiency of technical installations in buildings and the use of new technology for promoting energy efficiency. The Region's engagement in this type of projects will be in innovative collaboration with a number of external partners.

Green employee transportation

The mobility and logistics for the hospitals in the region must be as green as possible and the employees must have optimum conditions for choosing green transportation – both during working hours and when commuting. This also contributes to less congestion and noise, cleaner air and more exercise.

From recycling to prevention

It is vital for a sustainable future that we use the limited resources better. This is why the Capital Region of Denmark expands its focus from recycling of waste to also prevention and circular economy. This means that the Region is to ensure to a higher extent that we factor in life expectancy, suitability for recycling and

minimization of unnecessary packaging. In this way, the Region will get more out of less and reduce the amount of waste considerably.



OUR GOALS ARE:

- to reduce CO₂ emission from energy consumption by 70% in 2025, and we aim at being fossil-free in 2030
- to assess if the Capital Region of Denmark can be one of Denmark's largest public contributors to the balancing of the electricity grid in 2030
- to reduce the Capital Region of Denmark's CO₂ emissions from service and operation transport by 12% by 2025
- that the percentage of employees in the Capital Region of Denmark, who use green means of transportation to and from work, must be increased by 2025
- that a full transformation of the Region's fleet of sustainable vehicles is implemented by 2030
- that the Capital Region of Denmark recycles 50% of its waste in 2030 and aims at being waste-free by 2035
- to have more numerous and more ambitious requirements
- in relation to sustainable solutions and eco-labels in procurement for the Capital Region of Denmark
- to increase the focus on a climate-friendly diet, organic food and less food waste in our hospital kitchens
- that in 2030, construction work in the Capital Region of Denmark follows a high sustainability level and that the Capital Region of Denmark has consolidated its front runner position in socially responsible hospital construction
- to reduce water consumption, measured per patient, at the hospitals by 5% in 2025 and 7.5% in 2030
- that there should be 1 apprentice/trainee per 10 skilled workers on the Capital Region of Denmark's present and future construction and renovation projects
- that as an employer, the Capital Region of Denmark employs 1 trainee per 10 skilled workers

Sustainable procurement

As one of the largest public sector purchasers, the Capital Region of Denmark has helped to push the entire market into a more sustainable direction by demanding green and socially responsible products. The Region also increases the kitchens' focus on more climate-friendly food, conversion to organic food and less food waste.

Sustainable construction and renovation

The environmental and carbon footprint from construction and operation of buildings is noticeable. This is also the reason why sustainability must be a cornerstone for the Capital Region of Denmark's construction of new buildings or renovation of old buildings. It should be an integrated part of the projection of all construction work to screen for sustainability depending on the character and scope of the construction work once a screening tool has been developed. In addition, the possibility of recycling and reusing building materials in hospital construction as a replacement for non-renewable raw materials must be identified with a view to promoting such recycling and reuse.

The Capital Region of Denmark is also actively engaged in making the hospitals water efficient and in handling waste water in a responsible way since clean water is an important and scarce resource.

Social responsibility

As a responsible building contractor, the Region wishes to provide orderly conditions at the construction sites and to utilise the potential for more traineeships to the full. In relation to traineeships, we are aiming to guarantee future skills for the Region's own companies and hospitals through partnerships with the technical schools.

Better conditions for the patients and the employees

When the Capital Region of Denmark is engaged in creating green and responsible hospitals, the Region is also contributing to better and more healthy conditions for the day-to-day treatment of the patients. Many of these initiatives have positive effects that will for example result in a better indoor climate, more exercise and fresh air, better job satisfaction and reduced operating costs. This will benefit the patients and their relatives but will also increase the job satisfaction and the well-being of the employees.

Targets in focus:



TARGET 12.2
Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources



TARGET 12.3
Halve per capita global food waste



TARGET 12.4
Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste



TARGET 12.5
Substantially reduce waste generation



TARGET 12.7
Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable



TARGET 12.8
Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles

Follow-up on the progress of the agenda for action

In order to follow up on the SDGs, the UN has formulated a number of indicators for all the SDG targets. Statistics Denmark is responsible for reporting on the Danish fulfilment of the UN indicators. However, several of the indicators do not provide a meaningful basis for monitoring national, regional and local initiatives. Therefore, the UN's basic idea is that the development of the SDGs must be adjusted to the individual country's different local conditions, challenges and possibilities. The SDGs are primarily to be seen as a transformational agenda and a tool for development irrespective of starting point.

The Capital Region of Denmark will therefore prepare an overall status of the progress of the actions in order to make an ongoing assessment and, if necessary, adjust the initiatives.

Framework and prioritisation of the initiatives relating to the SDGs

The Capital Region of Denmark's contribution to the SDGs is based on existing policies, strategies and plans. In order to ensure that the Region is able to continuously aim at the SDGs, relevant new policies, strategies and plans must be evaluated in relation to the SDGs and will contain goals that as a minimum aim at 2030.

In its existing budgets, the Capital Region of Denmark has already implemented significant initiatives that contribute to the SDGs and this will also be the case in future. However, several of the initiatives will require further funding in order to be realized. Additional funding of the initiatives will be made through the Region's annual budget agreements. This means that the initiatives will be implemented on an ongoing basis.

In order to ensure that the Region's biggest and most substantial priorities aim at the SDGs, budget proposals that are forwarded to budget negotiations and appropriation cases will be assessed in relation to their impact on the SDGs. The Region will evaluate and adjust the procedure on an ongoing basis in order to assess the budget proposals and the appropriation cases.

The initiatives in this agenda for action are based on the following policies, strategies and plans:

- Plan for Strengthening of Prevention
- Three-Year Plan for the Mental Health Field
- The Capital Region of Denmark's Strategy for Health Research 2018-2022

- Soil Plan for the Capital Region of Denmark
- Raw Materials Plan for the Capital Region of Denmark
- The Capital Region of Denmark's Traffic Commission
- The Regional Development Strategy
- Energy Plan 2025
- Transportation Plan 2025
- Waste Resource Plan 2025
- The Capital Region of Denmark's Procurement Policy
- Group Action Plan for Green Procurement
- Tender Strategy for Building and Construction Work
- The Capital Region of Denmark's Traineeship Initiatives



**The Capital Region
of Denmark**