

Dear reader of our Climate Action Plan

Varde City Council is proud to present an ambitious Climate Action Plan for Varde Municipality – a plan, which supports the development basis we have created together for our visions for the future development in our municipality.

This paper is a short, English version including the most important elements from the Climate Action Plan (2022) and is targeted our citizens, who doesn't speak or read Danish, and our foreign visitors and tourists.

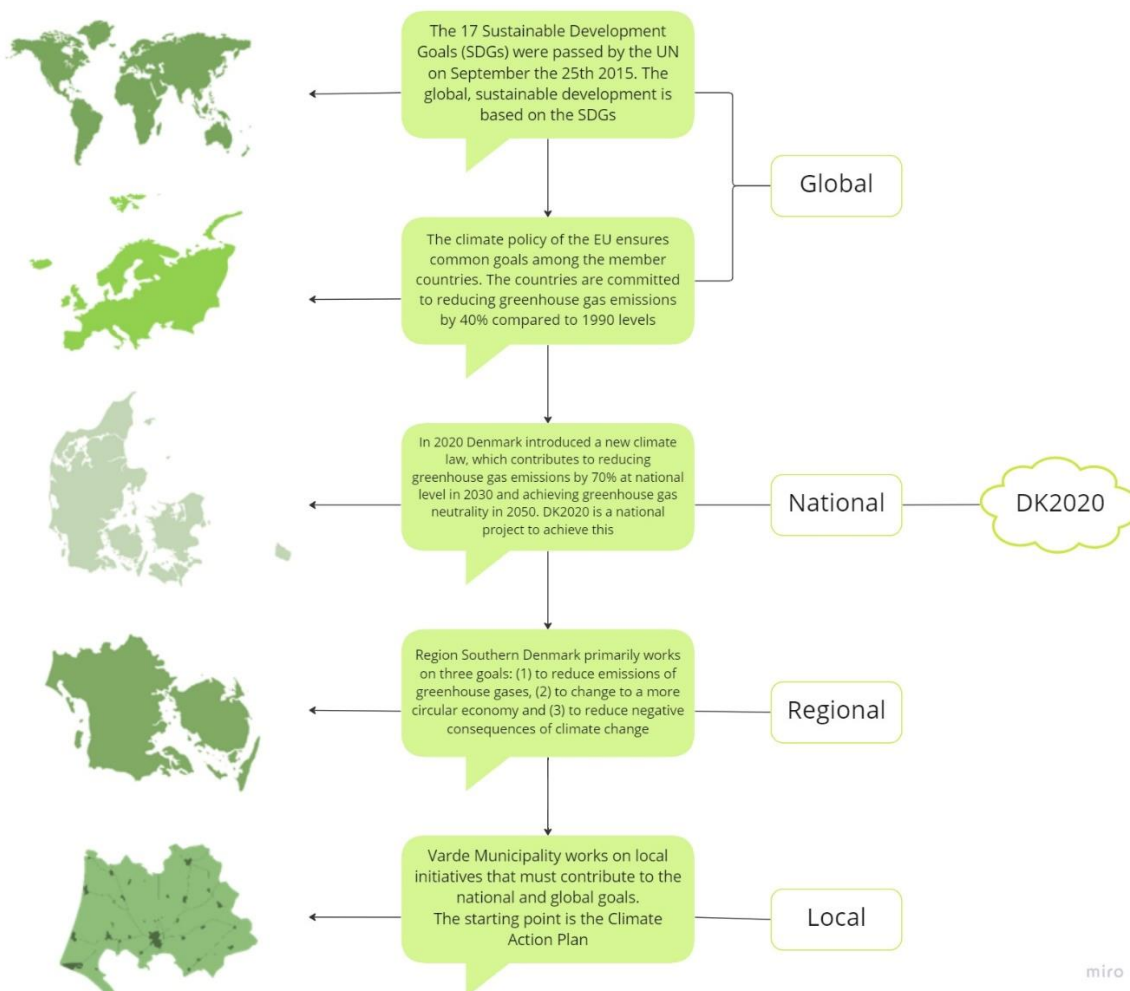
Our DNA consists of the forces of nature, the traditional agricultural businesses, proud industrial companies and enterprising citizens and associations, who all in collaboration contribute to make the best solutions for our entire municipality – for the benefit of both citizens and visitors. Our Climate Action Plan must build on this.

We will work with agricultural projects, and more afforestation, energy efficiency improvements, green energy, our transport, and our behavior – and we've only just started! We believe in the green, sustainable transition and invite citizens, companies, associations, agriculture, and other partners to join us – with a cooperative effort, we believe that we can become climate neutral by 2050 at the latest!

The background and purpose of the Climate Action Plan

Varde Municipality has joined the national project DK2020 – a climate partnership among Local Government Denmark (KL) and Realdania who supports all Danish municipalities in developing local climate action plans that comply with The Paris Agreement of 2015. In October 2022, Varde Municipality received the C40-certification as a proof that our Climate Action Plan is ambitious enough to help redeem the goals of reducing the global greenhouse gas emissions – to limit the global average temperature to 2°C and keeping it to a maximum of 1,5°C. In 2020 the Danish government passed a new climate law. The purpose is that Denmark must reduce the emission of greenhouse gases by 70 percent in 2030 (compared to the level in 1990), and that Denmark is a climate-neutral country by 2050 at the latest.

The different levels of global, national, regional, and local commitments are illustrated in the following model.



Our Climate Action Plan is our tool to contribute to leading the world towards a more sustainable future for our children and youths – we are an important player in achieving both global greenhouse gas neutrality and protection against future climate threats.

Targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions of Varde Municipality

The following table shows the greenhouse gas emissions of Varde Municipality in 2019 by sectors compared to the national level.

Sector	Varde Municipality (2019)	Denmark (2019)
Energy	19 %	43 %
Transport	10 %	26 %
Agriculture	69 %	26 %
Waste, sewage, and chemical processes	1 %	6 %

As the table shows, our three biggest CO₂-emitters are agriculture, energy, and transport. Therefore, we have set specific targets for each sector.

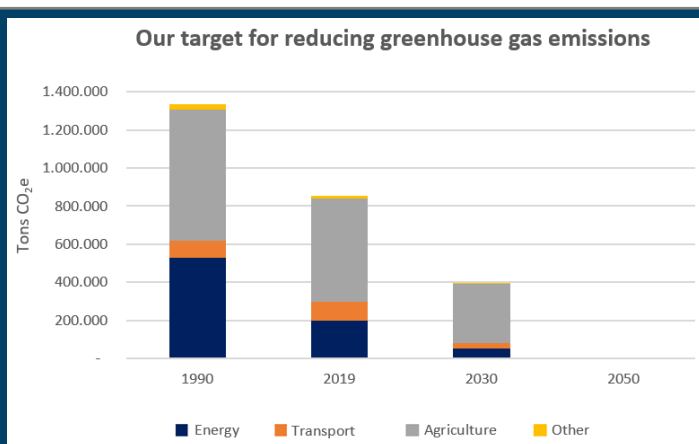
Our target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990

- **Energy:** 90% before 2030
- **Transport:** 70% before 2030
- **Agriculture:** 55% before 2030
- **Waste:** 70% before 2030

Combined, these targets result in 70% reduction in 2030 compared to 1990.

The numbers of 1990 and the latest registered numbers of 2019 is the starting point for the determination of the targets of the Climate Action Plan. Overall, we must reduce the greenhouse gas emissions significantly in 2030 and 2050. The graph below shows an illustration of the reduction.

Facts: The illustration shows the greenhouse gas emissions of 1990 and 2019 by sectors. It also shows the targets of Varde Municipality for reducing CO₂ emissions to 398.385 tons of CO₂e in 2030 and obtaining greenhouse gas neutrality in 2050.



The targets make high demands on our climate action. That is why we in Varde Municipality have chosen to focus on seven different policy areas and created 27 effective policy means framing our options for action. These efforts will be carried through by many local players, comprised both of our municipality as an organization, local companies, and our citizens.

The different policy areas and means are shortly presented in the following passage. The areas are as follows:

- 1) Energy and heating
- 2) Transport
- 3) Agriculture
- 4) Varde Municipality as an organization
- 5) Green behavior in the everyday life
- 6) Waste
- 7) Climate Change Adaptation

We strive to ensure full utilization of both our staff resources and financial resources, to be able to make the biggest possible difference in each area. Therefore, we are working with five principles, which every policy mean has been based on:

- **Efficiency assessment:** We assess the impact, the effort will have on the climate
- **First-movers:** Varde Municipality will lead the way to a more green and sustainable future. We will work on own habits, consumptions, practices, and structures
- **Proximity:** The green transition must benefit our local citizens, companies, and institutions
- **The long term:** An economically, socially, and environmentally green transition requires behavioral changes – for all – and it requires a long-term effort to create solid results
- **Added value:** We focus on the potentials and possibilities for accelerating the green transition. We consider the added value for our citizens, companies, and visitors – the positive, derived effects formed by the efforts.

Energy and heating

Varde Municipality will promote the production of renewable energy. The future demands, that we make our energy consumption more efficient, and we will need technological development. Solar and wind energy are high on the priority list. One of the

challenges are, that these energy sources are less stable compared to the fossil energy sources used today.

We support the establishment of CO₂-neutral energy plants to ensure the production of renewable energy. This involves both the construction and expansion of solar energy plants, biogas plants and the construction of wind turbines. At the same time, the existing energy infrastructure must be technologically developed and expanded in cooperation with private actors and utility companies.

Transport

In Varde Municipality, we live very scattered, and as Denmark's geographically fifth largest municipality, we often travel long distances. As a result, we have a transport discharge per person above the national average.

We will reduce our emissions from transport in different ways, and we have increased our focus on making it attractive to drive on green fuels. Our vehicles – both private cars and heavy transport such as trucks and vans – should be more sustainable in the future. We support this with a strategy for setting up more charging stations.

Together, we must change our transport habits in a more sustainable direction – and become better at using public transport, cycling, as well as using carpooling to a greater extent.

Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in and around Varde Municipality - and one of the absolute largest. We are one of the Danish municipalities where most dairy cattle are raised.

Therefore, agriculture also accounts for the largest emission of greenhouse gases in our overall calculation. The green transition requires new technologies, to assure that agriculture remains profitable and continues to generate growth and value.

We work for an intensified dialogue and cooperation with the agriculture and the agricultural NGOs. This is done through solid climate partnerships based on good relationships.

Varde Municipality as an organization

Varde Municipality will lead the way as an organization and inspire to a more green and sustainable behavior. We have a great opportunity to lead the way towards a more sustainable future and ensure that our employees – and all our citizens in particular – are well-equipped for the future that awaits us.

Sustainability must be a fundamental element in our policies and strategies, to ensure that we as an organization are working sustainably in all areas. We will enter solid climate partnerships with different actors both locally and nationally.

Green behavior in the everyday life

If we are to achieve our targets, it requires that citizens, companies, and associations all get involved in the green transition and each contribute to changing the overall behavior in our municipality in a more sustainable and climate-neutral direction.

Varde Municipality will support this behavioral change through information campaigns, collaboration, and facilitation of processes. We will strengthen our citizens' knowledge, opportunities, networks, and commitment relative to the green transition.

We will establish climate partnerships with associations, companies, educational institutions, and other relevant actors, and cooperate with information associations and libraries surrounding green behavior, which can and will inspire us to reduce our overall consumption.

Waste

The responsible organization for waste management in Varde Municipality is DIN Forsyning. This organization has made a strategy for an efficient and more sustainable waste management. We will collaborate with and support DIN Forsyning in realizing their visions and targets.

Better waste management and sorting can increase the amount of resources that are recycled and thus save the planet's resources. In addition to cooperating with DIN Forsyning, we will increase waste sorting in our own organization and support increased recycling of materials throughout our geography. We want to ensure fossil-free collection and treatment of waste, and we will participate in information campaigns to increase the incentive for waste sorting by raising the level of knowledge.

Climate Change Adaptation

In the future, the weather will be wilder – when it rains, it will rain more, and when it blows, it will blow more. Varde Municipality will work to ensure that our municipal geography is secured against future weather caused by climate change; dry summer periods and increased water volumes and the changes this entails, especially for our groundwater.

To ensure climate change adaptation, we will prepare a new climate adaptation plan during 2023. We have heightened our focus on increased rainfall and drought and the resulting consequences hereby. In addition, we focus on management of storm surges, sea level rise and coastal erosion. Varde Municipality should be climate-resilient by 2050 at the latest.

The full Climate Action Plan (Danish) is accessible on our website:
www.vardekommune.dk/klimahandlingsplan.

If we are to achieve our targets, it requires that we all get involved in the green transition. You are welcome to contact our Climate Team in Varde Municipality if you have any questions, comments or just a good idea for our climate work.

Send an e-mail to: klima@varde.dk.