

Climate change and food

Climate changes are felt at full speed around the world. In Denmark we feel the changes in the form of rising temperatures and higher precipitation, especially in the winter months. For food production, climate changes mean new possibilities and new challenges - possibilities such as longer growing seasons, new crops, new fish species and challenges such as new pests, plant- and livestock diseases, and oxygen depletion in the seas.

There is no doubt that emissions of greenhouse gases generated by human activity contribute to climate change, and cuts in emissions are therefore a gigantic challenge.

Agreements to reduce CO₂ emissions

As a result of the Kyoto Protocol, Denmark must reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases in the period 2008-2012 by 21% compared to the level in 1990.

According to the EU climate and energy initiative 2008 Denmark is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from non-Emissions Trading Scheme by at least 20% in the period up to 2020 compared with the level in 2005.

Agriculture accounts for 14-16% of emissions in Denmark, depending on whether energy and fuel consumption are included. Agriculture is therefore expected to contribute to the future emission reductions. But other parts of the food production chain can also contribute to reduce emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.

Agriculture's greenhouse gases

Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture account for 14% of Denmark's total emissions. In addition to this is the energy consumed by agriculture, forestry and market gardening, equalling about 2.4% (see table below).

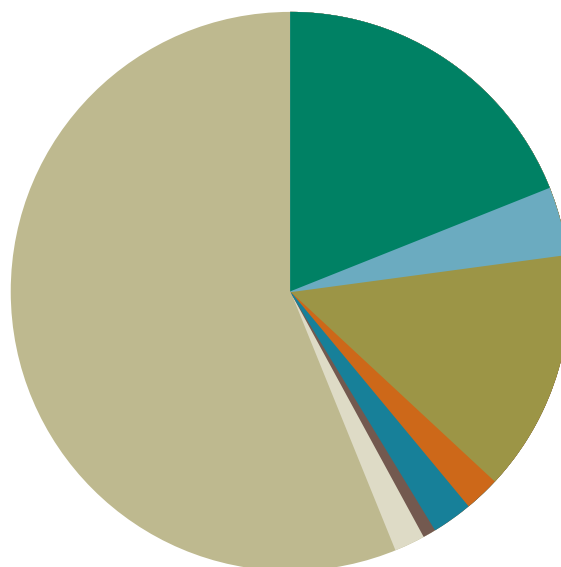
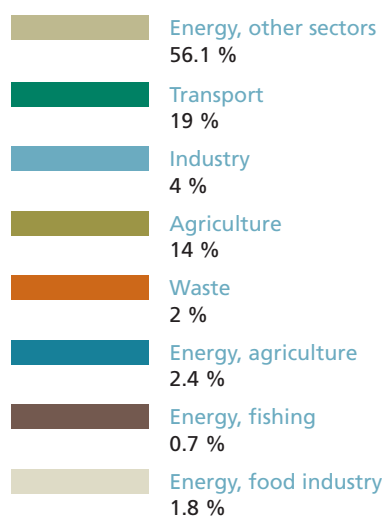
Greenhouse gases from fishing

The fishing industry's emissions of greenhouse gases are not as large as those from farming, and they arise when the vessels sail to and from the fishing grounds and while they are fishing. Fishing's emissions equals 0.7% of Denmark's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Food industry's greenhouse gas emissions

The food industry's greenhouse gas emissions come from the consumption of energy when preparing fish and agricultural products. The emissions amount to 1.8% of Denmark's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Denmark's greenhouse gas emissions, 2006



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