

## WORKING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### DANISH EPA BRINGS THE ENVIRONMENT INTO FOCUS

What are the Danish EPA's responsibilities, values and vision?  
How does the EPA work?

Find answers to these and many other questions in this folder,  
which highlights Danish EPA work on a healthy environment.

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news in the environment area, then you should visit our website  
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areas of interest.

#### How to order the booklet

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DANISH MINISTRY  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental  
Protection Agency

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# DANISH EPA BRINGS THE ENVIRONMENT INTO FOCUS



LESS WASTE AND MORE CLEAN AIR. LESS DANGEROUS CHEMICALS AND MORE GREEN COMPANIES. THE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TASKS IS WIDE, BUT WE STAY FOCUSED.

People, environment and nature are the threads in the Danish EPA's work. We are working to protect the environment in the best way possible and make a difference to people as well as nature. For families with children to be able to buy shampoo and toys without having to fear dangerous chemistry. For companies to choose environmental technologies. And for all of us to be able to go to work or school without having air pollution spoil the trip.

The road to a healthy environment is openness and dialogue. We believe that the best decisions and environmental solutions are found if we cooperate with everyone who has shares in a good environment. Therefore, the exchange of experience with consumers as well as businesses is key to us if the green wave shall traverse the entire community.

This means that we listen to the outside world and ensure easy and quick access to updated knowledge on the environment to the public, whether this concerns chemicals, pollution or gene technology. With green tips, environmental advice and campaigns on control, we make it easier to avoid dangerous and unnecessary chemistry. We also make it possible for the individual to take responsibility and help the environment, which benefits the health of the individual as well as our common environment.

The agricultural sector and businesses also have a large responsibility to nature and the environment since their activities play a big part in the environmental accounts. Therefore, it is our goal to have businesses see us as an attractive partner that shares its knowledge and listens to the outside world, when we work on setting up simpler and more efficient environmental rules. Furthermore, we support green technology, e.g. in export solutions, in order for Denmark to continue to be on the forefront globally when it comes to green products – just as we form partnerships with public as well as private businesses where we cooperate on green procurement of everything from computers to pens to benefit the bottom line as well as the environment.

However, this does not mean that we have reached our goal. There are still plenty of challenges to get started on, e.g. in the area of chemicals, waste handling and air quality. The range of tasks is wide, but we stay focused: We work for the environment. In this booklet, you can read more about how we do it.

**Lars Hindkjær**  
Director



THE DANISH EPA CONTRIBUTES TO SETTING OUT TARGETS AND PREPARING STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AS THE BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT WORK. OUR WORK INCLUDES STRATEGIES FOR WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND HEALTH, AND ACTION PLANS ON CHEMICALS AND ECO-TECHNOLOGY. WORK IS IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE EU, DANISH ENVIRONMENT CENTRES, REGIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES.

## DANISH EPA TASKS

The Danish EPA prepares the decision basis for the Minister for the Environment and executes the political decisions of the government and parliament. We handle about 1,000 very different ministerial cases each year. From draft bills on contaminated soil and replies to citizens' inquiries about allergenic substances or the smoke from a neighbour's woodburning stove, to proposals for new political initiatives in the waste area.

### DIALOGUE WITH THE PUBLIC AND ENTERPRISES

An important part of the Danish EPA's activities aims at Danish businesses. These include industry, agriculture, consultancy enterprises and business organisations.

The framework conditions for Danish enterprises are increasingly being affected by the global market, and the environment is a competition parameter in line with other factors. Early dialogue on decisions by the EU and other international fora is important to ensure environmental progress.

In order to secure new knowledge for consumers on the environment, health and consumption, we are targeting work at realising the most up-to-date knowledge and knowhow for the relevant areas. We want to ensure that everyone has quick and easy access to this knowledge at all times. This may be knowledge about new regulations for the environment, new knowledge about products, risk communication, campaigns, and advice about how people can take personal responsibility.

### REGULATIONS NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

The Danish EPA manages a number of Danish acts and statutory orders, as well as EU legislation dealing with environmental

protection, chemical substances and products, waste management, and contaminated soil. Approximately half of the new regulations are derived from EU directives. Legal quality and due process of law, together with simplicity and transparency are key concepts in Danish EPA regulatory work.

The Danish EPA is responsible for approving, for example, the pesticides that can be marketed in Denmark, dealing with about 200 cases each year. We are also responsible for approving imports and exports of waste, dealing with about 450 cases each year. Finally, the Danish EPA performs supervisory and control functions. The Chemical Inspection Service, for example, supervises compliance with regulations on chemical substances in cosmetics, toys, and other products.

### KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Specialist insight and up-to-date environmental knowledge are paramount to performing our responsibilities optimally. We therefore take care to collect data and knowledge about environmental impacts and monitor developments in the state of the environment. We carry out projects and develop and maintain around 60 environment databases.

In environment-economic analyses we record the economic effects of environmental measures on society. New knowledge is communicated in guidelines and publications, through a comprehensive website packed with relevant and topical EPA information, as well as active press and media work.



#### IMPORTANT LEGISLATION FOR THE DANISH EPA

- The Environmental Protection Act contains the central legislation on pollution prevention and control. It includes provisions on approval of polluting activities, on protection of the soil, on waste and recycling, as well as on cleaner technology.
- The Environmental Approvals etc. for Livestock Farming Act contains regulations for an environmental approval scheme for livestock farmers.
- The Contaminated Soil Act deals with preventing, remediating, and limiting soil contamination, and eliminating and preventing any harmful effects of soil contamination on groundwater, the environment and human health.
- The Chemical Substances and Products Act contains provisions on notification, classification, packaging, labelling, storage, use and approval of chemical substances and products.
- The Access to Information on the Environment Act contains provisions on public access to environmental data and information, and provisions on processing cases regarding access to environmental information.
- The Environment and Gene Technology Act contains rules about approval and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

#### COMMUNICATING OPENLY

Communication is an integral part of Danish EPA work, when providing advice to the government, when preparing proposals for regulation and initiatives, and, internally, in the organisation's daily work. Communication and dialogue are very important to the Danish EPA as we are one of the most visible public institutions in Danish media.

Communication efforts must support the Danish EPA vision about enhancing protection of people and the environment. This is accomplished by placing the environment high on the agenda and ensuring the public, professionals, and other stakeholders access to information about the state of the environment, environmentally correct behaviour, regulation and new knowledge. We listen, are open and make sure that everyone are able to participate in the debate, to take a position on questions on environmental policy and to take green responsibility for one's life in order for all of us to ensure a good environment.



GOOD SERVICE, CONSTRUCTIVE AND OPEN DIALOGUE, STRONG COMPETENCES, AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION. THE DANISH EPA MUST BE CONSTANTLY UP TO SPEED WITH CHANGING EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDS. THEREFORE THE ORGANISATION IS IN CONSTANT EVOLUTION.

# AN ORGANISATION IN CONSTANT EVOLUTION

Professional expertise is at the heart of Danish EPA work. However, good results are conditioned by continuous organisational development, clear strategies for competence development, and dialogue with the surrounding world.

## DEVELOPING OUR SERVICE AND DIALOGUE

The Danish EPA communicates with a number of cooperation partners on a daily basis and our decisions are often crucial for these partners in their everyday activities. This is the case, for example, for enterprises seeking approval or people seeking information about e.g. chemicals in consumer products. The continued development of our service is therefore vital in order for our users to enter our website to see our case-processing times and email response times etc.

We work with a clear focus to develop our partnerships and to ensure a constructive and open dialogue with the surrounding world. When The Danish EPA dialogue project involves our collaboration partners and creates a debate, we develop better environmental solutions that work.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE PROCEDURES

The Danish EPA is not only concerned about the environmental burden others; we also take our own "medicine". Therefore, the Danish EPA is an EMAS-certified organisation (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). This means we work systematically

to reduce the environmental impacts from our activities. This applies to direct environmental impacts from procurement, electricity, heating, water, paper, travel, and waste; and the indirect environmental impacts the Danish EPA causes through its activities as an authority, e.g. when we prepare legislation, orders, political reports and decisions.

## DEVELOPING OUR COMPETENCES

Our aim is to create strategic competence growth at the Danish EPA. Through our competence strategy we ensure coherence between the targets, tasks and competences of the Danish EPA, in the long as well as the short term. The competences and training needs of employees are discussed at annual employee development reviews. Both professional and personal competences must be developed, so that we are poised to cope with both present and future tasks. We nurture and develop our competences through on-the-job training, coaching and sparing. We also do it through continued training activities for the individual employee and as collective training, tailored to fit the Danish EPA's needs.

We also work systematically to ensure well-being at work. The balance between working life and private life must be tackled sensibly so that the combination of work flexibility, professional challenges, and a high degree of self-management benefits employees and does not become a source of stress.



THE DANISH EPA MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES WHICH THE FUTURE WILL BRING IN THE FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT. WE THEREFORE ANNUALLY SET OUT COMPETENCE TARGETS FOR WORK IN THE COMING 3-5 YEARS, SO THAT WE HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NAVIGATING IN A CHANGEABLE WORLD.

# INDICATORS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF THE FUTURE

Even today globalisation and technological development are important factors influencing environmental policy and consequently the Danish EPA's work for the government and parliament, and developments will accelerate in the coming years. The purpose of setting competence targets is therefore to outline an overall, strategic course for Danish EPA work and to set out important indicators, so that the Danish EPA is equipped to meet the requirements the future will bring. Amongst other things, it is important that the Danish EPA is able, on an ongoing basis, to recruit employees possessing the competences required by the future.

## CONTINUED INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

Even today, the international dimension is predominant in Danish EPA work. Cooperation in the EU makes up a significant part of Danish environmental policy work and regulation, and some nordic cooperation also takes place. Spread of chemicals and dangerous waste, for example, can only be successfully solved through international collaboration, and will be most successful on a global level. The issue of the effects of chemicals on the environment and health is gaining ever more importance on the agenda of global environmental policy.

The Danish Realm, including the Faeroe Islands and Greenland, places a special dimension on international cooperation. Pollution of the Arctic is often an indicator of global pollution. Denmark environmental support for the Arctic amounts to more than DKK 430 mill. per year. The scheme finances much of the Arctic environmental monitoring by the Realm and helps meet our commitments under to the Arctic Council. Efforts focus on the environment and health, biodiversity, sustainable exploitation of living resources, and local environmental conditions.

The increasing importance of international cooperation means that, on behalf of Denmark, the Danish EPA must influence important international decisions at an early stage. We must find the best way to implement EU regulations, so that they take account of the situation in Denmark, and we must

ensure a good environment and minimise the administrative burden for enterprises and citizens. At the same time we must make sure that action areas support each other, nationally and internationally.

## ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ARE IMPORTANT INDICATORS

We face a number of environmental challenges, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and lack of drinking water; challenges which are growing in line with population growth and economic growth in countries such as China and India. Greater focus on developing eco-efficient technologies will help ensure economic growth without corresponding deterioration of the environment. At the same time, increasing exports of Danish environmental and energy technology can help brand Denmark as an environmentally friendly and innovative country.

## THE WAY FORWARD


The government's environmental policy should be given priority; it should be efficient and targeted, and advantages and drawbacks of individual measures should be systematically calculated as far as possible. For example, in future the Danish EPA will increasingly have to describe the significance of environmental efforts in financial terms. Strengthened use of environmental economic tools is the way forward.

There will also be more focus on clarity, due process of law, and more simple legislation. Acts and regulations must be easy to understand and easy to follow, for example by enterprises, so that commerce and industry is not subject to unnecessary administrative burdens. Finally, working on the many small, but important, everyday choices of the individual will be an important focal point of future environmental policy. Our habits when we shop, commute and wash clothes on an overall scale are of significance for the environment. Individuals' "green responsibility" is therefore another important indicator within environmental policy, which must be incorporated into Danish EPA work.



The purpose of setting competence targets is therefore to outline an overall, strategic course for Danish EPA work and to set out important indicators, so that the Danish EPA is equipped to meet the requirements the future will bring.





Environmental requirements aimed at industry, agriculture and transport have meant that previously polluted aquatic areas are now cleaner. After many years' work it is now possible to swim in the Port of Copenhagen.

INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE ARE AMONG THE GREATEST SOURCES OF AIR AND ODOUR POLLUTION, NOISE, CLIMATE CHANGE, AS WELL AS POLLUTION OF AQUATIC AREAS. THEREFORE, LIMITS MUST BE DRAWN FOR POLLUTION FROM ENTERPRISES AND AGRICULTURE, AND VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES MUST CONTINUE TO BE PROMOTED.

# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MUST BE ON A SUSTAINABLE BASIS

Pollution from enterprises, agriculture, aquaculture and transport can damage lakes, coasts, heaths and forests. Pollution from these sectors is behind odour and noise nuisances which impair the quality of rural and urban life and in some cases also cause health problems. Environmental impacts from Danish livestock farming must be reduced through regulation and by developing cleaner, eco-efficient production methods.

The Danish EPA is responsible for developing Danish initiatives and implementing EU regulation to reduce pollution from industry, agriculture, aquaculture, transport and products. The Danish EPA advises the state-owned environment centres, municipalities and enterprises on industry and agriculture regulation.

## LEAST POSSIBLE POLLUTION

So as to curtail pollution, particularly polluting enterprises such as asphalt manufacturers, power stations, aquaculture, livestock farming and abattoirs must have environmental approval. The aim is that enterprises pollute as little as possible and use the best available technologies.

Many enterprises are also working on a voluntary basis to reduce their environmental impact through environmental management or on the basis of life-cycle assessments. The “green responsibility” of enterprises and other institutions must be maintained by a continued effort aimed at green procurement and eco-labelled products.

The livestock farming sector now has its own Environmental Approval Act which is to promote uniformity and transparency in decisions and more widespread use of eco-efficient technologies. The development of eco-efficient technologies will be an important focus area with the establishment of a new certification scheme and partnerships in which the central players will accelerate the development of better and cleaner production systems for the benefit of both the environment and the economy.

## AIR POLLUTION DEFIES BORDERS

Air pollution spreads across national borders and many environmental effects occur far from the source. Denmark participates in far-reaching international collaborative work to reduce the negative effects of air pollution. The work is ongoing at Nordic, EU, and UN levels and is about how much the individual country may emit various substances into the air.

## CHALLENGES IN THE LONG TERM

Environmental requirements aimed at industry, agriculture and transport have meant that previously polluted aquatic areas are now cleaner. The air quality in cities has improved despite an increased number of cars. Air pollution from a number of different substances has gone down significantly. However, new problems reveal themselves as we learn more. Recent research on particles from wood-burning stoves and traffic, for example, shows that this type of pollution has great consequences for our health.

For industrial enterprises and agriculture, work must continue to tailor and tighten the levels for what is considered the best available technology from an environmental perspective. This will take place at EU level, in particular. In addition, work must be continued to simplify the environmental management of industry, for example through special standard terms and conditions and by using differentiated environmental supervision.

The global environment challenge is growing in step with economic growth in the new large economies. Environmental management, eco-labels and promoting green procurement as well as other voluntary efforts are important elements in connection with reinforced efforts to prevent global environment problems from growing at the same rate as population and consumption.



ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT. THESE SOLUTIONS OFTEN HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS FOR BOTH THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR THE INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE, AND THEY CREATE NEW MARKETS FOR DANISH ENTERPRISES. ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP SOLVE SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE AIR, CLIMATE AND CHEMICALS AREAS, WITHIN AGRICULTURE, AS WELL AS WITH REGARD TO NOISE.

# ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGY

## ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGY BENEFITS THE ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS

Eco-efficient technology already has a pivotal role in our efforts to protect the environment and resources. Examples from our everyday lives are catalytic converters in cars, water treatment plants, and enzymes in washing agents. However, the world is still facing a number of great environmental challenges such as the climate challenge, lack of clean water, air pollution, and chemicals harmful to health; just to mention a few of the most important. Solutions depend to a large extent on developing and using new eco-efficient technologies. Action plan must promote technologies.

## ACTION PLAN PROMOTES TECHNOLOGIES

The governments action plan to promote eco-efficient technology contains a number of initiatives: partnerships for innovation, promotion of exports, research, advice and information, EU efforts, climate and energy technology, agricultural technologies, the aquatic environment, and a healthy environment. The aim is to promote development of competitive technologies which benefit the environment and Danish business.

Effective implementation of the action plan requires that enterprises are actively involved. Therefore it is also vital to ensure enterprises good conditions to develop and market new technologies.

On the basis of the action plan, the Danish EPA has established a secretariat for eco-efficient technology to act as a portal for enterprises and others with questions on eco-efficient technology. The secretariat offers advice for Danish enterprises and others on forthcoming legislation and opportunities for financial support for development and demonstration projects on eco-efficient technology. The aim is to enhance develop-

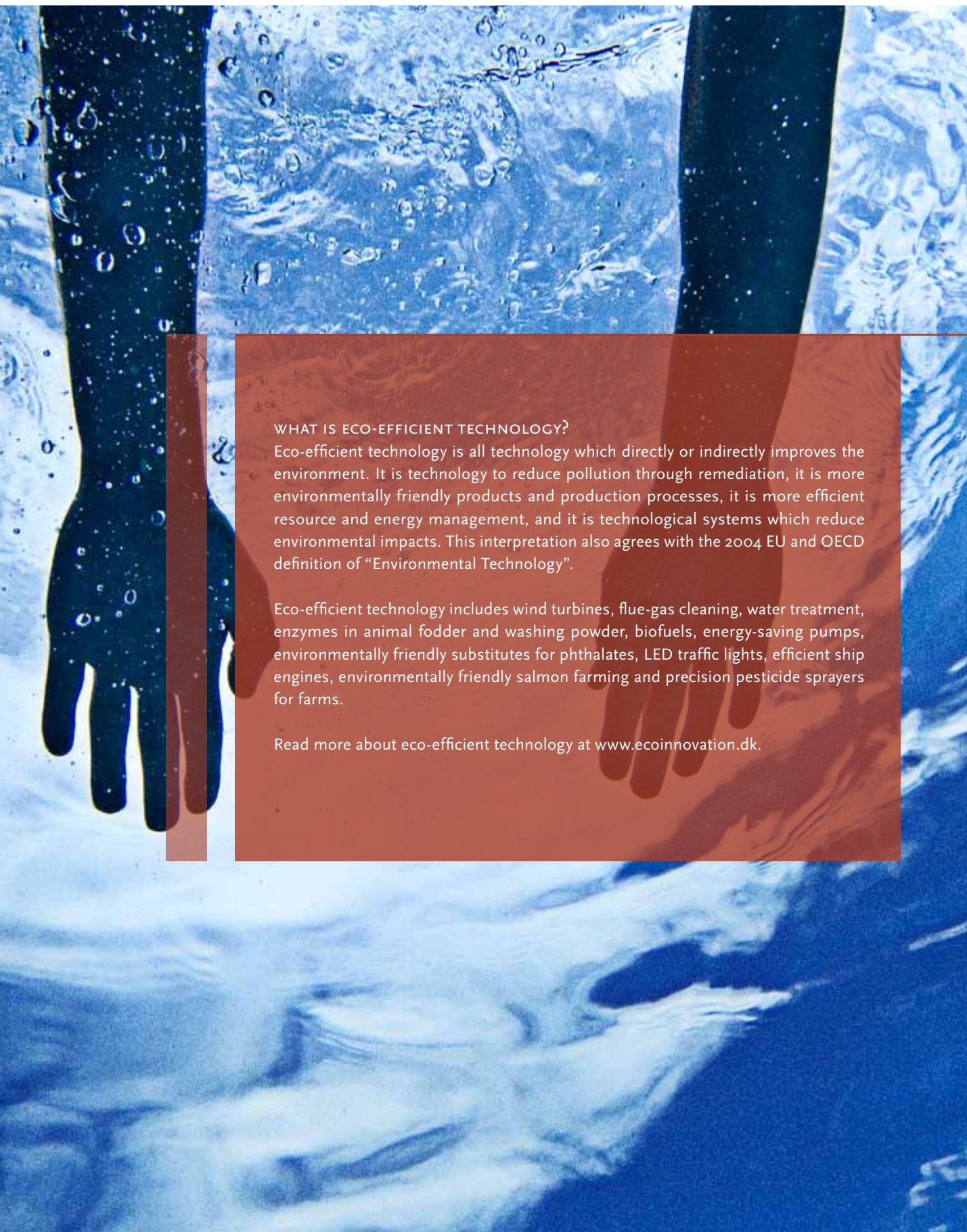
ment, marketing and exports of new eco-efficient technologies in areas with good environmental and commercial potentials. The secretariat collaborates with other players involved in advising enterprises and entrepreneurs that give advice on environmental technology, future legislation etc.

A number of partnerships have been established in different sectors, such as water, noise and ships, and all these demonstrate that partnerships offer an opportunity to find new solutions which are both environmentally and cost effective.

## THE ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGY ACROSS SECTORS

One of the Danish EPA's important roles is as advisor for the Minister for the Environment and the government in the preparation of new, extensive environmental policy initiatives. This advice is not only in the individual specialist areas, but also for initiatives which involve a number of areas of the agency and the Ministry of Environment and involvement of important partners such as enterprises, municipalities and other ministries. Other good examples include the efforts to develop and apply eco-efficient technology, which have high priority at the moment, and the comprehensive reorganisation of the waste sector. Initiatives in the different areas must be coordinated, and this must be monitored through indicators and other assessments, and the overall strategy must be long term and sustainable.

Efforts are also linked with international work, particularly the EU's strategy for sustainable development and the 6th Environment Action Plan, which provide the framework for a number of specific initiatives within the waste area, sustainable consumption and production, chemicals etc. The near future will bring focus on sustainable production and consumption as well as further development of environmental technological initiatives.




#### WHAT IS ECO-EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY?

Eco-efficient technology is all technology which directly or indirectly improves the environment. It is technology to reduce pollution through remediation, it is more environmentally friendly products and production processes, it is more efficient resource and energy management, and it is technological systems which reduce environmental impacts. This interpretation also agrees with the 2004 EU and OECD definition of “Environmental Technology”.

Eco-efficient technology includes wind turbines, flue-gas cleaning, water treatment, enzymes in animal fodder and washing powder, biofuels, energy-saving pumps, environmentally friendly substitutes for phthalates, LED traffic lights, efficient ship engines, environmentally friendly salmon farming and precision pesticide sprayers for farms.

Read more about eco-efficient technology at [www.ecoinnovation.dk](http://www.ecoinnovation.dk).





The EU chemicals regulation REACH has brought us one step further toward our goal. REACH paves the way for more knowledge about substances on the market, and assessment and registration of all substances.

CHEMICALS ARE PRESENT IN PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING THAT WE SURROUND OURSELVES WITH. WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT CHEMICALS IN MODERN LIFE, BUT SOME CHEMICALS HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON HUMANS AND ON THE ENVIRONMENT. THE DANISH EPA ASSESSES CHEMICALS AND IS INVOLVED IN LAYING DOWN THE RULES FOR HOW THEY MAY BE USED.

# THE FIGHT AGAINST DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

Lip salves, clothes, computers, cleaning agents, and teething rings for babies are examples of products containing chemical substances. There are around 100,000 chemical substances on the EU market and an estimated 20,000 on the Danish market. The substances serve important functions in products, but some of them are dangerous, while we are ignorant of all of the effect of others on humans and the environment.

## FOCUS ON DANGEROUS AND UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCES

The Danish EPA is responsible for managing a great number of rules on chemicals. These rules have been established to decrease the risk of damages to health and to the environment when the substances are manufactured, stored, and used. The Danish EPA Chemical Inspection Service supervises compliance with the legislation.

The Danish EPA continually assesses the risk associated with a number of products, we are surrounded by every day. Any new knowledge is used, for example, as input for new EU regulation of the quantities of certain substances allowed in certain products. We also use our knowledge to inform the public of safe use of the products.

## BANS, LABELLING AND LISTS SHOW THE WAY

Some substances are so dangerous that they may not be used for certain purposes. This applies e.g. to lead and substances which deplete the ozone layer. Other dangerous substances must be labelled by the manufacturer or importer, so that the consumer can read how the product is to be used safely. These substances and their labelling requirements are included in the EU list of dangerous substances, which contains about 8,000 substances and substance groups.

A number of substances are undesirable because they have problematic effects and are used in larger quantities in Denmark. According to the Danish EPA's assessment, these sub-

stances should be avoided as far as possible and we have therefore prepared a list of undesirable substances and substance groups. The list is meant as a guideline which manufacturers, product developers, procurement departments, and other Danish players can use as part of their efforts to substitute the problematic substances with less problematic ones.

## GREATER KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SUBSTANCES WITH REACH

The Danish strategy is to reduce the use and enhance control of problematic chemicals. Manufacturers must take more responsibility and consumers must have access to information on how to avoid exposure to dangerous substances. The way to achieve this is through better regulation in Denmark, in the EU, and globally.

The EU chemicals regulation REACH has brought us one step further toward our goal. REACH paves the way for more knowledge about substances on the market, and that the industry must register and assess all substances before they are produced and marketed. As a rule, only known substances may be marketed, and industry must ensure that manufacture and use of chemical substances are without risk for humans and the environment. The more detailed requirements depend on the quantities in which the products are manufactured. Manufacturers will be responsible for providing information about the product, and particularly problematic substances must be approved by the authorities.

## CHALLENGES IN THE LONG TERM

Continued work in the EU and globally is necessary to ensure a high level of protection. We must continue to inform citizens and enterprises about new knowledge and risks associated with chemicals and their occurrence in consumer products. We must also push enterprises to substitute the problematic substances in their products with less problematic ones.



PESTICIDES CAN KILL UNDESIREF FUNGI, INSECTS AND WEEDS, AND THEREBY HELP GARDEN OWNERS AND FARMERS. HOWEVER, SOME PESTICIDES CAN HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THE DANISH EPA THEREFORE KEEPS TRACK OF THE USE OF PESTICIDES AND BIOCIDES.

# PESTICIDES AND GENE TECHNOLOGY UNDER SCRUTINY

Plant protection products include both biocides and pesticides. Biocides such as wood protection agents, rat poison, antifouling paint for ships, and agents to prevent algae are examples of products containing pesticides which many people have used in the fight against bacteria, fungi or algae. The advantage of pesticides is that they have been designed to combat undesired living organisms, however some of the agents have unacceptable effects on human health and the environment.

## AGENTS MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE USE

The Danish EPA is responsible for chemical and microbiological pesticides. Approval schemes for pesticides and biocides in Danish chemicals legislation ensure that pesticides and biocides are not sold or used in Denmark before the Danish EPA has assessed their significance for human health and the environment. If an agent is to be approved, three important conditions must be met: it must be effective relative to its purpose, it must not be harmful to human health or the environment, and, finally, applicants, typically enterprises, are responsible for providing the Danish EPA with the necessary information.

## PIVOTAL EU LISTS

The Danish approval schemes are anchored in EU legislation: the Biocide Directive and the Plant Protection Products Directive, which contain similar regulations. Both use the principle of a positive list, which means that all active substances must first be assessed on a common basis in the EU. Only if the substances can be approved in the EU, may they be included in the agents approved by the Member States. Agents containing active substances that are not on the EU's positive lists may

not be sold in the EU market. A large proportion of the approval work on pesticides therefore takes place in the EU, where Member States negotiate and vote regularly on individual active substances. The Danish EPA is responsible for Denmark's ongoing work on the directives in the EU.

## PESTICIDE CONSUMPTION MUST COME DOWN

The Danish EPA is also working to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides, as is evident from the government's "Green Growth" applicable in 2010-2015. "Green Growth" introduces a new indicator for the consumption of pesticides called extent of burden. This indicator includes the size of non-sprayed areas that are to reduce the burden of pesticides. "Green Growth" includes a number of initiatives to reduce the burden of pesticides to health and the environment.

In spring 2007, the Minister for the Environment, Local Government Denmark (LGDK) and Danish Regions renewed a successful agreement from 1998 on phasing out the use of plant protection agents on public areas.

## CHALLENGES ON THE HORIZON

Green Growth launches a number of new measures to reduce the consumption and burden of pesticides that poses a risk to human health and the environment. Focus is on integrated plant protection, and buffer zones along watercourses and lakes may not be sprayed. At the same time, a new differentiated tax system for pesticides is introduced resulting in the most problematic products paying the highest tax, and an increased monitoring of illegal imports is introduced as well. The pesticide part of Green Growth will be up for midway evaluation in 2013.

#### GENE TECHNOLOGY

The Danish EPA is responsible for processing applications for permission to use genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which have to be approved according to the Environment and Gene Technology Act with regard to:

- Production in confined conditions, e.g. genetically modified bacteria to manufacture enzymes for use in the manufacture of washing agents and food.
- Test releases, i.e. all experiments and trials under which genetically modified plants and other organisms are released in the open countryside. The Minister for the Environment can only approve test releases on the basis of an environmental and health assessment as well as consultations with a large number of parties.
- Marketing, typically applications for approval of non-food products, for example genetically modified flowers or aquarium fish.

The Danish EPA also supervises compliance with the terms of approvals. Therefore the Danish EPA has supervisory responsibility for:

- General provisions of the Environment and Gene Technology Act.
- Requirements and terms for approval under the Act.
- Compliance with notices and bans under the Act.
- Laboratories and laboratory areas in which there is work with genetically modified plants and animals with regard to aspects relating to the external environment.

The Danish EPA is also responsible for the Cartagena Protocol, the purpose of which is to ensure appropriate levels of protection in connection with cross-border transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs), i.e. organisms created using modern biotechnology, which in principle correspond to living genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

In the Danish EPA we help manage a number of conventions on behalf of the Danish government and we take part in the negotiations preceding the adoption of an international convention or protocol and in the subsequent negotiations in which the convention must be put into practice.





# INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS SHOW THE WAY

Many environmental problems are inherently transboundary, for example chemicals harmful to human health. A number of international conventions and protocols are therefore the focal point of much environmental cooperation in which the Danish EPA takes part. These conventions are either global or regional depending on the nature of the environmental problem they address, and usually they are anchored in the United Nations. Furthermore, the conventions are often named after the place where they were adopted and signed.

In the Danish EPA we help manage a number of conventions on behalf of the Danish government and we take part in the negotiations preceding the adoption of an international convention or protocol as well as the specific further development of the conventions.

The most important global conventions and strategies that fall under the Danish EPA's field of activity are listed below and these serve as a natural umbrella for Danish EPA environmental work.

## CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES

*The Stockholm Convention* from 2001 is about persistent organic pollutants. The Convention covers the "dirty dozen": now twelve hazardous substances, including e.g. PCB, DDT and dioxin, and mid 2010 9 more substances will follow. The Convention regulates the use, production, import or export of the 12 substances.

*The Rotterdam Convention* from 1998 is about a procedure for import and export of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in connection with international trade. The Convention covers industrial chemicals, pesticides and pesticides mixtures.

*The Vienna Convention* and *Montreal Protocol* from 1987 regulate the use of ozone-depleting substances, e.g. greenhouse gasses. The Montreal Protocol has had the positive effect that a wide range of ozone-depleting substances have been phased out, for example CFC gases.

## WASTE

*The Basel Convention* from 1989 on waste is best known for its ban on the export of hazardous waste from OECD countries to poor countries. The objective of the Convention is to regulate transboundary movements of hazardous waste.

## AIR POLLUTION

*The Geneva Convention* from 1979 was adopted under the auspices of the United Nations and it deals with long-range transboundary air pollution. This Convention forms, amongst other things, the framework for a number of protocols on emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic hydrocarbons and ammonia, on POP substances (persistent organic pollutants), and heavy metals.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

*The Aarhus Convention* from 1998 concerns the environmental rights of citizens. The Convention deals with the citizen's access to environmental information, access to participate in decisions in the environmental area and access to complain and have their case tried in court.



WASTE FROM HOUSEHOLDS AND INDUSTRIES CONTAINS VALUABLE AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENTALLY HARMFUL SUBSTANCES. MANY SITES IN DENMARK ARE CONTAMINATED DUE TO PAST ACTIVITIES. THE AIM THEREFORE IS TO BRING WASTE VOLUMES AND SOIL CONTAMINATION UNDER CONTROL.

## SOIL AND WASTE UNDER CONTROL

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Every Dane produces about eight kilos of waste each day all year round, which corresponds to about 15,5 million tonnes annually. This waste has to be collected and treated using environmentally and economically appropriate measures. At the same time we must prevent society from producing too much unnecessary waste. The Danish EPA sets out the overall framework for waste, and the municipalities decide how to organise local waste systems close to users.

About 40,000 sites are contaminated in Denmark because they have had petrol gas stations, dry cleaners or other polluting industries located on them. The Danish EPA is responsible for drawing up guidelines for remediation, so that contaminated sites do not cause danger to human health or contaminate our drinking water. Municipalities manage the regulations on movement of soil and contact with the public, while the regions are responsible for remediation etc. of contaminated soil.

### WASTE RELEASES RESOURCES AND PROVIDES ENERGY

In Denmark, by far the majority of waste is managed appropriately from an environmental perspective. We recycle large parts of waste to reduce our resource consumption, and we utilise a very great proportion of the energy in the remaining waste through incineration, except for a small amount which has to be landfilled. With the present economic growth continued focus on waste and resources is paramount.

The government's goal is that, in 2012, Denmark will recycle at least 65 per cent and deposit no more than 6 per cent of its waste volumes.

### WE MUST PROTECT THE SOIL

Soil contamination can hamper the proper use of a building, or it may cause the contamination of groundwater resources used for drinking water. Therefore, the Danish EPA sets criteria for when the soil can be characterised as contaminated, along with principles for how soil contamination is to be investigated and remedied.

The Danish EPA is responsible for the technology pool of about DKK 5 million annually to support the development and testing of technology used in soil and groundwater remediation.

### IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

A number of EU directives and other international agreements regulate the waste area. The Danish EPA works internationally on behalf of the government to ensure appropriate waste treatment of e.g. batteries and old ships, including in cases where hazardous waste crosses borders. Other areas include the EU's new Waste Directive thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste and the thematic strategy for soil protection.

### CHALLENGES IN THE LONG TERM

There continues to be a great challenge in minimising environmental impacts from waste. The rising waste volumes must be curbed and we must use and continuously develop the environmentally and economically best waste treatment. The government's vision is to reorganise the waste sector to make it more efficient, administratively simple, and innovative. We must work towards common EU regulation which is aimed at areas where the environmental and resource-related problems are greatest. At the same time, we must acquire better knowledge about the environmental impacts of waste generation and treatment, as well as the resulting economic consequences.

In the area of soil contamination, the job is to secure the groundwater against contamination and prevent health-related problems. The effect of contaminated soil on surface water, protected species and natural habitats have to be clarified. The Danish EPA is working with simple and environmentally appropriate management of soil, by mapping soil contamination and by continuing the clean-up. Focus is on the large, expensive soil contamination cases such as Cheminova and Kærgaard Plantage.



In Denmark, we recycle large amounts of waste to reduce our resource consumption, and we utilise a very great proportion of the energy in the remaining waste through incineration, except for a small amount which has to be landfilled.





Danish EPA considers both knowledge on law, finance and the environment, when we work to help the environment. Our initiatives must be consistent with cross-agency strategies in the environmental sector in order for us to ensure sustainable solutions.

THE DANISH EPA IS NOT ONLY ABOUT POLLUTION. THE LAW, THE ECONOMY, AND CROSSCUTTING STRATEGIES MUST BE INCORPORATED WHEN A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE IS BORN IN DENMARK OR THE EU. ONLY BY LOOKING AT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM MANY ANGLES DO WE ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE RESULTS, WHICH INCREASE PROTECTION OF HUMANS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE.

# THE ENVIRONMENT FROM MANY ANGLES

Any initiative for the environment, apart from its core scientific dimension, also has a financial, legal and strategic dimension. Consider, for example, the process when an EU directive is transposed into Danish law or when the government adopts a new political initiative. The Danish EPA must help make sure that the financial and legal dimensions have been duly considered and that efforts harmonise with cross-sectoral strategies in the environment area.

## THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

The Danish EPA has been “putting a price on the environment” since 2000. The background for this is the significant financial resources that society is spending on safeguarding environmental benefits such as clean air and clean groundwater. Using environmental economic tools we gain insight into what these efforts cost, what we get for the money we invest, and what is the cost if we do nothing.

What is the cost for society of noise from traffic in terms of illness and falling house prices? What are the costs of abating noise nuisance e.g. by installing noise screens? What is less noise in the garden worth to people? What are the costs if we refrain from taking action?

It is particularly difficult to put a price on the pros and cons of environmental efforts because, as a rule, environmental benefits are not traded goods. You do not pay for them directly, and therefore they do not have an actual and specific price. Danish EPA environmental economists record the financial consequences of environmental initiatives for society so that, in this way, politicians will have an improved basis for decision-making. Environmental economics are also a tool to illustrate how we can meet environmental targets most cost-effectively.

## THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE LAW

The Danish EPA also places great emphasis on ensuring quality

in the drafting of environmental legislation, just as we emphasise openness and involvement, as well as simplicity and due process of law in the way we execute our functions. This applies to everything from draft bills and statutory orders to processing appeals. EU legislation also plays an increasingly significant role in environmental regulation and we place great emphasis on ensuring correct implementation of EU legislation in Danish legislation.

The municipality structural reform from 2007 has fundamentally changed the division of responsibilities between the state, regions and municipalities in the environment area. In collaboration with the new regional environment centres under the Ministry of the Environment, the Danish EPA ensures that management of the environment is professional, and that due process of law, dialogue with, and services to the public and enterprises are ensured and developed.

## THE ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGY ACROSS SECTORS

One of the Danish EPA's important roles is as advisor for the Minister for the Environment and the government in the preparation of new, extensive environmental policy initiatives. This advice is not only in the individual specialist areas, but also for initiatives which involve a number of Agency areas, the rest of the Ministry as well as other important partners such as enterprises, municipalities and other ministries. Examples of such actions are efforts to develop and apply eco-efficient technology, which have high priority at the moment. The comprehensive reorganisation of the waste sector is another example. Initiatives in the different areas must be coordinated, and this must be monitored through indicators and other assessments, and the overall strategy must be long term and sustainable.



THE DANISH EPA IS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN UNITS. A CROSS-FUNCTIONAL PROJECT ORGANISATION TAKES CARE OF LARGE INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITIES. THE DANISH EPA MANAGEMENT TEAM CONSISTS OF THE MANAGEMENT, THE HEADS OF DIVISION AND THE DEPUTY HEADS OF DIVISION. THE DANISH EPA EMPLOYS AROUND 300 EMPLOYEES.

## ORGANISATION AND VALUES

### PART OF THE DANISH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Danish EPA is part of the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry of the Environment consists of the Minister's Department, four agencies and seven regional environment centres. In addition, the Ministry includes an independent appeal board and the Nature Protection Board of Appeal.

### HOW THE ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITIES WORK IN DENMARK

The municipal structural reform has resulted in a new division of responsibilities in the environment area between the state, regions and municipalities in Denmark. The Ministry of the Environment now has seven new environment centres, situated in Aarhus, Odense/Fåborg, Roskilde, Aalborg, Ringkøbing, Ribe and Nykøbing Falster. The centres are a part of the Ministry of the Environment, but benefit from being closer to people, enterprises and nature:

- *The environment centres* are responsible for the tasks relating to important national and international nature and environment interests, as well as especially complicated matters, for example plans for the aquatic environment, supervision of heavily polluting enterprises, wastewater treatment and appeals under the Marine Environment Act.
- *The municipalities* are responsible for supervision of other enterprises and carry out the majority of specific authority tasks aimed at the public
- *The regions* are responsible for preparing regional development plans and carrying out special tasks in the areas of soil contamination and mineral resources.

Finally, the Environmental Board of Appeal is now in charge of processing appeals against decisions by municipalities and environment centres under the Environmental Protection Act, the Soil Contamination Act and the Water Supply Act.

### OUR MISSION

- We provide advice to government on environmental efforts
- We manage and prepare regulations and measures nationally and internationally
- We work in dialogue with the public, enterprises, and other authorities
- We collect and disseminate knowledge about the environment

### OUR VISION

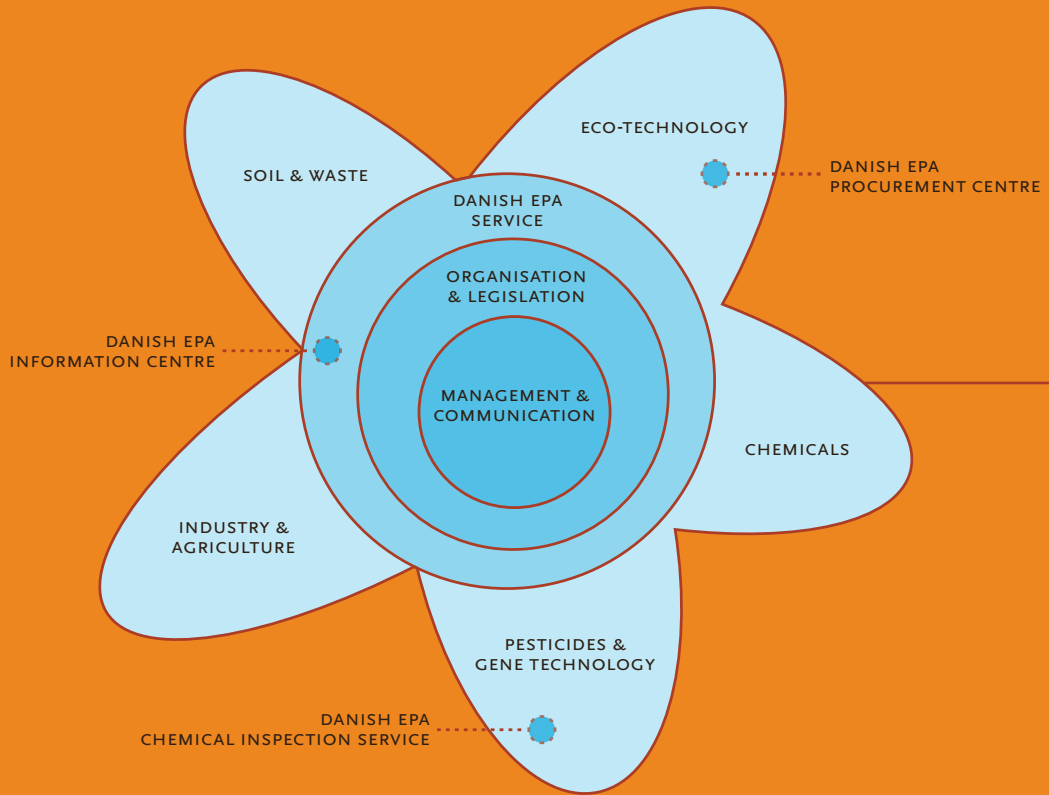
We aim to protect humans, the environment and nature, nationally and internationally, through:

- engaging in targeted navigation and communication in a changing world, always according to highly professional scientific standards
- engaging in open, unbiased and committed collaboration, internally and externally
- striving always to be credible, visionary and innovative
- striving always to be an attractive and family-friendly workplace where everyone contributes and makes a difference

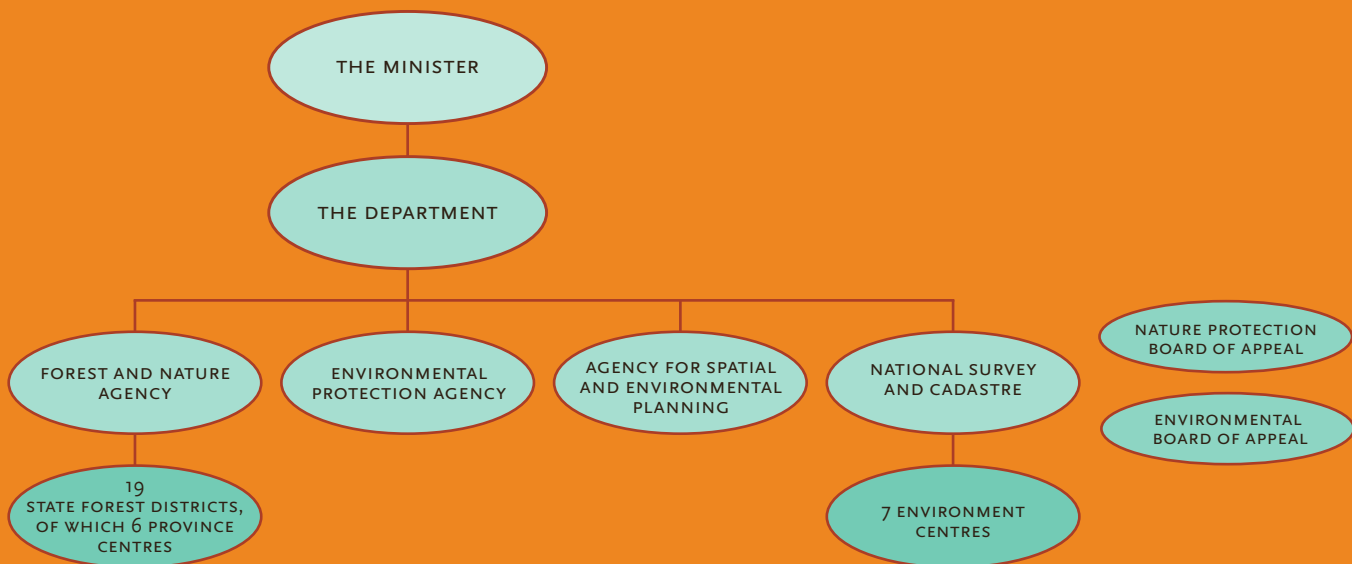
### OUR VALUES

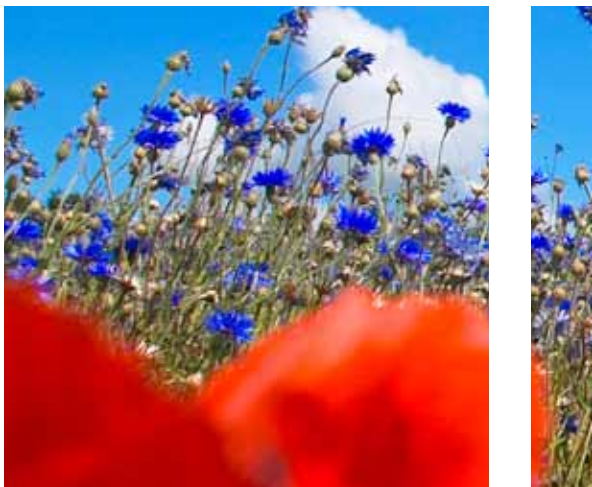
- Openness
- Credibility
- Commitment
- Creativity
- Care and Consideration

THE DANISH EPA



THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT





## DANISH EPA ONLINE

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### MST.DK – THE WEBSITE ON ENVIRONMENT

How many kilos of household waste do the Danes produce every year? Has the new report on pesticides been published, and what do you do, if your company wants to be registered in EMAS?

The Danish EPA's website will answer both big and small questions regarding the environment, whether you are a consumer, owner of a company or works in a municipal administration or a green organisation. Visit [www.mst.dk/English/](http://www.mst.dk/English/) – the website on environment in Denmark.

### MEET US AT FACEBOOK

Join the Danish EPA's green group on Facebook, share your ideas and thoughts on the environment with us and get short newsupdates on health and the environment to use directly in your everyday life.

Find us at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

### USE THE GREEN TIPS FROM THE DANISH EPA

How do I light a fire in the wood-burning stove in the proper way? Can I clean without using chlorine, and is modelling wax dangerous? Be environmentally aware in your everyday life by using our Green Tips – there are many things you can do to protect the environment and your own health. Visit [www.mst.dk/English/](http://www.mst.dk/English/) and read about the Danish EPA here.



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