



Less waste and better use of natural resources

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Denmark holds the European record as regards to municipal waste per capita – approx. 800 kg per year. It is the Danish Government's target to ensure less waste and better use of natural resources.

Up to 80 percent of a product's environmental impact is determined during the design phase. Designing circular solutions aim to maximise value and minimise the environmental impact of materials, products and services by reducing material use and waste generation, increasing durability and making it easier to repair, remanufacture, upgrade and recycle. During the use phase, requirements can be set for products to stimulate more sustainable production and consumption patterns. The official eco-labels 'the Nordic Swan Ecolabel' and 'the EU Flower' play an important role, and they make it easier to make a credible green choice. By strengthening circular business models such as renting, sharing and reuse of products as well as "product as service"-agreements, the utilisation rate of products and materials can be increased.

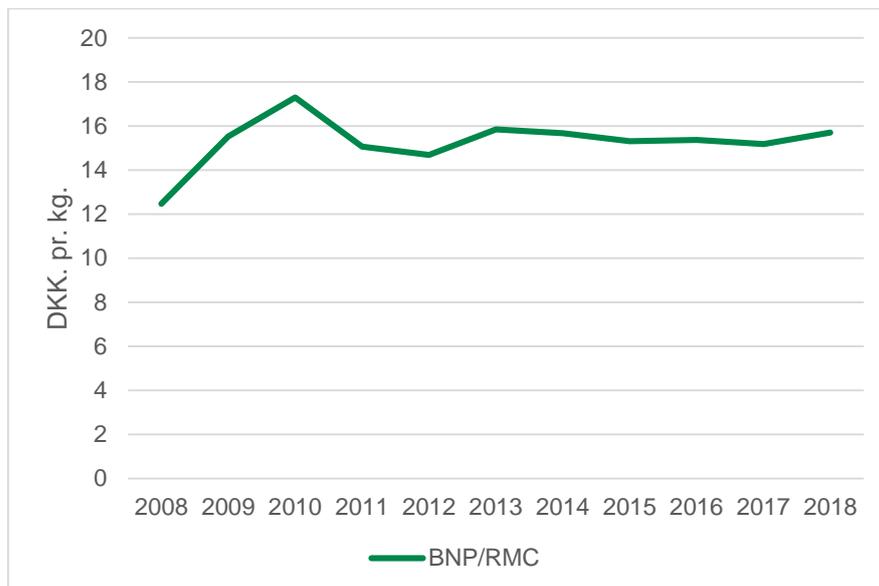
In order to ensure less waste and better use of natural resources, the Danish Government will, among other things:

- Strengthen efforts to include circular economy in EU eco-design regulations
- Introduce mandatory use of ecolabels in state procurement
- Introduce mandatory use of total cost of ownership in state procurement
- Provide guidance on reducing limescale in the supply of drinking water
- Create a clear framework for municipal second-hand shops

Facts about circular economy in design, production and consumption

- Denmark's resource productivity has increased by approx. DKK 3 per kg from 2008 to 2018, which corresponds to an increase of approximately 25 percent. Resource productivity is an expression of how much value a country creates from the natural resources that the country consumes.
- The number of products and services offered with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel has increased from approximately 7,500 in 2015 to approx. 18,500 in 2020.
- A reduction in the level of limescale in the drinking water in Denmark can lead to a socio-economic gain of up to approx. DKK 1 billion annually through, amongst other factors, extended durability for electronics, lower electricity consumption, reduced consumption of cleaning agents and reduced time for cleaning.
- The proportion of the Danish population who participate in the sharing economy has increased from 14 percent in 2016 to 26 percent in 2018, which is above the EU average of 23 percent.
- According to a population survey, almost 8 out of 10 Danes have either bought or sold reused products in 2019 – that is an increase of 10 percentage points in relation to 2018.

Figure 1. Developments in Denmark's resource productivity (BNP/RMC) 2008-2016.



Source: Denmark's Statistics