



Action Plan for Circular Economy

National Plan for Prevention and Management of Waste 2020-2032

**July
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The Danish Government's Action Plan for Circular Economy constitutes the national plan for the prevention and management of waste for 2020-2032. In a circular economy products and materials stay in use and their value is maintained for as long as possible. The Action Plan for Circular Economy describes the Danish targets, indicators, policies and initiatives in the entire circular value chain, which ranges from design and consumption to waste management, from which natural resources are recycled into new products and materials. In addition to several initiatives along the value chain in general, the Action Plan for Circular Economy focuses on three areas with significant environmental and climate impact: biomass, construction and plastics.

The Action plan for circular economy contains a total of 129 initiatives, many of which are also included in Climate plan for a green waste sector and circular economy (2020), Strategy for Green Public Procurement (2020), National Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment (2021), Strategy for circular economy (2018) and Action Plan on Plastics (2018).

Focus areas of the Action plan for circular economy:

- Less waste and better use of natural resources
- More and better recycling
- Better use of biomass
- A sustainable built environment
- Plastics in a circular economy

Three reasons for transitioning to a circular economy

- We consume more natural resources than what is sustainable for our planet. It would require approximately four planets to support humanity's demands on Earth's ecosystems, if everyone were to live as we do in Denmark. According to the think tank Global Footprint Network, Danish overconsumption is approximately twice the global average.
- According to Statistics Denmark, Denmark had a consumption of natural resources of approx. 23 tonnes per capita per year in 2018, when imports and exports are taken into account. The Danish consumption is thereby significantly above the EU average of approx. 15 tonnes per capita.
- According to the UN, the extraction and processing of natural resources are responsible for approximately half of the global greenhouse gas emissions and over 90 percent of the global loss of biodiversity.

Government visions for circular economy

- The waste curve has to be bend – less waste, higher resource productivity and more reuse. This will i.a. be achieved by setting quantitative targets for waste reduction in Denmark, when similar targets are agreed upon in the EU.
- Climate-neutral waste sector by 2030.
- By 2030, Denmark will reduce the amount of incinerated plastic waste by 80 percent

The circular value chain

