

# ***Council for Sustainable Energy (Denmark)***

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## **1 - INTRODUCTION**

One of the initiatives in "Energy 21" - the Danish Energy Action Plan from 1996 - was to form a Council for Sustainable Energy. The Council replaced three former councils for renewable energy, energy savings and electricity savings respectively.

According to the mandate the Council aims to promote the sustainable development of the energy sector by a continued increase in the use of renewable energy, as well as the promotion of energy saving and efficiency.

The Council is independent and advises the Danish government and Folketing (Parliament). Furthermore, the Council contributes to the development of initiatives and debates, for example by presenting subjects for debate, arranging conferences and by being responsible for a yearly "Energy Day". The Council also acts as a consultative body for proposals concerning energy savings, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The Council for Sustainable Energy is independent and has 24 members personally appointed by the Minister of Environment and Energy. The members contribute expertise in renewable energy, energy conservation, and energy efficiency, as well as in socio-economic questions in general. The Council meets 5-6 times a year, and its executive committee meets as required.

## **2 - ACTIVITIES UP TO NOW**

### **2.1. Activities to influence the public opinion and to create debate**

#### *2.1.1. A yearly "Energy Day"*

The Council is responsible for a yearly "Energy Day" for those involved in the energy sector. The overall concept for the energy days in 1997 and 1998 included a conference, an information campaign, and local activities by utilities, schools, NGOs etc. A communication company had assisted in developing the concept.

The topic of the Energy Day in 1997 was: "The Danes' Personal Energy Choice". The purpose was to focus on the population's attitudes, behaviour and action possibilities. The information campaign consisted of advertisements in newspapers and distribution of Go-Cards and Book-Cards. A number of interested parties were invited to arrange local activities.

The topic of the 1998 Energy Day was "Personal Transportation". A number of advertising agencies were invited to prepare the best 1998 Energy Day campaign. The winner presented an advertisement campaign in the newspapers consisting of "personal letters" to the different newspapers asking them for help in making the government fulfil the CO<sub>2</sub> goals for the transportation sector. The campaign also included posters on the back of some of the Copenhagen busses, and labels on the filler nozzles at Statoil gas stations. The advertisement campaign gave rather broad reactions. The idea of having local activities as part of the energy days has, however, turned out to be less successful than hoped for, for which reason this idea will be reconsidered.

#### *2.1.2. Examples of other activities*

- Energy course for pupils at the age of 14-16: A project which will include a one-day energy course held in a specially equipped 'energy house', situated at the Danish Pedagogical Experimental Centre.
- IPCC and global climate change: Publication of a translation into Danish of IPCC's (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report "IPCC Second Assessment-Climate Change 1995", as well as of a more popular and easily read introduction to IPCC and global climate change. The latter has been highly

recommended by qualified persons for teaching purposes. Both publications are - as all publications by the Council for Sustainable Energy - handed out free of charge. They are also available on the Council's homepage.

- Homepage - [www.energimiljoeraadet.dk](http://www.energimiljoeraadet.dk) - where among other things all the Council's publications are available. The homepage also includes a forum for debate.

## **2.2. Examples of analyses and reports**

- Renewable energy: In Denmark subsidies for renewable energy are often discussed, especially subsidies for windmills. The Minister of Environment and Energy asked the Council for Sustainable Energy to conduct an evaluation of all forms of subsidy for renewable energy. On the basis of a report from an independent consulting company the Council came up with its recommendations to the minister.
- Liberalisation of the energy market: The Council for Sustainable Energy has followed the preparation of the liberalisation of the energy market in Denmark very closely in order to ensure that the goals of "Energy 21" are observed. To do so, the Council has commissioned some scenario studies and, with a view to creating a debate, has published a booklet with articles by different authors. The Council has also sent its recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Energy.
- Transportation: In connection with the 1998 Energy Day, the Council for Sustainable Energy had some small studies prepared concerning for instance the energy use of cars, and attitudes, behaviour and politics in connection with personal transportation. The Council has also initiated an analysis of possibilities to fulfil the goals of the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction for the transportation sector.
- Other Analyses: The Council for Sustainable Energy has also had other analyses carried out for instance of the environmental and energy attitudes and behaviour of the Danish population, and of the possibilities for sustainable energy use and economic growth.

## **2.3. Recommendations and consultation topics**

The Council for Sustainable Energy has submitted recommendations to the relevant ministers about subvention of renewable energy, liberalisation of the energy market, and fast ferries.

The Council has acted as consultative body with regard to many different topics, for instance the EU Commission's Green and White Paper on Renewable Energy, and the proposal for an EU directive about information of fuel economy in connection with the selling of new cars. On the national level the Council has acted as consultative body with regard to for instance the action plan for the Danish Electricity Savings Fund.

## **2.4. Conclusions**

In the good two years the Council for Sustainable Energy has functioned, it has initiated and participated in several activities. Among other things the Council has contributed to create debate both among the parties within the energy sector and in the society in general, and it has contributed with critical and constructive recommendations and consultation answers. The Council has also become one of the parties who the press consults in relevant questions.

## **3 - PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 1999**

The Council for Sustainable Energy intends to concentrate its efforts in 1999 on:

- Energy conservation after the liberalisation of the energy market. A workshop was held in March.
- Follow-up on the decisions from Kyoto, including questions in connection with joint implementation and tradable emission rights.
- Bio fuels and energy crops, including the question of bio mass for energy purposes.

Besides this the Council for Sustainable Energy will continue to follow developments within the transportation sector and the liberalisation of the energy market in general.