

# REDII implementation and Beyond

- a view from Denmark

October 5 2020



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# Biomass status, debate and initiatives in Denmark

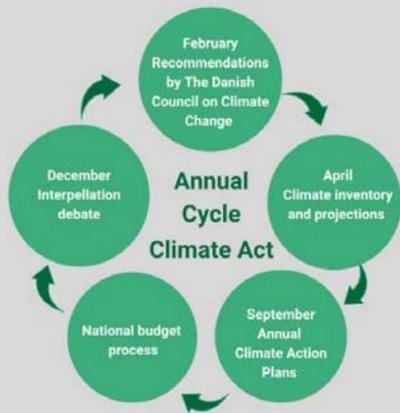
## Agenda

- Climate Act
- Biomass consumption in Denmark
- Voluntary Industry Agreement for sustainability since 2014
- Biomass Analysis 2020
- Challenges in RED-II
- Debate on sustainability criteria for solid biomass
- Process on sustainability criteria and REDII
- Recent political initiatives in Denmark – and perspectives

# The Danish Climate Act

# Key elements of the Danish Climate Act

- The Climate Act ensures that Denmark works to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent in 2030 compared to 1990 levels and towards net zero by 2050
- The Climate Act is legally binding
- Greenhouse gas emissions are calculated in accordance with the UN accounting rules



## Annual Climate Action Plans

The Danish Government will develop annual Climate Action Plans that will outline concrete policies to reduce emissions for all sectors.

70%

The initiatives must result in real domestic reductions, but it must also be ensured that Danish measures **do not simply relocate** all of the greenhouse gas emissions **outside of Denmark's borders**.

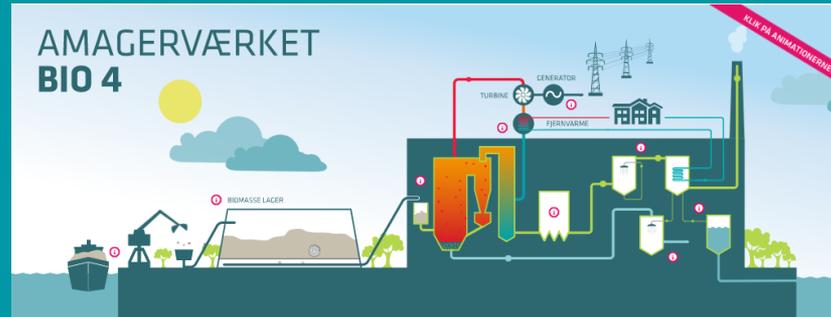
**The Danish Council on Climate Change** will provide recommendations and assess whether the initiatives are sufficient to reduce emissions.

# Consumption of biomass in DK

## Skærbæk, combined heat and power station

Since 1951 it has been situated at Skærbæk on the northern side of Kolding Fjord. From 2014 to 2017 Skærbæk CHP station was converted making it able to use wood chips instead of natural gas.

The CHP station produces district heating based on biomass for around 60,000 homes in the Triangle Region in Denmark.



## Denmark's largest power station replaces coal with wood pellets

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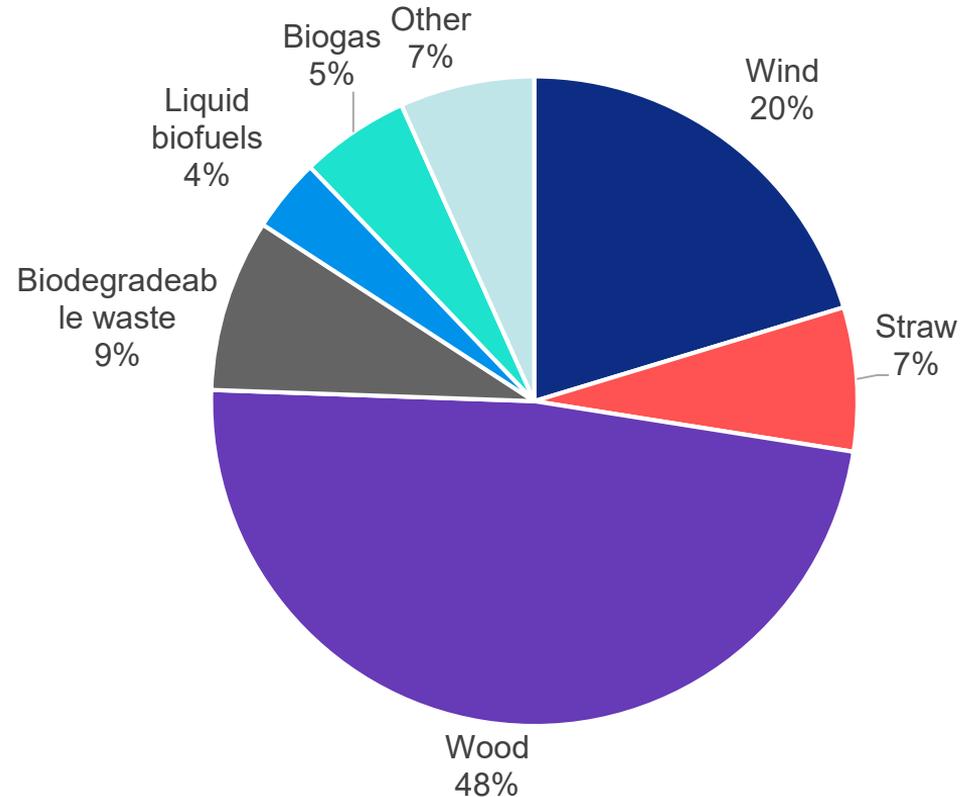
Avedøre Power Station can now use sustainable wood pellets as fuel instead of coal. This is a major step towards Copenhagen's goal of being CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral by 2025.



# Biomass consumption in Denmark

Solid biomass makes up the main part of renewable energy used in Denmark.

Woody biomass made up 48 % of total RE in 2018.



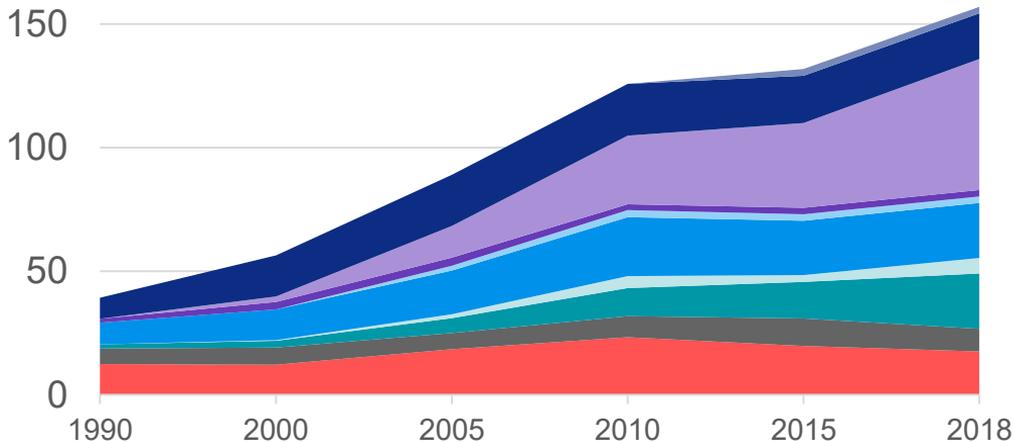
# Biomass consumption in Denmark

The consumption of woody biomass has increased.

Coal fired power plants has been converted to wood pellets + new plants on wood chips.

Import of wood pellets has increased - 95% are now imported.

Increasing amounts of wood chips are imported.



- Straw
- Wood chips
- Firewood
- Wood pellets
- Bio-waste
- Wood waste
- Imported wood chips
- Imported firewood
- Imported wood pellets
- Imported bio-waste

# Biomass fired CHP and power plants 2018

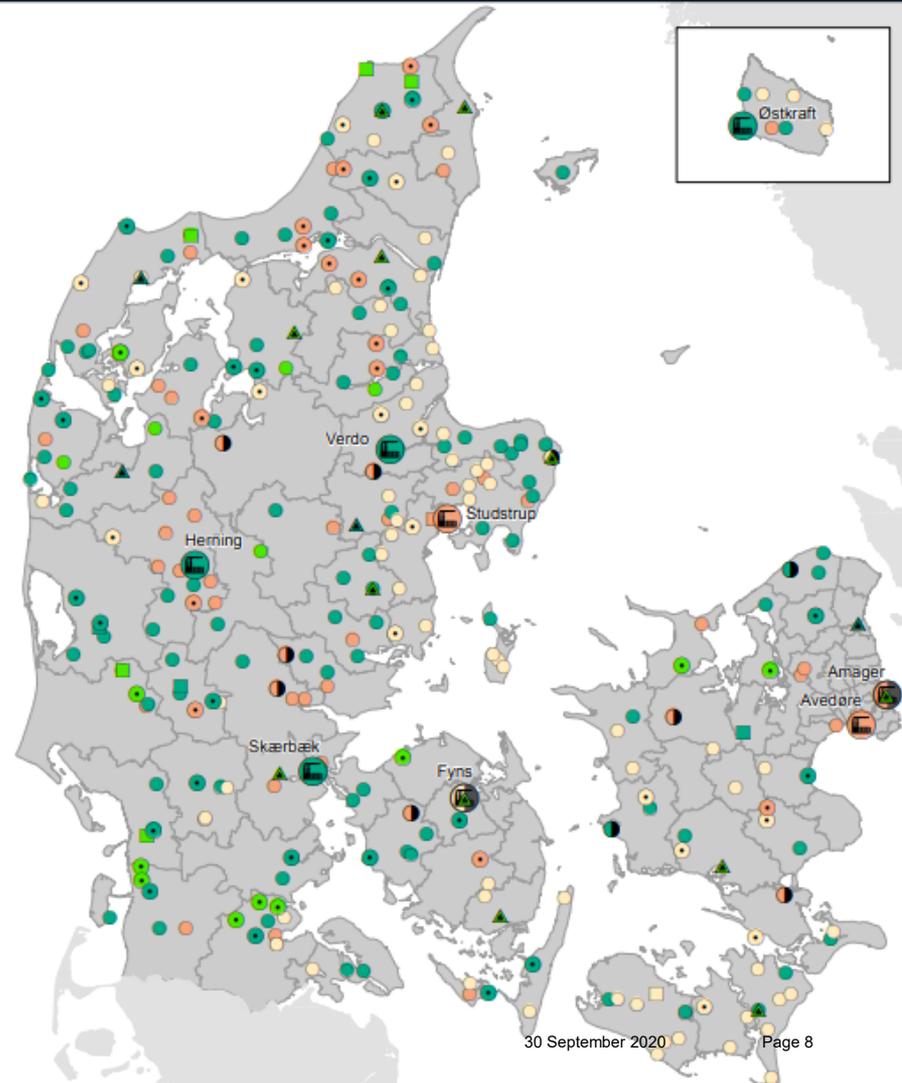
Few central plants and many decentralized plants use wood pellets and wood chips

## Solid biofuel as main fuel

- Straw
- Wood chips
- Wood- and biomass waste
- Wood pellet

## Fossil or waste as main fuel and use of solid biofuel

- Fossil main fuel and straw
- Fossil main fuel and wood chips
- Fossil main fuel and wood- and biomass waste
- Fossil main fuel and wood pellet
- Waste and wood chips
- Waste and wood- and biomass waste

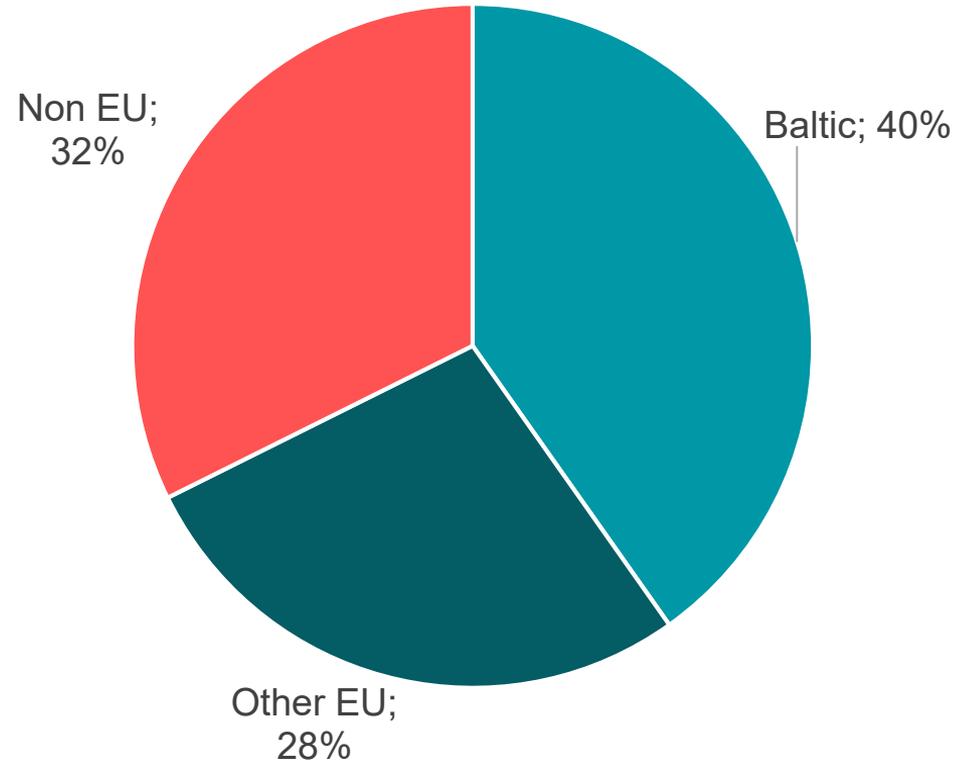


In 2018 Denmark imported 53 % of the woody biomass used for energy.

Woody biomass is mainly imported from Estonia and Latvia, Russia and the US and from other EU countries.



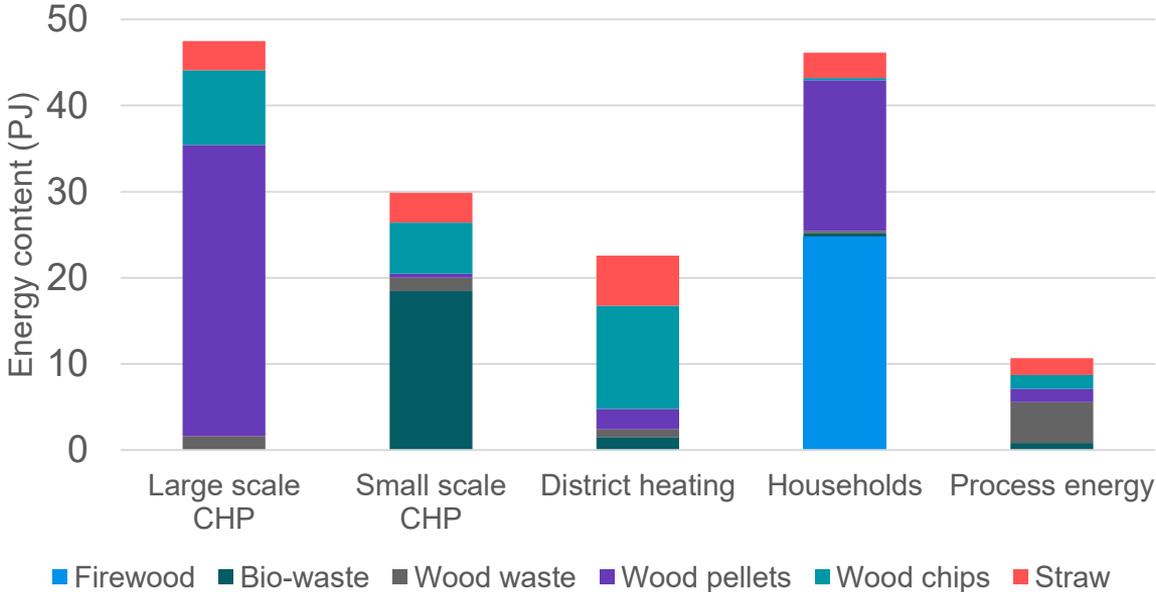
Origin of woody biomass imported to Denmark



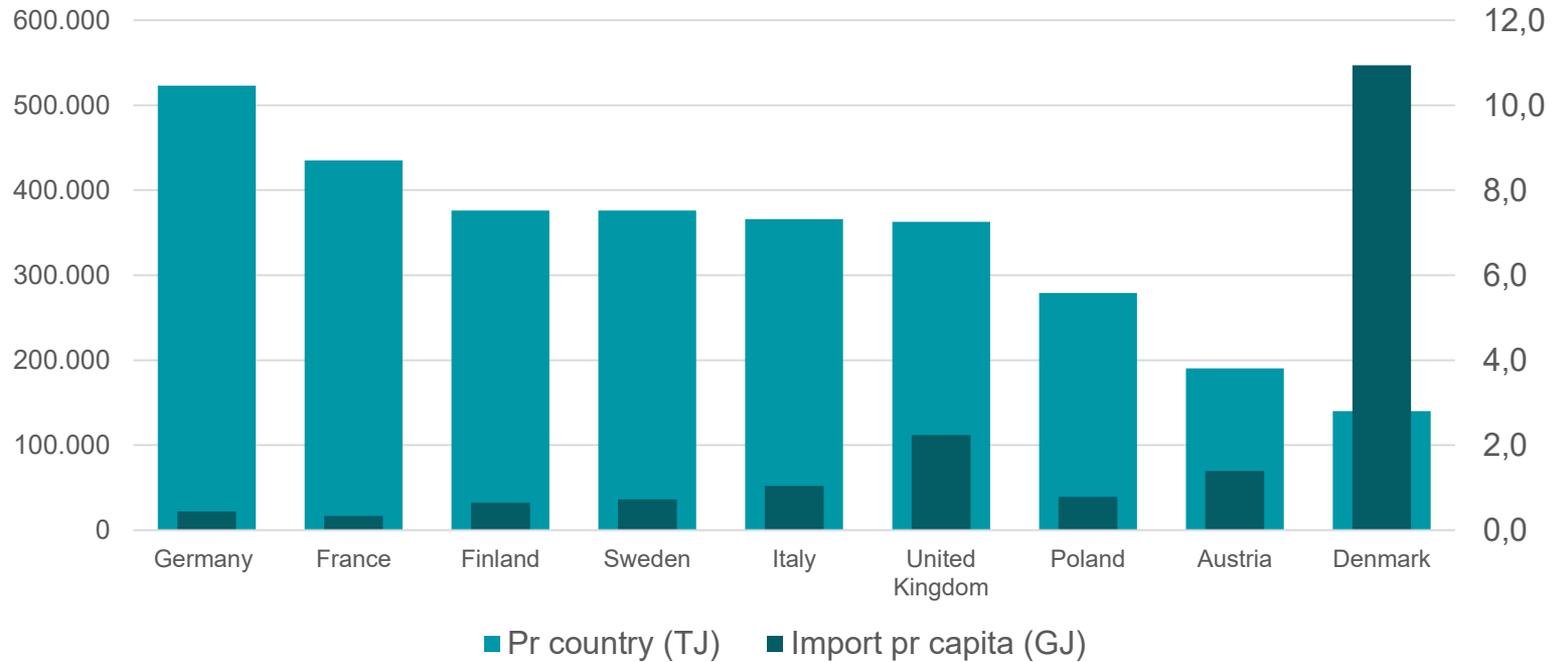
# Biomass consumption in Denmark

Woody biomass is mainly used by CHP and for district heating.

But households consume 36% - mostly wood pellets and fire wood.



## Consumption of primary solid biomass in 2019



# Voluntary industry agreement on biomass 2014

# Industry Agreement from 2014



On certain areas more strict criteria than REDII:

- Covers all existing CHP and district heating plants
- Covers residues from wood industry
- Higher CO<sub>2</sub>-emission saving requirements
- Biodiversity: protection of valuable and vulnerable areas and species



## Industry agreement to ensure sustainable biomass (wood pellets and wood chips)<sup>1</sup>

23 June 2016

One of the major challenges for the Danish energy supply right now is to reduce levels of permanent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere, thus contributing to keeping the temperature rise under 2 degrees Celsius, as well as addressing current dependence on fossil fuels.

The use of sustainable biomass to replace fossil fuels is an important tool in this context, as the burning of fossil fuels creates permanent emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, whereas sustainable biomass creates only temporary emissions, which minimises the impact on the climate.

In order to ensure that a significant CO<sub>2</sub> reduction is achieved, it is essential that only biomass fractions that have a positive effect on the climate (in relation to the objective of 2 degrees) are used.

As part of the Energy Agreement of 2012, an analysis has been prepared of the use of bioenergy in Denmark. The analysis has identified whether the right conditions are present for efficient and environmentally sustainable use of biomass resources in the Danish energy supply. The analysis concluded that the move by combined heat and power (CHP) plants to wood pellets and wood chips is good for climate, when using sustainable biomass.

In this context, there exists no national legislation specifying requirements for sustainable biomass. Nonetheless, by this agreement the Danish District Heating Association and the Danish Energy Association wish to establish an industry-initiated voluntary framework for sustainable biomass, and thereby support the significant and sustainable reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> when compared to fossil fuels.

This framework agreement (hereinafter "the Agreement") is a contribution to support that the use of solid biomass (chips and wood pellets) for energy production in Denmark is compliant with the framework for sustainability in terms of the environment, health and safety and climate, where CHP producers are themselves responsible and both document and satisfy requirements for sustainability through a third-party

The following points define the framework for the criteria that the industry agrees need to be met if biomass is to be considered sustainable in accordance with this Agreement.

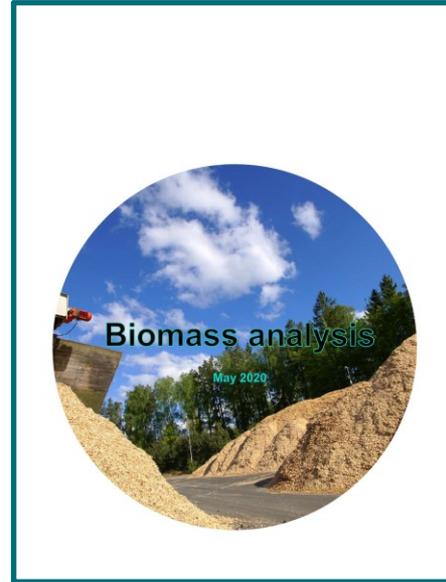
### Power plants covered

<sup>1</sup> The agreement to ensure sustainable biomass applies only to wood pellets (compressed wood shavings and sawdust) and wood chips (comminuted wood) including wood supplied as logs to the utility which are comminuted after arrival at the utility. The agreement covers biomass from forest defined as areas greater than 0.5 hectares with a minimum width of 20 m with trees higher than 5 meters with a crown cover of more than 10 per cent or trees that are potentially able to achieve these values to the locus. The definition does not include areas dominated by agricultural or urban use, including holiday home areas ([Den danske skovstatistik](#)).

# Danish Energy Agency: Biomass Analysis 2020

# Biomass Analysis, Danish Energy Agency 2020

- In many cases, biomass for energy is an advantage for the climate, e.g. when residues-based biomass replaces fossil fuels.
- Where the biomass harvested has reduced the total carbon stock in the country of origin, this will have led to emissions globally.
- If the country of origin represents these emissions truly and fairly and balances them against a binding and adequate mitigation target, these emissions could be offset by reductions in other sectors. However, this is currently not the case.
- Some countries have no binding mitigation targets or do not include LULUCF sector emissions in the targets they may have.
- Different LULUCF guidelines, different calculation methodologies and different interpretations of the complex technical basis moreover make it difficult to determine and check whether emissions from the LULUCF sector are being represented fairly in inventories.
- Although international guidelines allow the consumption of biomass to be counted as zero emissions in Denmark, Danish biomass consumption might cause emissions globally, that is not accounted for and not offset by reductions in other sectors.



# Challenges in REDII

# Danish Climate Council 2018:

- Neither the Danish Industry Agreement nor the European (REDII) criteria sufficiently consider the degree to which biomass harvesting can reduce carbon stocks and have indirect effects on the use of wood and use of land.
- Nor do they contain sufficient operational indicators of the negative effect that increased biomass usage may have on carbon stocks, or require documentation of the carbon footprint of biomass.

The Council recommends a risk based approach and development of indicators for assessing the climate impact of different types of biomass, including, in particular, impacts on the carbon cycle and carbon stocks in forests, and indirect impacts: iWUC and iLUC.

Biomass that does not meet the requirements for climate friendliness should be subject to CO2 tax.



# Article 29.7 LULUCF-criteria

- (a) the country or regional economic integration organisation of origin is a Party to the Paris Agreement and
- i) has submitted a NDC to the UNFCCC, covering LULUCF which ensures that changes in carbon stock associated with biomass harvest are accounted towards the country's commitment as specified in the NDC;
  - or
  - ii) has national or sub-national laws in place (...) to conserve and enhance carbon stocks and sinks, and providing evidence that reported LULUCF-sector emissions do not exceed removals;
- (b) (...) biomass fuels from forest biomass shall be taken into account (..) if management systems are in place at forest sourcing area level to ensure that carbon stocks and sinks levels in the forest are maintained, or strengthened over the long term



The NDCs submitted so far are not sufficient to limit the global temperature rise to 2°C.

Different LULUCF methodologies and different interpretations of the complex technical basis make it difficult to determine whether LULUCF-emissions are being represented fairly.



Which management systems fulfil this?  
May be a *forest* management system like FSC or PEFC which *the forest owner* is committed to follow.

A management system at the pellet producer cannot guarantee carbon stocks and sinks over the long term.

# Debate on new sustainability criteria for solid biomass

# Criteria for sustainability is not enough

- we need a plan to reduce our consumption of biomass



**Professor Jørgen E. Olesen:** Sustainability requirements will be a step in the right direction. But we also have to reduce our consumption of biomass for heat. Biomass should be used to create negative emissions.

**Professor Brian Vad Mathiesen:** Our sustainability requirements will push other countries to use unsustainable biomass. We need to tax and reduce "low value" use of biomass.



**Cairman for the DK Climate Council, Peter Møllgaard:** Denmark's national CO<sub>2</sub> inventory looks better than it is because biomass accounts as zero-emission. We need a tax on non-sustainable biomass.

# Process on new sustainability criteria



## Biomasse skal være en bæredygtig overgangsløsning

Regeringen vil stille krav til bæredygtigheden af den biomasse, vi bruger i Danmark. Der skal plantes nye træer, og der skal tages hensyn til biodiversiteten. Samtidig styrker vi kontrollen og sanktionerne for at sikre, at der ikke snydes på vægten

KØBENHAVN  
Dan Jørgensen  
Minister for  
Klima, Energi og  
Forsyningssikkerhed (B)

**K**limakommissionen er påtænkt at gennemføre et stort skifte af vores energisystem. Det vil sige, at vi skal bruge mere grøn energi og mindre fossile brændstoffer. Men hvordan kan vi gøre det? Det er en af de store udfordringer, som vi står over for i Danmark. Det vil sige, at vi skal finde nye måder at producere energi på, som ikke skader miljøet. Det er en af de store udfordringer, som vi står over for i Danmark. Det vil sige, at vi skal finde nye måder at producere energi på, som ikke skader miljøet.

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eller, at den samme biomasse ikke taster drøbet. Det står til jordens frugtbarhed, og det er vigtigt at sikre, at vi har nok af biomasse til at dække vores behov. Det er en af de store udfordringer, som vi står over for i Danmark. Det vil sige, at vi skal finde nye måder at producere energi på, som ikke skader miljøet.

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**Det er muligt, at vi stadig kommer til at bruge biomasse i mindre omfang på områder, hvor alternative endnu ikke er til stede**

# Biomass: a sustainable transitional solution

- Biomass has helped us phase out coal – the last coal-fired power plant will close in 2028
- It has made our CO2 accounts look good - because biomass's CO2 footprint is calculated in the country of origin - not where it is burned off.
- Biomass is far from problem-free.
- Biomass can be worse than coal - when trees are harvested for energy without replanting.
- But forest and industrial residues are a good replacements for coal.







# Biomass: a sustainable transitional solution

We will promote alternatives - for example large heat pumps  
We might still use biomass to a lesser extent in areas where alternatives are not yet available. It should be possible to do so in a sustainable way. But in that case it must be on a completely different level.

## A two-legged effort:

1. legal requirements that can ensure that as long as we import biomass, it must be as sustainable as possible, and
2. to develop and promote alternatives to burning biomass for electricity and heat production.



## Biomasse skal være en bæredygtig overgangsløsning

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KØBENHAVN: Dan Jørgensen, minister for klima, energi og fornybare energier (til venstre)

Klimakrisen er påворот skudt af menneskeskabte drivhusgasudslip som kul, olie og gas. Og energisektoren er stadig den største synder i det globale drivhusgasregnskab. Men faktisk, det mest skadelige af de sorte brændstoffer er allerede kendt: biomasse. Det sidste kulhydratskælvæk vil halvere i 2050, og allerede nu er forbruget halvt så stort. I 1995 var det danske kraftforbrug 11 gange større, end det var i 2020. Det

største ambitioner politiske beslutninger og i høj grad en vilje på tværs af politiske partier i bæredygtige energiforbrug, til at bruge biomasse. Det har været grundlaget på vores CO<sub>2</sub>-regnskab, blandt andet for CO<sub>2</sub>-aftrykket i mange lande. Det betyder, at vi har brug for mere CO<sub>2</sub>-aftryk i det land, hvor biomassen kommer fra. Men det betyder også, at vi har brug for mere CO<sub>2</sub>-aftryk i Danmark. Den første del af det er allerede i det danske regnskab, mens den anden del er endnu mere udfordret. Det kan lyde som en gang rundt omkring i verden, men det er faktisk ikke det, der giver det god mening, fordi det

er stor forskel på de grønne metoder. I de allerførste tilfælde kan biomasse være værre end kul. Det er eksempelvis, når der bruges hele træer, der ikke planlægges, fordi træerne ikke vokser op igen. Det er også, når træerne ikke er dyrer eller god enstatning for kulst. Når der bruges for eksempel træsnitsrester, så sender vi kulstof til atmosfæren, som ellers vil blive bundet i undergrunden. Og når først kulstoffet er sendt til atmosfæren, er det svært for dyret at få det ud igen. Men med avanceret skovdrift og livs cyklus kan biomasse være en rigtig god løsning, så er brug af biomasse som godstat af atmosfærens CO<sub>2</sub> - et langt bedre alternativ end at øge atmosfærens CO<sub>2</sub>-indhold med afbrænding af store fossile brændstoffer fra undergrunden. Forbruget af biomasse på denne måde kan derfor være fornuftigt i en overgangsperiode, indtil vi kan bruge teknologier, der mere endtydligt er klimaneutral. Både

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# Recent political initiatives and perspectives

# Recent political initiatives

- Danish Climate Agreement for Energy and Industry June 2020
  - two energy islands (5 GW) for power “Power-to-X” technologies
  - large-scale Power-to-X plants with a total capacity of 100 MW.
  - offshore wind park at Hesselø (1 GW)
  - subsidies for carbon capture technologies, electrification (heat pumps), energy efficiency, biogas, green renovation of buildings and green transport.
  - phasing out of oil and gas boilers,



## Climate Forest Fund for CO<sub>2</sub>-reductions and nature Sep. 2020 (DKK 100 mio.)

- Citizens and companies can make climate contributions. The fund will plant new forests and take out climate-damaging lowland soils in Denmark.

## Green research strategy Sep. 2020 (DKK 750 mio.) prioritize CCS and PtX



**Thank you for your attention**