



Still a climate vanguard? The status quo of Danish climate policies

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Green Capitalism or system change

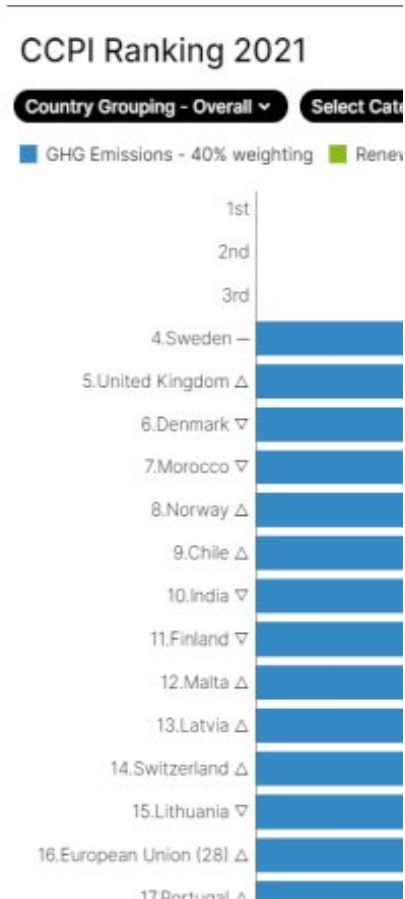
Transform!Danmark conference

13 March 2021



Roskilde University

Denmark as climate policy leader



Oil

This article is more than 3 months old

Denmark to end new oil and gas exploration in North Sea

Decision as part of plan to phase out fossil fuel extraction by 2050 will put pressure on UK

Jillian Ambrose Energy correspondent

Fri 4 Dec 2020 09:29 GMT



1,120



▲ Greenpeace has called Denmark's decision 'a watershed moment' that will 'inspire other countries to end our dependence on climate-wrecking fossil fuels'. Photograph: Andrew McConnell/Greenpeace/EPA

Denmark has brought an immediate end to new oil and gas exploration in the Danish North Sea as part of a plan to phase out fossil fuel extraction by 2050.

On Thursday night the Danish government voted in favour of the plans to cancel the country's next North Sea oil and gas licensing round, 80 years after it first began exploring its hydrocarbon reserves.

The Danish Climate Law of 2019



- Headline: 70% emissions reductions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050
 - Energy efficiency improvements (also broad electrification strategy), ban on the sale of all new diesel and petrol cars from 2030, cooperation with other North Sea countries on offshore wind energy
- Minority government Social Democrats with supporting parties, Social Liberal Party (centrist), the Socialist People's Party and the Red-Green Alliance.
- Klimarådet – independent climate council composed by climate scientists.
- Energy policy report and climate programme to be submitted by the government to the parliament every year; parliamentary approval required
- New national climate targets to be established at least once every five years
 - Can not be less ambitious than most recently set target (i.e. no backsliding)
 - Chapter 4 Art 7.4 'if it cannot be deemed probable that the national climate targets will be reached, the minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities must in the climate programme present new initiatives with a reduction effort in the short term and initiatives with a reduction effort in the longer term, which together chart a path toward fulfilment of the national climate targets'

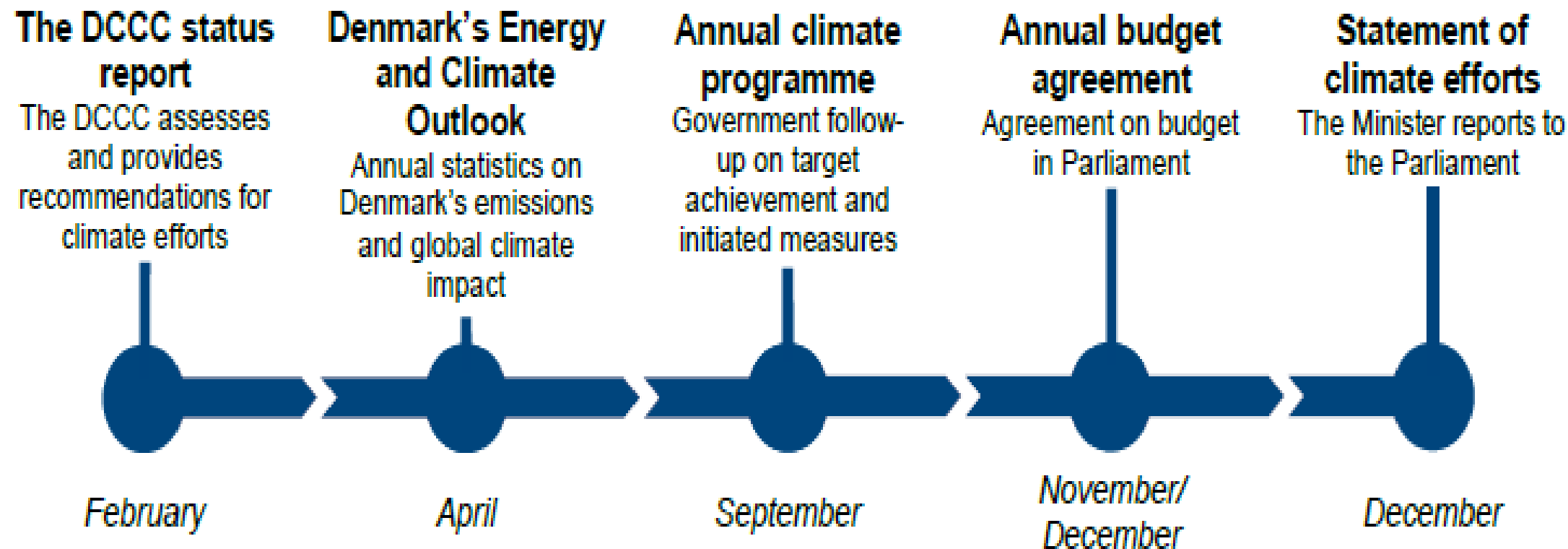


Figure 1.1 Annual climate policy cycle as stipulated by the Danish Climate Act

Climate programme 2020

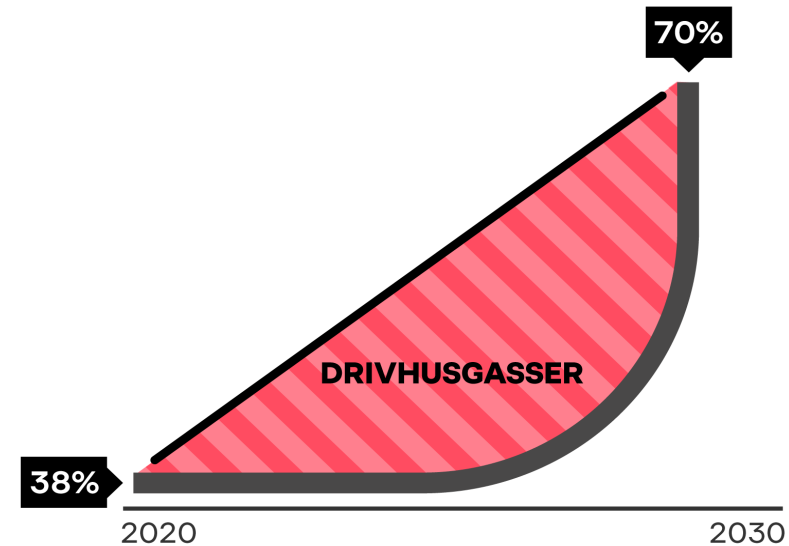
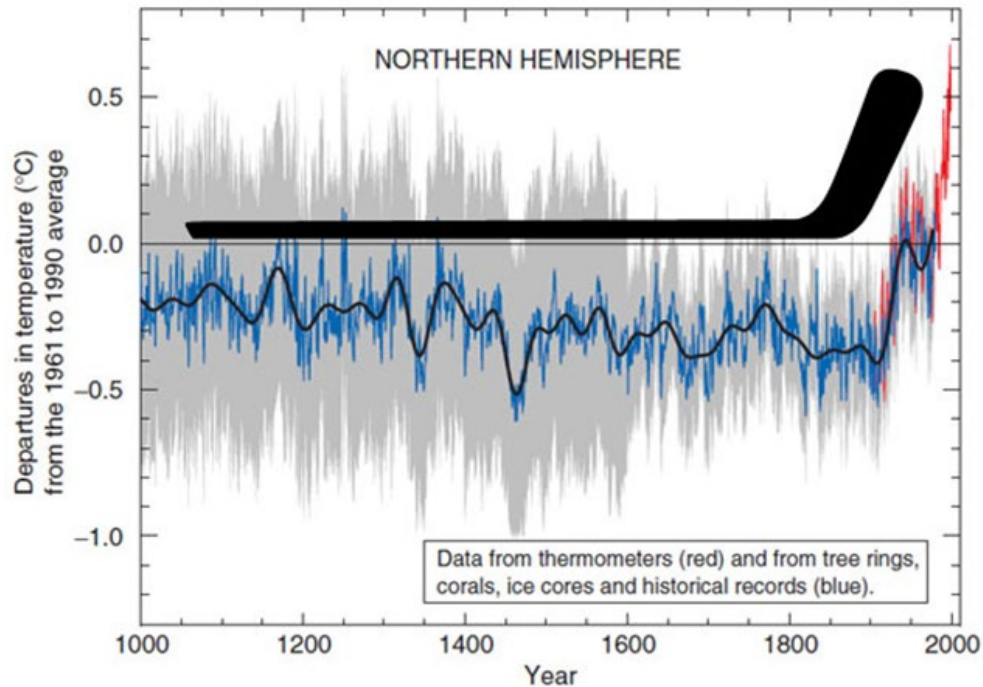
- Government estimates costs for reaching 2030 climate goals at around DKK16-24 billion (ca €3.2 billion, just under 1% GDP. For scale, the Danish defence budget 2021 is DKK 26.4 billion)
 - In 2021 budget, additional 750 million for green research, and 200mill for biodiversity
- Phase out oil and gas exploration in the Danish North Sea as part of decarbonisation (55 existing oil and gas platforms will continue operations); estimated revenue loss DKK 13billion
 - Dan Jørgensen: “If we were to say to companies that already had the permissions, ‘we’re taking them away from you’, the price tag on that is one that no government would be able to bear” (→ Energy Charter Treaty!)
- Emissions reduction of 2 millioner ton (total estimate of necessary reduction to reach 2030 goal is ca 19 million)
 - Two major energy island plans towards electrification (North Sea 2 GW, Baltic Sea 3 GW (10GW by 2030)
 - Investing in CCS/electrofuels technologies
 - Waste and recycling strategies; circular economy
 - Incentivising energy efficiency (e.g. heating, housing isolation)
 - Sustainable biomass energy policies
- Global climate action outlook 2020 (but NOT part of binding law)
 - We will raise the global climate ambitions.
 - We will reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by leading the way in the green transition.
 - We will drive adaptation and resilience initiatives in the fight against climate change.
 - We will shift global finance flows in a green direction.
 - We will collaborate with the business community on green solutions that make a difference.

We must export green solutions

Denmark is an export-oriented economy where GDP growth is largely driven by exports. We have the opportunity to make a difference globally if businesses change the way they engage in trade in the global market.

The green sector represents a position of strength for Danish businesses. With approximately 71,000 full-time workers and exports amounting to approximately

Reactions to the 'hockey stick approach'



Katherine Richardson
@KRichardsonC

...

Apropos "hockey stick" model as applied to climate: Emissions reduction itself will always follow a hockey stick curve. It takes time for policy to kick in! But the time line in the development of a concrete policy plan for reductions must NOT resemble a hockey stick!

[#climate](#)

[Oversæt Tweet](#)

10.03 AM · 27. feb. 2021 · Twitter for iPad

Shiny new things over political (redistributive) intervention?

e.g. **NO CO2 tax**, despite recommendation from Climate Council and civil society advocacy

- **General carbon tax:** A relatively high uniform carbon tax is a key pillar in a cost-efficient achievement of the 70-percent target. Such a tax would ensure significant reductions in industry, agriculture, transport, and heating of buildings. Today, the carbon tax per tonne of carbon differs greatly across sectors, and for some it is very low and even zero. With the agreement on a green tax reform in December 2020, the Danish Parliament decided that a uniform carbon tax will be a key measure in reaching the target, and therefore set up an expert group to prepare and recommend a model. The DCCC acknowledges that handling all the different elements of a uniform carbon tax is a complicated task, including not least designing measures to counteract potential carbon leakage due to such a tax. Nevertheless, the DCCC recommends that the broad outlines of a tax reform be presented already today. For instance, this should include the expected tax level in 2030 and how it will be phased in over the years leading up to 2030. In this way, there will be more clarity for firms and citizens who are going to invest and make decisions that may be affected by a tax in the coming years.

The Danish Climate Council Report 2021

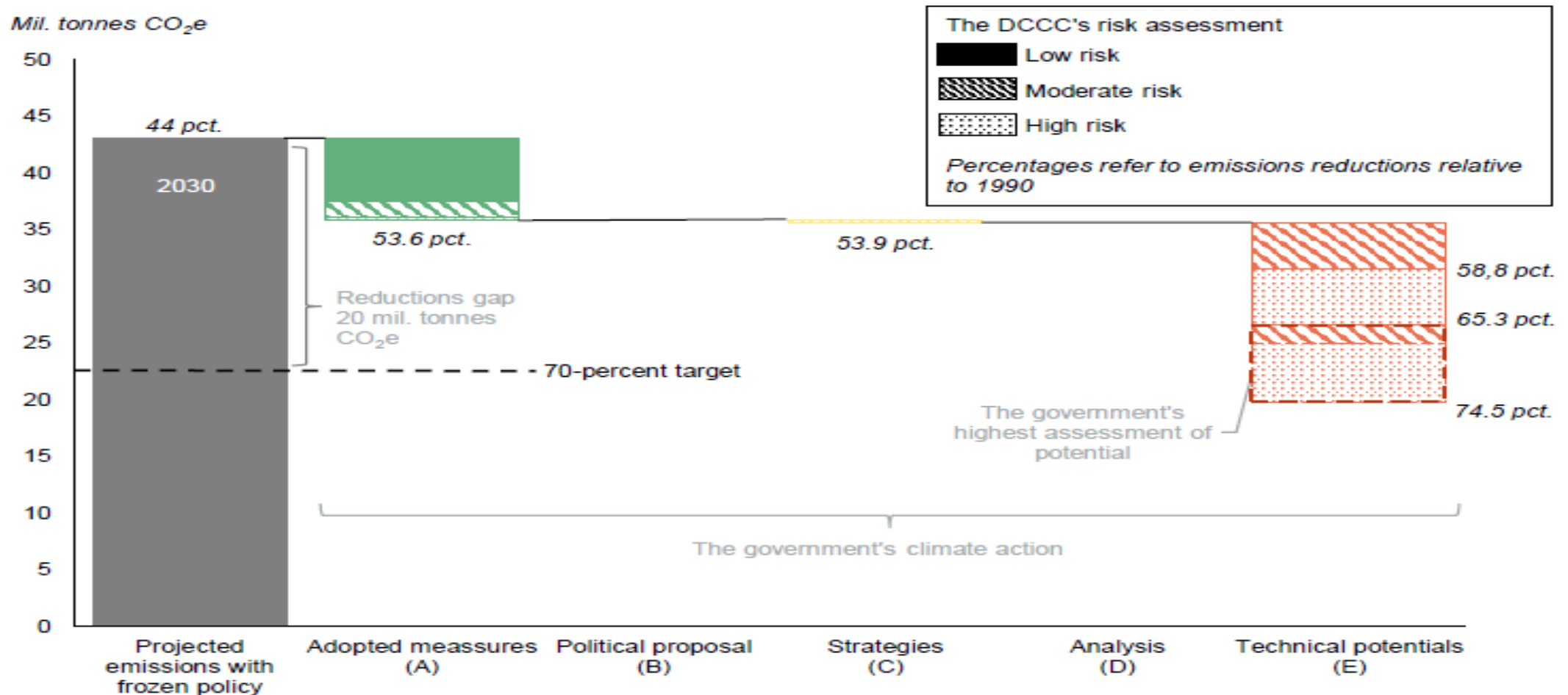
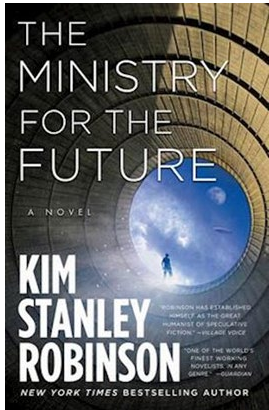


Figure 1.3 Assessment of the government's initiatives in relation to reduction effect, stage of concretization and risk

Political context of climate change policies

- Myth of Danish climate leadership (Helene Dyrhauge, RUC)
 - Tracing Danish climate leadership throughout the last decades
 - Legitimacy in climate leadership in actions, not just plans
 - and note the relevance of social science and humanities for discussions about climate and ecological policies and agency...
- Borgerting – Danish Citizenship Assembly
 - Set up in context of 2019 Climate Law
 - Summer 2020 - randomised invitation to 99 Danish citizens, 82 accepted
 - Focus on discussing climate law policies under consideration of e.g. sustainable business, public finances, employment, competitiveness
 - Recommendations to be published in March 2021
- International positioning and commitments



Thanks for your attention!



- EuroMemo conference, autumn 2021 (check www.euromemo.eu for dates)
 - EuroMemorandum 2021: A POST-COVID 19 GLOBAL-LOCAL AGENDA FOR A SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION IN EUROPE
- XR Scientists workshop series spring 2021: **The University at a time of climate and ecological emergency**
 - Join us on Thursday 18 March 2021, 12-14 on Zoom (all details at <https://xrdk.org/en/science/>)

WORKSHOP SERIES THE UNIVERSITY AT A TIME OF CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY