# Klimahovedstad København?

Hamburg, January 24th 2022 Bente Hessellund Andersen NOAH – Friends of the Earth Denmark



## 2. Is Denmark an example to follow?

 Denmark is a pioneering country, says the Danish Prime Minister, but she does not tell the whole truth



## 3. Is Copenhagen a good example?



#### Copenhagen's 2025 climate plan: "A green, smart and CO2neutral city"

But what is it we do in Copenhagen?

- There are good examples
- But not everything is as good as it may seem from a superficial point of view - I will dive into that, because I hope Hamburg will be more honest in its goal of CO2 neutrality in 2045



Copenhageners cycle - we have always done that Since the 1970s, conditions have been steadily improving



After the Inner Harbor was closed down as a harbor, pedestrian and bicycle bridges have been established over the harbor and harbor baths has been built in various places



Regarding streets and squares, pedestrian streets were established in inner Copenhagen in the early 1960s

In recent years the city plan has focused on the pacification of streets and squares also outside the central part of the city.



In relation to the energy supply, Copenhagen has two large coastal wind farms The municipality has also invested in both solar cells and wind turbines in other municipalities Experiments are being made with large heat pumps, geothermal energy, district cooling etc.



No specific action has been taken to reduce car traffic (1)

- In the late 1990s, a metro was built in Copenhagen rather than trams/light rail in order not to inconvenience car traffic
- The metro mainly attracts passengers from other public transport modes (bus and suburban train) as well as cyclists
- The resource-intensive Metro expansion still continues
- During the construction period, construction work is a major inconvenience for many Copenhageners



No specific action has been taken to reduce car traffic (2)

- It is required to establish a very large number of parking spaces in relation to the square meters built when new buildings are built
- These parking spaces are placed in deep excavations
- Street parking for Copenhageners is very cheap.
- Car ownership has grown in recent years





The parking spaces are underground

- It provides great spaces for residents, but the cars are still there
- A large number of Copenhageners are frustrated by the number of cars on the streets and constant major construction work





In order to afford the construction of the metro, the municipality sold large green areas for development

- This is a continuing source of dissatisfaction for Copenhageners
- Copenhagen has relatively few green areas compared to other major cities
- Light rail could have contributed to more and better public transport and more peaceful roads in a city with fewer cars without commercialization and development of the large green area Amager Fælled

How can you have such a high level of activity with major construction of buildings, large infrastructure projects and high energy consumption - and at the same time claim that you will be carbon neutral by 2025?

The answer is: you can not! And it is nothing near to "zero emissions"



When a country reports its emissions to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), emissions from the chimney can be set to zero when you burn biomass

This is, according to the UN, to avoid double counting

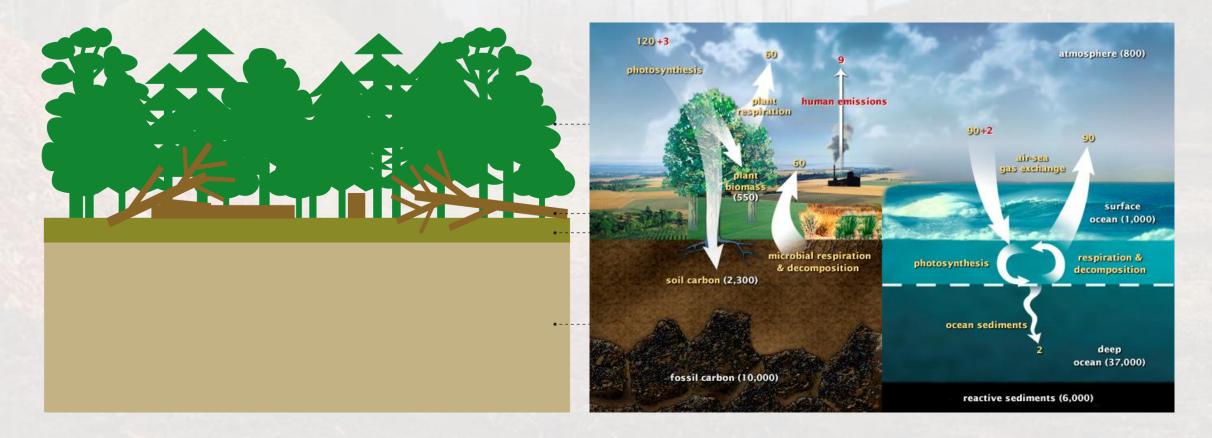




Biomass is not a zero-emission fuel

The UN (and the EU) have chosen to account for the emissions only in the socalled LULUCF sector ("Land Use - Land Use Change and Forestry")

Copenhagen imports almost all biomass - 99% comes from abroad



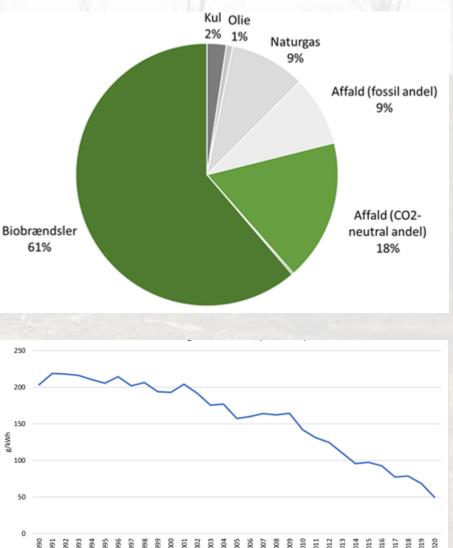
15. Climate neutral capital? - no

To achieve climate neutrality, the city has taken full advantage of the fact that biomass can be counted as a zero-emission fuel:

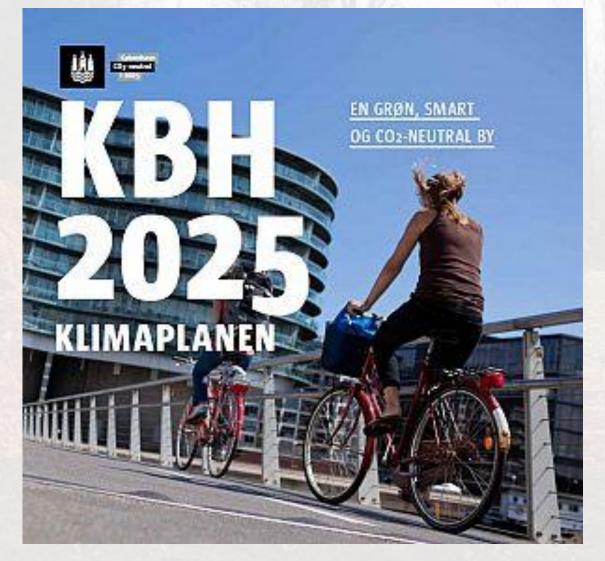
First, it sets emissions from the city's citizens electricity and heat consumption to "zero"

Second, it sells surplus electricity and heat produced from biomass in Copenhagen's combined heat and power plants and waste incineration plants to surrounding municipalities

And then the emissions, that were saved by the surrounding municipalities are deducted from Copenhagen's climate accounts although there were no real emission savings



## 16. Climate neutral capital? - no



The Copenhagen City Council has acknowledged the problem

- Last year, a majority of the Council decided that options to phase out biomass by 2030 should be explored
- I hope that Hamburg will not repeat the Copenhagen mistake to achieve a fictional climate target that citizens will not accept in the long run

TAK 😳