



Danmission Climate Policy

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1. Background and Introduction

Over-exploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change pose an existential threat, disproportionately impacting the poorest and most marginalised communities in the global south. Faith-based organisations like Danmission play a crucial role in supporting local populations in conserving natural resources, adapting to the impacts, and advocating for just and sustainable solutions that benefit the most vulnerable while reducing global emissions and increasing biodiversity. Faith and religion instil hope, promote peaceful coexistence, and underscore the importance of caring for nature. Consequently, Danmission, for years, has addressed sustainability issues through its programming and local charity shops.

Danmission has demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship through numerous initiatives. Danmission's programme strategy includes enhancing theological responses to poverty and natural resource scarcity, strengthening sustainable resource use, and preventing resource conflicts. We apply eco-theology in various ways, focusing on promoting social justice and the need for conversion in mind and lifestyle from consumerism to spirituality and mindful care. We capacity strengthen and enhance agency for marginalised communities and advocate for environmental stewardship and local leadership. At the headquarters level, since 2019, we have made efforts to track our carbon footprint using the GHG Protocol, including scope 3. In addition, green office measures have been implemented, such as reducing, reusing, and recycling waste (e.g., paperless policies, composting, and proper waste segregation) and conducting energy efficiency assessments of our buildings. In addition, Danmission operates a network of charity shops that significantly contribute positively to CO₂e displacement by promoting the reuse and recycling of goods. These stores support sustainable consumption by extending the lifecycle of products, thereby reducing the environmental impact associated with the production of new items. Regardless, we recognise the need for a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to address our environmental impact.

Danmission is thus committed to minimising its CO₂e emissions and promoting sustainable practices across all its operations. This climate policy outlines specific initiatives and goals to achieve these aims, focusing on energy efficiency, sustainable procurement practices, reducing water usage, implementing green office measures, promoting virtual meetings to reduce travel, and enhancing recycling programmes.

2. Strategic Considerations and Priorities

As an NGO with international interventions, Danmission faces a significant dilemma in balancing our commitment to sustainability with the necessity of air travel to foster human interaction and engagement in our work. While we do estimate that our charity shops' CO₂e displacement far exceeds our "organisational" carbon footprint, we do not yet have strong data to corroborate this. Danmission thus acknowledges the inherent dilemmas in balancing growth ambitions with environmental sustainability. The organisation values physical meetings for their significant impact on our programmes, especially the "Global Storytellers" initiative. However, we are dedicated to minimising our carbon footprint through various operational changes and sustainable practices.

3. Goals and Priorities

Timeframe: 5 years

Focus Areas:

- Reduction of CO₂e emissions from transport, particularly air travel
- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Sustainable procurement practices

4. Specific Reduction Goals

Our emissions reduction targets will be relative to growth, based on CO₂e per million DKK revenue. These goals will differ for HQ, regional, and country offices (CO) and will be tailored to local conditions and current status.

5. Data Collection and Monitoring

Data collection will encompass all elements of the GHG protocol's scope 1, 2, and 3

6. Action Areas and Initiatives

6.1 Energy Efficiency

Danmission is committed to improving energy efficiency in all its buildings through the following initiatives:

LED Lighting Installation

In all offices and second-hand shops that Danmission own, or where there are possibilities to make changes, existing lighting with energy-efficient LED lighting will

be replaced. This change is expected to significantly reduce energy consumption and lower costs due to the longer lifespan of LED lights.

Building Insulation Improvement

Where feasible and economically viable, we will implement better insulation materials and energy-efficient windows to reduce energy loss and improve indoor climate, thereby lowering energy consumption for heating and cooling.

Solar Panel Installation

Solar panels will be installed where feasible and economically viable. For instance, Tanzania's office has already implemented solar panels, and similar measures will be explored for other offices as conditions permit.

Air Conditioning Upgrades

Air conditioning units older than five years will be replaced with energy-efficient models to ensure significant CO₂e emission reductions, considering life cycle assessments (LCA) of the models.

Proxy Indicators:

- Improved energy ratings of buildings or energy efficiency measures taken
- Number of solar panels installed
- Reduced energy consumption relative to revenue per square metre

Responsibility:

- Responsible: Director of Finance and Director of Administration
- Accountable: Secretary General

6.2 Transport

Given that air travel constitutes a significant portion of Danmission's CO₂e emissions, the following initiatives will be implemented:

Promotion of Virtual Meetings

To reduce the need for travel, we will promote virtual meetings by investing in technology and training to ensure effective online collaboration.

Encouragement of Public Transport and Electric Vehicles

Where feasible, the use of public transport and electric vehicles will be encouraged. This includes a gradual transition to electric vehicles in Danmission's fleet when economically and practically viable.

Travel Optimisation

Travel plans will be optimised to minimise the number of required flights, including clustering meetings and activities to reduce travel needs.

Air Travel Considerations

To minimise carbon emissions from travel, the following should be considered before embarking on a journey:

1. Consider whether the journey is necessary:

- Can the activity be carried out in another way, for example, via IT solutions?
- Can the destination be replaced with an attractive alternative destination that does not involve air travel?

2. Consider alternative means of transport to airplanes:

- Is there a realistic alternative, e.g., train, bus or car/pooling?

3. Choose the most climate-efficient flight if you must fly:

- Can the journey length be minimised?
- Can stopovers be advantageously avoided?
- Is it possible to choose an airline with the most modern fuel-efficient aircraft and the best climate results?

To further minimise carbon emissions from travel, Danmission establishes the following guidelines:

- For all journeys, staff must use an approved online emissions calculator to compare the CO₂e emissions of different modes of transportation. The mode of transport with the lowest emissions should be chosen, considering cost, availability and time constraints. To ensure consistent emissions data, all air travel for HQ staff must be purchased via Danmission's chosen travel agency, Unitas, for all global overseas travel.
- Air travel is only permitted for trips that require a minimum stay of three days unless special approval.
- Whenever possible, trips to different countries within the same region should be combined to reduce the frequency of flights.

Proxy Indicators:

- Average reduced CO₂e emissions from air travel per staff

Responsibility:

- Responsible: Finance Department

- Accountable: Finance Director

6.3 Vehicle Fleet Management

Danmission is committed to reducing its vehicle fleet's carbon footprint by replacing vehicles powered by combustion engines (CE) with electric vehicles (EV). At HQ, the current fleet consists of four owned and one leased CE cars. The cars will be replaced in the course of time, depending on mileage and lease period. Currently (2024), lorries cannot be replaced with electric versions due to technological limitations. All purchases will undergo a cost/benefit analysis vs. CO₂e reduction.

Proxy Indicators:

- Number of CE cars replaced by EVs
- Reduced CO₂e emissions from vehicle fleet

Responsibility:

- Responsible: Fleet Manager
- Accountable: Finance Director

6.4 Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement is a key part of Danmission's climate policy. The initiatives include:

Development of Sustainable Procurement Guidelines

We will develop and implement guidelines for sustainable procurement, prioritising suppliers with environmental certifications (e.g., organic, Fairtrade).

Immediate Transition to Eco-Labelled Supplies

This includes eco-labelled copy and printer paper, envelopes, and eco-labelled office equipment such as PCs with EnergyStar or equivalent certification. We will prioritise the purchase of electricity-saving laptops.

Proxy Indicators:

- Sustainable procurement policy

Responsibility:

- Responsible: Director of Administration and Director of Finance
- Accountable: Secretary General

6.5 Food and Drinks

Danmission will prioritise purchasing organic food and drinks wherever possible and reduce the purchase of meat. Disposable service and envelope wrapping will be avoided to reduce waste.

Responsibility:

- Responsible: Receptionist
- Accountable: Director of Administration

6.6 Information Materials

Danmission's publications will be printed on eco-labelled paper in environmentally friendly colours. We will work with suppliers with an environmental policy to ensure sustainability in our information materials.

Responsibility:

- Responsible: Communications Director
- Accountable: Secretary General

7. Implementation and Monitoring

The climate policy implementation will be monitored through annual assessments and reporting. Data will be collected locally with central oversight to ensure accuracy and timeliness. The policy will be published on Danmission's Intranet and website, and annual updates will be provided in Danmission's Annual Narrative Report.

8. Evaluation and Revision

The climate policy will be evaluated annually and revised as needed to ensure goals are met, and the policy remains relevant and effective.

Approved by the executive committee of Danmission on November 12, 2024.