

Living in a climate laboratory

Albertslund, Denmark

Mayor: Steen Christiansen

Home to 30,000 inhabitants, Albertslund is considered a cutting-edge Danish eco-city, with impressive projects in the areas of mobility, housing and street lighting. The city was planned and constructed in the 1960s as an urban experiment. Today, it is considered a true 'climate laboratory', continuously developing and testing new solutions to improve the quality of life of its citizens. With this in mind, Albertslund joined the Covenant of Mayors in 2009, aiming to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 32% in 2020.

Guided by the Covenant of Mayors philosophy, we implement a wide range of cross sector initiatives that together can make a difference in the transition towards a sustainable society. In Albertslund, we make ourselves available and have the courage to develop and test new solutions for the benefit of our citizens, companies and municipality. Steen Christiansen, Mayor of Albertslund.



Since April 2012, Albertslund is connected to Copenhagen with the "C99 cycle super highway", a fast biking alternative for commuters to get to the capital city centre, 17km away. The 'Albertslund Route' is the first cycling highway in a network of 26 routes that will connect the Danish capital with 20 surrounding municipalities. It complements the large segregated local network of cycling paths designed in the 1960s that aims to allow children to travel to school safely and conveniently. With 130 km of cycle paths (compared to the 120 km of road) and 130 tunnels and bridges reserved for cyclists, in Albertslund it is possible to go everywhere by bicycle without meeting a car. The cycle super highway is expected to increase the daily amount of cyclists by 20%, contributing to the overall strategy of raising the share of bike commuters from today's 33% to 50%. This venture is the result of a successful partnership between 20 municipalities and nine public and private organisations, being a clear example of green social innovation.

Another example of successful cooperation is the "Albertslund Concept", which was awarded the "Nordic Energy Municipality 2011". The 'Albertslund Concept' is a cost-effective model for the energy retrofit of homes. The project targets prefabricated houses built during the 1960-1980 period and intends to deliver mass production models of prefabricated solutions applicable to a large number of



different building types, making energy renovation cheaper and more easily replicated in Denmark and throughout Europe. In the 1096 housing units where renovation has been completed, energy consumption has been cut by 23-55%. Over the next decade the municipality is renovating 6000 dwellings, corresponding to 50% of the total building stock. The large-scale renovation is contributing to reach the overall objective of a 40% saving in CO₂ emissions for the residential areas. As part of the renovation project, there are various prefabricated solutions such as roof windows, solar photovoltaic collectors, heat recovery ventilation, among other products developed in partnership with private companies.

In September 2012 the municipality of Albertslund made a partnership with the Danish Technical University to test a new lighting technology for the city. Albertslund has a long tradition in inventing lamps that goes back to the foundation of the town. For instance, in 2009, Albertslund launched the 'A Lamp', an eco-friendly, energy-efficient and modern LED lighting device to replace the outdated city's lighting system. At the time 60 lamps were installed in public parks throughout the city. The savings amount to three tonnes of avoided CO₂ emissions and a yearly economy of €1150, with a payback time of seven years. The city is now working on a LED street lamp, which will replace the existing outdoor lighting system. These new lamps will be intelligent points in the smart grid, making it possible to adjust the lamps individually and equip them with local traffic-information, WIFI, charging stations for electrical vehicles, etc.

Albertslund – key facts:

- 13km away from the Danish capital city Copenhagen
- Home to 30,000 inhabitants
- On average 75% of the children go to school by bike
- Albertslund's citizens travel 23 million km by bike per year, corresponding to an average of 826 km per person
- 50 % of the dwellings are energy renovated within 8 to 10 years
- Joined the Covenant of Mayors on 23 September 2009

As a signatory city to the Covenant of Mayors, Albertslund voluntarily commits itself to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 32% in 2020

Contacts & further information

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