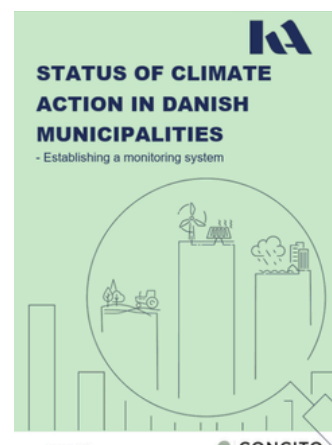


Danish National Platform - Monitoring system for the Danish Climate Alliance -

The Danish Climate Alliance is a partnership between Realdania, Local Government Denmark (the interest organisation of municipalities), C40 Cities and CONCITO, supporting all Danish municipalities in developing and implementing climate action plans. It was developed independently from the EU Cities Mission, but now acts as Denmark's national platform for the Mission. As a knowledge partner in the Alliance, CONCITO monitors the implementation of the climate action plans. This work has resulted in several publications in 2025:

- A long **status report on local climate action** (in Danish, with a shorter **English summary**).
- An online **data dashboard** showing key transition indicators in various sectors (buildings, transport, waste, renewable energy production, etc.), disaggregated at the municipal level (whenever detailed data is available). Available only in Danish. A separate dashboard, developed by an external partner and available only to the municipalities, visualizes mitigation and adaptation actions self-reported by the municipalities.
- A **white paper** detailing the methodological approach used for monitoring implemented actions and their outcome, and sharing some lessons learnt during the first year of this monitoring work.



Objectives

The monitoring system was designed for several purposes:

- **Providing relevant insights** to the municipalities to support their work with climate action.
- **Creating accountability and transparency** in the implementation of the plans, and holding up the integrity of the municipalities' commitments.
- **Identifying recurring issues and key areas** in which implementation is not progressing as it should, in order to prioritize support activities within the Climate Alliance.

The system is unique in its scope, comprehensiveness, and in the fact that it was developed independently from national authorities. It is an attempt to **simultaneously track commitments** (the contents of the plans), **actions** (measures implemented and reported by municipalities) and **outcomes** (the effects these actions have on the broader system). It is intended to be updated and iterated every year - as of January 2026, a second version of the status report and dashboard is in the works.

Challenges



There are still challenges to be addressed in the further development of the monitoring system:

- Although the climate action plans cover both mitigation and adaptation, the first iteration of the monitoring system did not provide relevant **progress indicators for adaptation**. This is both due to time and resource constraints, and to inherent methodological challenges. There is no consensus on unified indicators or methods to track progress in climate change adaptation. While CONCITO has already worked on tracking implemented adaptation actions and extreme weather events, this tracking relies on self-reporting by municipalities and there is no clear indicator showing whether the implemented actions actually reduce climate-related risks to a sufficient extent.
- Similarly, the monitoring system aims to provide relevant **indicators related to equity in the distribution of burdens and benefits** from climate action. This is an increasingly important component of C40's approach, but municipal staff rarely have the skills and resources needed to address it appropriately. The monitoring system should provide relevant insights to support this work. However, it is challenging to isolate the socio-economic impact of climate actions from other policies and underlying trends. Much of the progress related to equity is process-oriented, related to e.g. integrating the climate and social agendas in the municipality's work, collaborating across departments, discussing trade-offs and distributive effects more holistically, etc. These aspects cannot easily be tracked with a set of KPIs.
- While the monitoring system is providing useful information for the national partners in the Climate Alliance, its **usefulness and added value for the municipalities themselves remain uncertain** at this point. There is anecdotal evidence that some municipalities showed interest in the results and that the status report led to a reflection about their internal monitoring procedures. However, there is a more crucial question: can the monitoring process integrate with and support the work of municipal practitioners more broadly? One lesson learned from the process is that this integration should have been thought through from the very beginning, for instance by having the content of the plans available in a machine-readable format to better track the progress of specific actions, by agreeing on which information municipalities should keep track of and how, etc. There is a clear need to make monitoring more directly useful for municipalities. A first solution, to be implemented in 2026, is to provide each municipality with a dump of all relevant data and indicators about them, so they can use that data internally.
- Relatedly, there is a strong **"reporting fatigue"** among Danish municipalities. We need not only to increase the usefulness of the monitoring, but also to reduce the reporting burden. One important component of the monitoring system is a **survey sent to municipalities each year**, asking them to report on the internal organization of their climate action, the status of the actions they are implementing, and any extreme weather events they have experienced. The first iteration had a high response rate. The second iteration was met with a lot of frustration, and achieved a somewhat lower response rate. Two critical aspects have been identified:

Municipalities expect their answers to carry over from one year to the next by default. The platform used for the first survey did not allow this option, so the second iteration had to be carried out in Excel (as a temporary solution). This reduced user-friendliness. Even when it is possible to carry over answers, there is still a need to identify e.g. whether the status of an action did not change because it has not progressed, or because the municipality did not update their answer.

Municipalities face reporting requirements related to other initiatives, such as Cities Race to Zero (among others). Most of these initiatives use CDP as a reporting platform, but few Danish municipalities report on CDP (and therefore most municipalities fail to deliver on their commitment to report). While the CDP survey has a lot of overlap with the Climate Alliance survey, the questions are still different enough that it was not feasible to merge or map the two surveys at this point.

