



Guds hjælp, Folkets kærlighed, Danmarks styrke

Country: Denmark

Committee: United Nation's Framework on Climate Change

School: Wyoming High School

Humans are beginning to face the consequences of climate change, with more severe repercussions expected to appear in the coming years. Denmark's ecosystems are already facing the consequences of climate change. Denmark has seen increased biological production in some of its ecosystems due to a rise in temperatures and Denmark's lengthening growing seasons. Denmark has also seen increased overgrowth and oxygen depletion in its bodies of water due to increased and altered precipitation. Denmark has also faced increased erosion and flooding of low-lying areas due to rising sea-levels, as well as increased and altered precipitation. This puts some of Denmark's habitats in danger, as well as put some of its species at risk of becoming endangered or extinct. However, what is not as commonly discussed is the effect of climate change on the Danish people. The increase of temperature has aided the growth of pollen-bearing plants, increasing the number of allergens in the air. This increase in temperature also puts the Danish people at a higher risk of sunburns, which can increase a person's risk of skin cancer, and dehydration. Climate change also puts the Danish people at a higher risk of contracting water-borne or food-borne infections. Fortunately, Denmark has realized the danger of climate change, and is taking steps to eliminate or mitigate its damage.

One way Denmark is working to negate its impact on climate change is the implementation of bicycles as the popular means of transportation windmills to help replace non-renewable energy sources. Denmark's capital is known around the globe for its cycling culture. Cycling has been a popular means of transportation in Denmark since the early 1900s. In the 1970s and 1980s it faced competition from the car, but the oil crisis, and environmental movements put the bicycle back on top, and today most children in Denmark can cycle by the time they start school. The Danish people have come to associate the bicycle with freedom, health, and personal energy. These positive feelings that people associate with cycling, as well as the governments support of creating and maintaining bike paths leads much of the Danish population to bike instead of drive.

Another way that Denmark is working to help reduce their impact on climate change is with wind power. Denmark has some of the best wind conditions in the world for wind energy. Denmark installed the first commercial wind turbine in 1979, and since then wind energy has grown into a billion-dollar industry in Denmark. Currently, Denmark generates 40% of its energy from wind power. The country has plans to reach 50% by 2020, and 100% by 2050. Denmark is a world-leader when it comes to wind-energy and it is constantly seeking to expand its wind industry while shrinking its effects on climate change.



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Denmark's extreme conscious when it comes to the environment has made it a world expert in how countries can reduce their carbon footprint. Denmark's plans to expand cycling as a means of transportation could be adopted in other countries. It would be especially helpful to those countries that have lots of air pollution due to car emissions. Danish companies could also help other countries to set up windmills to help lower that countries dependence on fossil fuels. Since Danish windmill companies are among the best in the world they would be able to provide the other countries with state of the art windmills. In countries where wind power is not a viable option, similar plans could be adopted with other forms of alternative energy sources that better suit that country.

While Denmark is willing to provide help to countries with populations that face severe health risks due to climate change, it is unable to accept climate refugees. While Denmark is willing to take as many refugees as it can, an ever increasing number of refugees entering the country each year is causing problems. Denmark offers many benefits to its citizens, including free health care and education, and it is not logistically possible to offer this to the large number of refugees, about 21,000 in 2015 alone, that seek to escape homelands that have been devastated by climate change. This has forced Denmark to take drastic action and create harsh laws against refugees to discourage them from coming to Denmark. Denmark has not completely sealed off its borders though because it still wants to help the refugees; it just wishes to discourage large numbers from seeking asylum in Denmark. Denmark does however support other countries opening their doors to refugees. In fact the Danish Refugee Council is actively involved in supporting refugees and internally displaced people around the world.

It is Denmark's own experiences with health issues related to climate change that makes it aware of the dangers of not finding a solution to climate change. It is Denmark's success with programs to decrease its impact on climate change that make it a credible source on potential solutions to climate change. It is Denmark's willingness to help those displaced by climate change that makes it a proponent of classifying those people displaced by climate change as refugees, and of helping them seek asylum in other countries. All things considered, Denmark will push to stop human impact on climate change all together, as well as help those whose lives have been destroyed by our own mistakes.