



European Sustainable Energy Seminar

17-19 August, 2026



Venue: Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Ydby,

Policies for Sufficiency as Climate Policies

Presentation of Sufficiency Policies and Proposals from Denmark

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INFORSE-EUROPE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

Presentation is part of Proceedings [https://inforse.org/europe/seminar_2026 INFORSE-Europe Denmark.htm](https://inforse.org/europe/seminar_2026_INFORSE-Europe_Denmark.htm)

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Sufficiency as Climate Action and for Sustainable Lifestyles in Nordic & Baltic Countries and Belarus

Project August 2025 –
September 2026

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- We collected information on sufficiency policies and practices already active in the countries and proposals from civil society organisations, environmental label organisations and others
- We organised dialogues on good practices and proposals in an online seminar, and at national seminars
- We launched our results in the document "Briefing on Nordic Baltic Sufficiency" in June
- We are summarising the results in national papers and a joint paper on how to introduce sufficiency policies in national climate policies in ways that also contribute to equity
- We plan to present results to the Nordic Council Committee for Sustainable Nordic
- And this is the seminar, where we will discuss with civil society.

Sufficiency Measures and Policy Proposals from Denmark



Buildings, policies and practices:

- Some municipalities plan with Tiny Houses for smaller living
- Sharing facilities: shared washing machines and common rooms are popular
- Co-housing is quite popular in Denmark; more than 10,000 dwellings and new ones are added every year
- Moving heat and electricity in time is supported by varying tariffs and the electricity market; many are doing it, and it is under development, with new apps being added, smarter vehicle chargers, and heat pump controllers

Proposals by the project:

- Improve conditions for co-housing developments, including better opportunities for municipalities to plan for co-housing and repurpose existing buildings for co-housing

Civil Society proposals:

- "Byggestopbevægelsen" with progressive architects that argue for smaller buildings, stop to new builds and repurposing of buildings.
- SustainableEnergy proposes advisers for more sustainable practices, also for schools and offices

Sufficiency Measures and Policy Proposals from Denmark



Transport, policies and practices

- Urban planning is not allowing shopping centers without good public transport (but not 100% enforced)
- Bi-cycling is promoted quite substantially, mainly in Copenhagen; small state support
- Aviation tax as in Germany (but revenue is not used for alternatives)
- Plans for emission-free city centers (no private diesel or petrol cars)

New government proposals:

- Free public transport for youngsters under 23 years
- Aviation tax is extended to private jets

Civil society activities:

- Private car-sharing clubs in some towns

Sufficiency Measures and Policy Proposals from Denmark



Products, policies and practices:

- Repair is promoted with subsidy for white goods repair
- Reduce single-use: EU ban, local scheme for multi-use cups for take-away
- Reduce packaging: bottle deposit, tax on packaging

New Government proposal

- National strategy for circular economy
- Civil society activities:
- Repair is promoted by private initiatives, CSOs with repair workshops, cafes
- Many second-hand shops and flea markets

Sufficiency Measures and Policy Proposals from Denmark



Food, policies and practices:

- Advice with the "Food pyramide" with low meat consumption
- Some municipalities promote plant-based food, e.g. internal tax
- Many supermarkets sell food cheaply just before expiry

New government proposals:

- Promote plant-based food
- No VAT on fruit and vegetables



Holidays:

New government proposals:

- Passenger tax on cruise ships

Civil society activities:

- Train travel companies sell train tickets to all over Europe/the world
- State train companies DSB and CSO cooperate on train travel website <https://udlandstog.dk/>



Summary

Summary: Buildings



- Tiny house regulations
- Smart meters and smart electricity tariffs and use
- Stop use of electricity for non-essential uses during peak consumption
- Regulations that support co-housing
- Promotion of sharing facilities
- Reduce/stop new build and repurpose old buildings
- Advice on how to save energy by clever energy use
- Progressive taxes on dwellings, electricity and heat
- Reduce secondary homes (proposed by NNV)

Summary: Transport

- Promote work from home
- Urban planning that facilitates public transport, bicycling
- Zero traffic growth for personal cars in urban developments, no shopping centers outside towns
- Car or emission-free city centers
- Promote public and private services in rural areas, small towns
- Reduce commuter subsidy, in particular for car users
- Free public transport for youth / in cities
- Differentiated road pricing, also to fund public transport
- No more motorways
- Improve public transport, where needed
- Improve bicycle paths, routes, and parking, etc.



Summary: Products

- "Libraries" for sports equipment, musical instruments, tools
- Right to complain about products for 3 years (or more)
- Stronger ban on planned obsolescence, also for IT equipment
- Repair cafés and repair shops, run or supported by municipalities
- Reuse rooms/swapping shops and second-hand shops and markets, also in schools
- Buy only 5 pieces of clothes per year
- Renting services
- Reduce/ban single-products
- Deposits and taxes on packaging
- Ban destruction of unsold goods
- Regulate aggressive marketing
- No VAT on repair and second-hand shop
- Allowing the use and sale of goods from waste/recycling places
- Strategy / mission for circular economy



Summary: Food

- Public procurement of organic food
- Public kitchens to introduce healthy, low-emission food
- Develop local menus using Nordic nutrition recommendations
- Advice on vegetarian food in schools
- Give away food on the last day for selling it
- Regulations against food waste
- No VAT on fruit and vegetables
- Tax/internal tax on meat and other high-impact and unhealthy food
- Promote growing your own food and buying local food at farmers' markets



Summary: Holidays

- Tax on aviation
- Reduce and tax cruise ships / zero-emission requirements
- Promote train holidays and night trains
- Promote local holidays



Summary, Cross Sectorial

- Introduce sufficiency as a general policy area in climate policies
- Review climate effects of policies and larger investments
- Include global emissions of consumption (tier 3 emissions) in climate plans
- Combine climate plans with plans for reduction of loads of other planetary boundaries
- Compensation for low-income families that are affected negatively by climate measures
- Societal dialogue on how to make a transition to carbon-neutral societies in ways that have other benefits for people's lives, for the general population, for low-income families, and for affected people.



Thank You

Read more: Cooperation Project:
Sufficiency as Climate Action and for Sustainable
Lifestyles in Nordic & Baltic Countries and Belarus

https://inforse.org/europe/Sufficiency_as_Climate_Action_Project.htm

