

# AAU CLIMATE PLAN 2030



AALBORG  
UNIVERSITY



# INTRODUCTION

Aalborg University (AAU) believes that knowledge can and must change the world. The AAU strategy, [Knowledge for the World 2022-2026](#), entails a vision of AAU being internationally recognised as a mission-oriented university that contributes to sustainable development. The university's pursuit of sustainable development always begins and ends in interaction with the wider world, oriented towards tackling the real problems and missions necessary to achieve vital sustainable and climate-friendly solutions.

With its climate plan and as a knowledge institution, AAU will contribute knowledge to climate-friendly solutions for society through education, research, collaboration and innovation. At the same time, AAU will ensure a reduction of the university's own climate footprint in close collaboration with the wider world where the university's efforts are organised to keep pace with the development of society.

In 2024, AAU adopted three climate targets for reducing the university's greenhouse gas emissions in scope 1, 2 and 3, supported by a description of how these climate targets will be achieved.

AAU Climate Plan 2030 sets the direction and framework for the university's work to reduce its climate footprint by 2030. Climate Plan 2030 is expected to be followed by Climate Plan 2045, setting the direction for achieving the goal of a climate-neutral university by 2045.

With these targets and the climate plan, AAU lives up to the Paris Agreement and the government's goals for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and at the same time contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In its work to meet the climate targets, AAU is aware that the university does not act as an isolated entity, but as part of a society undergoing transition to more sustainable solutions.

The university's management recognises the challenges associated with achieving the ambitious targets. In its work on the climate plan, the university will therefore focus on organisational anchoring and implementation, further development of goals, methods and actions, as well as continuous evaluation and improvement.

After the climate plan's approval, action plans will be introduced with specific initiatives planned in collaboration with the organisation. As the climate plan complements the university's overall strategy, the climate plan must be revisited when preparing a new AAU strategy.

## AAU'S CLIMATE TARGETS

- AAU is climate neutral in scope 1 and 2 by 2030 at the latest
- AAU has reduced greenhouse gas emissions in scope 3 by 70% by 2030 (per full-time equivalent compared to the index year 1990)
- AAU is climate neutral by 2045 at the latest

### Climate target achievement

As a knowledge institution, AAU has a special role in society and as a university will contribute to Denmark achieving the national goals in an appropriate and meaningful way.

The climate targets will be achieved through close cooperation with local utility companies, suppliers of goods and services, and business partners.

In order to qualify the climate efforts and ensure ongoing follow-up, AAU is preparing a climate account of greenhouse gas emissions from the university's overall activities.

# STRUCTURE OF THE CLIMATE PLAN

The structure of the climate plan was decided by the Executive Management and prepared with inspiration from the Swedish [Climate Framework for Higher Education Institutions](#) developed by Chalmers University of Technology and KTH Royal Institute of Technology. The plan also draws inspiration from climate action plans and strategies from MIT and Harvard University.

## NINE ACTION AREAS

The climate plan is organised into nine action areas; the first three relate to the university's climate handprint and the last six to the university's climate footprint.

The climate handprint is AAU's work to improve society's opportunities for action through knowledge and innovation. Furthermore, the handprint is also concerned with influencing attitudes towards and knowledge about climate change through education, research, collaboration, as well as internal and external behaviour and engagement. Here, the focus is on creating a positive impact through the university's core tasks. The climate

handprint is therefore not directly measurable but will be assessed qualitatively.

The climate footprint is the areas where AAU generates greenhouse gases through activities like business travel, operation of the campus, procurement of goods and services, waste management, etc. AAU aims to reduce its climate footprint through efficiency, innovation, and behavioural changes. The climate footprint of AAU is calculated annually in the climate account.

The climate plan sets out goals and subgoals for each of the three handprints and six footprints, as well as several proposals for activities that can support achieving the goals. The specific activities will be developed and expanded as action plans are developed for the individual action areas.



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# CLIMATE ACCOUNT

AAU is committed to preparing an annual climate report to follow the results of the university's climate efforts.

Researchers from AAU have contributed to the work of developing a climate accounting model for the Danish universities' climate footprint. The climate accounts will serve as the basis for monitoring target fulfilment at AAU.

The account shows greenhouse gas emissions from AAU's total scope 1, 2 and 3 activities which are distributed over the six footprints.

Emissions are calculated in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e) where emissions of other greenhouse gases are converted to corresponding emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. The baseline is 1990, as defined by the Danish government, in the Kyoto Protocol and in the Paris Agreement.

## STATUS OF AAU'S EMISSIONS IN 2022

AAU's CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2022 totalled 57,850 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents. Since 1990, there was a reduction of 81% CO<sub>2</sub>e per full-time equivalent, and almost 5% in absolute reduction. AAU as a university grew from 3,807 full-time equivalents (FTE: students and staff) in 1990 to 19,221 FTE in 2022 and this growth impacts the climate account. Therefore, both absolute and relative figures are included in the climate work to ensure relevant units and goals.

Distributed among the three scopes, AAU reduced its emissions in scope 1 per FTE by 91% in the period 1990–2022. In scope 2, emissions per FTE were reduced by 97%, while scope 3 emissions were reduced by 38% per FTE.

Although AAU has achieved a total reduction of more than 70% per FTE since 1990, AAU will continue to reduce emissions per FTE towards 2030 with special attention on scope 3 emissions, and then aim for further reductions towards 2045.

## AAU'S EMISSIONS PER FOOTPRINT

**Procurement & circular economy** accounted for the largest share (approx. 38%) of the total emissions from AAU in 2022 and represents an absolute increase from approx. 6,002 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 1990 to approx. 21,936 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022, but a reduction from 1.6 tonnes per FTE to 1.1 tonnes per FTE in the same period. The area includes the purchase of goods and services, such as furniture, consulting services, IT and office materials, web services, laboratory equipment, etc.

**Campus** accounted for approximately 31% of the total emissions in 2022 and includes the maintenance of buildings, purchasing and use of electricity, water, heat, and emissions embedded in buildings. Total emissions fell from 49,235 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 1990 to 17,833 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022, which is primarily due to the increased amount of renewable energy in the Danish energy mix. This corresponds to a reduction from 12.9 tonnes per FTE in 1990 to 0.9 tonnes per FTE in 2022.

**Mobility** comprised around 30% of total emissions in 2022 while in 1990 it accounted for around 9% of total emissions. This represents an increase from 5,207 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 1990 to 17,330 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022. However, emissions per FTE fell from 1.4 tonnes in 1990 to 0.9 tonnes in 2022. The area's primary emissions are due to commuting and air travel. A small part of the emissions is due to travel by car, bus or train.

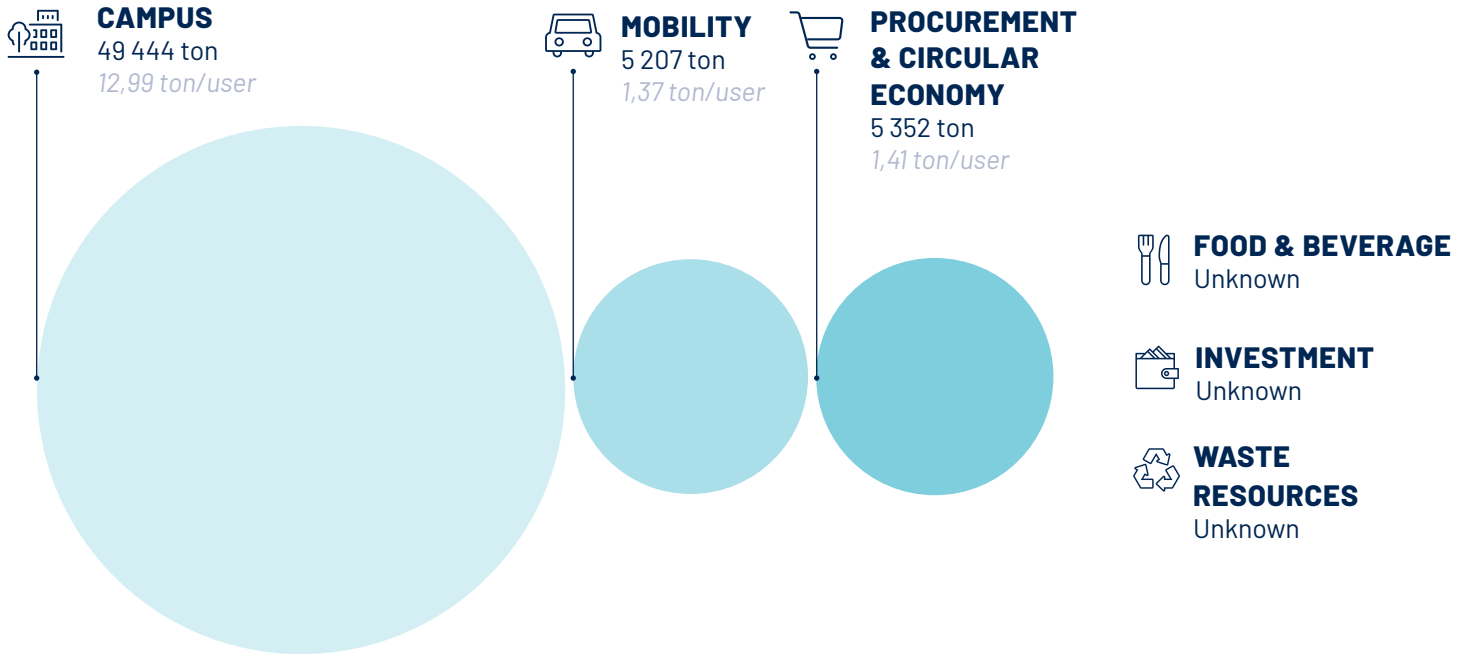
**Food & beverage** accounted for approximately 1% of the university's total climate footprint in 2022, approximately half of which stems from canteen operations and the other half from catering for meetings, coffee, etc.

**Waste resources** represented a minimal footprint of <1% of the total emissions, as recycling has a positive impact in the climate account. The total climate footprint is therefore minimal, but the area is important from a resource perspective.

**Investments** had a minimal footprint of <1% and includes the emissions associated with the management of investments and is therefore not an expression of the actual climate impact of the investments.

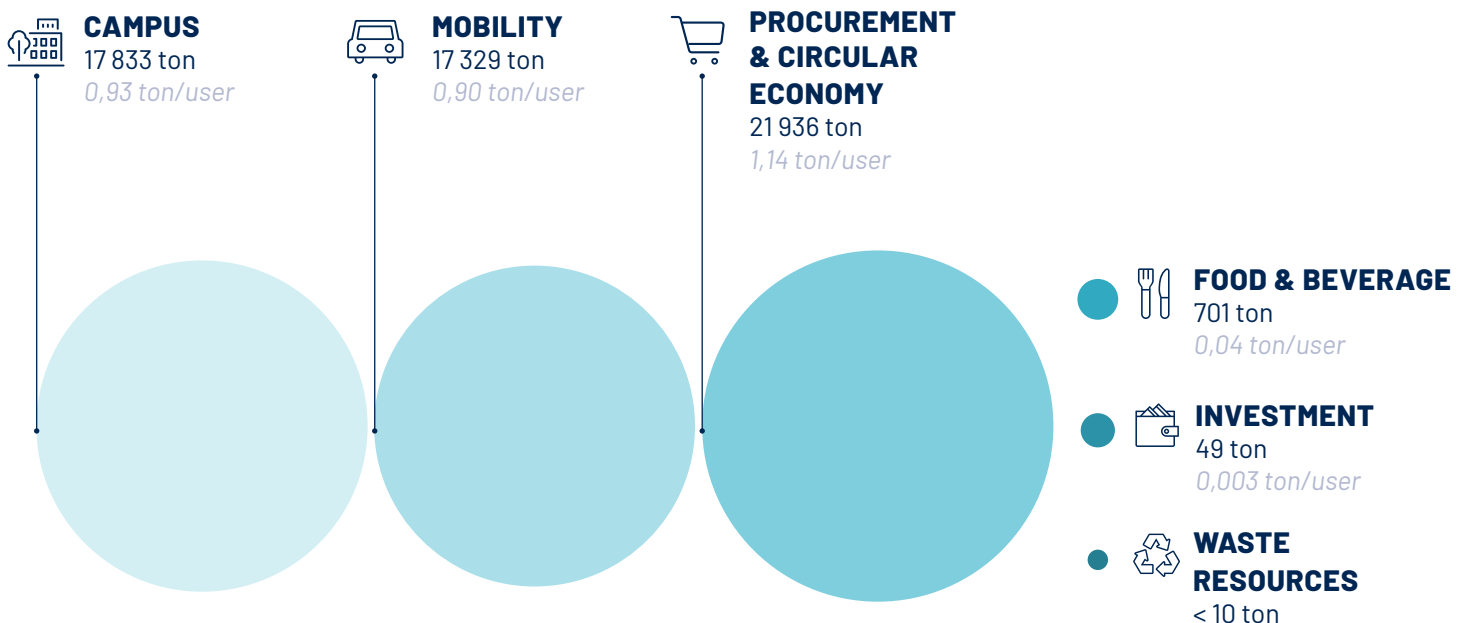
### 1990

In 1990, AAU's total emissions (footprint) were distributed as follows:



### 2022

In 2022, AAU's total emissions (footprint) were distributed as follows:



# ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLIMATE PLAN

The climate plan was created through a long-term process involving staff and students at AAU. A climate strategy group was set up comprised of researchers with expertise in climate change and action, green transition and energy planning to qualify the structure and process of the climate plan; the group then provided feedback during the process.

Through direct contributions or participation in workshops, the staff and students involved qualified the direction and content of the plan and offered proposals for climate actions and goals under each action area. Subsequently, the Strategic Council for Education (DSUR) and the Strategic Council for Research and Innovation (SRFI) discussed the climate plan to qualify the action areas Education and Research.

Throughout the process, the students and staff provided many detailed proposals for climate action not included in this overall climate plan, but they were compiled to be used in subsequent work where the individual action areas will be implemented through specific action plans and activities.

As the climate plan is the first of its kind at AAU, the goals, subgoals and activities will be continuously revised and adjusted, and the plan should therefore be seen as a dynamic document that develops in line with the organisation's development. The climate plan is therefore structured with one overall goal for each of the nine action areas that is supported by subgoals to ensure the goal is achieved. In addition to goals and subgoals, planned activities for the period 2024–2026 are presented

## PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure successful implementation of the climate plan, a dynamic and effective governance structure must be established. In the different action areas of the climate plan, Aalborg University has different roles to play and thus also different opportunities for influence – as an educational institution, research institution and societal actor. Implementation of the climate plan's nine action areas will rest on four fundamental principles:

### 1) AAU as part of society

*AAU will do our part to ensure that society moves towards a sustainable and climate-neutral future.*

### 2) It must be easy to be climate-friendly

*The climate-friendly choice must be visible in the day-to-day life of students, staff and guests at AAU. At the same time, the university will work to break down inappropriate structures and processes that hinder climate-friendly choices.*

### 3) Research-based climate action

*Research environments must be involved and engaged in the development and implementation of climate actions.*

### 4) AAU as a living lab

*The university's facilities, processes and data are made available to staff and students to develop the testing of new sustainable ideas and solutions.*



# EDUCATION

Higher education institutions play a crucial role in educating and engaging both new and current students, alumni and the wider society through continued development with a focus on the contribution of the individual disciplines to sustainable development. This action area therefore affects not only the climate agenda, but also the broader sustainability agenda.

As a university, we aim to produce graduates who can contribute to and collaborate on solving current and future challenges. One of our greatest potentials for contributing to achieving climate neutrality in society and promoting sustainable development in general is therefore through knowledge, skills and competences put to use by our graduates and through continuing and further education (EVU).

Working with complex issues such as climate change and sustainability calls for both specialists and interdisciplinary collaborations. Degree programmes that effectively train students to meet these needs are

therefore crucial for creating highly specialised knowledge on the complex issues and possible solutions. Likewise, the ability to collaborate on sustainable development across disciplines is central.

Recruitment to programmes with a focus on sustainability and the development of activities that enable students to work with sustainability across disciplines are therefore an important focus of education at AAU. This has been implemented in small programme activities (microcredentials) where students have access to small online asynchronous courses on various current topics that can supplement knowledge, academic development and project work, and thus support students in working in an interdisciplinary way. The students' opportunity to not only test knowledge but also contribute to the sustainable development of AAU is also facilitated by making the campus available as a living lab. The purpose of the Living Lab concept is to test, experiment and innovate through co-creative processes, and thus provides space to develop both in-depth academic competence and interdisciplinary collaborations.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Aalborg University makes it possible for students at AAU to gain knowledge about sustainability in terms of their academic competence and to use this knowledge to support sustainable development</b>		
<b>SUBGOALS</b>	Give students the opportunity to work with sustainability	Recruit students to programmes where the focus is on sustainability	Make it attractive for students to use AAU as a living lab with a focus on sustainability
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make AAU Micros about sustainability visible to students and teachers</li> <li>• Increase focus on the opportunities that exist in sustainability-related education</li> <li>• Shared Services provides data and collaborates with students so that everyone can gain new knowledge and contribute with possible improvements at AAU</li> </ul>		



# RESEARCH

At AAU, we believe that the research we initiate or collaborate on with the business community must be put into practice and thus contribute to the green transition locally, nationally and globally. For years, we have successfully conducted research projects in collaboration with companies and other actors, such as municipalities, associations, NGOs, etc. We will continue to do so and be even more attentive to research and innovation at AAU contributing to sustainable solutions. When we engage in collaborations and partnerships, it is therefore always with the intention of making positive contributions to sustainable development.

In the strategy [Knowledge for the World 2022-2026](#), our vision is that we, as an internationally recognised and mission-oriented university, contribute to sustainable development. One mission has an indirect focus on the global climate crisis ([sustainable energy supply](#)) where we aim to contribute significantly to solving complex

challenges in interdisciplinary research environments in close collaboration with external actors. The climate plan and the mission work at AAU must therefore go hand in hand and support each other in promoting sustainable development.

Our research contributes to sustainable development, also seen in a broad perspective, and not only with a focus on climate. The climate plan must therefore be implemented in such a way that AAU can continue to support research of the highest quality, while at the same time focusing internally on the sustainable and climate consequences of our research activities. The focus is therefore also on research ethics in the climate area, increased attention to green instruments and the operation of research in relation to e.g. energy consumption (CAMPUS), waste (WASTE RESOURCES) and procurement (PROCUREMENT & CIRCULAR ECONOMY).

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Aalborg University aims to be a leading university in research and innovation that contributes to sustainable development</b>			
<b>SUBGOALS</b>	The actions of the climate plan support the missions that AAU contributes to	Increase AAU's academic and societal impact on sustainable development, locally, nationally and internationally	Reduce and streamline the consumption associated with research	Promote the use of AAU as a living lab for research projects with a sustainable aim
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mission Secretariat supports the sustainable and climate-friendly focus of the mission work</li> <li>• Research projects, knowledge dissemination and publications on sustainability are increased and made visible in various forums, locally, nationally and internationally</li> <li>• AAU Research Services participates in dialogue meetings with foundations about sustainability and can advise researchers on green methods</li> <li>• Shared Services promotes the use of AAU as a living lab for research projects with a sustainable aim where all types of practice that develop at AAU can be living labs</li> <li>• Campus Service advises departments and researchers on possible initiatives to reduce and streamline the use of resources associated with research, e.g. green certifications of laboratories</li> </ul>			





## BEHAVIOUR & COMMUNICATION

It should be easy for students, staff or guests on AAU's campuses to make climate-friendly choices. The physical framework must therefore make AAU visible as a university that is sustainable and climate friendly.

We must make it easy for students, staff and guests to make sustainable choices in day-to-day life at the university, which not only involves climate-friendly choices, but also choices about resources, a good working and study environment, financial sustainability, etc. One of the prerequisites for this is that all staff and students are presented with the climate plan and other relevant initiatives at AAU for sustainability through clear, relevant communication.

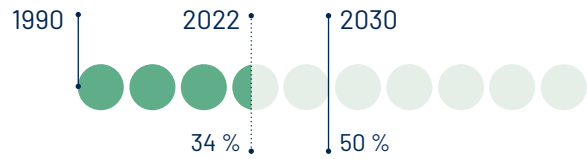
Likewise, students and staff must be motivated to engage and participate in the ongoing development and process of the climate plan, as well as in the general sustainability work at AAU. Climate action must be supported and made visible at AAU so that everyone is inspired toward climate-friendly behaviour.

The Executive Management is leading the way as a role model in terms of incorporating sustainability into day-to-day life at the university. In its decision making, it naturally assesses sustainability perspectives in a given issue, including climate impact. The same will happen for all other management and committee decisions so that cases are also assessed in terms of sustainability.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Aalborg University will continuously inform, involve and engage students, staff, partners and other relevant external stakeholders in the sustainability work at AAU</b>				
<b>SUBGOALS</b>	Select and train internal climate ambassadors	Make it easy for everyone to make sustainable choices in day-to-day life	Develop a sustainability assessment procedure for management teams and committees	Increase external and internal communication on sustainability	Make it easy for everyone to suggest new sustainability initiatives at AAU
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a pilot project, train the first climate ambassadors (staff) at the university, as well as develop a training concept for training these ambassadors</li> <li>• Develop and make visible guidelines on sustainable behaviour in day-to-day life at AAU</li> <li>• Initiate a pilot project for developing a procedure for assessing the sustainability impact in management layers and committees in the organisation</li> <li>• Highlight existing and new initiatives and projects that contribute to a sustainable transition of AAU's communication channels, internally and externally</li> <li>• Establish a scheme that makes it easy for everyone (students, staff, guests, partners, etc.) to propose new sustainable initiatives at AAU</li> </ul>				



# MOBILITY



A lot of travel is associated with the university's activities, not only commuting to and from the university, but also for meetings and conferences in Denmark and abroad. In 1990, travel accounted for almost 9% of the university's total emissions (approx. 5,207 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e) while in 2022 it accounted for approx. 30% (approx. 17,330 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e). However, emissions per FTE fell from 1.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 1990 to 0.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022. Travel includes the following types of mobility (with an indication of % in 2022):

- Business travel by air (approx. 47%)
- Business trips by car (own and university)(approx. 0.2%)
- Business travel by train (approx. 0.3%)
- Commuting (students and staff)(approx. 52%)

Air travel constitutes a significant part of the climate footprint in this area, and the university recognises the challenges associated with reducing climate emissions in that air travel is often used in international research

projects, to create networks, and thus conduct research in an international environment. Therefore, AAU will focus on developing a travel policy that can enable a reduction of the climate footprint from business travel by focusing on specific needs and supporting the use of alternative means of transport, without compromising on research.

In addition to air travel, commuting makes up a large proportion of the climate footprint associated with mobility. AAU aims to promote climate-friendly mobility, including a special focus on promoting and supporting bicycling and public transport to and from campus.

AAU is a physical university supported by virtual presence, and the university aims to explore the possibilities of digitalisation to reduce the climate footprint associated with mobility, taking into account the quality of teaching and research, the work and study environment, and to ensure that AAU can conduct research in an international environment.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Aalborg University will reduce the climate footprint per FTE from mobility by 50% by 2030 compared to 1990</b>			
<b>SUBGOALS</b>	Reduce the climate footprint per FTE from business travel by 45% by 2030 compared to 1990	Reduce the climate footprint per FTE from commuting by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990	Make AAU's own car fleet more climate-friendly	Explore the possibilities of digitalisation
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and adopt a business travel policy focused on reducing climate footprints without compromising core tasks or creating an uneven playing field for staff</li> <li>• Make it easy to choose climate-friendly modes of transport by breaking down existing barriers and exploring new incentive structures that promote climate-friendly business travel and commuting</li> <li>• Prepare commuter analyses to ensure an improved data basis for initiating relevant activities to support climate-friendly commuting</li> <li>• Initiate measures to reduce the number of cars owned by the university, increase the utilisation rate of the cars owned, and switch to cars using climate-friendly fuel</li> <li>• Identify digital opportunities to support measures that reduce the climate footprint associated with mobility</li> </ul>			



# CAMPUS



In 2022, buildings and their operation accounted for approx. 31% of the university's total climate footprint while in 1990 it accounted for approx. 81%. It is therefore the area with the largest reduction from 1990 until now. Emissions were reduced from 12.9 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per FTE to 0.9 in the period, corresponding to approx. 93%. The reduction is mainly due to the conversion to renewable energy sources in the Danish energy mix as well as energy efficiency.

The area covers direct emissions due to energy consumption, the climate footprint embedded in buildings, as well as emissions from ongoing operation and maintenance of buildings, outdoor areas, etc.

AAU wants a building stock that corresponds exactly to the university's needs and development. The building stock must be continuously adapted based on a holistic sustainable approach. When buildings are constructed or rebuilt/transformed, the climate footprint must be reduced to the extent possible. AAU would like to work

closely with the Danish Building and Property Agency on this. The work on mitigating the climate impact of the building stock must give due consideration to ensuring a good working and study environment as well as indoor climate.

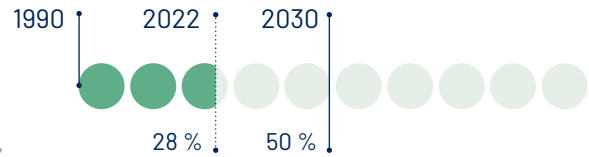
We have long initiated measures to reduce emissions associated with operations and generally develop more sustainable practices. For example, energy consumption per FTE has been steadily decreasing since 2006, and almost halved in 2022 compared to 2006, the year when AAU began systematically measuring energy consumption. In 2006, energy consumption per FTE was 3,844 KWh, compared with 1,996 KWh in 2022.

Based on research and innovation, AAU will demonstrate and implement opportunities to significantly reduce the climate footprint related to campus. This will be supported to the greatest extent possible through participation in living lab projects with the university's own researchers and students as well as external companies.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Aalborg University will reduce the climate footprint per FTE from campus by 98% by 2030 compared to 1990</b>			
<b>SUBGOALS</b>	Reduce energy consumption per FTE by at least 65% by 2030 compared to 2006	Reduce the climate footprint per FTE from building maintenance by 70% by 2030 compared to 1990	Optimise the use of buildings, rooms and laboratories across the organisation	Promote biodiversity and climate proofing in campus areas
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop guidelines and principles that support climate-friendly operations of the university, e.g. in sustainable construction, maintenance, energy optimisation and renovation</li> <li>• Analyses of building use with a view to optimising land use considering the study and working environment</li> <li>• Investigate the possibility of further development of a rent model in order to ensure an incentive structure that motivates the organisation to optimise the use of m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Develop a plan for promoting the green and blue environment on campus through efforts in biodiversity and climate protection in the immediate areas around the university's campuses to ensure a holistic approach to the campus area</li> </ul>			



# PROCUREMENT & CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Aalborg University purchases goods and services for approx. DKK 770 million per year which accounted for 38% of the university's total climate footprint in 2022 (approx. 21,936 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e). This is an increase from 1990 when procurement and circular economy accounted for approx. 10% of the total climate footprint (approx. 6,002 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e). However, from 1990 to 2022, CO<sub>2</sub>e per FTE was reduced approx. 28% from 1.6 tonnes to 1.1 tonnes.

University procurement covers the purchase of consultancy services, furniture and fixtures, web services, office supplies, IT equipment, laboratory equipment, etc. The university will shift purchasing behaviour at the university towards climate-friendly and sustainable goods and services. AAU will also influence the market by setting ambitious requirements and being part of purchasing communities that prioritise climate-friendly and circular procurement.

AAU will focus on a sustainable approach to procurement which will always be viewed in a larger context where climate and environmental considerations are balanced with social responsibility, economy and quality. Thus, AAU will increasingly focus on the total cost of procurement rather than just purchase price. This sustainable approach will be reflected in a new ambitious procurement policy as well as an increased focus on sustainable purchasing behaviour in the organisation.

To enable this, AAU will first and foremost reduce the number of new purchases by optimising the use of already purchased goods and increasing the focus on sharing schemes and flexible use. Next, the university will investigate the options for purchasing used goods, service schemes/repairs, as well as setting requirements for sustainable resources, circular economy, etc. in the tender process.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Aalborg University will reduce the climate footprint per FTE associated with procurement by 50% by 2030 compared to 1990 and influence the market in a more sustainable, climate-friendly and circular direction</b>			
<b>SUBGOALS</b>	Promote a holistic and sustainable approach to procurement and consumption	Make the climate-friendly and circular choice the first choice in procurement processes at the university	Optimise the use of existing goods, ensure longevity and promote the reuse and repair of university goods	Optimise and streamline deliveries of goods and the extent of packaging
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and adopt a procurement policy with a focus on reducing climate footprints, while at the same time incorporating circular economy (requirements for longevity, recycling, services, etc.) and social responsibility in a total economic perspective on purchasing and consumption</li> <li>• Engage in strategic collaborations for ambitious joint procurement across public organisations and enter into dialogue with the market</li> <li>• Develop principles, guidelines and tools for climate-friendly procurement and consumption and thus make it easy to choose the climate-friendly and circular solution when new needs arise in the organisation</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to extend the life of existing products at AAU</li> <li>• Reduce single-use packaging and increase focus on reusable packaging in deliveries to the university</li> </ul>			



# WASTE RESOURCES

At Aalborg University, waste is seen as a resource – a valuable resource that the university treats properly. Every year, AAU produces approx. 20-25 kg of waste per FTE at the university. Waste resources comprise a minimal climate footprint as a large part of AAU's waste is recycled, which avoids the production of new raw materials. If resources can be of value to AAU, these are included under the action area PROCUREMENT & CIRCULAR ECONOMY, while WASTE RESOURCES covers the resources that no longer have value for AAU. However, these resources may be of value to others, and therefore AAU will always strive to manage waste resources based on the EU's waste hierarchy:

- Prevention
- Preparing for recycling
- Recycling
- Other recovery (e.g. incineration with energy recovery)
- Disposal

In terms of prevention, AAU aims to reduce the amount of waste and ensure a long service life of goods (cf. PROCUREMENT & CIRCULAR ECONOMY). Next, AAU will focus its efforts on the possibility of reusing goods and materials externally. Finally, the university will ensure clean fractions to achieve high real recycling through easily accessible sorting supported by sorting guidelines.

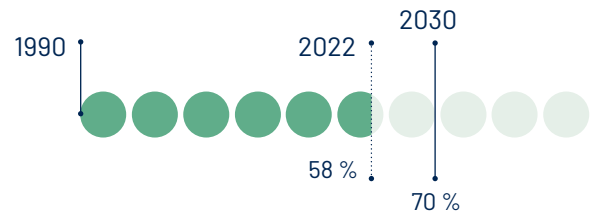
Today, users at AAU have access to nine waste fractions. Everyone has access to sorting in four fractions near their study or workplace: plastic, paper, bio- and food waste as well as residual waste while the remaining fractions are available in special waste rooms where cardboard, metal, glass, Styrofoam and hazardous waste can be sorted. Some research environments have special waste fractions that are handled separately, such as construction waste, special plastic and medical waste, etc.

When AAU introduced a new waste sorting system in 2021, it was decided to use 2022 as the baseline for subgoals in this action area as this provides a comparable data basis.

GOAL	Aalborg University will reduce the amount of waste, increase reuse and real recycling			
SUBGOALS	Reduce the total amount of waste by 30% by 2030 compared to 2022, with a special focus on reducing residual waste	Increase real recycling, and by 2030 recycle at least 60% of the university's waste	Make it easy for all university users to sort waste	Phase out single-use packaging, tableware and other single-use products
PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the amount of waste through, for example, increased focus on prevention, internal and external reuse of products and materials, the possibility of simulation before physical tests, etc.</li> <li>• Improve data collection through close cooperation with waste recipients to ensure documentation of effective recycling and treatment of waste resources</li> <li>• Improve sorting practices and make waste sorting easily accessible to all university users (students, staff and guests)</li> <li>• Develop an action plan for phasing out single-use products at AAU involving staff, students and external partners</li> </ul>			



# FOOD & BEVERAGE



The action area covers the purchase of the daily consumption of coffee, tea, fruit, etc., catering for meetings and meals sold in AAU canteens. The area accounted for approximately 1% of AAU's total CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in both 1990 and 2022. However, there was a reduction per FTE of approximately 58% from 1990 to 2022. Even though this action area has a small climate footprint of approx. 1%, it is also important to make a climate difference here.

Aalborg University has a total of seven canteens, spread over seven addresses in Aalborg East (4), Aalborg City (1), Esbjerg (1) and Copenhagen (1), as well as a separate Foodhub in AAU INNOVATE. The seven canteens are operated by the same supplier who is responsible for the operation of the canteens as well as catering for events

(Friday bars, Christmas lunches, events, etc.) and various meetings.

An important focus area in Food & Beverage is climate-hostile food. In collaboration with the canteen supplier, AAU will therefore focus on tasty green dishes, reduce the amount of meat and replace climate-hostile types of meat with more climate-friendly alternatives.

Food waste is an important focus area, and in 2022, AAU's canteens generated approx. 26 tonnes of food waste. Therefore, AAU – in collaboration with canteen suppliers – will reduce the amount of food waste in general, but with a special focus on food waste from discarded food as this constitutes the largest amount of food waste from canteens (approx. 2/3).

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Aalborg University will reduce the climate footprint per FTE from food and drink by 70% by 2030 compared to 1990 and promote climate-friendly food behaviour at the university</b>			
<b>SUBGOALS</b>	Phase out climate-hostile foods and replace with climate-friendly foods	Reduce the amount of food waste from canteens by 50% by 2030 compared to 2022	Make the climate-friendly food choice easy in canteens as well as for meetings and events	Phase out disposable tableware in canteens, meeting catering and events
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The food and meal policy must be adapted and updated in accordance with the latest knowledge and existing needs in support of healthy, climate-friendly meals at AAU</li> <li>• Reduce the use of beef in the canteen, and explore climate-friendly alternatives (lighter meat, fish products and plant-based food) while considering the climate footprint of all foods used, animal and non-animal</li> <li>• Collaborate with canteen supplier on reducing food waste</li> <li>• Develop guidelines and ensure that ordering systems for meeting catering and events support the climate-friendly meal becoming the easy choice</li> <li>• Collaborate with canteen supplier on phasing out disposable tableware in canteen operations, events and meeting catering</li> </ul>			



# INVESTMENT

Through our investment policy, Aalborg University ensures a favourable framework for the university's placement of liquidity and investment of surplus liquidity. The purpose is to ensure financially sound management of funds and ensure that the investments have a positive climate impact. The policy sets requirements for elected asset managers to make sustainable and climate-neutral investments.

The climate footprint of investments, calculated as the climate footprint of the transaction costs associated with investments, amounted to <1% of AAU's total climate footprint in 2022. However, the area has great potential for a positive impact through climate-friendly and sustainable investments.

AAU will ensure a green investment profile, including focusing on large-scale investments in securities aimed at the green transition, the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the like. Our investment profile supports the transition to sustainable energy sources and generally excludes investments in fossil fuel companies.

GOAL	Aalborg University will work for sustainable and climate-friendly investments	
SUBGOALS	The requirements of the investment policy are continuously tightened	AAU's asset managers have a clear and ambitious climate strategy
PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate considerations are given high priority when the investment policy is revised</li> </ul>	

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