

Abstract



Leif Pedersen

Organisation : Green Cities

Short description:

An environmental partnership for municipalities and the environment. Seven Danish municipalities are members, covering more than 15 % of the Danish population. The members have agreed on a cooperation commitment which includes 10 sustainability areas and 16 common goals

Presentation title: Seven Danish municipalities in one partnership.

Executive Summary of your Abstract:

The Danish municipal partnership "Green Cities" is introduced. The experience of cooperation with the Danish government on sustainable development is highlighted. Some cases of international activities are presented.

Abstract:

Ten years ago three Danish municipalities established the partnership "Green Cities". Today the partnership includes seven municipalities and additional two municipalities as observers. The members are frontrunners and work seriously with sustainable development. In the beginning the members developed their common platform for cooperation. From 2005 – 2007 Green Cities carried out a development project with support from the EU Life programme. The project provided a good basis for developing the cooperation and the Green Cities framework was set up in a common agreement, which includes 10 sustainability areas and 16 common benchmarks for how to fulfil the goals.

In Denmark the important government players concerning sustainable development are the national government and the local governments (municipalities). The national government implements EU-directives, decides national regulations, and decides the economic frames for the municipalities. Most of the national regulations are implemented by the municipalities, which to some extent also have some liberty.

The partnership has had a strong influence in showing "best practice" on different topics. By showing how to work with sustainable development, the partnership has inspired citizens and other governing bodies. The government's acknowledgement of Green Cities was illustrated when the former Minister for Climate and Energy appointed 4 of the Green Cities as EcoCities in 2008 and 2009. Both the Danish Minister for Environment and the Minister for Transport have participated in Green Cities arrangements during 2009.

Green Cities tries in various ways to cooperate with different levels of government:

- Green Cities puts out an annual political statement
- Green Cities comments on hearings from ministries
- Green Cities works for establishment of partnerships between ministerial and municipal level within different sectors.

But there are some limits for political activities. One of the limits is due to the municipalities having different political compositions.

At the moment Green Cities is applying for two different EU projects. One project will demonstrate new ways of cooperation on climate issues between government and private enterprises. The purpose of the second project is to develop a TOOL-kit to convince a number of "hard to reach" target groups to act in an energy efficient way.

The political steering group for Green Cities has ambitions to expand the cooperation. The next months the partners will draw up a strategy to meet these ambitions.

Resumé: Leif Pedersen is chairman of Green Cities. Leif Pedersen is chairman of the Environmental Committee in the Municipality of Albertslund. Leif Pedersen is member of the Socialist People's Party in Denmark

Recommended reading: www.greencities.dk