

# Our Copenhagen

Vision for the technical and environmental area  
of the City of Copenhagen



# Our Copenhagen

Copenhagen is one of the world's best cities to live in, and it should remain so in the future. Therefore, we will use the current challenges and opportunities to create the future city for 2035. A city where high quality of life goes hand in hand with innovative urban development. Copenhagen is known for its bike lanes and bathing in the harbour, and in the future, we should also be known as a climate-friendly, green, and inclusive city.

The world is changing rapidly these years. Our demographics, climate, and the demands on the city are changing. The Technical and Environmental Committee wants this vision to bring Copenhagen to the forefront of development and take responsibility to ensure that Copenhagen continues to be the world's best city to live in. We will future-proof the city, and we will do it based on the everyday life of the people of Copenhagen. Copenhagen is and should be a city for people. It is about ensuring the best conditions for biking, swimming in the harbour, community in the streets, and playing in green areas – the everyday life and the pulse of Copenhagen.

**But how do we handle the increasing pressure on the city's spaces, to accommodate more opportunities for more people? How do we protect ourselves against future extreme weather conditions and how do we live a climate-friendly urban life? How do we ensure cohesion, community, and proximity in the city? And how do we collaborate in new ways and with more people on the development of Copenhagen?**

We see these critical challenges as opportunities in the coming years that we must handle with creativity, new priorities, and new collaborations. With this vision, we outline a long-term direction that ties this work together. Central to this is our commitment to preserve and improve the city as the best place to live for the people of Copenhagen.

gen. We are committed to a city that inspires and shows other cities the way to a meaningful and climate-friendly urban life. At the same time, the development of the city must take place in an even broader and closer collaboration which includes more people to take responsibility for the city.

This vision serves as a lighthouse for directing our future plans, policies, and strategies in the area of technical and environmental affairs and ensures that each decision and action brings us closer to the realization of our ambitious vision.

Not everything is included in this vision – some of the important work of the Technical and Environmental Administration is not mentioned even though it is crucial for the operation, maintenance, and development of the city.

Please enjoy reading our vision for Copenhagen: A Copenhagen that is the world's best city of everyday life to the people of Copenhagen. And a Copenhagen that sets new standards as to how we tackle the complex challenges of our time.

Sincerely,

**The City of Copenhagen's Technical and Environmental Committee.**

# Space for Urban Life

In the future, we will see an increase in the number of Copenhageners, but the city will not expand further before 2035. Simultaneously, demographic changes will entail population growth primarily in terms of more elders, singles, foreigners, and children. We will also need to live in smaller spaces, and as a result, urban spaces must be more versatile. This change requires the development of urban spaces that must complement each other and meet multiple needs. We need to work on both the multifunctionality and diversity of urban spaces.

Copenhageners are expecting more from the scarce resources of the city's parks, squares, courtyards, harbour areas and roads. It will not only be necessary to prioritize space but also the needs and wishes regarding our urban spaces. These spaces should, to varying degrees, include greenery, opportunities for recreation, movement, green transportation methods, waste solutions, and much more. Urban spaces should support the everyday life of Copenhageners and the living urban city.

## Copenhagen 2035 – what we dream of

Small urban gardens with insect life. Exciting playgrounds integrated with climate adaptation. Spaces offering peace amid the urban hustle. A city that allows space for movement, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists.

In 2035, Copenhagen consists of green, inspiring urban spaces that emerge and evolve in the living laboratory of the city.

These urban spaces support the communities and everyday life of Copenhageners. They are carefully developed with respect for the distinctive features of each neighbourhood, and where it will be easy to navigate in the city using green and sustainable transportation methods.

## Therefore, we will prioritize

— Ensuring that all Copenhageners have access to a green urban space in their neighbourhood, and that all neighbourhoods have large as well as small green areas.

— Further developing the city's spaces with a primary focus on the everyday life of Copenhageners, ensuring that urban spaces serve different purposes and complement each other, meaning that not all the same needs will be met in all urban spaces.

— Promoting green and sustainable transportation between urban spaces, prioritizing the most space-efficient modes of transportation.

— Strengthening mobility and cohesion in both old and new urban areas, in the city as a whole while designing the city without compromising on recreational spaces.



# Climate-friendly Everyday Life

With the climate crisis, there is a need to future-proof Copenhagen as well as to reduce the carbon footprint of its residents, creating a city that will continue to provide a high quality of life for Copenhageners in the future.

Climate challenges have already transformed the city and will continue to leave their physical mark. Measures have been taken such as cloudburst protection, storm surge defences, attending to urban heat islands, and increased electrification in the city. This means more trees on the street, green spaces, as well as new facilities for heat pumps and the installation of solar panels. As construction emits a significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, a growing city like ours needs to address not only architecture, material choices, fossil-free machinery etc., but also how we can preserve or transform as many of the city's buildings as possible.

In Copenhagen, we will not wait for the climate crisis to dictate how we live our lives. We aim to lead a green transition that involves citizen behaviour, climate adaptation in the city, and is supported by green industries. Copenhagen has a special prerequisite and a special responsibility as a global metropolis to lead in this development.

## Copenhagen 2035 – what we dream of

Copenhageners see a climate-friendly everyday life as natural and valuable.

In 2035, the world looks to Copenhagen for inspiration in urban living, where Copenhageners enjoy a high quality of life with the least possible amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Urban development in Copenhagen always considers climate and biodiversity, when building new structures and when rethinking existing buildings and spaces.

## Therefore, we will prioritize

— Developing and rethinking the city with a focus on climate adaptation, so that when extreme weather conditions occur, they have the least possible impact on the everyday life of Copenhageners.

— Preserving the city's existing buildings as a primary choice, and when new construction is necessary, using reusable or climate-friendly materials with a focus on long-term durability.

— Setting ambitious climate standards for the City of Copenhagen itself, Copenhageners, and our partners, choosing climate-friendly solutions in operations, construction, and planning, even if it involves higher initial costs.

— Ensuring that the green choice is always the easy choice and providing options for more climate-friendly behaviour for Copenhageners, businesses, stakeholders, and visitors.

# A City for Everyone

Copenhagen is growing, the population composition is changing, and so is our work and shopping life. Therefore, the life we lead in the city – and the way we live it – will be different in the future. Consequently, we face choices about how we best can support the development, life, and communities in our local neighbourhoods.

A mixed city is a diverse and inclusive city. In addition to ensuring that Copenhagen has a balanced mix of housing and businesses in terms of ownership, types, and sizes, we must ensure opportunities and communities for all Copenhageners – regardless of who they are, where they live, and what they earn. All Copenhageners should have access to the city's opportunities and offerings regardless of their physical abilities.

We can create social and climate balance if Copenhageners have shops, workplaces, schools, green spaces, etc., within a short cycling or walking distance (e.g., 5 minutes). With everyday and cultural facilities within reach, we can reduce the need for long commutes and car travel.

## Copenhagen 2035 – what we dream of

Copenhagen is a diverse city with strong cohesion, as we are neighbours regardless of who we are and what we earn.

In 2035, Copenhageners live in vibrant and diverse local environments where they are just a short bike ride or walk away from shopping, school, nature, cultural offerings, sports facilities, etc.

Here, students, seniors, and families with children live side by side, and they can remain in the city throughout all stages of life.

## Therefore, we will prioritize

— Ensuring a good balance of housing for different stages of life, living arrangements, family structures, and incomes in all neighbourhoods.

— Creating local environments, communities, and natural meeting places for all Copenhageners.

— Distributing functions and qualities in the city more evenly between neighbourhoods, so all Copenhageners have access to essential daily functions within a short distance from their residence, whether on foot or by bike.

— Continuously securing space for a varied and local business life that can contribute to bringing life to local areas and enhance the unique character of the area.

# Collaboration for the City

Copenhageners do not only desire a city that functions but also a city that continually adapts and evolves – a city that inspires us. And more so they wish for this to happen through collaboration between the City of Copenhagen, businesses, civil society, citizens, and other stakeholders. However, this requires the participation of many people.

Copenhagen is shaped by communities, and it is within communities that we create the city's development. By collaborating and co-creating, we have unique opportunities to shape a city that reflects the diversity of Copenhageners. Furthermore, broad collaborations with various stakeholders can help address some of the complex and wild challenges that metropolises face in the future.

Copenhageners' expectations of the City are also constantly evolving. In the future, the City's role as an authority will transform into that of a facilitating operator for co-creation. We must leverage the new possibilities afforded by technology and data to collaborate in new ways with citizens and businesses. This could be relations to engagement in city planning and innovative ways to convey and display city-data.

## Copenhagen 2035 – what we dream of

The City of Copenhagen is perceived as a service-oriented, facilitating, and inviting collaborative partner. It is natural for Copenhageners and relevant stakeholders to engage in and take responsibility for the city's development, and it is easy and attractive to do so.

In 2035, the development of Copenhagen will occur in close and committed collaboration between Copenhageners, businesses, relevant stakeholders, and the City of Copenhagen.

The city and the collaboration we have are based on data, creating new opportunities for targeted and tailored solutions.

## Therefore, we will prioritize

— Making it easy and attractive to engage and have an impact on the city's development while seeking new ways to ensure broad representation and democratic processes in city development.

— Ensuring that interactions with the City of Copenhagen are perceived as service-oriented, facilitating, and inviting, which will motivate greater co-creation between Copenhageners, businesses, and the City of Copenhagen.

— Providing space to experiment with different forms of collaboration and projects, recognizing that experiments that do not succeed are a prerequisite for a developing and vibrant city.

— Respecting the privacy of Copenhageners while utilizing the opportunities that technology and data offer us in developing the city.

# How do these ambitions become a reality?

How do these ambitions become a reality? We will ensure that the vision comes to life by realizing it through the plans, policies, and strategies that we continuously work on in the Technical and Environmental Committee. Simultaneously, it must also happen through the daily work of the administration.

Additionally, we will discuss the vision every two years to assess progress. During these reviews, we will also examine how the current plans, policies, and strategies support the vision and whether adjustments or additions are needed.

Achieving the vision is a collective task that needs to be undertaken collaboratively across the Technical and Environmental Administration and in collaboration with Copenhageners.