



# New climate strategy for organic farming

***Today, organic farming provides significant benefits for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. But organic farmers also see new solutions and challenges. Organic Denmark's Climate Strategy(attached) will boost organic farmers' contribution to reducing climate change while creating new benefits for nature, energy, health and soil fertility.***

Agriculture contributes 17-32 percent of greenhouse emissions worldwide. Organic farmers have set a goal of making agriculture a part of the solution to climate change instead of a part of the problem. In Denmark, organic farmers are trying to create the world's most climate friendly agriculture. There are many challenges.

- The serious changes to our climate demand that we take action now. Organic farming is a powerful tool for the climate, but we have only begun to realize its potential. In our Climate Strategy we have built upon the many strengths in organic farming —lower energy use, better nutrient management, and motivated farmers—with the goal of leading fight for a better climate, says Michael Tersbøl, development manager at Organic Denmark.

## **Significant climate benefits from organic farming**

Research shows that organic farmers have a lower energy use and a massive potential for sequestering the air's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the soil. Organic farms also have lower emission of greenhouse gases per hectare, because of organic farmers focus on soil fertility and nutrient management. Benefits per kg food produced are smaller, because organic farmers have a lower yield per hectare.

## **35 initiatives for the climate**

The Strategy has 35 initiatives aimed at nine explicit goals:

1. Total phaseout of fossil fuels by 2025 – 2. Significant reduction in energy use – 3. Production of renewable energy – 4. Enhanced carbon sequestration – 5. More nature – 6. Organic biogas solutions– 7. A green diet – 8. Less nitrate leaching – 9. Increased soil fertility.

Among the actions are a commitment to production and purchasing of energy from wind, solar and biogas sources; improvements in yields; better crop rotations and more nature to sequester carbon in the soil; better nutrient management and reduced meat consumption in order to reduce methane and nitrous oxide releases.

## **Eight political demands**

The Danish strategy also calls on politicians at the national and EU level to pave the way for more climate friendly agriculture through: higher prices and easier startup for renewable energy sources, exemption of renewable energy from energy fees, recycling of nutrients from food and natural wastes back to the farms; support for organic biogas and for work with climate action plans for the individual organic farms.

## **For more information:**

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