

LEARNINGS FROM THE DANISH CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS
ON THE ROAD TO 70% GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION

Climate Partnership

Playbook

How to engage
the private sector in
climate action plans

The Danish
Government's
Climate Partnerships



STATE
OF
GREEN

Phase

01

Step

1
Set an
ambitious
national goal

2
Scope
the project

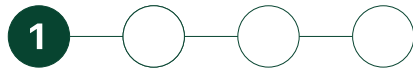
3
Map sectors
and industries

4
Involve
the private
sector

Phase

O1

Step



Set an ambitious national goal

Governments need to define a clear and ambitious climate goal to succeed with climate partnerships. The goal needs to be established and communicated prior to the initiation of the partnerships.

What to do

The politically decided climate goal must clearly specify what the country should achieve within a specific timeframe.

Genuine political motivation to move the country or region in a greener direction as well as a sense of urgency to secure buy-in and commitment from the private sector is needed. The government should articulate a compelling narrative of why it is imperative to act now and clearly state the benefits of working with public-private partnerships. An overall vision for the country's green transition as a starting point for establishing and working with the climate partnerships should be clearly communicated.

! Potential issues

- Lack of genuine political commitment to follow up on the recommendations from the partnerships means the private sector will hesitate to allocate necessary resources.
- Uncertainty about the expected workload, outcomes, and subsequent political interest can deter private sector commitment.

✓ Action points

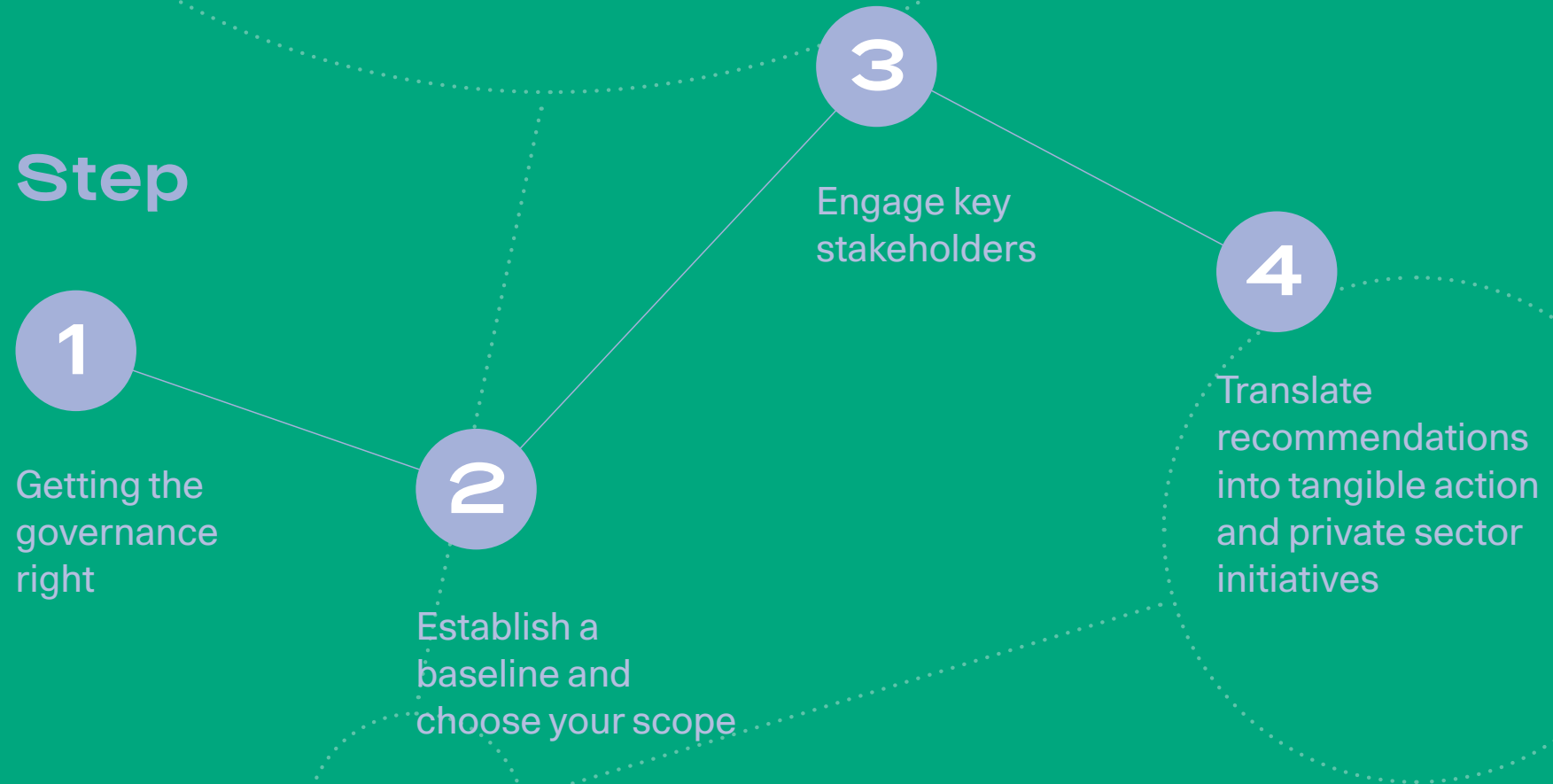
- Set an ambitious – yet feasible – national climate goal that you want to engage the private sector in achieving.
- Garner broad political support to ensure the goal prevails regardless of political change. This gives the private sector a stable investment outlook and political framework they can rely on to inform their recommendations.
- Ensure that short-term goals contribute to fulfilling long-term goals (e.g., CO₂e-neutrality).

Fact: In December 2019, the Danish parliament set a binding target of reducing the country's CO₂e emissions by 70% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) without knowing how to fully reach this goal. The relatively short time frame – combined with the high level of ambition – created a sense of urgency to act.

Phase

02

Step



PHASE 02

Phase

02

Step



Getting the governance right

At this stage, the primary trade association, and the chairperson of the climate partnership, need to establish good project governance. Questions such as **who** needs to be involved, **what** are our main tasks and roles, and **how** do we get the best outcome, should be addressed. This enables the climate partnerships to deliver on requirements and creates a forum to resolve issues in a timely manner.

What to do

Establish a strong secretariat

The appointed trade association plays a significant role in the climate partnerships. The secretariat runs the project, possess key industry knowledge, feeds in relevant inputs, and gathers knowledge from stakeholders. Clarity on who has ownership of which tasks, division of roles, and relevant contacts in ministries, agencies, etc. should be established before the work begins.

Ensure a strong chairmanship

A strong chairmanship can support the success of the individual partnership. Someone who commits to meetings and represents the partnership as an ambassador for the sector and recommendations, including representing the partnership in public debates. In Denmark, some of the partnerships operated with co-chairpersons selected by the chairperson, while in others, it was anchored around one person. Most importantly, the chairperson engages actively with resources and commitment to manage the diverse interests.

Involve key stakeholders

The partners that engage in the partnership have their own interests at heart. It is important to ensure broad-based climate partnerships, representing the entire value chain, where all relevant parties buy into the premise and can have a say. Both the chairmanship and partners should meet regularly to ensure progress.

! Potential issues

- The chairperson and secretariat should be prepared for a substantial workload during the process.
- The secretariat and chairperson will face challenges in balancing the diverse interests of the stakeholders.
- There may be a need to engage external consultants to gather new data, make calculations or facilitate the process. These all come at a cost and should be taken into consideration before the process is initiated.

Phase

03

Step

1
Receive recommendations and integrate them into climate action plans

2
Establish a mechanism for continued dialogue

3
Maintain ongoing collaboration

PHASE 03

Phase

03

Step



Receive recommendations and integrate them into climate action plans

Final recommendations from each of the climate partnerships must be delivered in accordance with the terms of reference and mandate given to the partnerships. It is important that the government acknowledges the hard work by assessing each recommendation thoroughly.

What to do

The government and regulatory authorities should incorporate relevant recommendations into political negotiations, initiatives, and regulatory frameworks.

The recommendations and objectives could be detailed in sector roadmaps, which operationalise and outline the path towards the climate goal. It is essential that the recommendations are translated into political decisions that create a favourable framework for a green transition. It is also important the authorities implement political decisions in close dialogue with the sectors while momentum still exists.

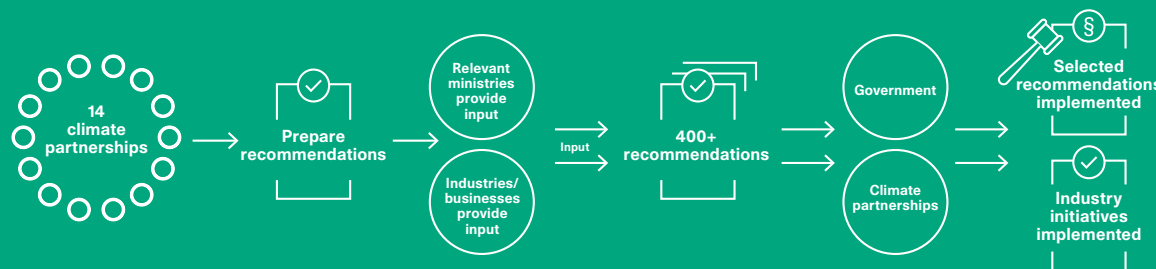
! Potential issues

- The greatest risk is that concrete recommendations from the private sector are neither implemented, activated, or even evaluated.
- The climate partnerships are not acknowledged sufficiently for their hard work.

✓ Action points

- Set the stage: Engage the press and maximise the exposure of each climate partnership's recommendations and communications efforts.
- Meetings, forums, and sessions should be established between a climate partnership and their relevant line of authority or ministry to deliver the recommendations.
- Develop long-term climate action plans, clarifying immediate actions based on the recommendations from the private sector. Implement changes to policymaking and public procurement accordingly.

A simplified model showing the process from initiation to implementation



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How to get started

This playbook provides insights into Denmark's learnings from the Climate Partnerships. Acknowledging that one size does not fit all, the playbook mostly serves as inspiration rather than a recipe for success. We have gathered valuable resources and insights for both the public and private sector to kickstart your own journey.

Access them here:

climatepartnerships2030.com

