

Land

- *Strategic urban planning approaches aimed at managing urban growth, limiting urban sprawl and reducing the number of people living in poverty in urban and rural areas.*

In 2004, the Danish Planning Act was amended as part of a reform of local government structure. The changes gave the popularly elected municipal councils the key role in spatial planning in Denmark. The municipal councils got the task of preparing a coherent and coordinated plan for land use in both urban and rural zones. The municipal councils thus assumed responsibility for most of the planning tasks previously managed by regional planning authorities.

Through the amendments municipal councils have improved opportunities to establish objectives for development in the entire municipality and thereby ensuring coherence in planning and an appropriate balance between development in cities and towns while protecting the qualities of the countryside.

The 2006 National Planning Report describes the principles to be adhered to in the planning. In the National Planning Report the government states that urban development must be managed and that undesired urban sprawl should be avoided. Open landscapes, natural features and attractive townscapes are decisive for Denmark's potential to ensure good living conditions in Denmark and to attract companies, employees and tourists in the future.

Further, access to nature and tranquil landscapes near cities are important for most of Denmark's population. Thus developed areas should be relatively densely built so that other areas can remain as unspoiled nature/landscapes.

Concerning the Copenhagen Metropolitan area, a national planning directive from 2007 ensures clear demarcation between urban and rural zones. Converting rural and green wedges between and around the urban areas into urban zones is prohibited.