

# Climate Adaptation, CO2 Reduction and More Nature in Rural Areas and New Roles and Challenges for Traditional Landconsolidation

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## SUMMARY

Land consolidation - the instrument and process in Denmark continues to develop. It takes place in interaction with society's modern requirements for future land use in the countryside. A new holistic concept for land consolidation is developed these years and innovation and development projects under the heading "Multifunctional and free land distribution" are being implemented. Land consolidation in Denmark is a voluntary project, where the participating landowners gain benefits and improvements in their own situation by participating.

This new concept of multifunctional land consolidation means that the individual municipalities will play a more active role. It means developing local landscape strategies based on municipal land use planning and by involving the general local public to develop ideas and initiatives for change in land use.

The new challenge is to implement multifunctional land distribution mainly through the purchase and sale of land, which combines agricultural production with, among other things, agricultural land, biodiversity, greenhouse gas reduction, climate change adaptation, ammonia challenge, nitrogen reduction, outdoor life, and rural development.

The innovation has started by allowing municipalities and landowners to apply for state funds to have land consolidation and associated purchase/sale of replacement land at no cost to the participants. It's called 'free land distribution' - as opposed to targeted land distribution with narrow project purposes.

Organizationally, a multifunctional land distribution fund has been set up in the Ministry of the Environment and Food and this fund will manage the climate plan's allocated funds for

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multifunctional land distribution projects. In order to receive support for the implementation of multifunctional land distribution, the multifunctional project must support at least 3 of the following EU Directive interests and at least one of the national interests:

National interests which are in the nature of directive obligations under the EU burden-sharing

agreement: 1) clean aquatic environment in lakes and streams, 2) protection of groundwater catchment inland to secure urban drinking water supply and 3) securing or expansion of Natura 2000 areas and 4) climagasreduction

National interests with high priority area 5) Climate adaptation, 6) nature and biodiversity, 7) afforestation, 8) development of organic agriculture. Other national interests are 9) outdoor recreation (including improved access), 10) rural development, and the "driver" of the land distribution work, which is the improved arrangement of agricultural properties.

Experiences and results from the innovation period will influence an incoming land reform in Denmark.

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