

# Climate vocational education and training (VET) institutions

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 DENMARK

## Timeline

2023 Approved/Agreed

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 46028

## Background

Skilled professionals with the right competencies are essential for achieving the ambitious goals of the green transition.

The green transition relies on a workforce equipped with specialised skills, and VET must provide students with high quality education with particular emphasis on technological skills to meet the green transition demands.

As the green transition generates numerous job opportunities for skilled workers, vocational schools face new challenges as the need for updated machinery, professional development of teachers, and training in emerging green technologies.

## Objectives

The climate vocational education and training (VET) schools in Denmark aim to make sure that VET institutions and students are leading the way for the country's green transition. These schools will:

- (a) train skilled workers with the knowledge and abilities needed for key areas like transforming the energy sector, green transportation, climate-friendly farming, and sustainable construction;
- (b) serve as hubs for sharing new ideas and practices with all other VET schools in Denmark.

## Description

To address the need for skilled professionals with the right competencies for the green transition, three climate VET institutions have been appointed to be key drivers of the green transformation across all vocational schools. These schools will train students to become skilled workers with the knowledge and abilities needed for key areas like transforming the energy sector, green transportation, climate-friendly farming, and sustainable construction. The three climate-focused VET institutions are designed to provide ambitious students with pathways to sustainable, dynamic careers in industries undergoing rapid development.

The Danish government has allocated approximately EUR 14 million (DKK 105 million) annually from 2024 to 2028, and around EUR 4 million (30 million DKK) annually after that, for the continuing establishment and operation of three specialised climate VET institutions. The funding supports the development of modern facilities, advanced technology, and teacher training to equip students with the skills required for future green jobs. These schools serve as innovation hubs, sharing knowledge across the VET system to help Denmark meet sustainability and green technology goals.

The three climate VET institutions specialise in different key areas:

Rybners (Esbjerg, Jutland) – Rybners specialises in the transformation of the energy sector, focusing on technologies like wind energy, heat pumps, and solar power. It will develop advanced training programmes for teachers and share knowledge across VET institutions to meet the needs of the energy industry.

Herningsholm vocational college and upper secondary school (Herning, Jutland) – Specialising in climate-friendly agriculture and sustainable construction, Herningsholm focusses on 3D printing, recycled materials, and reducing waste in construction. In agriculture, it emphasises precision farming, automation, and regenerative practices to enhance sustainability. The school is building a new sustainable agricultural campus to support these initiatives.

Technical Education Copenhagen (TEC) (Greater Copenhagen) – TEC focusses on green transport and offers training programmes for electric vehicle technicians, logistics operators, and mechanics. It recently launched the Centre for Transport Technology, Denmark’s first hub for green transport innovation. TEC will expand its role as a testing and development centre, working with industry partners to train students for the future of green transportation.

In the future, students from other schools will also be able to join courses offered by these climate-focused schools, either at their school or at one of the climate VET schools.

### **2023 Approved/Agreed**

The funds for the climate VET schools were allocated as part of the Finance Act for 2023, with approximately EUR 14 million (DKK 100 million) set aside annually from 2023 to 2028 and around EUR 4 million (DKK 30 million) annually from 2029 onwards. The funds for 2023 were distributed as a one-year special grant.

### **2024 Implementation**

The government nominated the three new climate VET schools in September 2024. The funds, which are included in the Finance Act 2024 and were previously allocated as special grants, will be distributed from 2024 onwards to further establish the three climate VET schools.

### **2025 Implementation**

In 2025, the three designated climate vocational schools were still in the process of establishing themselves, e.g., setting up advisory boards, purchasing equipment, and developing new partnerships between schools and a wide range of external stakeholders. Some initiatives at the schools started being implemented.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of Children and Education

## **Target group**

**Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### **Education professionals**

Teachers

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Modernising VET infrastructure**

Making VET institutions sustainable and green

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes

### **Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences**

Supporting teachers and trainers for green transition and sustainability

## **European priorities in VET**

### **VET Recommendation**

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

### **Osnabrück Declaration**

Sustainability - a green link in VET

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## **Further reading**

[Ministry of Children and Education. \(2024, September 16\). Government appoints three new climate VET schools\[press release\]](#)

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[Overview of the distribution of funds between the three climate VET schools \(in Danish\)](#)

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[Ministry of Children and Education. \(2023, November 24\). The government allocates DKK 100 million \(approximately EUR 13.4 million\) to VET to support the green transition\[press release\]](#)

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[VET climate schools](#)

## **Related policy developments**

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## 2025 Implementation

### A substantial reinforcement of VET

The agreement contains 31 initiatives that have the purpose of improving Danish VET. Many of the initiatives included in the agreement are linked to other agreements within the VET area.

 DENMARK

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET

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## 2025 Implementation

### More skilled workers for the green transition

The *Prepared for the future IV - more skilled workers for the green transition* agreement is a component of a holistic education reform plan encompassing various education levels.

 DENMARK

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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## 2025 Implementation

### Education efforts for green transition

The initiative supports:

 DENMARK

**Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Climate vocational education and training (VET) institutions: Denmark. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of*

*VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/46028>