

Climate Adaption

A project on rainwater management in Risvangen, Aarhus Municipality prepares the area for future cloudbursts while simultaneously decreasing CO₂-emissions and water pollution. A new approach to climate adaptation in the residential area of Risvangen in Aarhus municipality ensures dry cellars, improved recreational areas as well as reduced CO₂-emissions.



Source: Aarhus Vand

The municipality chose Risvangen as demo site for alternative solutions for the separation of rain- and wastewater, as surplus water is the biggest climate-related issue in the area. The project resulted in a patchwork of solutions which makes excessive amounts of rainwater get delayed, evaporate, reused and/or divert in a speed that a small forest creek in the nearby neighbourhood of Risskov can cope with.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The about 1.000 citizens of the area were included in the process from the start, when they got invited to a stroll around 14 selected demo-gardens. Consequently, more than half of the homeowners accepted the offer to receive counselling from a sewer contractor. Based on the individual and well-founded expertise they received, they could decide whether their homes should be attached to the water drainage system or they alternatively would prefer to construct minor water management systems in their garden.

RECREATIVE AREAS

The project proved that climate adaptation can have positive side effects and create added value for the citizens in the shape of recreative areas. In this case, a cloudburst basin can most of the time – when not flooded – be used as a soccer lane.

CO₂-REDUCTION

The separation of rain- and wastewater also prevents CO₂-emissions, since parts of the water no longer require treatment in the biological sewage plant. This leads to an overall reduction of 3,2 tons CO₂ annually.

FACTS:

- Separation of rain- and wastewater contributes to a reduction of nitrogen by 85% and phosphorous by 70%, ensuring safe bathing water at the city's beaches.
- Rainwater solutions above the surface are cheaper and can add to an area's environmental and recreative value.
- The project has secured an area of 63.200 m² from extensive flooding.

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