

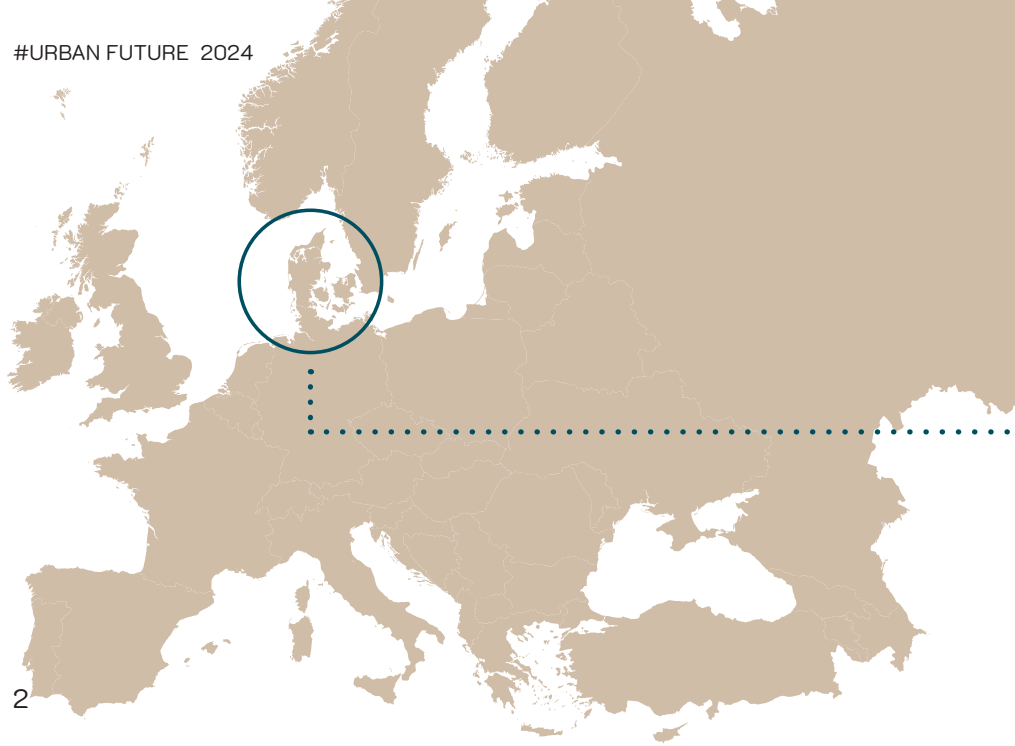
# RESILIENT VEJLE

SELECTED PROJECTS

RESILIENCE



#URBAN FUTURE 2024





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## Resilience 2.0 – new political vision

### **We support each other**

Communities are the core of a good life. That is why we work to form relationships and a strong sense of citizenship. We have a shared responsibility for our health and well-being. We facilitate new roles between citizens and the municipality and strengthen inclusiveness and diversity.

### **We give back more than we take**

We want to live in balance. That is why we care for our climate in everything we do. Putting nature first, we develop, grow, create jobs, working lives and leisure that are sustainable and resilient. Long-term growth goes hand in hand with quality of life.

### **We shape the future with courage**

Vejle is Denmark's fifth largest municipality. It compels us. It creates opportunities. Therefore, we make space for wild ideas and new collaborations. We strengthen the future of Vejle municipality with innovation, technology, and education.

# Facilitating change – exploring future society and citizenship

We facilitate new roles between citizens and the municipality. We engage citizens in new ways, in new types of dialogues, we allow civil society and businesses to contribute and take ownership. This creates the local democracy of the future, where new solutions for the future arise.



## NC10

### – ‘House of sharing’ at The Nørremark Center

Veje Municipality has created a community house located in a vulnerable housing area in the city. In its 1,200 m<sup>2</sup>, the municipality, associations, and non-profit organizations facilitate various activities, such as the comprehensive social housing plan, library, nursing clinic, and more. A wide range of activities are facilitated – from ‘Food Bank Vejle’, which distributes surplus food to 150 families in the area, to civilians who provide free legal assistance to the area’s residents. Additionally, there are lectures, election debates, job fairs, advanced reading programs, theater, creative workshops, bingo, Christmas tree parties, Eid celebrations, and Sunday cafes.

The NC10 Community House is primarily furnished with surplus furniture and interiors that municipal institutions had in storage, and items from recycling. The principle is that facilities and rooms are shared as much as possible across public institutions and associations. This creates new relationships and collaborations.



## The yearly people's meeting



Vejle's People's Meeting is an annual democracy festival. Here, we debate the development of Vejle Municipality through events, workshops, and activities for both children and adults. There's a lot of openness and a short distance to your neighbor, allowing new understandings, communities, and solutions to flourish.



*"If we want to solve challenges such as mistrust, climate change, and poor well-being, we must engage – both in our city and with each other"*





## The youth Council

Use your voice. That's the call 35 cool young people between 16-25 years have answered, as they are part of Vejle Youth Council, which brings together young individuals from different educational backgrounds and ensures that the youth of Vejle have a voice in the development of Vejle. The Youth Council sets its own agenda. At the same time, Vejle City Council or Vejle Municipality can seek the Youth Council's input and advise on various topics, fostering a healthy dialogue on everything from study environments to well-being, city and cultural life, or climate protection.

Thus, the Youth Council is about everyday democracy. It's about using your voice. It's about giving more than we take for the next generation.



## Green Team

Many children and young people want to make a difference for the climate. This opportunity is provided by the Children and Youth Administration with a green think tank – GreenTeam. Here, we involve children and young people's ideas and perspectives in Vejle Municipality's decisions on climate and sustainability, aiming to give them a

voice in the climate debate. Currently, 37 children are part of GreenTeam, which meets four times a year to work on sustainability from a their perspective. "If other municipalities knew what could be achieved with a GreenTeam, they would definitely have one too", says a GreenTeam member.

## Regenerative Leadership

Future leaders must be able to lead “sustainably“ – drive transitions, ensure a low CO2 footprint, prioritize nature. All this while managing their employees and organizations.

In Vejle Municipality, we believe that regenerative leadership is one of the future leadership tools for leading sustainably. Regenerative leadership encourages managers and leaders to view employees, departments, nature, local communities, and organizations as interconnected systems. In the new leadership development program of Vejle, we assist leaders shape these new ideas, attitudes, feelings, and courses of action, which they then apply and test in their own organizations. The hope is that regenerative leadership can contribute to the management of a green transition, but also to higher well-being, reduced absenteeism, and a new way of coordinating and collaborating across Vejle Municipality’s departments and organizations.

# Climate change and Urban Resilience

We must take care of our climate and nature in everything we do. Our development, growth, work life, and leisure time must be sustainable and resilient.

# Membranen

## (‘The Membrane‘)

The Membrane is designed to protect against storm surges and rising sea levels. The facility is constructed at the harbor promenade close to the residential development to the west and along Tirsbæk Strandvej, while it connects to the park area Skyttehushaven to the east. The membrane plays an important role in Vejle’s storm surge strategy, but area needs to do more than just protect. It is designed to invite for new human interactions and communities.

For this reason, considerations include walking and cycling routes, resting spots, viewpoints, information boards, urban furniture, and playground equipment at the waterfront.

The membrane is a nature-based solution. This means that the facility will use nature and be constructed from natural and organic materials. It should contribute to increased biodiversity both above and below the water. Additionally, the facility is adaptive, allowing us to expand and elevate it as climate projections change and new protection needs arise.



## The Sluice



Since its establishment in 2016, the sluice in the city centre of Vejle has proven its worth when Vejle has been under pressure from massive amounts of water. In the past, cloudbursts and prolonged rain showers led to flooding, but today, thanks to the sluice, people can walk dry-shod in the streets of the western part of the city. The sluice has prevented flooding 25 times since 2016.

The western part of the city is particularly vulnerable when the water level in the Omløbsåen rises to 1.30 meters above normal and begins to overflow its banks. Today, the sluice system ensures that the water level in the Omløbsåen is kept down, so flooding occurs less frequently.

# The Climate Park

During major rainfall, water flows down towards the city of Vejle. The streams around Vejle have a combined watershed of 330 square kilometers. The social housing company ØsterBO, in collaboration with Vejle Spildevand (Wastewater company) and Vejle Municipality, has focused on managing, delaying, and directing the water to minimize damage in the eastern part of the city, which is low-lying and vulnerable.

The subproject Klimaparken is part of an even larger climate project in Vejle's eastern city, which will channel rainwater along a course approximately 3.5 kilometers long from the elevated northern part of Vejle's eastern city down to the fjord. The entire waterway will be able to handle an 80-100-year rainfall event projected for the year 2100. The success is measured both on the ability to handle climate change, but also on the ability to create added value to urban life in general and the quality of life.



# Tommy Troelsen's park

Tommy Troelsen's Park is a part of Vejle's climate adaptation efforts and will be used to store water in three new basins during heavy rainfall. Water flows to the park from parts of Grundet and Nørremarken, and the basins will be used when water from extreme and rare rain showers cannot be accommodated in the new large pipeline being constructed from the sports field to Vejle Fjord via Rødkildevej. In dry periods the park is used as sports facilities.







## Ressource Center Vejle

Not long ago, waste was something we simply discarded – in nature, in the trash, or at the landfill. It was a throwaway mentality that we have long realized is not sustainable. Today, we increasingly view waste as resources that can and should be used repeatedly. We cannot continue to draw new resources from nature.

Sustainability and resourcing are key concepts of the Resource Center Vejle. This logistics center can handle approximately 100,000 tons of waste per year. Simultaneously, the building demonstrates that design and recycling can go hand in hand, as it incorporates everything from discarded windows to surplus flooring.



# Climate Village Vandel

The climate crisis calls for action globally. But we can also make a difference locally. This is evident in Vandel, a village of 750 citizens. With the appointment of “climate village“ Vandel will implement several climate-friendly initiatives during a three-year trial period – initiatives that and inspire other villages and local communities. Specifically, this has led to e-bike and car-sharing schemes, a communal district heating connection, a repair café and a “swap container“, climate art and the transformation of the local convenience store with, among other things, electric charging stations. These initiatives demonstrate that communities and climate action can be mutually beneficial.





Can you have fun while learning about a sustainable future? At the science and edutainment center of Økolariet, you can. Here the audience moves through knowledge, experiences, and active learning, increasing their understanding of nature and climate. Each year, Økolariet attracts more and more visitors. In 2023, they are even expected to reach a record number of 90,000 guests, all of whom have gained insights into Vejle's resilient and sustainable future.

## Økolariet

– Science and edutainment center



## The Vejle Fjord Project

Looking out over the fjord and landscape of Vejle today is like peering into the past. The area is forged by the movement and melting of ice during the past ice ages – but today the fjord is out of balance. Vejle’s iconic landmark suffers from an overabundance of algae, dwindling fish populations, muddy soil and significantly reduced eelgrass. This prompted the initiative for The Vejle Fjord Project. Volunteers and local educational institutions play a crucial role, and each year, they plant over 100.000 eelgrass shoots, establish eight hectares of stone reefs, and create 30 hectares of new mussel beds.

The projects is a collective effort, recognized by the University of Southern Denmark as one of the largest and most significant marine restoration projects in Denmark.





## Green visions for the future of mobility

With a new green mobility plan, Vejle Municipality aims to ensure that we protect the climate and nature while making it easy to travel to and from Vejle City. The mobility of the future must be green with fewer gasoline and diesel cars and more electric cars. At the same time we need to encourage more people to take electric buses, walk, or cycle. This requires a well-developed network of bicycle paths connecting our cities. It requires a city center with four 'traffic islands' to create new urban spaces which invite citizens to cycle or walk more in the center. Finally, it requires the courage to shape the future.

# Architecture for the future

Our welfare society is undergoing significant changes, but quality of life remains a priority. Therefore, we must be co-creators of future welfare solutions and of sustainable, liveable cities. This means seizing new opportunities, explore new solutions and implement new technologies in urban planning and development.



## ‘King Gauers Courtyard’

By the church of the small town of Gauerslund lies a special building – King Gauers Courtyard. King Gauers Courtyard is a resilient front-runner project, where we, as the first in Denmark, have constructed a mini-village where nursing homes and a daycare center live side-by-side. Here, generations will grow together. They become part of each other’s daily lives. They inspire each other and become a community.

Each generation has its needs. Therefore, in the construction, you will find a large shared activity center, nursing clinics, and two mobile home care districts. There are facilities such as language and reading rooms, a beauty salon, a pub, a café, a motor skills room, a sensory room, a fishing pond, a sensory garden, an amphitheater, and the opportunity for animal husbandry. All of this is intended to create an activity mecca from which communities can flourish – regardless of age.

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Bølgen/The Wave





Fjordenhus

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# Ny Rosborg – a new resilient city area

New Rosborg is the future resilient neighborhood of Vejle. With six housing islets, we provide housing for 4,000-5,000 new residents of Vejle, who will enjoy the blue-green nature of Ådalen to the southwest and have close access to Vejle city center. The neighborhood will gently expand into the valley. This will be done in a way that transforms a previously inaccessible landfill into an attractive destination and residential area. This is how we prioritize nature while turning ambitions from the mobility plan, housing policy and our climate plan into reality.



An aerial photograph of a city waterfront. On the left, a large marina is filled with numerous sailboats. In the center, a prominent bridge with a white, lattice-like structure spans across the water. The background shows a city skyline with various buildings and a large hill in the distance. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the image, containing the word "RESILIENCE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

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