



**FOLKETINGET  
STATSREVISORERNE**



**FOLKETINGET  
RIGSREVISIONEN**

**March 2024  
– 11/2023**

**Extract from Rigsrevisionen's report  
submitted to the Public Accounts Committee**

# **The transparency of the outcomes of green programmes**

# 1. Introduction and conclusion

## 1.1. Purpose and conclusion

1. This report concerns three government grant schemes aimed at promoting the transition to green technologies by developing environmentally- and climate-friendly technology. The programmes are quite similar in terms of objectives and how they are managed. The programmes are grouped together in this report and collectively referred to as *the green programmes*.

2. The purpose of the study is to assess whether the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities, the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Danish Ministry of Environment and the boards of the programmes have established a process for monitoring the outcomes of the programmes.

3. The guidelines on effective grant administration published by the Danish Agency for Public Finance and Management indicate that the administration should ensure the best value for money. The guidance states that effective grant administration involves the individual authorities ensuring that the best value for money is obtained from the funding provided. It is also evident from the guidance that setting clear targets is a prerequisite to the monitoring and evaluation of the grant schemes. The requirements for target-setting and measurement of outcomes set in the regulatory frameworks of the three programmes are not identical.

4. The three programmes addressed in this report are:

- *The Energy Technology Development and Demonstration Programme* under the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities (the Ministry of Climate) is administered by a board and a secretariat located in the Danish Energy Agency. In this report, the programme is referred to as The Energy Technology Programme.
- *The Green Development and Demonstration Programme* under the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (the Ministry of Food) is administered by a board and a secretariat located in the Danish Agricultural Agency. In this report, the programme is referred to as The Food Technology Programme.
- *Environmental Technology Development and Demonstration Programme* under the Danish Ministry of Environment is administered by a board and a secretariat located in the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. In this report, the programme is referred to as The Environmental Technology Programme.

### Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact the programmes or the projects under the programmes has on the surroundings. Some of the outcomes may occur after a short time resulting, for instance, in increased employment and the first steps of commercialisation, while other activities, such as reducing the carbon footprint, will be more long term.

We conduct this investigation into the three programmes due to their economic significance. During the period from 2017 to 2023, DKK 6.2 billion was committed to projects under the three programmes. The programmes are also relevant because they all aim to contribute to resolving national and global environmental challenges and assisting in attaining the targets set for CO<sub>2</sub>-emission by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. Up to now, DKK 76 million and DKK 12 million have been allocated under the programmes aimed at enhancing the transportation and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in the North Sea and the development of an instrument for the detection of PFAS, respectively.

5. The three ministries have the overall responsibility for the green programmes, the appointment of the boards and the establishment of administrative frameworks. The boards are responsible for the administration of the programmes within the regulatory frameworks and the administrative frameworks established by the ministries. The boards of the individual programmes allocate funds to the specific projects.

6. Rigsrevisionen decided to launch the investigation in April 2022.



## Conclusion

**The Ministry of Climate, the Ministry of Food, the Ministry of Environment and the boards of the three green programmes have not established an adequate process for measuring the outcomes of the grants. This makes it difficult to determine the scope of the environmental and economic outcomes resulting from the approx. DKK 6.2 billion that has been spent during the period examined.**

### **The boards have only to a limited extent set clear green and economic targets**

None of the boards have set clear targets for the outcomes of the programmes. However, the board of The Food Technology Programme has ensured that targets have been set for the individual projects. The boards of the two other programmes have partially implemented the same approach. Setting targets for the outcomes of the focus areas of The Food Technology Programme in the annual action plans is a statutory requirement. The board has not fulfilled this requirement.

### **The boards have monitored the outcomes of the green programmes through external evaluations but the evaluations of The Energy Technology Programme and The Food Technology Programme are incomplete**

The rationale behind the conclusions presented in the evaluations of the two programmes is unclear, and the conclusions seem overstated, indicating a level of certainty that is not warranted by the data. This may pose a challenge in determining whether the programmes require modification or adjustment. The outcomes of two of the programmes have been evaluated regularly, whereas the outcomes of The Food Technology Programme have only been evaluated once in the 14 years it has been in existence.

### **The boards' do not monitor the outcomes of the projects to the same extent**

The boards of two of the green programmes monitor the outcomes of the projects at the conclusion of the grant period, whereas the board of The Environmental Technology Programme does not. None of the boards monitors the outcomes of the individual projects for a period after their completion.

### **The ministries have not adequately monitored whether the boards follow up on the outcomes of the grants systematically**

The ministries have, to varying degrees and only late in the period of investigation, followed up on the outcomes of the grants. The Ministry of Food has not ensured that the board of The Food Technology Programme adheres to the statutory requirements for targets reporting in the annual reports. Moreover, the ministry has not taken any action regarding the failure of The Food Technology Programme to implement a provision of the act on repayment of grants in full or in part, in the event of commercialisation of the projects.

Rigsrevisionen finds it satisfactory that all the ministries, in the course of the investigation, have expressed their intention to enhance their monitoring of the outcomes of the projects. This would align with the recommendations of several of the external evaluations.