

Danmarks Miljøportal

Data om miljøet i Danmark

The Danish Natural Environment Portal - Data about the Danish Natural Environment



The Danish Natural Environment Portal: One gateway to data about nature and the natural environment in Denmark

The Danish Natural Environment Portal is the place where the data of the Danish authorities concerning nature and the natural environment is collected, presented and shared between different agencies, private citizens, organizations and companies.

Environmental data concerning for instance natural resources, soil contamination and water quality is a prerequisite for being able to monitor, manage and safeguard our natural and environmental resources in the best possible way.

Before the implementation of the 2007 structural reform in Denmark - which consolidated the old counties into regions and reduced the amount of municipalities from 271 to 98 - environmental data was collected in systems run by the county administrations. In 2007, after the reform, the Ministry of the Environment, the municipalities and the Counties partnered in the launch of the Danish Natural Environment Portal, which gathers all the data of the authorities in one place - here the goal is ease of use and usefulness.

With the creation of the Danish Natural Environment Portal and the home page www.miljoportal.dk private citizens and professionals alike have the possibility of drawing on and updating the State, County and municipal databases. At the same time the cooperation between all levels of government with regards to data and digital government lays a foundation for the effective handling of environmental issues in Denmark.

The Danish Natural Environment Portal also offers a range of digital solutions that give access to data on the natural environment, including among other things web services, a user administration system and access to legacy archives with data from the old counties.

What data regarding nature and the natural environment can be found on The Danish Natural Environment Portal?

Nature	Soil contamination
<p>Authorities, private citizens and companies can search for nature data and view maps of areas with registered data. The shared natural environment data of the Danish authorities encompasses nature protection, conservation, building lines, planning and appointment of Natura 2000 areas, pasture and game reserves, and much more.</p>	<p>Current data on all soil contaminated sites in Denmark can be found. Also to be found is an overview of all areas that the municipalities have classified as lightly contaminated. The users of this feature are typically municipal case workers, who are working with building permits for contaminated sites. However, the soil contamination data is also relevant for real estate agents and others that work with property management and sales.</p>

Nationwide data on the natural environment has many benefits

Data on nature and the natural environment is used in many connections by authorities, companies and private citizens. Also scientists, organizations and real estate agents use the portal to easily gain access to relevant and clearly presented information.

Shared natural environment data facilitates the task management of the environmental authorities

The Danish Natural Environment Portal is an important tool for instance in the planning, prioritizations and decisions of the municipal authorities, because the case workers quickly can combine different types of environmental data from different official sources. At the same time the authorities' work processes become more effective, because The Danish Natural Environment Portal allows them to access data across administrative units, sectors and geographical areas. This also reduces the authorities' need for saving data locally. Furthermore, Governmental institutions can use The Danish Natural Environment Portal to gather environmental data for national surveillance as well as reports to the Danish Parliament and the EU.

The Danish Natural Environment Portal makes it easy for companies

The Danish Natural Environment Portal lightens the work load for companies where the production affects the environment and where the regulation of the environment has potential consequences for the production. Examples of such companies are municipal water and waste facilities, farms, fish farms and manufacturers in general. An example of the regulation is the use of contaminated land, which is of vital importance to the construction industry.

Private citizens can find relevant information on their own

The Danish Natural Environment Portal allows private citizens and organizations to easily find and access the environmental data they need. Among other things, private citizens can access a map with information on specific areas and gain knowledge of natural and environmental conditions pertaining to their property. They can also check if there are any contaminated or protected areas where they live - or where they plan to buy property.

Surface water	Groundwater
Authorities have access to several databases, with the collective name 'surface water', which among a lot of other things contain information on purification plants and fish farms, as well as data concerning vegetation, small animals and fish in lakes, streams and the ocean. Sewerage has an entire area on its own and is called 'point sources'.	The Danish Natural Environment Portal makes it possible to track wells and water reclamation plants. The database contains records of more than 240.000 wells and 35.000 water reclamation plants (e.g. waterworks and irrigation). The authorities for instance use these data to manage plants and permits.

The Danish Natural Environment Portal focuses on the users' needs

The Danish Natural Environment Portal is a service oriented IT platform which supports the need for access to natural environment data that authorities, other environmental professionals, private citizens and companies have.

Since 2007 it has been possible to pull environmental data directly from the site www.miljoportal.dk - either through 'Area information' or through web services, both of which enable authorities to update the databases and to pull the data into their own systems. The portal also grants direct access to the databases.

'Area information' gives the big picture

'Area information' represents natural environment data graphically on a map. Here is found data regarding nature protection, conservation, building lines, agriculture, planning, soil contamination, and groundwater. The users of 'area information' are municipalities, the regions, private citizens, farmers, agricultural consultants, real estate agents, land surveyors, and building contractors, who need the information in connection with real estate transactions or building.

Web services enable the systems to interact with each other

Simply put, web services are small pieces of software which enable the IT systems of the environmental authorities to "talk to" the databases of The Danish Natural Environment Portal. The authorities can use the web services to display data from the databases in their own IT systems while at the same time they can update data regarding - for instance - groundwater, soil contamination or nature. They can also update map data in 'Area information'.

Applications for special cases

The Danish Natural Environment Portal offer web services to authorities wishing to develop their own software or applications which address specific needs or special cases they might have with regard to accessing and saving data. However, The Danish Natural Environment Portal does not develop such applications themselves. Typically authorities contract with a professional software development company to create such applications.

User management as a foundation for valid data

Not anyone can update the natural environment data in the databases. The Danish Natural Environment Portal has implemented user management to ensure that only authorized users can enter data into the system. All data controlling authorities must sign a user administration contract, certifying that they will live up to the laws regarding data handling that govern the area.

Do you want to know more?

If you want to know more about The Danish Natural Environment Portal you can either visit www.miljoportal.dk or write to us through this form: <http://www.miljoportal.dk/Hjaelp/Kontaktformular/>

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