

NIRAS

NIRAS and Climate Change

**CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION
PLAN**

Status and Action Plan

April 2010

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NIRAS A/S
F.R.I, FIDIC

Sortemosevej 2
DK-3450 Allerød
Denmark

Telephone +45 4810 4200
Fax +45 4810 4300
E-mail niras@niras.dk

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1. **INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

The present document constitutes an addendum to the existing NIRAS Environmental Management Manual and is therefore subject to the same procedures and routines.

NIRAS decided in November 2007 to implement a Climate Change Initiative with a balanced internal and external focus in order to achieve maximum impact for the resources spent. The findings, experiences and initiatives from this activity have formed the basis for the present strategy and further initiatives.

2. **IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY**

2.1 **Impact assessment, project life cycle impacts from service performance**

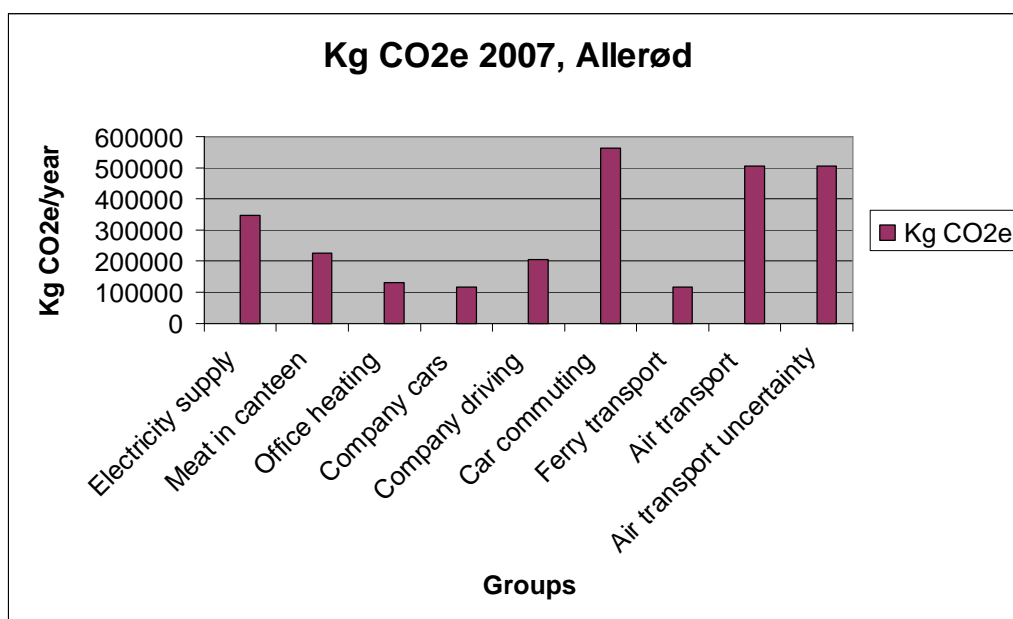
In a company like NIRAS working only with knowledge services and to a large extent inside building, construction, physical planning and infrastructure and the like, it is widely known, that the potential climate change impacts from the way we perform our services (scope 3 in international draft standards for CO₂-emission inventory and accounting) are sizes of order larger than the impact from our office and company operations (scope 1 and 2). The reason for this is obviously that our services very often lead to substantial and significant physical projects as large buildings, roads, railroads, ports etc., implying also large potential impacts on climate change in a project life cycle perspective – and thereby large potentials for reducing these impacts.

Our main focus in climate change is therefore to perform our services in an optimal fashion towards the climate change challenge. This demands ways of analysing and assessing the climate change impact in individual projects, and innovative capabilities to find the best possible adaptation and mitigation approaches. Most of all, however, it is imperative that our customers are actively interested in combating climate change in their projects – and that we inform them of how this may be done in the best possible manner.

For this purpose, we have developed very efficient tools for impact assessments of individual projects and we actively promote these tools and corresponding approaches in our customer dialogue.

2.2 **Impact assessment, office and company operations**

However, we can not neglect the climate change impact from our daily office operations, even though we know they are more or less negligible compared to the potential impact of our performance of services. Therefore we have made an assessment of our company operational impacts at our main office in Allerød, Denmark, where approximately 1/3 of our employees (app. 500) are working. The result is shown below:



It follows from the chart that by far the largest amount of CO₂-equivalents (about 75%) originates from various forms of transportation, while the rest derives from our office operations, including meat from the food served to the employees.

The total sums up to 2,700 tons per year, corresponding to

- about 6.3 tons per employee per year and thus
- about 4 kg per working hour per employee.

Thus the average impact of one consulting hour from NIRAS is about 6 kg of CO₂-equivalents, taking into account the financial key figures of NIRAS and considering only our office and company operations.

2.3 Corporate Climate Change Strategy

Based on the above impact assessments our climate change strategy is as follows:

1. We work in a dedicated and targeted manner to reduce and minimize the climate change impacts associated with our services and project activities. We do this through a proactive and knowledge based dialogue with our customers and in order to prepare our customers in the best possible way for the challenges of the future – in agreement with our general values and policies. We specifically focus on:

- Climate adaptation: We strive to design, manage and safeguard our projects in relation to the impacts of future climate and weather conditions at and around the project site and based on the best available knowledge, and
 - Climate mitigation: We strive to reduce and minimize the green house gas emissions from our projects in a life cycle perspective based on the best available knowledge, and
2. We work constantly to reduce the climate change impact of our office and company operations.

This climate change strategy is in accordance with and part of our environmental policy, which is also divided in a project focus and a focus on office and company operations.

3. **INITIATIVES AND MEASURES**

Also our initiatives and measures are divided into a project focus and an office and company operational focus as follows:

3.1 **Initiatives and measures, project focus**

Since the launching of our Climate Change Initiative in November 2007 we have implemented the following measures:

- Developed professional tools, approaches and competences for assessment of future climate impacts on all types of projects in order to handle relevant climate adaptation issues on all levels from initial screening of risks and potential consequences to detailed analyses and model simulations for subsequent optimal project design;
- Developed professional tools, approaches and competences for assessment of climate impacts and green house gas emissions from all types of projects in order to be able to develop, design and manage all projects for minimum green house gas emissions in a life cycle perspective – the key here is Carbon Footprint calculations at all phases of project life cycle from the first strategic screenings to monitoring and follow up during operation;
- Developed web-sites as parts of our Danish web-site www.niras.dk and international web-site www.niras.com – where we actively invite our customers to a proactive and knowledge based dialogue in the very early phases of their projects in order to create climate change optimised project designs. Here we also present cases and approaches to show that this is often possible without excessive (and even sometimes extra) costs, provided the measures are taken at the very early project stages where the degrees of freedom and the innovative potentials are still at a maximum level.
- Developed internal project guidelines aimed at climate change optimised project design.

- Developed an internal organisational approach for the optimal use of the guidelines and the present strategy aimed at creating innovative approaches for our customers. This approach has a strong interdisciplinary focus in order to address the very strong demand for interdisciplinary working approaches and solutions to the climate change challenges and thus draws on the total competences of the whole organisation of NIRAS. The approach involves a number of professional networks across the whole organisation.

All these initiatives and measures were initially developed and tested in the Danish part of NIRAS and will later be implemented in our whole organisation and all our international activities.

3.2 **Initiatives and measures, office and company operational focus**

Inside this focus, we have today done the following focusing on transportation and office facilities (*not yet implemented measures with bold italics*):

- As transportation is by far the biggest source of green house gas emissions at NIRAS, we have had our main focus here:
 - We have recently implemented an electronic, PC-based meeting application (AT&T) in order to save resources in general and to reduce transport; the implementation seems to be a success;
 - We have developed and recently launched internally a self-developed IT-application to facilitate organisation of co-driving for commuting to and from our offices and for driving to internal and external meetings. The aim is to save CO₂-emissions from transportation. The application will also be offered to relevant customers.
 - *We aim to facilitate the use of electric cars in NIRAS, both as company cars and for the employees; this will be implemented according to the availability of electric cars on the market.*
- In our office facilities we have the following ambitions:
 - We have given priority to energy efficiency in our newest offices at Ørestad, Copenhagen and in Kolding, Jutland – *and we will perform office reviews for energy efficiency at all our major offices during 2011 and 2012 and give high priority to energy efficiency at future office facilities.*

- *We will perform a Carbon Footprint screening of our consumption of goods and services at our Allerød office during 2011 and take actions accordingly.*
- We are cutting down on meat consumption in our canteen at our main office in Allerød *and aim at implementing the experiences here in all our office canteens during 2011 and 2012.*

4. **REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP**

The present Corporate Climate Change Strategy is subject to the review and follow-up routines that also apply to our Environmental Policy.

Adding to that, we encourage our employees to constantly challenge and come up with new ideas for improvement of the strategy and the initiatives and measures supporting it.