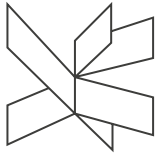


Bring ideas to life
VIA University College



Climate Action Plan

2026-2027

Foreword

We are in a time of transformation, where geopolitical unrest, climate change and digital development are changing our worldview. This affects our education programmes and VIA as an organisation. We have a shared responsibility to develop society in a sustainable direction, and one way to do this is by integrating sustainable development into our activities.

Building on a good foundation, VIA is entering a new phase in 2026 and 2027, in which we are both reducing our climate footprint – our footprint – and strengthening our positive handprint through education, research and working partnerships. In teaching and research, more and more professional and academic environments are working with green cases, methods and data. This is where our handprint is most evident – when students take knowledge and action competence

into their professions. At the same time, we are experiencing how the distinction between footprint and handprint is becoming more fluid, because the areas influence each other. In this plan, the focus is on the footprint, but the handprint is an integral part of all our work. The climate action plan describes specific actions that contribute to reducing our climate footprint as an organisation. It is based on the experiences from 2024–2025 and is linked to our annual ESG report, which documents our efforts and results. Scope 3, in particular, is in focus as we work strategically to reduce it.

VIA's green transition is not only about technical measures; it is also about culture and behaviour. We work with specific, realistic measures that will create noticeable results over time. In this work, we focus on shedding light

on dilemmas and motivating a change in behaviour.

Part of our strategy is also to reach out to the surrounding community to share experiences, inspire and be inspired. That is why we work together with municipalities and other actors who share our ambition. We have already seen how joint initiatives can provide value, and we will further strengthen these collaborations and partnerships in the coming years.

Happy reading!

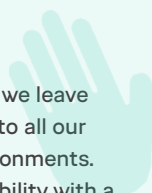
On behalf of the Executive Board



Kirsten Suhr Bundgaard
University College Director

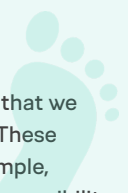
VIA's handprint

VIA's handprint is the positive imprint that we leave by integrating sustainable development into all our education programmes and research environments. We work from a broad concept of sustainability with a focus on an environmental, social and financial bottom line. The handprint provides us with a genuine opportunity to influence our shared future through our students.



VIA's footprint

VIA's footprint is the negative climate footprint that we leave behind as a large educational institution. These are emissions from our own operations, for example, transport, energy and consumption. We take responsibility for this negative footprint, and have, therefore, set ambitious goals and initiated work to reduce VIA's CO₂ emissions as we head towards 2030.



Introduction

At VIA, we want to reduce our CO2 emissions as an organisation, and we are working strategically with VIA's green transition. This climate action plan is part of VIA's green transition. The climate action plan is founded on the strategic work of VIA and VIA's Climate Action Plan 2024-2025.

By minimising our CO2 emissions, we are showing our students and the world that we are committed to sustainable development and climate action. This commitment strengthens our credibility and inspires others to follow our example. We are taking responsibility for the future.

Method

At VIA, we follow the internationally recognised method for calculating CO2 emissions, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This method, used by companies, municipalities and states, divides emissions into three areas: Scopes 1, 2 and 3.

Scopes

Scope 1

Direct emissions from burning fossil fuels, e.g. diesel in cars and natural gas

Scope 2

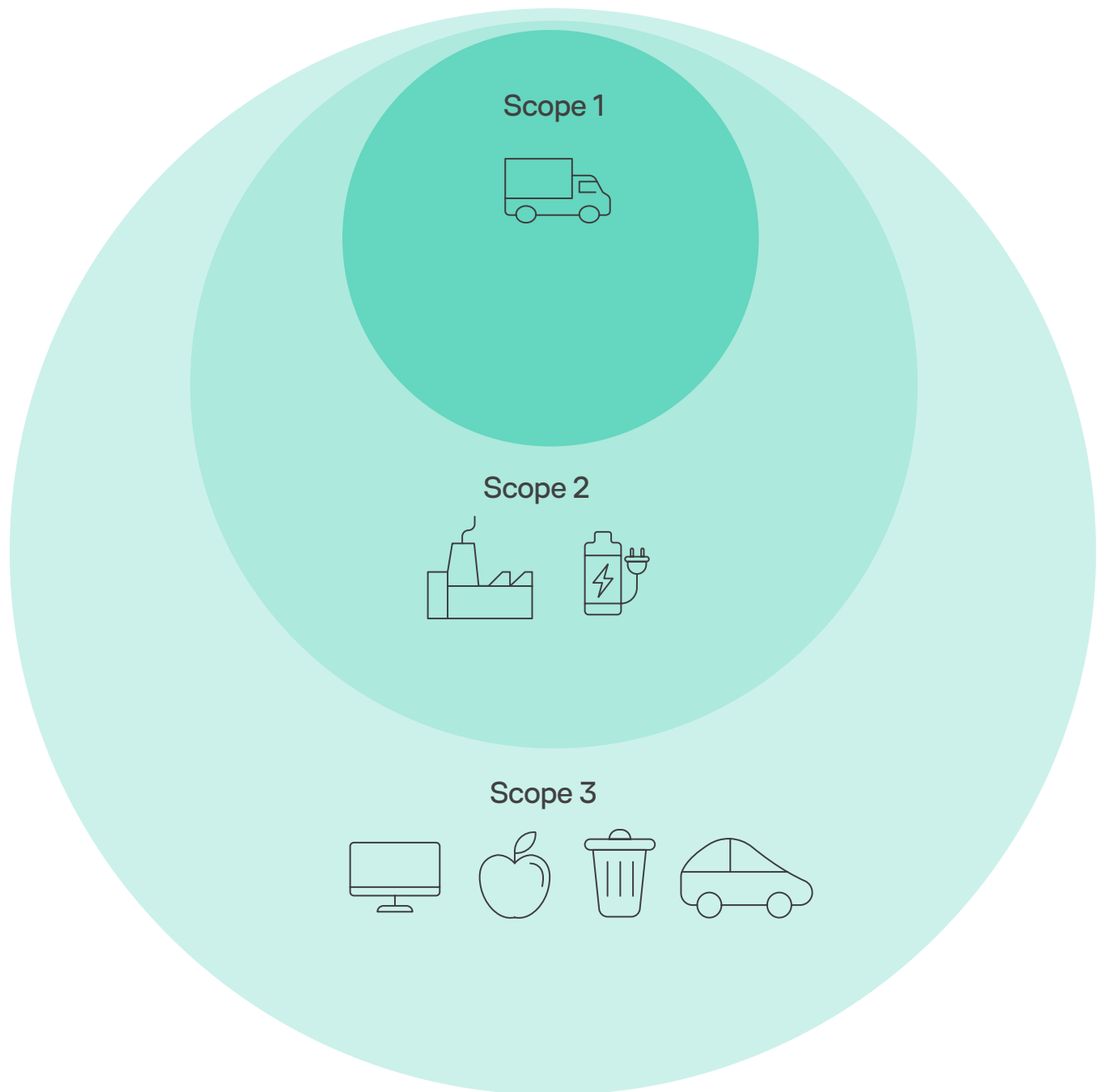
Indirect emissions from the consumption of electricity and district heating

Scope 3

Other indirect emissions that occur in VIA's value chain, e.g. commuting, shopping and canteen



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

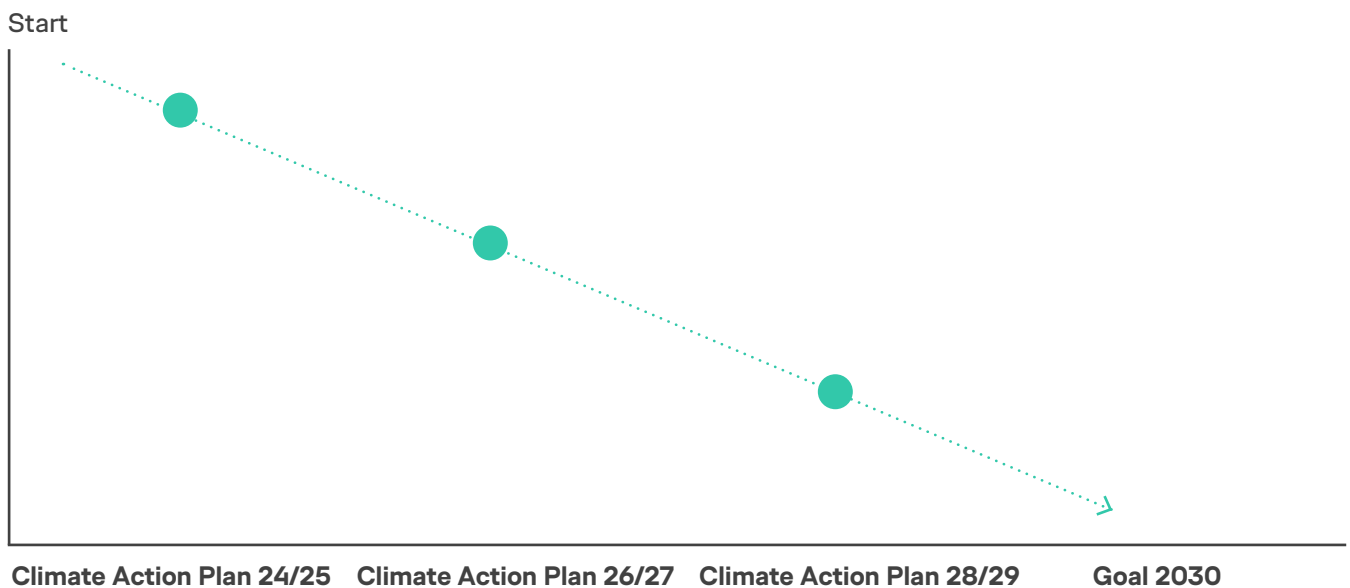


GOAL FOR 2030

More steps on the way to the 2030 Goal

VIA has set a reduction target of 75 per cent for CO2 emissions in Scopes 1 and 2, and 25 per cent in Scope 3 for 2030 compared to 2022. This matches the municipalities in which we are located, enabling us to collaborate on climate action with local municipal and regional actors.

We follow the development of CO2 reductions in the annual ESG report, and two-year action plans are made to achieve the goal by 2030. The current climate action plan is, therefore, a step on the way to achieving our goal for 2030

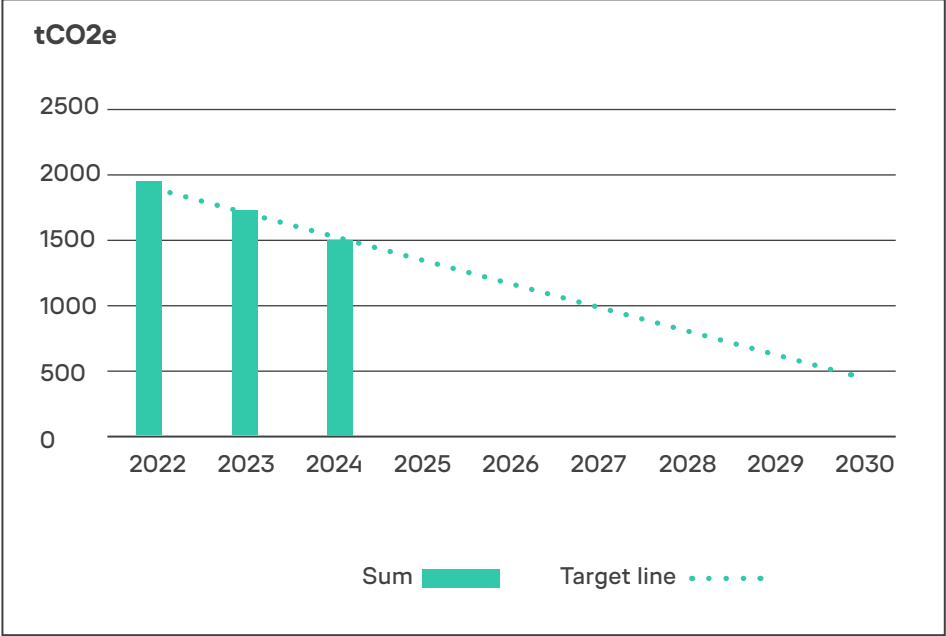


We are taking responsibility for society and for creating a sustainable future together regarding our environment. We stand firmly on our professional and academic foundation and push the boundaries for how we develop, share and apply knowledge. And we make mistakes, learn and succeed together. For it is in ambitious learning communities that we make the greatest impact.

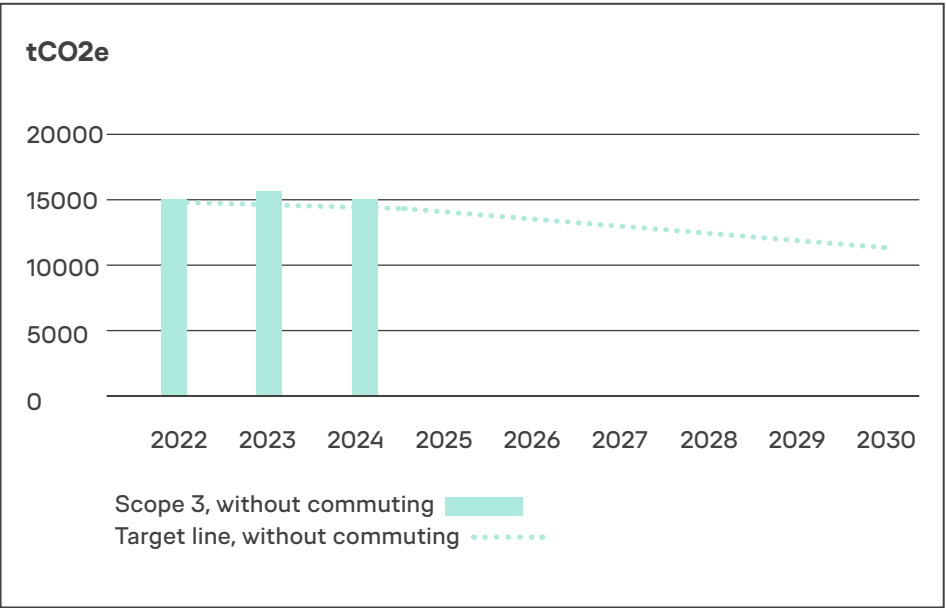
Quote from VIA's Vision 2030

GOAL FOR 2030

Development and target line, Scope 1 and 2



Development and target line, Scope 3 (without commuting)



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2026-2027 overview

Efficient and green energy



Energy efficiency in all our buildings

Good and greener consumption



Culinary courses and a focus on health

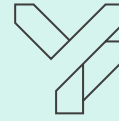


Longer lifespan of PCs and electronic equipment



Make it easier to make responsible purchases

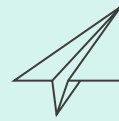
Green mobility



Facilities that support greener commuting



Continued phasing out of VIA's fossil-powered vehicles



Update travelling for work policy

Data, communication and project management

A word on the guide

The climate action plan is organised under three themes: green and efficient energy, good and greener consumption and green mobility. These three themes are further divided into seven action areas as well as a supporting area for data, communication and project management. In this guide, you can read about specific initiatives that the seven action groups are working on in 2026–2027.

Each action group consists of an action lead and four to nine group members. If you would like to know more about the work in the groups, actions, initiatives, time perspectives, data or process, please contact Programme Manager Camilla le Dous at groenomstilling@via.dk. You are also welcome to submit ideas, suggestions or other recommendations for the forthcoming climate action plan of 2028–2029.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2026-2027

Effective and green energy

Goal for 2030

VIA University College will reduce its Scopes 1 and 2 emissions by 75 per cent by 2030 compared with 2022.

This means we will phase out natural gas for building heating (Scope 1), and we will work resolutely to lower our energy consumption in our buildings, particularly electricity and district heating (Scope 2).

Steps taken in 2025

We have made targeted operational improvements that reduce energy consumption

We have sold off buildings, worked with area optimisation and flexible square metres

We have investigated opportunities for reuse during renovation in Randers

We have shared our experiences of energy-efficient operations openly through Energispring Aarhus and Energiforum Danmark

We have practised how to communicate energy-efficient behaviour to students and staff

GOAL FOR 2030

Actions 2026-27

Energy and buildings



Activities 2026-2027

Action lead: Jan Bagger Severinsen, Director of Facility Management (FM)

- We will implement energy management, 2026-2028
- We will continue with communication initiatives that encourage energy-efficient behaviour
- We will balance a good indoor climate, energy consumption and CO2 emissions with a new governance model for indoor climate
- We will investigate whether we can expand local energy production and capacity
- We will continue to shape the development of the new campus in Randers with a focus on flexibility, reuse and recycling

Milestones for 2027

We are continuously implementing energy management systems:

Campus Aarhus C, Campus Aarhus N (Q2 2026)

Campus Silkeborg, Campus Herning (Q4 2026)

Campus Horsens, Campus Viborg (Q2 2027)

Campus Randers, Campus Holstebro (Q4 2027)

We have submitted a proposal for a governance model to the board of directors (Q4 2027)

We have carried out one or two pilot projects for local energy production and assessed the scaling of results. We expect one of the projects to relate to the renovation of Campus Randers (Q4 2027)



Energy management is a systematic approach to monitoring energy consumption. It creates the framework for continuous energy efficiency and improvements.

Good and greener consumption

Goal for 2030

VIA University College will reduce its Scope 3 emissions by 25 per cent by 2030 compared with 2022. This means we focus on what is on offer in our canteens, the life span of IT and electronic equipment, as well as procurement services. Everything we buy leaves a footprint, and we will work to make smarter purchases and increase the share of the circular economy.

Steps taken in 2025

Canteen

- We have reduced the canteen's CO2 emissions from food purchases by 55 per cent
- We have communicated with users through Green Week, Organic Week and Week 17, and initiatives such as Canteen Talks, selling cookbooks and so on
- We have shared our experiences openly and with staff, including the national Danish joint government food network, so we can inspire others
- We have reduced the cost of single-use items by 59 per cent since 2023

IT and electronic equipment

- We apply the data gathered, so we can work strategically for better utilisation of computers and electronics across the organisation
- We have upgraded 20 auditoriums with automatic power management and a focus on recycling equipment

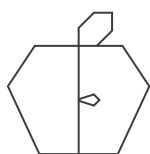
Procurement

- We have worked strategically to push suppliers for more reuse, recycling and better data
- 99.9 per cent of our office supplies in depots have an eco-label
- We have established a structure and decided on a furniture exchange that activates passive resources and makes furnishing through recycling easier

GOOD AND GREENER CONSUMPTION

Actions for 2026-27

Food and beverages



Activities 2026-2027

Action lead: Henning Markussen, Director of Campus Life and Planning

- We will support the Danish Veterinary, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Agency's recommendations by serving food that benefits both health and the climate
- We will hold cooking courses with students
- We will continue to reduce the use of single-use items and packaging

Milestones for 2027

The share of legumes in the total raw ingredients purchases in the canteen to increase from 1.8 per cent to 3 per cent (Q4 2027)

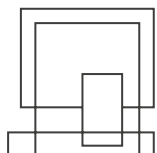
The share of fruits and vegetables in the total raw ingredients purchases in the canteens to increase from 26 per cent to 30 per cent (Q4 2027)

All canteens to offer at least one cooking course during 2026/2027 (Q4 2027)

We have reduced costs for single-use items and packaging by 75 per cent compared to 2022 (Q4 2027)

GOOD AND GREENER CONSUMPTION

IT and electronic equipment



Activities 2026–2027

Action lead: Peter Nordestgaard, IT Support Manager

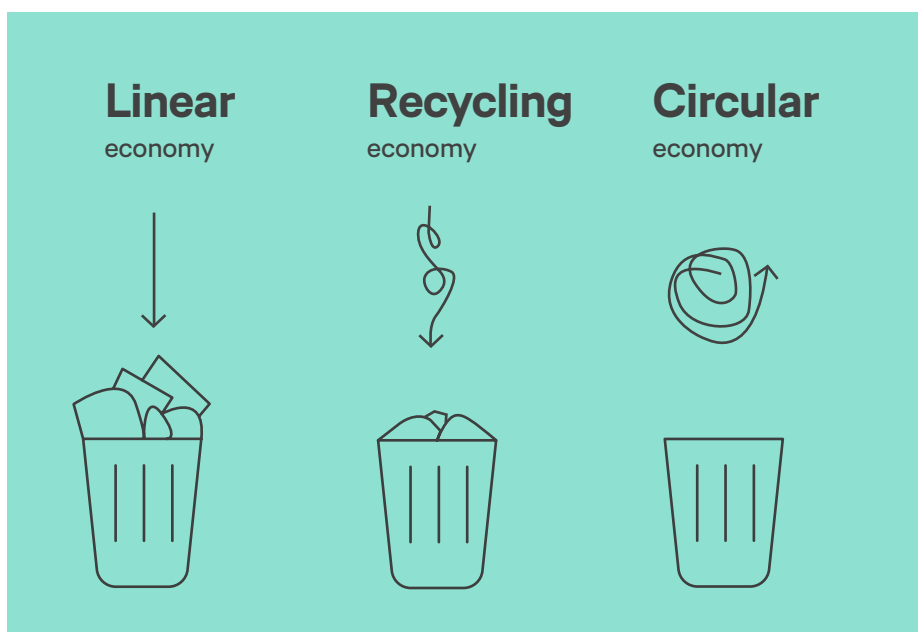
- We will consolidate the budget for IT procurement to better support the circular economy, strengthen recycling and extend the lifespan of our IT and electronics
- We will make it easier to order IT equipment, including the implementation of new processes for preparing and registering equipment
- We are implementing the new solution with a unified budget and a more circular economy

Milestones for 2027

New method for ordering equipment (Q4 2026)

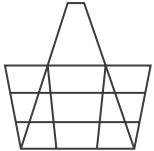
IT and digitalisation manages all computers and mobile phones from purchase to disposal (Q4 2027)

Expanding the lifespan



GOOD AND GREENER CONSUMPTION

Procurement and consumer behaviour



Activities 2026-2027

Action lead: Lars Peter Schou, Director of Finance

- We will focus on reusing and recycling in dialogue with relevant suppliers
- We will update VIA's purchasing policy and spread awareness
- We will strengthen procurement organisation in VIA to ensure a systematic and transparent approach to purchasing that supports green choices
- We will make it easier to use Danish State and Local Government Procurement agreements (SKI agreements) and choose greener products through the new staff portal and digital guidance. It has to be user-friendly and easy to purchase

Milestones for 2027

VIA's purchasing policy has been updated (Q3 2026)

Knowledge of the updated purchasing policy will be disseminated in 2027

We have defined roles and responsibilities in procurement processes, as well as annual work cycles and compliance reports

We held a workshop with decentralised purchasers, UX designers and editors on the staff portal in Q3 2026

In Q2 2027, user-friendly guides and digital setup on the staff portal will be prepared based on the recommendations from the workshop



We are working strategically to reduce VIA's consumption-based emissions (Scope 3) through collaborations with suppliers. The purchasing policy is to be updated to make it easier to purchase responsibly.

GREEN MOBILITY

Green mobility

Goal for 2030

VIA University College will reduce its emissions in Scopes 1 and 2 by 75 per cent by 2030 compared with 2022. This means that VIA's own vehicles running on fossil fuels must be phased out in favour of greener solutions.

VIA University College will reduce its Scope 3 emissions by 2 per cent by 2030 compared with 2022. Regarding green mobility, this means we will work to support good green commuting conditions for students and staff. Regarding travelling for work, we will update VIA's travel and meeting policy, so it supports the green agenda without compromising our work.

Steps taken in 2025

Own vehicles:

- We replaced the first two diesel vans in favour of electric
- We made a plan to replace all eight vans by 2030
- FM has replaced six out of ten cars. The remaining four cars will be replaced by 2030

Travelling for work:

- We have worked across VIA and formulated an updated travel policy, which is to be discussed and implemented
- We changed travel agency supplier to improve service for users
- We introduced the DSB app for Business, which should make it easier for users
- We improved data quality for CO2 calculations and management information

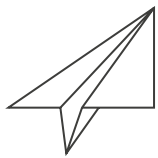
Commuting:

- We participated in the Sustainable Commuting in Skejby project, with the Central Jutland Region, including lending electric bicycles and behavioural campaigns at Campus Aarhus N
- We worked with the commuter challenge as part of teaching and mapped all physical facilities for cyclists

GREEN MOBILITY

Actions for 2026-27

Travelling for work



Activities 2027

Action lead: Lars Peter Schou, Director of Finance

- We will update our travel policy
- We will implement the updated travel policy
- We will explore the possibilities of establishing a travel office, either as a sector partnership or as our own travel office within VIA

Milestones for 2027

Present the revised draft of the travelling for work policy for discussion at the Corporate Cooperation and Work Environmental Committee meeting on 4 June 2026

The new travelling for work policy is expected to be discussed at the executive board meeting on 25 August 2026

The travel policy will be implemented during 2027 through the management chain and system technology. Information on the updated travel policy will be released to the organisation in Q3 2026. We will evaluate the implementation of the updated travel policy (Q2 2027)

We have conducted an analysis of the possibilities for establishing a travel office, and will make a recommendation based on this (Q4 2026)



GREEN MOBILITY

Commuting



Activities 2026-2027

Action lead: Jan Bagger Severinsen, Director of Facility Management (FM)

- We will promote and improve the possibilities for carpooling when commuting
 - We will make it easier for cyclists
 - We will improve facilities for staff and students who cycle to VIA's addresses
 - We will support local options for commuting at campuses
 - We will learn more about commuting habits
-

Milestones for 2027

We have experimented with meeting places for carpooling (physical or digital) to allow colleagues to meet up with each other (Q4 2026)

We have established carpooling parking spaces at at least one campus, and assessed the initiative (Q4 2026)

We have communicated information on existing facilities for bicycle parking, changing rooms, etc., at all locations (Q2 2027)

We have carried out a questionnaire for Campus Herning and Campus Holstebro (Q3 2026)



We have already carried out questionnaires at Campus N, and we will repeat this exercise to learn more about activities and opportunities for the western part of our region.



GREEN MOBILITY

Converting VIA's fossil vehicles



Activities 2027

Action lead: Gitte Korreborg

- We are phasing out fossil fuel vans by 2030
- We are phasing out fossil fuel cars in FM by 2030

Milestones for 2027

We have replaced five out of a total of eight vans (Q4 2027)

We have replaced eight out of ten cars (Q4 2027)

SUPPORTING ACTIONS FOR 2026-2027

Data, communication and project management

The supporting actions work to clear the way for the action groups, improve the data gathered and increase awareness of VIA's green transition.

Project management

We will support the work of the action groups with a financial framework, project management, data and behavioural communication during the individual actions. The project manager's role is to be a link to the work with the education programme-oriented track for sustainable development.

Data

Continued focus on improving the data gathered by working on data quality in our annual climate assessment and invoice quality from our suppliers. We will work on data-driven management support for climate data. We have data for VIA as a whole, and we will work on making data available to organisational units. We provide data support to action groups.

Students

Part of VIA's green transition is to be available to participate in teaching on VIA's undergraduate and post-graduate education programmes. A success criterion is to have been part of the teaching at least six times by 2027. It is thus both an invitation and a call to action for teachers to contact the project manager regarding incorporating cases into the teaching where it makes sense, e.g. innovation cases or relevant professional and academic environments.

Focus on the students' voices and climate action in everyday life through Week 17 activities and local campus committees. The project manager's role is to be a resource person and link to the work with the education programme-oriented track for sustainable development.

Wider world

Mapping of networks with the wider world in relation to VIA's green transition (e.g. municipal climate actors, climate alliance, Energispring, national Danish networks, local councils, etc.) with a view to stronger collaboration with the wider world.

SUPPORTING ACTIONS FOR 2026–2027

Communication

We will communicate information on the climate action plan internally and externally. Internally, a monthly newsletter will be published with selected focus areas as well as concrete advice for climate action. Externally, there will be a focus on communication and partnerships with the wider world, e.g. municipalities, and relevant actors, such as the joint government food network, UBU partnerships, UNESCO school, IKA, POGI, Climate Alliance Aarhus, UGE17, etc.

Culture and skills

New colleagues are introduced to VIA's climate action plan through HR's Intro Days. Furthermore, managers and staff are encouraged to complete a digital course in VIA on sustainable development, which provides a framework for understanding how we at VIA understand and use concepts within education, ESG, green transition and hand- and footprints.

New knowledge

We will carry out at least one pilot project with waste sorting to see whether we can move the recycling rate from 54 per cent to 60 per cent, so we reflect the goals of the EU's Waste Framework Directive for 2030.

We will establish a knowledge trail for our digital footprint, i.e. the environmental footprint we leave through our use of digital technologies and use of server space. We already have many examples of how we optimise our digital processes as an organisation in daily operations, but we need to connect them to knowledge about what it means for our climate footprint. The increased use of AI, in particular, means that, as an organisation, we need to build more knowledge in relation to our climate footprint, and therefore, we are creating a knowledge trail across VIA to learn together. We are participating in the Climate Alliance Aarhus' development programme for green IT transition.

About VIA University College

VIA University College is one of Denmark's largest educational and continuing education institutions.

VIA wishes to be a knowledge institution that drives sustainable development. This is conveyed by the positive impact our students leave on society, as well as by VIA taking the lead in reducing the negative climate impact from its own organisational operations.

Contact:

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