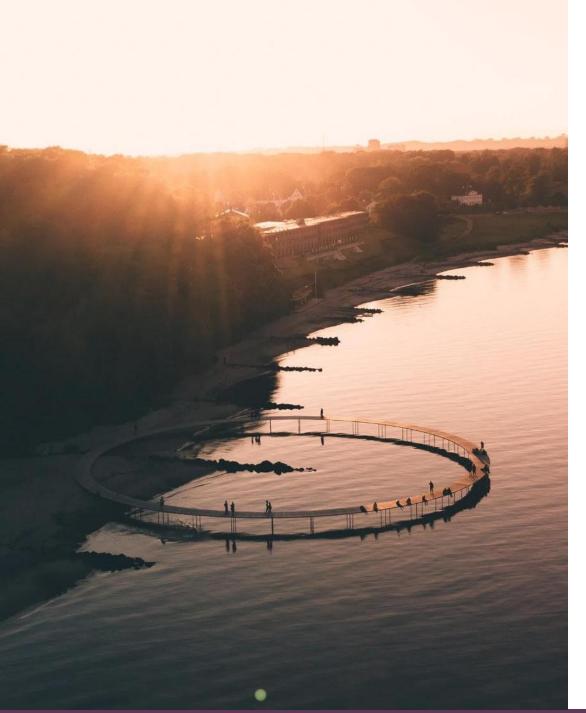


AARHUS KOMMUNE

#### Internal CO2 tax – an efficient way to reduce CO2e emissions through behavioural changes

**Rasmus Lovring and Jeppe Deleuran, Aarhus Municipality** 



#### **Aarhus Municipality** As an organization

- Number of citizens: 361.000
- Number of employees: 30.000
- Yearly spend: 8,5 Bn. DKK (1,15 bn. EUR)
- Food emissions within the organization: 8.000 tons CO2e in 2023 (10.000 tons in 2019)
  - Schools
  - Kindergarten
  - Nursing homes
  - Lunch for employees





## Why?

The overall purpose is to reduce the consumption-based emissions in Aarhus Municipality.

Today: The price of many products do not reflect the costs on their environmental footprint

A CO2 tax provides a financial incentive to behave in a more sustainable way.

**Purchasing price = Price of product + CO2 tax** 

Political willingness and courage is important when working with behavioral changes.



> Food categories (beef, lamb, juice/soft drinks)

**Fossil Fuels** 

Travel with airplane

Pc screens, smartphones, tablet

Copy paper

### How?

An internal valuation of 1.000 DKK (130 EUR) per ton of CO2e  $\rightarrow$  1 kg of CO2 emission costs 1 DKK (0,13 EUR)

The purchasing price is increased with the value of the CO2 emissions.



0

**Purchasing price** = Price of product + CO2 tax



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Education in preparing more sustainable meals.



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Behavioral change: Shifting towards a relative cheaper product



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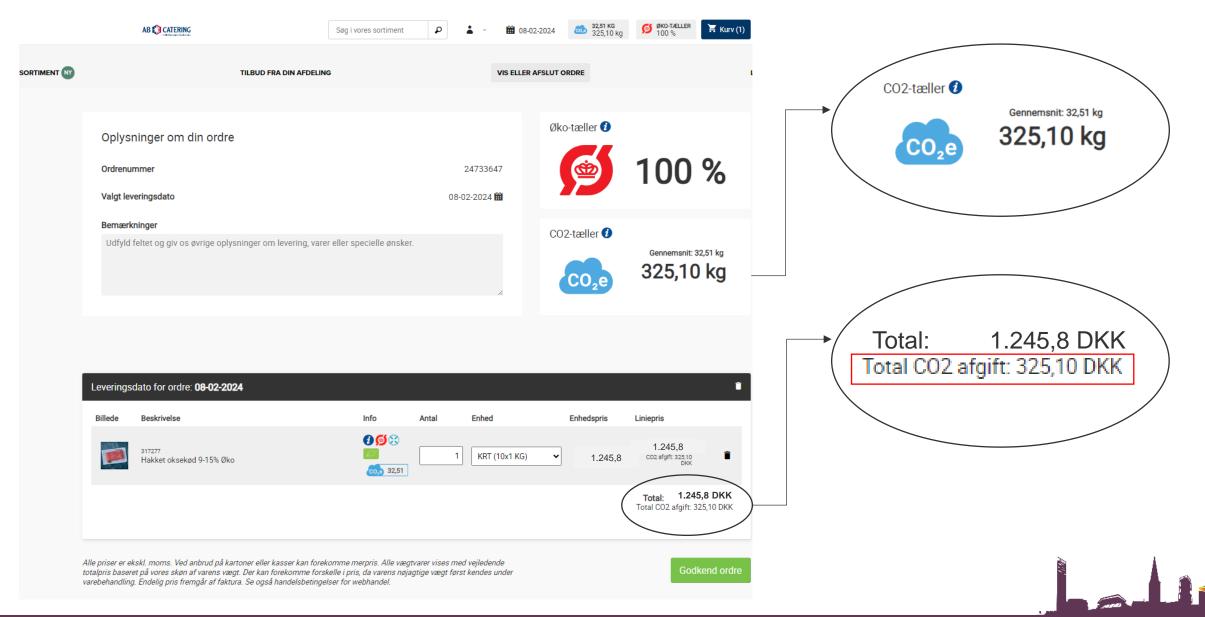
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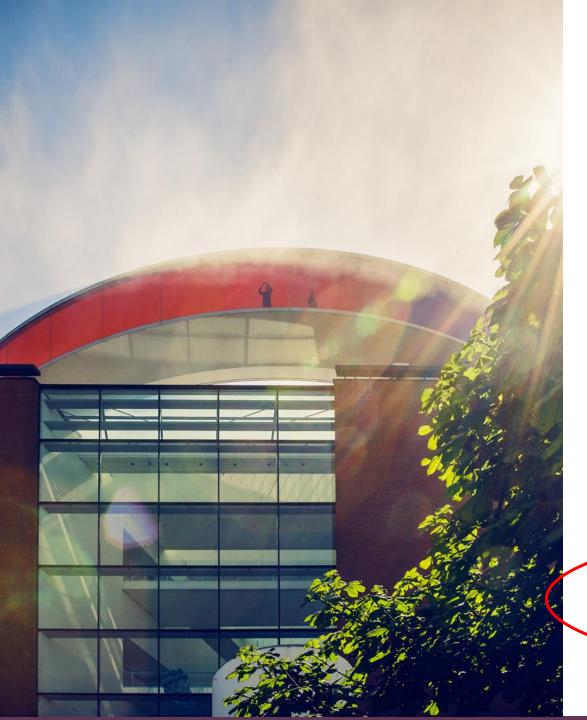


The revenue of the internal CO2 tax stays in the budget loop.



#### How? – Integrated in the e-commerce solution





# The economic effect on different food categories



The price of 1kg of ground beef increases with 48 DKK. (6,4 EUR)



The price of 1kg of beef tenderloin increases with 227 DKK. (30,3 EUR)



The price of 1kg of lamb meat increases with 34,7 DKK (4,7 EUR)



The price of 1 liter of juice increases with 1,64 DKK (0,22 EUR).

The price of vegetarian alternatives, pork and chicken is not affected and will be relative cheaper to purchase.

\*The carbon emission comes from the Concito – the big Danish climate database

#### Effect on food categories after 1 year



40% reduction  $\rightarrow$  1000 tons CO2e annually

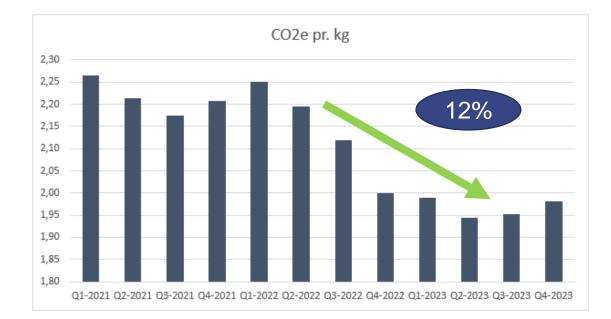


20% reduction  $\rightarrow$  10 tons CO2e annually



7% reduction  $\rightarrow$  25 tons CO2e annually

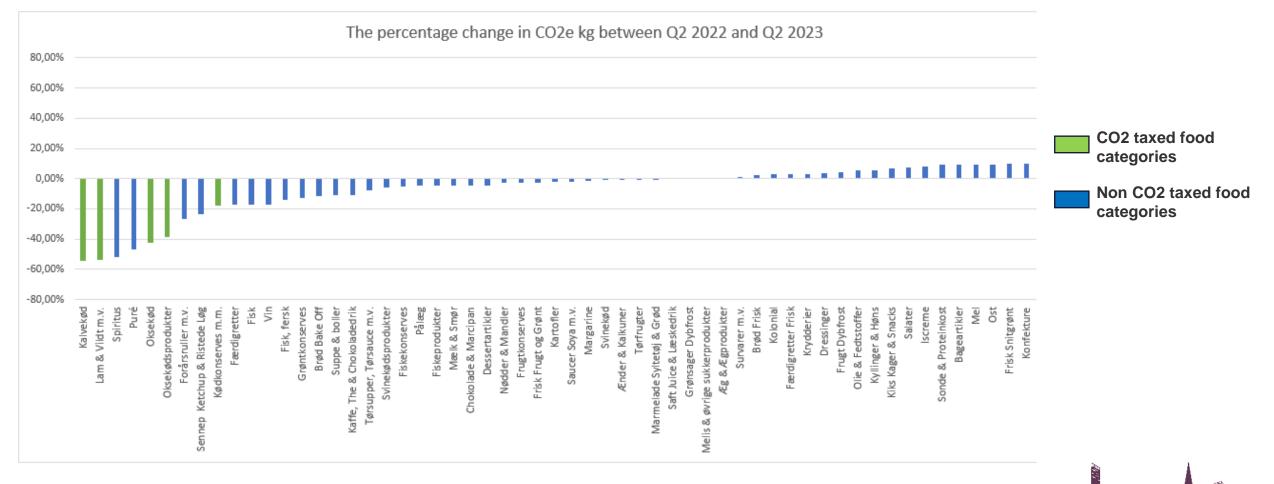
CO2e per kg. is overall reduced by 12%





### **Effect on food categories**

• The total amount (kg) of food is not affected when comparing Q2-2022 with Q2-2023, but we find a significant decreases in the amount of CO2 taxed products.





# We hope others will take up the idea

- Reducing consumption-based emissions is a must!
- Behavioral economics is an efficient tool in public organizations:
  - Strong price incentive
  - Substitutes or alternative products.
  - Knowledge and skills to change behavior
- Please reach out if you want to hear more about our CO2 tax model in Aarhus.

Contact informations.

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