

Aalborg Airport & Egholm

Climate Compensation & Flight Safety

Aalborg Airport has established a partnership with a local landowner on the island of Egholm regarding climate compensation and flight safety through the conversion of agricultural land into sustainable grassland vegetation.



The Meaning of a Partnership

Climate Impact

On the island of Egholm, which is adjacent to Aalborg Airport, agriculture has been practiced for centuries, slowly degrading the topsoil, which is rich in organic matter and microorganisms. The partnership involves discontinuing intensive crop farming and establishing new grassland vegetation by sowing a mixture of different grasses, clover, herbs, flowers, etc.

The perennial grasslands are grazed using planned grazing methods, that aims to mimic natural processes where carbon is sequestered into the soil, removing it from the atmosphere and rebuilding the topsoil.

Flight Safety

Unlike intensive farmed land where surface runoff is a problem, properly managed grassland vegetation can absorb large amounts of water. This will result in Egholm's wetlands becoming fewer and smaller, making the entire area much less attractive for the large migratory birds that Aalborg Airport is facing challenges with.

In addition to the climate and safety aspects, the partnership also brings numerous other benefits, especially for biodiversity and the recreational qualities of the island.



Transition from Agriculture to Grassland Vegetation

Effect

From the outset, an extensive baseline study of soil carbon content was made. The carbon content is sampled and analysed by independent experts and verified by Agrolab Labor GmbH on a biennial cycle. All data is compiled in reports that are sent to Aalborg Airport.

The conversion into grassland is permanent, and the buildup of carbon will continue to increase for at least a 10-20 year period, after which it is expected to plateau.

The grazing will exclusively involve animals from existing herds and will not result in an increase in livestock production.



The Journey Towards Becoming a CO₂-Neutral Airport

A Balanced Partnership

The change of land use entails a significant loss of value for the landowner and is only possible because Aalborg Airport provides the landowner with ongoing economic compensation that corresponds to the value loss and the value of the climate impact and safety benefits.

Facts & Figures

The partnership is agreed upon for a 10-year period from January 1, 2022. About 330 hectares of land on Egholm, neighboring to Aalborg Airport, are part of the project.

The expected climate impact is a minimum of 27,000 tons of CO₂e over the period, supported by research, experiences from others, and measurements on the island's existing grassland areas.

