DCE - DANISH CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY IS AARHUS UNIVERSITY’S CENTRAL UNIT FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITHIN THE AREAS OF NATURE, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND ENERGY.

The research and consultancy activities provided by DCE mainly involve these two departments at Aarhus University:

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DCE
DANISH CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY, AARHUS UNIVERSITY

WHO WE ARE
DCE is Aarhus University’s central unit for knowledge exchange within the areas of nature, environment, climate and energy.

Among our customers are the Danish Ministry of the Environment, the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy, the Government of Greenland, the Danish municipalities, private businesses and the European Commission.

WHAT WE DO
DCE delivers advice and solutions that help greening the economy and promote sustainable growth at both local, national and international scale.
Our main competences are

Freshwater and marine ecosystems
Aarhus University’s researchers provide knowledge and decision-support tools to support Danish and European environmental regulation such as the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. We participate in the national monitoring of the status and trends of marine and freshwater ecosystems (NOVANA) and investigate cause-effect relations in response to environmental stressors such as eutrophication, pollutants and climate change.

Terrestrial ecosystems
Researchers at Aarhus University study how plants, animals and their habitats are affected by natural conditions (climate and soil) as well as by human activities such as air pollution, pesticides, genetically modified plants and various agricultural management systems. This knowledge is used by national and international authorities and private stakeholders and also to develop mitigation measures, pressure and effect indicators as well as decision support systems. Furthermore, it supports the national monitoring programme NOVANA.

Biodiversity – nature conservation and ecosystem services
The aim of the research at Aarhus University is to provide an objective framework to support the informed use of natural resources. Our work combines undertaking quality research with the active integration of long term surveillance and monitoring to provide a sound knowledge base for the provision of consultancy to industry, government and the general public. We place considerable emphasis on understanding how human activities impact on natural processes and systems - as well as investigating the benefit the natural systems provide to human welfare through various ecosystem services.

Climate change vulnerability – adaptation and mitigation
Aarhus University’s researchers are investigating how global climate changes may affect natural ecosystems across all latitudes, and give expert advice on how to adapt and mitigate potential environmental changes.

Arctic ecosystems
Aarhus University’s researchers focus on environmental issues related to management of mineral and petroleum exploration and exploitation in Greenland. Our activities also includes monitoring and assessment of contaminants in the environment, particularly related to the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), and studies related to the impact of climate change on Arctic ecosystems.

Air pollution and chemicals – environmental and human health
Aarhus University’s researchers are responsible for monitoring the air quality in Denmark and the Arctic and carry out research on atmospheric chemical dispersion models including scenarios, prognoses and human exposure. The research is targeted towards understanding impacts on the environment resulting from human activity and understanding the effects on human health. In addition, we provide the knowledge base for government policies and regulation addressing environmental issues relating to air pollution, organic contaminants and microorganisms.

Integrative management and systems analysis
Researchers at Aarhus University work in a highly cross-disciplinary fashion to provide the knowledge base for the environmental policy through strategic research and research-based policy advice. Among the main research areas are Environmental economics, Environmental geography, Sustainability and risk assessment, Environmental sociology and Politology.