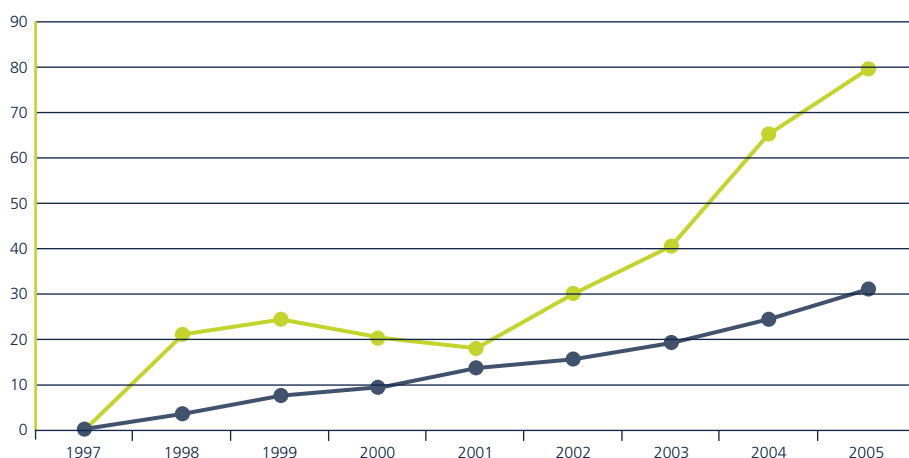


Does Fighting Climate Change Mean Sacrificing Economic Prosperity?

**CHANGE IN GDP PER CAPITA
ADJUSTED BY CHANGE IN CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM FOSSIL FUEL CONSUMPTION**
(in %)



— Denmark
— USA

CALCULATION METHOD
(1997-2005)

	Change in GDP per capita	Decrease in CO ₂ from fossil fuel consumption	Total
Denmark	48%	31%	79%
USA	38%	-7%	31%

Source: SAM, IEA, World Bank (World Development Indicators), CIA (The World Factbook)

There is an ongoing debate about whether or not efforts to reduce green house gas emissions will detrimentally affect economic prosperity. Countries worried about negative impacts from future emission reduction plans can look to the past for comfort. Over the period from 1997 to 2005, Denmark was able to increase the GDP per capita more than the US. During the same period, Denmark drastically reduced the amount of CO₂ it was producing from fossil fuel consumption while the US was doing the opposite. How did Denmark accomplish this feat? A thriving wind turbine industry certainly helped by creating tens of thousands of jobs

and pushing power consumption from clean wind energy up to near 20%. Now Denmark is exporting wind turbines and related products to countries like the US and enjoying the freedom and stability of energy independence.

This seems to be a clear example that countries can mitigate climate change without having to sacrifice economic prosperity. In fact, it supports the view of SAM that climate change mitigation should be seen as an opportunity and not a threat.

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