



DRAGSHOLM SLOT

Dragsholm Castle's climate and energy vision

- *an ambition*

Dragsholm castle is one of Denmark's oldest secular buildings. Since the early 13th century, a building has risen from the islet on the "drag". The name Dragsholm is based on history. It is a compound of the Viking Danish words for a strip of land ("drag" or "draugh") and an islet ("holm"). The land to the East of the castle – where Dragsholm Mill is situated today, was all that connected Odsherred to the rest of Sjælland before the land beneath the Lammefjord was reclaimed. In the Viking Age, a "drag" was a place where they could drag their ships over land and avoid the dangerous waters off North Zealand. The islet on which Dragsholm was built was surrounded by lakes and meadows just south of the border moraine which culminates at Vejrhøj to the North. For 800 hundred years it has always been occupied by a large structure - from the original palace through the Medieval stronghold to the present baroque castle.

Today, Dragsholm is an experience where nature, culture and history have pride of place. The castle is run these days as a piece of living cultural history with a hotel, restaurants and conference facilities, which have undergone extensive development in recent years. The building has been extensively renovated, preserving Dragsholm Castle as a significant monument that contributes to Danish cultural history.

It is our ambition to preserve the authenticity of the castle, while at the same time constantly perpetuating its contemporary relevance. We are doing our utmost to cultivate the framework and surrounding which make a visit to Dragsholm a unique experience for all our guests.

Dragsholm Castle is a firm believer in sustainability. We live in, from and with the countryside about us. Our guests experience the interplay between nature and the

earth-to-table philosophy at close quarters, and the castle's staff spend time in the immediate vicinity every day.

In keeping with our values, we are seeking to develop climate- and energy-friendly solutions which fulfil our requirements for water energy and refuse disposal. This benefits not just the environment and the climate, but also gives our company an ethical, responsible profile.

Global warming is a reality. Increases in temperature are helping to bring about major climate change which will change our conditions of life.

Dragsholm Castle has, over the last 800 years, managed to keep up with the times, taking on the challenges of the day and defending itself against changing threats - wars, floods, fires and sieges. These days, the challenges are related to climate change and the environment. At Dragsholm Castle we intend to respond to this challenge and look forward to making our humble contribution and standing as a good example as well as an inspiration to others.

Our ambition at Dragsholm is to show the world about us that a 13th-century listed building can be run as a modern establishment in harmony with its surroundings and in respect of the climate.

Our location and exposure mean that we feel particularly obliged to create climate- and energy-friendly solutions for the castle. A major part of our activities and reputation are closely related to the countryside - from the many footpaths around the castle and throughout Odsherred, fresh country air, the roar of the sea, the invigorating forests and the taste of primary produce from the Lammefjord. Many of the dishes created in the castle kitchen are inspired by the encounter with the countryside. The morning mist across the meadow and the foam on the sea nearby.

Dragsholm Castle wants to create sustainable solutions by means of climate- and energy-friendly projects involving green energy from the wind, ground heat, bio-fuels, solar energy and other sustainable energy sources. These projects will help to realise Dragsholm Castle's climate and energy vision.

Denmark enjoys a unique position as far as sustainable energy, environment technology and adaptation to the global climate challenge are concerned. As host of the COP15 Climate Conference, Denmark is contributing both ambition, will and solutions which will take on the climate challenge without creating limitations for the growth of industry and the welfare of its people. Engendering green, sustainable growth is the greatest challenge facing our own and the next generation. It will be a giant task, one that will require dedication and corporation over time.

The idea of making a historic castle climate- and energy-friendly is a massive challenge, but at the same time one which it is necessary to take on. Not least for a castle like Dragsholm, which can be an inspiration to others. At the same time, this ambition makes a fascinating story for Dragsholm Castle and its partners, together with whom the task will be accomplished. We envisage that our cultural history and the forward-looking solutions of our partners will together create a case of international format and interest.

If it is possible to run an 800 year-old, listed castle in a climate- and energy-friendly fashion it must also be possible to do so elsewhere.

In conclusion, we would like to round off this climate and energy vision with the quote from our admirable partners in the Climate Consortium.

"Dragsholm Castle is an example of a slice of Danish cultural history prepared to assume a major role by becoming an example for other Danish castles, hotels and restaurants in the climate field. Dragsholm Castle is a visionary example of the initiative and enterprise we need in Denmark in the lead up to the Copenhagen Climate Conference".

Kristian Wederkinck Olesen, Press Officer, the Climate Consortium.