



Terms of reference for AAU Climate Council

The Climate Council is appointed by the Executive Board and aims to ensure:

- strategic and managerial anchoring of AAU's current climate plan
- strong organisational anchoring and support for existing councils and committees to strengthen the link between climate activities and the everyday life and activities of the individual environments
- ad hoc involvement of scientific staff in the development and qualification of new climate activities;
- effective implementation of AAU's current climate plan

The Climate Council acts as an advisory body to the Executive Board and the Board of Directors. The Council makes decisions on prioritising the efforts in the climate plan and is responsible for ensuring that the relevant stakeholders are involved in the work.

Every year, AAU prepares a climate account as a follow-up on the effect of the climate activities and the desired reduction of the university's total greenhouse gas emissions.

The composition of the Climate Council

The composition of the Climate Council is as follows:

- University Director
- Pro-rector for Education
- Pro-Rector for Research
- 1-2 heads of department
- 2 VIP representatives from the research area (wet/dry)
- 1-2 students
- 1 representative from Campus Service
- 1 representative from IT-Service
- 1 representative from the Finance Department

The University Director, the Pro-rector for Education and the Pro-rector for Research are permanent members of the Council. The other members are appointed by the Executive Board for a three-year period with the possibility of extension.

The tasks of the Climate Council

In terms of tasks, the Climate Council is responsible for prioritisation, implementation and monitoring of the university's climate plan and climate accounts.

Strategic development and objectives

The Climate Council assesses the need to develop and maintain the strategic direction

and framework for the university's climate plan and climate accounts in accordance with the university's overall strategy, national and international goals in relation to the desired progress.

Implementation and follow-up

The Climate Council decides on the prioritisation of the climate plan's efforts within the framework decided by the Executive Board, approves the climate plan's action plans and monitors the implementation. The effect of climate action is evaluated in relation to the annual climate accounts.

Communication

The Climate Council publishes a work plan (annual cycle) and an annual report to the Executive Board.

Involving the organization

The Climate Council must, to the extent necessary, bring relevant professional environments and their expertise into play, which is why the Climate Council can set up ad hoc advisory working groups as needed.

DSUR and SRFI are consulted on activities under the two focus areas of education and research in order to build bridges between climate action and the respective councils' areas of responsibility. AL and ALF are also consulted on activities of relevance to the administration.

Climate Coordination Group

The Climate Council is supplemented by an interdisciplinary climate coordination group, which consists of the three representatives from the Share Service in the Climate Council. The group will contribute to qualifying the council's decisions and ensure coordinated progress in the implementation of the climate plan and its activities, including allocation of resources, interdependencies and project management.

The climate coordination group operates on its own on a daily basis within the framework set by the Climate Council.

The University Director appoints the members and may, if necessary, replace members of the group or involve representatives from other departments.

The tasks of the climate coordination group

In terms of tasks, the climate coordination group is concerned with the implementation and documentation of the university's climate efforts.

Prioritization and coordination

The climate coordination group prioritises and coordinates the climate activities that are important for the day-to-day operation of the university, such as procurement, campus operations and IT.

Setting up project working groups

The Climate Coordination Group composes project working groups with relevant actors from the entities affected by the climate activities.

Climate accounting

In order to document the effect on the implementation of the climate plan's activities, a climate account is prepared annually.

Project working groups and operations

The activities under the nine focus areas are run by established project groups or operations. Project management can be handled by the project manager for the climate plan, but can also be handled by an employee from another department with relevant expertise for the focus area.

Meetings

Two to four ordinary meetings are held a year. Extraordinary meetings are held when the chairperson deems it necessary.

Administrative support

The Climate Council and the Climate Coordination Group are served by the project manager for the climate plan.

Resources

The Executive Board determines the finances for the climate work on the recommendation of the Climate Council.

Changes to the Terms of Reference

The Climate Council may recommend changes to the terms of reference to the Executive Board if the Committee deems it necessary.

The Climate Council's mandate and tasks are evaluated after two years with a view to assessing the value of the established governance for the climate plan.

Approved by the Executive Board

Date: 27 November 2024