



# Closing the time gap on Permitting

13 CLIMATE  
ACTION

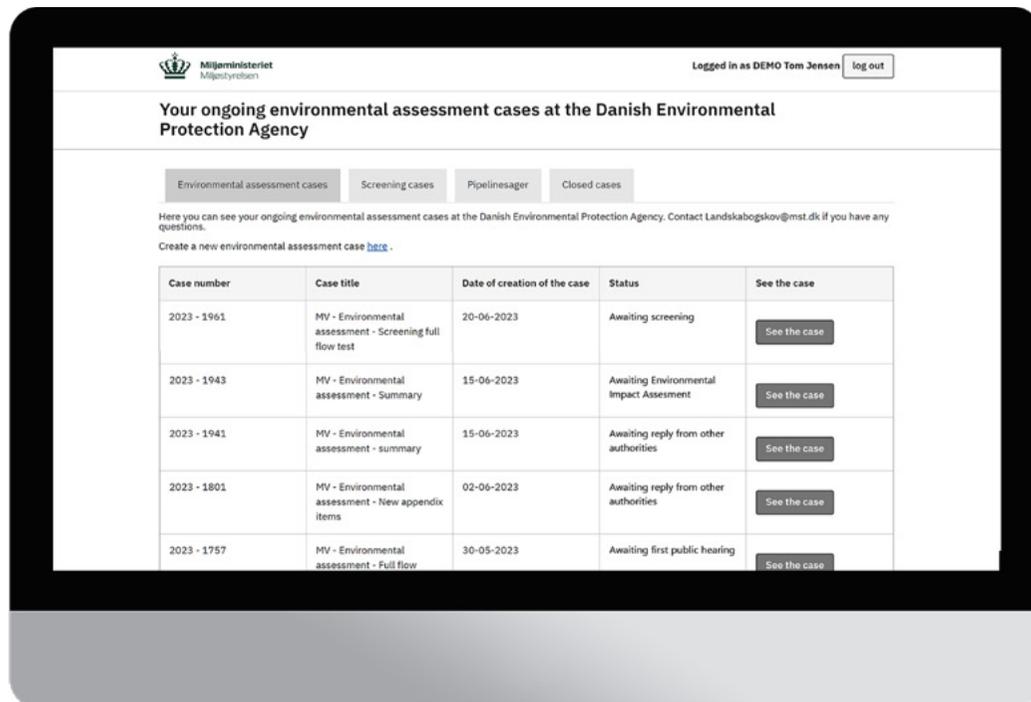


- **Fast-tracking environmental impact assessments**
- **Sharing the blueprints for digital environmental permitting**
- **AI for environmental permitting**

# Fast-tracking environmental impact assessments

**According to the international Energy Agency, permitting for renewables is up to a decade of documentation. The wind industry claims that for every one wind project under construction in Europe, there are four fully financed projects stuck in permitting. No wonder that the UN's Secretary-General has called on governments to fast-track and streamline approvals of solar and wind projects.**

## MULTI AGENCY COLLABORATION HUB



The screenshot shows a web interface for the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. At the top, it displays the logo of the Ministry of the Environment and the text 'Miljøministeriet Miljøstyrelsen'. The user is logged in as 'DEMO Tom Jensen' with a 'log out' button. The main heading is 'Your ongoing environmental assessment cases at the Danish Environmental Protection Agency'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Environmental assessment cases', 'Screening cases', 'Pipelinesager', and 'Closed cases'. A message states: 'Here you can see your ongoing environmental assessment cases at the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. Contact Landskabogskov@mst.dk if you have any questions. Create a new environmental assessment case [here](#).' Below the message is a table with the following data:

Case number	Case title	Date of creation of the case	Status	See the case
2023 - 1961	MV - Environmental assessment - Screening full flow test	20-06-2023	Awaiting screening	<a href="#">See the case</a>
2023 - 1943	MV - Environmental assessment - Summary	15-06-2023	Awaiting Environmental Impact Assessment	<a href="#">See the case</a>
2023 - 1941	MV - Environmental assessment - summary	15-06-2023	Awaiting reply from other authorities	<a href="#">See the case</a>
2023 - 1801	MV - Environmental assessment - New appendix items	02-06-2023	Awaiting reply from other authorities	<a href="#">See the case</a>
2023 - 1757	MV - Environmental assessment - Full flow	30-05-2023	Awaiting first public hearing	<a href="#">See the case</a>

All over the world, environmental authorities are under pressure to bring down consent time for environmental permitting. Environmental Impact Assessments safeguard natural resources, prevent pollution and loss of biodiversity as well as ensuring due process and transparency for people affected by projects like wind, hydro or solar energy plants.

Projects crucial to climate action are prolonged or halted due to ineffective administration and lacking or outdated information and communications technology (ICT).

### Expedited permitting in 8 weeks in Denmark

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency rapidly digitalized the processes related to Environmental Impact Assessments and permits. In less than 8 weeks, a fully digital application and case management solution was deployed based on the EPA's own screening process.

The solution registers and relates the application to other authorities and ensures that all relevant national, European, and global regulations are met and documented. Furthermore the solution keeps track of the public consultation phases that allows the public to raise concerns regarding environmental impact of projects. These processes are crucial for the permits to be legal and valid and often become the cause of time-consuming litigation around the world.

#### **Multi-Agency Collaboration Hub in place**

Oftentimes, digitalization projects are held back when cross-agency collaboration is needed. Denmark has rectified this by creating a collaboration portal where relevant stakeholders pre-register upcoming projects, track approval status across agencies, and identify any documentation or procedural roadblocks. This kind of transparency creates efficiency gains in the planning pipeline for transmission-grid expansions and avoids bottlenecks in particular phases of the approval process.

Environmental Impact Assessments and permitting can be handled efficiently through digital solutions, which can be deployed quickly. Agencies can efficiently achieve their climate objectives by designing transparent and collaborative multi-agency solutions.

## AI for environmental permitting



In Denmark, cBrain is currently conducting experiments with government partners on how to use artificial intelligence to reduce the workload and subsequently the consent time for Environmental Impact Assessments. In a secure and closed virtual environment, we are training an AI-model on EIA-data in compliance with all data protection regulations.

cBrain is happy to welcome more partners to explore the opportunities of utilizing AI to close the time gap on climate action.

## Sharing the blueprints for digital environmental permitting

Environmental permitting follows international standards, making the reuse of best practices a viable opportunity. In a public-private partnership a best practice for digital environmental permitting has been enacted in Denmark. This provides a blueprint for expedited permitting.

In collaboration with our government partners, we aim to bring this best practice model of digital environmental permitting to the attention of governments that are seeking to expedite their permitting for the good of both climate and environment by bringing permitting authorities together to improve the climate and the environment.

As part of our commitment to SDG 13, we will donate and share the technologically neutral standards and best practices for environmental permitting for the benefit of the world. cBrain commits to deploy the necessary technical expertise to regulators at the national, state, or local level, who wish to adapt the best practice developed in Denmark.

# Applied Climate Software for Governments

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<p><b>F2</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Efficiency</b></p>	<p><b>Home Energy Audit</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Energy Efficiency in Companies</b> Egypt</p>	<p><b>Inflation Cash Assistance</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Heat Pump Grant</b> Denmark</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Land Use</b></p>	<p><b>Climate Lowlands</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Sustainable Land Initiative</b> USA</p>	<p><b>Climate Forest Grants</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Protection of Biodiversity</b></p>	<p><b>Licensing of Trade Endangered Species (CITES)</b> Denmark &amp; Guyana</p>
<p><b>EU Natura 2000 Protected Areas</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Urban Roof-top Gardening</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Regulation</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Circular Economy and Waste</b></p>	<p><b>Extended Producer Responsibility</b> Kenya</p>	<p><b>International Waste Export and Import</b> Denmark</p>
<p><b>Protection of Nature</b></p>	<p><b>Dredging</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Lake and Stream Restoration</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Environmental Support in the Arctic</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Genetic Resources</b></p>	<p><b>License and Control of Genetically Modified Organisms</b> Denmark</p>
<p><b>Access Benefit Sharing Nagoya-convention</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Clean water and air</b></p>	<p><b>Drinking Water Protection</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Waste Water Control</b> Denmark</p>	<p><b>Home Woodstove Removal</b> Denmark</p>	