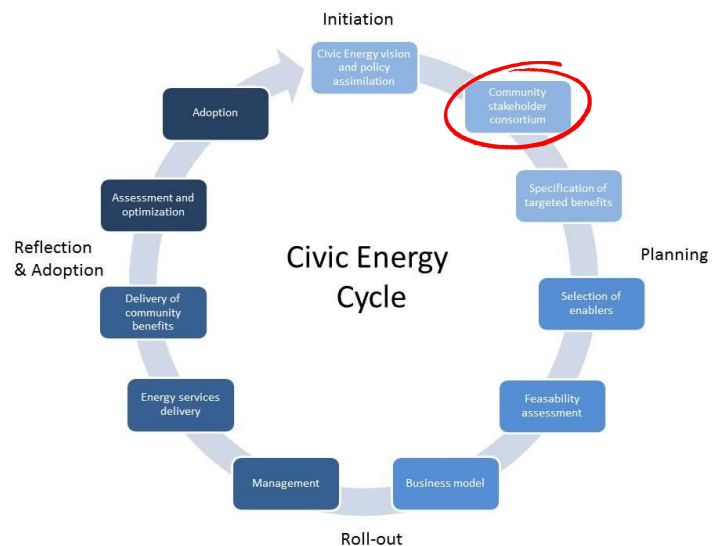


## Geraardsbergen

### Region: Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen

Geraardsbergen is located in the southeast corner of the province, next to the river “Dender”, in the region “Denderstreek”. The city counts approximately 35.000 habitants with a population density of 429 habitants/km<sup>2</sup>. June 2018 the city council accepted the vision of “Energylandscape Denderland”, a vision of 9 municipalities in “Denderstreek” where to locate renewable energy in the region. June 2018 the local council accepted the vision of “Energylandscape Denderland”, a vision of 9 municipalities in “Denderstreek” where to locate renewable energy in the region. Wind turbines have to be concentrated in so called “windwinningsgebieden” (= wind catchment areas).

June 2019 the council approved a policy framework to realise direct participation in the generation of energy from renewable sources, Geraardsbergen owns a lot of own grounds that are situated in the ‘windwinningsgebieden’ and decided to develop wind energy on own grounds following all above formulated conditions. Geraardsbergen wants to be an example in energy transition for other municipalities in the region.



### Current stage of pilot with respect to Civic Energy Cycle

July 2019 the city of Geraardsbergen formulated a formal request for support from Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen for a vision for a windlandscape in Denderland, and for support to realise this vision.

January 2021 Geraardsbergen contracted VEB (an externally corporatized public agency from the Flemish government) for help to make a plan to get the maximum of windturbines on municipal grounds. However, similar as in Ninove, all parties involved (Geraardsbergen, VEB and province) put the process on hold because a spatial plan is needed to realise the “windwinningsgebieden”. In meantime, Geraardsbergen will start a communication campaign about the advantages of wind energy for the region.

# FORERUNNERS

## Targeted benefits

- Co-ownership of local citizens
- Awareness about energy transition
- Acceptance of wind turbines in the landscape
- Local control of the environmental effects of wind turbines
- Local fund to realise new projects in the environment
- Introduction of new energy usage patterns and new renewable energy technologies
- Decline of energy poverty

## Delivered benefits

- Awareness about energy transition

## Stakeholders involved

- Town council Ninove
- Province East-Flanders
- Project Developer Wind Turbines
- Flemish Policy Level

## Capacities for improvement

- A congruent spatial policy vision on the location of wind farms of all policy levels: local, provincial, regional, national.
- A strong communication campaign, organised by trustworthy stakeholders

## Risks and barriers

- Protest of surrounding citizens to development of wind turbines

## Further information

<https://oost-vlaanderen.be/wonen-en-leven/ruimtelijke-planning/projecten/energielandschap-denderland.html> - movie (old)  
<https://www.geraardsbergen.be/product/3448/windenergie>  
<https://www.geraardsbergen.be/projectpagina>

For Ninove:

<https://www.ninove.be/windenergie-ninove-zuid> (check movie!)  
<https://www.ninove.be/veelgestelde-vragen-project-windenergie>