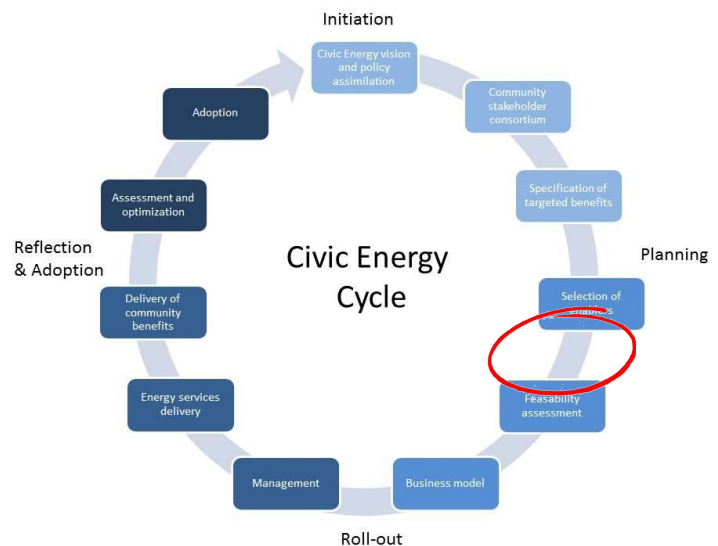


## Ninove

### Region: Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen

Ninove is located at the southeast of the province, next to the river “Dender”, in the region “Denderstreek”. The municipality counts approximately 40.000 habitants with a population density of 542 habitants/square km. 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). Grouping wind turbines in clusters leads to organisational efficiency for management and tranquillity in the landscape. Wind farms are best located in already existing productive landscapes. The wind catchment area becomes a more productive landscape for food, energy, climate adaptation and other ecosystem services. However, the development of these areas is subject to important preconditions. They can only be realised if the added value is locally anchored with an environment funds and direct participation, and if there is a sufficient 'sense of urgency' both at policy level and among the population and developers.



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

May 13 2019 the College of Mayor and Aldermen agreed to start a windproject. This project involved a tendering of land for wind turbines to a wind project developer, and to design and implement a participation and communication strategy for the realisation of wind turbines in Ninove. This wind turbines have to be realised according the vision of Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen, with locally anchored added value and direct participation. September 2019 Ninove started the tendering procedure. Interested project developers could apply till end January 2020. Ninove chose a project developer with the strongest promises on added value and direct participation. However, this choice was challenged by one of the rejected candidate project developers. Legal advice was sought to get out of this impasse. This legal advice let to insights how to take into account communiity benefits and civic energy in public procurement. POVl shared this insights in a COBEN paper. For the case of Ninove, the realisation of the wind farm is on hold because a spatial plan is needed for the region to realise the “windwinningsgebieden”.

# 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

- Procurement procedure is contested by candidate developers
- Protest of surrounding citizens to development of wind turbines