

Windlandschap

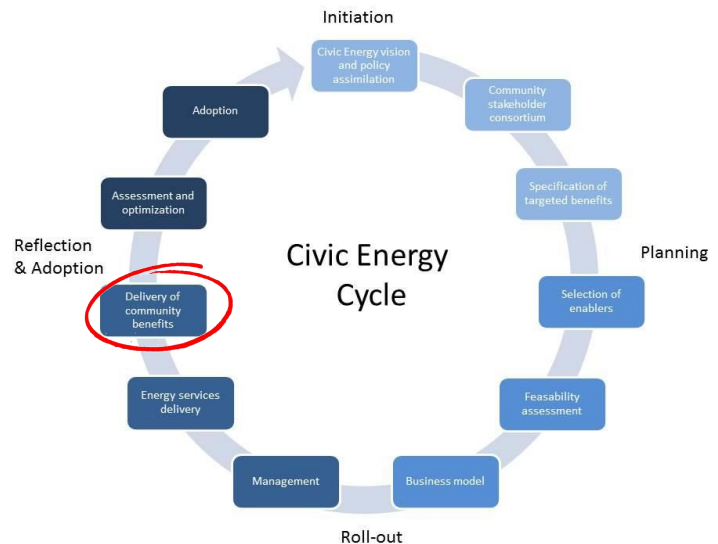
Region: Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen

August 2009 Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen accepted a provincial policy framework for wind turbines. This framework demarcates 5 macro concentration areas in the province. One of this area is situated at the expressway N49 (prospective E34) near Eeklo. April 2013 the Council of Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen stated conditions for the development of wind turbines in East-Flanders. At the input side there has to be financial participation of minimal 20% from citizens and municipalities. At the output side, a part of the returns has to be deposit in a local fund that takes care of the landscape and renewable energy projects in the direct environment of the wind turbines. April 2015, the Flemish minister of environment approved the provincial spatial implementation plan for the creation of "wind landscape" Eeklo-Maldegem. This plan included the civic energy conditions as formulated by the Council April 2013.

Despite the formal inclusion of conditions in a formal policy plan not all the civic energy conditons were fulfilled with the realisation of the wind landscape. A minimal 20% financial participation from citizens and municipalities can not be forced by an enviromental permit. At the output side there is an ongoing discussion about the realisation of the local fund "Milde Meetjes". With the support of COBEN we want to end the discussion, start the fund and celebrate the realisation of the wind landscape.

Current stage of pilot with respect to Civic Energy Cycle

June 2021 POVl inaugurated the realisation of the wind landscape with a big communication campaign and an open air event with press event, movie theatre, bike tour, free ice cream, quiz, ... Every citizen in the area around the wind turbines received an invitation to become board member of the environmental fund "Milde Meetjes". According the deed of incorporation 8 persons were selected. However, one of the selected members challenged the selection. With juridical advice the deed of incorporation has been adapted to avoid future problems. With more than one year of delay after selection of members, a president of the fund will be selected by the foundation "King Baudouin" and the fund can start with his work to deliver community benefits.



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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

- Co-ownership of 1 of the wind turbines
- 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

Stakeholders involved

- Municipalities Eeklo, Maldegem, Kaprijke en Sint-Laureins
- Agriculturalists in intrusion zone (800 m around wind turbine)
- Citizens in intrusion zone
- Concerned wind energy developers: Engie Electrabel, Elicio, Windkracht Vlaanderen
- King Baudouin Foundation (fund manager)
- Local stakeholders to manage the environmental fund "Milde meetjes"

Capacities for improvement

- Finance for staff to negotiate every step in the process with all stakeholders
- A good legislative framework to realise renewable energy with community benefits
- An obligation to realise renewable energy with citizen participation

Risks and barriers

- Private party is not willing to contribute to fund
- Stakeholders don't agree in the operation of the environmental fund