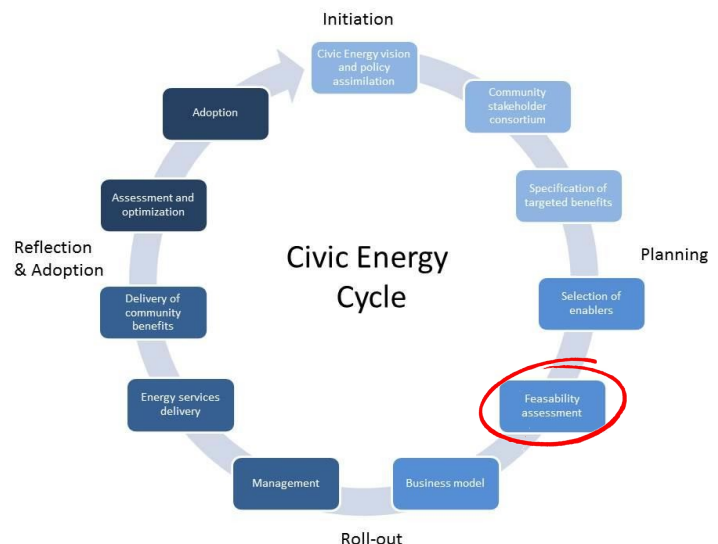


Zelzate

Region: Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen

The Community of Zelzate is located in the north of the Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen, in the North Sea Port area, next to the large steelwork company ArcelorMittal Gent. It is a very densely populated commune, with an area of 13,71 km² and a total population of 12.176 habitants. Zelzate is divided by the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal. Zelzate has political ambitions to reduce CO₂ emissions, to examine the possibilities for a municipal energy company and to allow renewable energy projects only with citizen participation.

Since April 2018 the Interreg V Flanders – The Netherlands project DOEN has developed a framework to link energy surplus of companies with energy demand. DOEN and ArcelorMittal have investigated the possibility to develop a heat grid from ArcelorMittal to heat demanders in Zelzate. July 2020 Arcelor Mittal launched a call for application for a developer of a heat grid to supply waste heat to the offices of ArcelorMittal Gent and the next door psychiatric clinic.



Current stage of pilot with respect to Civic Energy Cycle

POVL helped the municipality of Zelzate to develop a Sustainable Heat Transition vision. The development of a Heat Transition vision includes elements of the Civic Energy Cycle, and will help the municipality to progress in the initiation and planning phase of a heat grid. Next to it, Zelzate developed a vision on the benefits of a heat grid for the community. Zelzate is now waiting for Arcelor Mittal to tender a heat net developer. When the heat net developer is contracted, Zelzate will start negotiations to connect several buildings and building projects at the heatnet. Across the border, municipality of Terneuzen (NL) has declared to have strong interest to connect too to the future heat net. The Interreg NWE project Heatnet supports this development with a feasibility development of a 6 km long heat net between Zelzate and Sas Van Gent (part of Terneuzen, NL).

FORERUNNERS

Targeted benefits

- Support base for new infrastructure
- Willingness of the community to connect to the heat net
- Community engagement in ownership of renewable energy infrastructure
- Community control of benefits delivery of new energy services
- Community control of the pricing for the heat net consumers
- CO₂ reduction by a shift from fossil fuel heating to waste heat

Delivered benefits

- Support base for new infrastructure (by Heat Transition Vision Zelzate)
- Willingness of the community to connect to the heat net (communication projects)

Stakeholders involved

- Province East-Flanders
- Municipality Zelzate
- To involve:
 - Arcelor Mittal Ghent
 - Heat Net developer
 - Public Housing Company CVBA Wonen
 - Distribution Network Operator Fluvius

Capacities for improvement

- Funding for feasibility assessment of heatnets
- Strong EU and national regulation on the development of heat nets
- Guidelines based on good practices

Risks and barriers

- Uncertainty in energy pricing
- Strong fluctuating prices of materials
- Need for new business models with public private cooperation
- Lack of clarity about the division of roles and the role of the DNO

Further information

<https://oost-vlaanderen.be/wonen-en-leven/ruimtelijke-planning/projecten/buurzame-warmte.html>