



Energy Transition as a societal challenge

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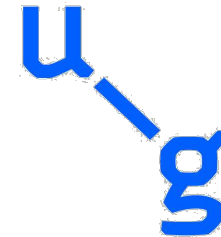
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GRUNNEGER





Origins of cooperation



UrbanGro Lab (2010)

- RUG Faculty of Spatial Sciences and Municipality of Groningen
- Many educational related projects (students)
- Few small projects
- One fte coordination
- One larger project:



INTENSSS-PA (H2020)

2015-2018

Sustainable integrated energy planning



INTENSSS PA

Origins of cooperation

Change in collaboration

- Invest in larger projects with ‘real’ collaboration between key staff
- Allows for wider engagement in local issues: more stakeholders, build-up of capacity building

Making City (H2020) 2019-2024

Positive energy districts

2ISECAP (H2020) 2021-2024

Local energy coalitions & SECAP





Making City

Pursue so called 'Positive Energy Districts', with:

- Technical solutions (e.g. renewables, insulation, smart metering)
- Societal solutions (e.g. citizen engagement, participation, information)
- Institutional development
 - New SECAP
 - New City Vision for 2050
 - Novel tool development





Making City: Groningen



Groningen is a 'Lighthouse City' meant to give the good example

- A neighborhood energy approach
- Ambitious plans and visions

Groningen consortium:

- 4 research institutes
- 2 housing cooperation's
- 1 energy cooperative
- 1 ICT company
- 3 companies





Making City: Groningen



Integrated and collaborative approach to energy transition

- Cross-sectoral capacity building
- Long term energy vision
- Finances, societal businesses
- Real empowerment
- What works and what does not?



Network building

Making City as an example and catalyst for build-up of local network of expertise and collaboration

For Faculty of Spatial Sciences:

- 2ISECAP (H2020) on Local Energy Coalitions
- Direct impact on and feedback from practice
- New and intensified collaborations with other parties
- Ambition to study tools for 'real empowerment'



Empowerment

Increasing energy prices (EU 2020, Luteijn 2021) and risk of a (large) group being 'left behind'

- No roof (for PV)
- Low income / low capital
- No ownership (private rent especially)
- Energy poverty

But also: real involvement in decisions
and ownership





Empowerment

Role of energy cooperatives

- Societal movement
- Collective ownership
- Transactional services
- Boundary spanning

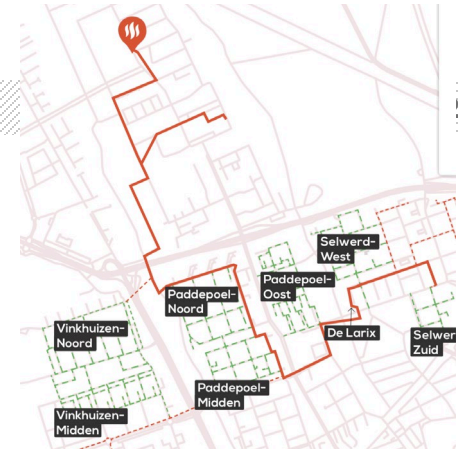
Bottom-up community building
versus professional projects
and partnership





Empowerment

... Professionalizing and scaling (bottom)-up



Five indicators for a promising follow-up

1. residents' enthusiasm for a heat network
2. residents' involvement in a heat network
3. organization and participation in the neighborhood
4. technical opportunities and limitations
5. required financing





Empowerment in public cooperative partnership

... or a combination of both worlds?



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POWER

Groninger variaties	Bron	Transport	Distributie	Levering
Warmte-Stad (fase 1)	Markt*	Warmte-Stad	N.v.t.	Warmte-Stad
Pilot De Larix (fase 2a)	Markt*	Warmte-Stad	Gemeente	Warmte-Stad
Pilot Selwerd Zuid (fase 2b)	Markt*	Gemeente	Gemeente	Energie coöperatie en Warmte-Stad
Buurt-warmte (fase 3)	Markt*	Warmte-Stad	Gemeente	Energie coöperatie

Markt Publiek Coöperatie Publiek/Coöperatief



Lessons

1. Energy planning is a world of pioneering, which begs for innovation in instruments, policies and stakeholder collaborations
2. 'the best way to collaborate is to work together'
3. Constant investment in new ideas, also if they do not immediately get 'paid'
4. Share a mission
5. Societal impact also means letting society join: don't be exclusive



Future

1. Energy becomes an entry into more holistic town and neighborhood revitalization
2. Which is using new and innovative and societal inclusive businesscases
3. While reconsidering notions of ownership (e.g. citizen ownership)
4. To be developed, studied and implemented in an *expanding* local innovative partnership
5. ... that utilizes many existing and rising networks and projects

