



Renewable energy co-operatives backbone of a cooperative economy

LILLE, France

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Who is who?

Dirk Vansintjan

- Flanders, Belgium, master linguistics, ° 1959
- active in renewable energy sector since 1985
- co-founder of
 - Ecopower in 1991: renewable energy cooperative
 - ODE-Vlaanderen in 1996: federation renewable energy in Flanders/Belgium
 - REScoop.be in 2010: federation of groups and cooperatives of citizens for renewable energy in Belgium
 - REScoop.eu in 2011: federation of groups and cooperatives of citizens for renewable energy in Europe

A Belgian REScoop: Ecopower



- Belgium (Flanders)
- ° 1991 (Ngo TSAP, Leuven, ° 1985)
- 43.000 cooperative members
- 50 million € equity

Production:

- Wind: 12 turbines, 22,91 MW
- PV: 270 installations, 2,25 MW
- Small hydro: restoration of 3 watermills, 0,1 MW
- Plant oil cogeneration 1 plant, 0,25 MWe, 0,3 MWth
- 11 years: 6%, 1 year: 4% dividend
- Support of Walloon REScoops (13 x 2,3 MW wind turbines)



A Belgian REScoop: Ecopower



Supply (2011)

- 87,5 million kWh
- 1,2 % of households in Flanders
- 31.495 customers on 31/12/2011
- 4.888 new customers in 2011
- fairest and greenest electricity and best customer service on the market
- link between renewable energy and rational use of energy
- average consumption dropping continuously: 38% in 5 years
- without customers with PV-installations (8809): 3096 kWh (-20%)
- very simple tariff

Dienstverlening energieleveranciers

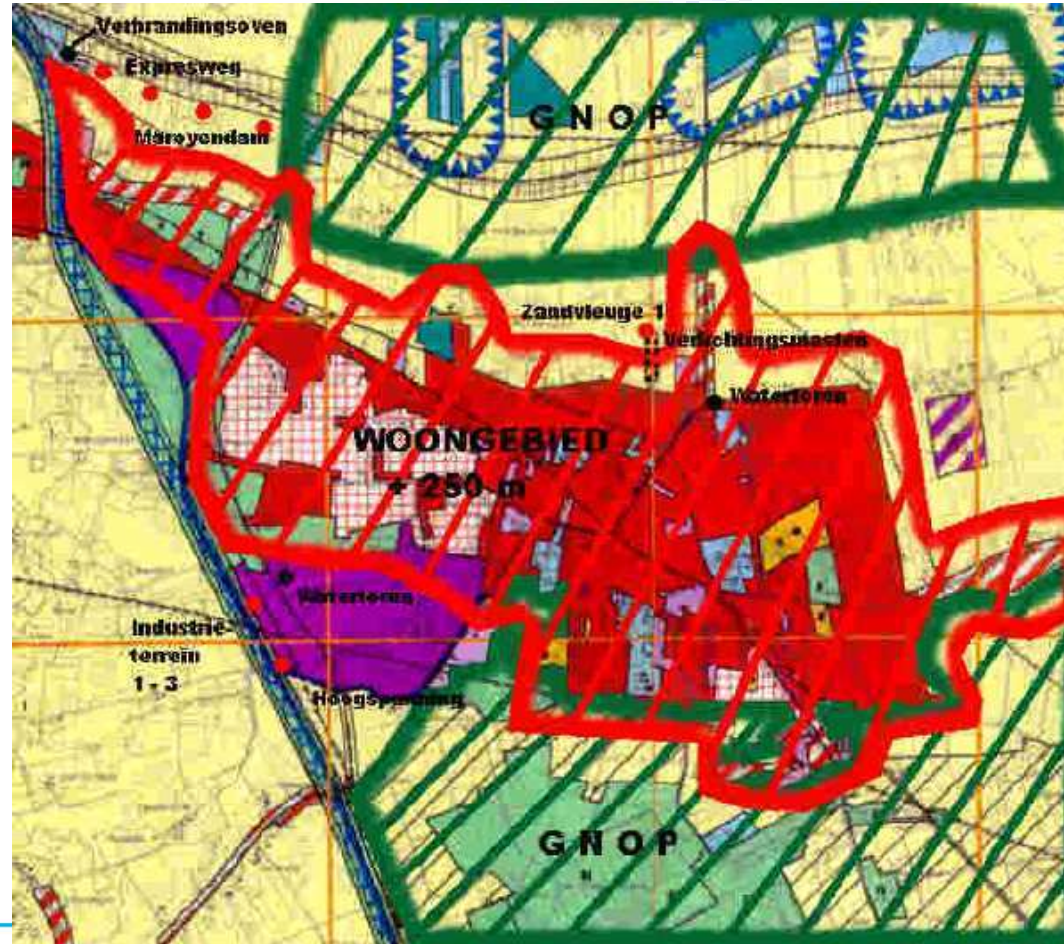
	Score Op basis van het aantal klachten	Aantal klachten	Telefoons beantwoord binnen 60 sec.	Kosten vervroegde stopzetting
Ecopower	★★★★★	1 op 23.800	98%	0 euro
Electrabel	★★★★★	1 op 4.900	80%	50 tot 75 euro
Luminus	★★★★	1 op 3.225	80%	50 tot 75 euro
Ebem	★★★★	1 op 1.875	95%	0 euro
Belpower	★★★	1 op 1.495	98,76%	50 tot 75 euro
Nuon	★★	1 op 980	onbekend	50 tot 75 euro
Lampiris	★★	1 op 775	98%	50 tot 75 euro*
Essent	★	1 op 525	onbekend	50 tot 75 euro

*Uitgezonderd bij een nieuw contract

Year	Average consumption
2006	3.909
2007	3.331
2008	3.063
2009	2.985
2010	2.819
2011	2.421

City of Eeklo: 1999 urbanistic analysis on wind energy

- Participatory process
 - Council
 - Advice committees
 - citizens
- Result
 - 3 zones for windturbines
 - 2 WT's on city property



City of Eeklo: 1999: public tender

- importance to participation of citizens
- choice of Ecopower



City of Eeklo: 2001 royal support



City of Eeklo: 2001 building phase

- 2 x Enercon 1,8 MW et 1 x Enercon 600 kW
- Inauguration June 01 et January 02
- Excellent collaboration Enercon - Ecopower - city - landowner- citizens - electricity grid
- From 30 (1999) to ca. 700 members (beginning of 2003)



City of Eeklo: 2011

- New public tender 2 x Enercon 2,3 MW
- Selection Ecopower
- Fixed amount for city
- Ecopower partner of city
 - Engineer
 - District heating
 - PV



Context of Crises

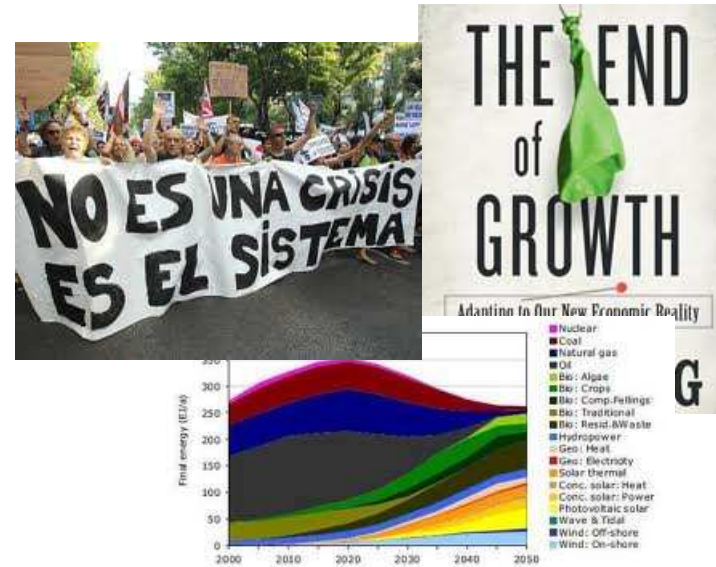
In the context of crises:

- financial crisis
- economical crisis/system crisis
- environmental crisis/energy crisis
- social crisis

Energy will become one of the major issues of the coming decades.

We will face an **energy transition** from

- fossil/nuclear fuels towards renewable energy
- centralised to decentralised production
- spoiling energy to rational energy use



Opportunity for citizens

Citizens and communities have now the opportunity to take up a role in their future energy production and supply

They will anyway as:

- consumer
- taxpayer
- money-saver



Renewable Energy Sources Cooperatives are the ideal enterprise for citizens to take an active role in the energy transition.

Citizens have the choice...

REScoop solution

- EU
 - EU 20-20-20 Climate and energy package
 - Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 20%
 - Improve energy efficiency by 20%
 - Cover 20% of energy demand from renewable sources
 - EU 2050 Roadmap
- UN
 - Climate convention 1992
 - Kyoto protocol 1997
 - UN proclaimed 2012 international year of cooperatives as well as year of sustainable energy for all



REScoop solution



"Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Definition of a cooperative:

"A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically-controlled enterprise."



REScoop solution

Baseline 7 international cooperative principles

Voluntary, open membership

Democratic member control

Member economic participation

Autonomy and independence

Education, training and information

Cooperation among cooperatives

Concern for the community

www.ica.coop/coop/principles.html



Cooperatives as part of the solution...in the USA

Did you know
Electric Cooperatives ...



Are located in 80% of the nation's counties

Are the largest electric utility network in the nation

Total more than 930 local systems in 47 states

Have 40 million member-owners

Distribute power over 2.4 million miles of line

Serve 75% of the U.S. land mass

Own \$112 billion in generation, transmission, and distribution assets

More than 80% of all local electric co-ops offer electricity generated from renewable sources?

Touchstone energy cooperatives (USA)



What Makes Our Cooperatives Different?

'Touchstone Energy co-ops are owned by the members they serve and are committed to providing reliable electricity at the lowest price possible. In short, co-ops “look out” for the members they serve.'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tenKnIx4ouY>



Federation of groups and cooperatives
of citizens for Renewable Energy in Europe

- Practical application of the 7 cooperative principles
- Supporting local communities
- Clean, affordable energy supply for all
- Citizens: role in production, distribution and supply
- Sharing of experience
- Mutual practical and organisational support
- Creation of cooperative investment fund?
- Creation of pan-European sustainable energy supplier?
- Lobby local, regional, national, European and international authorities

REScoop 20-20-20 IEE project

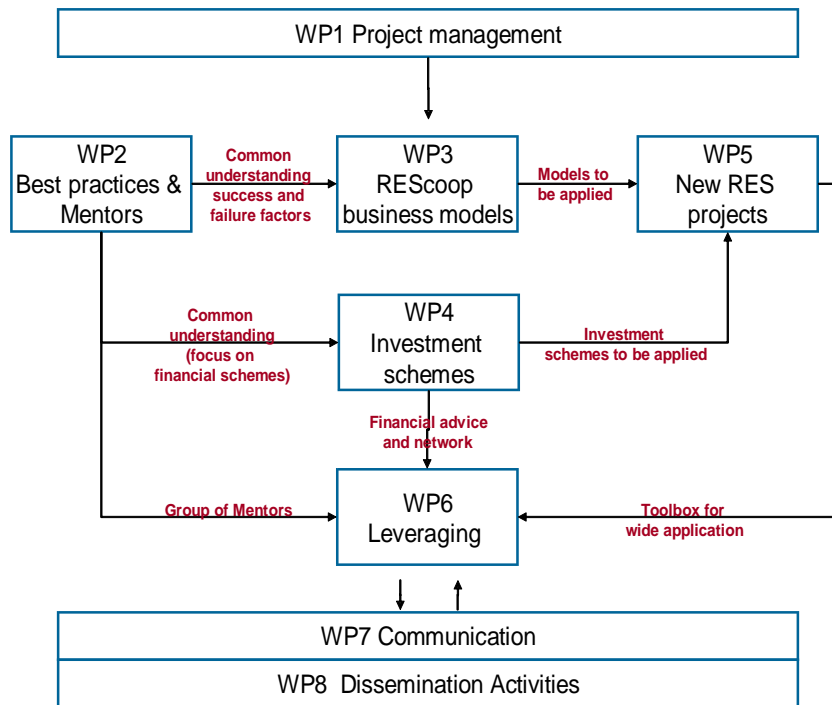
Project partners support groups and cooperatives of citizens to go together for renewable energy

Over 1000 REScoops in Europe?

Middelgrundens Vindmøllelaug



Project summary REScoop 20-20-20



- renewable energy cooperatives
- federations of REScoops and coops
- local energy agencies
- academical partners
- sustainability agencies

join forces for more RES-projects,
more REScoops, more citizens
involved in Europe, reaching its
20-20-20 targets

Background: citizens in action



More information on REScoop 20-20-20

For more information or contact have a look at

www.rescoop.eu

www.facebook.com/pages/REScoopEU/198522540221034

or subscribe to our news alert

Partners

www.ecopower.be/index.php/english

www.energy4all.co.uk/

www.middelgrunden.dk/middelgrunden/?q=en/node/35

More information

www.ica.coop/al-ica/

International Cooperative Alliance

www.2012.coop/

2012 UN year of Cooperatives

www.sustainableenergyforall.org/

2012 UN year of sustainable energy

www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/

Rio+20 UNCSD

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

www.go100percent.org

100% renewable energy communities

Thank you



REScoop 20-20-20 project partners support groups and cooperatives of citizens for renewable energy.
Contact us for support! www.rescoop.eu

A REScoop best practice: EW Schönauf



- triggered 1986 by Chernobyl accident
- 1997 take-over local grid
- 1998 supply of Schönauf customers exclusively with electricity from renewable energy and cogeneration
- 1999 national supplier of clean electricity
- by 2012 operating 7 grids
- 2014 Berlin grid?
- shareholders: 1830
- customers electricity: approx. 130.000, natural gas: approx. 8.300
- subsidized new, ecological electricity production units: some 1950
- PV, cogeneration, biogas, small hydro



atomstromlos.
klimafreundlich.
bürgereigen.

A REScoop best practice: Middelgrunden



- 20 wind turbines,
- 10 northern owned by DONG Energy 10 southern owned by Middelgrunden Wind Turbine Cooperative
- world famous, most photographed
- story of Danish people investing savings in wind-power told over and over again

- private partnership formed May 1997, by working group for wind turbines at Middelgrunden
- following success of Lynetten Windpower (www.lynettenvind.dk)
- aim to produce electricity through the establishment and management of wind turbines on Middelgrunden shoal
- shareholders own a share corresponding to 1/40500 of the partnership per share

A REScoop best practice: Energy4all



- created due to daily enquiries received from people looking to replicate the success of Baywind, the UK's first community-owned wind farm (www.baywind.coop)
- works primarily with community groups and landowners, to develop renewable energy projects wholly or partially owned by a community co-operative
- created a 9 step stones guideline for groups planning to set up a wind project
- provides a package of sector, admin, and financial services to Coops in return for an annual fee

