



**ENERGIEAVANTGARDE
ANHALT**



Gerard McGovern

COAST Centre for Environment and Sustainability Research, University of Oldenburg,
Projekt "COBEN – Delivering the Benefits of Civic Energy" (englisch)
Speed Dating 15.15 - 17.00 Uhr

CV (englisch)

Researcher and Project Coordinator at the COAST Centre for Environment and Sustainability Research, University of Oldenburg, with key research focus on sustainable regional development and energy transition strategy. Professional background includes European project development and management and quality and competence management.

CV (deutsch)

Wissenschaftler und Projektkoordinator beim COAST Zentrum für Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsforschung an der Universität Oldenburg mit den Forschungsschwerpunkten nachhaltige Regionalentwicklung und die Einführung neuer Energien. Mehrjährige berufliche Erfahrung im europäischen Projektmanagement und im Qualitäts- und Kompetenzmanagement.

Initiative

COBEN – Delivering the Benefits of Civic Energy

Central Actors

Universität Oldenburg, Landkreis Osnabrück, Hochschule Osnabrück, Ringkøbing-Skjern Kommune, Local Energy Scotland, Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen, Gemeente Emmen, Fylkesmannen i Østfold, Østfold Fylkeskommune



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Brief Description

Communities with foresight have demonstrated that they are the key drivers of the transition towards renewable energy. The COBEN initiative is committed to shifting energy value chains from centralized utilities to community-owned or community-governed enterprises and to promoting the transition to New Energy by delivering real benefits to the communities. The partners to the initiative representing six North Sea regions are each backed by ambitious climate action plans.

Old Energy and its infrastructure still have a firm grip on national and regional economies and numerous obstacles stand in the way of building a civic regime for energy economies. The COBEN project (Delivering Community Benefits of Civic Energy) is committed to piloting the needed regional business models and providing transferrable blueprints for later adopters. The pilot schemes address a wide range of civic stakeholders and the collaborative enterprise is supported by a transnational cooperation network and a common process management approach. In order to promote and assist replication of the project's results, civic energy is presented as a continuous improvement process (CIP).

The project is supported by the Interreg North Sea Region Programme. It has completed its initiation phase and runs till October 2019.

Aims and Vision

COBEN's main aim is to make civic energy a viable societal option and focusses on enabling the civic energy process. This aim is supported by specific project objectives:

- Promote the uptake of civic energy as the main player of energy transition
- Mobilize local energy potential in pioneering North Sea communities
- Shift energy value chains from centralized structures to communities
- Pilot the development of civic energy enterprises
- Deliver real benefits to citizens from civic energy enterprises and partnerships
- Make civic energy blueprints available for other communities to adopt
- Support transnational cooperation on local energy promotion

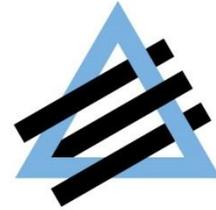
COBEN's vision is one of regionalized energy supply chains as a key element of the transition to a sustainable energy economy. The regionalization concept entails short supply chains with all key energy functions performed at local or regional level allowing resources to be returned to the local ecosystems from which they are extracted.

Lessons Learnt, Best Practice

- Selling the civic energy proposal to community stakeholders is a decisive success factor.
- Strong community networks display a clear and transparent consensus on the benefits and beneficiaries of civic energy.
- In order to enable the transfer of pioneering initiatives, civic energy needs to be embedded in a structured, quality-assured process.
- The legal frameworks for civic energy are currently underdeveloped and favour incumbent energy regimes.

Organizational Form: Which category describes your initiative best?

Network



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Other: EU project consortium with differently structured community networks in each of the pilot regions. Municipality representatives involved in each network.

Size and Shape of System: Where is your spacial focus?

Rural Areas, District, Island, Network, Europe

Size (Area, Inhabitants, Households): Recruitment of households in process in the project's 9 pilot regions.

Central Aim: What is most important to your initiative?

Social Innovation, Transferability, regional value creation

Forms of Participation: Diverse options dependent on the cultural settings of the host communities.

Participants include local government stakeholders, consumers, prosumers, cooperative members and the agricultural community.

Digitalization: Which digital approaches have you tried?

Intelligent Measuring Systems

Others: Digitalization needs and potentials perceived as aids to running specified civic energy process stages and currently under development. GIS-based energy maps used to assess local energy potential.