



Energy Community Engagement

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Deliverable

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Energy Community Engagement

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Statement of Originality

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Project Executive Summary

Energy4All: Energy as a common pool resource

Energy can be conceived as a public resource that should be accessible to all. The human dimension therefore plays an important role in the design and implementation of Positive Energy Districts (PEDs) and Energy Communities (ECs). In the ENERGY4ALL project, energy communities include not only a set of households producing and consuming energy, but also common users of a public resource, such as the industrial and civic sectors. By exploring different ECs elements through four pilot studies in Stavanger (Norway), Styria (Austria), Budapest (Hungary) and Rome (Italy), the project strives to provide insights into how participatory energy governance practices affect the success of PEDs/ECs.

Deliverable Executive Summary

This is an interim internal report about energy community engagement in the Stavanger pilot of ENERGY4ALL, based on progress during the first 12 months of the project. A final version of D3.2 will be made available at the end of 2025, after 24 months of energy community engagement. However, given considerable progress in line with the planned activities, only limited updates are expected beyond the engagement activities undertaken to date. These activities include local engagement and dissemination events as well as expert interviews with local stakeholders. A brief overview of these activities is provided in this short report.

Index

Project Executive Summary	4
Deliverable Executive Summary	5
1. Energy Community Engagement	7

1. Energy Community Engagement

Once the project was funded, prior to the official kickoff, we leveraged an international conference that was hosted in Stavanger in December 2023 on smart and sustainable communities, to host a session that profiled upcoming ENERGY4ALL project activities.

This session featured Live Action Role Play, or LARPing, by several stakeholders drawn from across the private and public sector, civil society and research institutions, all of whom convened for the conference. To prime the participants, we presented the focus of the Stavanger pilot, namely the Positive Energy District (PED) development in the Hillevåg neighbourhood. This featured description of the challenges and opportunities from the perspective of the industrial partners Felleskjøpet and Skretting, as well as Stavanger municipality as a European Mission City committed to advancing to climate neutrality.

Participants then assumed roles of these stakeholders, as well as representing civil society and research stakeholders, such as Pådriv, a civil society organisation with an office in Hillevåg, and the University of Stavanger. They brought forth interesting perspectives on the proposed PED development, drawing on their contextual knowledge about Stavanger. In particular, the multi-year ongoing debate about the location of an upcoming swimming pool, to be sited in either Hillevåg or Jåttåvågen, featured in the discussion. Another notable aspect was an increasing focus on digitalisation at both the national and municipal level, reflected in institutional evolution. This is pertinent to PEDs given the link between digitalisation and decarbonisation, as prominently noted in the European emphasis on twin transitions.

Another important pre-launch project activity was a group site visit to the Felleskjøpet premises by the Empowered Futures Research School, with over 20 researchers from numerous countries, who met with project participants and engaged on issues related to the upcoming PED pilot. This helped firm up relations across project participants, and also brought to the fore numerous issues that would be important to deal with during the project implementation phase. Part of this was discussed further at the Pådriv premises, in the broader context of a keynote talk about the history of energy flexibility by Professor Timothy Moss, drawing on long-

running experiences from Berlin and identifying important parallels with water governance. This was particularly germane to the pilot in Hillevåg, which focuses on waste water re-use, combining both energy and water infrastructures in planning towards decarbonisation.

During 2024, numerous engagement activities took place. A prominent one took place on 19 March 2024 as part of the Faculty of Social Science's public science festival at Sølvsberget, the public library in downtown Stavanger. Here, we featured energy communities as the theme of an interactive session, with about two dozen audience members engaging on the topic.

On 8 May 2024, as part of the major international conference Nordic Edge Expo hosted at Innoasis in Stavanger as the Nordic hub of smart and sustainable cities, we ran a workshop that again made use of LARPing, as well as active discussion of PED Hillevåg. This ensured prominent discussion of the project pilot, including with numerous relevant stakeholders, both based locally as well as thematic experts elsewhere well positioned to cross-fertilise their perspectives on overall project developments.

During 2024, we conducted interviews with the major local stakeholders. These helped to compile a detailed picture of the PED Hillevåg pilot, in terms of possibilities for waste water re-use in district grid heating, alternatives for energy innovation and circular economy approaches, and the incentives, drivers and constraints relevant for project partners. In particular, a biofuel boiler based on oat hulls emerged as an innovative solution for Felleskjøpet to reduce its reliance on gas, and they entered into a partnership with Lyse to take this forward. This will be a major development aimed to be completed during 2025 to move into an operational phase for a shift to a low-carbon energy source.

In late 2024, after qualitative analysis of the interview material, we held a half-day workshop on 1 November 2024, which featured the project partners presenting their main activities, priorities and concerns in relation to the PED Hillevåg pilot. This featured both a plenary session as well as detailed discussions in thematic groups. The result was structured in terms of three cross-cutting themes that form part of ongoing analysis for WP1 and WP3 analysis.

This completes the planned energy community engagement activities for ENERGY4ALL in the Stavanger pilot. The launch of the biofuel boiler at Felleskjøpet in 2025 presents a natural opportunity for further engagement, and we will exploit any such opportunities going forward.