NORTH SEA
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PLANNING

ENERGY STRATEGIES AND ROADMAPS

Within the project of North Sea – SEP the need for a structured approach for energy planning was determined by the project partners. Therefore, a guidance consisting of several roadmaps and energy strategies has been developed. These describe the steps planned by each region to incorporate the process of developing regional energy plans and showing some key elements of this process. After the evaluation of the strategies the initial implementation plans were re-assessed. This leads to a guideline for other regions and municipalities for regional energy strategies and plans.

MAKE A START

It is important that regions start a regional energy strategy plan well timed because it takes time to develop a good strategy. Postponing action will raise the costs of the energy transition. Although investments are high, on the long term the overall social costs of energy in a carbon free region will be lower than in a region based on fossil energy.

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

The involvement of influential people is important; built contact between partners and not between opponents.

COMMUNICATION

Do not save on communication. Invest in internal communication, with for example brochures and glossy posters; information for politicians as being potential supporters.

REGIONAL ENERGY DIRECTORS

Directors on a regional level can be the joint and hub between different parties in the carbon free energy supply system. They might also play roles in cooperation between EU, national and regional administrations in the field of energy planning.

LOCAL ENERGY COOPERATIONS

In some regions such as Denmark, locally owned energy corporations are very common whereas in other regions they are only just to arise (Netherlands). The overall image is that community initiatives will play a bigger role in the future. This is a chance for the regions and it should be taken into account when developing an energy strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE EU

For policy makers on the national and EU level it is important to take notice of the specific issues that regions encounter. On the national and European level, legislation should be encouraged to give sustainable power the priority on the grid.