

# NEWS LETTER

Rural Europe for the Clean Energy Transition - Annual Newsletter

## Warm Greetings from the RECET partners

Welcome to the first annual edition of the RECET Newsletter! This issue highlights lessons, milestones and progress from our partners across Europe as they work together to drive sustainable energy transitions in rural Europe through the RECET project. Read our full newsletter and dive in to learn about the inspiring work happening in Sweden, Slovenia, Iceland, Denmark, and more. The newsletter is also available on our webpage:

<https://www.recetproject.eu/recetnewsletter>



### Empowering Local Stakeholders for a Green Transition

The RECET project focuses on supporting municipalities and local communities in rural Europe to develop effective energy transition plans. Key workshops and training sessions have provided tools for stakeholders to prioritize projects, navigate governance challenges, and secure funding. This collaborative effort ensures rural areas are equipped to contribute to a sustainable energy future.

### Collaborative Steps Towards Sustainability

Partners from across Europe, including Sweden, Slovenia, Iceland, and Denmark, are sharing best practices and success stories to inspire meaningful change.

Each partner is contributing unique insights—ranging from innovative energy solutions to policy frameworks—building a comprehensive toolkit for clean energy transition.

### Building Momentum for Energy Transition

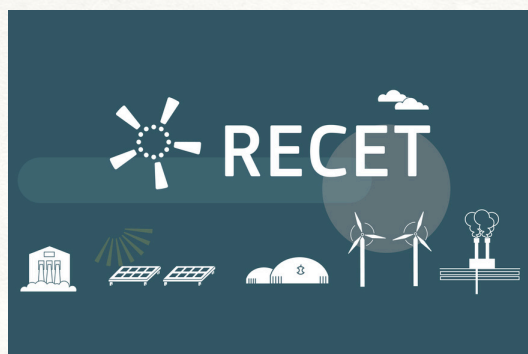


The RECET initiative has achieved significant milestones, including piloting regional energy planning frameworks and hosting knowledge-sharing events.

By uniting diverse regions under a shared goal, RECET demonstrates the power of cross-border collaboration in accelerating sustainability efforts.

### What lies ahead?

The next phase of RECET will focus on refining energy transition models and scaling successful strategies. Stay connected to track progress, access resources, and learn how your community can benefit from the RECET approach. For more details, visit [www.recetproject.eu](http://www.recetproject.eu).





Lessons from our RECET partners in Denmark

# Community Workshops on Renewable Energy Transition



## Lessons from Samsø

As part of the RECET project, the Samsø team organized a series of community workshops on Samsø, focusing on collaborative approaches to renewable energy transitions. These workshops, held in August and September, brought together local stakeholders, energy experts, and community members to explore practical steps toward achieving Samsø's energy goals.

## Key highlights

Key highlights included a brainstorming session on **integrating local renewable energy solutions into everyday life**, as well as a panel discussion with policymakers and practitioners sharing successful case studies.

Participants emphasized the importance of engaging youth in sustainability efforts, leading to the development of an educational outreach initiative tailored for local schools.



A notable outcome of these sessions was the collective agreement to prioritize community-driven energy projects, such as solar panel cooperatives and shared electric vehicle schemes. The workshops also identified new opportunities for aligning Samsø's energy strategy with broader regional goals outlined in the Samsø Report.

We're excited to see how these ideas will shape our next steps.



Photos and materials from the workshops are available for viewing [here](#) or in the comprehensive Samsø Report: [link](#).



Lessons from our RECET partners in Sweden

# Collaborative Steps Towards Sustainability

## PROGRESS IN KARLSHAMN

**2024-09-24**

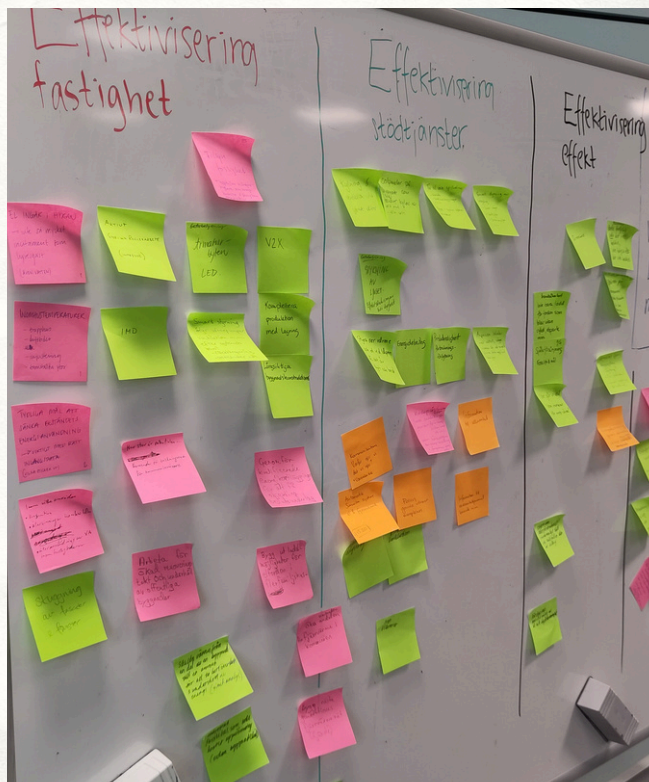
Energikontor Syd gathered 17 people for the first meeting in Karlshamn. The discussions were great, and new knowledge was shared about the local energy system when Pierre Ståhl, Roger Gunnarsson, and Anna Månsson visited Karlshamn Municipality to initiate the process of developing a municipal energy plan. Energikontor Syd decided to form a smaller group of people who could continue the work to develop the plan.

**2024-11-18**

The first meeting for Karlshamn's energy plan marked an important start. The working group met to begin their work on Karlshamn's energy plan. Through clear ownership and collaboration, Energikontor Syd will ensure that the plan becomes not just a document, but a concrete action plan for the local energy transition. The main topic of discussion was the relationship between the energy plan and other strategic documents and policies in the municipality and region.

**2024-12-20**

The working group continued to develop a section about the current state and define relevant content. The work is based on the Swedish Energy Agency's [new template](#). The group also took steps to get to know each other better through an active pause activity, which involved tasting buckthorn juice.

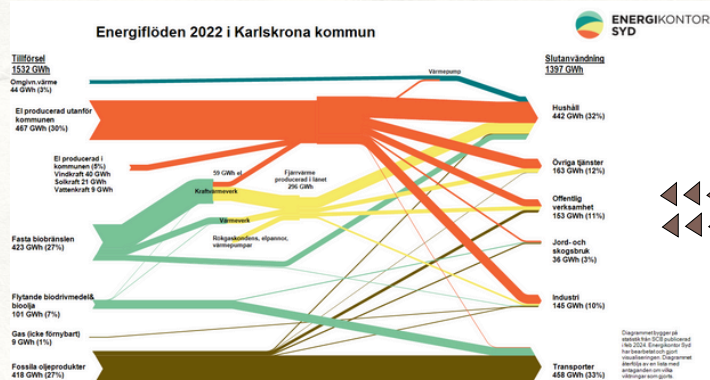


## EARLY 2024/GENERAL

Energikontor Syd contributes to the municipal energy plans through visualizing of statistics. Thanks to the RECET project several municipalities in Blekinge get support to get an energy flow chart. This chart is a good way of starting discussions in the energy groups about where the energy that we use in the municipality comes from and in what sector it is consumed.

## Workshop on energy efficiency

Sometimes we only focus on new energy and electricity production. It is important to remember the potential of energy efficiency. If one actor could save, another can start consuming. The easiest and way most economical way to create "more" energy in the grid.





Lessons from our RECET partners in Iceland

# Advancing Energy Transition in Northeast Iceland



## August 2023: Conference in Iceland Marks the Start of the RECET Project

In August 2023, Eimur hosted a conference at Hotel KEA titled Energy Transition and Municipalities. The event was organized in collaboration with Icelandic New Energy, SSNE (Association of Municipalities in Northeast Iceland), and Vestfjarðarstofa (Westfjords Development Agency).

The event introduced the RECET project and included discussions on revenue opportunities for municipalities from energy infrastructure, as well as case studies of energy projects on Samsø island in Denmark.

## December 2023: Introducing RECET at the Nordic-Baltic Energy Conference

In December 2023, Eimur participated in the Nordic-Baltic Energy Conference 2023 in Tallinn, Estonia, as a representative of Iceland's Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate. Held on December 11.-12., the conference featured Skúli Gunnar Árnason, RECET project manager, who presented a talk titled: Energy Policy on the Local Level: Planning and Implementing Energy Actions with Local Authorities.

## February 2024: Seminar on Energy Transition in North Iceland

On February 21st, 2024, Eimur, SSNE, and Icelandic New Energy hosted a seminar at Hof Cultural Center in Akureyri, Iceland. The event addressed the current status of the energy transition in North Iceland, oil usage in the region, and focused specifically on heavy transport and harbor-related energy transitions.

This symposium set the stage for RECET-related work in Northeast Iceland. It attracted significant interest, with approximately 70 attendees at Hof and 50 additional viewers online. A recording of the event is available here: [Watch on YouTube](#).

## 2024 Workshops: Supporting Municipalities in Energy Transition



Eimur and SSNE have completed a series of workshops under the RECET project aimed at facilitating energy transitions in rural communities.

Ten municipalities within SSNE's jurisdiction were invited to participate in these sessions, which focused on enhancing their capacity to address energy transition challenges and develop actionable plans.

Participants worked on creating strategies tailored to their local context, designed to support the transition to sustainable energy solutions. The goal is for each municipality to prepare an energy transition plan as part of a broader climate action strategy. The workshops emphasized planning, policy development, and administrative strategies to reduce fossil fuel reliance and promote sustainability.



Lessons from our RECET partners in Iceland

# Building Momentum for Energy Transition in the Westfjords of Iceland

In February 2024 Westfjords Regional Development Office (WRDO) launched the first public event within the RECET frame in Ísafjörður Town. Although an open meeting, we especially invited elected officials and municipality staff from the 8 municipalities in the Westfjords. The turn up was good and the meeting overall success, serving the first step in the SECAP ladder to create a political intent to develop a plan.

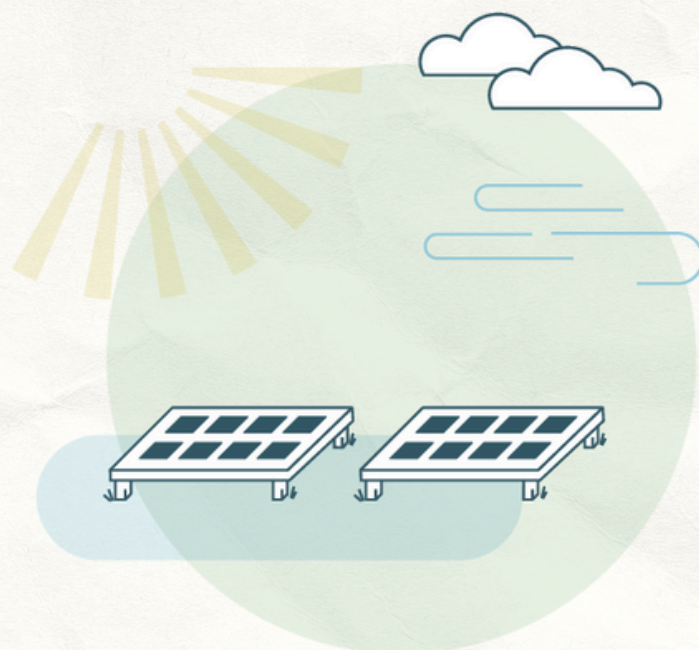
Later in the spring, a presentation was held at a youth conference to introduce the region's upcoming SECAP planning. This was followed-up with series of open public events organized within the framework of the regional planning in the Westfjords. Those events with over 300 participants (in a Region of 7200) served to involve the external stakeholder groups in the process, the second step on the SECAP ladder.



Finally in the autumn, WRDO hosted a series of workshops for municipality staff and elected officials, to identify tangible sectorial actions (step 6) and form the expert group as foreseen in step 3.



Simultaneously, WRDO are working on SECAP step 4 to estimate the energy balance and its emissions, through an implementation of a digital system of green bookkeeping for all 8 municipalities (thus covering the municipalities operations) and by getting a consultant to estimate emissions regionally. During this activity WRDO has met with stakeholders over 10 times.





Lessons from our RECET partners in Slovenia

# Empowering Local Stakeholders for a Green Transition of Postojna



The Municipality of Postojna is driving efforts to accelerate its shift to green energy. Through focused workshops, the municipality is equipping local stakeholders with the tools and knowledge necessary to strengthen project planning, secure funding, and contribute to a more sustainable future. Central to these efforts is the creation of a Local Energy Plan, which aligns with the broader objectives of the European Green Deal and supports the municipality's commitment to clean energy transition.

The workshops focused on highlighting the urgency of the green transition among key stakeholders, and emphasizing their role in this process.

The green transition raises an important question: *How can this shift be planned to ensure a smooth and inclusive shift for the for stakeholders?*

Therefore, participants worked to identify key challenges that they are facing.



**The primary goal of the workshops was to improve capacity for planning local projects.**

The attendees explored funding opportunities for renewable energy and efficiency projects.



They discussed the role of Local Energy Concepts in securing EU funds and planning regional projects, while also highlighting the potential of energy cooperatives for enhancing community participation and drive collective efforts toward sustainable energy solutions.



Lessons from our RECET partners in Spain

# Empowering Communities: RECET Workshops on Energy Transition in Menorca



## Workshop for energy accounting system implementation

In October 2024, CIME hosted a workshop in CIME offices with the staff of the 8 municipalities of the island and the Waste and Energy Consortium to start the implementation of the new software for energy accounting. This event was also attended by the software company members in order to introduce the new app to the municipalities.

This software can help all the beneficiaries in an accurate control of consumptions and payments related to energy supplies, and is one of the actions planned in the RECET project.

## Workshop about community PV self consumption in Maó

On October 18th 2024, CIME shared a workshop with IBE about PV self consumption in Maó. IBE (Balearic Energy Institute) is building a PV plant in a parking lot in Maó, and wants to share the energy produced by this facility with the citizens living less than 2 km from it.

The workshop took place in the Neighborhood Association office and was attended by 20 citizens living in the city of Maó. It focused on how this energy can be shared and the benefits for the people that use it.

## Workshop about community PV self consumption in Sant Lluís

On November 11th, CIME shared a workshop with IBE about PV self consumption in Sant Lluís. IBE (Balearic Energy Institute) is building a PV plant in a school roof in Sant Lluís, and wants to share the energy produced in this facility with the citizens living less than 2 km from it.

The workshop took place in the municipality facilities and was attended by 14 citizens living in the town of Sant Lluís. It focused on how this energy can be shared and the benefits for the people that use it.

## Social Council of the Biosphere Reserve about offshore wind farm proposal

On November 19th, CIME had a meeting with the members of the Social Council of the Biosphere Reserve. Those members are representatives of many entities, such as political parties, company associations, hotel associations, fishermen, farmers, environmental groups and more.

The topic of the meeting was the possibility of building an offshore wind farm off the coast of the island. People from the ministry of the Spanish government explained why this area was selected, and introduced the two companies that have been interested in building as shown by their proposals. The people in the meeting had the opportunity to share their thoughts and questions with the government and the companies involved.

## Workshop about energy communities implementation in Ferreries

On December 18th, CIME hosted a workshop about energy communities implementation. CIME is trying to empower citizens to create energy communities so they can generate their own energy from renewable sources and share it between the community members.

The workshop took place in the municipality facilities, and was attended by 19 citizens living in the town of Ferreries. The topic of the workshop was the legal meaning of the concept of energy communities, with a focus on informing participants about the various benefits they can gain from them.





# RECET

