

Operationalizing co-creation in wind power planning

Lene Gjørtler Elkjær, PhD project

Background

Planning and implementation of onshore wind power often stalls due to conflict, and, if we are to reach national and international sustainability goals, there is a need to find new ways forward. Whereas the barriers to planning and implementation of wind power are (somehow) understood, our understanding of potential drivers is still very limited. In the literature, employing co-creation is suggested to be a viable way forward, however, empirical studies of how co-creation is/ can be used in practice, are missing. Thus, this project will investigate how co-creation unfolds in practice in the context of planning and implementation of onshore wind power projects

Research questions include

- How can we operationalize co-creation in planning and implementation of renewable energy projects?
- How does co-creation unfold in practice and what are the effects on the engaged sociality and wind power project?
- How can the ideas and practices behind co-creation be integrated in planning and implementation processes of wind power at scale?

Method

The project will rely on ethnographic fieldwork conducted as in-depth case studies from 3 land-based wind power projects containing co-creative features. The empirical studies will consist of document analysis, participant observation and exploratory in-depth interviews, and intend to produce data suitable for comparison of the practices, intentions, social relations etc. behind the successful implementation of the three cases. The co-creative features of the three projects will be analysed and compared, and the project will seek to conclude on what works, how, when, under what conditions etc.

Expected results

The expected outcome of the project is a better understanding of how the ideas and practices behind co-creation fit – and doesn't fit – with the Danish planning system. This will lay the foundation for recommendations to how (elements of) co-creation can be integrated into municipal strategies and practices related to wind power planning, and how municipal planning processes can benefit from ideas behind co-creation more generally.



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