



UN Global Climate Action Awards: Climate leaders

Samsø: An Island Community Pointing to the Future | *Denmark*

Denmark's municipality of the island of Samsø has completely transformed its energy system from fossil fuels to renewable energy, becoming the world's first renewable energy island. Key results that have been achieved include: becoming carbon negative; 100% local ownership of renewable energy investments; and significant socio-economic benefits from the energy transition.

Samsø realized that it is not alone in this transition and that many other communities would be interested in learning from its experience. This led to the establishment of the Samsø Energy Academy with a mandate from the municipality. The Samsø Energy Academy puts resources to capacity building on community development and international cooperation in Denmark, Europe and beyond. It also participates in cooperation and knowledge exchange programmes, provides advice on sustainable community development and organizes on Samsø study visits, workshops and leadership programmes to inspire local leaders, stakeholders and policymakers from around the world.

Key facts

- Samsø has already achieved its goal to reduce its annual CO2 emissions close to zero, effectively becoming carbon neutral. This was done through a series of renewable energy investments, namely 11 on-shore and 10 off-shore wind turbines, 4 local biomass-fuelled district-heating plants, solar panels and electric vehicles, which enabled Samsø to reach 100% net annual balance of renewable energy.
- Samsø has renewed its ambition and aims to become completely carbon-free by 2030. This means that no fossil fuel will be used, and all the island's energy needs will be covered by renewable energy. This is far ahead of the national ambition in Denmark for 2030 and the EU climate goals for the same year.
- To become carbon-free by 2030, the island community will extend the use of renewable electricity in the heating and road transport sectors and will substitute fossil fuel in the sea transportation with locally produced biogas or electricity.

More information

Digital assets are available for download at <https://trello.com/b/FNvAMbUN/2021-announcement-un-global-climate-action-awards>



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