

Wind farms

As a world leader in wind energy production, Denmark is exploiting the enormous potential of wind as a clean energy source. Through an innovative approach and cooperation with the local community, Denmark has created an interesting model for investment in wind farms, including offshore. Although offshore wind energy is more expensive than onshore wind energy according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the ecological value and long-term benefits have been proven to outweigh the costs. By using this clean energy source, Denmark not only meets its own energy needs, but also acts as an inspiration to other countries, by encouraging investment in wind energy and achieving sustainable development.

The Middelgrunden wind farm in Denmark is an excellent example of community involvement in the emergence and operation of ecological initiatives. The fact that ordinary Danes had an active involvement from the very beginning contributed to the remarkable public support for the project. By participating in the financing of the installation and owning 50 per cent of the revenue, the local community was clearly involved in the development of the Middelgrunden offshore wind farm. Denmark has developed an innovative wind cooperative model that enables the local community to participate in major renewable energy investments.

The Middelgrunden project attracted the attention of more than 50,000 citizens who actively participated in the initiative's decision-making process. 8,500 Danish citizens supported the initiative financially, raising €23 million, which was half of the total cost of the project. As a result, these people have become equal partners in the new wind farm, while also being able to benefit from the project. This initiative has not only raised the environmental awareness of the community, but has also benefited the environment.

The benefits of wind cooperatives:

- Clean energy production
- Active and dedicated members
- Dialogue and political contacts with multiple stakeholders through an extensive network
- Strong public support
- Direct contact with local authorities
- Financial savings for cooperative members
- Education and environmental awareness

Denmark, through this project, has demonstrated that cooperation and community involvement in major renewable energy investments are key to success. The Middelgrunden wind cooperative model is an inspiration for other regions, showing how the community can have a real impact on shaping the energy future and achieving sustainability.

Sources:

- <https://www.greenecologycoalition.org/news-and-resources/people-power-denmarks-energy-cooperatives>
- <https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/denmark-wind-energy-market>
- <http://www.spok.dk/consult/reports/cooperatives.pdf>



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