

PlanEnergi is specialist in renewables:

- district heating based on e.g. solar panels**
- wind turbine planning**
- energy planning, strategic energy plans**

Susan Jessien have since 1984 worked with:

- wind turbine planning in counties, municipalities and**
- single projects with local plans and EIA**

Public participation in planning proces

1: Municipal planning: debate/idea - phase (short period - 4-6 weeks)

Public hearing: at least 8 weeks

2: Single projects: debate/idea phase (short period - 2-4 weeks) connected with amendment to the municipal plan and the EIA

Public hearing: at least 8 weeks for the local plan and EIA

Succes criteria:

1: Strategic energy/climate plan with obvious targets and measuring yearly steps to adjust the plan regularly. The plan must be adopted by the majority of the local council. A specialist in the administration must support the council.

The energy plan must have targets for wind turbines as well as photo voltaric, solar panelsn and reducing energy consumption

2: Engagement in the council and the administration. The administration must have the knowledge to cooperate with and deliver facts and targets to the public.

Best practice for a municipal plan

1: Debate/idea phase: No choices for location of the wind turbines, but only asking for ideas to place the wind turbines in the number that the target for the energy plan describes.

But make a public map over sites with existing wind turbines, that might be replaced, that can't be replaced. With sites where the municipality have received an application for wind turbines.

2: Establishing a working group with local interest groups so as the nature protecting, birds protection, farmers organisation, power companies, tourist organisations and wind power organisation. All these parties have an interest in the whole municipality.

3: May be a public meeting where the politicians explains the targets for wind energy and calls for ideas to the planning process.

Best practice for municipal plan

4: making the plan based on the idea phase with ideas from the public, applications and analysing the wind conditions and the landscape with clear decisions of where wind turbines can be placed and where they can't based on an analysis of the whole landscape in the municipality. Decisions of the plan based on 2-4 scenarios and a discussion between the working group and politicians. Eventual a trip with the whole council to all the areas that are realistic, so the council gets the best basis for decision of the plan.

5: Public hearing of the plan. Meetings for the public where the council informs about the targets for wind energy, and explains the choices, that have been made. At last adjusting the plan based on the public hearing. Can the plan fulfill the targets or do we have to consider some of the sites, which were not chosen at first

Succes with the best practise:

1: Ringkøbing-Skjern municipality. First wind plan has been realised - a new plan will start based on new targets in the municipalitys Energy 2020 plan, which have a target of 100% renewables.

2: The municipality of Lemvig. All sites in the plan are occupied. Very few citizens have complained.

3: The municipality of Struer. Few sites without existing wind turbines, the only two are realised, but ongoing proces with the sites, where it is possible to replace the old turbines with new

Single projects

Debate/idea phase (short period - 2-4 weeks) in relation to amendment to the municipal plan and the EIA. This is the most important phase to meet the citizens.

Important issues: The municipality must be independent of the developers. It must screen the members of local council and the people who take care of the project in the administration to ensure that nobody is incompetent. That could happen if someone is related to the project as family to the developers or the landowners or are landowners at the site.

The municipality must inform the citizens in a distance up to 1,5 to 3 km about the project.

Idea phase - good practise in municipality

- 1: send by mail a flyer with information of the project to every citizen within a distance up to 1,5-3 km.**
- 2: Organize a meeting, where the municipality meets the citizens. It must be without the developer. If necessary the consultant for the developer can participate.**
- 3: Make the meeting a workshop, and not only information. The meeting can be supplement to meetings arranged by the developer before, but the meeting shall show, what the municipality wants and it shall show independence of the developer.**
- 4: It shall be the municipality (might be 1-2 politicians and 1-4 from the administration), who are the meeting leader. And the consultant can assist in answering questions.**

Idea phase - good practise in municipality

5: Sit around tables with the citizens and look at maps and discuss with an open mind the uncertainties and the fear.

6: Help the citizens making wishes for problems and ideas that shall be treated in the EIA. Let them write it down, and let the citizens mail it to the municipality before the idea phase run out.

7: Another possibility is to get/force the developer to make a meeting for all citizens up to 1,5 -3,0 km from the site in or before the idea phase. And ask him to make a cooperation with the citizens in the planning proces.

Idea phase - good practise examples

1: The municipality of Hjørring

2: The municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern

Idea phase - good practise examples

1: The municipality of Hjørring

Hjørring municipality holds a meeting only with the politicians and the administration with citizens in a distance up to 1,5 km and societies in the nearest villages in a distance up to 3 km.

They sit around the table with a map. The municipality inform about the climate - and energy strategy and targets. Afterwards they inform about the single project in the idea/debate phase. Afterwards they help the citizens with claims and ideas for the planning of the project.

The municipality shows independence of the developer and a will to listen and help the citizens.

In one of two projects there where no complaints later on.

Idea phase - good practise in municipality

2: The municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern

Last year the municipality has required, that the developer cooperate with the neighbors in a distance of at least 10 x total height of the wind turbine.

In a project in Velling Mærsk with four 200 meter high windturbines, the developer held a meeting with all neighbours in a distance of 2 km. The meeting was held before the idea/debate phase. At the meeting the developer presented themselves, the consultant informed about the project and the planning proces. It was a test site, so also Vestas informed about their interest in the project.

The developer asked the neighbours to find a few spokesmen, to work with the developers and landowners to get a fair process and especially a fair compensation for loss of value of property.

In cooperation the loss of value was calculated of two local real estate men, one chosen by the developers and one by the neighbours. The result was, that no neighbours had objections to the project. Only the owners of summer residences and users at the local 'airport' had objections.

Public hearing phase - good practice in municipality

The municipality shall organize a public meeting.

The meeting shall be led by the municipality. The municipality shall clearly explain about the climate and energy plan and why wind turbines onshore are necessary. It is of great importance, that the municipality have ownership to the climate and energy plan.

The municipality goes through the EIA, but it can also be done by consultants. The meeting leader has to be very firm, and must avoid personal attacks or bring the public to understand, that it is not acceptable.

Public hearing 2

The hearing is held late in the process, after finishing the EIA, so therefore, it is very difficult to change anything. So it is either yes or no to the project. Some times it can be a reduction of the number or height of the wind turbines.

The target with the meeting is to inform and discuss uncertainties. And for the municipality to show the political.

If the meeting leader and the representatives from the municipality are weak, if they don't think wind turbines is a good idea, the meeting can end in chaos.

Public hearing - examples

Good: The municipality for Ringkøbing-Skjern, Ikast-Brande, Hjørring, Skive, Herning, Lemvig and Struer.

In Ringkøbing-Skjern the chairman of engineering and environment is the meeting leader. He has a lot of experience with public meetings and wind turbines.

In Ikast-Brande the mayor is the meeting leader. He has a lot of experience with public meetings and have a very clear policy.

Bad: I won't mention some in particular, but it is municipalities without a climate and energy plan, with politicians who are against wind turbines and also is the meeting leader. With an administration who don't have enough experience with wind turbines.

END