

Austerland Energy in brief

The Austerland Energy project, has initiated a pre-study regarding conditions for local energy transition within Östergårnslandet, a peninsula on the island of Gotland in the Baltic sea. The change project should benefit individual households and contribute to a positive economic development in the region, and at the same time respond to global and national climate - and sustainability goals.

The project aimed at developing strategies for how a local energy transition can be achieved, and present a model of how a local energy network can be structured, as well as give some concrete examples of how it can be implemented.

The realization of Austerland Energy has created a strong local empowerment process within the community, where global pre-requisites and local needs met and encountered in a dynamic search for sustainability.

It is a system revolution and a large-scale power shift when local people and small companies themselves can produce energy to heat their houses and fuel their vehicles, instead of being dependent on importing expensive and climate-damaging fossil fuels from across the globe.

Strategies and implementation

Austerland Energy has used the following strategies:

- Build upon existing local networks
- Present a clear visual vision of the project
- Create a strong and relevant reference group
- Acquire relevant knowledge
- Find good partners and ways to collaborate

Examples of results and lessons learned

- In the future, a large part of the personal energy demands can be produced locally through solar, wind and biomass technology
- Interconnected prosumer units (energy holons) create new conditions for building robust local energy systems
- Biofuels and biological residues for energy storage, heating and biochar production can play an important role in future local energy systems and also provides possibilities to create carbon sinks.
- Passenger transport is facing a radical change in connection with electrification of the vehicle fleets. The feasibility study shows that an average household by installing 14 solar panels, completely can replace the use of fossil vehicle fuels, and still drive the same distance.
- Committed local people, new forms of ownership and new regulations based on reciprocity and fair trade are important factors for the realization of the energy transition.
- A visitor centre can play an important role for inspiration and serve as a model for similar systems and processes, here on Gotland, nationally and internationally.

