

Models of citizen-oriented energy transition

6.14 Read: “Interview on the Energy Transition in Germany: We Need a Citizen-Oriented Energy Supply.” (5 minutes)

Kress, Nele. “Interview on the Energy Transition in Germany: We Need a Citizen-Oriented Energy Supply,” World Future Council, September 27, 2018. <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/interview-energy-transition-in-germany/> (<https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/interview-energy-transition-in-germany/>)

Germany is often cited for its systematic and rapid transition to renewable energy. Part of its success is due to how citizens have been enlisted to generate electricity. A key policy facilitating farmers and households becoming owners of 42% of all renewable energy installations has been the feed-in-tariff (see <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/feed-in-tariff.asp> (<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/feed-in-tariff.asp>) for a 30 second introduction). Unfortunately, the German federal government does not support community energy sufficiently. It is local governments that are making the decisive contribution. The District of Steinfurt is an exemplary example. Its 24 municipalities and their 445,000 inhabitants aim to be 100% self-sufficient by 2050 (currently at 60%). Maximizing participation of the local population is a key principle of their approach. Think about the role and functions District organizations are playing in Steinfurt and the parallels with Community Energy Scotland.

6.15 Read “Fossil-Fuel-Free Kristianstad.” (6 minutes)

Lewis, Michael and Pat Conaty. “Fossil Fuel Free Kristianstad,” Canadian Centre for Community Renewal, March 5, 2012. http://www.communityrenewal.ca/sites/all/files/resource/i42012MAR05_Kristianstad.pdf (http://www.communityrenewal.ca/sites/all/files/resource/i42012MAR05_Kristianstad.pdf)

This reading introduces a case study of the Swedish district municipality of Kristianstad, and the importance of local policy and municipal ownership of an electrical utility. It illustrates Kristianstad’s multi-pronged approach to transition and discusses district heating and transport using biofuels derived from waste management and wind generation. It also highlights the importance of investment from multiple levels of government. The overall dramatic progress in becoming fossil fuel free is generating significant economic impacts, not only for Kristianstad, but the whole of South East Sweden.

6.16 Read: “Hope Is Rational—Germany’s Radical Shift to Renewables and Efficiency.” (2 minutes)

Hennicke, Peter. “Hope Is Rational—Germany’s Radical Shift to Renewables and Efficiency,” Renew Economy, November 19, 2018. <https://reneweconomy.com.au/hope-is-rational-germanys-radical-shift-to-renewables-and-efficiency-68663/> (<https://reneweconomy.com.au/hope-is-rational-germanys-radical-shift-to-renewables-and-efficiency-68663/>)

Energy conservation is also a critical transition priority. Renewable energy makes demands on natural resources too, demands that can be significantly reduced by conservation measures. This article

illustrates the systematic approach to carry out energy efficiency measures in Germany.

6.17 Read: “Kirklees, UK.” (13 minutes)

Lewis, Mike. “Kirklees, UK,” Canadian Centre for Community Renewal, May 20, 2011.

http://www.communityrenewal.ca/sites/all/files/resource/i42011MAY20_KES.pdf

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This article details a city scale approach to energy efficiency, housing affordability, and job creation. Pay particular attention to the policy and program structure that shaped the initial social enterprise and subsequent factors that helped achieve the significant scale of impact.