

COBEN

March/April 2021

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! The COBEN team is energised and full of new inspiration to bring the benefits of civic energy to communities of the North Sea Region!

Ringkøbing-Skjern, Denmark (RKSK)

Despite the lasting pandemic, RKSK can account for some fantastic achievements over the past couple of months. Both the shared mobility schemes [Alkærparken](#) and [Videbæk](#) were officially inaugurated, providing the communities with the opportunity to contribute to the energy transition. It also gives citizens the chance to try an electric car, which might make more people open up and see the advantages of electric vehicles.

Upcoming events:

- May/June: Inauguration of indirect electrification infrastructure
- June: Event on policy recommendations at Folkemødet democracy festival



Foto by Poul Osmundsen

Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium (POVL)

The past months were filled with policy meetings and preparation of communication events. A highlight was the development of a 'bike tour' to enjoy the wind landscape of the province (find more information [here](#)).

POVL facilitated a meeting with the municipality Geraardsbergen and its neighbouring municipality Lierde about the development of a wind turbine on municipal grounds with local benefits. The grounds are situated in Geraardsbergen, but close to the border with Lierde, therefore considering community benefits is key.

Upcoming events:

- 17 May: [Webinar](#) for people who want to become a board member of the environmental fund 'Milde Meetjes' (sign up [here](#))
- 11 June: Official inauguration of the wind landscape Eeklo- Maldegem- Kap rijk- Sint-Laureins
- 12 and 13 June: Bike tour for the public with a quests – quizzes – and prizes to win



Uppsala Kommun, Sweden

During the Climate week of Uppsala, our partners held two webinars and one workshop for the residents in Uppsala municipality. One webinar covered general information about energy communities, during which the concept, the benefits and how/where to start were discussed. The other webinar specifically addressed the power constrains in the grid and solutions for a more flexible use and demand of energy. On top of that, the workshop focused on sharing economy, where issues of mobility and energy solutions were discussed.

Uppsala also held a referents group meeting about the result from the consultant report regarding the potential energy community in a mobility house, student apartments and a grocery store. The study showed that an energy community might not be the way to go to improve the power constrains situation in Uppsala due to the proposed Swedish laws within energy communities. The group will now be contemplating the next steps.