Amsterdam Energy Transition: Toolbox for Change reference v1

11 Nov 2021

About this document

This is a reference guide for the items mapped on the **Amsterdam Energy Transition: Toolbox for Change v1 (PDF)**. It provides more information on:

Goals (G)
Tools, Actors & Actions (T)
City's enabling role (CE)

For example, more information about *G01. Aldermen buy-in to energy community-led proposition; willingness to take into 2022 strategic planning* can be found in the Goals section.

The information is based on a workshop facilitated by Democratic Society in Amsterdam on 27 October 2021, involving energy communities and networks, civil society and City actors. The workshop focused on conditions of 'City as enabler' of an energy community-led democratic energy transition. This document, and the accompanying Toolbox for Change v1 PDF, presents a playback of what was created in the workshop; some ideas were more defined than others. It is shared back to the participating group to further develop, collaboratively.

Actors listed are defined according to Democratic Society's Actor Framework for democratic climate action. For more information contact kate@demsoc.eu:

Energy communities	Groups of citizens, social entrepreneurs and public authorities who collectively invest in producing, selling and managing renewable energy.
Member networks	Care for member (energy) communities to ensure critical needs are met
Government (technical)	Liaison between internal and external actors to ensure delivered services uphold policy and city needs
Government (political)	Create policies and deliver services to serve their people
Civil society	Builds movements that holds us accountable to the greater good
Artists	Imagine futures that honours each person's dignity
Funders	Decides how funding will be spent via grants to programs or initiatives with aligned interests
Companies / corporations	Produce goods and services that people need to meet their needs; larger scale
Local / small-medium businesses	Locally owned, smaller scale; produce goods and services that people need to meet their needs
Journalists	Monitors institutions and social for violations of our social contract
Researchers	Assess different possible paths to a better future

Working definitions

Aldermen	The city council, the College of Mayors and Alderpersons, and the district committees together form the Amsterdam city government. The city council is the highest governing body and consists of elected representatives of the people of Amsterdam. The College of Mayor and Alderpersons is responsible for daily operations and policy implementation. The city council chooses the alderpersons (also known as deputy mayors). There are seven alderpersons, each with their own portfolio of topics.
B Corp	B Corp certification is conferred by B Lab. It is a third-party standard stating that a company meets social sustainability and environmental performance and accountability standards.
Commons	"The commons" convey the space where communities write their own rules, stewarding resources and communication collectively. Shared self-reliance can be turned into collective autonomy when

	communities take matters into their own hands, to steward the health and care of the community. (Source: [Commons Network, 2021](#))
Energy transition	The shift from large-scale, centralised, intensive fossil energy production, to renewable sources (e.g. solar, wind, hydro, tidal) which can be produced in 'democratised' decentralised ways.
Local ownership	Community investment in and management of energy production and distribution, for example renewable energy sources. Local ownership begins with local people analysing their situation and recognizing their capacity to make change.

Goals

Goal	Notes
G01. Aldermen buy-in to energy community-led proposition; willingness to take into 2022 strategic planning	Via presentation to Aldermen at Day of Cooperatives 2021 For example, ideas from "Toolbox for Change" adopted into 2022 Government "Factpacks" being produced December 2021
G02. Meaning of energy transition, value of local ownership and commons understood by City, citizens buy-in and will to continue	Energy transition is the term the public sector uses, but it's far away from the lived experience of citizens. How can it be more connected, accessible?
G03. Energy communities know where to find what they need by their stage of maturity, including financing	For example, via Toolkit(s), Capital Map
G04: "Right of initiative" officially recognised by City; citizen power to lead change	The right for citizens to challenge the City on something and take charge of it in their neighbourhood, and within their area of expertise. Right to grow up, right to develop. Power to lead change through networking, infrastructure, peer exchange. Experimental space and regulation granted.

G05. New legal, governance, funding models available to ECs; "set free of commercial burden"; more agency to direct and implement change	
G06. Citizens have a role to play in the energy transition, including through new forms of employment	
G07. Benefits of experimentation space and "Commons" approach clear to City, ECs, other actors; adaption planned for other streams, programmes	
G08. Amsterdam recognised as Commons City, Energy City by the Hague, and globally	
G09. Community-led approach successfully scaled, replicated to other streams, programmes, levels of government	
G10. Longer-term goals, plans seeded into administrative strategy	
G11. 25% cooperative local ownership: wind, solar, heat	
G12. 50% cooperative local ownership: wind, solar, heat	
G13. 55% carbon reduction by 2030	The City of Amsterdam aims to have decreased the city's CO2 emissions by 55% in 2030 and by 95% in 2050, compared to 1990, which is used as a reference year. Source: https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/policy/sustainability/policy-climate-neutrality/
G14. 60% cooperative local ownership: wind, solar, heat	
G15. Evidence of energy poverty decrease	

G16. 95% carbon reduction by 2050	The City of Amsterdam aims to have decreased the city's CO2 emissions by 55% in 2030 and by 95% in 2050, compared to 1990, which is used as a reference year. Source: https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/policy/sustainability/policy-climate-neutrality/

Tools, actors, actions

Potential innovation highlight

Tool	ACTIONS	ACTORS
T01. 27 October: City as Enabler Workshop	Discuss City as Enabler conditions Co-create Toolbox for Change	Energy communities Government (technical & political) Funder & civil society partners (CKIC, Demsoc, DML, BWB): background support
T02. 22 November: Day of the Cooperatives workshop, presentation to Aldermen	"Pitch" to Aldermen "The vision": Energy cooperative-led local ownership and the Commons What does this mean for the City of Amsterdam and its future? What's needed, referring to the 'Toolbox for change'.	Energy communities Government (technical) Government (political): Aldermen x 2 Funder & civil society partners (CKIC, Demsoc, DML, BWB): background support
T03. Community building tools: interviews	Community building action Contributes to T04. Energy Community profiles, T05. Manifesto on local ownership, T09. Capital Map	Energy communities Government (technical)
T04. Energy community	"Energy landscape"; who's who, what stages, what needs?	Energy communities Government (technical)

profiles	Contributes to T05. Manifesto on local ownership and T09. Capital Map	
T05. Manifesto on local ownership	Movement building action Build bridge between energy communities, government, citizens. Overcome confusion for citizens: ECs one day with info, City the next. Help citizens see where they have agency. Demystify 'energy communities', 'energy transition'. What are energy communities, what is the energy transition, and what is 'the commons' and its role in transition? Must be inclusive; centring of voices commonly marginalised	Energy communities, with support of Government (technical) and networks e.g. 02025
T06. Policy consultation with ECs on limitations	Policy consultation piece with cooperatives on which stringent regulations don't work for ECs. e.g. ● Financing barriers: interest rates, risk; minimum amounts ● Organisational barriers: how ECs are perceived, or expected to be; 'competitive' market-feel ● Regulations: Heat Act limitations; ● 400 households limit: affects EC viability	Government (technical) Energy communities Member networks (national and local)
T07. Funding model review	More suitable conditions for ECs e.g. ● Lower interest rates ● Less risky practice ● Easier access; lower the bar Ideas include: ● EIB, BNG, Energie Samen ● Cooperative bank	Government (technical) Government (political) Energy communities

	● Risk fund for residents cooperatives (also for heat & solar) ● Risk-free lending at sustainability fund ● Coalition agreement Spring 2022: 50M€ for commons clean energy 'beleidsvrij geld' - room for experimentation May also involve review of procurement processes - local and national levels.	
T08. Toolkit(s) for ECs	Information for ECs to know where to find what they need by their stage of maturity, including financing. Examples include: ● Inspiration Book Self-Build 2015 ● Empower 2.0 project. Toolkit from a European perspective with 7 (local) authorities, 3 universities, 3 cooperatives and 1 company. Zaandam = project coordinator See Toolkit and inspiration examples	Government (technical) with input/feedback from Energy Communities
T09. Capital Map	Showing where the money is and what is needed when, by stage (start up to 20+ years etc.) Generated in part from *T03 Community building tools: interviews* & *T04. Energy community profiles*	Government (technical) Energy communities Funders ? Companies? Civil society?
T10. Policy free experimentation zone: "Beleidsluwe zone"	Experiment City of A'dam as "energy community city", like Ghent, Belgium. Space for ECs by ECs; declare entire region of the city a playing field for the ECs. Also clear to citizens.	Government (technical) Government (political) Energy communities Civil society

	Less policy rather than more. No tendering. "How can we ensure enough resources but not put too much policy?" Links to *T11. Commons Register, T12. Public-civic partnership*	
T11. Commons Register	Social enterprises don't have a legal entity; cannot register as social enterprise currently; register for social, impact purposes. Commons Register for exception on tenders: ● social enterprises ● cooperatives ● energy communities ● own register ● of ECs, or outside of ECs? ● Independent org to judge e.g. National Cooperative Council ? Translate EU regulation into Netherlands' policy. Recognize regulation --> lobby room for experimentation. The commons as a separate category from market and government different rules of the game --> The Hague Recognition would support the sector and make it easier to get legal and financial recognition. Could be recognised as a B-Corp: part of a social enterprise, part of a community. There is already an EU regulation, but people are not aware of it in NL Could/should be organised through someone independent?	Government (technical) Government (political)

	e.g. National Cooperative Council. Links to *T10. Policy free experimentation zone, T12. Public-civic partnership*	
T12. Public-civic partnership; by ECs, for ECs	Risk capital, legal support. City pays for education; knowledge management in ECs own hands. Own capacity for knowledge transfer to happen Links to *T11. Commons Register, T10. Policy free experimentation zone*	Government (technical) Government (political) Energy communities Civil society
T13. Energy transition employment opportunities for citizens	How to employ city residents in the sector; "deployment network"	Government (technical) Energy communities
T14. Amsterdam the Energy Commons City: story for City's 750 year celebrations	The story of Amsterdam's energy transition Capture the imagination of cooperative innovation Note: event runs from Oct 27 2024 for 365 days, with something happening every day	Energy communities Artists Journalists Government (technical) Government (political)
T15. Lobbying The Hague	Lobby The Hague for Commons' rights. National recognition: as a Commons and Energy City, Amsterdam needs to be exempt, to support: ● Policy free experiment space ● Public-civic partnership; by ECs, for ECs ● Energy community-led transition towards decarbonisation and energy justice. Amsterdam as City to be modelled upon.	Government (political)

T16. Storytelling / comms	Stories of EC success; inspire new starters and grow understanding of impact with broader community	Energy communities Government (technical)
T17. Participatory evaluation (yearly; ongoing)	Impact mapping / impact harvesting: how far we have gone with these goals and activities Multi-stakeholder evaluation: City administration, Energy communities and other relevant actors. Evaluation itself as a collective (inclusive) approach. Examples of things that could be evaluated (progress markers / indicators). Including (but not limited to): ● Change in conversation: political leadership, new mindset ● Inclusive practice observed; centering voices commonly marginalised ● Evidence of how and if engagement processes are working relative to other cities, programmes, workstreams ● Impacts of "making space for exchange"; sharing knowledge, power ● Evidence of scale, replication, uptake in other programmes ● % cooperative local ownership ● Evidence of energy poverty decrease; increase in social wellbeing ● Evidence of carbon reduction	Government (technical) Funders? Researchers: organisation or consultancy skilled in evaluating climate and/or transition projects

City's enabling role

CAPACITY / CAPABILITY BUILDING WITH ECS, AND OTHER DIVERSE ACTORS

CE01. Making space, locations available for EC knowledge exchange
- "Should be much more regular City conversations on the energy transition - how to inform, engage people to be part of the solution."
- More conversations in the city on: climate, energy cooperatives → know, inform residents more

CE02. Supporting opportunities for ECs to connect with senior stakeholders (connecting people with power)

CE03. Supporting development of manifesto for local ownership: space, time, contacts

CE04: Supporting communications strategy, production costs, resourcing

CE05: Recognising different needs at different stages: no one size fits all; challenges of ECs recognised; models adapted accordingly, with EC input

CE06: Making time, collaboration space, access to City actors, for ECs to do longer-term thinking, outside of day-to-day operations.

CE07: Recognising "right of initiative" and expertise of initiatives: citizen power to lead change through networking, infrastructure, peer exchange

CE10: Participating in evaluation with ECs and other actors

POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

CE08: Scaling to different sectors, programmes, workstreams

CE09: Lobbying/advocacy at National level