



National Association of Active Residents



Summary

The National Association of Active Residents (Landelijk Samenwerkingsverband Actieve bewoners - LSA) is an association of and for groups of active residents in the Netherlands. The association is a wider national network of resident groups, independent community centres, neighbourhood cooperatives and neighbourhood enterprises ('BewonersBedrijven') who share their knowledge and expertise with others. One of the key aims of LSA is to advocate and lobby for (the goals of) resident initiatives, including at the (local and regional) government level and in national policies.

Why is it a case of energy citizenship?

LSA supports community and neighbourhood groups in transitioning their district heating and disconnecting from natural gas by 2030. LSA supports and guides residents' initiatives aimed at developing tailor-made solutions for self-managed heat sources. LSA is also helping neighbourhood heat initiatives to collaborate with municipalities because democratic policy instruments that offer action perspectives for both municipalities and initiatives do not yet exist.



HOLISTIC



COLLECTIVE

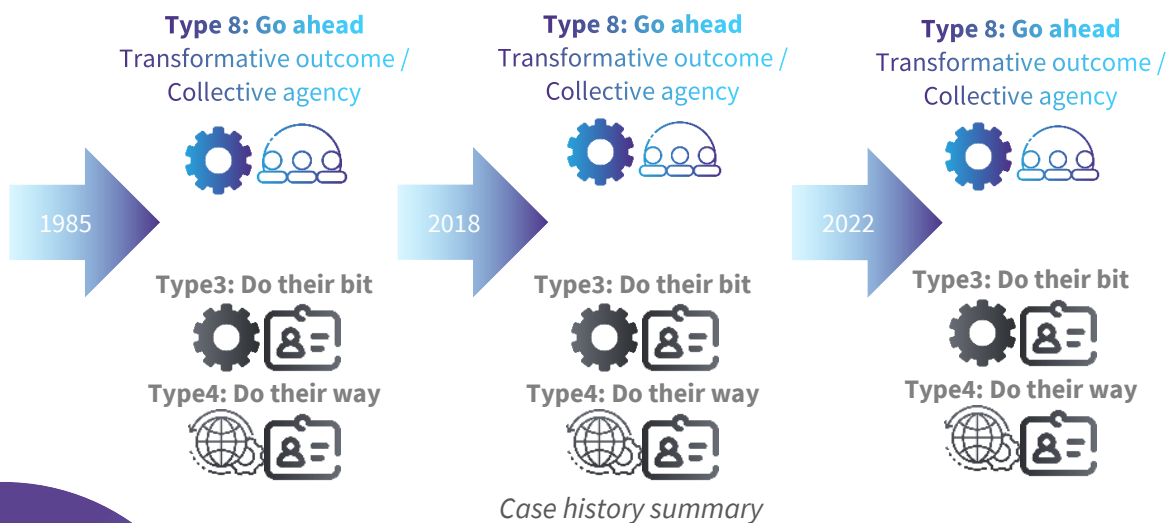


Goals

1. Increasing public involvement and giving residents a shared national voice for communicating with politicians and policymakers and obtaining better support for residents' initiatives;
2. Strengthening community building, guided by the principles of equity and justice;
3. Contributing to the energy transition, offering opportunities for neighbourhood development and local democracy.

The story and the typology

The National Association of Active Residents is an association of residents' collectives in the Netherlands that acts as an intermediary at a national scale. It has not changed much in terms of its agency type: namely, citizen-based and hybrid. Its primary purpose (to act as a knowledge exchange and empowerment network for various groups of residents and to support active citizenship and agency) has remained constant since its foundation in 1985. However, its focus on the issues it supports has evolved and environmental and holistic issues have become more prominent. Thus, we have distinguished several phases in its development.



For the summary
methodology,
click [HERE](#)



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Phase 1: Since the creation of the case in 1985 until 2018

The National Association of Active Residents was founded in 1985 as an association of active residents' groups throughout the Netherlands who are committed to developing their neighbourhoods. Residents' groups run/own community centres, administer local funds and host essential local meeting places. They work towards a fair and social energy transition.

In the early years of the initiative, there was strong dependence on government funding. However, over time, this has changed to include more partnerships, making the case more financially diverse and less vulnerable.

Throughout the years, the form of the organisation has not changed. The initial purpose was (and remains) promoting the democratic participation of residents in disadvantaged neighbourhoods to improve their living conditions. This is reflected in

the ideal energy citizenship type defined for the case (“Go ahead”), as this is a collective, citizen-based, transformative initiative. As the initiative helps people in local groups, it also supports the individual, organisationally embedded form of energy citizenship (indicated as secondary types).

	Individual			Collective	
					
 Reformative	1. Do their bit (in the household)	3. Do their bit (within organizations)	5. Make their voice heard	7. Do their share	9. Do the job
 Transformative	2. Do their own (in the household)	4. Do it their way (within organizations)	6. Make their vote count	8. Go ahead	10. Make their claims

Main type: Go ahead

Transformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

Secondary types:

Do their bit (within organizations)







Reformative outcome / Organisationally embedded agency

Do their way (within organizations)

Transformative outcome / Organisationally embedded agency

Phase 2: Integrating environmental sustainability into reporting, 2018-2022

Since 2018, the National Association of Active Residents has focused more on environmental sustainability. One of the action points of their 2018 Annual Report was to become active in relation to the energy transition, i.e. in sustainable energy initiatives, as a new form of neighbourhood approach: this has become a goal for ensuring that the jobs and wages created by this significant task are taken up by people and organisations in the neighbourhood; and that this transition is used as a springboard for the broad and integrated upgrading of neighbourhoods and districts.

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Main type: Go ahead

Transformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

Secondary types:

Do their bit (within organizations)

Reformative outcome / Organisationally embedded agency

Do their way (within organizations)

Transformative outcome / Organisationally embedded agency



Phase 3: Focusing on broader issues since 2022

The National Association of Active Residents has expanded its scope since 2022 to cover an increasing number of social and environmental themes.

This was a logical step as the respective groups of residents are connected across all areas (such as social, economic, and environmental). They are largely driven by the same motivations, desires and interests and benefit from the same support and structures embedded in the core functions of the National Association of Active Residents.

Currently, the initiative focuses on a broad number of issues in the neighbourhoods, such as energy and sustainability, equality, care for each other,

entrepreneurship in neighbourhoods, and having a voice.

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The aspects of energy citizenship

The association is classified as in between the medium and high level of effective voice/citizen control, depending on the specific programmes. However, taking the initiative as a whole, it could be classified at the high level **as it is a forum for citizen control in decision making and an intermediary for active participation in local and national government.** It also represents new forms of local democracy.

Citizen control
Citizens exert effective control, and their votes have to be taken into account



The association does not explicitly mention environmental limits or reducing carbon footprint although one of its focal areas is related to the energy transition, SDGs, and climate crisis. **Although environmental limits are not explicitly mentioned, they are implied during the activities, case studies, and other areas of work** (e.g., in their neighbourhood, bottom-up and community approach).

Carbon limits
Implicit recognition of the carbon limit

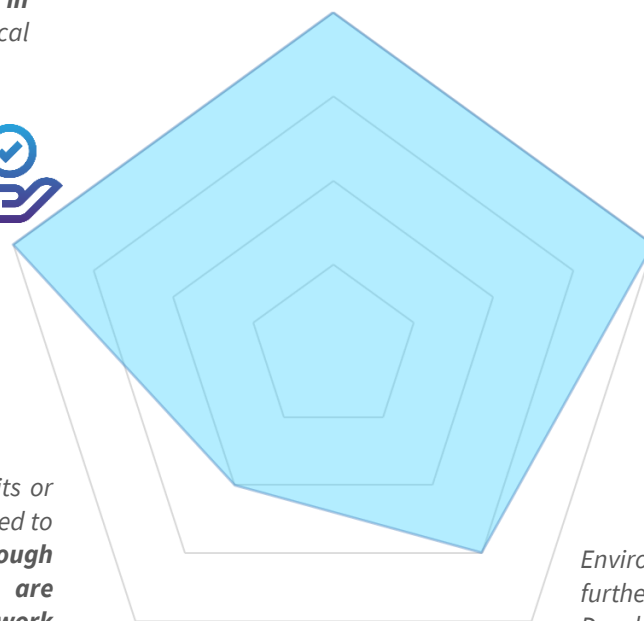


Promoting a democratic energy future is a key goal of the association and part of its agenda. **The overall approach of the urban renewal of disadvantaged neighbourhoods and a bottom-up community approach are closely linked with their position concerning creating a more democratic energy future.** "The energy transition will have a major impact on every neighbourhood, street and resident. That is why we support residents to organise themselves, to work on their own perspectives and to build networks that take initiatives towards a more sustainable world."



Democratic energy future

A more democratic energy future is a core concern of the case, and is part of the vision



FOCUS ON GENDER ISSUES



FOCUS ON DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

All members and community groups can attend the meetings of the association and receive publications and newsletters. They are part of the main national association that stands up for active residents in the Netherlands. It recognizes the energy crisis and the need to meet climate targets in the Netherlands. **The widening gap between the privileged and the underprivileged is also becoming bigger and increasingly magnified.** To respond to these challenges, the association calls for a new form of neighbourhood approach that also deals with declining confidence in the government and tough processes of democratic renewal.



Equity and justice
Involvement is fully open

Environmental sustainability is one of the focal areas of the association. It further endorses and commits to climate goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While many of the residents are not always aware of the contribution of their initiatives, the association aims to familiarize residents with the SDGs, to get the discussion going and, above all, **to provide practical perspectives that help create healthier, greener and more social neighbourhoods.**



Environmental sustainability
Environmental sustainability is part of the process, energy remains the main focus



Further information



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References

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Source of images

twitter.com/LSAbewoners, www.lsabewoners.nl/over-ons/



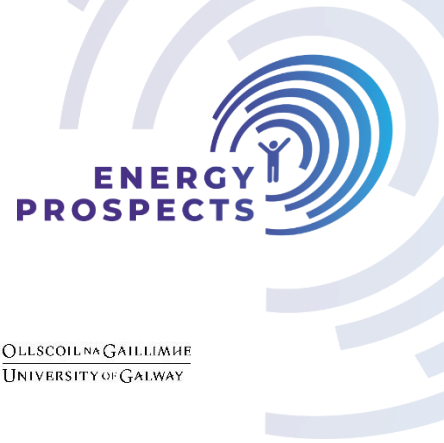
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