



## Reindonk Energy



DIRECT ENERGY  
PRODUCTION /  
CONSUMPTION



COLLECTIVE



PERI-URBAN

### Summary

The mission of Reindonk Energy is to make the municipality of Horst aan de Maas energy neutral. Together with, for and by local residents, companies, authorities, and organisations from the local region, the initiative focuses on the sustainable energy transition. Reindonk Energy aims for local energy generation that contributes to resolving the global energy challenge. Because of its local character, it generates energy from renewable sources, aiming for sustainable energy, a clean environment and healthy air in the living environment. The initiative claims that “Because energy is a local product, energy is ours, and energy is cooperative”.

### Why is it a case of energy citizenship?

This case focuses on producing and co-creating energy with the local community and the involvement of local stakeholders, including local businesses. It is an initiative together with, for and by inhabitants, companies, authorities and organisations that are committed to promoting a sustainable energy supply to create an energy-neutral Horst aan de Maas municipality. With local residents, they want to give shape to the energy transition.



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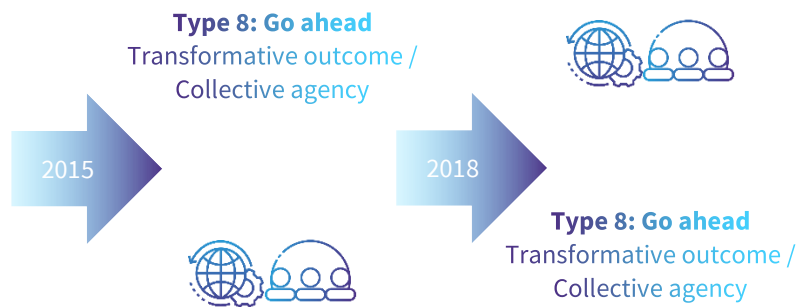


## Goals

1. Making the municipality of Horst aan de Maas sustainably energy neutral<sup>1</sup>;
2. Promoting a democratic energy transition by involving as many local residents as possible in their renewable energy projects;
3. Providing energy for all and promoting social cohesion in the local area.

## The story and the typology

Reindonk Energy is an energy cooperative located in the municipality of Horst aan de Maas in Limburg. Since its inception, the main goal has been to contribute to making the municipality of Horst aan de Maas energy neutral. As this is a citizen-based and hybrid initiative with a transformative focus, the main type of energy citizenship is classified as Type 8: Go ahead.



### Case history summary

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



<sup>1</sup> While municipal energy neutrality means energy demand is met entirely by renewables, this does not mean all that energy is necessarily generated within municipal boundaries. As long as the power is generated from renewable sources (offshore wind turbines, for example), it still satisfies the definition.



Phase 1: From the creation of the case in 2015 until 2018

Reindonk Energy was founded in 2015 to give a voice to its members and to focus on social returns in addition to economic benefits.

The organisational structure has developed alongside its projects since its inception. The cooperative is formed by four different associations (sub-companies with separate legal entities for each project). These sub-companies give a focus to Reindonk Energy operations because each project is different in nature and needs a dedicated company behind it to organise it. This includes finances, project construction and site development and the

project development advice they provide. This organisational form of the cooperative has not changed over time.

	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	<b>8. Go ahead</b>	10. Make their claims

**Main type: Go ahead**

Transformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

Phase 2: Starting and building the solar panel farms since 2018

Reindonk Energy is already working in close collaboration with various commercial companies that, for example, help with the installation of solar panels. Since its inception, it has developed four projects: NEWRAIL, Zonneweide 't Veen Griendtsveen, Collectief ZonDelen 't Brugeind, and KODE Horst aan de Maas.

The Zonneweide 't Veen solar farm (with 4,000 solar panels) was the first to be launched in the former Griendtsveen sports complex and covers the electricity needs of the whole of Griendtsveen, making the village an energy producer. The solar farm includes an energy garden with a biodiverse design through the use of seed mixtures and hedges. The solar park not only provides electricity but is a meeting place with a picnic table, a place where people can charge their electric bikes and a scavenger hunt. Reindonk Energy has plans to employ people with disabilities in the future

(presently under construction) café. In collaboration with the municipality of Horst aan de Maas, construction started in 2018, and the installation of the solar panels will be completed in 2022.

In the memorandum of the Zonneweide 't Veen Griendtsveen solar park, it is stated that for Reindonk Energy, trust and, thus, the social acceptance of the solar farm play an important role. The reason for offering an investment opportunity to local residents, businesses and organisations is part of a more comprehensive participation plan.

The cooperative also works very closely with the municipality to promote a sustainable and cooperative energy transition. For example, the Policy Framework for Generation of Sustainable Energy (entitled: KODE – Kader Opwekking Duurzame Elektriciteit) has been developed in

consultation and close collaboration with Reindonk Energy.

In 2020, the cooperative reached an agreement with the municipality that the roofs of municipal buildings can be used to generate energy. The first project is the installation of 330 solar panels on the roof of the Sporthal 't Brugeind in Meerlo. With this project, Reindonk Energie is offering residents from the region the opportunity to generate energy locally – not on their own roofs, but on the roof of the sports hall. Residents can buy solar cells and thus benefit from green energy from their own region at an attractive price.

The cooperative is also participating in the NEWRAIL pilot project in Dronten (an initiative of ProRail – a commercial rail company and collaboration with other partners), which aims to build experience and

obtain greater insight into the technical possibilities and risks of using solar panels.<sup>2</sup> The project is experimenting with the installation of solar panels on noise barriers, with the first prototype installed in April 2022. This is a multi-year program designed to provide noise barriers with integrated solar panels.

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**Main type: Go ahead**

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<sup>2</sup> Although this location will not be in the municipality of Horst aan de Maas, ProRail has asked Reindonk Energy to continue to participate in the project because of its experience and effort to date.



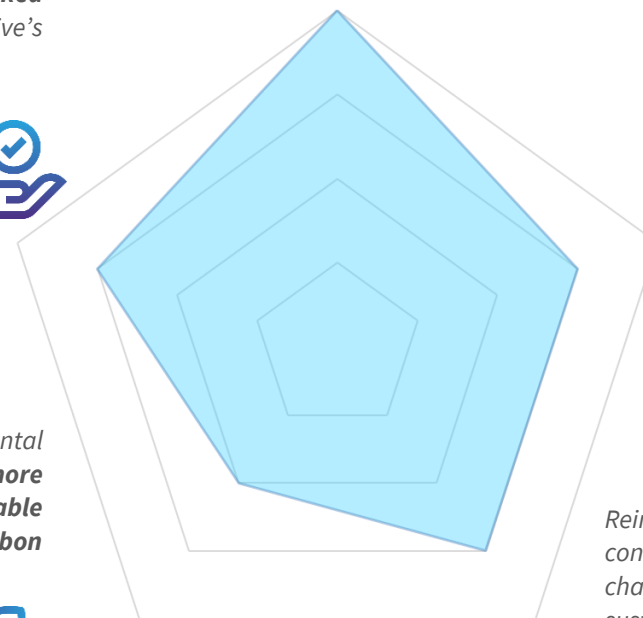
## The aspects of energy citizenship

Reindonk Energy claims that its mission is to work together with local residents to shape the energy transition in the municipality. The claim is made on its website that the organization is: 'Democratic, open and independent'. **It is stated that members have the right to think with and decide on the path ahead.** The organization regularly organizes member meetings to support this.



### Democratic energy future

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



### Citizen control

**Citizens can express their views, but their views are not necessarily taken into account**



**Any citizens can become involved who want to join the cooperative without any specific conditions.** Reindonk Energy members pay an annual membership fee. All members can attend the member meetings and receive publications and newsletters. **A precondition is living in the region.**



### Equity and justice

**Equal access is granted, but limited by various criteria**

Reindonk Energy aims to promote local energy generation that contributes to resolving the global energy challenge. Because of its local character, it generates energy from renewable sources and promotes sustainable energy, a clean environment and healthy air in the living environment. **Although the focus is on energy production, the initiative contributes greatly to the attempt to promote environmental sustainability.**



### Environmental sustainability

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

The key role of local citizens in the cooperative's projects is emphasized, and participation and support from residents are extremely important. However, **participation is found to be linked more with co-investment and co-ownership** in the cooperative's projects.

### Carbon limits

**Implicit recognition of the carbon limit**



There is no mention or recognition of the 1.5C target or environmental limits in general. **However, by focusing on building a more sustainable, decentralised energy system based on renewable sources, the initiative implicitly contributes to reducing carbon emissions and promoting clean energy production.**



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## Further information



[facebook.com/ReindonkEnergie](https://www.facebook.com/ReindonkEnergie)



[reindonkenergie.nl](https://reindonkenergie.nl)



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### References

- Information available on various aspects of the case on the case website (Accessed 30.09.2023):
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  - <https://reindonkenergie.nl/over-reindonk-energie-co>
  - <https://reindonkenergie.nl/2020/06/29/energie-weer-van-de-mensen-maken/>
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- Interviews with two people involved in the case
- Vadovics, E., Szóllóssy A., and Vadovics K. (2023). Introduction and Methodology for the EnergyPROSPECTS Detailed Case Summary Reports. EnergyPROSPECTS (PROactive Strategies and Policies for Energy Citizenship Transformation). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10075408>



### Source of images

[reindonkenergie.nl](https://reindonkenergie.nl)

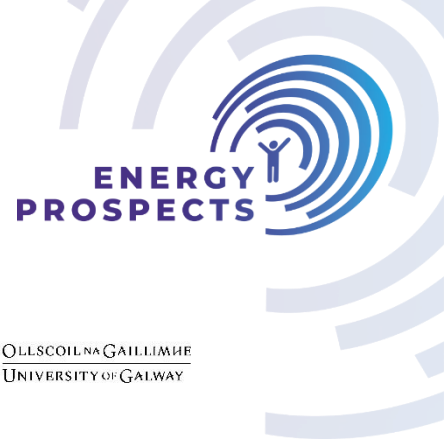


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