

Premise for this talk

- **The Nordic countries are not green**
- **No scientific evidence that citizens initially are negative towards energy parks in their back yard – NIMBY is a myth**

Dr Kristian Borch, Nordregio. November, 2024. Luleå



The Nordic is not green

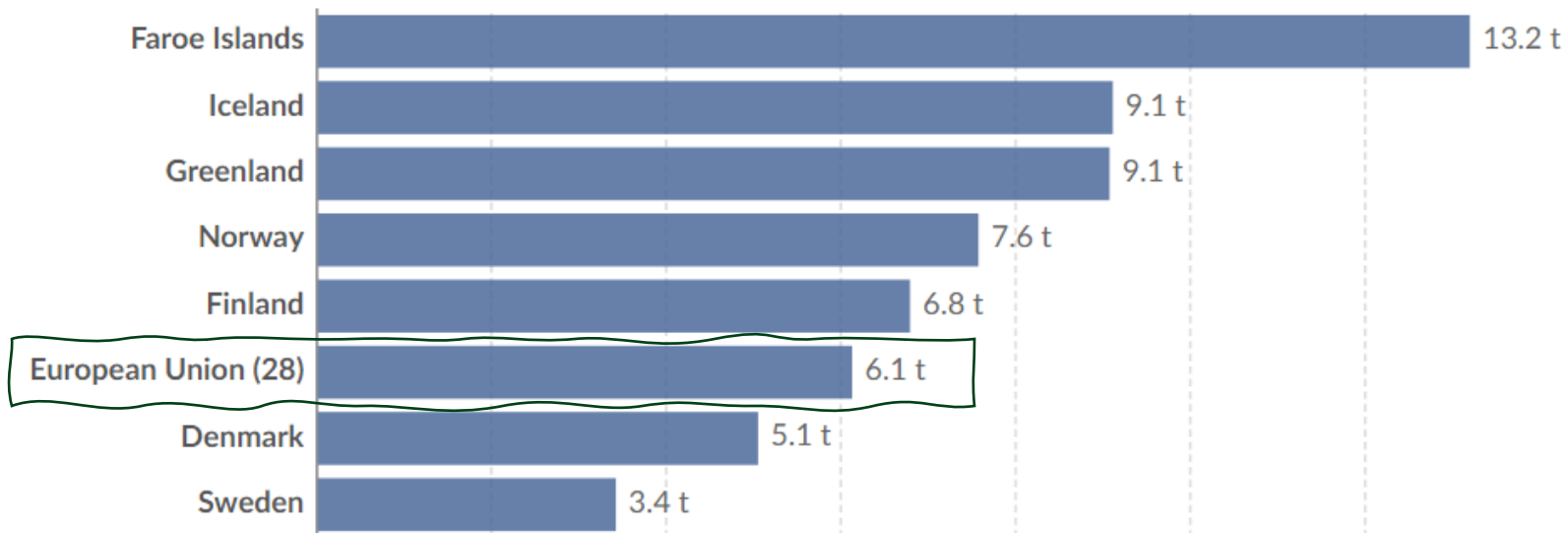
The energy system in the Nordic is based on fossil fuels

Per capita CO₂ emissions, 2021

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuels and industry. Land use change is not included.

Our World
in Data

+ Add country or region



Source: Global Carbon Project (2022)

OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY



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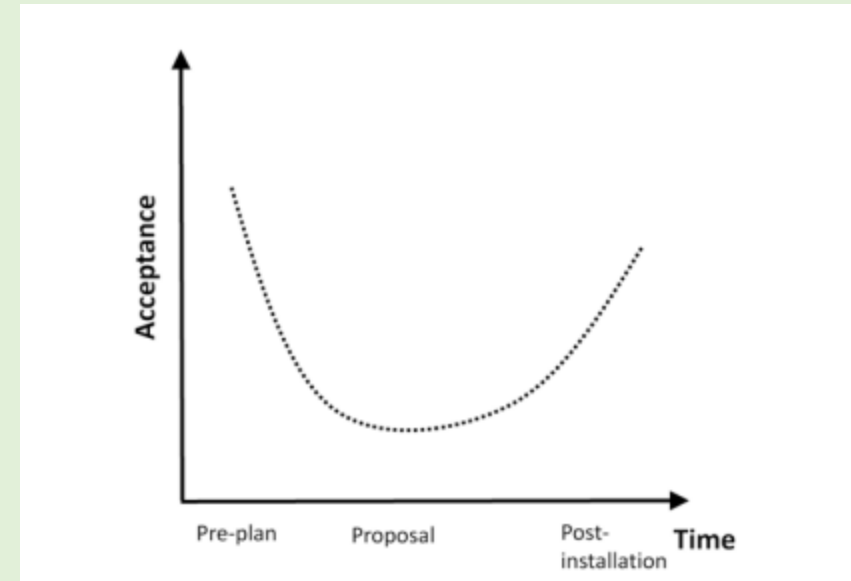
Local attitude towards wind farms are always negative – or are they?

Getting used to it?

Or is the planning process a traumatic experience spoiling an otherwise positive attitude?

The planning, development and deployment of renewable energy facilities must start from the social context to realise locally meaningful, beneficial and sustainable projects.

(Rudolph & Clausen 2021)



Sketch of U-curve of wind farm attitudes, based on Wolsink (2007) and Ellis and Ferraro (2016)



PERGAMON

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Wind power and the NIMBY-myth: institutional capacity and the limited significance of public support

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Abstract

In many countries, the development of wind power capacity has proceeded more slowly than expected. Levels of public acceptance are usually considered primary indicators of support for wind power within society. Surveys generally show strong overall public support for wind power, while concrete projects are felt to suffer from the Not-In-My-Backyard (NIMBY) syndrome. This paper questions the significance of these outcomes. It argues that other barriers to wind power implementation exist beyond attitudes among the population. The argument is made that institutional factors have a greater impact on wind energy facility siting. We will discuss two examples of how institutional factors shape the level of support when implementing wind power. © 2000 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Wind power; NIMBY; Institutions; Institutional arrangements; Siting



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Ruralis

Policy acceptance

Of technologies

By the public

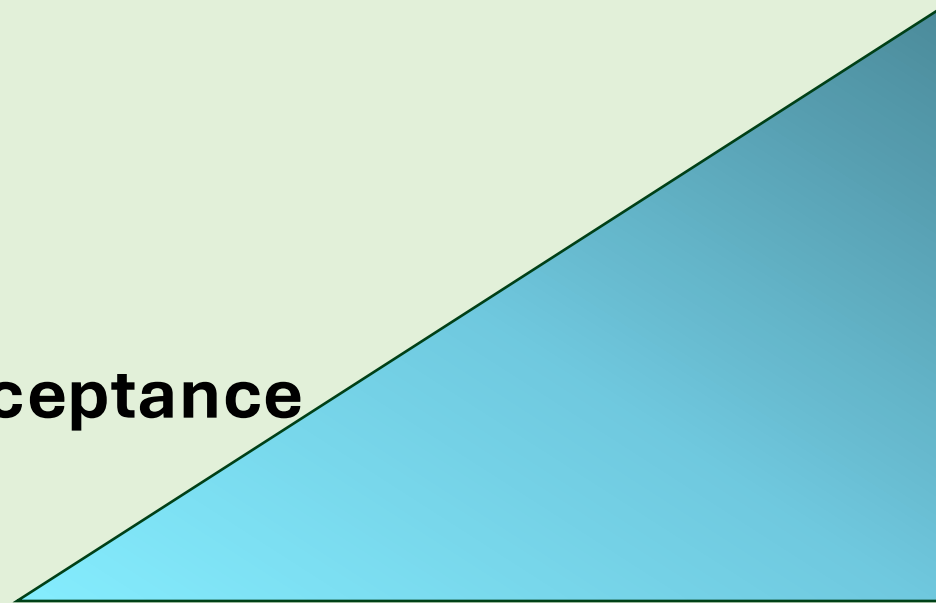
By policy makers

Community acceptance

Procedural Justice

Distributional justice

Trust



Market acceptance

Consumers

Investors

Traders



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Policy acceptance

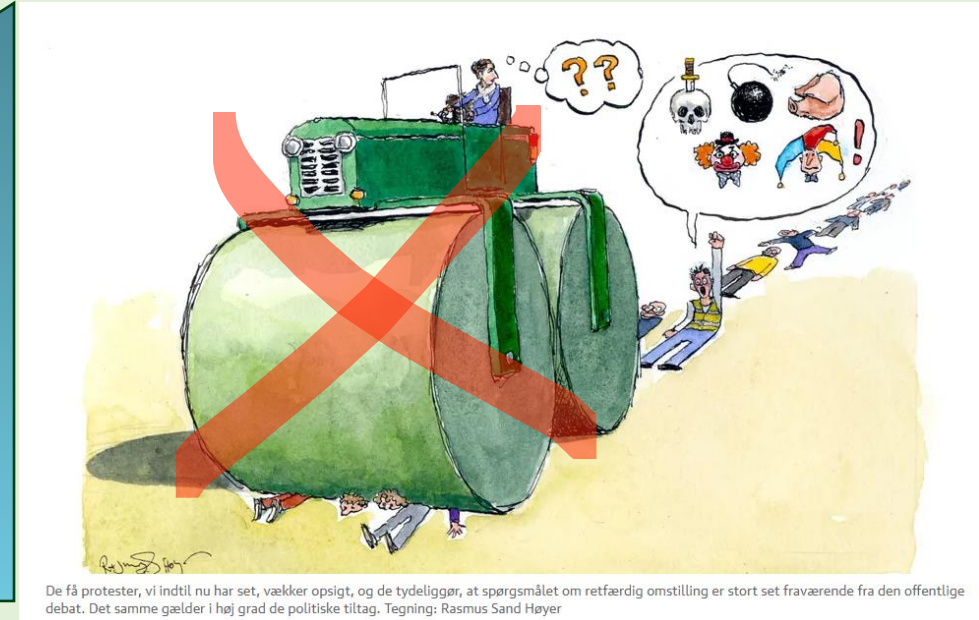
Of technologies
By the public
By policy makers

Decoupling

Due to lack of direct (local) democracy

Lack of Community acceptance

Procedural In-Justice
Distributional In-justice
Recognitional In-justice
Lack of Trust in authorities & private business



Market acceptance

Consumers
Investors
Traders



Can the Nordics afford undemocratic energy transitions?



Can the Nordics afford undemocratic energy transitions?



To år siden Fosen-dommen:

Aksjonister har sperret av kryss på Karl Johan

90.000.000 NOK was offered to the 6 affected reindeer herder families to compensate their loss from building Fosen wind power park

- they were rejected

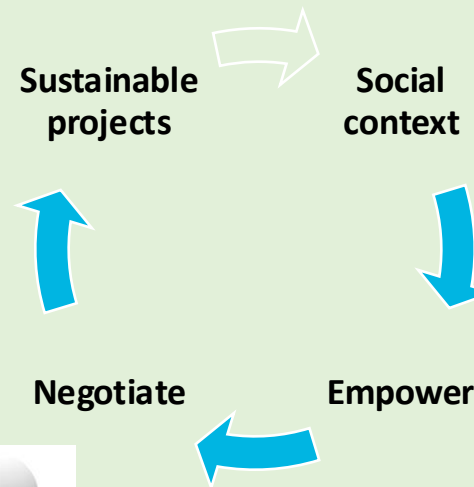
New roles to recouple energy actors

Policy acceptance

From marketisation to more public regulation
From technocratic to collaborative

Community acceptance

From convenience to engagement
From consumers to energy citizens



Market acceptance

From maximising profits to increased emphasis on non-financial objectives such as environmental goals and CSR

Civic renewable energy is already a Nordic success



District heating supplying 1.843.774 households in Denmark with 76% fossil free heat– Consumer owned and non-profit

Hvide Sande Fjernvarme

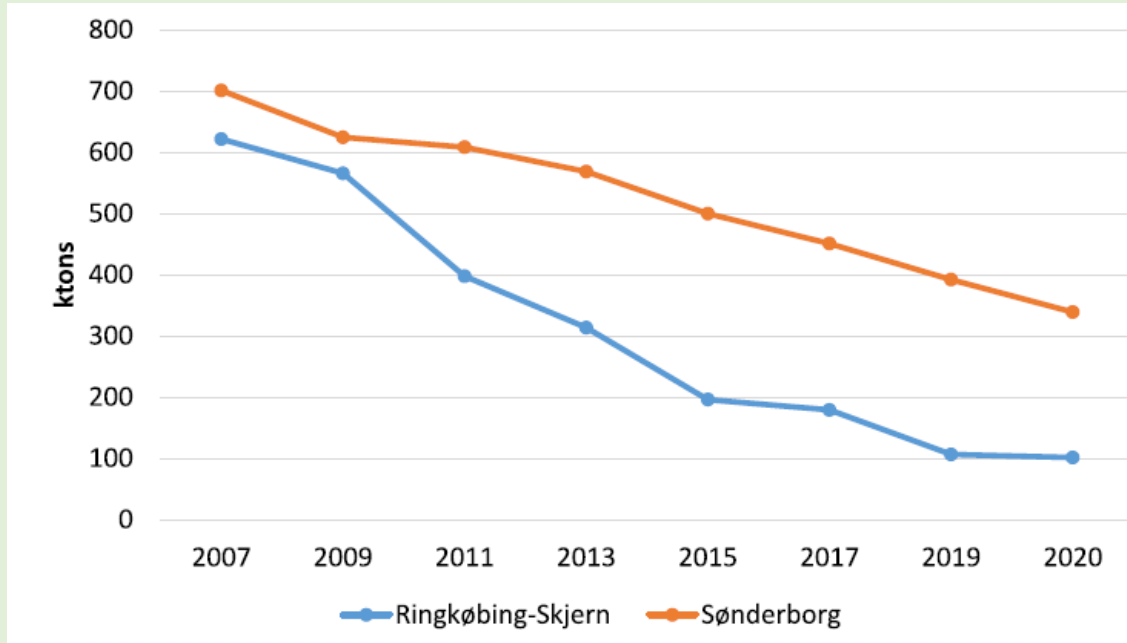
Procedural Justice
Distributional justice

Small hydropower in Norway producing 9 TWh renewable energy – owned by landowners paying revenue tax to the community

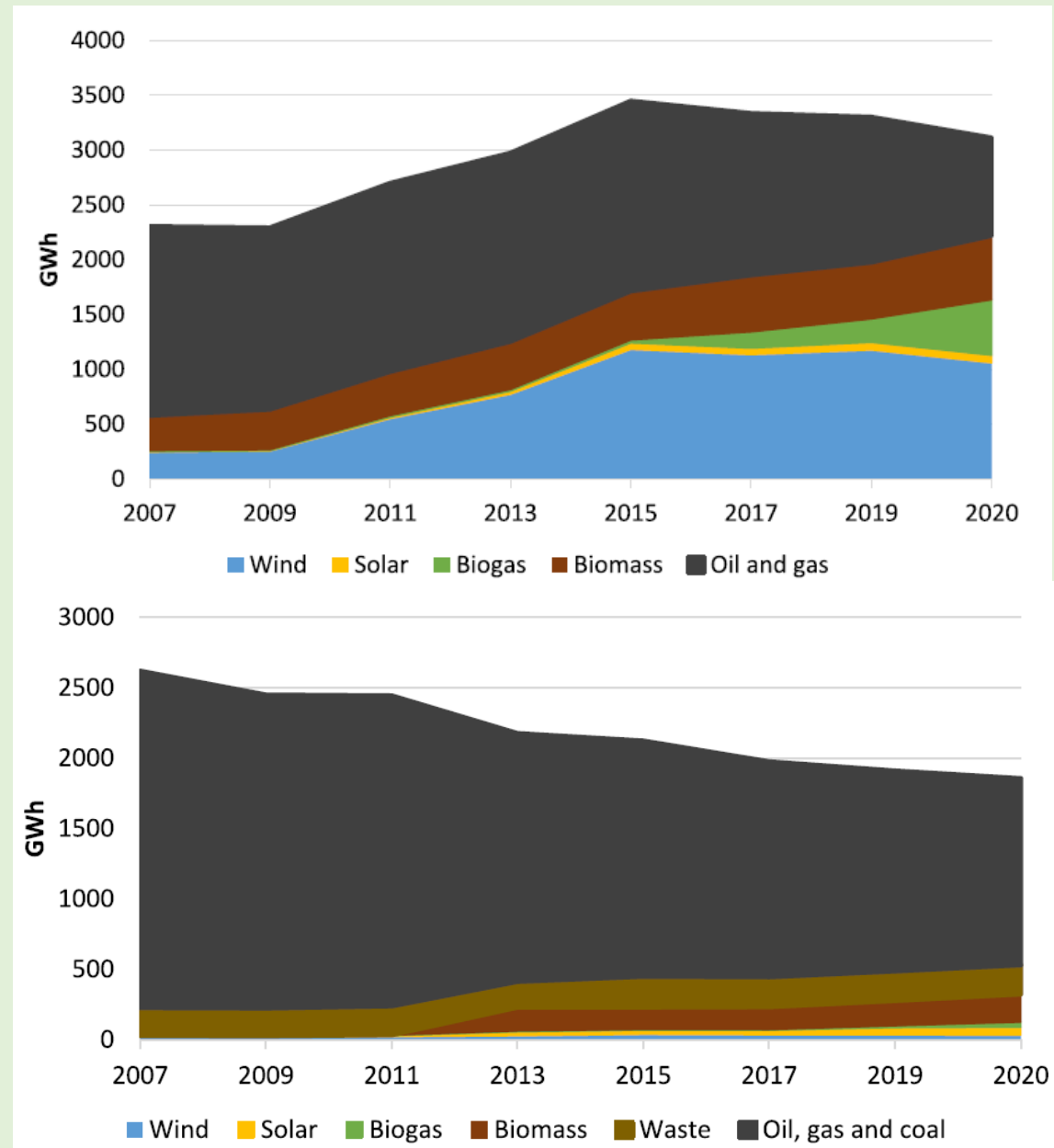
Ytre Alsåker kraftverk i Ullensvang



A hope for socio-technical solutions



Energy-system-related CO2 emissions

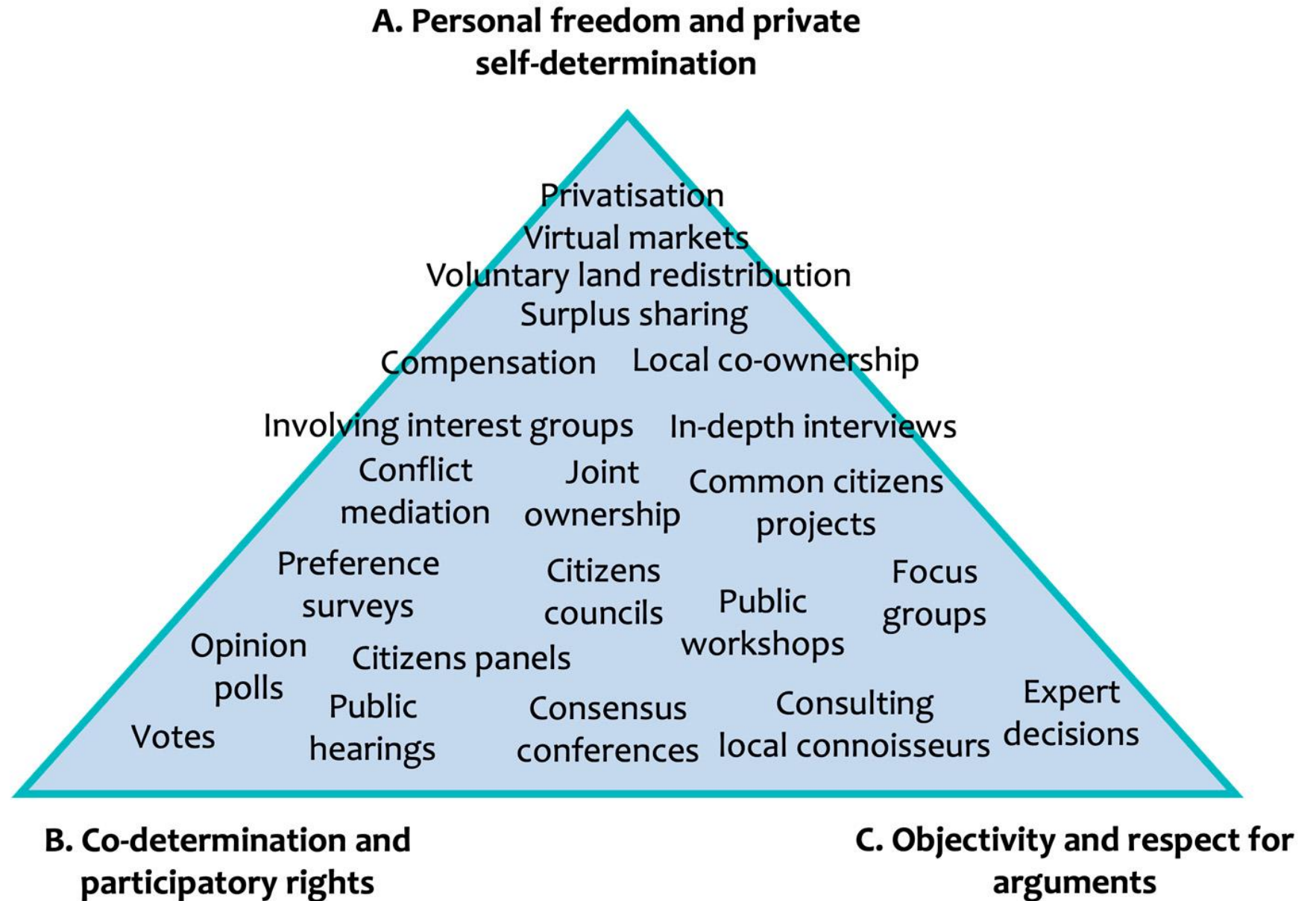


Source for annual energy consumption

The Nordic countries & communities have an integrated energy market, but different approaches to energy planning – we can learn from each other

- Norway has a very centralized planning procedure: Development of renewables can be swift, but is not sensible local interests and rights
- Denmark has a very decentralized planning procedure, which requires capability that often is not available locally
- Only Finland has successfully implemented citizen energy communities on a significant scale
- Sweden has a long track record of high carbon taxes

Three basic values related to democracy & institutional setups



MOTKULTUR FAGLIG SNAKKA KRAFT

Det skal ikke lønne seg å ofre lokaldemokratiet



Faglig snakka **N**

I Danmark ser vi hvordan lokale grunneiere i samarbeid med nabolag har reist både små og store vindkraftanlegg og solcelleparker, skriver innleggsforfatterne. Her fra Fosen. Foto: Heiko Junge / NTB

Av Kristian Borch og Katrina Rønningen, Ruralis – Institutt for Rural- og Distriktforskning

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Del

TAK TACK TAKK KIITOS QUJANAQ 😊

Conclusion: Using democratic tools will probably lead to a more swift and less problematic green energy transition

