



RESPONSIBLE ISLAND *prize*



2ND PRIZE WINNER
THE ISLAND OF SAMSO DENMARK

Island of Samsø

2nd Winner of the 2019 RESponsible Island Prize

The Island of Samsø in Denmark is the 2nd winner of the 2019 RESponsible Island Prize. The Island will receive a €250.000 cash prize for the proposal 'Samsø: An island community pointing to the future'. The 2nd prize was awarded for the share of renewable energy produced by innovative energy technologies, the environmental and socioeconomic sustainability and impact, citizen and community involvement, and the replicability of the solution.

The RESponsible Island recognition prize rewards achievements in local renewable energy production for electricity, heating, cooling and transport on islands. The name refers to the combination of renewables (RES) and responsibility.

Islands often have high local energy costs, but can benefit from the transition to renewable energy sources such as the creation of local jobs and sustainable tourism. The more than 2000 inhabited islands in the EU are ideal test labs to develop innovative energy technologies and can serve as energy transition models for small communities in general.

Samsø - An island pointing to the future

Back in 1997 the island community embarked in a pioneer journey to become Denmark's renewable energy island and 10 years later utopia was made possible.

The ambitions have now changed and Samsø sets the bar even higher. By applying principles of circular economy and common sense, Samsø takes the leap to become fossil-free by 2030 and once more leads in solutions that point to the future.



Excellence in Sustainability, community and citizen involvement

Ownership and leadership have been essential elements of Samsø's energy transition. The entire island community was part of the process to define the purpose. People felt comfortable to talk about the unknown and discuss what it would mean for them.

Samsø has now become a brand name and demonstrates that sustainability goes beyond energy transition: it involves the perspectives for a community's own future.



How can the example inspire other islands and communities?

Already early in the process, people from all over the world started coming to the island to study what was happening. Once a meeting place for the Vikings, Samsø is now a gathering place for people interested in community development and sustainable solutions.



The Samsø Energy Academy makes the case that any community can put its own future at the center of its climate action, hoping to inspire the thousands of policy makers, local leaders and pioneers who are visiting the island from around the world.

To learn more you may visit the Samsø Energy Academy physically, or virtually on energiakademiet.dk/en