European Commission

RESPONSIBLE ISLAND *prize*

1ST PRIZE WINNER
THE ISLAND OF BORNHOLM DENMARK

Island of Bornholm

Winner of the 2019 RESponsible Island Prize

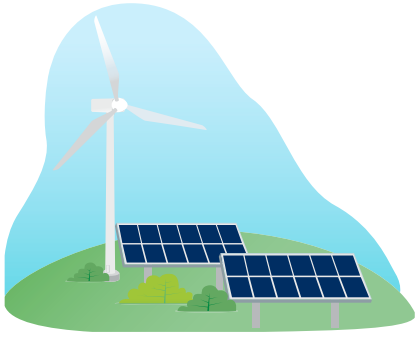
The Island of Bornholm in Denmark (Bornholms Regionskommune) is the winner of the 2019 RESponsible Island Prize. The Island will receive a €500.000 cash prize for their proposal 'BGI-Bornholm – Bright Green Island Bornholm'. The prize was awarded for the share of renewable energy produced by innovative 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.

Bornholm - An Island Champion in Renewable Energy and Innovation

Bornholm has embraced the green agenda for over 30 years, aiming to become a CO2 neutral island in 2025, and a zero-emissions and climate-friendly community by 2035. We bring together science, public institutions, business and citizens to hand down a sustainable island for future generations. We call it the vision of Bright Green Island Bornholm.



In 1979, Bornholm relied exclusively on fossil fuels for its heat and power production. In 2018 the share of renewable energy for heat and power consumption was 62%, excluding imported power, imported biomass and fossil powered energy. 75% of the biomass used for heat and power production comes from Bornholm, including slurry used for biogas. District heating grids have been etablished in all towns on the island. Photovoltaic and wind plants are adjustable from the control room at the combined heat and power station, taking advantage of grid services they can provide.

Excellence in Sustainability, community and citizen involvement

From the onset of the Bright Green Island Strategy collective ownership and community involvement has been a core factor.

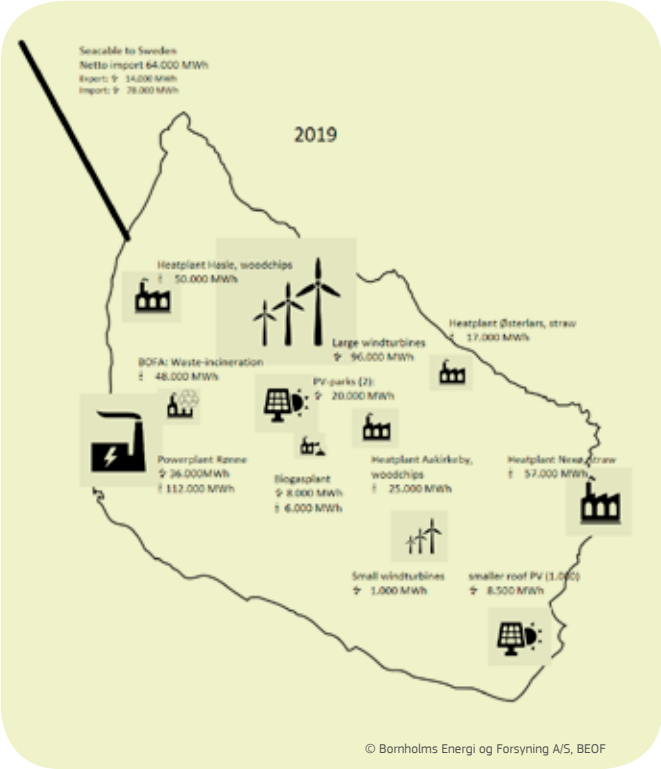
Over the past 10 years, on average 5-10 citizen events, such as participatory workshops and information and awareness campaigns, took place to allow citizens and local communities to engage in the development of visions and strategies.

How can the example inspire other islands and communities?

The Bornholm combination of using mature and affordable technologies, simulating future solutions into the actual energy system, together with a high degree of citizens' involvement and cooperation with R&D institutions can be replicated on all islands.

The island of Bornholm is also a lighthouse case for other communities in the EU and globally, that are not islands in a geographical sense. Bornholm's energy system is characterised by its isolation, weak power transmission cable, and absence of a gas grid. The sustainable solutions can be an inspiration for areas with similar conditions, either as isolated micro grids or macro grids that are weakly connected to larger transmission system.

Bornholm is not a rich island; its local economy resembles that of many rural areas. Our solutions therefore have to be affordable and durable, thereby paving the road for a sustainable and a green transition that can speed up the fight against global climate change.



To find out more about Bornholm's green vision visit: http://www.brightgreenisland.dk/Sider/In-English.aspx