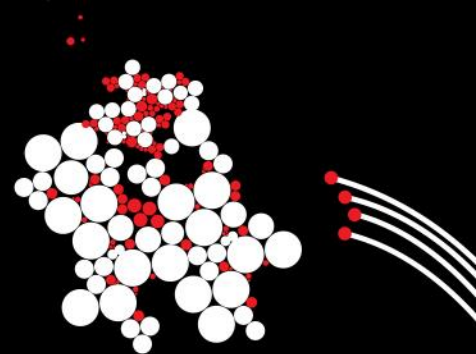


UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



UNDERSTANDING THE RELATION BETWEEN LOCAL LOW-CARBON ENERGY INITIATIVES AND DECENTRALISED GOVERNMENTS

ENERGY & LAW WORKSHOP

CONSUMERS, CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES: AN EXPLORATORY APPROACH

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OUTLINE

- What are local low-carbon energy initiatives (LLCEI's)
- New citizenship
- Problems LLCEIs encounter
- Role of government vis-à-vis LLCEIs?
- Role of LLCEIs vis-à-vis government?
- Present governance / coordination mechanisms
- Need for new governance mechanisms to support LLCEIs
- Examples from the Netherlands (Energiewerkplaats, Duurzaam Dorp, & ADEL)
- Research agenda

1. WHAT ARE LLCEIS?

Reduzum, village wind turbine



A local low-carbon energy initiative is a project or series of projects managed by a social network of citizens that involves the generation of low-carbon energy or applying energy efficiency measures on a local scale.

1. WHAT ARE LLCEIS?

Size

Scale

Formal
status/orientation

Who started /
who is involved

Goal / focus

Activities

2. NEW (ACTIVE) CITIZENSHIP

- Public sector reforms + sense of citizen disenchantment and disengagement of the political processes = active citizenship as concept for improved government-citizen relation
- Citizens develop 'own solutions' for 'own problems'
- Citizen as producer/initiator instead of passive subject
- Local level (or community) as important scale

2. PROBLEMS LLCEIS ENCOUNTER

LLCEIs encounter many problems:

- To a great degree this is related to regulations, institutional inertia, and low responsiveness and adaptiveness of government (at the national, regional and local level).
- In local action arenas, LLCEIs suffer from a poor level playing field. They cannot compete with the energy industry.
- Lack of capacity/knowledge/skills
- Hence, there are many obstacles and government has an important role to implement 'game changers' to offer LLCEIs a fair chance....

3. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT VIS-À-VIS LLCEIS

- Regulative
- Informing
- Facilitating
- Incentivizing (e.g. through subsidies and taxation).
- Partner (e.g., in shareholding of solar park)
- Initiating
- Adapting to new ways of citizenship
- ‘Launching customer’
- Etc.

3. GOVERNMENTS DEVELOPING WAYS TO RESPOND TO LLCEIS...

...is easier said than done:

- a diverse movement
- bottom-up voluntary initiatives
- a movement that has not shown its effectiveness yet
- a movement that clashes with the existing socio-technical regime and prevalent practices.
- And therefore...

3. ROLE OF LLCEIS VIS-À-VIS GOVERNMENT?

- **Restricted to policy implementation?** ('classic' public administration)
- **Restricted to public service delivery?** (e.g. PPPs, public management, co-implementation, instrumentalism)
- **Allowed to influence policymaking processes?** (e.g. co-production, collaborative governance, interactive policymaking)
- **Do they exist by the grace of existing policy lines?** (e.g. invited spaces, 'decoupling')
- **Is it a matter of responsibilitizing citizens?** (e.g. governmentality', 'governance through community', neoliberalism)

4. TRADITIONAL MODES OF GOVERNANCE

- Hierarchy ('governing');
- Market
- Network

- Governance (Bevir, 2012, p.1): "All processes of governing, whether undertaken by a government, market, or network," (...) "whether through laws, norms, power, or language. Governance differs from government in that it focuses less on the state and its institutions and more on social practices and activities."

4. PRESENT MECHANISMS: AN INSUFFICIENT RESPONSE

- The market, hierarchy, network triad insufficiently circumscribe LLCEIs' 'area of operation'. LLCEIs are hybrid organizations, We need to look for **hybrid solutions**.
- There is a mismatch between the traditional policymaking processes, institutional practices, and the required mechanisms for an effective response to LLCEIs.
 - Silo-based thinking
 - 'wounded lions'
 - Spatial planning
 - Bureaucracy, SMART-culture

5. NEW MECHANISMS ARE NEEDED

A way of governing:

- Societal activity/dynamics as point of departure in policymaking instead of consultation for ready-made policies (Hajer, 2011)
- in which government has clear stance on active citizenship (Hajer, 2011)
- that provides dynamic regulation and alleviates barriers (Hajer, 2011)
- ‘Governing through enabling’ (Bulkeley & Kern, 2006)
 - Facilitating, coordinating and encouraging action through financial incentives, public-private/voluntary partnerships, shaping policy goals in partnership, community engagement, providing infrastructure

5. A LOSS OF GOVERNING CAPACITY?

- 'Not necessarily: policy and institutional innovation to employ governing capacities.
- Active government instead of a retrenching government
- There is a rational behind this mode of governing other than limiting public service delivery; its about government assuming a different role

5. BUT KEEP IN MIND...

- **Distributional (in)justice, (in)equity**
 - Accessibility for all socio-economic groups?
Spatial/institutional/historical differences between subnational governments
- **Participatory bias**
 - ‘the usual suspects’
- **Lack of transparency**
 - When does a government actually decide to support an LLCEI?
- **Risk of arbitrary action**
 - Governments that support LLCEIs that have ‘potential’, neglecting

6. DUTCH EXAMPLES

1. De Energiewerkplaats (The Energy Workshop)
2. Duurzame Dorpen (Sustainable Villages)
3. Armhoede Duurzaam Energie Landschap-approach (Armhoede Sustainable Energy Landscape)

6.1 THE ENERGY WORKSHOP



The Energy Workshop:

- Combination of two semi-governmental organizations
- At arm's length infrastructure
 - Allows for flexibility but does not harness democratic + public administrative values
- Institutional/policy innovation: combining existing institutional resources to serve a new purpose.
- Functions as an 'incubator' and accelerator
- Little monitoring, feedback. Effectiveness? No tangible impact

6.2 SUSTAINABLE VILLAGES

- Competition in which local communities competed for subsidy
- Local communities develop plans for how to become a sustainable village
- Expert jury decides
- Lump sum of money without strict requirements.
- No strict monitoring.
- Capacity building, initiating and incentivizing instrument to spark the LLCEI movement during early stages
- Policy diffusion: the idea came from Germany



6.3 ADEL APPROACH



- ‘Top-down’ incentivized approach in which citizen participation and process innovation were central features.
- ‘Neutral’ network managers intermediates between municipality and citizens
- Civil servants found it hard to adjust to new situation in which citizens were equal partners (‘wounded lions’).
- No generation of renewable energy realized
- Policy diffusion (in municipality itself, and throughout the Netherlands).

7. RESEARCH AGENDA

- What is/are the key mechanisms and indicators that explain variation in success and failure of LLCEIs?
 - Success: five dimensions: effectiveness, efficiency, equity, continuation, satisfaction
- How can LLCEIs be updated, accelerated or advanced, and how can government, business life, and NGO's support them?
- LLCEIs and business models (Harm Harmsen, UTwente)

Questions / comments?