



## Savings focusing heating

### Heat savings for Pensioners a Success

Since the energy crisis of 1974 and 1979 there have been numerous attempts to bring down the energy consumption in all heat consuming sectors. Big variations in price, high prices on oil and governmental demands have motivated owners of houses toward energy savings.

The same counts for Samsø, where many houses are old. In such houses modern insulating techniques generally are not sufficiently well accomplished compared to the average on country level. Modernising of buildings often takes place in connection to change of ownership, and usually include improvement of energy economy. Decrease in heat consumption therefore automatically may take place due to those facts.

This fact is of some importance in relation to the development of district heating solutions for Samsø: An automatic decrease in heat consumption has a negative effect on the economy for district heating utilities.

Heat saving measures therefore *can* be seen as a barrier in the process of establishing district heating systems. This, however does not change the ambitions to decrease heat consumption in the residents on the island with 20% compared to 1997 figures.

#### Projects for Pensioners

Some of the pensioners form a group of heat consumers that do not follow the general pattern of heat saving.

To change this pattern the Danish government sub-

sidises projects concerning heat savings, offering financial support to pensioners. A scheme gives 50% support for energy saving purposes. The maximum amount is 3.350 Euro per resident, and more than 400 residents on Samsø are included in the scheme. Earlier less than ten residents on the island took advantage of the offer.

In fall 1999 the Municipality of Samsø together with the energy organisations, arranged a campaign concerning the support scheme.

450 pensioners were offered detailed information concerning means of subsidies, and approximately 100 accepted more detailed planning on energy saving possibilities. On basis of this campaign 60 residents established energy saving measures. The campaign therefore is considered an important step forward.

Improvements were made in 32 residents in 2000 and an additional 58 residents were improved in 2001 prior to a campaign. A third campaign started in June 2002.

Approximately 200 residents of pensioners have been improved in a period of 4 years. The success should also be found in the fact that the craftsmen of the island has aimed information on possibilities of subsidies directly towards their customers.

Samsø is now in the lead in Denmark on energy saving arrangements in relation to pensioners.

The energy organisations and the Municipality will continue to run campaigns, especially aimed towards citizens that have only recently gained the opportunity to use the arrangement of subsidies.

